



Founded in 1888

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future



Key Stage 4 Options

2026-2028

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Introduction

This booklet is designed to:

- explain the school policy on the Key Stage 4 curriculum
- give guidance about making the right choices, both from an educational and career point of view
- outline the procedure that will be followed in the decision making process
- outline the information, advice, guidance and support that is offered by the school
- provide both students and parents with information about the courses offered so that everyone knows what each student is studying and what is expected in each course
- outline what the various courses may lead to in terms of Post 16 courses and careers.

We hope this guide provides students and parents with the necessary information to understand the principles behind the curriculum we offer and that it helps students to make the right choices for their future.

There has been considerable discussion nationally about what students should study at GCSE level. At Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School, we have always believed that all students should study a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4. This is supported by the government, universities and employers.

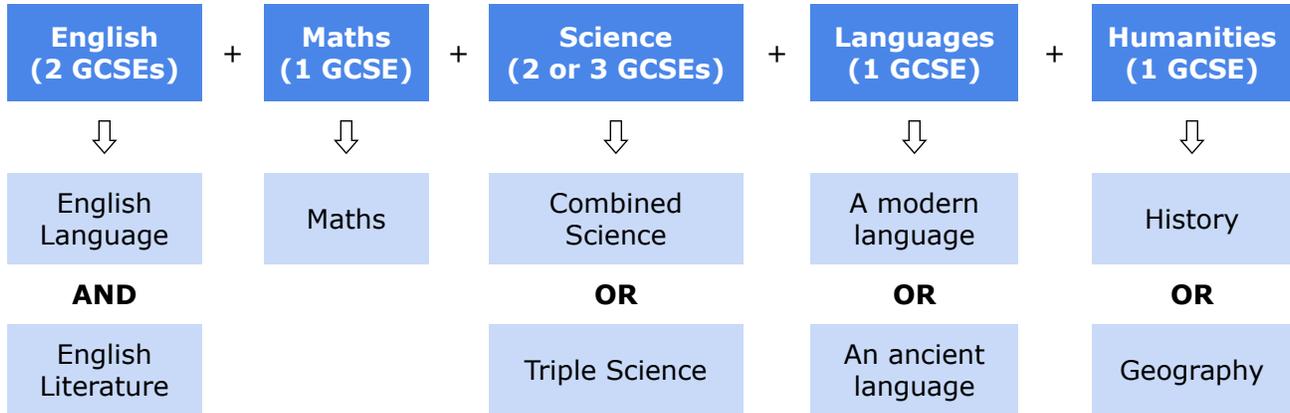
Students currently in Year 9 will be required to stay in full-time education or training until at least their 18th birthday. Anyone who does not achieve a GCSE Grade 4 or above in English Language or English Literature is likely to be legally required to study GCSE English Language at Sixth Form or College until they do so. Similarly, students who do not achieve Grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths are likely to be required to continue GCSE Maths until they do so. For this reason we are offering some students, who will particularly benefit, the opportunity to study the Additional English and/or Maths Pathway in Years 10 and 11.

The National Curriculum requires all students to study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, Citizenship, Computing and PE. At Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School this is organised as follows:

- English - leading to GCSEs in English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science - students will study Combined (2 GCSEs) or Triple Science (3 GCSEs)
- Religious Studies - leading to a full GCSE qualification in Religious Studies
- PE and Citizenship are the remaining core subjects which are compulsory but are not examined. Citizenship is delivered through specific events and activities in Years 10 and 11
- Students may choose to study GCSE Computer Science as one of their option subjects. Aspects of ICT and Computing are delivered across a range of subjects in Years 10 and 11.

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people’s options open for further study and future careers. These subjects are looked on favourably by Universities. To be eligible for the EBacc, students must take GCSE qualifications across:



Therefore, to achieve the EBacc students need to gain GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature, Mathematics, History or Geography, a Language and Combined or Triple Science. A full list of the qualifications that count towards the EBacc is available at:- www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-eligible-qualifications

Reformed GCSEs

Reformed GCSEs were introduced gradually from September 2015. These qualifications are linear with examinations at the end of the course with more demanding content and less non-exam assessment. They are graded from 9 to 1, instead of A* to G.

Controlled or non-exam assessment

These components assess students’ skills, knowledge, and understanding that aren’t easily assessed by timed, written examination papers.

None <i>Examinations only</i>	Business, Computer Science, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Geography, History, Maths, Religious Studies, Combined and Triple Sciences, Sociology
25%	French, Spanish (Languages have Speaking Assessments)
30%	Media
40%	Physical Education
50%	Design and Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition
60%	Drama, Music, Health and Social Care
100%	Art (40% is under controlled conditions)

GCSE Grading Structure

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

BTEC Qualifications

A more practical and skills-based approach to learning, these qualifications offer learners the chance to experience applied learning. It should be noted that these qualifications are not accepted by all institutions as entrance requirements for A Level study.

The BTEC grades are: Distinction, Merit, Pass.

Support and Guidance for Students

It is vital that every student and their family is as well informed as possible. A programme of presentations of new and existing subjects has already taken place and the pastoral and PSHE programmes have been focusing on option choices. All students and their parent(s)/carer(s) have the opportunity of joining an individual student interview during the school day, to discuss their option choices before they are finalised.

The school aims to write the option blocks around student preferences and through careful discussion at option interviews to get the right balance for each individual.

When Making Decisions

Before completing your options choices think about the following questions:

- What are your thoughts about career possibilities?
- What plans do you have after you have completed your GCSEs?
- Do you plan to go on to further/higher education? If so, what courses might you study?
- What career ideas do you have for the future at the moment?
- What are your strengths?
- Which subjects do you enjoy?

OPTION PATHWAYS

All students follow a broad and balanced curriculum which ensures that they are prepared for whatever pathway they move towards in the future. The curriculum for all students includes a **Core** of compulsory subjects plus a choice of **Options** which allows each individual to pursue interests and develop their particular talents and aspirations.

The Core Subjects

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Science (Combined or Triple)
Religious Studies
Physical Education

Option Pathways

There are four option pathways:

Ebacc plus Triple Science and STEM enrichment – This option is tailored to support breadth and academic success for students with a particular interest and aptitude in the Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)

EBacc – This option is tailored to students who want to secure the EBacc with the flexibility to study a wide range of subjects. It is suited to students who have a secure grounding across the range of subjects in Key Stage 3

EBacc Plus – This option is tailored to offer additional support to help students to secure the EBacc. Students opt for one subject less, which provides time for additional support in the EBacc subjects. It is suited to students who have a developing grasp of the subjects studied in Key Stage 3.

Non-EBacc with English and/or Maths support – This pathway offers support to students who may prefer a less traditional route through Key Stage 4. It offers greater flexibility in subject choice alongside additional support in English and/or Maths.

Based on the school's progress data for each student, they will be guided to consider one or two option pathways which will be shared with families. All students must follow one of these. Details about the courses available can be found on the [school website](#).

We use an online process to collect option choice subjects for each student. Below is a diagrammatic overview of the options pathways and the choices to be made for each.

<p>Compulsory Courses - GCSEs (or equivalent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English Language and Literature ● Mathematics ● Combined or Triple Science ● Religious Studies 	<p>Compulsory Course - not examined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Core Physical Education
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Where relevant, tick one subject in each box. In the blank choice boxes write one subject choice from the list below. Please also choose a reserve option as we cannot guarantee to give all students their first 4 choices.

There are four option pathways offered by the school. All students must follow one of these.

Pathway	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4	Reserve
EBacc with Triple Science & STEM* Enrichment	Tick your choice French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	Tick your choice Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/>	Triple Science		
EBacc	Tick your choice French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	Tick your choice Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/>			
EBacc Plus	Tick your choice French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	Tick your choice Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/>	EBacc Plus		
Non EBacc	Tick your choice French <input type="checkbox"/> Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	English and/or Maths support			

***STEM** - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

<p>Arts Subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art ● Drama ● Music ● PE ● Media 	<p>Humanities Subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BTEC Health and Social Care ● Business ● Economics ● Geography ● History ● Sociology <p><i>BTEC Health and Social Care not available to EBacc with Triple Sci pathway.</i></p> <p><i>Economics is only available to students secure in English and Maths</i></p>	<p>Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● French ● Spanish <p><i>If you have, or intend to, take a GCSE exam in a community language please see the next page.</i></p> <p><i>Where it has been agreed that a community language is being taken, students may also study a language in school or may choose another subject instead.</i></p>	<p>Technology Subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computer Science ● Design and Technology ● Food Preparation and Nutrition <p><i>Computer Science is only available to students secure in Maths.</i></p>
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Qualifications counting as Language in the Bacallaureate

The list below details the GCSE language qualifications which count towards the EBacc.

- Arabic
- Bengali
- Chinese (Cantonese/Mandarin)
- French
- German
- Greek (Modern)
- Greek (Classical)
- Gujarati
- Hebrew (Biblical)
- Hebrew (Modern)
- Italian
- Latin
- Japanese
- Panjabi
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Urdu

Some students sit examinations in community languages that are separate to their lessons in school. Families should notify the school if their daughter has already taken, or intends to take, a GCSE in one of these languages by emailing options@qegschool.org.uk.

PHSE, Careers and Citizenship

Students learn about health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world. They develop employability skills and have the opportunity to prepare for the world of work. They will develop their skills of communication, responsible action, teamwork and leadership.

Options Process for Students

You are now in the position to choose the courses you wish to study in Key Stage 4. You should reflect on the careers work you completed in PSHE, your Year 9 report and the feedback from your teachers at Year 9 Parents' Evening. You need to take a full and active part in the options process so that you are able to discuss your plans with your family, keep them well informed and ensure you are in the best possible position to make the right choices for you.

Step 1

Subject Information: in lessons and assemblies you will have heard teachers talk about their subject at Key Stage 4. Make sure that any questions you may have are answered before you make your final choices.

Step 2

Options Information in this booklet and on the [school website](#): read carefully to make sure you fully understand the content of each course which you are considering applying for. FAQs are available for each subject on the [school website](#).

Step 3

Options Evening: this is an important opportunity for you and your family to hear more about the organisation of the Options process. In addition to the presentation there will be an opportunity to talk to subject teachers and ask questions. The next morning you will receive the recommended pathway(s) by email.

Step 4

Optional Individual Student Interviews: Families have the opportunity to request an individual meeting with a member of staff, however, if you have chosen the pathway recommended for you this is not compulsory

Step 5

Confirmation of your Key Stage 4 Courses: Option blocks will be written to maximise the number of students who are successful in getting their preferred combination of subjects. On completion of this process you will receive written confirmation of your Key Stage 4 curriculum.

We will endeavour to meet all students' subject choices within the limitations of staffing and funding constraints. If the number of students selecting a course is too few to make the course viable on educational and economic grounds, it will not be able to run. There are other courses where the numbers are limited. In the event of there being too many students for a course, applications will be considered individually.

Careers Guidance

Year 9 students have already been focusing on the options process and available subjects during PSHE sessions and presentations during assemblies.

Students who have clear ideas about what they might wish to study at university are advised to research the entry requirements. Some specify A level courses which can only be studied if the subject has already been studied at GCSE level, whilst some require particular subjects and grades to have been achieved at GCSE. Useful information is available [here](#).

In school, we have access to a range of information sources, including:

- Mrs Douglas – Careers support
- Mrs Walker (Headteacher), Ms Shah (Head of 6th Form), Mr Robson (Interim Deputy Headteacher) and Ms Abimbola (Deputy Headteacher) who can advise on A level and higher education routes.

There are also a range of useful websites:

<https://icould.com/explore> – Gives students career ideas and information for their future. It also includes a quiz.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> - The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential and impartial advice. This is supported by qualified careers advisers.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk/ - The official government website to find out about apprenticeships.

<https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice> - UCAS has multiple options available to help with careers advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> - National database of apprenticeship vacancies.

www.careersbox.co.uk/ - A free online library of careers related film, news and information. Case study films show real people doing real jobs, giving viewers insight into careers across all sectors and helping them to find the right career.

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk> Career pilot offers quick videos and impartial information and advice about options and different types of qualifications.

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/about> T Levels are an alternative to A levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses. They are equivalent in size to 3 A levels, focus on vocational skills and can help students to progress to skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships.

Options – Frequently Asked Questions

I don't have any career plans yet. What should I do?

Choose the subjects you enjoy and do well at – as much of a mix as possible. Choosing subjects that meet the EBacc requirements will ensure you have plenty of routes open to you later on.

Should I risk trying out new studies like Media or Business Studies that I've never done before or stick to subjects I know?

Think of whether they interest you – or fit in with your career plans – even your hobbies. Ask the teachers in charge about them.

Who should I speak to for advice on my option choices?

The people that know you best – your subject teachers, form tutor, older brothers and sisters, parents and close friends.

What things should I think about when choosing a GCSE or other subject?

Do you do well? Do you enjoy it? Do your teachers tell you you're doing well? Do you find it interesting or want to try it at a higher level? Do you enjoy the homework? Are you good at writing or more hands-on subjects? What are your career plans? Is there a lot of, or little, controlled assessment?

Will I get all the option choices I ask for?

The school will try to accommodate your wishes but it is impossible to give all students everything they want. Courses that don't get enough students may be cancelled and over-popular courses may mean that not all students get a place. This is why it is important you make some second choices.

Will I be with my friends next year?

Even if you take exactly the same options as your friends, there is no guarantee you will be in the same group as them. You will no longer be taught with your tutor group but you will of course see your friends at form time and breaks.

Subject: Art & Design

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Specification Code: J171



Who is the course for?

This is a course for creative students who enjoy Art and Design. Students will need to be self motivated and independent thinkers, inquisitive about the world around them and prepared to take chances.

What will I learn?

Students will experiment with a wide range of practical skills, techniques and materials while continually addressing the fundamental elements of art. They will engage in contextual studies in order to gain an understanding of past and contemporary art and design practice. This knowledge will be used to help develop ideas and inform a personal response. Museum trips may be used to highlight the importance of careful and accurate visual research related to coursework themes.



How will I be assessed?

Coursework = 60% of final grade: Coursework is generated over the two years.

Externally set exam (Timed Test) = 40% of final grade: The ten hour art exam takes place over two days with students receiving the external paper in January. Preparatory work for the exam is produced over 7 to 8 weeks with the final outcome created using techniques and materials which play to individual student's strengths.

Work for both exam and coursework is assessed across the four assessment objectives: Develop, Refine, Record, Present.

Homework: Homework is a compulsory and essential element of the syllabus and is set weekly. Homework extends and supports work carried out in lessons and is integrated into the developmental work of the project.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Business

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification Code: 1BS0



Who is the course for?



This course enables students who have an interest in starting their own businesses and learning about how businesses work to develop their independent thinking skills, solve problems and learn how to make business decisions whilst exploring the dynamic nature of businesses.

What will I learn?

You will study two themes: Theme 1: **'Investigating small businesses' and 'Theme 2: Building a Business'**.

Theme 1 consists of five key topics: Enterprise & entrepreneurship, Spotting a business opportunity, Putting a business idea into practice, Making the business effective and Understanding external influences on business.

Theme 2's key topics are as follows: Growing the business, Making marketing decisions, Making operational decisions, Making financial decisions and Making human resource decisions.

How will I be assessed?

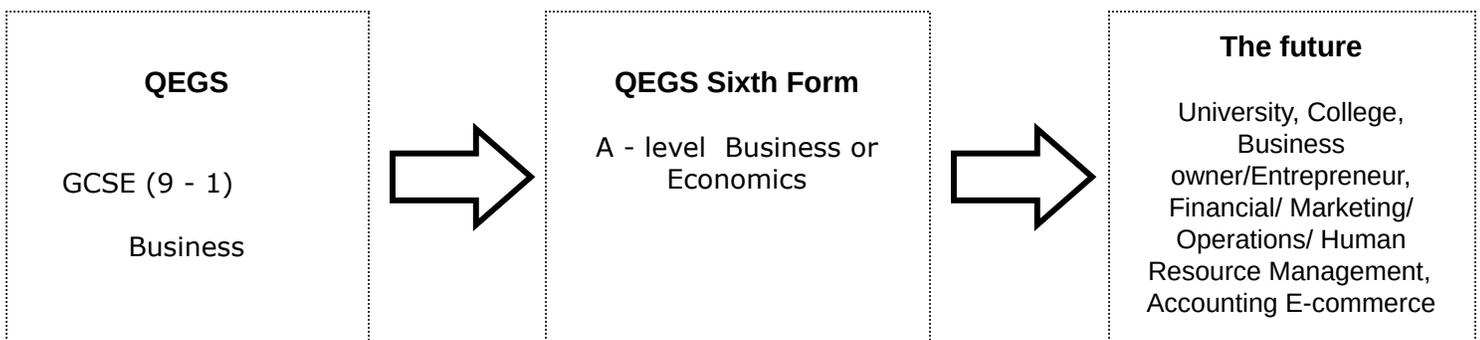


For GCSE (9 - 1) Business, assessment consists of two examinations, each 1 hour 45 minutes long.

Each exam is worth 50% of your final grade.

Both papers will contain three sections with multiple - choice questions, calculations and short and extended writing questions.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Computer Science

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Specification Code: J277



Who is the course for?



This course is designed for students who are curious about how technology works and are keen to develop the skills needed to create their own digital solutions. It is ideal for students who enjoy problem-solving, logical thinking, and working creatively with technology. Whether you aspire to a future career in software development, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, or simply want a solid understanding of the digital world, this course offers a strong foundation.

No prior knowledge of Computer Science is required, but a strong interest in technology and a commitment to learning are essential. This course will prepare you for further study in Computer Science or related fields and develop skills highly valued in many industries, including critical thinking, analytical skills, and programming expertise.

What will I learn?

In this course, you will explore the fundamental principles of Computer Science and develop both theoretical and practical skills. Topics covered include understanding how computer systems work, how data is represented and processed, and how networks communicate. You will gain hands-on experience in programming, learning to write, debug, and improve code to solve real-world problems.

You will also explore broader concepts such as cybersecurity, ethical issues in technology, and computing's impact on society. By learning about algorithms and computational thinking, you will develop strategies for approaching complex problems logically and systematically.

This course will equip you with transferable skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and resilience. Whether designing a game, creating an app, or analysing the security of a system, you will apply your knowledge to practical and engaging projects that prepare you for further study or careers in the ever-evolving field of technology.

How will I be assessed?



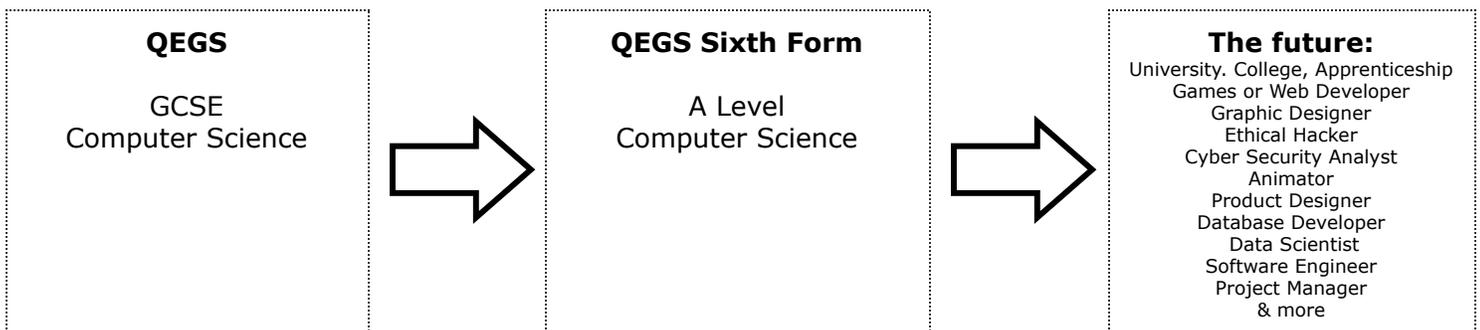
2 x External examinations (Computer Systems & Computational Thinking) = 100%

1 x Non exam assessment (20 Programming Lessons) = Mandatory but not assessed

The non-exam assessment allows the practice of skills which are assessed in the examinations.

This qualification is graded on a 9-1 scale.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Design & Technology

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas

Specification Code: C600QS



Who is the course for?



Creative students who would like to understand and appreciate the design and manufacture of a whole range of different products using a range of materials and processes to become a more discriminating consumer. It will help you to be creative in your own approach to design and making. The course is suitable for students interested in either Fashion & Textiles or Product Design.

What will I learn?

You will choose to study either **Design and Technology - Textiles practical focus** or **Design and Technology - Product Design practical focus**. This shall build up your practical skills in whichever area you choose.

In addition to your practical design focus you shall still study all of the different material areas as well as issues regarding the environment, ethical considerations and different manufacturing methods in order to be able to respond to the core section of the exam.

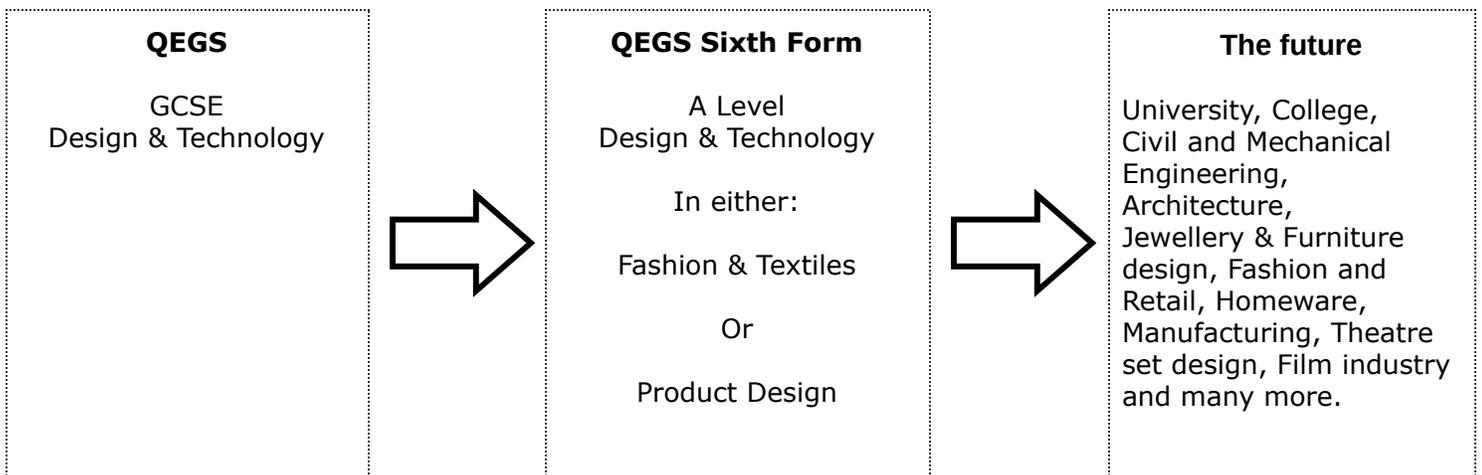
How will I be assessed?



COMPONENT 1—Core Knowledge 50% Exam (100 marks) A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge of five specific areas plus assessment of in depth knowledge and understanding of one of the following topics:- Paper and boards, Natural and Manufactured timber, Fibres and textiles, Ferrous and non-Ferrous metal, Thermosetting and Thermoforming plastics.

COMPONENT 2—Designing and making principles 50% Design & Make task (100 marks) based on a given task or situation. You will have to write your own design brief, design solutions and manufacture a prototype using your Textiles or Product Design skills depending on the practical focus that you have chosen to study.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Drama

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Specification Code: J316



Who is the course for?



This is a course for students who have a strong interest in drama. Students who enjoy performing and watching live theatre will thrive on this course. It will also benefit students who enjoy analysing and evaluating scripts, and designing unique interpretations of a range of plays. Students must understand the importance of group work and be committed to their peers. Students must be prepared to perform to a variety of audiences throughout the course.

What will I learn?

The basis of the course is creating drama through responding to a variety of stimuli (text, image, sound, and artefact), the study of a set text and a response to a piece of live theatre. Although a lot of learning is done through practical exploration of text and stimuli, assessment is 70% written and 30% practical.

How will I be assessed?

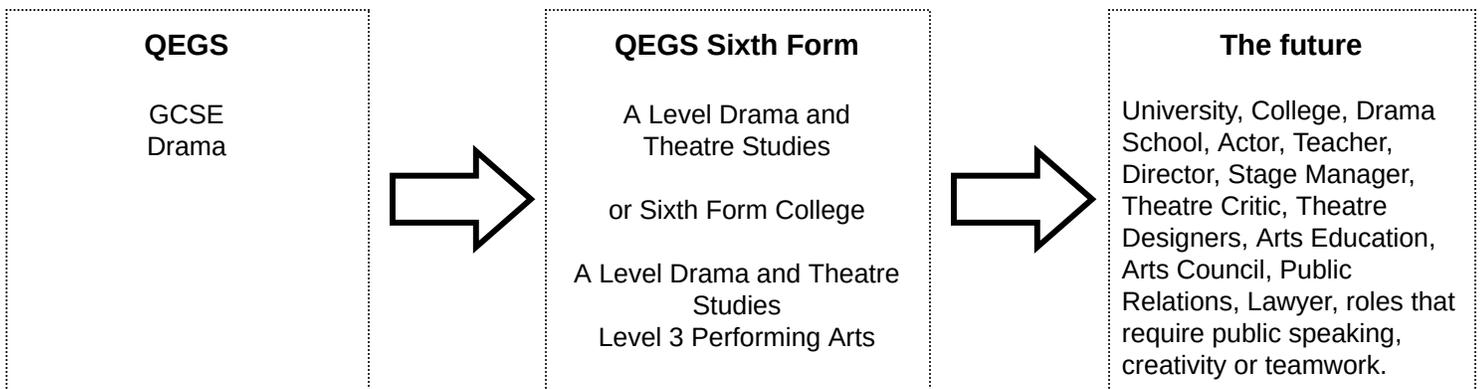


Component 01/02 (30%) Devising Drama: - students will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama that will be performed to an invited audience. A portfolio to support the process can be made up of essay entries, sketches, diary blogs, recorded presentations or a combination of these different forms.

Component 03 (30%) - Presenting and Performing Texts: - students develop an exciting and diverse set of performance skills that culminate in a showcase of two extracts from a scripted play. The text will be read as a whole and then contrasting scenes will be developed practically. The performance is assessed by a visiting examiner and a short written evaluation is submitted.

Component 04 (40%) Drama: Performance and Response: - this component has two sections. Students will explore practically and in-depth a set text. Through practical study, they will explore how characters and performance communicate ideas and meaning. They will also evaluate and analyse a live theatre performance. This is assessed through a written examination.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Economics

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Specification Code: J205



Who is the course for?



Students who are enthusiastic about the world of finance and how consumers, producers and government interact to cause prices to rise and fall will enjoy studying Economics. The subject studies the impact of scarcity in resources and how that impacts the cost of living, profit of firms and the standard of living of individuals. Economics explores how international trade, multinational companies and trading blocs influence economic growth and the level of development in different regions.

What will I learn?

Year 10 economists will focus on the basic economic problems in 'The Introduction to Economics' that help us to answer questions such as why the price of Tesla is higher than a Nissan Leaf, why taxing cigarettes has little impact on the quantity of cigarettes smokers consume, but the same percentage increase in tax on sugary drinks may help reduce obesity. 'The role of markets and money' investigates why some businesses are more profitable than others and also looks at the banking system.

Year 11 economists will study the influence of the Government in 'National Economics' and the exciting world of 'International Economics'.

How will I be assessed?



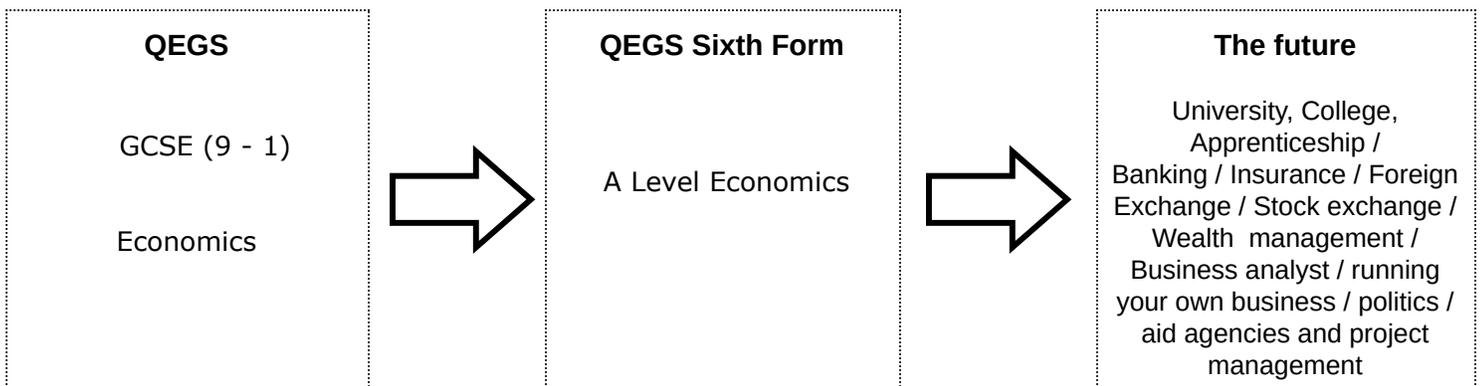
GCSE Economics consists of two papers, each 1 hour and 30 minutes long.

Paper 1: Introduction to Economics

Paper 2: National and International Economics

Each Papers consist of a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data response and open-ended questions.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: English Language

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8700



Who is the course for?



English is a statutory, core subject; therefore an essential subject in the curriculum, given that it develops communication skills that are essential to all subject areas. More importantly, English is a qualification sought after by all higher educational institutes and most employers

What will I learn?

The study of English Language through a range of literary and non-literary texts. This is taught alongside English Literature, as an integrated course, leading to two separate GCSE qualifications of equal value. The course consists of two units and at the start of the course students will be given an outline plan which will identify what will be studied in each half term.

Students will be required to respond to unseen texts drawn from "high quality, challenging literature and nonfiction" on both papers in the final examination, so the two-year course will provide opportunities for them to read widely and become confident in interpreting information and ideas and in understanding the means by which they are presented.

How will I be assessed?



Each unit is assessed through final examination:

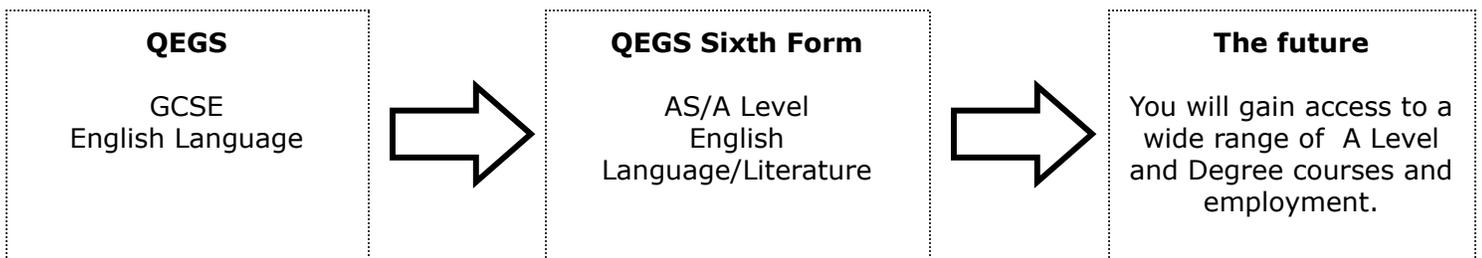
Unit 1: Examination worth 50% of final grade: Creative Reading and Writing.

Analysis of literary text and descriptive or narrative writing. Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes.

Unit 2: Examination worth 50% of final grade: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives.

Analysing literary fiction and non-fiction and writing to present a viewpoint. Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: English Literature

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8702



Who is the course for?



This course is compulsory for all students to encourage learners to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and to acquire knowledge of the very best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure, and is also preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

What will I learn?

- To read a range of intriguing, fictional prose genres that are drawn from a body of literary heritage and contemporary texts
- To read (post 1945) texts; respond to global literature; study Shakespeare, English literary heritage texts and poetry
- Students will demonstrate that they can read with insight, showing analytical interpretative skills
- Students will read texts, which include post-1914 prose fiction and drama. The chosen text is: "An Inspector Calls" by J B Priestley.

How will I be assessed?

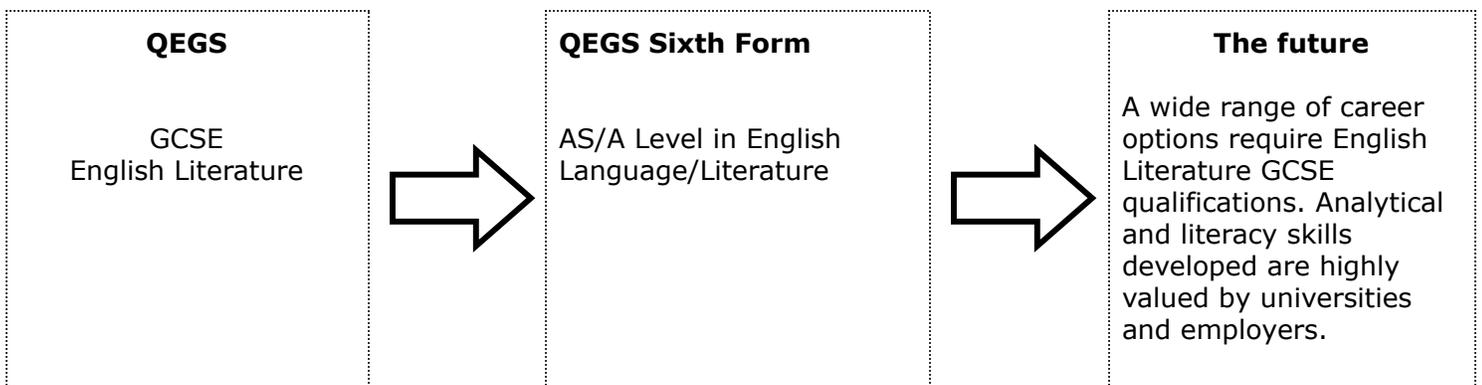


All assessments are closed book

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes. 64 marks. 40% of GCSE (Texts: Romeo and Juliet & A Christmas Carol)

Paper 2 - Modern texts and poetry. Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes. 96 marks. 60% GCSE (Texts: An Inspector Calls, AQA Anthology Poetry- Power & Conflict)

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Food Preparation & Nutrition

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8585



Who is the course for?



This exciting GCSE course gives students the opportunity to gain experience by focusing on practical cooking skills and gaining a strong understanding of nutrition. It is more important for pupils choosing the course to enjoy a large variety of foods than to have a natural flair for cooking; we will teach you how to cook!

What will I learn?

Food Preparation Skills, Food Nutrition and Health, Food Safety, Food Science, Food Provenance and Food Choice. During the course you will be given the opportunity to practise a wide range of skills along with having a greater understanding of nutrition, the science behind food as a material and wider environmental aspects associated with food.

In Year 10 pupils will cook approximately 30 times along with completing a series of modules involving written work and food experiments. In Year 11 pupils will concentrate on completing two Non Examination Assessments (NEA) using a variety of research and investigation methods. Pupils will respond to one of three specified tasks set by the exam board. Pupils will cook less in Year 11 as more time will be dedicated to the NEAs and preparation for the summer examination. Pupils will enjoy Food Preparation and Nutrition if they are organised and enjoy experimenting with food. The course is taught in a “hands on” practical way; consequently the weekly purchase of ingredients is essential - therefore time will need to be allocated to visiting the supermarket. If cost is a concern please ensure you let Mrs Doel know.

How will I be assessed?



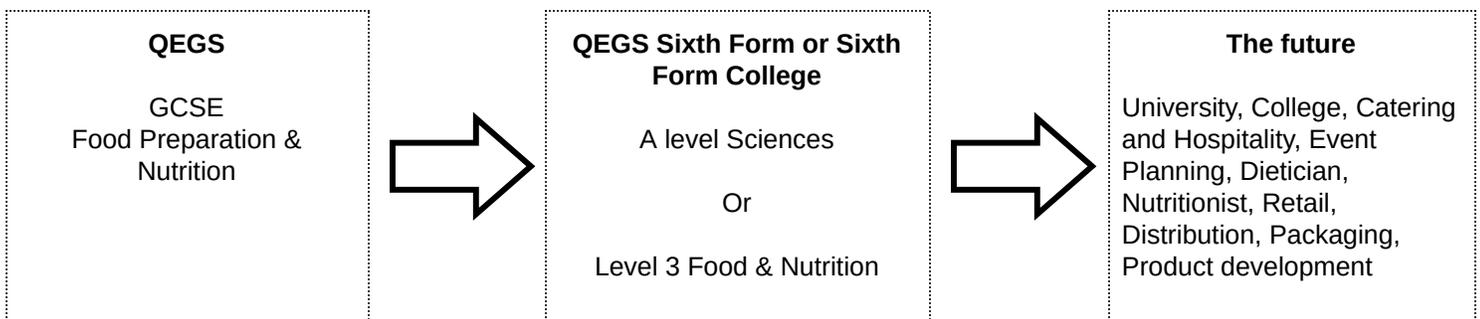
All assessments take place in Year 11

September – November. NEA Task 1 – Food Science Investigation (10 hours) = 15% of GCSE

January – March. NEA Task 2 – Food Preparation Assessment (20 hours including a 3 hour practical assessment) = 35% of GCSE

May – June - 1 hour 45 minute exam = 50% of GCSE

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: French

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8652



Who is the course for?



This course is for students who have an interest in French language and culture and want to develop their ability to communicate effectively. It equips students with skills valuable for travel, further education, and career opportunities in various fields. French is also a key component of the English Baccalaureate, requiring a grade 5 or above for recognition.

What will I learn?

The course focuses on practical communication skills and cultural awareness across three key themes:

- **Theme 1:** People and lifestyle (personal identity, healthy living, education & work).
- **Theme 2:** Popular culture (free time, celebrities, customs & festivals).
- **Theme 3:** Communication and the world around us (travel, environment, technology).

The new specification emphasizes a balance between language mastery and cultural understanding, preparing students for real-life situations and further study. It incorporates modern and engaging contexts, such as sustainability and digital communication.

How will I be assessed?

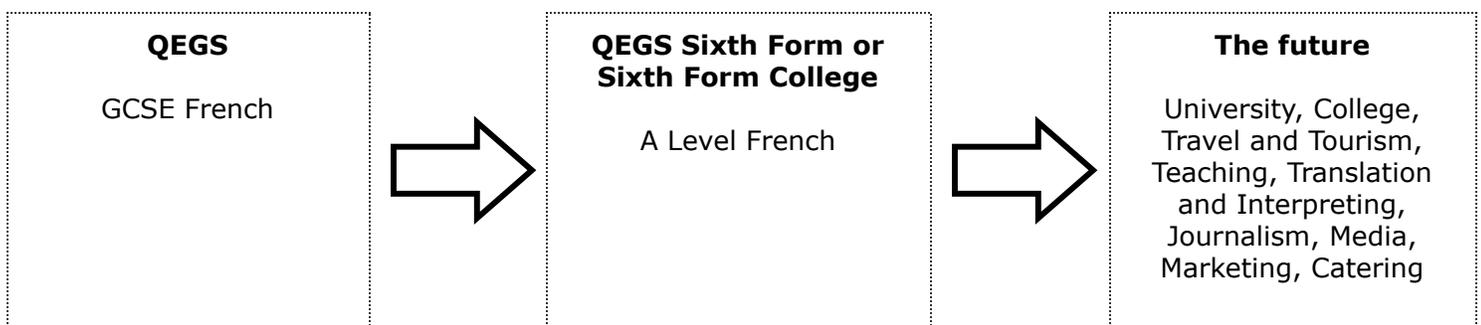


Assessment occurs through four equally weighted components, each tailored to specific skills:

- **Listening (25%):** Includes comprehension and dictation tasks with tier-specific challenges.
- **Speaking (25%):** Features role-play, reading aloud, and discussion of visual prompts.
- **Reading (25%):** Combines comprehension questions and translation from French to English.
- **Writing (25%):** Includes structured tasks and translation from English to French.

Exams are tiered (Foundation and Higher), with all assessments taken at the same tier during one series.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Geography

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel B

Specification Code: 1GB0



Who is the course for?



If you are inquisitive about the world around you, then this is the subject for you! Geography helps young people to understand the world in which they live, to appreciate the variety of physical and human conditions on the earth's surface and to develop understanding of the relationships between people and environments. It is a topical subject that covers both local and global current affairs, aiding students to become global citizens. Geography is highly regarded by both universities and employers, and through studying it you will develop a wide range of social, intellectual and analytical skills which will help equip you for the world outside.

What will I learn?

The course is made up of three core components and these are:

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues

Component 3: People and Environment Issues

You will also learn a mixture of Physical and Human Geography and the links between the different topics and build decision making and fieldwork skills.

How will I be assessed?



The Geography GCSE is assessed through three exams, these are:

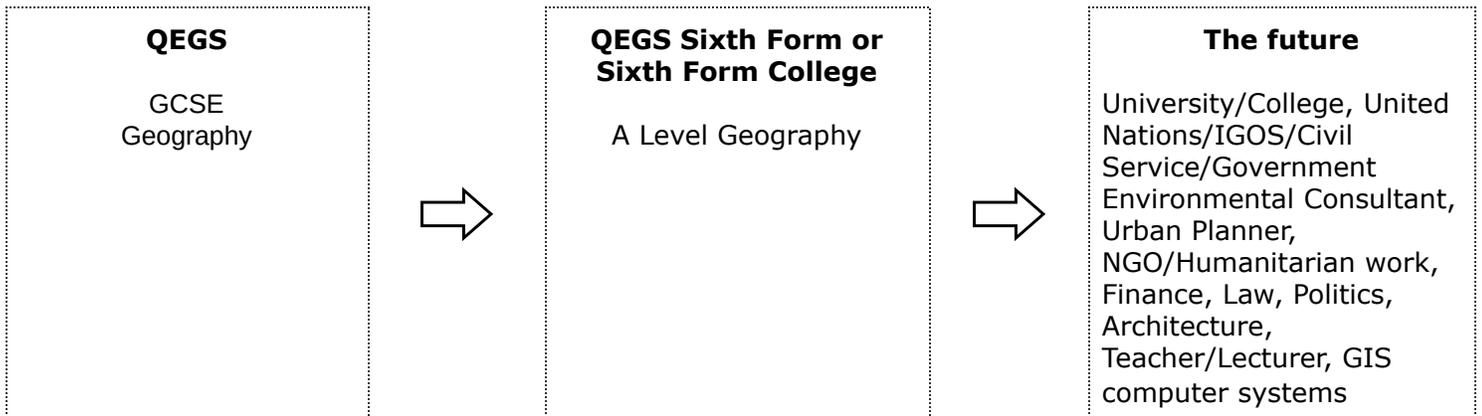
Component 1 – 1 hour 30 minute exam worth 37.5%

Component 2 – 1 hour 30 minute exam worth 37.5%

Component 3 – 1 hour 30 minute exam worth 25%

It is also compulsory that students complete one physical geography and one human geography field trip. Questions relating to fieldwork will be in the Component 2 exam. We currently visit Epping Forest Field Studies Centre to study rivers and East Finchley and The Bishops Avenue to investigate variations in urban quality of life.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Health & Social Care

**Qualification: Pearson BTEC Tech Award
Level 1/2**

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification No: 603/7047/6



Who is the course for?



All students: This is an activity based course. Students will develop skills which are needed by Health and Social Care professionals.

What will I learn?

BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care is divided into 3 components.

- Component 1– Human Lifespan Development. This unit focuses on the development of applied knowledge and understanding of human growth and development across life stages and the factors that affect this, and how individuals deal with life events
- Component 2– Health and Social Care Services and Values. This unit looks at the development of applied knowledge and understanding of different types of health and social care services and barriers to accessing them, and the skills, attributes and values required to give care
- Component 3– Health and Wellbeing. This unit requires students to study the factors that affect health and well-being, learn about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person-centred approaches to make recommendations to improve health and wellbeing

This is a specialist work related qualification which helps to build up practical skills for work and/or further study.

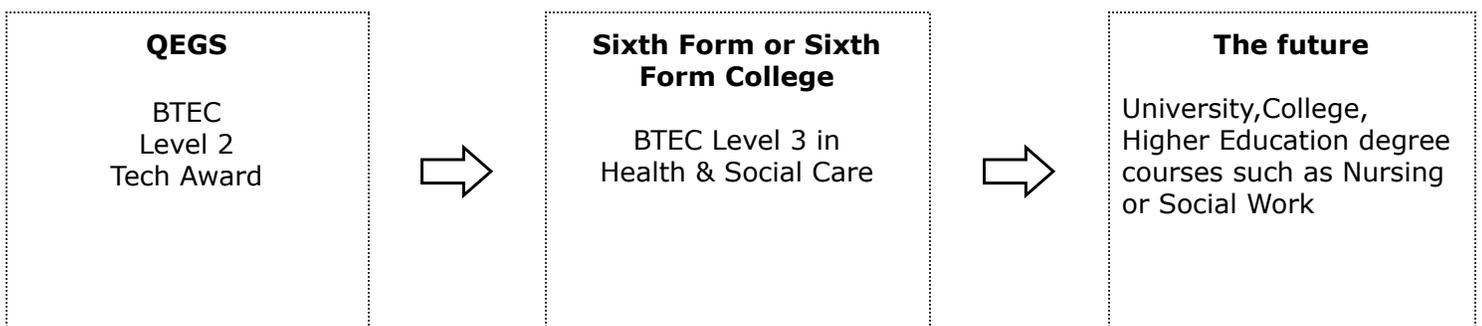
It is the equivalent of one GCSE.

How will I be assessed?



Component 1– 30% Internally assessed coursework unit
Component 2– 30% Internally assessed coursework unit
Component 3– 40% External assessment/examination

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: History

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification Code: 1H10

Who is the course for?



It is for anyone who is planning to follow a more academic pathway at KS4 and KS5 and who loves learning about the past. It is an interesting subject and the GCSE course gives students the opportunity to study a variety of topics, the majority of which they will not have studied before. In addition, History will help develop vital skills which are all highly valued by employers as well as by colleges and universities.

What will I learn?

- To use a wide range of skills including analysis, comprehension, argument, research and presentation.
- To use effectively a wide range of sources and types of databases.
- To understand key issues across time periods and examine the lives of individual
- To compare cultures, political issues, religious backgrounds and ethnicity in a historical context

How will I be assessed?



Paper 1 – Thematic study and Historic environment - Medicine in Britain, c1250 – present (Thematic Study) (Process of Change) *with* The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches (Historic environment) (worth 30%)
1 hour 20 minutes exam

Paper 2 – Period study and British Depth study — Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 (British depth study) and The American West, c1835–c1895 (Period study) (worth 40%)
1 hour 50 minutes exam

Paper 3 – Modern depth study — Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39 (worth 30%)
1 hour 30 minute exam

All three examined units take place at the end of Year 11. Finally, 5% of the marks in the exam are given for correct use of SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar and subject specific terminology). SPaG marks are given as part of the marks on extended high mark essays. The exam will be graded according to the new 9-1 grading structure.

How can I progress with this qualification?

QEGS

GCSE
History



QEGS Sixth Form or Sixth Form College

A Level History



The future

University, College, Law,
Media, Journalism,
Banking, Education, Civil
Service, Politics,
Archiving and Heritage,
Archaeology, Genealogy,
Marketing and more

Subject: Mathematics

Qualification: GCSE

**Exam Board: Edexcel
Specification Code: 1MA1**



Who is the course for?



GCSE Mathematics will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including working with numbers, algebra, geometry, measures, statistics and probability for all learners.

What will I learn?

- Problem Solving in a range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts, including those drawn from real life and other areas of the curriculum.
- Activities that provide frequent opportunities to demonstrate understanding through reasoning, explaining strategies and use of technology that targets individual needs .
- Activities which involve carrying out practical work with geometrical objects, visualising them and working with them physically.
- Practical work which requires drawing inferences from data, considering how statistics are used in real life to make informed decisions, and recognising the difference between meaningful and misleading representations of data.
- Activities focused on the major ideas of statistics, including using appropriate populations and representative samples.
- Extending mental and written calculation strategies and using efficient procedures confidently in mathematical and non mathematical contexts.
- Early interventions with exposure to exam style questions/problem solving questions

How will I be assessed?



There are three written papers: each contributes 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % to the final grade.

Paper 1 — non calculator

Paper 2 — calculator

Paper 3 — calculator

Each paper carries a total of 80 marks and has a duration of 1 hour and 30 minutes. Students will sit either the Higher tier where grades range from 9 to 3 or the Foundation tier where grades range from 5 to 1. Students are required to sit in the same tier for all three papers.

Will there be any additional support to help improve my maths skills outside of lessons?

Yes

- There is Mathswatch which offers a wide range of videos on the skills necessary for your GCSEs. Each student has an individual login and it is accessible on any device with the internet.
- There is TT Rock Stars which provides times table practice in a fun and exciting way.
- Maths clinic runs every Wednesday in Room 311 after school for extra support for students.

Subject: Media Studies

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Specification Code: J200



Who is the course for?



The course is a great introduction for students considering Media or Film Studies at A level. Students will study media in an academic context and apply the knowledge and understanding gained in the process of creating their own media production. Students will develop a wider understanding and appreciation of media in both a historical and contemporary context.

What will I learn?

- You will develop a more critical and analytical perspective on various media texts
- To apply your media knowledge and skills in creative, practical ways
- To develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the theories that apply to three areas : Media Language, Media Representation, and Media Audience

How will I be assessed?

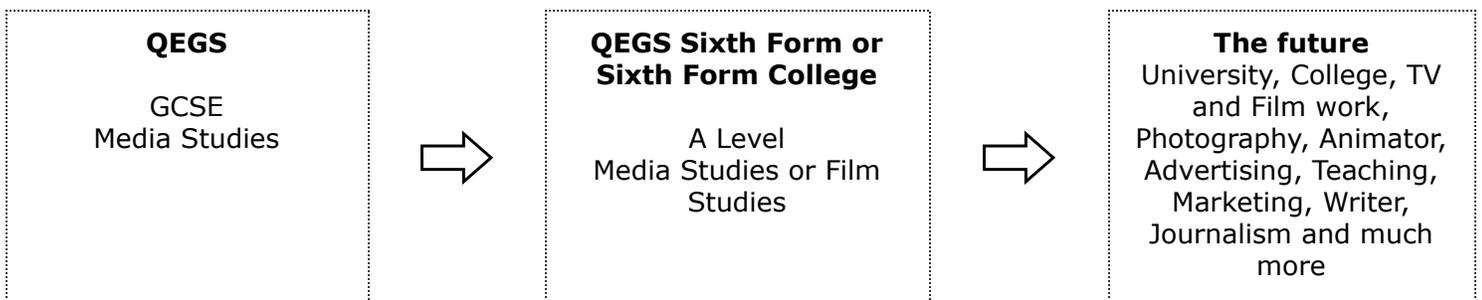


Controlled Assessment — Creating Media = 30% of final grade: The students will produce one individual media video production in response to a brief set by OCR which will require learners to apply their knowledge and understanding of audience, media representation and media language from a theoretical framework. The brief will be published in the Spring of year 10. For example in 2019 the brief was to produce a 2 minute extract from the opening of a TV documentary aimed at 10-14 year olds. In 2020 the brief was to create a 2 minute extract from a new TV comedy show.

Exam 1— Television and promoting Media = 35% of final grade: The students will be required to complete an exam lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes including 30 minutes viewing time. Media Texts studied for this exam include a TV episode of the TV Drama Vigil (ep1 s1 2021) and The Avengers TV show (1965), and the promotional campaign for The Lego Movie (2014) and The Lego Movie videogame.

Exam 2— Music and News = 35% of the final grade: The students will be required to complete an exam lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. Media Texts studied for this exam include two music videos, BBC radio 1 Live Lounge, Mojo Magazine and the Observer newspaper.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Music

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification Code: MU01



Who is the course for?



GCSE music is a varied and exciting option to take. There are a wide range of activities tied up with the subject; performing, composing and learning about a wide range of musical styles.

This is a course for students who have a passion for music and are interested in developing their skills in composition, musical awareness and performance. You either need to be taking private lessons on your instrument or voice and be around or above a grade 3 standard. If you are unsure about this our Music teachers will advise you. You should also be required to participate in various extracurricular musical activities at school.

What will I learn?

- Performing solo and in a group.
- Composing in various styles.
- Exploring and analysing the following styles:
 - Vocal Music
 - Instrumental Music
 - Music for Stage and Screen
 - Fusions

Set works studied include *Defying Gravity*, *Wicked*, and *Killer Queen*, Queen.

There will be the opportunity each year to experience these styles in performance. This includes trips to the West End and to the London Symphony Orchestra.

How will I be assessed?



Performance element - 30% of the GCSE.

Two performances (solo and ensemble) are carried out during the second year of the course. If you are a multi-instrumentalist, you will have the option to perform on both. (Totalling to 4 minutes).

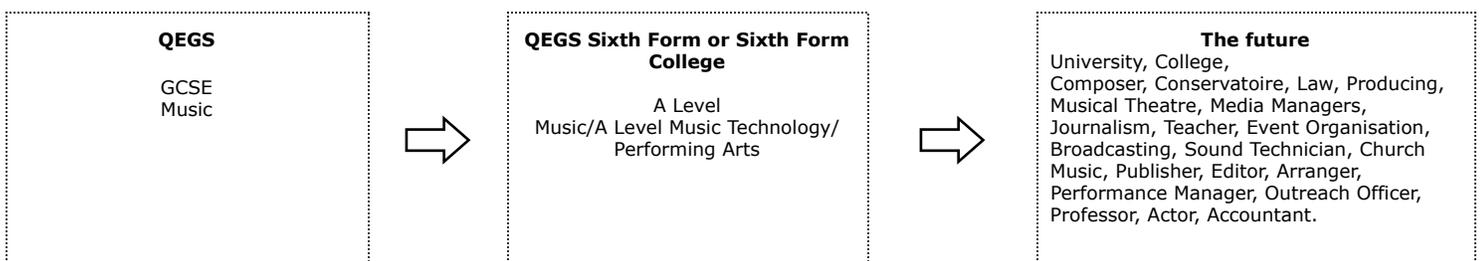
Composition element - 30% of the GCSE.

Coursework consists of two pieces for the final assessment. One based on a brief from the examination board and the other is a 'free' composition. Both are to be completed during controlled conditions during school lessons. (Totalling to 3 minutes).

Written exam - 40% of the GCSE

Students will sit a 1 hour 45 minute exam. This is a listening paper that consists of extracts from the 8 pieces of music studied.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Physical Education

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8582



Who is the course for?



1. **Students Interested in Sport and Physical Activity:** Those who have a passion for sports, enjoy physical activity and participating in sports, and are interested in improving their personal performance in various sports and physical exercises.
2. **Students Considering a Career in Sports or Fitness:** Individuals who are thinking about a future career in sports science, coaching, fitness training, physical therapy, sports management, or other related fields.
3. **Students Looking to Understand the Science Behind Physical Activity:** Those who are keen on understanding the biological, physiological, and psychological aspects of physical activity and how it affects the human body.

The course covers various topics, including the benefits of physical activity, principles of training, anatomy and physiology, and socio-cultural influences on participation in sports. It combines both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, requiring students to demonstrate their ability in different physical activities.

What will I learn?

- The biology of the body, biomechanics of movement, fitness training principles and understanding the sociological and psychological theories and their impact on sport performance.
- Key theoretical sporting ideas and how these interact with practical performance. You will gain insights into the relationships they have with each other throughout the course
- The development of transferable skills including decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking, acting and reacting under pressure
- Effective planning for performance and how to respond to changing situations.

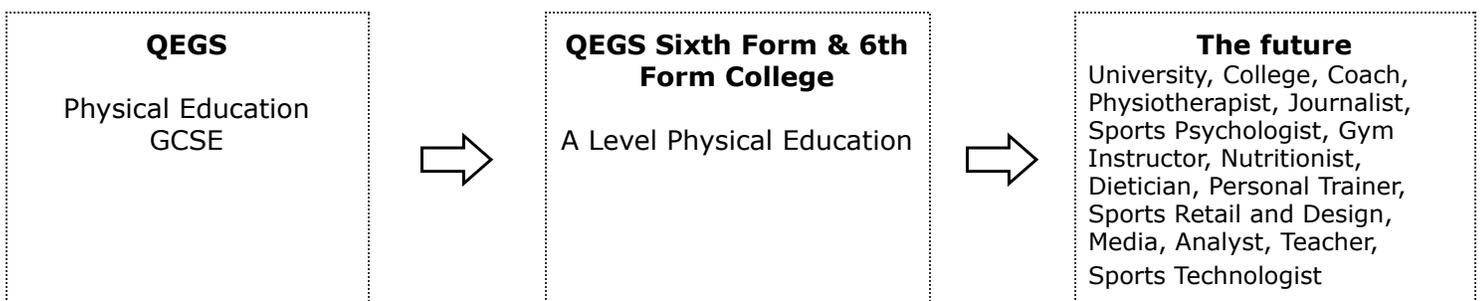
How will I be assessed?



Written Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) 40% Examination 60%

- NEA. One Performance Analysis task and 3 practical performances
- A total of two hour 30 minute assessment split over two examination papers (2 x 1 hour 15 mins) taken at the end of the two year course
- A wide range of question types including multiple choice, single mark, short answer and extended response questions
- The opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of theory and performance skills in both your NEA and through the examinations.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Physical Education (Core)

Qualification: n/a

Exam Board: n/a

Specification Code: n/a



Who is the course for?



This is a core subject. All students will participate in a variety of sport and fitness activities.

What will I learn?

Activities include: Netball, Badminton, Dance, Fitness, Boxercise, Tennis, Rounders, Volleyball, Tennis, Basketball

How will I be assessed?



There is no formal examination as such in core PE. Students' Attitude to Learning will be assessed and reported to parents/carers.

Homework may be set as and when needed.

Subject: Religious Studies

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas

Specification Code: C120QS



Who is the course for?



GCSE Religious Studies gives students a stronger understanding of religious teachings and practices from a variety of faiths. Students will engage with questions of belief, value and purpose from a religious and non religious viewpoint.

What will I learn?

The course will help you to learn about the approaches of religion and philosophy to some of the fundamental questions about human existence, such as why are we here? Is there a God? Why is there evil in the world? You will look at ethics in areas such as medicine and in relation to poverty, wealth as well as causes of crime and aims of punishment. The specification explores areas such as relationships, human rights, the origins of life and death along with the problem of suffering in our world.

You will study beliefs, teaching and practices from two religious perspectives, Christianity and Sikhism. Component 1 explores philosophical and ethical studies affecting our world today, from both a religious and non religious perspective. All students will be required to consider their own views as part of the evaluative questions and these may be religious or non-religious. The course will allow you to develop knowledge and understanding of religions, non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism as well as develop your critical thinking skills in relation to issues affecting our society today.

How will I be assessed?



The Religious Studies GCSE is assessed through three written papers. These are:

1. Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical studies in the modern world.

50% of GCSE, 120 marks plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar

2. Component 2: Study of Christianity

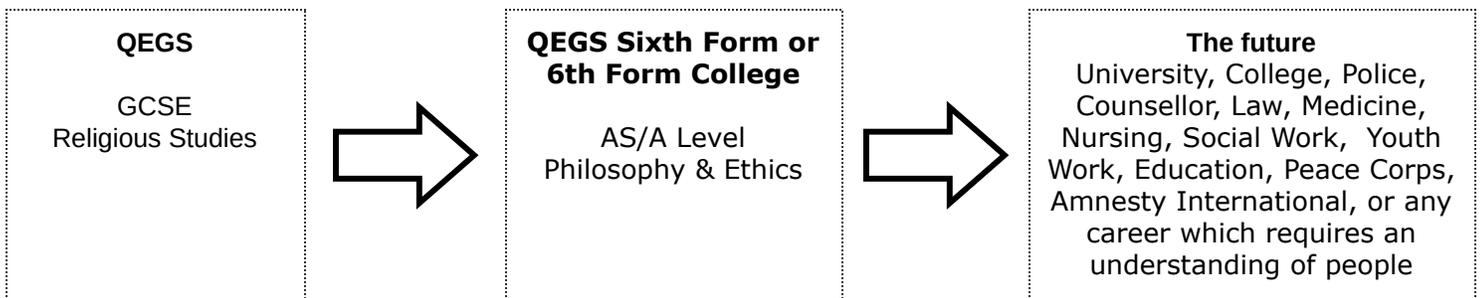
25% of GCSE, 60 marks plus 6 for spelling, punctuation and grammar

3. Component 3: Study of a world faith (Sikhism).

25% of GCSE, 60 marks

Tiers of Entry: One Tier of entry

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Combined Science
Qualification: GCSE Double Award

Exam Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8464



Who is the course for?



Combined Science (Double Award) students in Years 10 and 11 will study Science for 9 periods a fortnight as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. The aim is for you to: -

- develop an understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help answer scientific questions about the world around you
- develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem solving skills, both in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments
- develop your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively

What will I learn?

Biology topics: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics. Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry topics: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes. The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Physics topics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure. Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism.

How will I be assessed?



6 Exam papers - 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics

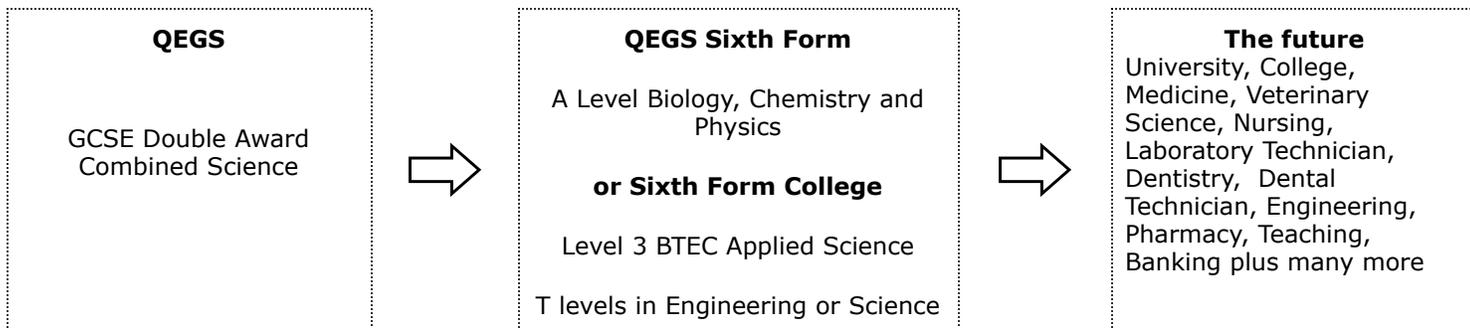
Each worth 16.7% of the GCSE and consisting of structured closed short answer and extended response questions.

21 Required practicals must be completed for the exams

It should be noted that the requirement for taking A-level Sciences is a minimum of two grade 6 at GCSE and Grade 6 in both English and Maths. You will require a minimum of Grade 7 in Maths GCSE to study A level Physics.

Tiers of Entry Foundation (Grades 5-1) and Higher (Grades 9-5)

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Biology, Chemistry & Physics (Triple)

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

**Specification Code: 8461,
8462, 8463**



Who is the course for?



Triple Science students study Science in Years 10 and 11 for 12 periods a fortnight as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Students will:

- Develop an understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help answer scientific questions about the world around them.
- Develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments.
- Develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

What will I learn?

Biology topics: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; Ecology

Chemistry topics: Atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; Energy changes. The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.

Physics topics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure. Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Enrichment Activities (one hour per week):

To consolidate learning across STEM and develop independent learning skills and teamwork. Students will carry out group projects, lead investigations/experiments for the school's Science Fair and enter competitions such as the Big Bang held at the NEC in Birmingham.

How will I be assessed?



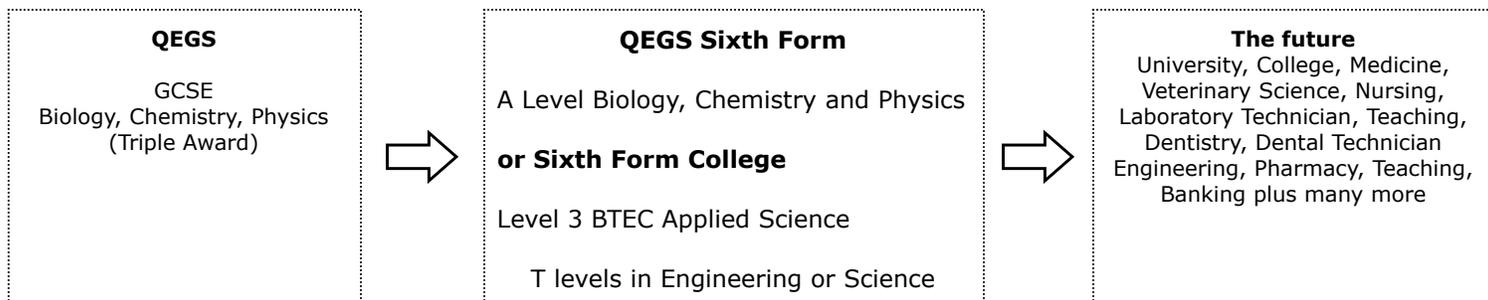
6 Exam papers - 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics each worth 50% of the specific subject GCSE. Papers consist of structured short answer questions and extended response questions.

28 required practicals must be completed and the exam papers will feature questions which relate to these.

Tiers of Entry - Foundation (Grades 5-1) and Higher (Grades 9-5)

It should be noted that the requirement for taking A Level Sciences is a minimum of two Science Grade 6's at GCSE (one in the subject you want to study) and Grade 6 in both English and Maths. You will require a minimum of Grade 7 in Maths GCSE to study A level Physics.

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Sociology

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8192



Who is the course for?



Sociology GCSE is an exciting, stimulating course for students who are starting to develop an interest in what happens in wider society. Students will learn new concepts that help them make sense of the relationship between the individual and society.

Analytical and communication skills will be necessary if you study sociology as you will compare and contrast perspectives on a variety of social issues, construct reasoned arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw reasoned conclusions.

What will I learn?

Sociology is the study of how people create, organise and sustain their societies. It explores how human action both shapes and is shaped by surrounding economic, social and cultural structures and processes. Through studying topics including families, education, crime and deviance, class and sociological research methods, new perspectives of social interaction and the world we live in will be revealed to you.

You will learn about critical tools and explore possibilities for creating a better world.

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

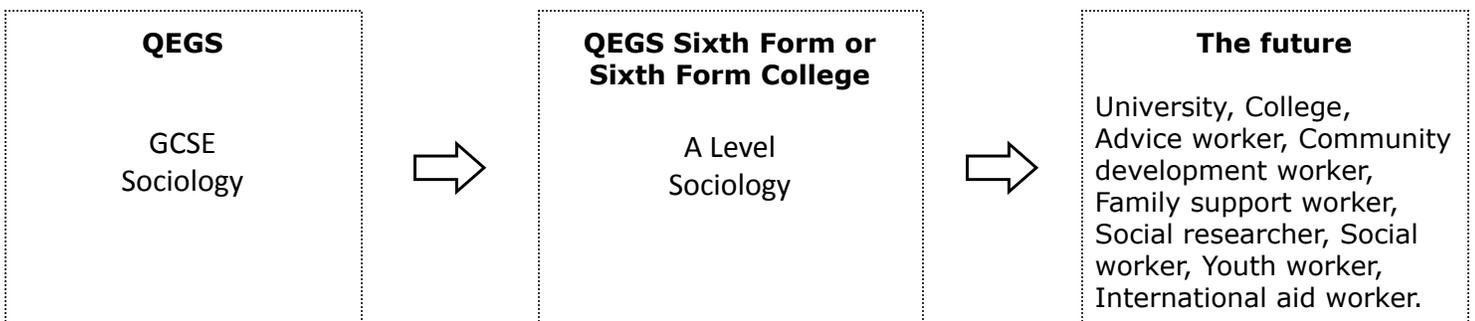
How will I be assessed?



Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes written exam 50%

Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes written exam 50%

How can I progress with this qualification?



Subject: Spanish

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8692



Who is the course for?



This course is ideal for students interested in exploring a modern foreign language and its cultural aspects. It develops their ability to communicate in Spanish and understand the diversity of Spanish-speaking countries. The qualification adds an international perspective to GCSEs, highly valued by employers and higher education institutions. Achieving a grade 5 or above in GCSE Spanish counts towards the English Baccalaureate.

What will I learn?

The new AQA GCSE Spanish specification is structured into three overarching themes:

1. **Identity and Culture**

Topics: Me, my family and friends; technology in everyday life; free-time activities; customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries.

2. **Local, National, International, and Global Areas of Interest**

Topics: Home, town, neighbourhood and region; social and global issues; travel and tourism.

3. **Current and Future Study and Employment**

Topics: My studies; life at school/college; education post-16; jobs, career choices, and ambitions.

The specification integrates cultural and linguistic elements, including **Dictation** and **Reading Aloud** tasks to enhance listening and pronunciation skills.

How will I be assessed?



Assessment is based on four equally weighted skills:

- **Listening (25%)**: End-of-course exam.
- **Speaking (25%)**: Includes role-play, photocard discussion, and general conversation, assessed in controlled conditions.
- **Reading (25%)**: Includes comprehension tasks, translation from Spanish to English, and new cultural reading components.
- **Writing (25%)**: Includes structured writing tasks, translation from English to Spanish, and creative writing components.

How can I progress with this qualification?

