



Year 9 Options 2021



Information on
Key Stage 4
Courses



What do I have to study in Year 10/11?

English

GCSE English
Language

GCSE English
Literature

Mathematics

GCSE Mathematics

Science

One of the following

- Combined Science
- Triple Science

Religious Studies

GCSE Philosophy and
Ethics

Core PE

PSHE & Citizenship



The English Baccalaureate

- English GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- 2 x Science GCSE
- ***1 x GCSE French or Spanish***
- ***1 x GCSE Geography or History***

All at 5 grade or above =





English and Maths

- It is essential that every student gets the highest grade they can in GCSE English and maths
- Students who do not achieve at least a grade 5 in English and Maths GCSEs are likely to be required to continue to study these subjects post 16



Things to Consider

Do consider:

- What do I enjoy?
- What am I good at?
- What do I want to do post-16
 - a) Sixth form?
 - b) College?
 - c) Apprenticeship?
- Choose a good range of subjects

Do not consider:

- Choosing subjects just to be with friends
- Choosing subjects because "I like/don't like the teacher"



Points to Consider

CONTROLLED OR NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

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



Reformed GCSEs

- Introduced over three years from September 2015
- Graded from 9 to 1 (9 is the top grade)
- Linear courses with exams at the end of year 11
- More demanding content and less non-exam assessment



Reformed GCSEs

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



Options Pathways

There are four options pathways, which are designed to suit and meet each individual student's needs. All students must follow one of,

- EBacc plus Triple Science and STEM enrichment
- EBacc
- EBacc Plus
- Non-EBacc.



Options Pathways

Option Pathways

There are four option pathways:

Ebacc plus Triple Science and STEM enrichment – This option offer 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 offer 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 additional English and/or Maths – 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.



Options Pathways

Ebacc plus Triple Science and STEM enrichment

- French or Spanish (or another approved language)
- Geography or History
- Triple Science/STEM enrichment
- One further subject choice



Options Pathways

EBacc

- French or Spanish (or another approved language)
- Geography or History
- Two further subject choices



Options Pathways

EBacc Plus

- French or Spanish (or another approved language)
- Geography or History
- EBacc subject support sessions
- One further subject choice



Options Pathways

Non-EBacc with additional English and/or Maths

- French or Geography or History or Spanish
- Additional support sessions in English and/or Maths
- Two further subject choices



Options Pathways

- Based on the school's progress and other data for each student, they will be guided to consider an appropriate pathway
- These are included on each student's personalised Options Choice Form



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



Next steps

- Families will receive an email tomorrow to register to use SIMS Options Online
- Families can either
 - i. Complete option choices online by Wednesday 3rd March
 - ii. Request an options interview and complete the option choices online straight afterwards
- Individual interviews will begin during week commencing Monday 8th March
- Individual interviews are not necessary where there is accord regarding the guided pathway



Next steps

- To request an options interview - email examinations@qegschool.org.uk
- To enquire about community languages - email examinations@qegschool.org.uk
- To enquire regarding recommended pathways - email examinations@qegschool.org.uk



Option Choice Follow-Up

- Timetabling constraints may force minor changes
- Families will be contacted if first preferences cannot be accommodated – this is to agree alternative choices.



OPTION CHOICE CONFIRMATION

- Final letters issued to students with their options offer - after Easter
- No changes in September



Information available on the school website

- Overview of KS4 Options Process 2021
- 'How to use SIMS Options Online' helpsheet
- SIMS Options Online Demonstration Video
- For each subject
 - Subject overview video
 - Subject information sheet
 - Subject FAQs



More in Key Stage 4 Options

[Remote Learning](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[Key Stage 4 Options](#)

[GCE and GCSE
Examinations](#)

[In Year Examinations](#)

[Accelerated Reader](#)

[Learning Resources](#)

[Lesson Times of School Day](#)

[PE and Other Extra
Curricular Activities](#)

[School Council and Student
Voice](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Uniform](#)

[Careers and Work
Experience](#)

[Canteen](#)

Key Stage 4 Options

The following information is designed to guide students through the process of deciding on their Key Stage 4 option subjects.

Students and their families should start by reading the [Overview of KS4 Options Process 2021](#).

This information will also be explained at the Options Evening where there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Below you will find detailed information about each subject, including a short video and frequently asked questions.

Art



[Art Overview](#)

[Art FAQs](#)

Business Studies



[Business Studies
Overview](#)

[BS FAQs](#)

Computer Science



[Computer Science
Overview](#)

[CS FAQs](#)

Design & Technology



[D&T Overview](#)

[D&T FAQs](#)



Combined and Triple
inc Biology, Chemistry
& Physics



[Science Triple](#)

Spanish



[Spanish Overview](#)

[Spanish FAQs](#)

Information for non examined core subjects

PE Core

[PE Overview](#)

PSHCE

[PSHCE Overview](#)

[PSHCE FAQs](#)

Guidance Information for using SIMS Options Online

[SIMS Options Online Help Sheet](#)





Using SIMS Options Online

How to Use SIMS Options Online

Step 1 - Receiving your invitation

You will receive an email from noreply@simms.co.uk titled 'Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School invites you to SIMS Parent', which will look something like the screenshot below:

You're invited to start using SIMS Parent to manage your child's personal details at Queen Elizabeths Girls School. If enabled by the school, you can also view child's attendance, school reports, homework assignments and more.

Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.

Accept Invitation

If the button above doesn't work, copy and paste the following link into your browser.

<https://id.sims.co.uk/registration/home/soscode>

Should you need to enter it, your personal invite code is: **6GPC99829D**

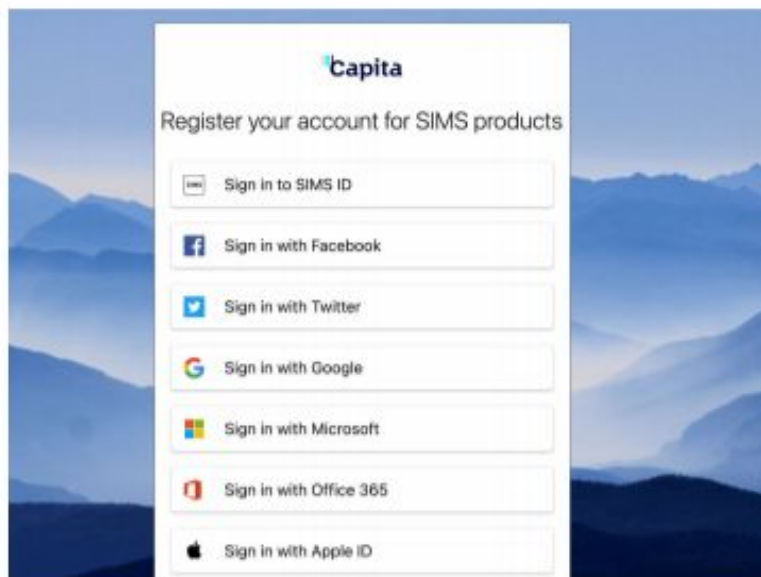
Initially, we will only use SIMS Parent for options, but you will notice mention in the email of other features, which are not currently available at QEGS.



Using SIMS Options Online

Step 2 - Setting Up Your Account

Click on the 'Accept Invitation' link. This will ask you to login via one of the various options available as shown below. The only one that will not work is the SIMS ID option.





Using SIMS Options Online

The first screen will be where your details are confirmed (your name and invitation code will show here automatically):

The image shows a screenshot of the SIMS (School Information Management System) registration screen. At the top, there is a header with the SIMS logo and a mountain range background. Below the header, the word "Registration" is displayed. A message states: "You will have received a new service invite code from either Capita SIMS or from your school administrator. Please enter the code below and tap or click Register." There are three input fields: "Name" with the value "David Jones" and a link "(not you?)", "Signed in with" with the value "Facebook", and "Invitation Code" with the value "6GPC99829D". A blue "Register" button is located below the invitation code field.

SIMS

Registration

You will have received a new service invite code from either Capita SIMS or from your school administrator.
Please enter the code below and tap or click Register.

Name David Jones [\(not you?\)](#)

Signed in with Facebook

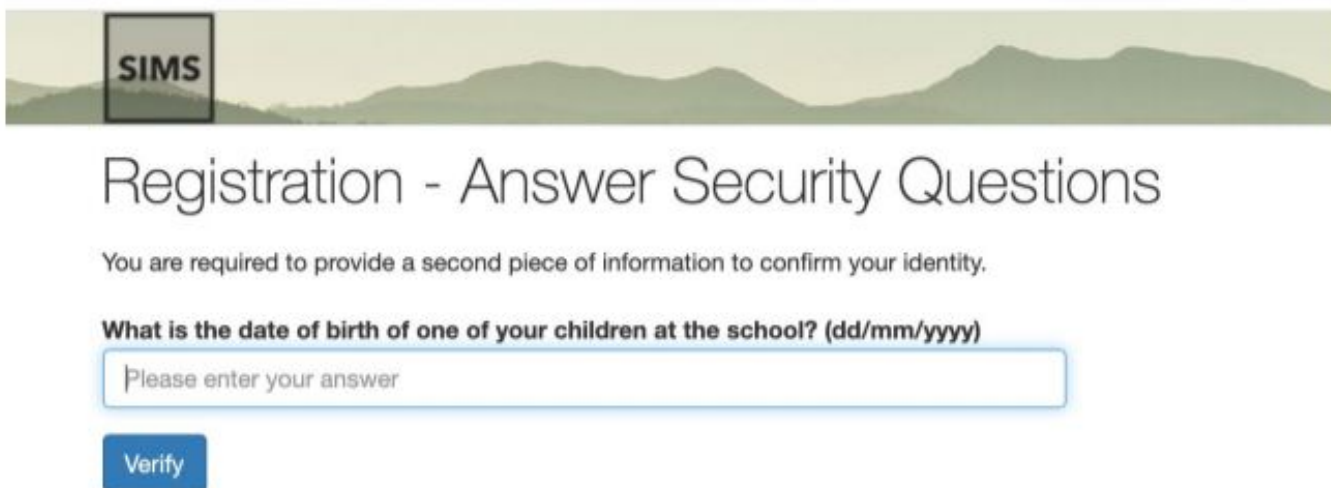
Invitation Code 6GPC99829D

Register



Using SIMS Options Online

On the second screen you will be asked to confirm your daughter's date of birth for authentication purposes:



SIMS

Registration - Answer Security Questions

You are required to provide a second piece of information to confirm your identity.

What is the date of birth of one of your children at the school? (dd/mm/yyyy)

Verify

Step 3 - Signing In

Please note, you only have to enter the invite code once for the process to work. For subsequent logins, simply go to the website www.sims-options.co.uk. Simply sign in with the online service you used when you set up your account (e.g. Facebook).



Using SIMS Options Online

Step 4 - Making Option Choices

When you log in you will see your daughter's recommended pathway.

The screenshot displays the SIMS Options Online interface. At the top, there is a blue header bar with the text 'Home'. Below this is a purple bar with the text 'Student Choices - Guest Student ()'. Underneath the purple bar, there is a 'Save' button with a cloud icon, and two buttons: 'Show Notes' and 'Hide Notes'. The main content area is white and contains a section titled 'Pathway: Ebacc'. The text in this section reads: 'This pathway is tailored to students who want to secure the EBacc with the flexibility to study a w in Key Stage 3. Students on the EBacc pathway will have the opportunity to study a language (French or Spanish) For more information about subjects please look at the Key Stage 4 Options page of the school w'.



Student Choices – Guest Student ()

Save Show Notes Hide Notes

EBacc Language Choice

Please choose either French or Spanish. If you wish to study both languages the other will be available in the Open Choice List.

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

This course is also available in Open Choice

Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

This course is also available in Open Choice

EBacc Humanity Choice

Please choose either Geography or History. If you wish to study both subjects the other will be available in the Open Choice List.

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

This course is also available in Open Choice

History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

This course is also available in Open Choice

Open Choice

Please choose two subjects from the list below. For those that wish to take the STEM route, Triple Science should be chosen as one of the subjects from this list. Once you have chosen your subjects, you will then need to choose one reserve subject.

You have chosen 2 of 2 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Computing GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Design & Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Food Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

You have selected this course in EBacc Language Choice

This course is also available in EBacc Humanity Choice

You have selected this course in EBacc Humanity Choice

Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Physical Education GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Triple Science GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

This course is also available in EBacc Language Choice

Priority Choices

(Total Choices: 2)

Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.

1 **French**

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Language Choice

2 **History**

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Humanity Choice

My Choices

(Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 **Drama**

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice

2 **Food Technology**

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice

My Reserves

(Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 **Design & Technology**

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice



EBacc Language Choice

Please choose either French or Spanish. If you wish to study both languages the other will be available in the Open Choice List.

You have chosen **1 of 1** courses from this list

French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice
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EBacc Humanity Choice

Please choose either Geography or History. If you wish to study both subjects the other will be available in the Open Choice List.

You have chosen **1 of 1** courses from this list

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice
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Open Choice

Please choose two subjects from the list below. For those that wish to take the STEM route, Triple Science should be chosen as one of the subjects from this list. Once you have chosen your subjects, you will then need to choose one reserve subject.

You have chosen **2 of 2** courses and **1 of 1** reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Computing GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Design & Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Food Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course You have selected this course in EBacc Language Choice	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in EBacc Humanity Choice	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course You have selected this course in EBacc Humanity Choice
Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Physical Education GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Triple Science GCSE Full Course Reserve	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in EBacc Language Choice	



Priority Choices

(Total Choices: 2)

Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.

1 French

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Language Choice

2 History

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Humanity Choice

My Choices

(Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Drama

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice

2 Food Technology

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice

My Reserves

(Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Design & Technology

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice



Using SIMS Options Online

▼ Parent/Carer Approval

☐ Parent/Carer Approval

Add any comments here



Using SIMS Options Online

Home

 Student Choices – *Guest Student ()*



Save



Show Notes



Hide Notes



Opportunities to ask questions

- Any general questions about the options process can be asked now
- Questions relating to individual subjects should be directed to the relevant subject lead
- FAQs and video overviews are available for each subject on the school website