GCSE Options





Art & Design **Business Studies Computer Science** Drama English Language* English Literature* French Geography History Latin Maths* Music **Physical Education Religious Studies** Science* Sociology Spanish

Life Skills Perspectives

Core*

English Literature* English Language* Maths* Combined Science or Single Sciences*



At GCSE, English becomes two subjects: English Literature and English Language. You will get two separate GCSE grades and qualifications at the end of Year 11.

Where could English take you next?

- The key English skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are required in all academic courses and all careers.
- The study of English develops confidence.
- The study of English can provide a lifelong love of literature.
- You will achieve critical skills that are applicable in a wide range of contexts.

Over the course of year 10 and 11, you will study the following texts in full:

- A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley
- Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- Power and Conflict Anthology by Various Poets

English Literature

The English Literature course will test the following skills:

- Comprehension skills: how well can you infer information about plot, character, events and settings?
- Critical Reading: how well do you consider different ways of interpreting a text? Does the historical context of a text help you come to your own informed opinion?
- Analytical skills: how well can you analyse how writers use language, form and structure.
- Comparison skills: how well do you compare and contrast texts that you have studied.

English Language AQA Exam Board LINK



Examinations

Exam Paper 1: Shakespeare (Macbeth) and 19th Century novel (A Christmas Carol)

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of Lit GCSE

Section A: Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B: The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Exam Paper 2: Modern Text (An Inspector Calls) and Poetry

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of Lit GCSE

Section A: Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B: Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C: Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing two unseen poems.



English Language

Examinations

The English Language course develops your reading and writing skills. The final exams will test:

- Your ability to retrieve information from a range of different texts.
- Your ability to comment on the overall structure of a text
- Your ability to analyse a writer's use of language.
- Your ability to compare the content of two different texts.
- The overall structure of your writing: how well you can plan and paragraph.
- Your ability to use different types of sentences.
- The breadth of your vocabulary
- Your accuracy with spelling and grammar.

There are two papers which ask you to look at different types of text.

Paper 1 asks you to read and comment on an extract of fiction and write a piece of descriptive or narrative writing.

Paper 2 asks you to read and comment on an extract from non-fiction text and write to present your viewpoint on a topic.

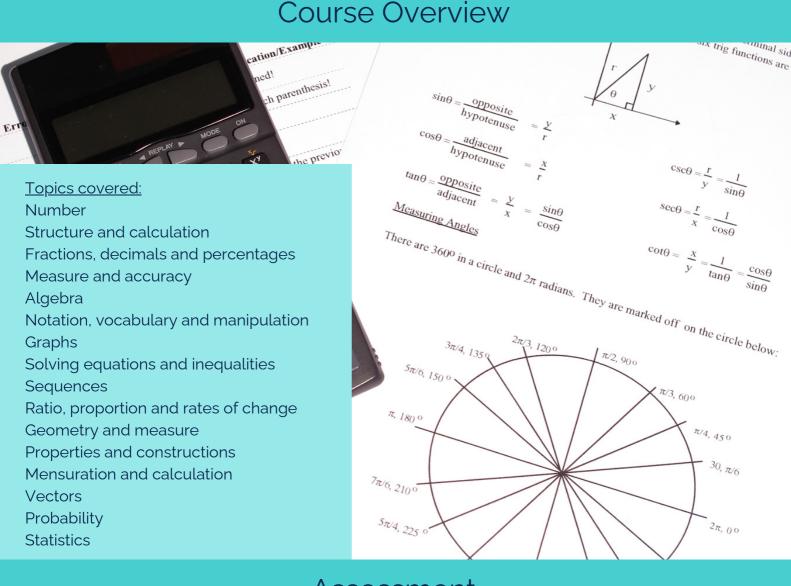
The structure of the exams is below:

Exam Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing	
 What's assessed? Section A: Reading One literature fiction text Section B: Writing Descriptive or narrative writing 	How is it assessed?Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes80 marks50% of GCSE
Exam Paper 2: Non-Fiction Texts	
 What's assessed? Section A: Reading One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text Section B: Writing Writing to present a viewpoint 	How is it assessed?Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes80 marks50% of GCSE





Maths GCSE is one of the core qualifications every student must have. The study of mathematics can provide access to a wide range of careers and offer further study opportunities. These careers can include policing, teaching, nursing and anything in the fields of science and engineering. Whichever direction you want to head in, you will need the knowledge and skills this course will teach you.



Assessment

Students will sit exams either at Foundation or Higher Level. All students will study the Foundation Tier which allows students to get Grades 1 to 5. Students aiming for the higher grades will take the Higher Tier reaching Grades 4 to 9. The qualification consists of three equally weighted written examination papers at either level. Each is 90 minutes and 80 marks: Non-calculator Paper, Calculator Paper 1 and Calculator Paper 2.

Edexcel GCSE Maths Link



Students discover an understanding of natural phenomena, stimulating curiosity and fascination for finding out why things happen in the way they do. Children study methods of enquiry and investigation focusing on the applications and implications of science and technology.

Careers linked to science are wide ranging including engineering, medicine, health and disease, technology, pharmacology, space exploration and much more...!

Course Overview

Single Science:

Students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in depth as 3 separate GCSE subjects and receive 3 GCSE grades.

Combined Science:

Students study a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics and receive 2 GCSE grades.

Topics Covered:

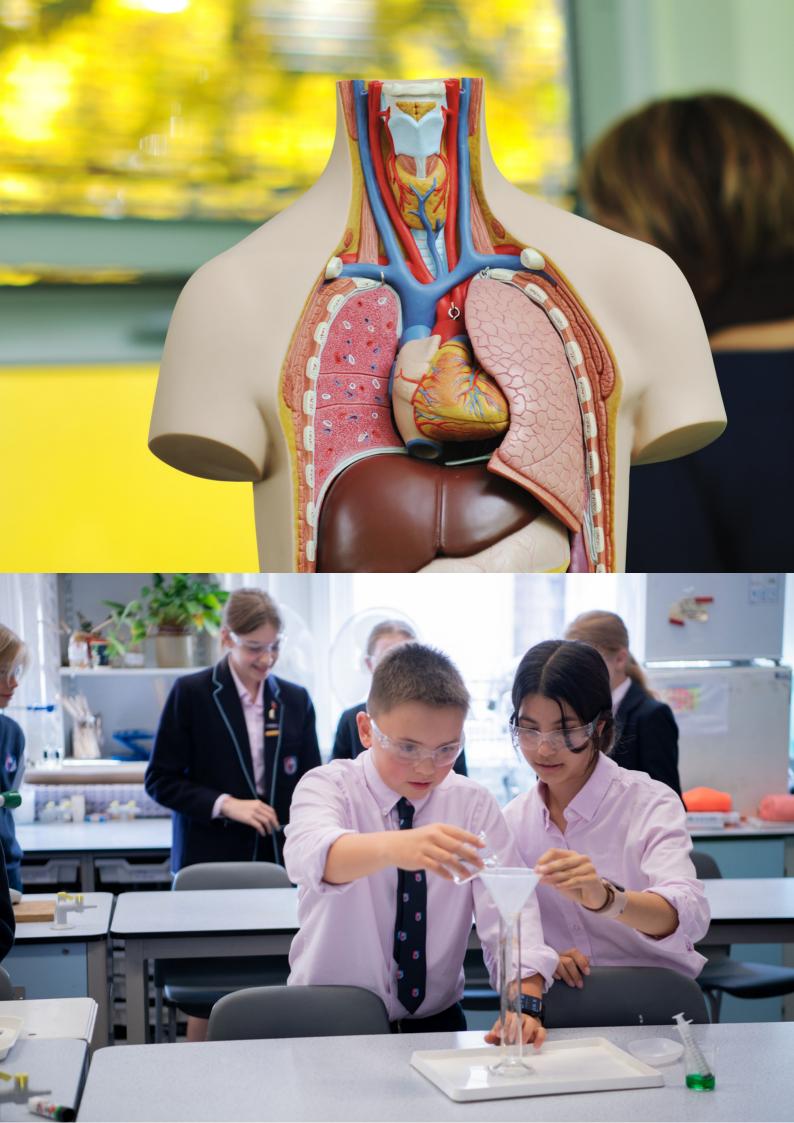
BiologyChemistryFCells and controlStates of matter and mixturesNoGeneticsChemical changesChemical changes

Natural selection and genetic modification Health, disease and the development of medicines Plant structures and their functions Animal coordination, control and homeostasis Exchange and transport in animals Ecosystems and material cycles

States of matter and mixtures Chemical changes Extracting metals and equilibria Groups in the periodic table Rates of reaction and energy changes Fuels and Earth science

Physics

Motion and forces Conservation of energy Waves Light and the EM spectrum Radioactivity Forces doing work Forces and their effects Electricity and circuits Magnetism and the motor effect Electromagnetic induction The particle model Forces and matter





Assessment

Combined Science Option:

Paper 1: Biology 1 1h 10mins 16.67% weighting

Paper 2: Biology 2 1h 10mins 16.67% weighting

Paper 3: Chemistry 1 1h 10mins 16.67% weighting

Paper 4: Chemistry 2 1h 10mins 16.67% weighting

Paper 5: Physics 1 1h 10mins 16.67% weighting

Paper 6: Physics 2 1h 10mins 16.67% weighting

Single Science Option:

Biology Paper 1 1h 45mins 50% weighting

Chemistry Paper 1 1h 45mins 50% weighting Paper 2 1h 45mins 50% weighting

Paper 2 1h 45mins 50% weighting

Physics Paper 1 1h 45mins 50% weighting

Paper 2 1h 45mins 50% weighting



Specification Links

Edexcel: Combined science

Single Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Sciences Computer Science Physical Education



Computer Science

Why study Computer Science?

GCSE Computer Science will develop your understanding of problem solving with various industries from banking, software engineering to computer programming with opportunities for you to be a computer scientist. The course will provide you with opportunities to study across the globe.

Course Overview & Assessment

Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of the qualification 75 marks

Topic 1 - computational thinking (algorithms) Topic 2 - Data (binary, data representation, data storage) Topic 3 - Computers – (hardware, software, programming languages) Topic 4: Networks (networks and security) Topic 5: Issues and impact – emerging trends, ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking

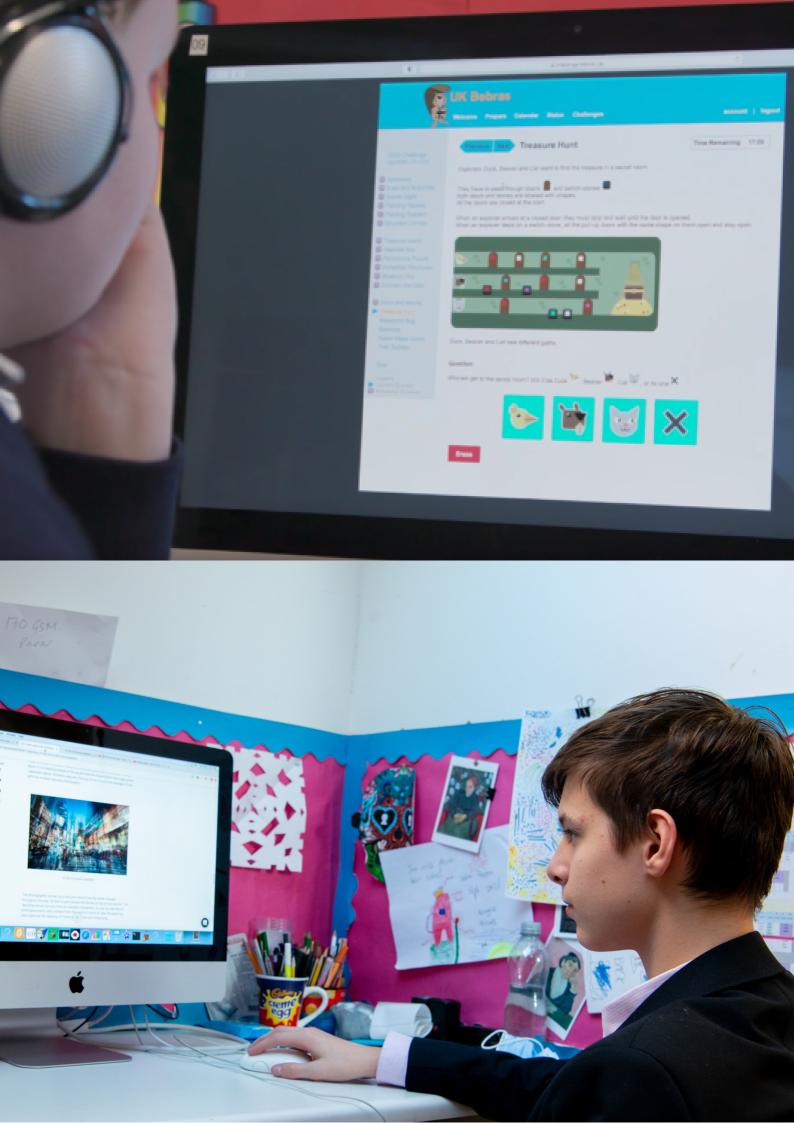
Onscreen examination: 2 hours 50% of the qualification 75 marks

This paper will assess Topic 6: Problem solving with programming. The main focus of this paper is: • understanding what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work in relation to creating programs • understanding how to decompose and analyse problems • ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

Courses based on this specification should enable students to:

- build on their knowledge, understanding and skills established through the computer science elements of the programme of study for computing at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4
- enable students to progress into further learning and/or employment
- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology on the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science

Edexcel Computer Science Link





Physical Education

Why study PE?

You will be inspired to learn, develop and understand the theoretical aspects of sport. Through new and contemporary topics you will develop a well-rounded skill set and be prepared to progress onto further studies in the field of Sport and Physical Education.

Course Overview & Assessment

Paper 1: Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data.

Paper 2: Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being and use of data.

AQA GCSE PE - The GCSE is broken down into three sections. Two exam papers and the NEA.

Paper 1: The human body - 30% of GCSE Paper 2: Socio-cultural Influences and wellbeing - 30% of GCSE

NEA: Non-exam assessment - 40% of GCSE. For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity). This will be assessed in two team games and one individual sport or two individual sports and one team game. Students will also be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. <image>

<u>AQA PE Link</u>



Art & Design Drama Music



Why study Art & Design?

Fine art is defined here as that aspect of art, craft and design where work is developed primarily for aesthetic, intellectual or conceptual purposes rather than considerations that are principally functional and utilitarian.

Course Overview

Possible areas of study include: Drawing Installation Lens and light-based media Mixed Media Land Art Printing Painting Sculpture.

Work is not limited to one area of study.

Students are required to develop and apply relevant subject-specific skills in order to use visual language to communicate personal ideas, meanings and responses. They must, over time, reflect critically upon their creative journey and its effectiveness in relation to the realisation of their personal intentions. Students can work entirely in digital media (including digital photography) or entirely in non-digital media, or in a mixture of both, provided the aims and assessment objectives are met.

Assessment

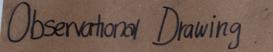
- Unit 1: Portfolio 60% of qualification: 120 marks
- Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of qualification: 80 marks
- Part 1: Preparatory study period
- Part 2: 10 hour period of sustained focus work*

Art & Design Exam Board Link

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Why study Drama?

In GCSE Drama, you have the opportunity to develop performance skills, or design skills including set design, sound and puppetry. You will be equipped with confidence and experience that will enable you to you to excellent communicators!

Course Overview & Assessment

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

- 1. Understanding drama: Learn about set plays and live theatre production
- 2. Devising drama: choose to be assessed as either a performer, lighting designer, sound designer, costume designer or puppet designer and create a performance for an audience
- 3. Texts in practice: develop ability to interpret texts, create and communicate meaning, realise artistic intention in text-based drama.

Assessment

Understanding drama

- Assessed through an exam at the end of Year 11. The exam is worth 40% of the grade and tests:
- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Devising drama

- Assessed through a devising log and a live performance and worth 40% of the exam. You will be assessed on:
- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

Texts in Practise

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- This coursework is worth 20% of the final grade

Drama Exam Board Link





Why study Music?

GCSE Music allows you to explore a wide range of musical styles and contexts. You will develop core skills in musical performance, composition and musical understanding whilst reflecting on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

Course Overview & Assessment

The Subject content is divided into the three components:

- Understanding music (exam): Study of the Western classical tradition 1650–1910, Popular music, Traditional music, and Western classical tradition since 1910.
- Performing music (coursework): Develop performance practice on chosen instrument or voice resulting in a final performance as a soloist and part of an ensemble.
- Composing music (coursework): Learn composition skills before creating two contrasting pieces of music using music technology to record and develop ideas.

Assessment

• Understanding music

You will sit an exam at the end of Year 11 that assesses your listening skills and contextual understanding. The exam is worth 40% of your final grade. The exam paper includes listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music.

• Performance

A minimum of four minutes of performance in total is required, of which a minimum of one minute must be the ensemble performance.

This coursework is worth 30% of your final grade.

Composition

Create two compositions, one to a brief and another free choice. This coursework is worth 30% of your final grade



Humanities

Business Studies Geography History Sociology Religious Studies



Business Studies

Why study Business Studies?

If you want a real insight into the way the Business world works, GCSE Business Studies is a great starting point. The course will give you an overview of the way real-life businesses operate and will equip you with the skills and knowledge needed for the world of business. The course content is relevant for a range of careers within industry, but also teaches vital skills needed across the curriculum.

Course Overview

Business Studies analyses and evaluates the decisions that firms have to make in order to achieve their business objectives. The course focuses on starting and running your own business in Year 10 and will cover topics such as marketing and financing your own Business. In Year 11 the course focuses on managing and building larger businesses and will cover topics such as motivating and managing employees and the role of the economy.

Assessment

Theme 1: Investigating small business (50% of GCSE)

This unit introduces students to the main concepts of business studies including marketing, cash flow, managing staff, legislation and many more. The exam will consist of short and extended-writing questions.

Theme 2: Building a Business (50% of GCSE)

Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human operations. It also considers the impacts of the economy and globalisation. The exam will consist of short and extended-writing questions.

There is no controlled assessment; the course will be assessed entirely by exam. A strong aptitude in Maths is required, as 10% of the subject marks are allocated to quantitative skills.



Why study Geography?

Geography at GCSE is a relevant and fascinating subject which has a number of advantages for students wishing to know more about the world around them. Some of the benefits of studying GCSE geography include:

Enquiry-based learning – the specification content is framed by geographical enquiry questions that encourage an investigative approach to each of the key ideas. As part of this enquiry process, students are encouraged to use integrated geographical skills, including appropriate mathematics and statistics, in order to explore geographical questions and issues.

Provides an engaging real-world focus – students are encouraged to make geographical decisions by applying their knowledge, understanding and skills to real-life 21st-century people and environment issues.

Course Overview & Assessment

Course overview/what will I study?

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues Component 2: UK Geographical Issues Component 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions

Assessment

An externally-assessed written exam with three 30-mark sections.
 Section A: Hazardous Earth
 Section B: Development dynamics
 Section C: Challenges of an urbanising world.

2. An externally-assessed written exam with three sections. Section A: The UK's evolving physical landscape Section B: The UK's evolving human landscape Section C: Geographical investigations.

3. An externally-assessed written exam with four sections. Section A: People and the biosphere Section B: Forests under threat Section C: Consuming energy resources Section D: Making a geographical decision.

Edexcel Geography Link





Why study History?

History at GCSE is, quite simply, a marvellous subject. Students focus on some of the major international events of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and develop an understanding of how these events have shaped the world that we live in today. Life doesn't really get any better.

History equips students with a plethora of skills which are of use within the modern world. For instance, they will need to be analytical and critical and will learn to question everything that they read, see and hear. They will develop a working understanding of the History of the Twentieth Century, and this will, in turn, allow them to understand global politics and relationships today.

Course Overview

Thematic and Historic Environment Warfare and British society, c1250–present and London and the Second World War, 1939– 45.

Period Study and British Depth Study Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

Modern Depth Study Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Assessment

Paper 1: Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes, 30%^{*} of the qualification, 52 marks (16 for the historic environment, 36 for the thematic study)

Paper 2: Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes, 40%^{*} of the qualification, 64 marks (32 for the period study and 32 for the British depth study)

Paper 3: Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes, 30%* of the qualification, 52 marks

Edexcel History Link



Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of our fascinating society – how it works, why it works, and how it could change. Sociology gives students the opportunity to understand the key events of our time and how they are influenced by the forces and institutions that shape the modern world.

Sociology gives students important academic skills, including; analytical thinking, reasoning and research skills.

It also equips students with a better understanding of the social world, including; reasons for social differences, the role of social hierarchies, social institutions and exercise of social power.

This in turn allows students to better understand their own experiences, recognising their role in society and developing motivation to change society for the better.

Course Overview & Assessment

Course overview/what will I study?

- 1. The sociological approach
- 2.Social structures, social processes and social issues
- 3. Families
- 4. Education
- 5. Crime and deviance
- 6. Social stratification
- 7. Sociological research methods

Assessment

Component 1: The Sociology of Family and Education

Component 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification Two written exams, one on each component. Each written exam:

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks

Questions: Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

AQA Sociology Link



Religious Studies

Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies gives students an appreciation of different cultures, beliefs and worldviews. It engenders an open-minded curiosity about how we experience the world and choose to live in it.

Religious Studies develops skills in self-reflection, curiosity, critical thinking and communication. It enables students to enter careers in the Arts and Humanities.

Course Overview & Assessment

The course asks students to compare two religions, in the case Christianity and Buddhism.

Component 1: Beliefs teaching and Practices Component 2: Thematic studies (four of six)

Theme A: Relationships and families.

Theme B: Religion and life.

Theme C: The existence of God and revelation.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice

Assessment Two written exams, one on each component. Each written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 96 marks, plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

Languages French Spanish Latin



French and/or Spanish

Why study a language?

- Speaking more than one language allows you to communicate and connect with more people and create friendships in our international city.
- There is a higher demand for professionals with linguistic skills and speaking more than one language gives you a competitive advantage.
- Learning languages creates more connections in your brain and improves your cognitive and problem solving skills.
- It deepens your understanding of other cultures, increasing empathy, tolerance and widening your perspective of the world.
- Travelling is easier as it opens doors to discovering more things and communicating better with the locals.
- French is the only language spoken in five continents and one the most spoken foreign languages in London.
- French is the language of arts and culture and one of the two official languages of the United Nations, NATO, UNESCO and other international organizations.
- France and Spain have strong links with the UK and they are both popular holiday destinations for many UK residents.
- Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world and the most spoken language in the Americas.
- Spanish is considered one of the easiest languages to learn and it has similarities with French, Italian and Portuguese.

Curriculum Overview

Theme: Identity and culture

- Who am I?: relationships; when I was younger; what my friends and family are like; what makes a good friend; interests; socialising with friends and family; role models
- Daily life: customs and everyday life; food and drink; shopping; social media and technology (use of, advantages and disadvantages)
- Cultural life: celebrations and festivals; reading; music; sport; film and television

Theme: Local area, holiday and travel

- Holidays: preferences; experiences; destinations
- Travel and tourist transactions: travel and accommodation; asking for help and dealing with problems; directions; eating out; shopping
- Town, region and country: weather; places to see; things to do



We encourage pupils to take a language at GCSE, choosing between either French or Spanish. For talented linguists, early entry can also be an option.

Theme: School

- What school is like: school types; school day; subjects; rules and pressures; celebrating success
- School activities: school trips; events and exchanges Theme: Future aspirations, study and work
- Using languages beyond the classroom: forming relationships; travel; employment
- Ambitions: further study; volunteering; training
- Work: jobs; careers and professions

Theme: International and global dimension

- Bringing the world together: sports events; music events; campaigns and good causes
- Environmental issues: being 'green'; access to natural resources

Assessment

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in French / Spanish consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. **Each paper is available at Foundation tier or Higher tier**.

Paper 1: Listening and understanding in French/ Spanish

Written examination Foundation tier: 35 minutes including 5 minutes' reading time; 50 marks Higher tier: 45 minutes including 5 minutes' reading time; 50 marks 25% of the total qualification

Content overview

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all the themes and topics.

Assessment overview

Students are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken French / Spanish by one or more speakers in a range of public and social settings.

Students will respond to multiple-response and short-answer open response questions based on a recording featuring various native speakers.

Edexcel GCSE French Link

Edexcel GCSE Spanish Link



French & Spanish

Paper 2: Speaking in French / Spanish

Internally conducted and externally assessed Foundation tier: 7–9 minutes plus 12 minutes' preparation time; 70 marks Higher tier: 10–12 minutes plus 12 minutes' preparation time; 70 marks 25% of the total qualification

Content overview This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all the themes and topics.

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French/ Spanish

Written examination Foundation tier: 45 minutes; 50 marks. Higher tier: 1 hour; 50 marks 25% of the total qualification

Content overview This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all the themes and topics.

Assessment overview

Students are assessed on their understanding of written French / Spanish across a range of different types of texts, including advertisements, emails, letters, articles and literary texts. Students are required to respond to multiple-response and short-answer questions based on these texts.

Paper 4: Writing in French / Spanish

Written examination Foundation tier: 1 hour 10 minutes; 60 marks. Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes; 60 marks 25% of the total qualification

Content overview This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all the themes and topics.

Assessment overview

Students are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in French / Spanish for different purposes and audiences. Students are required to produce responses of varying lengths and types to express ideas and opinions in French / Spanish.





Why study Latin?

Latin is a unique and engaging subject which leads to the development of a wide range of transferable skills from clarity of thought and attention to detail to problem solving and analytical thinking. A knowledge of Latin can be useful for careers in Medicine, Law, Architecture and many others. Famous people who studied Classics include J.R.R Tolkien, J.K. Rowling, Boris Johnson, Sigmund Freud and Thomas Jefferson to name a few.

A knowledge of Latin enriches many aspects of the curriculum and is the foundation for modern languages such as French, Spanish and Italian.

Curriculum Overview & Assessment

LANGUAGE

This is a compulsory component. Students build their knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures and should become familiar with the vocabulary in the defined vocabulary list.and prescribed syntax. A restricted vocabulary list and restricted grammar list will be provided for the translation of the English to Latin sentences. Section A will include a translation (30 marks), a comprehension (20 marks) and grammar questions or English to Latin translation (10 marks). Section B will include a translation (50 marks)

and a comprehension (20 marks).

PROSE AND VERSE LITERATURE

Students study a set text or group of texts, totalling between 110 and 120 lines in length. Learners will be asked to translate a short passage of the set text from Latin to English and answer comprehension questions. They will also be required to answer analysis questions and write an extended response which draws upon material from the set text.

The WJEC certificate in Latin Language consists of the following

- Core Latin Language- 67%, examination lasts 1 hr 15 mins.
- Additional Latin Language 33%, examination lasts 45 mins.

WJEC exam LINK

Nonexamined subjects

Life Skills* Perspectives*



Compulsory non-examined subjects

At Knightsbridge School, we are proud to provide an all-round education for our pupils, ensuring that they continue to grow in understanding about themselves, others and the world around them. Two key subjects which help us achieve this are Life Skills and Perspectives. The are statutory, but are not examined.

Life Skills

Life Skills is a combined PSHE & RSHE Curriculum. It covers important areas in personal, social, relationship, sex and health education and is divided into three main areas; Keeping Healthy and Safe, Living in the Wider World and Relationships & Identity.

The curriculum is designed in collaboration with the school safeguarding teams to provide a protective syllabus that supports students in keeping themselves and their peers emotionally and physically safe, on and offline.

Perspectives

It can often feel that we live in a polarised world where miscommunication and lack of understanding are common. In order to understand the world we need to understand where our thinking comes from. Society is influenced by religion, cultural traditions, globalisation, political movements and much more. Perspectives allows pupils the opportunity to study, analyse, compare, distinguish and explain the cultural and religious references that have shaped our thinking. As well as key ideas in philosophy, pupils will learn about two different religions, primarily, Christianity and Buddhism.





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