

# YOUR GCSE OPTION CHOICES

Choosing the right options is a serious matter. You have to make these choices now because more teaching time is needed for each subject at GCSE, therefore fewer can be studied. In Years 10 and 11 you will study a maximum of **nine subjects** plus the Full Course in Religious Education (taken at the end of Year 10).

A careful mix of linguistic, academic, practical, scientific and creative subjects at GCSE will ensure that a wide range of A levels remains open to you, and also provides a sound foundation for Higher Education. If you think you know what you want to be in the future you will need to check on any special subject requirements for that career. Be warned, however, that your plans may change as you mature, so it is always advisable to take a **balanced set of subjects**. Decisions you make now can open up your career choices or limit your whole life. It is therefore very important to know your own mind and not be led by what your friends are doing.

## WHO MAKES THE CHOICE?

Basically, **you** do, in consultation with your Parents, your Subject Teachers, (particularly the Science Department in the case of Triple Science), and possibly your Form Teacher and/or the Careers Co-ordinator, Mr Baker.

## WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

You need to ask yourself some simple but very important questions, especially if you are finding it difficult to choose between two subjects:

- Do I **need** this subject for a particular career? How much do I **like** this subject?
- Can I **make a success** of this subject? Does it suit my **learning style** or organisational skills?
- Will I **cope** with the amount of practical/theoretical/written work/coursework/reading?

## WHAT ARE MY CHOICES?

Six subjects totalling 23 periods per week make up the **academic core** as shown below.

- **English Language** and **English Literature** (6 periods combined per week)
- **Mathematics** (5 periods per week)
- **Double Science** (8 periods per week, leading to 2 GCSE awards)
- **A Modern Language** (choice of French/German/Spanish) (4 periods per week)

You will also have 2 periods of **Religious Studies** leading to the GCSE exam at the end of Year 10 and 3 periods of **Games** per week.

The process of submitting your choices is clearly explained on the Application Form. Once you have chosen your Modern Language you have three further choices to make from the list to fill the remaining twelve periods. Option choices for 2012-14 are:

|                             |   |              |                                |              |                       |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Art</i>                  | <i>Business Studies</i>                                     | <i>Dance</i> | <i>Design &amp; Technology</i> | <i>Drama</i> |                       |
| <i>Food &amp; Nutrition</i> | <i>A second language choice (French, German or Spanish)</i> |              |                                |              |                       |
| <i>Geography</i>            | <i>History</i>  | <i>ICT</i>   | <i>Music</i>                   | <i>PE</i>    | <i>Triple Science</i> |

### Please note carefully:

- Normally a minimum of **7 students** need to choose a subject for it to run.
- We expect pupils to be committed to their choice of courses for the whole two-year period.
- Your choices must be approved and confirmed by the subject teacher.

**Parents and pupils are strongly encouraged to discuss option choices at the Year 9 Options Evening on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012.**

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# Introduction to GCSE ... Art and Design

## Examination Board?

AQA, Art & Design 4200

## Why study Art and Design?

If you want to develop skills in Art and Design, expand your creativity and imagination, then you will enjoy GCSE Art and Design. You will get involved in, and work with, a wide range of media applications. Possibilities for personal expression are endless. The qualification can lead to art and design related employment or to courses such as A Level, GNVQ or VCE Art and Design which in their turn can lead to Higher Education Courses.

## What will you learn?

- To express and record personal ideas by developing skills in using two or three dimensional materials;
- To investigate possibilities through observation, analysis and exploration;
- To understand the world of art, craft and design and relate it to your work;
- To select and present your work to its best advantage.

You will be required to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding relevant to your chosen unendorsed or endorsed option through integrated critical, practical and theoretical study of Art, Craft and Design. This will include first-hand experience of original work.

## How will you be assessed?

This course consists of two practical units:

### Unit 1: Portfolio of Work

The portfolio of work is selected from work undertaken during the course of study and must include more than one project. A response to all assessment objectives is required in the portfolio as a whole. This unit, which is worth 60% of the total marks, is marked internally and moderated by AQA.

### Unit 2: Externally-Set Task

You will be given a period of four weeks for your preparatory studies and developmental work prior to the controlled assessment which will last for ten hours. A response to all assessment objectives is required and the work presented will be assessed internally and moderated by AQA. This unit is worth 40% of the total marks.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Business Studies



## Examination Board?

Edexcel IGCSE in Business Studies

## Why study Business Studies?

Business Studies allows students to develop an interest and enjoyment in the business world giving an insight into future career opportunities. It is an intellectually stimulating and rigorous course that develops the student's interest in the business environment. It will help you to learn about businesses and the UK economy and the way they influence our everyday lives.

## What will you study?

- The role of enterprise in the economy
- The way stakeholders influence a business
- How to maintain a motivated workforce
- The importance of marketing
- How business has been influenced by ICT
- The role of the Government in running the economy

## What will you learn?

- How to analyse business problems and issues
- How to evaluate evidence and communicate your arguments clearly
- How to use business vocabulary
- To work on your own and as part of a team
- About ICT, how to use it and how changes in ICT affect the way in which businesses and the economy operate

A range of strategies are used, including group work, speakers and relevant visits which include looking at studies of real businesses and the economy.

## How will you be assessed?

One 2 hour examination in Year 11, externally set and marked by Edexcel.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Performing Arts: Dance

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study Dance?

In addition to helping you acquire subject knowledge, this specification:

- Promotes fitness, a healthy lifestyle, team working and creativity;
- Actively engages you in the process of dance in order to develop as an effective and independent learner and as a critical and reflective thinker with an enquiring mind;
- Develops your skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of dance styles through the interrelated processes of performing, creating and appreciating dance;
- Develops your physical, technical and expressive skills through which you are able to communicate choreographic intention and your individual qualities as a performer;
- Develops your skills, knowledge and understanding of choreography through which you are able to communicate ideas, thoughts and meaning drawn from a range of dance styles;
- Develops your critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts;
- Provides progression from Key Stage 3 and a solid foundation for further studies in dance or performing arts, including A Level Dance and the Creative and Media Diploma, and/or a career in performing arts.

Although it would be advantageous to have some experience of dance performance, it is not essential. The course is equally weighted on performance and choreographic skill. The course will help you to develop confidence, self-esteem and ability to work as part of a group.

## What will you study?

The course focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the use of dance movement as a medium of expression and communication in the performance, creation and appreciation of dance. In this course you will learn choreographic skills for solo, duo and group work. You will learn how to appreciate and analyse various dance genre. You will also improve your individual dance technique through instruction and performance.

The content has been chosen for the way in which it enables candidates to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of creating and interpreting images, ideas and concepts embodied in dance development. The study of dance works, including those of the professional repertoire, within artistic and social contexts, is an essential component in the development of this understanding.

## What skills will you develop?

- Your understanding and appreciation of a range of dance styles;
- Your aesthetic and artistic sensibility to dance works;
- Your knowledge, skills and understanding needed to perform, choreograph and appreciate dance, including an awareness of its artistic contexts;
- Life-skills and attributes, including decision-making, critical and creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity and the ability to co-operate with others.

## **How will you be assessed?**

The course is structured into the following components:

- A Set Dance (20%). Performance of a Set Dance of approximately one minute. This is videoed and sent away to be externally assessed towards the end of the second year.
- Performance Duo or Group (20%). This is controlled assessment coursework that will include a performance of Duo/Group Dance.
- Choreography (40%). Two components:
  1. Solo Composition Task (15%). Controlled assessment coursework to reproduce a Dance based on a professional Set Work.
  2. Solo/Group Choreography (25%). Controlled assessment of a composition chosen by you from set criteria.
- Written Paper (20%). An exam taken at the end of the course. A Critical Appreciation of two Dances out of four that you will study over the duration of the course.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Design and Technology (Product Design)

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study Design and Technology?

Design and Technology develops the skills required to interact practically in an ever changing technological world. You will gain a better understanding of the products you use and how these can be improved, as well as key issues such as sustainability. You will spend most of your time on an in-depth project, of your own choosing, which you will follow through from conception to a final product. You will use a problem solving model applicable to many areas of life and organisations, as well as specific skills which will be useful for a creative, engineering or scientific career. It is also a unique opportunity to develop an area of special interest.

## What will you study?

- Product Design can cover the use of any materials. However, we will focus on the use of wood, plastics, graphic products and new and smart materials;
- You will study market research techniques, analyse existing products, and the use of product specifications;
- You will study issues such as sustainability, inclusive design, health and safety procedures and quality assurance techniques.

## What will you learn in Product Design?

- How to identify problems which could be solved with the use of technological activity;
- How to effectively research a subject to solve a practical problem;
- To generate a range of creative solutions to a problem;
- How to develop a product through the use of model and test procedures;
- How to evaluate the outcome and suggest improvements;
- To develop your graphics and ICT skills, through the completion of your project folder, and become familiar with the CAD/CAM process (Computer Aided Design and Manufacture).

## How will you be assessed?

The majority of the assessment (60%) is based on your project, which comprises of your project folder, models and final product. The remainder (40%) is from the design examination.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Drama

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study Drama?

In this course you will look at the drama process as well as the final product from the perspective of Director, Designer, Deviser and Performer. This will help you to improve your performance skills by creating your own work and recreating or realising existing work through the study of set texts. You will develop your imagination and your ability to create drama. You will learn how to communicate intention to an audience and develop the skill of working with others to a common purpose.

## What will you study?

- Set texts
- Character and Context
- Structure, Shaping and Plot
- Audience awareness
- Defining Performance Space
- Improvisation
- Genre, Style and Convention
- The Semiotics (signs and symbols) of Drama and Theatre
- Live performances

## What will you learn?

- How to effectively communicate your aims to an audience
- How to devise a performance, by selecting and interpreting appropriate genres, styles and theatrical conventions
- How to develop your critical skills, through evaluation, analysis and reflection
- How to develop a character through research and rehearsal
- How to respond to live performances
- How to respond to a set text

## How will you be assessed?

### Coursework

The coursework is worth 60% of the overall grade. To achieve this, pupils will submit two practical assessment marks. During the two years pupils will be involved in four assessments, the best two marks will then be submitted to the examiner. This is internally assessed and externally moderated.

### Written Paper (1½ hours)

The written paper is 40% of the exam. A choice of any three questions based on the following sections:

- A. Practical work completed during the course.
- B. Study and performance of a scripted play.
- C. Study of a live theatre production seen.

# Introduction to GCSE English and English Literature

These new GCSE specifications commenced in September 2010.

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study English and English Literature?

A GCSE qualification in English Language is a basic requirement for most jobs and for higher education. English Literature is compulsory for students sitting English Language and is taught in tandem with English Language. Each subject is awarded a separate grade.

## What will you study?

Prose [fiction and non-fiction of different times] poetry [of different times] drama [including Shakespeare] elements of the English Literary Heritage; spoken texts and creative writing.

## What skills will you learn?

Your skills in Speaking and Listening will be developed through: presenting; discussing and listening and role playing. Skills in Reading and Writing will include creative writing; making comparisons between texts and how to respond to unseen material. Your critical thinking and the ability to express your ideas clearly, both verbally and in writing, will be practised through your study of both subjects.

## How will you be assessed?

|                                 | English Language   | English Literature                                   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Speaking &amp; Listening</b> | <b>20%</b>   | <b>n/a</b>   |
| <b>Examination</b>              | <b>1 x 2 hours: 40%</b>  | <b>1 x 1½ hours: 40%</b><br><b>1 x 1¼ hours: 35%</b> |
| <b>Controlled Assessment</b>    | <b>Extended Reading: 3-4 hours: 15%</b><br><b>Creative Writing: 3-4 hours: 15%</b><br><b>Spoken Language Study: 2-3 hours: 10%</b> | <b>25%</b>   |

There is an anthology of short stories and poetry provided by AQA. Each year, the board will also publish a Controlled Assessment Bank of titles and prescribed texts for study.

There are two tiers: Foundation Tier: grades C-G and Higher Tier: grades A\*-D/E.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Home Economics (Food and Nutrition)

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study Food and Nutrition?

This course will enable you to understand and appreciate the relationship between nutrition, food choice and health. It will increase your knowledge and understanding of human needs and the influence of social, cultural and economic factors. The skills and knowledge acquired will be relevant and transferable to other settings and enhance career opportunities.

## What will you study?

- Nutritional guidelines and the function and role of nutrients;
- How to make informed choices regarding a healthy diet;
- How to prepare food safely and hygienically;
- How to select materials and work with tools and equipment;
- The rights of the consumer and means of redress;
- Methods of purchasing foods;
- The scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

## What will you learn?

- How to develop your awareness of consumer requirements of a product;
- How to work practically with food materials;
- How to work on your own and as part of a team;
- How to improve your ICT skills.

## How will you be assessed?

Assessment is made up of an examination with 40% weighting and two controlled assessments worth a total of 60% weighting.

### Controlled Assessments

There are two controlled assessments:

- 1) A Research Task worth 15%, which is chosen from a range of tasks set by the Examination Board and will take approximately 6-8 hours;
- 2) An Individual Investigation lasting approximately 18 hours, chosen from a range of tasks set by the Examination Board. The Individual Investigation is weighted at 45%.

Both controlled assessments include practical and research and investigative work.

### Examination

Candidates are expected to answer six to eight compulsory questions, to include a combination of short answer, structured and free response questions. There is one paper lasting 1 hour 30 minutes.

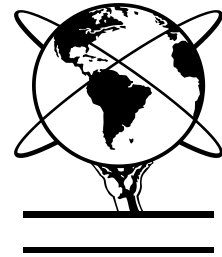
# Introduction to GCSE ... Geography

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Course Title and Syllabus Number

Geography A GCSE 4030



## Why study Geography?

- You live in the world - why not find out more about the **challenges** and **opportunities** it offers, and how to get **involved**?
- Discover how people are using different **environments**;
- Investigate issues of **sustainability** - will the Earth still be able to provide us with all the resources we take for granted now?
- How have different **landscapes** developed - what are the natural resources involved?
- How do **tourists** affect the areas they visit - what are the benefits and challenges?



- What really causes 'natural disasters' like **floods**, **earthquakes** and **volcanoes**? How can people cope with them?

## What will you study?

- Read and use maps, atlases and diagrams;
- Gain a knowledge of the world and understand current events;
- Different cultures in this country and abroad;
- Become aware of the physical and human environments.

## What skills will you learn?

**Geography is the ideal subject for developing a full range of skills.** You will learn to **research information** from a range of sources and **present** it in a variety of ways, both written and in diagrams. You can get experience of **manipulating data**, using statistics and ICT software such as spreadsheets, databases and graphics packages. Your **fieldwork** will help you to develop the skills of organising your own time, and working and co-operating with others. You will also learn to review your own work and progress. These 'transferable' skills will not only be useful in your study of Geography, but will also help you to make progress in many of your other subjects too, both at GCSE and beyond. They are **skills that are highly valued by employers and will be useful in the world of work.**

**How will you be assessed?** These are the units we study:

| Paper 1 Physical geography   | Paper 2 Human geography   |
|--|---|
| 1 ½ Hours 37.5%  | 1½ Hours 37.5%  |
| <p><b>Section A</b><br/>The Restless Earth<br/>Rocks, Resources and Scenery</p> <p><b>Section B</b><br/>The Coastal Zone</p> <p>Candidates answer <b>three</b> questions, <b>one</b> from <b>Section A</b> and <b>one</b> from <b>Section B</b> plus <b>one</b> other.</p> | <p><b>Section A</b><br/>Population Change<br/>Changing Urban Environments</p> <p><b>Section B</b><br/>Tourism</p> <p>Candidates answer <b>three</b> questions, <b>one</b> from <b>Section A</b> and <b>one</b> from <b>Section B</b> plus <b>one</b> other.</p> |
| <b>Coursework</b> 25% A fieldwork investigation based in the local area  |   |

# Introduction to... International GCSE History

## Examination Board?

Edexcel

## Course Title and Syllabus Number?

International GCSE History (4H10)

## Why study History?

- History is about people in the past, who were just like us
- The more we learn from the past, the better we understand the world today
- History develops broad-based educational skills, useful in a wide range of careers

## What are the specific aims of the course?

- To foster a knowledge and understanding of selected periods and/or aspects of history, exploring the significance of historical events, people, changes and issues
- To give students the ability to use historical sources critically, in context, recording significant information and reaching conclusions
- To enable students to organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding
- To enable students to draw conclusions and make historical judgments

## What will you study?

- Germany 1918-45 or  
A World Divided: International relations between the wars, 1919-39 ('Depth Study 1')
- A World Divided: Superpower relations, 1945-62 ('Depth Study 2')
- The USA, 1917-29 ('Historical Investigation')
- Conflict, Crisis & Change, China c.1911-c.1934 ('Breadth Study in Change')

## What skills will you learn?

- How to interpret and evaluate information
- How to select and deploy your knowledge
- How to describe and analyse
- Critical thinking and problem solving, using a wide variety of different sources

## How will you be assessed?

There are two parts to the final examination:

### 1. Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes) (50% of the total marks)

Students will answer TWO questions, ONE on each of the 'Depth Studies' they have studied.

### 2. Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes) (50% of the total marks)

Students will answer TWO questions, ONE question on their 'Historical Investigation' and ONE question on their 'Breadth Study in Change'.

## What about Coursework and/or Controlled Assessment?

There isn't any – two written papers only! It is therefore important that students have a good command of written English in order to maximise their chances of success.

**[First World War Battlefields Tour:** It is hoped that all students taking GCSE History will have the opportunity to accompany a three-day residential trip to Ypres, Vimy Ridge and the Somme. The trip usually takes place every two years, at the end of the spring term. We tour important sites relating to the First World War, which should enhance historical skills and also be of great educational value; details to follow.]

# Introduction to GCSE ... ICT

## Examination Board?

AQA 4520 GCSE ICT

## Why study Information and Communication Technology?

The world is becoming increasingly dominated by the use of ICT systems, which influence every aspect of our everyday lives. The study of ICT will help provide you with the analytical, communication and technical skills that you will need as an active participant in this exciting and dynamic world.

GCSE ICT is a well recognised and valued qualification which will provide you with the essential foundations for any further courses, including those specific to the use of computers and new technology such as A-level, AS, vocational and occupational courses.

## What will you study?

The main areas studied will be:

- + How ICT is used in a variety of organisations;
- + The positive and negative effects of ICT on society and associated legislation;
- + How to design and use ICT systems, Websites and Databases;
- + Hardware, software, communication and social networks.

## What will you learn?

### How to solve problems using ICT tools and techniques

- + Investigate communication tools like social networking, the internet and current & emerging technology
- + Research leisure and entertainment systems, such as booking movie tickets and downloading music
- + Study control systems such as Sat Nav and business tools like Word Processing, Web design, Databases and Desk Top Publishing



### The Impact of ICT on Society

- + Explore real-life situations where ICT has an effect in legal, social, economic and environmental areas
- + Discuss the personal effects of ICT including the growth of personal websites and social networks



### How teams can work together using ICT

- + Investigates how people can work together if they are in different offices or working from home

## How will you be assessed?

The are three assessment units as described below:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Unit 1: Systems and Applications in ICT</b></p> <p>1 hour 30 minutes</p> <p>120 marks, 40% of total</p> <p>Externally assessed</p>                             | <p><b>Section A:</b></p> <p>10 structured compulsory questions featuring a range of question types, from very short, to questions requiring 2 or 3 line answers</p> <p><b>Section B:</b></p> <p>3 structured compulsory questions with short and extended answer questions</p> <p><b>Section C:</b></p> <p>A choice of 1 essay question from 2</p> |
| <p><b>Unit 2: The Assignment: Applying ICT</b></p> <p>Approximately 25 hours</p> <p>100 marks, 30% of total</p> <p>Internally assessed, externally moderated</p>     | <p>Controlled Assessment conditions apply<br/>Centres complete one or more tasks set by AQA</p> <p>Typically comprises of two tasks, such as a Database Design and A Web Site creation for a driving school</p>  |
| <p><b>Unit 3: Practical Problem Solving in ICT</b></p> <p>Approximately 25 hours</p> <p>100 marks, 30% of total</p> <p>Internally assessed, externally moderated</p> | <p>Controlled Assessment conditions apply<br/>Centres complete one or more tasks set by AQA</p> <p>Typically comprises of creating a solution with a written report on “organising an event for charity”</p>   |

# Introduction to GCSE ... Mathematics

## Examination Board?

Edexcel International GCSE (Syllabus Code 4MA0)

## Why study Mathematics?

A qualification in Mathematics is required by most employers and is often required for entry to further or higher education, and so it is an important subject to study.

Mathematics requires logical thinking and develops practical and analytical skills that can be used in everyday life.

## What will you study?

- Number and Algebra;
- Shape, Space and Measures;
- Handling Data.

## What skills will you learn?

1. To develop your mathematical knowledge and confidence in reading, writing and talking about the subject.
2. To apply mathematics to everyday situations and solve 'real' problems.
3. To reason logically, to classify, to generalise and to prove.
4. To appreciate pattern and relationships and to produce creative work arising from mathematical ideas.
5. To conduct individual and co-operative enquiry and experiment in work of a practical and investigative nature.
6. To acquire a foundation appropriate to your ability in order to further your study of mathematics and other disciplines.

## How will you be assessed?

Students at Our Lady of Sion are entered for either the Higher or Foundation Tier papers as appropriate.

The grades available at each tier are: A\* - D (Higher) and C - G (Foundation).

## Coursework

The Edexcel IGCSE has no coursework requirement.

## Examination

At the end of the course you will take two 2 hour written papers.

Both papers permit the use of a calculator.

# Introduction to GCSE ... French

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study French?

The most popular romance language in the world, studying French at GCSE will enable you to use the language for practical communication in all of the skill areas more independently. You will increase your cultural awareness by communicating with people who speak the language and by using materials from countries and communities where the language is spoken. GCSE French will provide a suitable foundation for further study. Modern languages prepare you for modern life.

## Which topic areas will you cover?

- Lifestyle
- Leisure
- Home and Environment
- Work and Education

## Which skills will you develop?

- Understanding of the spoken and written forms of French in a range of contexts.
- The ability to communicate effectively in French, through both the spoken and written word, using a range of vocabulary and structures.
- Knowledge and understanding of the grammar of French, and the ability to apply it.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of countries and communities where French is spoken.

## How will you be assessed?

You will take an examination in Listening and Reading. You can mix and match entry levels, by taking one or both at Foundation or at Higher. The Speaking and Writing is a controlled assessment and does not have an entry level because the level is set by how well you do in the set tasks.

### Listening Examination

You will listen to telephone messages, dialogues, announcements, news items, instructions, etc. in French. There will be pauses to give you time to write your answers on different types of questions: true/false, multiple choice and direct questions.

### Speaking Controlled Assessment (internally assessed)

You will complete two tasks, both in the form of a dialogue and each task should last between 4 and 6 minutes. The tasks are prepared and planned in advance.

### Reading Examination

You will answer questions on different French texts in the form of signs, emails, faxes, letters, postcards, brochures, newspaper and magazine articles, websites, etc. requiring a mix of multiple-choice and direct questions.

### Writing Controlled Assessment (externally assessed)

You complete two different types of tasks such as an account, letter, blog or email, etc. in French of a total of 400-600 words. The tasks are prepared and planned in advance and you can use a dictionary in the controlled assessment.

# Introduction to GCSE ... German

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study German?

One of the leading global languages of science, trade and industry, studying German at GCSE will enable you to use the language for practical communication in all of the skill areas more independently. You will increase your cultural awareness by communicating with people who speak the language and by using materials from countries and communities where the language is spoken. GCSE German will provide a suitable foundation for further study. Modern languages prepare you for modern life.

## Which topic areas will you cover?

- Lifestyle
- Leisure
- Home and Environment
- Work and Education

## Which skills will you develop?

- Understanding of the spoken and written forms of German in a range of contexts.
- The ability to communicate effectively in German, through both the spoken and written word, using a range of vocabulary and structures.
- Knowledge and understanding of the grammar of German, and the ability to apply it.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of countries and communities where German is spoken.

## How will you be assessed?

You will take an examination in Listening and Reading. You can mix and match entry levels, by taking one or both at Foundation or at Higher. The Speaking and Writing is a controlled assessment and does not have an entry level because the level is set by how well you do in the set tasks.

### Listening Examination

You will listen to telephone messages, dialogues, announcements, news items, instructions, etc. in German. There will be pauses to give you time to write your answers on different types of questions: true/false, multiple choice and direct questions.

### Speaking Controlled Assessment (internally assessed)

You will complete two tasks, both in the form of a dialogue and each task should last between 4 and 6 minutes. The tasks are prepared and planned in advance.

### Reading Examination

You will answer questions on different German texts in the form of signs, emails, faxes, letters, postcards, brochures, newspaper and magazine articles, websites, etc. requiring a mix of multiple-choice and direct questions.

### Writing Controlled Assessment (externally assessed)

You complete two different types of tasks such as an account, letter, blog or email, etc. in German of a total of 400-600 words. The tasks are prepared and planned in advance and you can use a dictionary in the controlled assessment.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Spanish

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study Spanish?

The world's second most used language in international communication, studying Spanish at GCSE will enable you to use the language for practical communication in all of the skill areas more independently. You will increase your cultural awareness by communicating with people who speak the language and by using materials from countries and communities where the language is spoken. GCSE Spanish will provide a suitable foundation for further study. Modern languages prepare you for modern life.

## Which topic areas will you cover?

- Lifestyle
- Leisure
- Home and Environment
- Work and Education

## Which skills will you develop?

- Understanding of the spoken and written forms of Spanish in a range of contexts.
- The ability to communicate effectively in Spanish, through both the spoken and written word, using a range of vocabulary and structures.
- Knowledge and understanding of the grammar of Spanish, and the ability to apply it.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.

## How will you be assessed?

You will take an examination in Listening and Reading. You can mix and match entry levels, by taking one or both at Foundation or at Higher. The Speaking and Writing is a controlled assessment and does not have an entry level because the level is set by how well you do in the set tasks.

### Listening Examination

You will listen to telephone messages, dialogues, announcements, news items, instructions, etc. in Spanish. There will be pauses to give you time to write your answers on different types of questions: true/false, multiple choice and direct questions.

### Speaking Controlled Assessment (internally assessed)

You will complete two tasks, both in the form of a dialogue and each task should last between 4 and 6 minutes. The tasks are prepared and planned in advance.

### Reading Examination

You will answer questions on different Spanish texts in the form of signs, emails, faxes, letters, postcards, brochures, newspaper and magazine articles, websites, etc. requiring a mix of multiple-choice and direct questions.

### Writing Controlled Assessment (externally assessed)

You complete two different types of tasks such as an account, letter, blog or email, etc. in Spanish of a total of 400-600 words. The tasks are prepared and planned in advance and you can use a dictionary in the controlled assessment.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Music

## Examination Board?

Edexcel

## Why study Music?

- Everyone listens to Music - you will learn more about how it works
- You will improve your own performance, both solo and in a group
- Music is creative, rewarding and fun - you will write impressive compositions to amaze yourself and your friends
- Music GCSE is a helpful step to careers in the media and in the world of performing arts, whether as a live performer, in publishing, sound engineering, or one of the many supporting roles with bands, tour organisers, concert halls .....

## What will I study and what skills will I learn?

1. **Performing** (Please note: contrary to what many people think, ***you do NOT need to have passed any grade to consider taking Music GCSE.*** It is open to everyone; you can succeed as a singer/guitarist/drummer, or any other sort of performer, without having taken any formal exams at all!). By the end of the course you will need to record **two** pieces - one solo and one ensemble. Whatever stage you are at when you start the course, your skills will be refined and improved by the end.
2. You will listen to, and study, a wide variety of musical styles. The new specification covers a wide range of classical and popular genres, including blues/jazz, musicals, techno dance, Baroque, Classical and Romantic pieces, folk and World music. The introduction of a varied range of Set Works means that you will know the exact topics that will come up in the Listening Paper.
3. **Composition** - You will compose **two contrasting pieces** based on the listening topics. Plenty of guidance will be given and you can use Sibelius software to help you create the score.

## How will I be assessed?

There are three aspects to the final GCSE examination:

1. **Paper One - Performing** - Coursework (30% of the total marks)  
Marked by your teacher and moderated by Edexcel.
2. **Paper Two - Composition** - Coursework (30% of the total marks)  
Plenty of preparation time is given, but the final submissions are written under controlled conditions. Marked by your teacher and moderated by Edexcel.
3. **Paper Three - Listening and Appraising** - 1½ hours' written paper (40% of the total marks) based on questions from all Areas of Study.  
Marked by Edexcel.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Physical Education

## Examination Board?

OCR, Physical Education J586

## Why study Physical Education?

Do you like sport? Do you like learning new sports? Would you like to be rewarded for playing the sports you enjoy? Would you like to study sport? If you have answered yes to these questions, then you will enjoy GCSE Physical Education.

In this course you will improve your knowledge and performance in a range of practical activities and will have the chance to learn about the principles and practices that lead to good performance. The course will help you to develop your confidence, self-esteem and a sense of team spirit. The qualification can lead to further study of Physical Education or Leisure and Recreation, or to a career within the sport and leisure industry.

## What will you study?

- Effective performance or role in four chosen practical activities;
- An Analysing Lifestyle Task and an Analysing Skill Performance Task;
- Key concepts in Physical Education;
- Key processes in Physical Education;
- Opportunities, pathways and participation in Physical Education.

## What skills will you learn?

- Develop and apply advanced skills and techniques;
- Select and apply advanced skills, tactics, strategies and team skills;
- Evaluate and improve performance;
- Adopt a variety of roles in an activity such as performer, coach, referee;
- Apply rules of activity and safety regulations.

## How will you be assessed?

Year 10: Written exam (1 hour) worth 20% and Analysis 1 (written) worth 5%.

Year 11: Written exam (1 hour) worth 20%, Four Practical Performances from any activity areas worth 50% and Analysis 2 (written) worth 5%.

# Introduction to GCSE ... Religious Studies

## Examination Board?

OCR

## Course Title and Syllabus Number?

Religious Studies (Philosophy & Applied Ethics) J621

## Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies covers a wide range of topics, all of which help to improve your understanding of people and the religious influences on their lives. The course looks at age-old questions on Life, the Universe and everything. A GCSE in Religious Studies will enable you to gain a qualification in a subject you will have been studying for most of your school life and build on the foundation that this study has provided. Depending on which areas of the subject you choose, you will discover how the beliefs and practices of religion affect the ways in which believers lead their lives.

## What will you study?

We study the following options:

- Christian Perspectives on Moral, Social, Philosophical and Ethical Issues
- Topics include Belief about Deity, Reason Religion and Revelation, The End of Life, Good and Evil, Human Relationships, Media, Equality, Poverty and Wealth.

### You will also learn about:

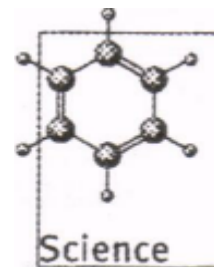
- The teachings and practices of Christianity; theory and practice
- How religion affects family and community life
- General useful philosophical and ethical issues
- How to understand exam technique and structure
- How exams are marked
- How to revise and other learning and revision methods to help in all areas of revision and exam techniques.

## What skills will you learn?

- How to interpret and evaluate pieces of information
- The ability to communicate and apply your knowledge
- The ability to describe, debate and analyse the key features of the religions studied
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Exam and essay techniques and revision methods.

## How will you be assessed?

There are two examination sessions lasting two hours each. There is no coursework.



## GCSE Science

The programme of study for Science underwent major change following the Government's 14-19 reforms. These changes necessitated the redevelopment of GCSE Science. Further changes took place in September 2011. The following programme of study for the sciences is for guidance; you will be given more details in due course.

The rationale for the science course is the appropriate exploration of 'How Science Works' in contexts which are relevant to the role of science in society and which are able to serve as a foundation for progression to further learning.

Students will be expected to know and understand a body of scientific facts as well as gain knowledge, skills and understanding of how science works in the world at large as well as in the laboratory.

All students will be prepared for the AQA Science Framework. The majority of our students will take Core Science (Year 10) followed by Additional Science (Year 11).

We will also offer the separate Science syllabuses: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students capable of succeeding on this route will be given more details and guidance as to whether this is the best option for them. It is recommended that if you intend pursuing a science-based course or career, for example Medicine, you should choose this option.

### Examining Board?

AQA

### Assessment

This course will be assessed as follows and leads to 2 GCSE grades (Core Science and Additional Science):

#### Core Science

- Three units (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) taken during Year 10 (75%)
- Controlled Assessment - based around normal class practical work followed by an externally set, internally assessed, test (25%)

#### Additional Science

- Three written papers (75%) - one Biology, one Chemistry, one Physics, taken towards the end of the course in Year 11
- Controlled Assessment (see above) 25%

Groups will be arranged based on internal test results in order that work is aimed at an appropriate level for each student. Level of entry will be decided on the basis of teacher recommendation and progress during Year 10. The levels cover the following grades: Higher A\* - D and Foundation C - G.

It is expected that all our students will take the Higher level.

# Introduction to GCSE Science ... Biology

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study Biology?

This course aims to stimulate a greater understanding of the nature of Biology and also a desire to explore further. It highlights topics where a sound grasp of Biology is essential and also new and expanding fields. You will gain skills which will be useful in a wide range of jobs, or you can go on to further study in a variety of science subjects.

## What will you study?

- Core Topics - Keeping healthy, coordination and control, medicine and drugs, adaptation for survival, energy in biomass, variation, reproduction and new technology, evolution.
- Additional Topics - Cytology, photosynthesis, enzymes, respiration, inheritance, speciation.
- Separate Science Topics - Diffusion, osmosis, gas exchange, cell membranes, transpiration, blood transport, using micro organisms, homeostasis.

## What will you learn?

- Biological facts and ideas which will help you to understand the world around you.
- How to plan and carry out a range of scientific investigations and to analyse the results.
- How to organise and present information clearly and use ICT.
- How to use scientific vocabulary.
- About the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments.

## How will you be assessed?

### Centre assessed unit based on practical work

25%

### Three Written Examinations

75%

# Introduction to GCSE Science ... Chemistry

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study Chemistry?

- This course will help students to gain and stimulate a greater understanding of the exciting nature of Chemistry today.
- As well as learning facts and theories, there is a substantial amount of practical work involved. Skills will be gained which will be useful in a wide range of careers.

## Aims

The course should encourage students to:

- Develop their interest in, and general enthusiasm for, science.
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.
- Acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society.
- Acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## What will you study?

The course includes all the fundamental concepts essential to Chemistry:

- Atomic structure, bonding and the Periodic Table.
- Quantitative chemistry and rates of reaction.
- Acids and bases.
- Redox reactions, equilibria and energy transfers.
- Electrochemistry.
- An introduction to Organic Chemistry.
- Studies of several industrial processes.

## What will you learn?

- Chemical facts and ideas, which will help you to understand the world around you and enable you to appreciate the importance of current scientific issues.
- How to organise and present information clearly, including the use of ICT.
- Correct use of scientific vocabulary.
- Skills which enable you to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments.

## How will you be assessed?

**Centre assessed unit based on practical work and two 45-minute written papers**

25%

**Three one-hour written examinations throughout Key Stage 4**

75%

# Introduction to GCSE Science ... Physics

## Examination Board?

AQA

## Why study Physics?

This course will help you gain an understanding of Physics - the science that explains the fundamental laws of how the Universe works. It is not just about learning facts and theories; there is also practical work. You will gain skills that will be useful in a wide range of jobs or you can go on to further study in a variety of Science subjects.

## What will you study?

- Energy
- The Universe
- Forces & Motion
- Electricity & Magnetism
- Waves
- Radioactivity

## Aims

The course should encourage students to:

- Develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, science.
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.
- Acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society.
- Acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## What will you learn?

- Facts and ideas which will help you to understand the world around you.
- How to plan and carry out a range of investigations and to analyse the results.
- How to organise and present information clearly and use ICT.
- How to use scientific vocabulary.
- About the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments.

## How will you be assessed?

### Centre assessed unit based on practical work

25%

### Three written Examinations

75%