



**HUMPHREY PERKINS
SCHOOL**

Lionheart Educational Trust



Key Stage 4 Subject Booklet 2026

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Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is tailored to our students' individual needs, aspirations and interests. Students study a range of qualifications that comprise of a core programme and additional option subjects, resulting in a broad and balanced curriculum.

The core programme consist of a range of GCSE courses including:

English Language

English literature

Mathematics

Combined Science (equal to two GCSEs) or Triple Science (equal to three GCSEs)*

*Triple Science is not an option choice and is an informed decision taken by teachers regarding which students will be best suited to the demands of the additional GCSE in science.

Humanities

Students have a first option choice which they must make from either:

Geography or History

Progression pathways at KS4

In addition to the above subjects, students will then follow either the Facilitating Progression Pathway or the Applied Learning Progression Pathway.

Facilitating Progression Pathway: this pathway with its broad range of academic and enriching subjects (including languages), provides students with a strong platform for A Level study, Advanced Apprenticeships and higher education progression into university.

Applied Learning Progression Pathway: this pathway offers students the flexibility of taking vocational course alongside traditional subjects. This allows students to progress onto Level 3 courses with a course work assessment structure including BTEC, CTEC, T Levels and Apprenticeships.

If students have any questions regarding any of the subjects we offer, please contact the students tutor or Head of Year.



Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Facilitating Progression Pathway

Core GCSE programme:
English Language, English
Literature, maths,
combined science

Choice 1
GCSE Geography or History

Choice 2
GCSE French or Spanish

All students will also participate in weekly core lessons of PE, RS and PD

Applied Learning Progression Pathway

Core GCSE programme:
English Language, English
Literature, maths,
combined science.

Choice 1
GCSE Geography or History

Choice 2
Level 2 CNAT:
Health and Social Care or
Sports Studies

All students will also participate in weekly core lessons of PE, RS and PD

Each student chooses one specialist interest subject from:

BTEC Art and Design

BTEC IT

GCSE Design and Technology

GCSE Drama

CNAT Health and Social Care

CNAT Sports Studies

WJEC Hospitality and Catering

GCSE Music

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Statistics

Please note: We cannot guarantee to run all of the subjects outlined above, if not enough students opt for individual subjects



English Language

Course Content

Course Content and Assessment

Exam board: AQA

GCSE English Language develops all areas of your reading, writing and communication skills; these skills are transferable across all your GCSE subjects.

For Paper 1, you still study a range of fiction extracts from a variety of genres, including gothic, science fiction, mystery, fantasy and many more. You will focus on how the narrative is constructed, how writers develop plot, characters, setting and mood.

For Paper 2, you will study a range of non-fiction texts focused on a variety of topics, analysing how writers develop a line of argument and convey their viewpoints and perspectives through language.

Both Section Bs of the exams are writing focused. You will develop your writing skills by practising a range of creative writing styles in the form of beginnings of narrative writing, descriptive writing and transactional writing, including speeches, articles and letters.

You can prepare this this course by ensuring that you are up to date with current affairs and reading a range of fiction and non-fiction texts regularly.

How is the Course Assessed

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% of GCSE)
• Section A: Reading – one literature fiction text
• Section B: Writing – descriptive or narrative
The exam is 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 80 marks.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% of GCSE)
Section A: Reading – two non-fiction texts
Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint
The exam is 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 80 marks.

Non-Examination Assessment: Spoken Language Separate endorsement (0% of weighting of GCSE) Students will be assessed on presenting, responding to questions and feedback, and their use of Standard English.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

GCSE English Language allows you access to all areas of higher education including sixth form, college, and university. Holding a qualification in GCSE English Language opens more career routes, with many colleges and sixth forms requiring a minimum of Grade 4 in GCSE English Language. Both English GCSEs focus on developing skills strong communication and written English skills, which most employers in a variety of industries are look for.

English Literature

Course Content

Exam board: AQA

GCSE English Literature gives you the opportunity to respond to, and enjoy, a variety of texts from the English canon and modern texts, discovering the place of Literature in its social, historical and cultural context.

You will study the following texts over Year 10 and Year 11:

- A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley
- Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- AQA 'Worlds and Lives' poetry cluster
- Unseen poetry

You will closely analyse each text, reading and annotating them through discussion in class. There will be many opportunities to debate ideas around the plot, characters, key themes and ideas in and around the text.

You will think about how the text reflects attitudes of society at the time and how a contemporary reader/audience reacts to the big ideas raised by the writers of each text.

You will complete multiple essays on each text over the two years, developing your analysis skills and writing in timed conditions in readiness for the exams.

How is the Course Assessed

The course is 100% closed book examination and is assessed at the end of the two-year course.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (40% of GCSE)

- Section A: Macbeth – William Shakespeare
- Section B: A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens

The exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes and is worth 64 marks.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60% of GCSE)

- Section A: An Inspector Calls – J.B. Priestley
- Section B: Comparing anthology poetry – Worlds and Lives
- Section C: Comparing unseen poetry

The exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes and is worth 96 marks.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

The English Literature course suits any career progression in a whole range of professions including teaching, journalism, media, law and the arts.

Mathematics

Course Content

Mathematics is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be.

Mathematics GCSE covers a broad range of topics aimed at developing fluency, mathematical reasoning, and problem-solving skills. It is structured into Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 4-9) tiers, with assessment based entirely on three written exams. A strong grade is crucial for careers in finance, engineering, science, and technology.

The curriculum is divided into six main topic areas, with higher-tier students covering more complex, abstract, and challenging material:

- **Number:** Includes fractions, decimals, percentages, and standard form.
- **Algebra:** Covers manipulation, equations, sequences, and graphs.
- **Ratio, Proportion, and Rates of Change:** Includes compound units (speed, density) and scale factors.
- **Geometry and Measures:** Focuses on angles, shapes, trigonometry, and circle theorems.
- **Probability:** Covers theoretical and experimental probability and frequency trees.
- **Statistics:** Involves interpreting data, histograms, and sampling techniques.

Key Skills Developed:

- **Problem-solving:** Applying mathematical concepts to unfamiliar, real-life contexts.
- **Mathematical Argument:** Constructing logical proofs and interpreting information.
- **Functional Elements:** Using mathematics in everyday contexts, such as financial calculations.

How is the Course Assessed ?

Exam Board – AQA

3 GCSE papers (With equal weighting) which assess Content from any part of the specification.

Paper 1 – 1 hour and 30 minutes – 80 marks – Non-calculator

Paper 2 – 1 hour and 30 minutes – 80 marks – Calculator allowed

Paper 3 – 1 hour and 30 minutes – 80 marks – Calculator allowed

Possible Careers and Further Study Associated with this Subject

A Grade 4 or 5 is often a minimum requirement for many entry-level jobs and higher education courses.

Further Study: Success at GCSE can lead to A-level Mathematics or Further Mathematics, or the Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Mathematics) for those pursuing non-mathematics A-levels.

Common paths that value strong mathematics GCSE foundations include:

o **Technical Trades:** Engineering, plumbing, and construction apprenticeships.

o **Finance & Business:** Junior accounting roles, insurance, and retail management.

o **Data & IT:** Junior software development, IT support, and data entry.

o **Education:** Mathematics tutoring and teaching assistant roles.



Science

Why is Science Important?

Science helps students understand the world around them – from the structure of cells and the chemistry of materials to the forces shaping the universe. Studying science develops curiosity, problem-solving and analytical thinking, alongside practical skills and resilience.

Science qualifications are highly valued by employers, colleges, and universities because they demonstrate:

- Logical thinking and precision
- The ability to analyse evidence and draw conclusions
- Strong numeracy and literacy skills
- Perseverance and independent thinking

Whether students go on to study science further, or pursue a different pathway, science equips them with transferable skills essential for modern life and work

Assessment Information

All students follow **AQA GCSE Science**. Science is 100% examination, and students sit 6 papers in total at the end of Year 11. There are two for biology, chemistry and physics, with each paper being 1 hour 15 minutes (triple science papers are 1 hour 45 minutes).

Science papers comprise of the following:

- A01 – Assessing knowledge and understanding
- A02 – Assessing application of knowledge
- A03 – Assessing analysis and evaluation, including required practical activities

There are two tiers of entry:

- Foundation tier: Grades 1-5
- Higher Tier: Grades 4-9

Science Pathways

All students begin GCSE study following the Combined Science pathway in Year 9.

During Year 10, staff review progress, attainment and learning behaviours to determine whether students will continue with Combined Science or are best suited to Triple Science. The table below gives information about the two pathways.

Combined Science	Triple Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award: Two GCSEs• Covers all three science• Suitable for the majority of students• Strong preparation for further education and a wide range of careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award: Three separate GCSEs• Greater depth and challenge in each science• Recommended for students with strong attainment and commitment• Excellent preparation for A Level Science and STEM pathways (note: not required for A Level Science)

Decisions on pathways are based on attainment, teacher judgement, and capacity to manage the increased academic demand.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Science opens doors to a wide range of future opportunities.

Science related careers include:

- Medicine, nursing, dentistry, radiography and biomedical science
- Engineering, robotics, aerospace and renewable energy
- Environmental science, conservation, and climate research
- Forensic science, data analysis, and laboratory technology
- Sports science, nutrition, psychology and teaching

Science also supports pathways into:

- A-level Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and STEM-related university courses
- Careers where analytical thinking and scientific literacy are essential, even if science isn't the main focus

Beyond specific science careers, studying science develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are highly valued across all professions, making it a strong foundation for any future pathway



BTEC Art and Design

Course Content and Assessment

Creativity is not only about pursuing artistic interests, but it can also open the doors to exciting career opportunities.

Students must explore, through a range of two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional processes and media, practical application of skills and relevant critical and contextual sources such as the work of contemporary artists, craftspeople and designers and the different purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft and design.

How is the Course Assessed ?

This qualification is made up of 2 units, a set coursework unit and a set exam unit. Through Year 10 students produce 2-unit projects, one of which is graded: building around skills, techniques and contextual knowledge making 60% of the overall grade. In Year 11, students complete one more externally set project over 3 months which is the remaining 40% of the course mark.

Entry Criteria

A strong work ethic, self-motivated to produce work outside of school hours and a love for the arts. Technique can be learnt, skills can be practised but *enthusiasm and perseverance must be given by the student.*

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

A good BTEC in Art and Design will allow students to progress to further education to study a number of Art courses. This could lead to careers such as designers, directors, artists, teachers and lecturers to name a few. However, just participating and working hard through an Art and Design GCSE will improve so many of our students' personal skills that they will be able to carry forward into all walks of life and jobs. Being creative and thinking a little differently can give students the edge whatever their future plans.



Design and Technology

Course Content and Assessment

GCSE Design and Technology (AQA) will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. GCSE Design and Technology will allow students to develop their knowledge, understanding and the skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. Aspects of the course will be delivered through the practical application of this knowledge and understanding. Students will study a range of core technical principles as well as specialist technical principles that are linked to wood, metal and polymers, composite, smart and modern materials. Students will also develop mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding in relation to Design and Technology.

How is the Course Assessed ?

Module/Unit – Paper 1 – Written Exam – 50% of GCSE

Elements – Core technical principles (20 marks) A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Assessment – Written Exam: 2 hours 100 marks

Specialist technical principles (30 marks) Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles. **Designing and making principles (50 marks)** A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Assessment – 30% of this exam will be Mathematics.

Module/Unit – Non-exam assessment (NEA) – 50% of GCSE

Elements – Practical application of: core technical principles, specialist technical principles, designing and making principles.

TASKS – Substantial design and make task

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing and evaluating

Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence

Assessment – Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA. Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours, 100 marks

Entry Criteria

Since 15% of the GCSE is made up of mathematical knowledge and skill there is a requirement that students opting for this subject must be 'secure' in KS3 Maths.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

GCSE Design Technology opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.



BTEC Digital Information Technology

Course Content and Assessment

From personal computers to smartphones, from websites to apps, all of our lives are enhanced through the use of ICT.

The BTEC Digital Information Technology course will provide students with a range of analytical skills allowing them to understand the different uses of IT in organisations, and how its effective use can contribute to the organisation's success and improvement.

Students will learn how to plan, create and review their own user interface based on a provide scenario. Additionally, they will investigate the characteristics of data and information and how information can help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

Finally, learners will investigate why the installation and upgrading of computer hardware and software plays an important part in ensuring that technology systems are able to support business requirements.

Type of Qualification

Unit 1: Using IT to support information and communications in organisations
Centre-assessed task coursework
30% of qualification

Unit 2: Data and spreadsheet modelling
Centre-assessed task coursework
30% of qualification

Unit 3: Setting up a technology system
Written paper - Pearson set and marked
40% of qualification

Entry Criteria

Students who are interested in this course must have good ICT skills and a genuine interest in ICT. This course is 60% coursework based and therefore students must also have a good work ethic.

Progression to Sixth Form

A good foundation in IT will open doors to diverse career paths. For example: IT Consultant, Web Developer, Data Analyst, IT Technician, Quality Assurance Tester, Computer Programmer, User Experience Designer and many more.



Drama

Course Content and Assessment

Drama allows us to be creative, which is vital to society. People who can express themselves creatively enable the world to move forward. It is through creativity and self-expression that students begin to develop their own identity, and the performing arts are a vital tool in supporting this.

GCSE Drama (OCR) is not simply about 'becoming an actor'. The course has many transferable skills which can be applied to other areas of study and future careers, including collaboration, problem solving, creative and critical thinking, leadership, teamwork, self-discipline, as well as boosting students' confidence and presentational skills. Many employers actively look for students who have studied performing arts subjects due to the wide range of essential employment skills it develops.

This exciting specification for GCSE (9-1) Drama gives students the opportunity to explore the subject from a range of perspectives by devising their own, original work; by bringing to life the work of a playwright; as theatre reviewers, developing their own thoughts on what makes drama and theatre successful; and as creative artists building and bringing a character to life through exploration and rehearsal.

With the skills that students learn during the course, they will be able to:

- research, analyse and assess sources
- demonstrate written and verbal communication skills
- experiment and develop new ideas and arguments
- apply performance and production skills to communicate with an audience
- manage creative and interpersonal issues and negotiate effectively with others
- constructively cope with and learn from criticism

How the Course is Assessed

The qualification is assessed over three units assessing students ability in

Devising Drama (30% - internally assessed) - Students will create a devised performance in groups. They will be able to select a starting point from a range of stimuli provided by the exam board.

Performing from a text (30% - externally examined) - Students perform two extracts from a chosen script.

Written exam (40%). - **Section A** - Students will be asked about preparing and performing a text drawing on the experience of studying a set text (we study Blood Brothers) The questions will focus on the process of creating and developing a performance, working as a director, performer and designer, as well as the performance of a character from the text. **Section B** - Students will review a live performance they have seen on their course showing the ability to use technical terminology to analyse and evaluate in their answer.

Entry Criteria

- **MUST** be prepared to work as part of a group
- Have an open and creative mindset
- Enjoy being involved in and watching live theatre. NB: there may be a small cost involved
- Have a good level of organisation and self-discipline
- Commitment and attendance are essential
- A willingness to play a full role in the extra-curricular activities of the department.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Theatre and Film Actor - Director Technician and Designer - TV and Film Consultant - Intelligence Researcher - Media and Marketing Assistant - Marketing Account Executive - Production Assistant - Assistant Editor - Interior Design Administrator - Project Executive - Theatre Maker - Speech and Language Assistant - Teacher and many more.



French

Did students Know...?

- Over 275 million people speak French worldwide, predicted to rise to 750 million people by 2050.
- French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, dance, art and architecture.
- French shares roots with other 'Romance' languages, making it easier to learn another language later in life.
- French is one of the top languages in demand by UK businesses and allows access to some of the highest paid jobs in Britain – 54% of employers surveyed by the CBI in 2022 said French was useful for their business.

The GCSE (Pearson) course builds on students' learning in French from Years 7-9 and aims to develop their confidence and resilience when using and understanding the language.

Language lessons are interactive with use of mini-whiteboards, speaking activities and games to reinforce learning. Students are encouraged to reuse and apply their existing knowledge across a range of topics in order to promote mastery of key structures and communication skills.

The GCSE course is delivered through a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to students' current and future needs:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

How the Course is Assessed

Students are assessed in Speaking (25%), Listening (25%), Reading (25%) and Writing (25%).

Students will be entered for either Higher Tier (Grades 4-9) or Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) – tier entries are decided in Year 11.

Entry Criteria

The French GCSE course is open to all students who have studied French in KS3.

The course is accessible for all students with a good work ethic, with Foundation Tier examinations available for students who struggle with the demands of Higher.

A successful languages student is a proactive learner who is willing to reflect and learn from mistakes.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Language skills are highly respected by employers and will greatly enhance CVs. Learning a language also helps to develop "soft skills" which are valued across all sectors. A French GCSE qualification is also looked on favourably for entrance to the top universities such as the Russell Group.

Language skills are particularly sought after for roles in business, travel and tourism, and public sector careers.

A Modern Foreign Languages qualification opens doors and gives students a wide range of options later in life.



Geography

Course Content

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” Michael Palin.

At Humphrey Perkins, students need to select either History or Geography, but they can also choose to take both. Students should choose their preferred Humanities subject as their first choice on the Options form.

The GCSE Geography course has a straightforward structure with three components - Our Natural World (physical geography); People and Society (human geography); Geographical Exploration (decision-making exam). 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. The course 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.

Fieldwork environments are aligned with the core content of the course so that the experience of fieldwork can reinforce and enlighten learning in the classroom, and learning in the classroom can underpin learning in the field. All students will be offered two fieldwork opportunities during the course. We currently offer an urban fieldwork visit to Oadby and a physical geography rivers fieldwork visit to Dovedale in the Peak District.

How is the Course Assessed

This qualification is made up of three units that are externally assessed at the end of year 11.

Paper 1: Our Natural World (Global Hazards, Changing Climate, Distinctive Landscapes, Sustaining Ecosystems) – 35% of GCSE total, 1 hour 30 minutes exam

Paper 2: People and Society (Urban Futures, Dynamic Development, UK in the 21st Century, Resource Reliance) – 35% of GCSE total, 1 hour 30 minutes exam

Paper 3: Geographical Exploration, which is a decision-making paper – 30% of GCSE total, 1 hour 30 minutes exam

Entry Criteria

A good work ethic and interest in the subject are the key to success in Geography. Good literacy skills are required as extended writing is included in the exams, alongside some basic numeracy skills.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Geography is one of the Russell Group ‘facilitating subjects’ which will open many doors to a wide range of university courses. Geography encompasses many skills which are useful for a variety of careers including environmental science, tackling global warming, urban planning, journalism and politics.



CNAT Health & Social Care

Course Content and Assessment

A subject that allows students to take control of students own learning, with supportive staff and provides an opportunity to create activities and explore various topics.

The Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care is an applied learning subject. This means that the subject is intimately linked with teaching students the relevance of their studies to actual job roles. Students will learn about how aspects of Sociology, Psychology, Biology and Law are applied to make up the subject of Health and Social Care. Key to their study will be the ability to recognise that in the diverse society we live in there is an inherent need for the provision of care and education. Students who have a genuine interest in the provision of care will choose Health and Social Care and ultimately go on to become professionals in a wide and diverse number of professions.

The Cambridge National Certificate is made up of several units. These tell students what students need to learn, what evidence students have to produce and what students need to do to pass. The core units enable students to develop interpersonal skills for care work, explore the general functioning of Health and Social care services and identify potential career pathways. The optional units enable students to develop an understanding of health and illness, how to promote a healthy environment and lifestyle.

How is the Course Assessed ?

60% Coursework (all word processed, requiring a significant amount of research and writing skill). Year 10: R033 Supporting Individuals Through Life Stages. Year 11: Creative and Therapeutic Activities.

40% Exam: Summer of Year 11 – R032 Principles of Care in Health and Social Care Settings

Entry Criteria

Hard working, organised, determined to succeed, able to meet short and regular deadlines. To have a genuine interest for the subject.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

- Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Teaching
- Midwifery
- Health and Beauty
- Carer
- Social Worker
- Radiography
- Health and Safety
- Dietician
- Health Care Manager



History

Course Content and Assessment

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." Marcus Garvey

At Humphrey Perkins, students need to select either History or Geography. Students should choose their preferred Humanities subject as their first choice on the options form.

History GCSE is designed to ensure a broad course of study. Its structure embeds the requirement to study History across three eras, three time scales and three geographical contexts. The three papers will allow students to gain an understanding of the modern world and how events have shaped the world they live in. Paper One, the thematic study, Crime and Punishment, requires students to understand change and continuity across a long sweep of history, including the most significant characteristics of different ages from the medieval to modern periods. They include people, events and developments and reveal wider changes in aspects of society over the centuries and allow comparisons to be made between different periods of history. Paper 2 encompasses two depth studies, a British depth study of the Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 and a Period study, Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91, which both provide an unfolding narrative, allowing students to study the forces that cause change and the impacts of such change. Paper 3 covers the modern depth study, Weimar and Nazi Germany. This focuses on a substantial and coherent short time span and requires students to understand the complexity of a society or historical situation and the interplay of different aspects within it.

The Course is designed to:

- Develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history; and of the wide diversity of human experience
- Engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers
- Develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them
- Organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions

How is the Course Assessed ?

Students will sit three exams at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1: Crime and Punishment with the Historic Environment study (Whitechapel)(30% of total mark)

Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England and Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91(40% of total mark)

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany (30% of total mark)

Entry Criteria

- An interest in the past and an enquiring mind
- It is recommended that you are working at S or S+ in English to take History
- Good literacy skills as each paper requires extended writing tasks

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

History should be studied due to a passion for learning about events and people in the past. However, it also teaches valuable transferable skills, meaning that those with History at A-Level and Degree level are highly regarded by employers. Many students who study History at A-Level go on to study research-based degrees, including History, Politics, Economics, Law and Journalism, which all require the candidate to formulate an argument, essay or speech using wide-ranging evidence. History is also highly regarded in Science and many students go on to study Medicine.



WJEC Hospitality & Catering

Course Content

The WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. Lessons will consist of a range of practical and theory elements to prepare them for both elements of assessment.

How is the Course Assessed

Unit Number 1

The hospitality and catering industry
Assessment – Mandatory external exam
GLH – 48

Unit Number 2

Hospitality and Catering in Action
Assessment – Mandatory Internal coursework
GLH – 72

Students must complete both units. This structure has been designed to develop in learners the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, students will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem-solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication. Through the two units, students will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression.

Type of Qualification

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification. However, for this course it will be essential that students are prepared to bring in ingredients regularly for practical lessons and also practise their food preparation and cooking skills at home.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

The hospitality and catering sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages, and/or accommodation services. It also includes airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues; businesses where hospitality and catering is not their primary service but is increasingly important to their success. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists working for supermarket chains.



Music

Course Content and Assessment

Alongside the fact that Music is a huge part of our world, the benefits of actually studying Music are vast. They include:

- Language and reasoning development
- Increased coordination
- Emotional development
- Fine-tuned auditory skills
- Imagination and intellectual curiosity
- Spatial intelligence
- Enhanced social skills
- Responsible risk-taking
- Better self-confidence
- Self-expression

Studies have found that learning music facilitates learning in other subjects and, with that, enhances skills that students will invariably use in other areas. It is a universal language which is entirely inclusive.

GCSE Music (OCR) allows students to study a wide range of Music across the many genres throughout history, to hone their own performing skills, understand the art of composition and to analyse the music that they hear.

With the skills that they learn during the course, they will be able to:

- Perform with growing confidence and skill as a soloist
- Compose with an understanding of structure and developing their own distinct style
- Listen to and appraise a wide range of music from the 4 main areas of study within the course
- Develop a deeper understanding of musical theory

How is the Course Assessed

Component 1: Performing

- Total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes
- Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated
- 30% of qualification
- A minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one-minute duration. The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble
- One of the pieces performed must link

Component 2: Composing

- Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes
- Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated
- 30% of qualification
- Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by OCR, Students will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The briefs will be released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition is a free composition for which students set their own brief.

Component 3: Appraising

- Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 40% of qualification
- This component is assessed via a listening examination.
- Eight questions in total, two on each of the possible areas of study

Area of study 1: My music

Area of study 2: Concerto through time

Area of study 3: Rhythms of the world

Area of study 4: Film music

Area of study 5: Conventions of pop

Entry Criteria: Students MUST play an instrument or sing, be Grade 2 or above (or the equivalent) as it is ideal to cope with the academic and practical demands. They must enjoy being involved in performance and be prepared to practise on their chosen instrument.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Performer, teacher, administrator, songwriter, conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter, or music publisher. The range of roles can seem quite endless! There are also more jobs than ever in music business related areas, such as careers in digital marketing, social media, PR, technology, label services, ticketing and merchandising. It is also common to find music graduates in consultancy, finance, banking, music therapy and legal jobs.



Religious Studies

How is the Course Assessed

Course Content and Skill Development

GCSE Religious Studies offers students a unique opportunity to explore two major world religions – Christianity and Islam – alongside a range of contemporary ethical and philosophical issues. The course encourages students to think deeply, engage in meaningful debate, and reflect on the role of religion in today's society. Through the study of beliefs, teachings, and practices, students gain insight into how faith influences individuals and communities. Thematic units challenge students to consider diverse perspectives on real-world issues such as human rights, crime and punishment, and the ethics of life and death.

Religious Studies nurtures a wide range of academic and personal skills that are highly valued across education and employment:

Critical Thinking – Evaluating arguments and forming reasoned conclusions
Textual Analysis – Interpreting religious texts and teachings
Debate and Discussion – Expressing ideas clearly and respectfully
Ethical Reasoning – Applying moral frameworks to complex issues
Synthesis and Evaluation – Comparing viewpoints and justifying opinions
These skills support success in essay-based subjects and are essential for careers involving people, ethics, and communication.

Gcse course structure
Exam Board: AQA Route A
Assessment: Two written exams (1 hour 45 minutes each) taken in Year 11

Paper 1: The Study of Religions
Christianity: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices
Islam: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

Paper 2: Thematic Studies
Religion and Life
Crime and Punishment
Religion, Peace and Conflict
Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

A GCSE in Religious Studies provides an excellent foundation for further study in Philosophy, Ethics, Theology, and other humanities subjects. It is recognised by top universities as a rigorous and respected qualification. RS links to a wide range of careers, particularly those involving people, ethics, and communication, such as:

Law
Medicine and Healthcare
Social Work and Care
Education
Journalism
Politics and Civil Service
Police and Emergency Services

By exploring how people live, think, and make decisions, students gain a deeper understanding of the world – enhancing both their academic profile and their future employability.



Spanish

Did students Know...?

Did students know...?

- Up to 500 million people speak Spanish worldwide and it is the official language of 21 countries.
- Spanish is predicted to be the most spoken language in the USA by 2050.
- Spanish shares roots with other Romance languages, making it easier to learn another language later in life.
- Spanish is a phonetic language meaning students pronounce letters consistently and letters represent a specific sound.
- Spanish is one of the top languages in demand by UK businesses – 50% of employers surveyed by the CBI in 2018 said Spanish was useful for their business.

The GCSE course builds on students' learning in Spanish from Years 7-9 and aims to develop their confidence and resilience when using and understanding the language.

Language lessons are interactive with use of mini-whiteboards, speaking activities and games to reinforce learning. Students are encouraged to reuse and apply their existing knowledge across a range of topics in order to promote mastery of key structures and communication skills.

The GCSE course is delivered through a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to students' current and future needs.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

How the Course is Assessed

Students are assessed in Speaking (25%), Listening (25%), Reading (25%) and Writing (25%).

Students will be entered for either Higher Tier (Grades 4-9) or Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) – tier entries are decided in Year 11.

Entry Criteria

The Spanish GCSE course is open to all students who have studied Spanish in KS3.

The course is accessible for all students with a good work ethic, with Foundation Tier examinations available for students who struggle with the demands of Higher.

A successful Languages student is a proactive learner who is willing to reflect and learn from mistakes.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Language skills are highly respected by employers and will greatly enhance CVs. Learning a language also helps to develop "soft skills" which are valued across all sectors. A Spanish GCSE qualification is also looked on favourably for entrance to the top universities such as the Russell Group.

Language skills are particularly sought after for roles in business, travel and tourism, and public sector careers.

A Modern Foreign Languages qualification opens doors and gives students a wide range of options later in life.



CNAT Sport Studies

Course Content

Sport studies is an exciting course for students who have a keen interest in sport and encapsulates many areas of sport and what it has to offer.

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes. Students apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models as well as the impact that technology is having on sport. Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry. Students will also get the opportunity to plan for and participate in Outdoor Adventurous Activities. The qualification equips them with sound specialist knowledge through practical application. Students will study three units.

R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport

This unit is assessed by an exam.

By completing this unit students will understand a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including learning about participation levels and barriers to completing sporting activities. Students will also learn how participation is impacted by the promotion of values and ethical behaviour, about the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used in within sport.

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

This unit is assessed by a set assignment.

In this unit students will have an opportunity to develop their skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills. Students will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with team mates as well as being in front of an audience when students perform. Students will perform under pressure, both as a participant and as a leader, and will use students' initiative to solve problems and make decisions. Finally, students will deal with rapidly changing conditions and situations.

R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities

This unit is assessed by a set assignment.

In this unit students will have an opportunity to develop their skills in an outdoor sporting activity, developing a range of transferable skills and attributes including communication skills. Students will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with teammates as well as being in front of an audience when students perform. Students will look at where outdoor and adventurous activities can take place locally and nationally and learn what is involved in planning such activities.

How is the Course Assessed ?

R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport
- Assessed as a 1hr 15-minute exam (40%)

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities
- Assessed as coursework (40%)

R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities
- Assessed as coursework (20%)

Entry Criteria

A keen interest in Sport and Physical Education is required. Students will need to be organised and self-motivated to complete independent assignments. Students will be required to perform practical skills and lead sessions to their peers.

Why Study Sport and Fitness ?

- For enjoyment! Students who like playing sport and are interested in all aspects of sports preparation and performance – then this will appeal to them.
- It develops the knowledge, skills and understanding that underpin many other subjects.
- It develops their own health and fitness understanding as well as key skills, especially working as a team.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

It provides a progressive route to further study. This vocational course is excellent when thinking about a career in the sport or leisure industry. Students can access A-Level PE through this route as well as Cambridge Technicals and BTEC Sport courses.



Statistics

Course Content and Assessment

From analysing data and interpreting trends to understanding graphs and charts in the news, much of our lives involve the use of Statistics in some form.

The Edexcel GCSE in Statistics reflects this and provides students with a solid foundation for understanding and applying this subject in their future homes and working lives.

GCSE Statistics develops skills that students will use in other subjects such as Science and Geography, and reinforces techniques needed for GCSE Maths as well as supporting progression to A level Maths. Real-life scenarios will capture their interest and give them an insight into the importance of statistics in the real world. This course is also ideal for those thinking of future study in A-Level Business, Economics, Psychology or Sociology.

The course is designed to:

Provide students with skills that they can collect, analyse, display and interpret data.

Enable them to carry out basic investigations and use hypothesis.

Improve confidence in areas such as reading statistical information and being able to interpret this to find conclusions.

How is the Course Assessed ?

This qualification is assessed by two papers at the end of the course. The papers are evenly weighted and focus on the same content and skills.

Entry Criteria

This course should be considered by those students who enjoy Mathematics and are on course to achieve at least a Grade 5 at GCSE.

Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

A good foundation in Statistics will open doors to diverse career paths. A Statistics qualification is a good basis for careers paths such as Meteorologist, Financial Analyst, Financial Journalist, Biological Scientist, Data Analyst or Actuary.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the core subjects in Year 10/11?

A. All students study English, Mathematics and Science.

Q. How many other subjects can I choose?

A. Whichever pathway they follow students will be making three choices. Included in this, students will choose one from the "options" section. We will also ask for 'reserve choices'.

Q. Will I get all my first choices?

A. We work extremely hard to give students their first choices, but occasionally we do have to allocate some reserve choices for a variety of reasons. It is important that students select reserve choices that they are willing and able to study.

Q. Do any subjects have specific entry requirements?

A. Please read the Options booklet carefully. Some subjects require a very high level of literacy and/or numeracy to complete the courses successfully. Music requires you to currently be playing a musical instrument or singing to a high standard.

Q. What is a BTEC/CNAT/Level 2 subject and what is the main difference between these and a GCSE?

A. The BTEC/CNAT/Level 2 subjects are all vocational subjects that have a large coursework composition that are equivalent to GCSEs. However, to ensure greater parity and robustness of challenge, exam boards have redesigned all their qualifications to include an externally examined unit of work.

Q. Who should I speak to if I have any further queries once the form has been submitted in?

A. Should students have any questions, please speak to the students Tutor, Head of Year or Subject Teacher.



Important Dates

30.01.26

Year 9 Options Assembly.

05.02.26

Year 9 Options Evening.

Week commencing the 23.02.26

Staff will be discussing the different KS4 qualifications in lessons.

06.03.26

Deadline for all options to be submitted.

Should students have any further questions, they should speak to their Tutor, Head of Year or Subject Teachers.

