



Options Booklet

2021-22

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What is GCSE Geography?

What will the world look like in 50 years' time? How can a volcanic eruption cost Europe £2billion? How will running out of oil affect the world? What are the problems of the world's population reaching 9 billion by 2050? Why are our rainforests so important yet people choose to destroy them? What is a megacity and will Manchester ever become one?

If these are questions that interest you, then choose Geography. We live at a time when, as never before, the environments, economies and cultures of places across the world are linked. Only Geography can provide full knowledge of the physical and human environments in which we all live, and an understanding of the connections between them. Geography is simply about the world around us and the impact we have on it.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Interests:

- Curiosity! - an interest in how the world works, and how the human race will need to adapt in the future.
- Current affairs- what is going on in the world, and how it is linked to you.
- Reading outside of class (newspapers, textbooks, etc).

Skills:

- Numerical skills, literacy skills and analytical skills

Abilities:

- The ability to analyse information (graphs, news articles, maps etc) and interpret the meaning.
- The ability to research topics.

What will I study?

- **Unit 1: Living with the physical environment.** Natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tropical storms; natural ecosystems such as hot deserts and tropical rainforests; UK rivers and coasts, how they work and how we can protect them.
- **Unit 2: Changes in the human environment.** Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management.
- **Unit 3: Geographical Applications.** Evaluating a global issue and completing 2 fieldwork opportunities.

How will I be assessed?

There will be 3 examinations set by the AQA exam board in the summer of Year 11. Unit 1 and 2 exams are 90 minutes long and the unit 3 exam is 75mins long.

What career options does this subject give me?

Geography is an academic subject that is highly valued by both universities and employer alike. The best 24 universities in the country (Russell Group universities) list Geography as being one of the subjects that best prepares students for most university courses, so it is a subject that will keep all of your career options open.

GCSE Geography develops many transferable employment skills such as the ability to investigate, analyse and evaluate issues; good communication and organizational skills, and the ability to work with others. These skills are particularly valued in law, journalism; banking/finance; energy sector (oil & gas); marketing; business management; law; research; armed forces; tourism...the list goes on!

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will consist of: the production of revision materials; practice exam questions; revision, and research tasks (such as preparing for presentations and mini lessons).

For more information visit: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

What is GCSE History?

Why did Donald Trump get elected? Why did people support the Nazis? What does it mean to be a global citizen?

If you enjoy finding out why, then GCSE History is for you! We will be studying everything from French invasions to cowboys; spanning over 1000 years, the topics at GCSE History are varied, engaging and exciting.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- Read and analyse historical texts, evidence and sources
- Write historical analysis judgements
- Debate others and persuade

Personal characteristics:

- Commitment to giving 100% in lessons
- Organisation – there is lots to learn!
- Ability to see things from the perspective of others and interest in current affairs

You will learn how to:

- Analyse evidence and sources to spot 'fake news'
- Make persuasive arguments about your beliefs
- Ask the right questions to find out the truth about History
- Effectively revise to ensure exam success

What will I study?

The topics we study for each paper are varied, including British, American and global History

- Paper 1 Crime and Punishment c1000 – present including Victorian London and policing in Whitechapel 1888
- Paper 2 Anglo – Saxon and Norman England c1060 – 1088 and American West c1834 – 1890
- Paper 3 Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 – 1939

How will I be assessed?

Edexcel GCSE History examinations at the end of year 11 in the form of three written papers:

- Paper 1 Crime and Punishment c1000 – present including Victorian London Whitechapel 1888 (30% of overall GCSE grade)
- Paper 2 Anglo – Saxon and Norman England c1060 – 1088 (20% of overall GCSE grade) and American West c1834 – 1890 (20% of overall GCSE grade)
- Paper 3 Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 – 1939 (30% of overall GCSE grade)

What career options does this subject give me?

History is highly regarded by employers, colleges and universities and is widely recognised as demonstrating a student's ability to analyse, make judgements and decipher meaning. It is particularly useful in the following career sectors

- Law
- Public service – emergency services and armed forces
- Journalism
- Tourism and leisure e.g. museums
- Teaching

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

- Weekly knowledge organiser tests
- Revision booklets half termly
- Exam question practice

For more information visit: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/history-2016.html>

What is GCSE Spanish?

The GCSE is a two year course based on the 4 skill areas of; reading, writing, speaking and listening (all of which are 25% of the final grade). The qualification is awarded between grades 1 to 9 and is based on 3 external exams, plus a speaking exam which is recorded by the teacher and submitted to the exam board.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- Memory skills, an ability to apply patterns be able to understand gist and detail

Abilities:

- To be able to work individually and with others, ability to work hard.
- To be confident to try, even when something seems confusing at first.
- Be able to give a lot of information, either true or from your imagination.

Interests:

- Foreign languages, cultures and travel

What will I study?

Pupils will follow a two year course. The first year will be spent learning and revising grammar topics, in particular the learning of tenses. This will be done through the topics of healthy living (*sports, food, drink, smoking and drugs, for example*), free time and media (*hobbies, TV, film and the internet, for example*) and jobs (*work experience, part time jobs and future plans, for example*). Pupils will complete 1 lesson a week on their speaking skills to prepare for the exam and the real world of Spanish speaking. In addition students will get lots of practice in reading and listening to Spanish. In year 11, pupils will follow a similar pattern, but the topics could include holidays, family and friends and school and education.

Pupils get to use a variety of resources, including text books, dictionaries, films and programmes, the internet and a chance to interact with native Spanish speakers.

How will I be assessed?

Pupils will be assessed through examinations that measure their abilities in the four areas. Speaking, reading, listening and writing.

What career options does this subject give me?

There is more to careers in languages than just translation, interpreting and teaching. Languages can be helpful in lots of different jobs and many employers reward people with language skills with extra salary because they know they are useful in today's international business world. Some jobs where languages are important include:

- Accountancy
- Computer games designer
- Engineer
- Journalist

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will be set at least once a week and will include various tasks, such as learning vocabulary, learning grammar rules, producing paragraphs in Spanish or researching a topic.

For more information visit: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>

What is GCSE Triple Science?

Each candidate will study for 3 separate GCSEs in science, to achieve a separate GCSE grade in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

This course will involve exploring, explaining, investigating and evaluating various concepts and phenomena in science across the 3 main disciplines at greater depth and coverage than the traditional Combined Science route.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- Learners must be inquisitive, logical and organised.
- You should be able to use your scientific knowledge to explain unfamiliar contexts and phenomena
- You should be able to evaluate a product or system using scientific data and your own knowledge.
- An element of the course also focuses on practical skills, so your knowledge and ability to safely carry out and review scientific experiments is essential

Interests:

- It is essential that you enjoy the applications of science in everyday life and how science can be used to explain natural processes, chemical reactions and physical contexts.

Personal attributes:

- You must demonstrate a high level of maturity and understanding for a multitude of scientific facts and knowledge. Science is delivered through a knowledge-based curriculum, so it is essential that you are prepared to learn a vast amount of key concepts and facts that will help you throughout.

What will I study?

Biology (P1)	Cell Biology	Organisation	Infection and response	Bioenergetics
Chemistry (P1)	Periodic table	Bonding	Quantitative Chemistry	Chemical changes
Physics (P1)	Energy	Electricity	Particle model	Atomic structure
Biology (P2)	Homeostasis	Inheritance and genes	Ecology	
Chemistry (P2)	Rates of reaction	Organic chemistry	Chemical analysis	Chemistry of the atmosphere
Physics (2)	Forces and motion	Waves and radiation	Magnetism and electromagnetism	

How will I be assessed?

Each subject – Biology, Chemistry and Physics – will be assessed by 2 papers. Each paper will be 1 hour 45 minutes long. A total of 6 papers will form the total assessment.

15% of the marks available will be based on the required practicals that take place in the classroom.

What career options does this subject give me?

This course is a very useful course for anyone wishing to pursue a career in a range of industries, such as medicine, healthcare, working for the NHS, education, politics, scientific research, working in healthcare in sports. Separate science helps to bridge the gap between GCSE and A-level for those wishing to pursue a career in science, and builds skills such as logical reasoning, evaluating processes and processing numerical data.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

- Weekly knowledge organiser retrieval tests
- Weekly exam question practice through past papers and exam style questions.

What is GCSE Computer Science?

GCSE Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- Learners must be resilient, motivated and able to work independently even when working on complex problems or problems outside their personal area of interest.
- Learners need to be creative and flexible in their approach to problem solving.

Interests:

- Learners need an interest in programming and understanding how computers work.
- Learners should also have an interest in problem solving

Personal attributes:

- You must demonstrate a high level of maturity and respect for the environment in order to work safely on the computers.

What will I study?

Learners are expected to work in the following areas:

- How computers and computer networks work (hardware, software and data representation).
- System security, ethical, legal and environmental concerns in computing.
- Computational thinking and computational logic.
- Developing algorithms and using programming techniques to create robust programs.

How will I be assessed?

Two written exams lasting 90 minutes each and each worth 80 marks.

Component 01: Computer systems

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust

What career options does this subject give me?

Computer science has links to almost every industry in today's connected world and the problem solving skills that you develop will be useful in every career aspect of life. Popular computing career pathways include software and game development, computer forensics and security, web development, AI research and data science.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Learners homework will involve the following:

- Regular revision for knowledge organizer tests to check key knowledge
- Independent work creating computer programs to solve a wide variety of problems

What is GCSE Art and Design?

This is a General Art & Design Course which allows you to work in a number of different media (materials) such as Drawing, Painting, 3-D (Sculpture) and Printmaking.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- To be a hard-working, motivated and resilient (being prepared to work consistently and to the best of your ability, even to overcome potential barriers to progress)
- It is essential to be able to draw confidently and skilfully from direct observation and secondary-source material (e.g. photographs) as drawing underpins all work as a core activity and starting point

Abilities:

- To be prepared to work co-operatively with your teacher to develop a given unit of work over an extended period of time (depth of study)
- To be well-organised, well-motivated and have a real interest, enthusiasm and commitment for the subject.

Interests:

- To have an interest in, and the desire to learn more about “visual language”: what role does art and design play in everyday life, and how will it inform your own work?
- Things like the changing colour and light in the sky, or the structure and visual presence/power of a building
- To be interested and curious about the world around you

What will I study?

- Each unit of work will take a theme, such as urban landscape, natural forms, portrait etc.
- Background information and key tasks will be given in a unit booklet
- Art and design is about being creative and flexible in approach, so it is important that you can work independently, making creative decisions about how your work will develop

How will I be assessed?

- Each student will have a personal target GCSE grade based on prior performance
- Regular assessments will be made, indicating at what level you are working at in relation to progress towards your target grade at a particular point in time
- Attitude to learning is also assessed in relation to this
- One-to-one and group discussion will take place lesson-to-lesson, allowing you to take advice and direction from your teacher to inform specific actions to develop your work in an appropriate and effective way
- You will have a personal record sheet in your sketchbook/portfolio to document levels, targets, and agreed or directed actions to maintain or improve progress

What career options does this subject give me?

This course is suited to those students who are interested in further and higher educational opportunities and training leading to employment in the Creative Industries. Potential employers are not just looking for practical skills, but highly value creative thinkers (ideas people!), co-operative team workers, imaginative problem-solvers, and expect resilience and commitment.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will take the form of:

- Extending / developing work started in the classroom
- Research tasks - usually internet-based
- Drawing tasks – either observational drawing to develop formal technical skills

For more information visit: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

What is Hospitality & Catering?

The qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work in the hospitality and catering sector and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training. This approach also enables learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- Skills required for independent learning and development
- A range of generic and transferable skills
- The ability to solve problems
- The skills of project based research, development and presentation
- The fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- Learners must be imaginative and organised.
- You should also be competent in ICT which will be used for a high percentage of the course.

Interests:

- It is essential that you enjoy designing food recipes and developing these into a finished food product.

Personal attributes:

- You must demonstrate a high level of maturity and respect for the environment in order to work safely both as an individual and as a member of a team when using cooking equipment and electrical/gas appliances.

What will I study?

The course will cover the following areas of study:

- Knowledge of the Industry
- Nutritional Information
- Diet and Health issues, including different groups of people
- Food Commodities
- Meal Planning / Food Provenance
- Cooking Techniques and recipes
- Hygiene and Food Safety
- This course is designed to develop your practical cooking skills, as well as to give you an understanding of how the Hospitality and Catering industry works at different levels. From the restaurant brigade to housekeeping. Management positions to the kitchen brigade. We will look at the skills needed to become a chef, from Patisserie Chef, to Head Chef, Any of these can give you a full time job with excellent career opportunities, if you work hard enough!
- You will also develop an understanding of different job roles in the industry and what skills and qualifications you need to be able to do these jobs.

How will I be assessed?

To pass this course at level 1 or 2 you must complete all of the assessment criteria, as well as the written and practical exams. The assessment criteria are the modules of work set by the exam board.

The course is made up of two units:

- Unit 1 – The Hospitality and Catering Industry, Theory work leading up to 1 online exam – worth 40% of final grade.
- Unit 2 – Scenario based coursework project with practical cooking exam – 60% of final grade.

Practical exam – 4 hours to prepare, cook and serve 2 dishes with accompaniments.

What career options does this subject give me?

This course is a very useful course for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the food industry.

Employment in hospitality and catering has a wide range of employment opportunities. A lot of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will involve the following:

- Researching and recording information about food products
- Design folder work which might involve researching products on the internet, generating design proposals, developing these design proposals into workable final solutions and evaluating their own and others products

What is GCSE Health & Social Care?

The Health and Social care course has been designed primarily for young people who wish to explore a vocational and a hands on approach to the sports Industry. The course consists of an exam and coursework based assignments.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

- You should be interested in working with people, particularly in areas of Health and Social Care.
- Good communication skills are required as you will need to talk to various service providers.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Understanding Personal Development and Relationships-

This unit contains the following topics:

- Human growth and development.
- Factors affecting human growth and development.
- Effects of relationships on personal growth and development.
- The effect of life events on personal development.

Unit 2: Exploring Health, Social Care and Early Years Provision-

This unit contains the following topics:

- How health care, social care and early year's services are accessed and the barriers to access.
- How health, social care and early years services are provided.
- Care values which underpin service provider interaction.

How will I be assessed

Through both external assessments and coursework.

What career options does this subject give me?

- This course allows progression onto an A Level course or a BTEC National qualification.
- You can also move onto working in an area of health, social care or early year's provision.
- It may lead to further training in gaining an NVQ.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

- Researching different components of Health and Social care providers.
- You will be expected to plan, analyse and gather information from the Health and Social Care Sector.

For more information visit: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care.html>

What is GCSE Media Studies?

Media Studies is the understanding, analysis and application of a range of media genres, formats and texts. These include, but are not limited to: still images (such as magazine front covers), moving images, broadcasting, camera angles and the desired impact.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- You will become competent in analysing a range of texts, their genres, forms and intended audiences.
- You will be able to interpret the connotations created through texts and analyse their meanings.
- You will understand what it means to be 'media literate' and make links to the ways consumers react to different media.

What will I study?

Analysis of still images, such as film posters (Spectre), print advertisements (Quality Street) and magazine covers (GQ and Pride). Analysis of moving images, such as television crime dramas (Luther and The Sweeney) and Sitcoms (The IT Crowd and Friends). How the media can manipulate its readers/audience and how powerful this can be to an entire society. You will learn how the Media plays an important and major role in society – especially with progressive campaigns, such as the 'This Girl Can' campaign – and how media can influence societal perspectives of race, gender and ethnicity. Social movements, such as feminism and the civil rights movement, will be studied in their relation to the construction of progressive and regressive stereotypes in media forms.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed through coursework (30%) and two exam papers (70%).

The GCSE assessment is comprised of three components:

- Component 1 : Exploring the Media
- Component 2 : Understanding Media Forms and Products
- Component 3 : Creating Media Products

Each of these components assess students' understanding and analysis of media language, representation, audience and industry.

What career options does this subject give me?

The skills and knowledge you learn will open doors in a range of different careers. The most obvious will be a career in the Media itself: journalism, broadcasting, radio, TV/Film production. However, Media Studies has close links with other subjects at GCSE such as English language, Art, Photography and History.

If you decide to pursue A Level study after your GCSEs, Media Studies links well with subjects such as Sociology and Psychology as the study of society and the human is very much at the centre of Media Studies.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

- Researching specific media forms and understanding how they are constructed.
- Independently working on the creative aspects of the coursework.
- Approaching media texts in everyday life with a media literate mind-set.

For more information visit: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/ed/qualifications/media-studies-gcse/#tab_overview

What is GCSE Music?

This course is 25% exam and 75% coursework. Students will have to study one compulsory unit and two additional optional units for their coursework element. The exam will be sit in January of their final year and again in the following May time.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

- This course will suit you if you are passionate about music: listening *and* performing.
- It would be helpful if you have good skills as a singer or on a particular instrument.
- You will need to be resilient, hard-working and self-motivated to be successful in GCSE Music.
- You need to be open to listening to different styles of music – classical and world music as well as pop.
- You will also develop your music production and editing skills.

What will I study?

- You will develop music performance skills, including playing as part of a group.
- You will learn composing techniques and will write your own music using instruments and music technology.
- You will explore music from different cultures and times in history.

How will I be assessed

- You will be assessed by your teacher, then work will be externally moderated by the exam board.
- You will also be assessed on two compositions. One of these compositions also requires you to write an essay about how you went about the task.
- Finally, you will have a 1 hour external paper at the end of during year 11.

What career options does this subject give me?

- Music is an academic subject, and colleges and universities look on it very favourably.
- This qualification shows you are creative, dedicated and can work with other people. These are all skills that are very sought after by employers.
- You could go on to study music or performing arts in college or university.
- There are lots of career opportunities in the media and education sectors.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

- You will have to practice your chosen instrument regularly and properly if you are going to progress. Small, regular amounts of practice are best.
- You will also be asked to complete short regular tasks that will support and consolidate learning done in lesson time.

For more information visit: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/music-2013-nqf.html>

What is VCERT Health & Fitness?

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 PE. It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- You need to be well organised and to be able to work independently.

Abilities:

- Ability in a number of sports.

Interests:

- You should have an interest in PE and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy.

What will I study?

You will:

- Develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance
- Find ways to improve your own performance in a variety of roles
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity
- Appreciate the benefits of promoting sport for all.

There is a balance of practical work and academic study. Pupils who opt for this course must be prepared to take full part in the practical work and complete the study and written work.

How will I be assessed?

Through both external assessment and coursework components.

Students will study two different units:

- Unit 1: Body Systems and Health/Skill related components of fitness – external exam 1 hour 30 mins
- Unit 2: Fitness Planning – coursework element 21 hours to complete

What career options does this subject give me?

Useful for anybody wanting a career in the sports industry. It can lead onto an A level course at college as well as progression to related vocational qualifications such as BTEC Level 3 courses in Sport.

The course does develop transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry as well as the armed forces and the Civil Service.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

- Playing/officiating/coaching in your chosen sports
- Research into fitness and lifestyles
- Producing a personal exercise plan

For more information visit: <https://www.qualhub.co.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/nCFE-level-12-technical-award-in-health-and-fitness-4579#SupportMaterials>

What is GCSE Religious Studies?

In Religious Studies, you will learn about either Christianity or Islam. The first year will be dedicated at looking at the fundamental aspects of a religion. In the second year, you will look at how the religion interacts with life issues.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- You will appreciate how a religion plays a part in today's times.
- There is a definite need to be inquisitive about religion and be able to argue for and against aspects that are embedded into a religion and a culture.

Abilities:

- You will have to be able to listen and understand different points of views, have a good understanding of how to debate and argue in a constructive and meaningful way.
- You will also have to work in groups to develop a better and deeper understanding of a faith.

Interests:

- Current affairs and debating programmes.
- You would have to be willing to watch certain programmes and read up on current issues from the media.
- It would also be really useful if you would be willing to visit places of worship and pilgrimage.

What will I study?

- The different ways in which Christians and Muslims make moral decisions
- The different attitudes to human rights, genetic engineering, environmental problems, transplant surgery, infertility treatments, war, bullying, religious conflicts in families and crime and punishment
- The work of the UN for world peace
- The problems of drugs and alcohol and the religious attitudes towards them
- Faith in practice
- Why some people believe in God and some people don't
- Why some people believe in life after death and some people don't
- Different attitudes towards current issues
- Religion and community cohesion in terms of women's rights, ethnic rights and the problems and benefits of living in a multi-faith society.

How will I be assessed?

You will have to complete two 1½ hour exams at the end of Year 11.

What career options does this subject give me?

Religious Studies would assist you in careers that have a face to face aspect attached to it. Such careers include social services, public services such as the police, youth working, charity work, ministry into a faith based position, finance and the legal profession.

The course would also offer you the opportunity to become a more 'rounded' individual that has a good understanding of life issues that surround a faith and its life styles.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

You would be expected to watch certain TV programmes and read articles in newspapers. Research is an integral part of the course, so having a good solid understanding of the Internet will assist you.

For more information visit: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

What is GCSE Design & Technology?

GCSE Design & Technology 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.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- Learners must be imaginative and organised and willing to commit to the challenging workload.
- You should also be competent in ICT which will be used for a high percentage of the course.

Interests:

- It is essential that you enjoy researching and designing and developing these into prototypes of products.

Personal attributes:

- You must demonstrate a high level of maturity and respect for the environment in order to work safely both as an individual and as a member of a team when using equipment and machinery.

What will I study?

Learners are expected to work in the following areas:

- Designing and making products
- Different methods of processing and manufacturing products
- Project work
- Understanding health and safety
- Evaluating designs and processes

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is in two sections:

- Written exam: 2 hours (50%).

What's assessed Core technical principles, Specialist technical principles, Designing and making principles. In addition, at least 15% of the exam will assess maths and at least 10% of the exam will assess science.

- Non Exam Assessment (Coursework) (50%)

This should take about 30-35 hours of time to complete. • Identifying and investigating design possibilities, Producing a design brief and specification, Generating design ideas, Developing design ideas, Realising design ideas, Analysing & evaluating

What career options does this subject give me?

This course is a very useful course for anyone wishing to pursue a career in a range of industries. It can be further augmented through taking an AS/A2 level course or in more academic technical based subjects such as Architecture and Engineering (Civil, Software) user experience design, multimedia artist, Interior Design etc.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Learners homework will involve the following:

- Exam content focused on mechanical devices, new and emerging technologies
- Design folder work which might involve researching products on the internet, generating design proposals, developing these design proposals into workable final solutions and evaluating their own and others products

For more information visit <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

What is GCSE Photography?

This is a general photography course which allows you to work in a number of different ways using visual techniques such as digital, film, animation, studio photography and image manipulation. All you need is a smart phone with a good quality camera.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- To be a hard-working, motivated and resilient. Prepared to work consistently and to the best of your ability, even to overcome potential barriers to progress.
- It is essential to be confident, skilful and creative when planning for a photo shoot. To be able to use observation skills and secondary source material such as artist research and sketches, as developing a deep understanding of the rule of thirds in photography underpins all work as a core activity and starting point.

Abilities:

- To be prepared to work co-operatively with your teacher to develop a unit of work over an extended period of time (depth of study).
- To be well-organised, well-motivated and have a real interest in photography, enthusiasm and commitment.

Interests:

- To have an interest in, and the desire to learn more about “visual language”.
- To be interested and curious about the world around you.
- To be actively taking images everyday.

What will I study?

Each unit of work will take a theme, such as urban landscape, natural forms, portrait, etc. Photography is about being creative and flexible in approach, so it is important that you can work independently, making creative decisions about how your work will develop.

How will I be assessed?

- Each student will have a personal target GCSE grade based on prior performance.
- Regular assessments will be made, indicating at what level you are working at in relation to progress towards your target grade at a particular point in time.

What career options does this subject give me?

This course is suited to those students who are interested in further and higher educational opportunities and training leading to employment in the Creative Industries. Potential employers are not just looking for practical skills, but highly value creative thinkers, co-operative team workers, imaginative problem-solvers, and expect resilience and commitment.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Learners homework will involve the following:

- Researching and recording information about products
- Design folder work which might involve researching products on the internet, generating design proposals, developing these design proposals into workable final solutions and evaluating their own and others products.

What is Textiles?

Textiles is an Art related course which focuses on both traditional and modern textile techniques. The course will cover a range of painting and drawing, designing and 3D making using textile materials.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- To be a hard-working, motivated and resilient (being prepared to work consistently and to the best of your ability, even to overcome potential barriers to progress)
- To be willing to be creative and experimental, try new techniques and explore fabrics and materials.
- To have some interest in drawing and designing as it is part of the Textile course

Abilities:

- To be prepared to work co-operatively with your teacher to develop projects over an extended period of time (depth of study)
- To be well-organised, well-motivated and willing to independently explore the subject of Textiles

Interests:

- To have an interest in making and creating 3D structures, an interest in fashion, accessories and design.
- To have an eye for what is on trend at the moment, but to also be able to pull inspiration from the past.
- To be interested and curious about the world around you – colours and textures.

What will I study?

The course will cover the following areas of study:

- Pupils will complete 2 different projects between Year 10 and December of Year 11. Each project will have an individual theme and pupils will complete a sketchbook, design sheet and final piece for both.
- Project themes could include Nature/Landscapes/Cells/Architecture.
- Pupils will be expected to use the sewing machine and hand stitch as well as experimenting in paper making, weaving, melting plastics, dyeing fabrics and printing.
- Textiles is about being creative and flexible in approach, so it is important that you can work independently, making creative decisions about how your work will develop

How will I be assessed?

- Each pupil will have a personal target GCSE grade based on prior performance
- Regular assessments will be made, indicating at what level you are working at in relation to progress towards your target grade at a particular point in time
- Attitude to learning is also assessed in relation to this
- One-to-one and group discussion will take place lesson-to-lesson, allowing you to take advice and direction from your teacher to inform specific actions to develop your work in an appropriate and effective way
- You will have a personal record sheet in your sketchbook/portfolio to document levels, targets, and agreed or directed actions to maintain or improve progress
- 10 external exam based on making a Textile piece – Year 11

What career options does this subject give me? This course is suited to those students who are interested in further and higher educational opportunities and training leading to employment in the Creative Industries. Potential employers are not just looking for practical skills, but highly value creative thinkers, co-operative team workers, imaginative problem-solvers, and expect resilience and commitment.

Clothing designers, soft furnishings designers, shop window displays, shoe/jewellery designers, high street shop buyers, magazine design.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will involve the following:

- Extending / developing work started in the classroom
- Research tasks - usually internet-based
- Drawing/designing tasks – either observational drawing to develop formal technical skills