



Options Booklet 2024

Contents



A curriculum overview Page 3

English Baccalaureate Subjects:

GCSE Geography	Page 6
GCSE History	Page 7
GCSE Spanish	Page 8
GCSE French	Page 9
GCSE Triple Science	Page 10

Option Subjects:

GCSE Religious Studies	Page 11
GCSE Sociology	Page 12
GCSE Media Studies	Page 13
GCSE Computing	Page 14
GCSE Art	Page 15
BTEC Hospitality and Catering	Page 16
BTEC Health and Social Care	Page 17
BTEC Music	Page 18
BTEC Tech Award in Sport	Page 19
GCSE Design & Technology	Page 20
GCSE Photography	Page 21
BTEC Performing Arts, Drama	Page 22

Curriculum overview



Over the next few weeks you will be thinking about the courses you would like to study next year. The transition from KS3 to KS4 is exciting and important stage in each pupil's educational journey and selecting GCSE subjects is an opportunity for our students to begin to personalise their study.

At Oasis Academy MediaCityUK our KS4 pupils will follow a broad course of study consisting of a mix of compulsory and optional GCSE and non GCSE subjects. This booklet tells you about the courses we are offering and gives you some advice about how to make the right choices for you. Please do take the time to read this booklet carefully so you make the right decision for your future.

In addition to this booklet, all of our Year 9 students will receive lots of information about your KS4 courses from your form tutor, during PSHE, in assemblies and during parents evening. After the Easter holiday all students will also complete taster lessons for options subjects

If you would like to meet with our careers advisers, you can arrange this through Mr Berry.

Our curriculum model at Ks4:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
10	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	PE	PS	AS	GCSE Option 1				GCSE Option 2				GCSE Option 3				GCSE Option 4			
11	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	PE	PS	AS	GCSE Option 1				GCSE Option 2				GCSE Option 3				GCSE Option 4			

Each week a GCSE pupil will have:

- 4 hours of English lessons
- 4 hours of Mathematics lessons
- 4 hours of Science lessons
- 3 hours per week in four different option subjects.
- 1 hour of PE
- 1 hour of PSHE (during form time)
- 5 x 30minute form time

All students will follow compulsory GCSE courses in:

- English Language (5 hours per week)
- English Literature
- Mathematics (4 hours per week)
- Science – minimum of combined 4 hours of Science lessons
(2 GCSE's or an option to take triple 3 GCSE's)

Curriculum overview



All students will choose one option from each option block:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Sport	Spanish	Geography	Triple Science
H&SC	RE	History	Spanish
Art	Media	Photography	History
Geography	History	RE	Geography
Food	Art	H&SC	French
Spanish	Food	Sport	
Product	Computing	Music	
Sociology	Drama	Spanish	

General advice:

Choose a subject because:

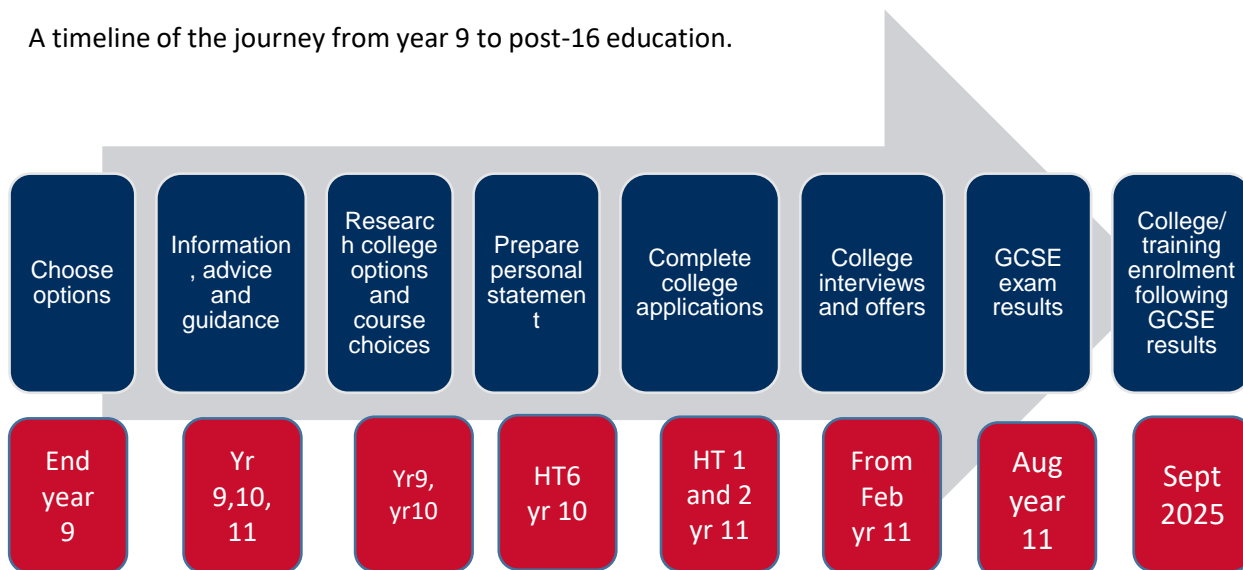
- You enjoy the subject content and activities and want to pursue that interest.
- You good at the subject and achieving or exceeding your targets.
- You thinking about studying the subject at college/ university.
- The subject content or transferrable skills are connected to a career you are considering
- The subject keeps open future choices.

Do not choose a subject because:

- Your friends are doing - they don't have the same needs as you and may not end up in the same class anyway.
- You like the teacher. You are not guaranteed to get that teacher in both year 10 and year 11.
- You think it is an 'easy' option. Every subject with make strenuous demands on you.

The impact of options choices on career pathways

A timeline of the journey from year 9 to post-16 education.



Students and parents/carers are advised to do lots of research, to attend open events for colleges in years 10 and 11, to start preparations for college early and to consider the impact that choosing options may have on the courses they want to do post-16.

A-levels	Typically grade 6 for entry, some colleges permit grade 5, some colleges prefer grade 7.
T-levels	Typically grade 6 for entry.
Apprenticeships	Varied but a workplace skill set is required.
Vocational courses	Level 3 – typically several grade 5s or better. Level 2 – typically several grade 4s. Level 1 – No formal entry requirements

Further information:

<https://gmacs.co.uk/>

<https://xello.world/en-gb/>

<https://www.salfordcc.ac.uk/courses/leavers/>

<https://www.loreto.ac.uk/>

<https://www.xaverian.ac.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.salford.gov.uk/jobs-skills-and-work/help-for-14-to-24-year-olds/post-16-education-and-training/training-providers/>

What is GCSE Geography?

What will the world look like in 50 years' time? 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
- Current affairs- what is going on in the world, and how it is linked to you.
- Reading outside of class (newspapers, textbooks, blogs etc.)

Skills:

- Numerical skills, literacy skills and analytical skills

Abilities:

- Analyse information (graphs, news articles, maps etc) and interpret the meaning.
- Communicate your ideas effectively
- Develop an extended written argument
- Draw well-evidenced and informed conclusions about geographical questions and issues

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 (90 minutes, 35% of GCSE), Unit 2 (90 minutes, 35% of GCSE) and Unit 3 (90 minutes, 30% of GCSE).

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, weekly knowledge tests, practice exam questions and research tasks to enhance case study understanding.

What is GCSE History?

Why has Russia invaded the Ukraine? Why did people support the Nazis? What does it mean to be a global citizen? If you enjoy finding out why things happen, then GCSE History is for you! We will be studying everything from the rise of the Nazis to the Cold War; the topics at GCSE History are varied, engaging and exciting. **Top universities** and employers alike value this **academic** subject, which requires you to be able to **write well** and use knowledge to debate key interpretations of History. You will be expected to write **essays**, revise key knowledge and give your opinion on events. You will develop your **critical thinking** skills, your **analytical** skills and **public speaking** skills in a subject that is widely regarded.

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 and global History

- Paper 1 Migration to the British Isles c800 – present, including Notting Hill London
- Paper 2 Elizabethan England 1558 – 88 and superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941 – 91
- 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 Migration to the British Isles c800 – present, including Notting Hill London (30% of overall GCSE grade)
- Paper 2 Elizabethan England 1558 – 88 (20% of overall GCSE grade) and superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941 – 91 (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 four 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 three external exams, and a speaking exam which is recorded by the classroom teacher and submitted to the exam board to be marked.

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 even when there are words you don't know.

Abilities:

- To be able to work individually, but also willing to try to use Spanish within a group, too.
- To be confident to try, even when something seems confusing at first, recognising that it is okay to make some mistakes when communicating a message.
- To be able to constantly strive to give full sentences as well as reasons and justifications when giving opinions.

Interests:

- Foreign languages, different cultures and ways of life, travel and tourism, work opportunities abroad

What will I study?

The first year will be spent on the topics of healthy living (*sports, food, drink, smoking and drugs, for example*), free time and media (*hobbies, TV, film and internet use*) and jobs (*work experience, part-time jobs and future career plans*).

In year 11, pupils will follow a similar pattern, but the topics could include holidays, family and friends and school and education. Pupils also complete one lesson a week on their speaking skills to prepare for the exam and the real world of Spanish speaking.

Pupils are exposed to real-life resources to improve their skills, such as newspaper articles, films, books, and the chance to speak 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. The Reading and Listening exams take place at the same time, whereas the Speaking and Writing exams are done separately.

What career options does this subject give me?

There is more to careers in languages than just translation, interpreting and teaching. When we consider that communication is probably the most important thing in all jobs, there is no limit on the extent to which languages can be valuable. Furthermore, linguists have the opportunity to work abroad in Spanish-speaking countries. There are over twenty countries with Spanish as an official language; knowing Spanish would mean that the chance to move abroad and start a new life is always available to you.

Some of the highest-paying jobs for which languages are essential are:

Interpreter, International Marketing, Hotel Manager, Embassy Correspondent, International News Reporter, Intelligence Operative for Government Secret Agencies.

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

Knowledge Organiser vocabulary tests every two weeks to ensure we keep up to date with key vocabulary. Research projects into cultural aspects of Hispanic culture.

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

What is GCSE French?

The GCSE is a two-year course based on the four 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 three external exams, and a speaking exam which is recorded by the classroom teacher and submitted to the exam board to be marked.

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 even when there are words you don't know.

Abilities:

- To be able to work individually, but also willing to try to use Spanish within a group, too.
- To be confident to try, even when something seems confusing at first, recognising that it is okay to make some mistakes when communicating a message.
- To be able to constantly strive to give full sentences as well as reasons and justifications when giving opinions.

Interests:

- Foreign languages, different cultures and ways of life, travel and tourism, work opportunities abroad

What will I study?

The first year will be spent on the topics of healthy living (*sports, food, drink, smoking and drugs, for example*), free time and media (*hobbies, TV, film and internet use*) and jobs (*work experience, part-time jobs and future career plans*).

In year 11, pupils will follow a similar pattern, but the topics could include holidays, family and friends and school and education. Pupils also complete one lesson a week on their speaking skills to prepare for the exam and the real world of Spanish speaking.

Pupils are exposed to real-life resources to improve their skills, such as newspaper articles, films, books, and the chance to speak 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. The Reading and Listening exams take place at the same time, whereas the Speaking and Writing exams are done separately.

What career options does this subject give me?

There is more to careers in languages than just translation, interpreting and teaching. When we consider that communication is probably the most important thing in all jobs, there is no limit on the extent to which languages can be valuable. Furthermore, linguists have the opportunity to work abroad in Spanish-speaking countries. There are over twenty-nine countries with French as an official language; knowing French would mean that the chance to move abroad and start a new life is always available to you.

Some of the highest-paying jobs for which languages are essential are:

Interpreter, International Marketing, Hotel Manager, Embassy Correspondent, International News Reporter, Intelligence Operative for Government Secret Agencies.

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

Knowledge Organiser vocabulary tests every two weeks to ensure we keep up to date with key vocabulary. Research projects into cultural aspects of Francophone culture.

For more information visit: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

What is GCSE Separate sciences?

Each candidate will study for 3 separate GCSE's 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 (paper 1)	Cell Biology	Organisation (organ systems)	Infection and response	Bioenergetics
Chemistry (paper 1)	Periodic table	Bonding	Quantitative Chemistry	Chemical and energy changes
Physics (paper 1)	Energy	Electricity	Particle model	Atomic structure
Biology (paper 2)	Homeostasis	Inheritance and Variation	Ecology	
Chemistry (paper 2)	Rates of reaction	Organic chemistry	Chemical analysis	Chemistry of the atmosphere
Physics (paper 2)	Forces and motion	Waves and radiation	Magnetism and electromagnetism	Space Physics

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, through lessons and online on Educake
- Frequent exam question practice through past papers and exam style questions.

What equipment will I need to bring?

All learners should bring to every lesson at least one working pen, ruler, pencil and a scientific calculator.

What is GCSE Religious Studies?

In Religious Studies, you will learn about Christianity and 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?

Paper 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World.

For this component of the course you will study religious and non-religious attitudes and beliefs towards the following themes: Issues of Relationships, Issues of Life and Death, Issues of Good and Evil and Issues of Human Rights.

Learners will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies. You will need to show knowledge and understanding of key sources of wisdom and sacred texts from a range of different religions.

Paper 2: Study of Christianity

For this component of the course you will study the beliefs and practices of Christianity – including divergent Christian views. This will include studying The Nature of God, Jesus Christ, Creation, Salvation and the After Life. You will also learn about Forms of Worship, The Sacraments, Pilgrimages and Celebrations and Local, National and Global Christianity.

Paper 3: Study of a World Faith (Islam)

For this component of the course you will study the beliefs and practices of Islam – including divergent Islamic views. This will include studying The Nature of Allah, Prophet Hood, Angels, Akhirah and Foundations of Faith. You will also learn about The Five Pillars of Sunni Islam, Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam, Jihad, Festivals and Commemorations.

How will I be assessed?

There will be 3 examinations set by Eduqas in the summer of Year 11. Paper 1 is worth 50% of the course and is a 2 hour exam. Paper 2 and Paper 3 are each worth 25% of the course and are both 1 hour exams.

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: [GCSE Specification Template \(eduqas.co.uk\)](http://eduqas.co.uk)

What is GCSE Sociology?

Why do some pupils do better at schools than others? What is the purpose of the family? Why do men and women take on different roles within the family? Do we behave the way we do because of our nature or is it purely our environment that shapes us? Why do people divorce? Do some people have a tendency to commit more crime? Are the police biased? Can we trust statistics? Why are some people rich and others poor? These are just a few of the questions we will explore in GCSE Sociology!

Sociology is the study of human social life, groups and societies. It attempts to make sense of the social world around us and studies the major institutions in society that affect us all, including the family and the education system. It also examines important issues such as crime and deviance and inequality. Sociology is an academic subject, theoretically based that will appeal to pupils who are interested in asking questions about life and the different cultures in which we live.

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

An open and Inquisitive mind – taking the common sense and looking at it critically and from different perspectives.

An interest in the world around you and current affairs – sociology is the study of human social life – you will need to be interested in social groups and want to think more about things happening in the here and now.

A desire to learn more – reading and researching outside of lessons by keeping up with the news and current affairs will help put the theories into practice.

What will I gain from this course?

Skills

By studying Sociology, you will develop transferable skills including **how to investigate facts** and **make decisions**, **develop opinions and new ideas** on social issues and **analyse** and better understand the social world. You will also develop your **numerical** skills, **literacy** skills and **analytical** skills.

Abilities

The ability to **analyse information** (including sociological theories and data from research) and **interpret** the meaning. The ability to **complete your own research** successfully. The ability to **apply your knowledge** in written responses to sociological questions.

What will I study?

Paper 1:

The Sociology of Families – including the functions of the family, family forms, roles and relationships in the family and problems within families.

The Sociology of Education – including the role and function of education, the link between education and capitalism, educational achievement, and processes within schools.

Paper 2:

The Sociology of Crime and Deviance – including the social construction of crime and deviance, social control, criminal and deviant behaviour, and data on crime.

The Sociology of Social Stratification – theories of stratification, socio-economic class, life chances, poverty as a social issue, power and authority and power relationships.

How will I be assessed?

There will be 2 examinations set by the AQA exam board in the summer of Year 11. Both exams are 1 hour 45 minutes long and include a range of question styles – from multiple choice to extended written responses.

What career options does this subject give me?

Sociology is an academic subject that is highly valued by universities and employers. It is a subject that works well with other choices and it keeps your career options open. GCSE Sociology develops many transferable employment skills such as the ability to investigate, analyse and evaluate issues. Typical careers that Sociology can lead on to are social work, teaching, counselling, management, journalism, advertising, nursing, law, travel and tourism, social research and government advisor. The list could go on...

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

Homework will consist of: reading and keeping up to date with the news and current affairs, carrying out research, revision, practice exam questions and essay writing.

For more information visit: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-8192-SP-2017.PDF>

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 (No Time To Die), print advertisements (Quality Street) and magazine covers (GQ and Pride). Analysis of moving images, such as television crime dramas (Luther and The Sweeney). 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 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?

There are two forms of assessment for this qualification, both are worth 50% of the qualification

Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science

This paper will assess Topics 1 to 5.

- Topic 1: Computational thinking – understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to follow, amend and write algorithms; ability to construct truth tables.
- Topic 2: Data – understanding of binary, data representation, data storage and compression.
- Topic 3: Computers – understanding of hardware and software components of computer systems and characteristics of programming languages.
- Topic 4: Networks – understanding of computer networks and network security.
- Topic 5: Issues and impact – awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, and the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues

Paper 2: Application of Computational thinking

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

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

For more information visit <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

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

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 (total of 12 hours)– 60% of final grade.

Practical exam – 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

BTEC Tech Award - Health & Social Care (Edexcel)

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 caring professions. The course consists of an exam and nine controlled assessment 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?

Component 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.

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

This unit contains the following topics:

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

How will I be assessed

Through both internal and external assessments .

Component 1 has four controlled assessments, **(three hours each)**

Component 2 has five controlled assessments. **(three hours each)**

External exam (two hours)

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, assess and gather information from the Health and Social Care Sector.
- You will be expected to independently produce nine assessments under controlled conditions.

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

What is GCSE Music?

This course is mostly practical with one exam paper at the end of the second year. Students will study three components over a period of two academic years (Y10 and Y11). The exam will be sat in June of their final year.

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

- This course will suit you if you are passionate about music: listening, creating 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.
- You need to be open to listening to different styles of music – from classical, and ethnic to Pop.
- You will also develop your music production and editing skills.

What will I study?

- You will develop music performance skills, and different ways of performing using music technology.
- 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 in components 1 and 2, then work will be externally moderated by the exam board.
- You will also be assessed on music you create, performances (if chosen), and productions (arrangements, remixes)
- Finally, you will have a 1-hour external paper in June 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 may wish to take up a chosen instrument and practice regularly and properly if you are going to progress faster. Small, regular amounts of practice are best. (Note. Playing an instrument is optional)
- 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-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.html>

What is BTEC Sport Tech Award in Sport?

The BTEC Tech Award in Sport gives you the opportunity to explore the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participation as part of your Key Stage 4 learning

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

- You need to be well organised and to be able to work independently.
- You need to wear full academy PE kit and participate in all practical lessons.
- You need an excellent attitude to learning for theory lessons and completing assignments
- You need a good practical ability in a number of sports.
- You should have an interest in PE and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of a healthy active lifestyle

What will I study?

You will learn:

- Different types of sports and physical activity, including provisions for sport
- Physical activity needs of participants, including disabilities, health conditions and ages
- Barriers to sport and participation and methods to overcome these barriers
- Types of sports clothing, footwear and equipment
- Assistive technology and equipment, including inclusive and officiating equipment.
- Performance analysis
- Technology for competitive sport, including benefits and limitations to technology
- The components of a warm up and how to plan an effective warm up
- Understanding what makes a good leader to plan and deliver sessions
- fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology

There is a balance of practical work and academic study. Students who opt for this course must be prepared to participate in full kit in the practical lessons and complete written work in theory lessons.

How will I be assessed?

There is one external assessment, **Component 3**, which provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification (**Exam 40%**)

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. You will need to complete a series of assessment tasks. (**Coursework 60%**)

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/leading in your chosen sports
- Research into sports clothing, footwear, equipment and technology
- Research into fitness, sports rules and equipment
- Planning sport drills and sessions
- Analysing case studies

For more information visit: [Sport \(2022\)](#) | [BTEC Tech Award](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#)

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.

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

BTEC Tech Award – Performing Arts, Drama (Edexcel)

What is BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts, Drama?

This qualification promotes the development of key skills that improve your ability in Performing Arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance skills. It helps to build attitudes that are considered most important in the Performing Arts, including personal management, team work and communication skills. This course does require performing for an audience.

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

You will need to work closely with others to create performance work.

You will need to perform for an audience.

You will need to evaluate your own and others performance work.

What will I study?

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Learners will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance. You will look at elements such as roles, responsibilities and the application of relevant skills and techniques. You will broaden your knowledge through observing existing repertoire and by learning about the approaches of practitioners, and how they create and influence performance material.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

In this component, you will develop performing or design skills and techniques. You will have the opportunity to specialise as an actor. You will take part in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. You will work from existing performing arts repertoire, applying relevant skills and techniques to reproduce performance work.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

In this component, you will have the opportunity to respond to a brief that outlines the performance requirements and that asks you to consider your target audience and to start the creative process by using the given stimulus included in the brief. Working as part of a group, you will develop your ideas for a workshop performance and apply your skills and techniques to communicate your creative intentions to your audience.

How will I be assessed

Through both external assessments and independent coursework.

What career options does this subject give me?

- This course allows progression onto an A Level course or a BTEC National qualification.
- This course will support building confidence, speech and language skills, presentation, negotiation and team work skills.

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

- You will be expected to watch, research and analyse existing performance work
- You will be expected to learn lines

For more information visit: [Performing Arts](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#)