



2021-23



REDDAM HOUSE
BERKSHIRE



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Year 9 students,

You are now at the exciting stage of choosing which subjects you want to study for GCSE. Over the coming weeks, the school will provide you with advice and guidance on the content of all subjects available for selection. You will need to think carefully about this process and ask plenty of relevant questions that will enable you to successfully select the right subject choices.

Below is a timeline of important dates in the GCSE options process:

DATE	EVENT	EXPLANATION
Started 14th December	Careers guidance and advice	A2B lessons will focus on careers and options choices (Fast Tomato).
Friday 18th December	GCSE subject booklet released	Learn about the different GCSE courses on offer.
Monday 4th January	Year 9 Parents Consultation Meetings	An opportunity to discuss options choices with subject teachers.
Tuesday 12th January	GCSE Options Evening	Learn about and discuss GCSE courses with teachers.
Wb. 18th January	Initial subject preferences selected	Students choose priority subjects to inform creation of option blocks.
Wb. 1st February	Tutor support in narrowing down options	One to one meeting with tutor and choices made from provisional option blocks.
Wb. 22nd February	One to one discussion with SLT	Final check to see if options fit in with career/future aspirations and strengths.
Wb. 15th March	Final options choices submitted to tutor	Choose one subject from each option block.



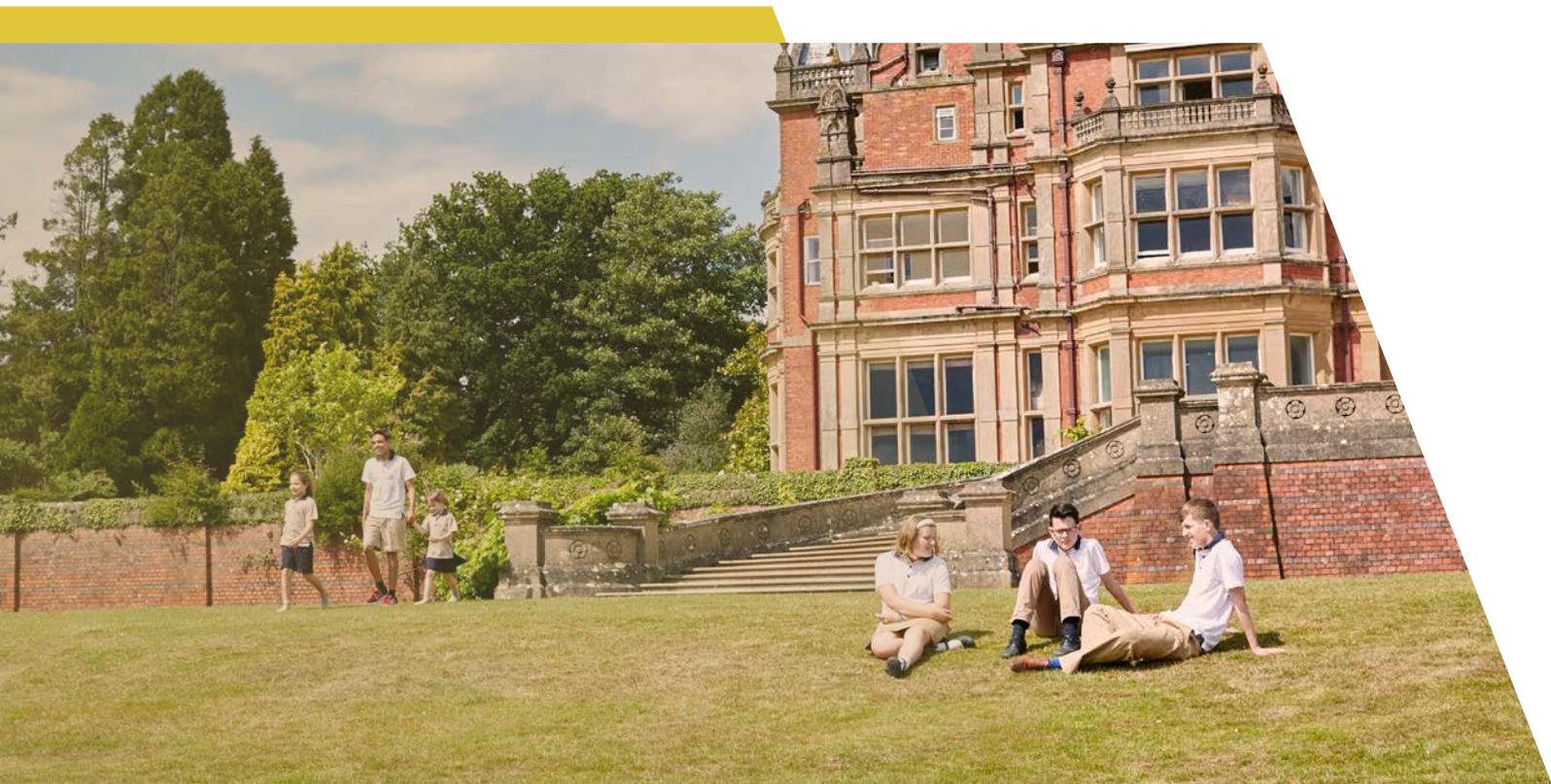
It is essential that you discuss your potential options with people that you know well and who can help you make an informed choice. Your parents or carers will be important in this process, however other useful people include:

- Your Form Tutor
- Individual subject teachers
- Year Coordinator
- Mrs Holsgrove-Jones, Head of Middle School
- Dr Milner, Head of Senior School
- Your Academic Support Teacher (if you have AS lessons)

Choose subjects which you enjoy and are likely to be successful in; this should not be influenced by what your friends are doing or because you like a particular teacher.

Please look carefully through the pages of this booklet and speak to your teachers about the subjects on offer.

Mrs Holsgrove-Jones





THE GCSE EXAM STRUCTURE

GCSE exam structures have changed and students currently in Year 9 will be affected by on-going Government reforms when they take their GCSEs in the summer of 2023. The following qualification features will then be in place:

- All examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11 and NOT in modular format throughout the course. Most examinations will be entirely dependent upon examinations in Summer 2023.
- Coursework or Controlled Assessment will be removed entirely or decreased in most subject areas.
- Exams will receive a grade structure ranging from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest grade available. This will replace the current A* to G grades in almost all subjects. See below for the comparison.

GCSE A*-G/1-9 EQUIVALENT

New GCSE Grades	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Old GCSE Grades	F/G	E	D	C Bottom 2 thirds	B Bottom third C Top third	B Top 2 thirds	A	A*	A* Top 20% Grade A and above

THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE – EBACC

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification, but a mechanism for identifying a group of students achieving a series of GCSE grade 4 or better in a collection of more academic subjects. It includes our existing 'Core subjects' plus:

- One Humanities subject (Geography or History)
- One Language (French or Spanish)

The government and other institutions such as universities and colleges are now placing an increased emphasis on EBacc subjects and we would recommend all students consider including at least one of these within their options selection.



REDDAM SUBJECT CHOICES

All students will take the core subjects of Maths, English and Science.

In addition you can choose five subjects from the list below. If you are have Academic Support (AS) lessons, it is expected that you will only select four from these lists to accommodate AS lessons. English as an Additional Language Support lessons are offered as an option in one of the blocks too.

The optional GCSE subjects on offer at Reddam House are listed below:

- Computer Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Drama
- Dance
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education

Please see the individual subject pages following for more detail about each GCSE course.

CHANGING OPTION CHOICES

Students are not expected to change their option choices once they have been agreed, but slight variations may be agreed in consultation with staff in the first two weeks of the GCSE timetable when it begins in June 2021.

REMEMBER

DO ask questions and speak to your teachers and Form Tutor

DO have an open mind

DON'T choose a subject just because your friends have

DON'T choose a subject because you think you will get a particular teacher

DON'T forget the deadline (end of February) for returning your form to your form tutor



ACADEMIC SUPPORT (AS) DURING GCSES

Academic Support lessons are available to support GCSE candidates and focus on the support of literacy (primarily English Language GCSE), Maths and study skills. In order to take AS lessons, the student must drop one GCSE subject choice and therefore achieve one less GCSE.

AS lessons will be taught in the dropped option block and this can be in any of the option block columns. If one weekly AS lesson is chosen, you will have some study periods granted to you. You will be allocated a lesson to join, but you will work silently on your own work in these periods. You will have the opportunity to select AS when the option blocks are given.





GCSE SUBJECTS FOR 2020-22

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel IGCSE

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

iGCSE English Language is a compulsory subject taken by everyone in Year 10 and Year 11. It is also the subject first looked at by many potential employers and therefore has significance, both regarding a student's academic and career development.

The focus at GCSE is appreciating the choices writers have made, both in fiction and non-fiction texts, and crafting your own creative and transactional writing. The curriculum covers reading and writing, understanding writers' viewpoints and perspectives and spoken language. It provides students with the tools to make a success of their talents and a solid background in the subject can lead to greater success across many A-Levels.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Pearson Edexcel specification is designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge, while ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all. It enables you to develop the skills you need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.

There is one examination paper assessing reading and writing, and a coursework component too.





Examination

Non-fiction and Transactional Writing (4EA1/01)

Section A - Reading: A mixture of short and long answer questions related to a non-fiction text from Part 1 of the Anthology and one previously unseen extract. Students will be provided with the anthology text in the examination (45 marks).

Section B - Transactional Writing: Two tasks, pick ONE. There will be a given audience, form or purpose. (45 marks).

Examination:

2 hours 15 minutes

60%

Coursework

Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing (4EA1/03)

Assignment A: Poetry and Prose texts – one 30-mark essay question based on any TWO poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Anthology, including a 6-mark commentary on why these texts were selected.

Assignment B: Imaginative Writing – one 30-mark imaginative writing task.

Coursework:

Each assignment is 20%

40%

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

Lessons will be varied and interactive, using online, textbook, multimedia and class-based resources. Students will complete short and extended writing tasks, and engage in discussion and debate.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is by examination (60%) and two coursework assignments (40%).



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel IGCSE

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

Taught alongside English Language, iGCSE English Literature is also a compulsory subject at Reddam House. As well as having intrinsic value, the study of Literature supports the study of Language.

At GCSE, Literature focuses on developing your analytical and evaluative skills and your ability to express thoughts and ideas. It also, significantly, provides an insight into our literary heritage and encourages an understanding of social, cultural and historical contexts.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Paper 1

Written examination
(2 hours)

Poetry and Modern Prose (4ET1/01)

Section A – Unseen Poetry: one 20-mark essay question exploring the meaning and effects created in an unseen poem. The poem will be reproduced in the question paper.

Section B – Anthology Poetry: one 30-mark essay question from a choice of two, comparing two poems from Part 3 of the Anthology. Students will be provided with the Anthology poems.

Section C – Modern Prose: one 40-mark essay question from a choice of two on each of the set texts (To Kill a Mockingbird OR Of Mice & Men). Closed Book.

60%

Coursework

Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts (4ET1/03)

Assignment A – Modern Drama: one 30-mark essay response on the studied text (An Inspector Calls OR A View from the Bridge).

Assignment B – Literary Heritage Texts: one 30-mark essay response to 'Macbeth'.

40%

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

Lessons will be varied and interactive, using online, textbook, multimedia and class-based resources. Students will complete short and extended writing tasks, and engage in discussion and debate.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The subject is assessed through one examination and two coursework assignments, taught alongside the Language course.



MATHEMATICS

Examination Board: Edexcel IGCSE - Specification A (1 – 9) - 4MA1

WHY TAKE MATHEMATICS AT GCSE?

Mathematics is one of the core subjects at GCSE. Mathematics equips you with a uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world. These tools include logical reasoning, problem-solving skills and the ability to think in abstract ways.

Mathematics is vital in everyday life. Many forms of employment, in science, technology, medicine, the economy, the environment and public decision-making, rely on using and applying Mathematics successfully. Today, Mathematics is a universally recognised, creative discipline. It can stimulate enjoyment in numerous ways, through success and achievement.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE is broken down into four different categories:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Geometry
4. Statistics

The following table outlines the formal assessment structure of the course.

PAPER NUMBER	LEVEL	ASSESSMENT INFORMATION	TOTAL MARKS
1H	Higher	2-hour examination Paper is weighted at 50% of the qualification Targeted at grades 9 – 4 with 3 allowed Calculator is allowed	100
2H	Higher	2-hour examination Paper is weighted at 50% of the qualification Targeted at grades 9 – 4 with 3 allowed Calculator is allowed	100



HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

As with all other courses at Reddam House, Mathematics will be taught in an active and engaging manner to help stimulate an enjoyment for learning.

Mathematics provides the opportunities to develop skills in:

- communication, through learning to express ideas clearly and concisely
- application of numbers, through using and applying your knowledge and understanding
- ICT, through developing logical thinking and using current technology to solve problems or display and analyse data
- working with others through group activities and discussion
- improving your learning performance through logical thinking, concentration, analytical skills
- problem-solving through selecting and using methods and techniques, developing strategic thinking and reflecting on the success of the process used.

HOW IS GCSE MATHEMATICS ASSESSED?

In addition to the formal assessments described above, Mathematics will be internally assessed through Cycle Tests (using past examination questions).





SCIENCE: COMBINED SCIENCE OR THREE SEPARATE SCIENCES

Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

Science is one of the core subjects at GCSE. It uses and develops the skills learnt in many other areas of the curriculum as well as teaching its own skills, knowledge and understanding. Most employers will expect their employees to have good Science grades and look upon Science as a critical area in education. In a world where the media so frequently bombards us with scientific developments and discoveries, it is necessary for us to make up our minds on controversial issues; a science education, therefore, has to be a must for every informed citizen.

Over the last few years the Sciences at GCSE level have undergone major national reorganisation as well as making the subjects more relevant and engaging, it has provided us with the opportunity to develop a broader curriculum allowing more suitable and flexible routes for students of all abilities.

The curriculum means that we can offer the slightly more challenging Separate Science subjects generating three separate grades for each of the science disciplines as well as Combined Science giving two average grades of all the Science subjects.

Students start the GCSE curriculum in Year 9 so that we can accommodate the teaching of the Separate Science course. To begin with, all students will study the same course (Separate Sciences) at the same pace to the end of Year 9. At the end of that academic year, we will inform you of our recommendations for which GCSE courses will be the most suitable – either a continuation with Separate Science or a change to Combined Science.

WHAT WILL I STUDY IN THE SEPARATE SCIENCES?

BIOLOGY - PAPER 1

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Biology
Topic 2 – Cells and Control
Topic 3 – Genetics
Topic 4 – Natural selection and genetic modification
Topic 5 – Health, disease and the development of medicines

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.



BIOLOGY - PAPER 2

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Biology
Topic 6 – Plant structures and their functions
Topic 7 – Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
Topic 8 – Exchange and transport in animals
Topic 9 – Ecosystems and material cycles

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

CHEMISTRY - PAPER 1

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Chemistry
Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures
Topic 3 – Chemical changes
Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria
Topic 5 – Separate chemistry 1

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

CHEMISTRY - PAPER 2

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Chemistry
Topic 6 – Groups in the periodic table
Topic 7 – Rates of reaction and energy changes
Topic 8 – Fuels and Earth science
Topic 9 – Separate chemistry 2

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.



PHYSICS - PAPER 1

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Physics
Topic 2 – Motions and forces
Topic 3 – Conservation of energy
Topic 4 – Waves
Topic 5 – Light and the electromagnetic spectrum
Topic 6 – Radioactivity
Topic 7 – Astronomy

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

PHYSICS - PAPER 2

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 8 – Energy – Forces doing work
Topic 9 – Forces and their effects
Topic 10 – Electricity and circuits
Topic 11 – Static electricity
Topic 12 – Magnetisms and the motor effect
Topic 13 – Electromagnetic induction
Topic 14 – Particle model
Topic 15 – Forces and matter

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.



WHAT WILL I STUDY IN THE COMBINED SCIENCES?

PAPER 1 - BIOLOGY

Written examination: 1 hour 10 min
16.67% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Biology
Topic 2 – Cells and Control
Topic 3 – Genetics
Topic 4 – Natural selection and genetic modification
Topic 5 – Health, disease and the development of medicines

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

PAPER 2 - BIOLOGY

Written examination: 1 hour 10 min
16.67% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Biology
Topic 6 – Plant structures and their functions
Topic 7 – Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
Topic 8 – Exchange and transport in animals
Topic 9 – Ecosystems and material cycles

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

PAPER 3 - CHEMISTRY

Written examination: 1 hour 10 min
16.67% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Chemistry
Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures
Topic 3 – Chemical changes
Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.



PAPER 4 - CHEMISTRY

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Chemistry
Topic 6 – Groups in the periodic table
Topic 7 – Rates of reaction and energy changes
Topic 8 – Fuels and Earth science

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

PAPER 5 - PHYSICS

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Physics
Topic 2 – Motions and forces
Topic 3 – Conservation of energy
Topic 4 – Waves
Topic 5 – Light and the electromagnetic spectrum
Topic 6 – Radioactivity

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

PAPER 6 - PHYSICS

Written examination: 1 hour 45 min
50% of the qualification

Content overview

Topic 1 – Key concepts in Physics
Topic 8 – Energy – Forces doing work
Topic 9 – Forces and their effects
Topic 10 – Electricity and circuits
Topic 11 – Static electricity
Topic 12 – Magnetisms and the motor effect
Topic 13 – Electromagnetic induction
Topic 14 – Particle model
Topic 15 – Forces and matter

Assessment overview

A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.



WHAT ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS WILL I NEED?

To continue on to GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate GCSEs, you will need to have performed well in your Cycle Tests throughout the GCSE course in Year 9. It is expected that you will have gained at least a grade 6 in your internally-sat June school exams. The decision as to whether students study all three Separate Sciences (gaining three GCSEs) or the Combined Science (gaining two GCSEs) will lie with the student and the parent, with our help and guidance.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

Every Science GCSE is taught interactively using the latest technology. All students will have access to an Active Learn platform where you can log on to a virtual book and revision exercises. Any video clips used in class can be accessed at home to consolidate learning. Throughout the course, students will be undertaking a wide range of experimental work called Core Practicals. Students will then be examined on these Practicals within their final examination papers.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students studying the Separate Sciences will sit two papers in each science discipline. Each paper is worth 50% of the award. For the Combined Science, there are six papers, two per science discipline. Each paper is worth 16.67% of the award.





ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

Examination Board: EDUQAS (WJEC)

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

Just look around you! Art is everywhere, in the patterns, colours, shapes, textures of the natural and man-made worlds. Now, wouldn't you like to understand more about all of this? Wouldn't you like to create your contributions to the world. Wouldn't you like the opportunity to add your own personal expression through the use of imaginative, dexterous and inspired innovation?

Art allows you the opportunity to work in a variety of areas, Graphic Design, Architecture, Historian, Fine artist, Gallery work...it is endless.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Your portfolio of work will be completed over the first four terms. This should demonstrate evidence of a variety of ideas and use of media. You will be extending your knowledge of drawing, painting, sculpture, print making, mixed media and photography. You will be marked not only on the final piece but also on the research and original concept. You will be expected to explore supporting studies within your preparatory work. You must be sufficiently self-motivated to work independently.

Your externally set assignment will consist of producing a drawing, painting or print (with two months allowed for preliminary/supporting studies) completed within the ten-hour limit. This work should demonstrate your ability in the development of ideas and skilful handling of materials.

You must have evidence of written annotation in both the Portfolio and Externally set Assignment components. Using appropriate specialist vocabulary, your written annotation should supplement visual material and support ideas, developments, observations, reflections, evaluations and personal intentions. Annotations can be presented in a hand-written or digital form as appropriate.

The assessment objectives for Art, Craft and Design are:

- **AO1** Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- **AO2** Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- **AO3** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- **AO4** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.



WHAT ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS WILL I NEED?

Be enthusiastic, be a consistent hard worker, be an independent learner, display creativity and have an appreciation of Art.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

To glean a better understanding of the course is to be in an exciting environment, the art room is undoubtedly a place adorned with visual stimulus and ideas. You will be taught to think outside the box through practical demonstrations on various media and techniques, and learn to grow in confidence to discuss works of art.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

COMPONENT	WHAT'S ASSESSED	HOW IT'S ASSESSED
Component 1 Portfolio	A portfolio of work that shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. Evidence of learning across a variety of experiences through various processes, tools, techniques and resources resulting in final outcomes.	Four assessment objectives totalling 120 marks 60% of GCSE
Component 2 Externally Set Assignment	Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper. Evidence of the four assessment objects should be displayed during the preparatory period.	10 Hours-controlled Exam Four assessment objectives totalling 80 marks 40% of GCSE





BUSINESS STUDIES

Examination Board: AQA

“In our modern boarding houses, we ensure our boarders are happy and take advantage of co-curricular activities, whilst steering them toward fulfilling their true potential in their academics.”

Sir Richard Branson

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

Choosing Business Studies at GCSE will provide a pathway to the world of entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity. GCSE Business Studies is the foundation to understanding how the world of commerce and economics works, which are essential in modern living.

Through the study of Business Studies, students will develop skills to become effective independent learners. You will be able to use a critical approach to distinguish between fact and opinion, build arguments and make informed judgements. You will also consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes 90 marks 50%	Unit 1: Business in the real world Unit 2: Influences on business Unit 3: Business operations Unit 4: Human resources	Section A: Multiple choice and short answer Section B: Case study/ data response Section C: Case study/ data response
Paper 2 1 hour 45 minutes 90 marks 50%	Unit 1: Business in the real world Unit 2: Influences on business Unit 5: Marketing Unit 6: Finance	Section A: Multiple choice and short answer Section B: Case study/ data response Section C: Case study/ data response

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

The content and skills required for the examinations are taught in active and engaging ways to ensure that the learning process is fun and useful. You will examine many contemporary business examples and will have the opportunity to experience first-hand the processes that occur daily in the City of London and Canary Wharf.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY TAKE COMPUTER SCIENCE AT GCSE?

Today virtually all workers need to be confident operators of digital devices. However, there is a growing need for people to know more than simply how to use a device in a business/commercial context. There is a need for power users, people who know how to customise these devices, and for developers. Developers are people who can invent, create and develop software that drives many of the Apps that have become a part of our culture and world view.

Taking GCSE Computer Science will give you valuable digital know-how beyond just being a user of the software. It is vital to study this subject at GCSE if you plan to go on to study Computing at AS or A2 Level, and if you are considering a future career in gaming, software development and design or if you know the demanding levels of technical know-how your future career path demands of you. Let's face it! There are not many fields left now that are free of digital reach.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course goes beyond programming, to:

- developing knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science
- developing and applying computational thinking skills to analyse problems and design solutions across a range of contexts
- gaining practical experience of designing, writing, and testing computer programs that accomplish specific goals
- developing the ability to reason, explain and evaluate computing solutions
- promoting an awareness of current and emerging trends in computing technologies
- developing an awareness of the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues
- communicating computer science concepts and explaining computational solutions clearly and concisely using appropriate terminology.



TITLE	OVERVIEW	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING
1. Principles of Computer Science	All topics	Examination Multiple choice, short and extended open response questions	40% 1 hour 40 mins
2. Application of Computational thinking	Main focus on topics 1 and 2, but may draw on all other topics	Examination Based on a scenario. Short and extended open response questions	40% 2 hour exam
3. Computer Science project	A designed, tested and refined program, and a written report	Non-examined supervised assessment A levels-based mark scheme, over four stages of development	20% 20 hour project





DANCE

Examination Board: AQA

*“Technical perfection is insufficient.
It is an orphan without the true soul of the dancer.”*

Sylvie Guillem

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages you to develop your creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever your previous experience in the subject.

This specification recognises the role of dance in young people’s lives and students will study a range of dance styles and style fusions. Apart from the solo performance, you can choose any style in which to perform and choreograph, providing it meets the assessment criteria. The study of the anthology of 6 professional works will develop your ability to critically appraise professional dance works and provide a springboard for engaging in practical tasks.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Component 1

Performance 30%
Choreography 30%

Performance

Two set phrases through a solo performance
Duet/trio performance

Choreography

Solo or group choreography from a choice of four set questions

Component 2

Written 40%
1 hour 30 minutes

Through written communication and use of appropriate terminology, students must be able to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate their work in performance and choreography and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of professional practice in the six set works in the GCSE Dance Anthology

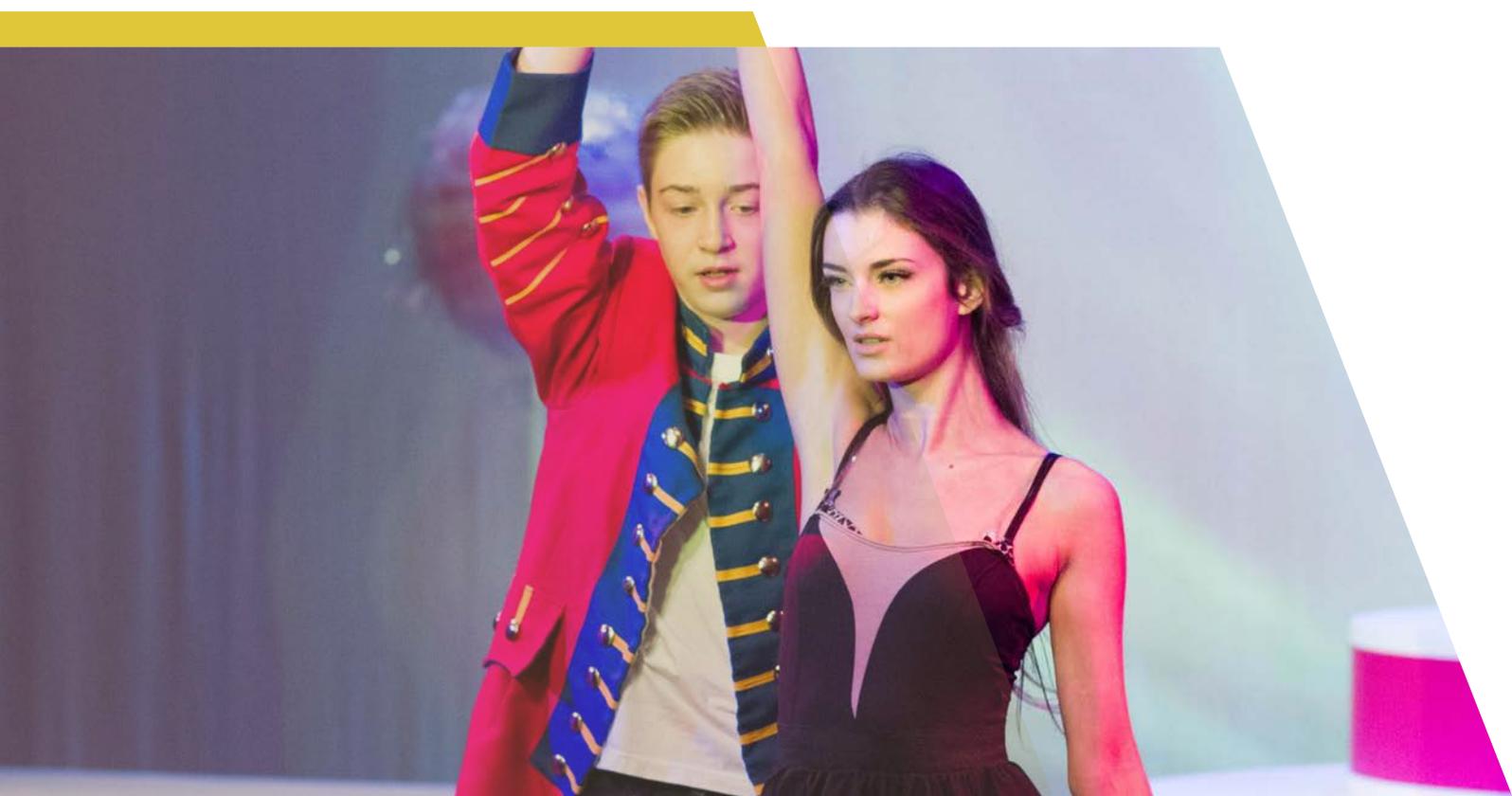


HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

The content and skills required for the examinations are taught through both practical active and theoretical engaging ways to ensure that the learning process is fun and effective.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

60% of the assessment will be practically assessed in the final year by an external moderator. However practical mock assessments will occur each half term to reflect on technical requirements. 40% is assessed through a written paper which is broken into short answer, multiple choice and essay questions. There will be termly assessments to check the learning of each six professional works.





DRAMA

Examination Board: AQA

“To enter a theatre for a performance is to be inducted into a magical space, to be ushered into the sacred arena for the imagination.”

Simon Callow, ‘Charles Dickens and the Great Theatre of the World’

WHY TAKE DRAMA AT GCSE?

The new specification engages and encourages students to become confident performers and designers with the skills you need for a bright and successful future. You’ll learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. GCSE Drama students will gain the confidence to pursue their ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in our ever-changing global workplace.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

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

1. Understanding drama
2. Devising drama
3. Texts in practice

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

There is as much opportunity as possible for you to do what you like the best – participating in performance. All students devise drama. All students explore texts practically and work on two text-based performances. Students can choose to develop as a:

- performer
- designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets)
- performer and designer.

Whichever option you choose, you can be sure to learn invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, that will expand your horizons.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The written exam paper is designed to help all students realise their full potential. We use a variety of question styles and ask students to combine what they've learned about how drama is performed with their practical experience and imagination.

This specification ensures continuity for progressing from GCSE Drama to AS and A-level Drama and Theatre. Students who go on to AS or A-level are already familiar with studying a whole set text for the written paper. They have built solid foundations in reviewing a live theatre production and in interpreting key extracts

Component 1	Understanding Drama 40% of GCSE Written examination
Component 2	Devising Drama 40% of GCSE Coursework and practical exam
Component 3	Texts in Practice 20% of GCSE Practical exam





GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board: AQA

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

Geography studies the world that we live in. It looks at the varied landscapes and environments that are used and misused by man. Geography is about place both in the physical and human context. Events across the globe vary in their effect on contrasting societies. Geography is considered to be an academically rigorous subject and is therefore very highly regarded in higher education.

Through the study of Geography, you will gain vital key skills such as problem-solving, analysis of evidence and evaluation. These skills are essential, not only for geography and other subjects in school but for any paths you may wish to pursue in the future. Therefore, Geography can gain you entry into a wide range of careers such as those in Energy, the Environment, Transport or Politics.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes	Unit 1: Living with the physical environment Natural Hazards Physical Landscapes Geography Skills	35%
Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes	Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment Urban Issues Changing Economic World Geography Skills	35%
Paper 3 1 hour 15 minutes	Unit 3: Fieldwork Examination Skills questions based on two pieces of fieldwork and a pre-release booklet issued 12 weeks before the examination	30%

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

The content and skills required for the examinations are taught in active and engaging ways both in the classroom and in the field.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The examination involves three papers and is linear in nature. Two pieces of fieldwork have to be completed in both physical and human landscapes.



HISTORY

Examination Board: Edexcel International IGCSE or OCR

“If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree.”

Michael Crichton

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

Choosing history at GCSE will provide you with plenty of opportunities for further progression. At colleges and universities, History is considered to be an academically rigorous subject and is therefore very highly regarded no matter what career path you wish to pursue in the future.

Through the study of History, you will gain vital key skills such as problem-solving, analysis of evidence, empathy and teamwork. These skills are essential, not only for history and other subjects in school but for any career. Therefore, History can gain you entry into a wide range of careers, including television, radio, journalism, the police force, social work and the civil service.

There is now also the possibility to study Ancient History at GCSE, rather than Modern History, dependent on number uptake.

WHAT WILL I STUDY IN GCSE MODERN HISTORY? (EDEXCEL IGCSE)

Paper 1

1 hour 30 minutes
50%

Unit 1: A World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943-72

This unit focuses on the changing relations between the countries of Europe and how the Second World War developed in this period only twenty years after the first.

A depth study paper, testing knowledge and understanding, interpretation and ability to analyse and make judgements

Unit 2: A Divided Union: Civil Rights in the USA, 1945-74

This unit focuses on the period of hysteria and protest in the USA brought about by the Cold War, Vietnam War and black civil rights.

Paper 2

1 hour 30 minutes
50%

Unit 3: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905-24

Students will study the upheaval in Russia in this period which started with the Tsar being overthrown in 1917 and which resulted in the formation of the first Communist government in the world.

A source-based historical investigation and a breadth study focusing on change over time

Unit 4: Conflict, Crisis and Change: China, c1911-c1989

Students will learn about a period of great change in Chinese History dominated by revolution, civil war and dictatorship. The focus will largely be on the impact of Chairman Mao and his successors' reforms on the Chinese people.



WHAT WILL I STUDY IN GCSE ANCIENT HISTORY? (OCR)

Paper 1

1 hour 45 minutes
50%

Unit 1: The Persian Empire, 559-465 BC

Students will focus on the unfolding narrative of the Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great, Cambyses II, Darius I and Xerxes I.

Unit 2: Alexander the Great, 356-323 BC

This study allows students to understand the Macedonian invasion, conquest of the Persian Empire and advance as far as India.

This component has two elements: a period study and a source-based depth study.

Paper 2

1 hour 45 minutes
50%

Unit 3: The Foundations of Rome: from Kingship to Republic, 753-440 BC

This study focuses on the kings of Rome and the early Roman Republic, allowing students to study some of the most exciting and interesting events and characters from this period, through the prism of four key themes.

Unit 4: Hannibal and the Second Punic War, 218-201 BC

Students will study the events between Rome and Carthage and the interactions between both cultures.

This component has two elements: a longer period study and a source-based depth study.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

The content and skills required for the examinations are taught in active and engaging ways to ensure that the learning process is fun and effective.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Both aspects of History offered are highly respected alternatives to the mainstream GCSE qualification which has been adopted by some prestigious independent schools. The History GCSE is comprised of four units, all of which are assessed in two 1 hour 30-minute examinations. There is no controlled assessment. Similarly, Ancient History is comprised of four units, all of which are assessed in two 1 hour 45-minute examinations. There is no controlled assessment.

It is a common misconception that History involves writing lots of essays. In fact, most examination questions carry a tariff of around six-eight marks and therefore require a relatively short answer.



MEDIA STUDIES

Examination Board: OCR

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Media Studies is a contemporary, accessible and creative course designed to widen the intellectual horizons of the learner through the analysis of a wide range of media forms and contexts.

This specification will enable you to develop a wider understanding and appreciation of the media in both a historical and contemporary context. You will engage with critical and theoretical approaches from the perspectives of both analytical consumers and producers of media products. You will also:

- Demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making and analysis
- Develop an appreciation and critical understanding of the media and how media products reflect the social, cultural, historical and political contexts in which they are produced
- Understand and apply specialist subject-specific terminology to analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed to make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and conclude media issues
- Develop practical skills through creative media production.

The analytical, evaluative and interpretive skills developed in GCSE Media Studies, complement those required for the study of GCSE English Language, as students 'read' into a text and consider how meaning is created and conveyed.





WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Textual Analysis (01)

EXAM: Crime Drama and Promoting Media (focus on Lego industries)

70 marks

1 hour 45 mins

(inc. 30 mins viewing time)

Learners will explore how media products follow generic conventions, use media language, represent events, issues, places, individuals and social groups, address audiences and reflect their industrial context.

35%

Exploring Media (02)

EXAM: Newspapers, Advertising & Marketing, & Online, Social & Participatory Media

70 marks

1 hour 15 mins

Learners will explore the range of media forms to exemplify media industry issues demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework (media language, representation, audiences and media industries) as it applies to each form. Learners will apply the theoretical framework and theoretical perspectives to three in-depth studies

35%

Creating Media

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)

30 marks

Learners will create media products. They will apply knowledge and understanding of media language and representation to communicate meaning to an intended audience.

30%

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

Lessons will be interactive and varied. You will be introduced to a range of contemporary media forms plus an in-depth study of one media form in each of the audio/visual, print and online media.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be two examinations, and one creative task (the non-exam assessment).

For the non-exam assessment, you must work independently to research, plan and produce one individual media production in response to an OCR set brief from any one of the three following:

- Audio / visual media
- Print media
- Online media



Examples of proposed tasks include:

Print media: Produce an extract from a sports magazine to include the front cover and title design, contents page and a double-page spread article, using a range of original images. The magazine extract must be targeted at a specific audience, which must be identified in your production log. You must include a specified representation in your production, as explained in your production log.

Audio / visual media: Produce a sequence of a rock music promo video, to last no longer than two minutes. The majority of all material must be original, produced by you, with the exception of the music. The video must be targeted at a specific audience, which must be identified in your production log. You must include a specified representation in your production, as explained in your production log.

Online media: Produce four linked web pages, including the homepage, of a website promoting a local community event using a range of original images. The website must be targeted at a specific audience, which must be identified in your production log. You must include a specified representation in your production, as explained in your production log.





MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES – FRENCH/SPANISH

Examination Board: AQA

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.”

Nelson Mandela

At Reddam House Berkshire, we offer both French and Spanish to GCSE level

WHY TAKE A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT GCSE?

With globalisation ever on the rise it is increasingly important to be able to communicate with people from other countries and cultures. There are a wide variety of careers where even being able to speak a little of a foreign language will put you ahead of the other applicants. It will open opportunities for travel and always looks impressive on a CV, particularly now that it is not compulsory. Further, universities are increasingly requesting a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language as a facilitating subject.

Through the study of a foreign language, you will develop your comprehension skills, problem-solving ability, understanding of language in general, English as well as the foreign language studied. You will learn to understand the spoken and written language and be able to use it to communicate with others. You will also develop an understanding and thereby an appreciation of the culture and customs of other countries both in Europe and around the world.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where French/ Spanish is spoken. There are three themes: Identity and Culture, Local, National and Global areas of interest and Current and Future Study and Employment.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

The content and skills required for the examinations are taught in active and engaging ways to ensure that the learning process is fun and effective. Furthermore, you will use the interactive packages ActiveTeach and Quizlet as well as various web-based language applications and board games.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will sit all your exam at the end of Year 11

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Paper 1 Listening	You will need to respond to questions in both English and French/Spanish.	25% of GCSE
Paper 2 Speaking	There are three elements to the speaking exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roleplay • Picture stimulus • Conversation. 	25% of GCSE
Paper 3 Reading	You will need to respond to questions in both English and French/Spanish and will be required to translate a French/Spanish text into English.	25% of GCSE
Paper 4 Writing	You will be asked to produce written work of increasing complexity over the course of the paper. This will include an extended piece of structured writing and the translation of an English text into French/Spanish.	25% of GCSE





MUSIC

Examination Board: Edexcel

“Where words fail, music speaks.”

Hans Christian Anderson

The course has three components: Performing Music, Composing Music and Appraising Music.

WHY TAKE A MUSIC AT GCSE?

At Reddam House students have innumerable opportunities to be involved in Music. Taking GCSE Music will most certainly help you to develop your overall interests and abilities in Music. Students studying GCSE Music are expected to be a part of at least one vocal or instrumental ensemble on offer at the school. Internal and External Performances include Special Services in the School Chapel and St Paul’s Cathedral, as well as Musicals, Concerts, Soirees and Recital Evenings in the Theatre and other venues throughout the year.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
1. Performing Music	<p>Content Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo performing • Ensemble performing • Approaches to performing <p>Assessment Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students perform for at least four minutes’ combined duration • Solo performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces • Ensemble performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces • Each performance will be out of 30 marks. • Internally marked and externally moderated 	30% of Total Mark



COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
2. Composing Music	<p>Content Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing musical ideas Compositional techniques and strategies Ensuring technical control and coherence Methods of notating composition scores <p>Assessment Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students compose two compositions, of at least three minutes' combined duration One composition to a brief set by Pearson, of at least one minute in duration One free composition set by the student, of at least one minute in duration Each composition will be out of 30 marks Internally marked and externally moderated Each performance will be out of 30 marks. Internally marked and externally moderated 	30% of Total Mark
3. Appraising Music	<p>Content Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musical elements, musical contexts and musical language <p><u>Areas of study:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instrumental Music (1700–1820) Vocal Music Music for Stage and Screen Fusions <p>Assessment Overview</p> <p>The paper is made up of two sections and is out of a total of 80 marks</p> <p><u>Section A – Areas of study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six questions related to six of the eight set works One short melody/rhythm completion exercise One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score gave) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. <p><u>Section B – Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One question that asks students to compare and evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music. A CD with the music extracts will be played to all students at the same time and will repeat the extracts a set number of times. 	40% of Total Mark



WHAT ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS WILL I NEED?

Although it is advantageous to have some prior practical and theoretical knowledge of Music, no entry qualifications are required for you to take Music at GCSE Level.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

Component 1 (Performing Music), Component 2 (Composing Music) and Component 3 (Listening to and Appraising Music) of the GCSE qualification will be taught during the academic day using a variety of resources and media.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Level 1/ Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Music consists of one externally examined paper and two non-examined assessments. Students must submit their non-examined assessments and complete the examination in the May/June in any single year.





PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Examination Board: AQA

WHY TAKE THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE?

You should choose GCSE P.E. if you love being active and want to find out more about how to improve your performance. There are two main components to the course – practical and theory. It's important that you are committed to improving your practical scores in your own time (i.e. join clubs, play for school and enjoy working on your fitness). If you already play a lot of sport, then it is an ideal opportunity to gain some academic credit for the time you put into your activity.

GCSE Physical Education is an excellent foundation for studying Physical Education at A Level and for going on to study Sports Science and Leisure Management at University.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Theoretical Component – 60%

From 2016 onwards, there are now two theory papers, both with equal weighting.

Paper 1 involves looking at the human body and movement in physical activity and sport.

The areas of study are Applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training and the use of data. It is assessed with a written exam of 1 hour 15 minutes - 78 marks - 30% of the GCSE.

Paper 2 looks at Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

Paper 2 topic areas include Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being and the use of data. It is assessed with a written exam of 1 hour 15 minutes - 78 marks - 30% of the GCSE.

Both examination papers include a mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Practical performance in physical activity and sport – 40%

Practical performance is assessed in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). There is also an Analysis and Evaluation of Performance to bring about improvement in one activity. Teachers assess it, moderated by AQA through either through video or live moderation procedure and it is worth 100 marks which equates to 40% of the GCSE.

For each of your three activities, you will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity). You will be assessed on your analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.



HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

The content and skills required for the examinations are taught through a range of practical, active and engaging methods to ensure that full advantage can be taken by kinaesthetic learning.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Exam – 1hr 15mins	30%
Paper 2	Exam – 1hr 15mins	30%
Practical Performance	3 Practical Activities and an Analysis of Performance in one	40%





