



## Year 9 GCSE Options Booklet 2024



# The NUASt GCSE Options Process



## Information

At NUASt we are well known for our successes in STEM education. We are proud to boast specialist teachers and equipment in Science, Engineering and Computing and our options process reflects this commitment to STEM education and our students. While also offering our students a broad choice across the full range of subject areas.

Alongside our **core curriculum** of English Language, English Literature, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics, each student must choose a humanities option and 2 further courses, one from block A and one from block B.

### Humanities Choice

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Religious Studies

### Option A

- CNAT Engineering Manufacture
- GCSE Hospitality and Catering
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE History
- GCSE Religious Studies

### Option B

- CNAT Engineering Design
- GCSE Art and Photography
- GCSE Business
- CNAT PE
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Product Design
- GCSE Geography

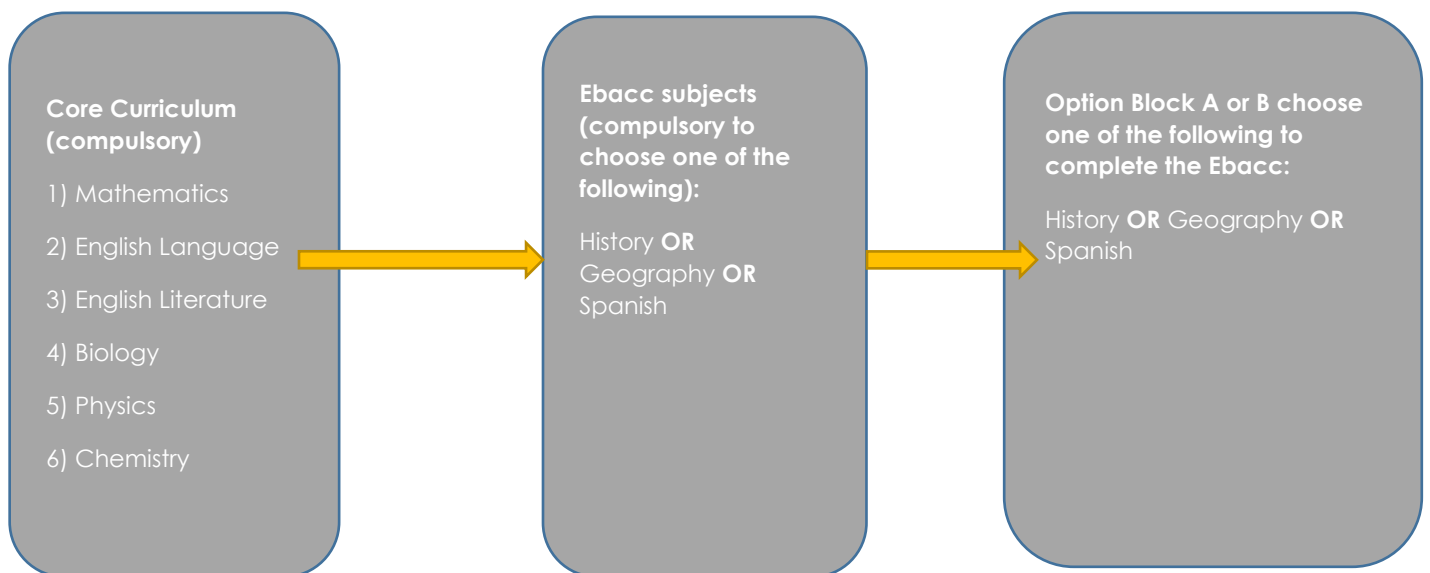
## What is the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)?

All of our students have the opportunity to study the group of subjects designated by the Government as EBacc. This stands for 'English Baccalaureate'. The EBacc is made up of English, mathematics, history or geography, two sciences and a modern foreign language - which at NUASt will be Spanish. It is favoured by some universities and some degree pathways.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in full-time education.

Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

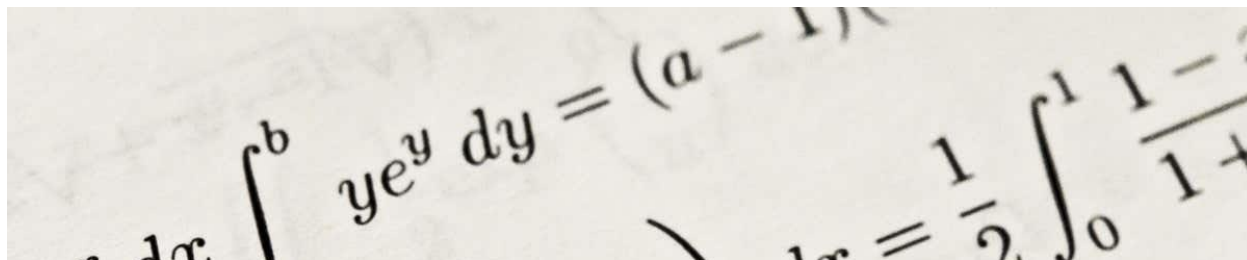
All students in the school are welcome to take the Ebacc should they wish by choosing the required subject combination as part of their options.



# The Compulsory Subjects

The following subjects are compulsory and all students will take these GCSEs as part of the core curriculum.

## GCSE Mathematics



**Title of Course:** Mathematics

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

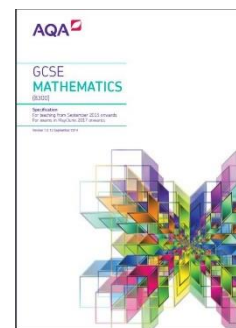
**Examination Board:** AQA

### Why study this subject?

Learning basic mathematics skills at GCSE level helps to build up essential skills that are used on a daily basis. Skills such as problem solving, analysing data, communication, logical thinking and attention to detail will be taught. Simple mathematics skills are used every day in the form of shopping, baking, journey planning, driving and in employment.

**What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?** A pass in GCSE mathematics is essential to get onto most further education courses. A good grade in GCSE mathematics may be necessary for studying certain subjects at A-level. Subjects such as physics, geography and psychology all include a mathematics element.

**What does a typical lesson look like?** Mathematics lessons will continue to follow a similar structure to lessons in lower school. The start of each lesson is carefully planned to help with memory recall. The content of the lesson will link to previously learned content so everything you have been studying throughout your time at NUASt is really important. New content will be introduced and lots of time given to individual intelligent practice along with opportunities for group discussion. Two thirds of the mathematics GCSE is examined through calculator papers so having a scientific calculator such as the Casio Classwizz Fx-991ex is essential for success.



### How will I be assessed?

**There are three papers and you will either sit the Foundation or Higher tier.**



Paper 1 - Non – Calculator

Paper 2 - Calculator

Paper 3 - Calculator

Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes and is marked out of 80 marks. Each paper represents 1/3 of the overall GCSE grade.

### **What's assessed?**

Content from any part of the AQA specification may be assessed in each paper.

### **Questions**

A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as you progress through each paper.

### **What does homework look like in this subject?**

You will have a piece of homework set each week, this could be a written piece or set on Mathswatch. In Year 11 you may be set past examination papers to complete.

## **GCSE English Language**

**Title of Course:** GCSE English Language

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

### **Why study this subject?**

There's a lot more to English than the words we speak. To learn the rules of spelling, punctuation & grammar, and to construct a sentence on a page, takes everyone a lot of time, study and patience. It is all about communicating effectively and understanding how others communicate with you. This is so important in the world we live in today where we have to be on guard against 'fake news', exploitation from advertisers and where in many jobs the ability to communicate and present yourself well can set you above the pack.

### **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

Simply put: everything. Almost every job, apprenticeship, college and university place will specify a minimum of 4 or even 5 in English and the better your grade the better it looks on an application. This is because, like in mathematics, every student does English



Language and so it forms a clear comparison for employers to see a side of your potential ability.

At NUASt we offer A-Level English Literature and Language and these are useful for any job that involves communication, writing and / or literary knowledge. These include: advertising and marketing, writing and journalism, law, consultancy, business, teaching, performing arts, academia, government, linguistics, foreign languages, media and design. Careers in the sciences, engineering, technology and mathematics also need more English than you think. Writing proposals, academic papers & articles and communicating with others is key to getting funding for projects and reaching people with your work.

### **What will a typical lesson look like?**

Much like a normal lesson there will be the normal Do Now Tasks, Plenaries and as you can imagine English will do a significant amount of extended writing. However, you can also expect to be discussing the text as a class or group. Annotating extracts and model work. Using prompts to develop creative and persuasive writing which are drawn from modern media as well as current events and inspiring literature. In English we work to make the materials you study engaging and challenging to best inspire and prepare you for the world ahead.

### **How will I be assessed?**

There are two examinations and the English Language GCSE will require students to:

- Read a range of texts, both non-fiction and fiction and develop their ability to think critically about texts
- Use knowledge gained from wider reading to develop their own writing
- Learn to write effectively, coherently and accurately, using standard English appropriately
- Listen to and understand spoken language, and use spoken standard English effectively

## Your examinations are broken down like this:

### Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

50% of GCSE

#### Questions

**Reading (40 marks) (25%)**– one single text

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)

1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

**Writing (40 marks) (25%)**

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

#### What's assessed

##### Section A: Reading

one literature fiction text

##### Section B: Writing

descriptive or narrative writing

#### Assessed

written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks



### Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

#### What's assessed

##### Section A: Reading

one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

##### Section B: Writing

writing to present a viewpoint

#### Assessed

written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

#### Questions

**Reading (40 marks) (25%)** – two linked texts

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)

1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

**Writing (40 marks) (25%)**

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

## Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

### What's assessed?

- Presenting
- Responding to questions and feedback
- Use of Standard English
- Teacher set throughout course
- Marked by teacher

Separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)

*"Words have power."*  
— **Mira Grant, Blackout**

### What does Homework look like in this subject?

You can expect to be set one piece of homework per week – this could be an essay, questions, quotation explosions or researched based. Teachers will expect you to read regularly and practise your fiction and non-fiction writing

# GCSE English Literature

**Title of Course:** GCSE English Literature

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Why study this subject?**

Studying English Literature helps to sharpen your analytical skills. If you can take a text and find the themes plus connect it with other texts, theories and historical events, you are showing that you can handle complex ideas, search for patterns and interpret information in a wider context.

This is essential because not only is reading a wonderful pastime, but in life you will read and consider so many things. Reading and analysing will prepare you for reading/writing in higher education and work, to build a cultural connection with the world around you and to open opportunities which lie in work and in the world.

**What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

Every college, university, apprenticeship and job will consider English Literature a strong and valid GCSE. This is because it is completed by most students in the country and gives them a good comparison point when looking at applications. It also is a challenging subject so it allows a potential employer or university to see your ability and even in subjects like ICT or engineering, a good English Literature qualification shows your work ethic, taking pride in all your work and not just a chosen option.

At NUASt we offer A-Level English Literature and Language. These are good for any job that involves communication, writing and / or literary knowledge. These include: advertising and marketing, writing and journalism, law, consultancy, business, teaching, performing arts, academia, government, linguistics, foreign languages, media and design. Careers in the sciences, engineering, technology and mathematics also need more English than you think. Writing proposals, academic papers and articles and communicating with others is key to getting funding for projects and reaching people with your work.





## What will a typical lesson look like?

Much like a normal lesson there will be the normal Do Now Tasks, Plenaries and as you can imagine English will do a significant amount of extended writing.

In Literature most of all, reading. Lots of reading. This can often be collaborative but there will be an expectation on all students to read at least once in some way, whether that is a few lines from a novel or the character in a play.

However, you can also expect to be discussing the text as a class or group.

Annotating extracts and model work. The texts we have chosen to study with you are selected for their accessibility, relevance and engagement. We hope you love them as much as we do!

## How will I be assessed?

The English Literature GCSE will require study of:

- One play by Shakespeare: Macbeth
- One 19th century novel: A Christmas Carol
- A selection of poetry since 1780, including Conflict Poetry from the AQA anthology
- Fiction or drama from the British Isles from 1914 onwards: An Inspector Calls
- Unseen texts, normally in the form of poetry.

**Your examinations are broken down like this:**

| Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel   |
|---|
| <b>What's assessed</b><br><a href="#">Shakespeare plays</a><br><a href="#">The 19th-century novel</a> |
| <b>How it's assessed</b><br>written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes<br>64 marks<br>40% of GCSE                |



| Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry   |
|--|
| <b>What's assessed</b><br><a href="#">Modern prose or drama texts</a><br><a href="#">The poetry anthology</a><br><a href="#">Unseen poetry</a> |
| <b>How it's assessed</b><br>written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes<br>96 marks<br>60% of GCSE   |

**What does Homework look like in this subject?**  
You can expect to be set one piece of homework per week – this could be an essay, questions, quotation explosions or researched based. Teachers will expect you to read regularly and learn/revise the texts you are studying in class.

*Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while."*

– Malorie Blackman

# GCSE Biology

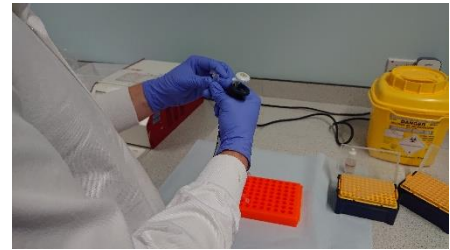


**Title of Course:** Biology

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Why study this subject?**



Studying Biology will allow you to make more informed decisions about your own health and biological issues such as genetically modified crops, use of antibiotics, or ecological conservation. It instils a curiosity and promotes innate questions about living phenomena. You will observe, analyse and question, living phenomena from the microbial, plant and the animal world. Within Biology you develop your practical dexterity through experimentation and critical thinking and apply mathematical skills so you can analyse and interpret scientific data.

**What will a lesson look like?**

A typical biology lesson will require you to recall knowledge from the previous lesson, followed by the learning of new knowledge and making notes on that theory. Drawing diagrams is an important part of studying biology and there is a bit more writing in biology than the other two sciences.

Biology involves the study of living organisms, from single-celled organisms to multiple-celled plants, animals and humans. There are a lot of interesting facts to learn.

Carrying out experiments and observing practicals is a big part of applying the knowledge you will learn in lessons and you will be tested on that knowledge using examination questions.

You will often be asked to describe, explain and evaluate the evidence from experiments and draw your own conclusions too.



## **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

Biology or Psychology or Human Biology A-Level

Healthcare -medicine, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, dentistry

Pharmaceutical industry - pharmacologist, pharmacy, drug designer, quarantine officer

Geneticists or genetic counsellor

Research scientist

Conservation - environmental science, forestry technician, ecology, marine biologists

Food industry - plant pathologist, agronomist, cheese technologist or biotechnologist

Forensic scientist

Sports scientist

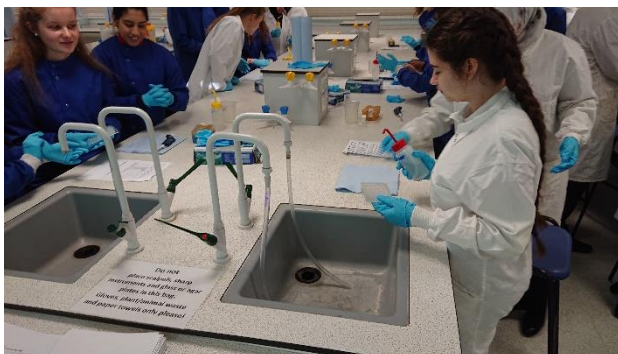
## **How will I be assessed?**

GCSE Biology is assessed on a 100% written examination in two 1 hr and 45 min written papers worth 50% each.

### **Paper 1 (1 hr 45 mins):**

1. Cell Biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics

Plus the relevant required practicals



### **Paper 2 (1 hr 45 mins):**

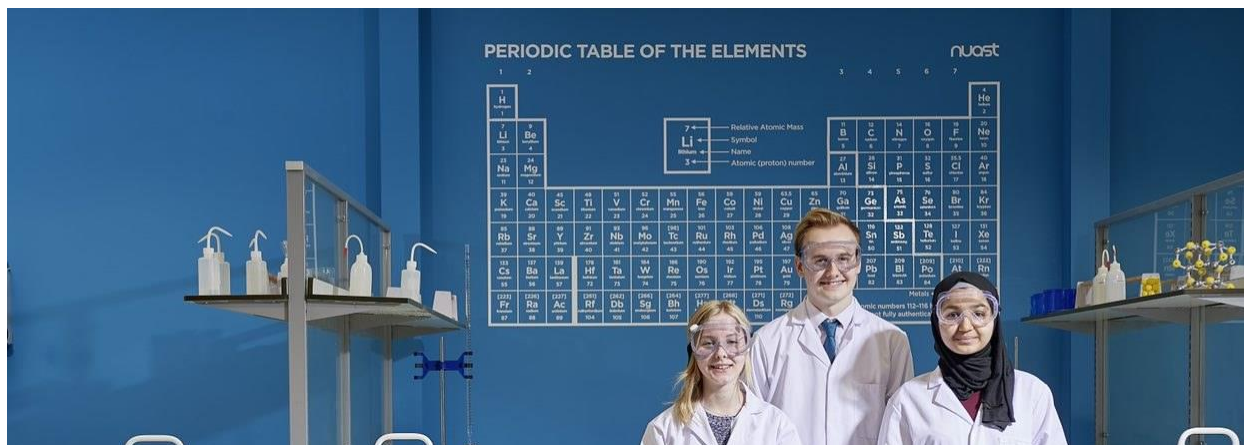
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Variation, inheritance and evolution
7. Ecology

Plus the relevant required practicals

## **What does Homework look like in this subject?**

Once a week a 30-minute task will be set where you will make a choice from three differentiated activities covering the wide range of skills required to succeed such as graph skills, calculations, comprehension alongside knowledge and understanding. Prior to testing, which occurs every three weeks, there will examination questions and revision knowledge learning mat to complete for homework.

# GCSE Chemistry



**Title of Course:** Chemistry

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

## **Why study this subject?**

Chemistry is so fundamental to our everyday lives and touches almost every aspect of our existence in some way. Chemistry is essential for meeting our basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, energy, and clean air, water, and soil. A foundation understanding of chemistry is so vitally important within all aspects of science and many engineering courses.

## **What will a lesson look like?**

A typical chemistry lesson will require you to recall knowledge from the previous lesson, followed by the learning of new knowledge and making notes on that theory. Drawing diagrams is an important part of studying chemistry and there is a combination of written answers and some mathematics based content.

Chemistry is the branch of science that deals with the properties, composition, and structure of elements and compounds, how they can change, and the energy that is released or absorbed when they change.

Carrying out experiments and observing practical's is a big part of applying the knowledge you will learn in lessons and you will be tested on that knowledge using examination questions.

You will often be asked to describe, explain and evaluate the evidence from experiments and draw your own conclusions too.

## **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

GCSE Chemistry acts as a foundation for many A level and university courses.

A firm understanding of chemistry gained from GCSE will aid you in all the sciences including physics and biology but also in subjects such as product design and engineering where your foundation understanding of polymers and materials gained in GCSE Chemistry will be developed. The transferable skills learnt through topics such as quantitative chemistry, where manipulation of formula is important, will also aid in subjects such as mathematics and computer science. Chemistry is also one of the only subjects that must be sat at A level to be able to access courses such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and pharmaceutical science.

### **How will I be assessed?**

GCSE Chemistry is assessed on a 100% written examination split between two 1hr and 45 min written papers each worth 50%.

#### **Paper 1 (1 hr 45 mins):**

1. Atomic Structure
2. Periodic table
3. Bonding, Structure and Properties of Matter
4. Quantitative Chemistry
5. Chemical Changes
6. Electrolysis
7. Energy Changes

#### **Paper 2 (1 hr 45 mins):**

1. Rate of Reaction
2. Equilibrium
3. Organic Chemistry
4. Chemical Analysis
5. The Atmosphere
6. Using Resources



### **What does Homework look like in this subject?**

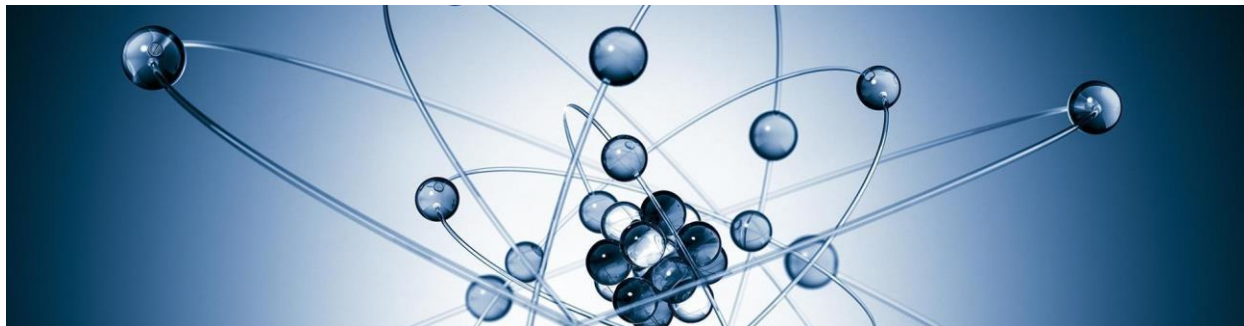
In GCSE Chemistry, homework will fall into one of two categories; pre-learning or relearning. Where a pre-learning homework is set this will be used as your basis for the next step in learning and gives you an insight into where the future lessons will be going but also the aspects within that topic that you struggle with. This kind of homework is key



so that you come into the lessons with an initial appreciation of where we will be going within the topic. These homework tasks may consist of projects or pre-reading.

For relearning, this is done to cement ideas and understanding gained during lesson time and the benefits of this type of homework will be the retention and deeper understanding of each topic. These types of homework tasks will often focus on examination questions.

# GCSE Physics



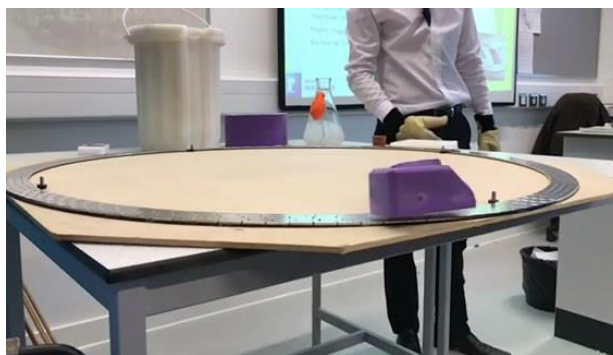
**Title of Course:** Physics

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

## **Why study this subject?**

Physicists are fascinated about the fundamental nature of reality and how the universe works. Studying the nature and properties of matter and energy and how they interact is key to success within our curriculum. We want to encourage and inspire students to develop an innate fascination in our subject and ask big questions. We aim to produce students who are not afraid to make mistakes, can work independently to solve novel problems and carry out investigations in a scientifically rigorous way. Asking questions, testing hypotheses, making observations and recording data are all important in discovering and instilling core ideas from our specification.



## **What will a lesson look like?**

A typical physics lesson will require you to recall knowledge from the previous lesson, followed by the learning of new knowledge and making notes on that theory. Although there is plenty of writing in physics, there is significantly more mathematics than you will

find in the other two sciences. However, you do not need to be an expert mathematician to be a good physicist!

Physics is the science of matter and its motion - the science that deals with concepts such as force, energy, mass, and charge. Its goal is to understand the universe and everything in it!

Carrying out experiments and observing practical's is a big part of applying the knowledge you will learn in lessons and you will be tested on that knowledge using examination questions.

You will often be asked to describe, explain and evaluate the evidence from experiments and draw your own conclusions too.

### **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

GCSE Physics acts as a foundation for many A-level and university courses.

A firm understanding of physics gained from GCSE will aid you in all the sciences as well as mathematics and all types of engineering. The transferable skills learnt through topics requiring practical work and problem solving are invaluable and sought after by colleges, universities and employers alike. Physics is very versatile and is also one of the only subjects that must be sat at A-level to be able to access courses related to mathematics, engineering and the study of space.

### **How will I be assessed?**

GCSE Physics is assessed on a 100% written examination split between two 1 hr and 45 min written papers each worth 50%.

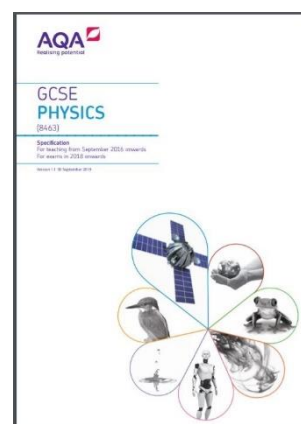
#### **Paper 1 (1 hr 45 mins):**

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle Model
4. Atomic Structure



#### **Paper 2 (1 hr 45 mins):**

5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Electromagnetism
8. Space



**Physics YouTube channels:**

*Vsauce (1,2,3)*

Veritasium

SciShow

Minutephysics

Crashcourse

Physics Girl

**What does homework look like in this subject?**

In GCSE Physics the homework's will fall into one of two categories; pre-learning or re-learning. Where a pre-learning homework is set this will be used as your basis for the next step in learning and gives you an insight into where the future lessons will be going but also the aspects within that topic that you struggle with. This kind of homework is key so that you come into the lessons with an initial appreciation of where we will be going within the topic. These may consist of projects or pre-reading.

For re-learning, this is done to cement ideas and understanding gained during lesson time and the benefits of this type of homework will be the retention and deeper understanding of each topic. These types of homework's will often focus on examination questions.

# **Ebacc Subjects (Geography, History, Spanish)**

## **What is the Ebacc?**

In the Ebacc you will do the six core GCSEs (Maths, English Language, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry and Physics) plus Spanish and either history or Geography. This leaves you ONE option subject you can choose from.

By opting not to do the Ebacc, you will do the six core GCSEs, either history or Geography and then can choose TWO options subjects.

## **Why should I do the Ebacc?**

Because taking the core GCSEs, plus a language and Humanity will mean you are studying the English Baccalaureate, a collection of subjects that the government believes give the best academic foundation of education and the current government are keen for as many pupils as possible to study the English Baccalaureate for this reason.

In addition, top universities tend to favour the English Baccalaureate subjects, as they are challenging, show broad skills and point out students as having good academic ability. This will obviously be something you might point out on a future university application.

## **Why would I not take the Ebacc?**

By not taking the Ebacc, you are able to take an additional option through by studying a language or history/geography. This is great where you have a keen interest in the other subjects we offer; for instance, you might want to study Computer Science and Engineering, or Photography..

You will still be able to apply successfully for university just fine in the future taking the open pathway, if that is what you want to do.

Remember; every GCSE is of an equal standard of challenge and difficulty - although YOU may find some easier than others due to your own natural talents or interests. That is why it is important to think very carefully about your choices, talk it over at home and talk it over with subject specialists and teachers in school.



# GCSE Geography

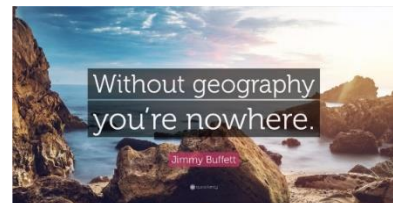
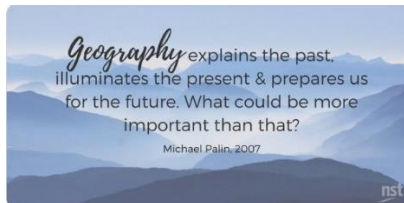


**Title of Course:** Geography

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Why study this subject:**



Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. Current GCSE courses are a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards – to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

## Exam Specification AQA Geography 8035

More information can be found here  
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/introduction>

| Topic                                    | Sub-topics   |
|--|--|
| P1, The challenge of natural hazards     | Natural Hazards<br>Tectonic Hazards<br>Weather Hazards<br>Climate Change                               |
| P1, The living world                     | Ecosystems<br>Tropical Rainforests<br>Cold Environments  |
| P1, Physical landscapes in the UK        | UK physical landscapes<br>Coastal landscapes in the UK<br>River landscapes in the UK                   |
| P2, Urban issues and challenges          | Urbanisation<br>Urban Growth LICs/NEEs<br>Urban Change HICs<br>Urban Sustainability                    |
| P2, The changing economic world          | Economic Development<br>Change in LICs/NEEs<br>Changes in HICs   |
| P2, The challenge of resource management | Global Patterns<br>Resource Insecurity<br>Changing Demands in the UK<br>Choices: Food, Water or Energy |

| Examinations                                  | Details  |
|---|--|
| Paper 1: Living with the physical environment | 1 hour 30 minutes<br>88 marks (including 3 for SPaG)<br>35 % of GCSE |
| Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment  | 1 hour 30 minutes<br>88 marks (including 3 for SPaG)<br>35 % of GCSE |
| Paper 3: Geographical applications            | 1 hour 15 minutes<br>76 marks (including 6 for SPaG)<br>30 % of GCSE |
|   | Pre-release resource booklet   |

## Revision Guides

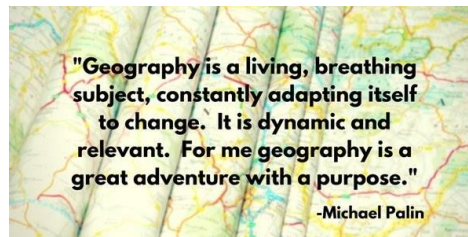
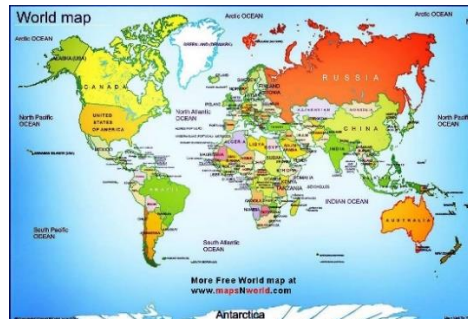
### Revision Resources

There are a wide variety of revision resources to suit every style on Learning. Students are welcome to make use of any of the resources provided.

Insert Link

### How to Revise Guide

Based on educational research, here is a how to revise guide for Geography with links and resources to help students develop their practice. Students and parents can download it from here:  
<https://mrshumantfiles.wordpress.com/2018/09/how-to-revise-geography.pdf>



There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is very practical, with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer-based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. Fieldwork, or working outside the classroom, is a really important part of geography.

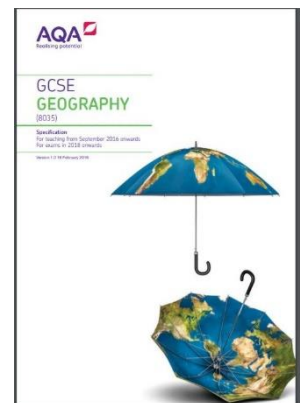
Whether you go locally or get the chance to travel further away, it will be a brilliant opportunity to experience some of the things you have learnt about in class, see things differently and of course have fun.

Choosing geography at school can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in geography or by combining geography with other A Levels to gain a place on a degree program in another subject. An A Level in geography is recognised for its academic robustness and most importantly, it also helps young people into the world of work.

### What does a lesson look like?

As with other subjects there will be normal Do Now Task, Plenaries, plenty of questioning and independent tasks.

The tasks will vary depending on the topic, we might spend time thinking about key concepts and processes which we can apply to different locations and case studies around the world. Tasks may also take the form of practising and developing skills by analysing images and patterns and trends in maps/graphs/data, as well as examination techniques.



Geography is so diverse and covers so many topics that no two lessons can ever really be the same.

### How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into three sections

#### Section 1: Living with the physical environment

Written examination:

1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG and specialist terminology)

35% of GCSE

#### Section 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written exam:

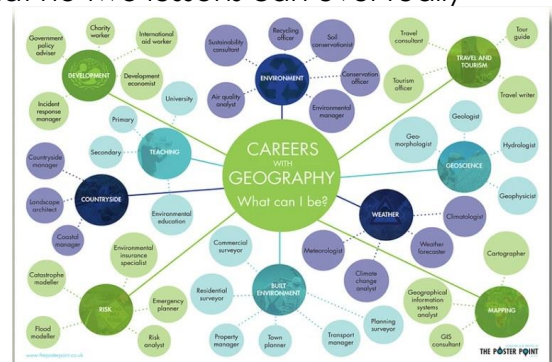
1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)

35% of GCSE

#### Section 3: Geographical applications and skills

1 hour 15 minutes



76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)

30% of GCSE

There will be two field trips which are **compulsory requirements** for the course and students will sit an examination based on their fieldwork tasks. Day one will be physical fieldwork to the likely location of Burbage Brook in the Peak District and day two for urban fieldwork is likely to be in Nottingham.

**What does homework look like in this subject?**

Homework can be a variety of tasks. A mixture of practice exam questions, research tasks, PiXL quizzes as well as creating revision materials for each topic we will be covering. There will also be practice prep work for the decision making section of paper three to familiarise students with the concepts and skills required.

# GCSE History



**Title of Course:** History

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

## **Why study this subject?**

History is one of the 'facilitating subjects' - subjects that will help you get into the top universities and are desired by top employers. Most Prime Ministers have studied History!

History also teaches you lots of skills. You will learn how to construct an argument; but not just any argument, in history you will learn how to create a balanced argument. This will help you in any career to do with writing, journalism, law and police. It also teaches you how to look at things critically and investigate, which is excellent for careers in research, police and business.

## **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

Overall, history is great for everyone but it can especially help if you are interested in:

Business

Finance and banking

Law

Police

Architect

Teaching

Politics

Television

## How will I be assessed?

### Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

Topics:

[Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship](#)

[Conflict and tension: The inter-war years, 1918–1939](#)

#### What does a lesson look like?

There is lots of reading, writing, discussing and debating. We might start with analysis of a source, or by presenting some evidence to you and asking you to identify it using your previous knowledge. We will learn some history and then examine what changed and what stayed the same. We might look at what caused things to change, or what the consequences are. We might be writing mini essays to practice exam skills, or tearing an historian's argument to pieces. You might even be making castles out of playdoh from the description of a real historical source.

#### How

In Section A there is a choice of four period studies, each with a focus on two key developments in a country's history over at least a 50 year period.

In Section B there is a choice of five wider world depth studies. These focus on international conflict and tension.

#### How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hours

84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

50% of GCSE

### Paper 2: Shaping the nation

Topics:

[Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day](#)

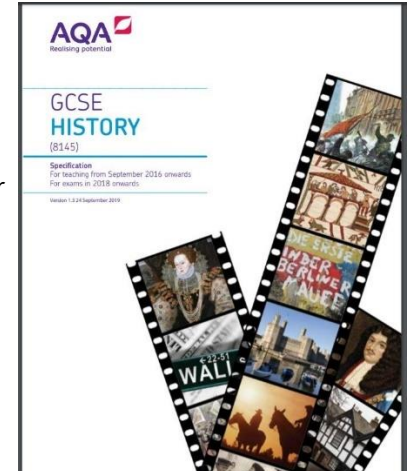
[Norman England, c1066–c1100](#)

#### How will I be assessed?

In Section A there is a choice of three thematic studies, which look at key developments in Britain over a long period.

In Section B there is a choice of four British depth studies incorporating the study of a specific historic environment.

#### How it's assessed





Written exam: 2 hours

84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

50% of GCSE

**What does Homework look like in this subject?**

Homework will be extension learning; tasks, reading and questions to help you understand what we have done in class in greater depth. We will also set you assessment preparation homework, in which you will be required to demonstrate that you have prepared properly for assessment.

# GCSE Spanish



**Title of Course:** Spanish

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

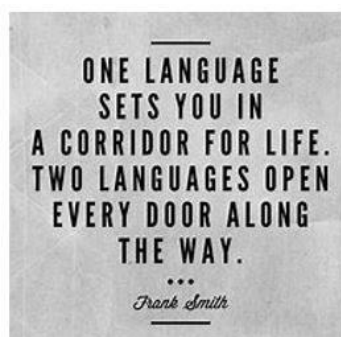
**Examination Board:** EDEXCEL

## Why study this subject?

It may seem that everyone speaks English, but in fact, 75% of the world's population do not. There is an increasing huge demand globally for Spanish speakers in a wide range of industries. However, currently, only 4% of the British population can speak fluent Spanish. Therefore, getting a GCSE Spanish will make you stand out from the crowd and set you in an excellent position when it comes to employment.

Spanish lessons at GCSE are fun to learn; you listen to songs, do film and cultural projects all in a different language and once the pandemic is over, there is going to be a trip to Spain for Spanish GCSE students.

Being able to speak to locals when you go on holiday is just one of the many reasons why you should learn a language at GCSE.



*Remember that, language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses that trade internationally.*

**How will I be assessed?** 4 papers worth 25% each.

**Paper 1 Listening**

(Higher 45 minutes – Foundation 35 min.)

**Paper 2 Speaking**

(Higher 10-14 min. – Foundation 8-12 min.)

**Paper 3 Reading**

(Higher 1 hour – Foundation 45 min.)

**Paper 4 Writing**

(Higher 1h. 20 min. – Foundation 1 h. 10 min.)

**GCSE Themes:**

**1. Identity and culture**

- Who am I?
- Daily life
- Cultural life

**2. Local area, holiday and travel**

- Holidays
- Travel and tourist transactions
- Town, region and country

**3. School**

- What school is like
- School activities

**4. Future aspirations, study and work**

- Using languages beyond the classroom
- Ambitions
- Work

**5. International and global dimension**

- Bringing the world together
- Environmental issues



**What does homework look like in this subject?**

In Spanish, homework is varied, engaging and differentiated to make sure that all tasks are both suitable and challenging for all levels.

Every week, students have to hand in a piece of homework. Each assignment focuses on a particular skill (Speaking, Listening, Reading or Writing) and some weeks students are given a list of key vocabulary to learn.

**What does a Spanish lesson look like?**

Spanish lessons at GCSE are fun to learn and there is plenty of variety. We work on the four skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) on a regular basis to make sure that, when the times comes, you are truly prepared for your GCSE assessments.

We combine examination style activities as: photo-cards, video and audio files, short writings, role-plays and readings with cultural activities to make sure that students get a good grasp of the language and a real cultural experience.

Our lessons also include lots of memory recall short activities and memory games to make sure that students learn and retain new vocabulary.

# The Options Subjects

You will choose **One or TWO** of these subjects depending on whether you choose the academic pathway (one option) or open pathway (two options)

Choose these very carefully. Think about these two things:

## **Learning styles**

Think about the kind of learner you are and look carefully which subjects suit your style of learning. Are you really good at reading and extended writing? More writing intensive subjects such as history might suit you.

Are you more creative? Then perhaps media or photography might be for you.

Do you like a mixture of learning? Then maybe Geography might be for you.

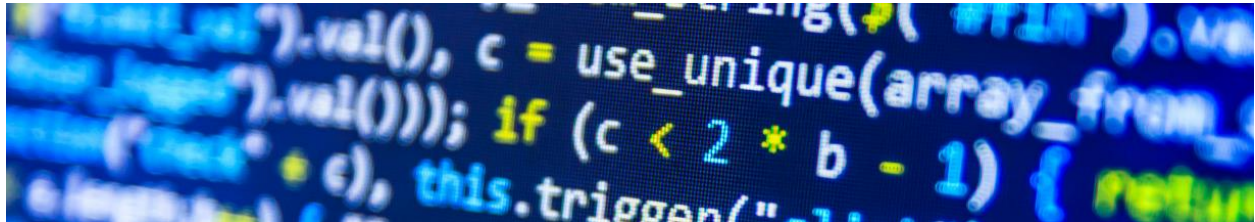
## **Careers**

What kind of career would you like in the future? Which subjects will be both interesting to you and teach you useful things for the kind of career you might like?

For instance, if you think you might like to go into law, then History would be a great option, as the skills it teaches are very similar. Don't ever choose a subject whose learning style is not right for you just because you think it would be useful, but keep it in mind.



# GCSE AQA Computer Science



**Title of Course:** Computer Science

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

## Why study this subject?

Computer Science is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself, as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering, is growing rapidly. Young people need to develop skills that will enable them to pursue a career in Computing/Computer Science if they so choose, and which will also help them gain valuable skills for life - for example, in innovation, reasoning, logic, resourcefulness, precision, problem solving and clarity and resilience. These skills will enable them to become authors of computational tools rather than simply users. As adult workers, young people will be applying for jobs that have not yet been invented. Technology changes but the principles and concepts upon which they are built remain constant. A good grounding in Computer Science will teach young people how to deal with change later in life, become excellent problem solvers and play an active and effective role in the digital work.

## What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?

A level Computer Science or vocational equivalents in business related subjects. There are also a wide range of university degrees and apprenticeships available.

## Subject Content

- 3.1 Fundamentals of algorithms
- 3.2 Programming
- 3.3 Fundamentals of data representation
  - 3.4 Computer systems
- 3.5 Fundamentals of computer
- 3.6 Cyber security
- 3.7 Relational databases and structured query language (SQL)



3.8 Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy.

### **What does a lesson look like?**

Lessons are split between theory and programming skills. Programming is using python and C. To develop applications. Theory focuses on the components of a computer, networks, databases and social implications

### **How will I be assessed?**

100% Written examination in two written papers worth 50% each.

#### **Paper 1 (2 hrs):**

Written examination

90 marks

50% of GCSE

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

#### **Paper 2 (1 hr 45 mins):**

Written examination

90 marks

50% of GCSE

A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.

### **What does Homework look like in this subject?**

This will consist of a variety of tasks such as creating mind maps, flash cards for in class assessment preparation. Also, multiple choice, short and long answer questions to support exam technique. There will also be research activities to improve application of knowledge. Application of Algorithmic thinking and programming.

# OCR Cambridge Nationals Engineering Manufacture



**Type of Qualification:** Cambridge National

**Examination Board:** OCR

## Why study this subject?

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use what you learn in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- The materials used in engineering manufacture
- Safely producing a one-off product
- The use of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) to produce in quantity.

This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering manufacturing and development sector. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- Solving problems by exploring different engineering manufacture processes, tools and equipment
- Planning a sequence of processes. This will involve managing your time and identifying the resources you will need, as well as reviewing your plans if necessary

## What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?

Subsequently on to either BTEC L3 in Engineering, Engineering Design A level or Product Design.



[ocr.org.uk/cambridgenationals](http://ocr.org.uk/cambridgenationals)



## **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed over **three** modules:

### **Unit R014: 40% (Examined Unit) Principles of Engineering Manufacture**

This is assessed by an exam. In this unit you will learn about the different types of manufacturing processes, and the different materials that can be used within manufacturing. Topics include:

- Manufacturing processes
- Engineering materials
- Manufacturing requirements
- Developments in engineering manufacture.

### **Unit R015: 30% (NEA) Manufacturing a one-off product**

This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to safely plan and produce a one-off product by using appropriate processes, tools and equipment. Topics include:

- Planning the production of a one-off product
- Measuring and marking out
- Safely use processes, tools and equipment to make a product.

### **Unit R016: 30% (NEA) Manufacturing in quantity**

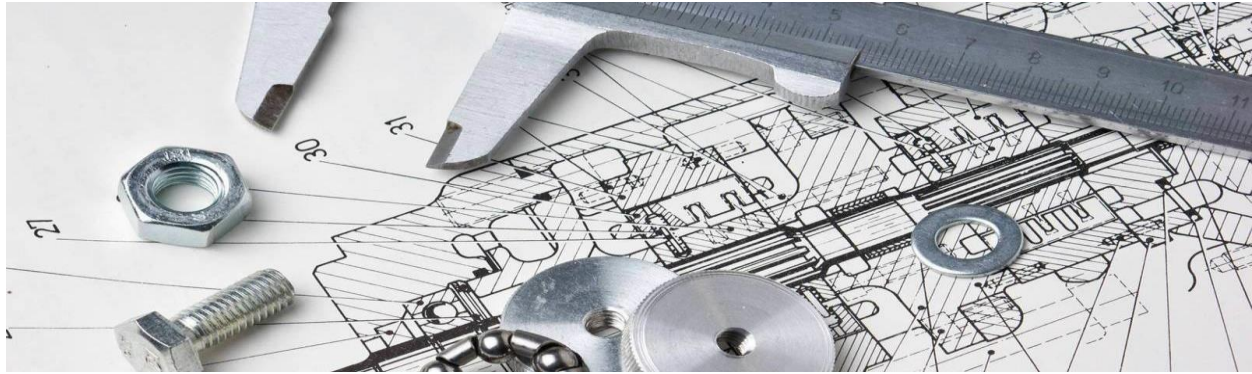
This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to manufacture using simple jigs and templates to support manufacturing in volume using Computer Aided Design (CAD) software and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) equipment. Topics include:

- Preparing for manufacture
- Develop programmes to operate CNC equipment
- Safely use processes and equipment to make products in quantity.

## **What does Homework look like in this subject?**

Homework will consist of completing learning mats to support your coursework and completing coursework.

# OCR Cambridge Nationals Engineering Design



**Type of Qualification:** Cambridge National

**Examination Board:** OCR

## Why study this subject?

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use what you learn in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- Using both 2D and 3D engineering design techniques
- Designing new products to meet a design brief
- Communicating engineering design ideas.

This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering manufacturing and development sector. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- Completing research to inform engineering design ideas
- Solving problems by exploring different engineering design options
- Finding imaginative solutions through creative thinking.

## What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?

Subsequently on to either BTEC L3 in Engineering, Engineering Design A level or Product Design.



[ocr.org.uk/cambridgenationals](http://ocr.org.uk/cambridgenationals)





## **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed over **three** modules:

### **Unit R038: 40%(Examined Unit) Principles of Engineering Design**

This is assessed by an exam. In this unit you will learn about the design process, and all of the stages that are involved. Topics include:

- Designing processes
- Designing requirements
- Communicating design outcomes
- Evaluating design ideas

### **Unit R039: 30%(NEA) Communicating Designs**

This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to use sketching and engineering drawings to communicate your ideas. Topics include:

- Manual production of freehand sketches
- Manual production of engineering drawings
- Use of computer aided design (CAD)

### **Unit R040: 30%(NEA) Design Evaluation and Modelling**

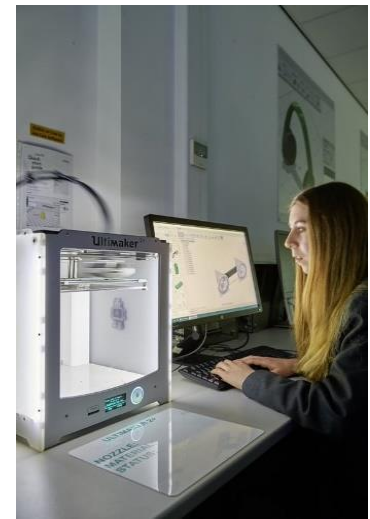
This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to create and test models of your design. Topics include:

- Product evaluation
- Modelling design ideas

## **What does Homework look like in this subject?**

Homework will consist of completing learning mats to support your coursework and completing coursework.

# GCSE AQA Product Design



**Title of Course:** GCSE in Design and Technology (Product Design)

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

## Why study this subject?

GCSE Design and Technology (Product Design) is an exciting course which combines practical work and theoretical understanding to prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. It develops students' problem solving and lateral thinking skills as well as building their awareness of wider influences, methods and trends in Design. Students get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and to utilise NUASt's state of the art technology to realise their own work in the form of a working prototype.

**What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?** This course is an ideal opportunity to lead into A Level Product Design or Engineering at NUASt, then an Engineering or Product Design degree. You may then work in a numerous fields of employment including Architecture, Structural Design and Engineering, Product Design or Civil Engineering.

## What does a lesson look like?

Lessons are divided into practical activities, design activities and written coursework/examination preparation.

Written coursework/examination preparation accounts for 50% of the course and you are going to need to develop knowledge of the theory behind how products are designed and made.

Design activities revolve around your ability to develop good drawing skills to communicate your ideas using state of the art CAD (Computer Aided Design) software, drawing equipment and freehand graphic skills.

Practical activities concentrate on building up your skills to independently use our state of the art equipment like 3D printers, laser cutters and workshop skills using hand tools and machine like lathes to develop and make your design ideas.

### **How will I be assessed?**

50% Practical Coursework Content

Written or electronic design portfolio with photographic evidence of final prototype(s). You only need 20 slides of an A3 portfolio which includes your research, design ideas, modelling, making and evaluation.

*Assessment Objective ( AO1) - Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities*

*Assessment Objective ( AO2) - Design & make prototypes that are fit for purpose*

*Assessment Objective ( AO3) - Analyse & evaluate*

**50% Examination - 2 hour paper**

#### **Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)**

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding, for example manufacturing methods, use of materials and joining methods.

#### **Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)**

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

#### **Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)**

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions, which test pupils' problem solving abilities and creativity as well as their design knowledge.

### **What does Homework look like in this subject?**

Homework is a mix of research, designing and practical work and for examination preparation we have a range of past papers, interactive online tests and your own personal text book detailing every aspect of the syllabus.

# GCSE Geography

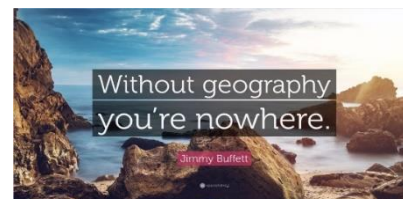
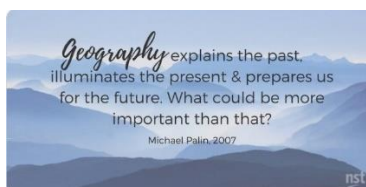


**Title of Course:** Geography

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Why study this subject:**



Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. Current GCSE courses are a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards – to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

## Exam Specification **AQA** AQA Geography 8035

More information can be found here  
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/introduction>

| Topic                                    | Sub-topics  |
|--|---|
| P1. The challenge of natural hazards     | Natural Hazards<br>Tectonic Hazards<br>Weather Hazards<br>Climate Change                              |
| P1. The living world                     | Ecosystems<br>Tropical Rainforests<br>Cold Environments   |
| P1. Physical landscapes in the UK        | UK physical landscapes<br>Coastal landscapes in the UK<br>River landscapes in the UK                  |
| P2. Urban issues and challenges          | Urbanisation<br>Urban Growth LICs/NEEs<br>Urban Change HICs<br>Urban Sustainability                   |
| P2. The changing economic world          | Economic Development<br>Change in LICs/NEEs<br>Changes in HICs  |
| P2. The challenge of resource management | Global Patterns<br>Resource Insecurity<br>Changing Demands in the UK<br>Choice: Food, Water or Energy |

| Examinations                                  | Details  |
|---|--|
| Paper 1: Living with the physical environment | 1 hour 30 minutes<br>88 marks (including 3 for SPaG)<br>35 % of GCSE                                 |
| Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment  | 1 hour 30 minutes<br>88 marks (including 3 for SPaG)<br>35 % of GCSE                                 |
| Paper 3: Geographical applications            | 1 hour 15 minutes<br>76 marks (including 6 for SPaG)<br>30 % of GCSE<br>Pre-release resource booklet |

## Revision Guides

New Grade 9-1 GCSE  
Geography AQA  
Revision Guide  
ISBN: 978-1782946106

New Grade 9-1 GCSE  
Geography AQA  
Complete Revision &  
Practice  
ISBN: 978-1782946137

GCSE 9-1 Geography  
AQA Revision Guide  
ISBN: 978-0198423461

My Revision Notes:  
AQA GCSE (9-1)  
Geography  
ISBN: 978-1471887314

### Revision Resources

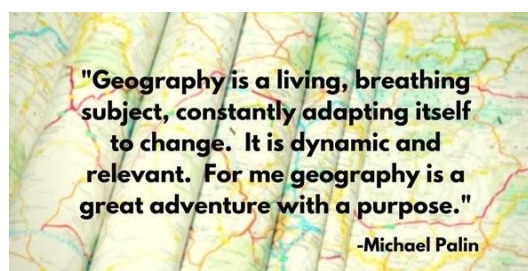
There are a wide variety of revision resources to suit every style on Learning. Students are welcome to make use of any of the resources provided.

Insert Link

### How to Revise Guide

Based on educational research, here is a how to revise guide for Geography with links and resources to help students develop their practice. Students and parents can download it from here:

<https://mrshumanities.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/how-to-revise-geography.pdf>





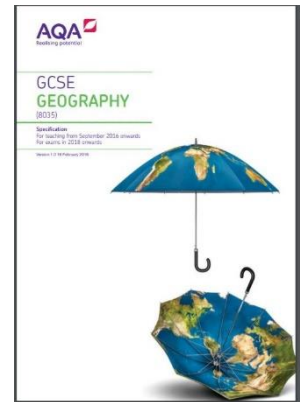
There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is very practical, with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. Fieldwork, or working outside the classroom, is a really important part of geography. Whether you go locally or get the chance to travel further away, it will be a brilliant opportunity to experience some of the things you have learnt about in class, see things differently and of course have fun.

Choosing geography at school can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in geography or by combining geography with other A Levels to gain a place on a degree program in another subject. An A Level in geography is recognised for its academic robustness and most importantly, it also helps young people into the world of work.

### What does a lesson look like?

As with other subjects there will be a normal Do Now Task, Plenaries, plenty of questioning and independent tasks.

The tasks will vary depending on the topic, we might spend time thinking about key concepts and processes which we can apply to different locations and case studies around the world. Tasks may also take the form of practising and developing skills by analysing images and patterns and trends in maps/graphs/data, as well as examination techniques.



Geography is so diverse and covers so many topics that no two lessons can ever really be the same.

### How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into three sections:

#### Section 1: Living with the physical environment

Written examination:

1 hour 30 minutes

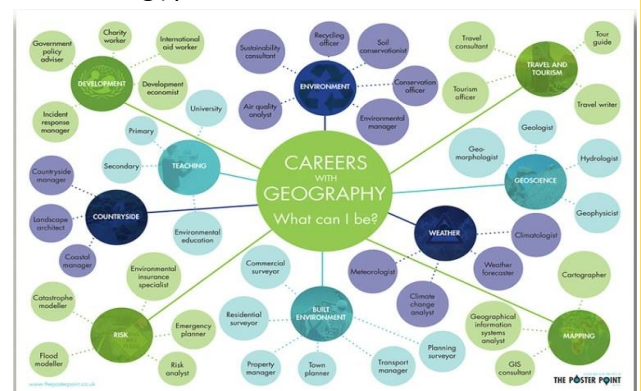
88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG and specialist terminology)

35% of GCSE

#### Section 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written examination:

1 hour 30 minutes





88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)

35% of GCSE

### **Section 3: Geographical applications and skills**

1 hour 15 minutes

76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)

30% of GCSE

There will be two field trips which are **compulsory requirements** for the course and students will sit an examination based on their fieldwork tasks. Day one will be physical fieldwork to the likely location of Burbage Brook in the Peak District and day two for urban fieldwork is likely to be in Nottingham.

#### **What does Homework look like in this subject?**

Homework can be a variety of tasks. A mixture of practice exam questions, research tasks, PiXL quizzes as well as creating revision materials for each topic we will be covering. There will also be practice prep work for the decision making section of paper three to familiarise students with the concepts and skills required.

# GCSE History



**Title of Course:** History

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

## **Why study this subject?**

History is one of the 'facilitating subjects' - subjects that will help you get into the top universities and are desired by top employers. Most Prime Ministers have studied History!

History also teaches you lots of skills. You will learn how to construct an argument; but not just any argument, in history you will learn how to create a balanced argument. This will help you in any career to do with writing, journalism, law and police. It also teaches you how to look at things critically and investigate, which is excellent for careers in research, police and business.

## **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

Overall, history is great for everyone but it can especially help if you are interested in:

Business

Finance and banking

Law

Police

Architect

Teaching

Politics

Television

## How will I be assessed?

### Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

Topics:

[Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship](#)

[Conflict and tension: The inter-war years, 1918–1939](#)

#### What does a lesson look like?

There is lots of reading, writing, discussing and debating. We might start with analysis of a source, or by presenting some evidence to you and asking you to identify it using your previous knowledge. We will learn some history and then examine what changed and what stayed the same. We might look at what caused things to change, or what the consequences are. We might be writing mini essays to practice examination skills, or tearing an historian's argument to pieces. You might even be making castles out of playdoh from the description of a real historical source.

#### How

In Section A there is a choice of four period studies, each with a focus on two key developments in a country's history over at least a 50 year period.

In Section B there is a choice of five wider world depth studies. These focus on international conflict and tension.

#### How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hours

84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

50% of GCSE

### Paper 2: Shaping the nation

Topics:

[Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day](#)

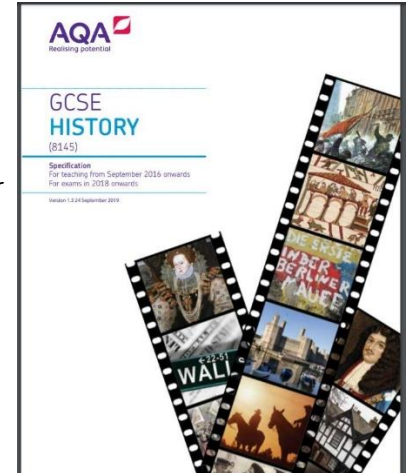
[Norman England, c1066–c1100](#)

#### How will I be assessed?

In Section A there is a choice of three thematic studies, which look at key developments in Britain over a long period.

In Section B there is a choice of four British depth studies incorporating the study of a specific historic environment.

#### How it's assessed



Written examination: 2 hours

84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

50% of GCSE

**What does Homework look like in this subject?**

Homework will be extension learning; tasks, reading and questions to help you understand what we have done in class in greater depth. We will also set you assessment preparation homework, in which you will be required to demonstrate that you have prepared properly for assessment.

# GCSE Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

**Title of Course:** Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** Edexcel B (2016)

[Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies B \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)



Be a free thinker and don't accept everything you hear as **truth**.  
**Be critical** and evaluate what you believe in.

– *Aristotle*

## Why study this subject?

GCSE P.R.E. is a lively course for students to reflect on essential components of what it means to be human and to live in society. Students are encouraged to engage with both religious and non-religious viewpoints to come to their own critical conclusions. P.R.E. is not about expressing a certain view as 'true' but developing a spirit of enquiry from which students can explore a wealth of different world views and form their own opinion on philosophical, religious and ethical matters. The beauty of this subject is that answers are very rarely 'right' or 'wrong' but that students are rewarded for developing skills in arguing, debating and justifying their viewpoints in an academic, respectful and emotionally intelligent way.



## What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?

Overall, P.R.E. is great for everyone but it can especially help if you are interested in:

| YOUR FUTURE                    |            |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| SKILLS                         | CAREERS    | STUDY      |
| Critical Thinking              | Aid worker | Philosophy |
| Evaluation                     | Barrister  | Religion   |
| Research & presentation        | Paralegal  | Law        |
| Confidence                     | Teaching   | Ethics     |
| Decision Making / Independence | Activist   | Politics   |
| Analytical Skills              | Journalism | Economics  |

## How will I be assessed?

Topics:

| PAPER 1             | PAPER 2            |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Christian Beliefs   | Muslim Beliefs     |
| Christian Practices | Muslim Practices   |
| Marriage & Family   | Crime & Punishment |
| Life & Death        | War & Peace        |

### Assessment – Edexcel Route B

- Paper 1 - Religion and Ethics (studied from the Christian/non-religious perspective). 50% of final grade. (1hr 45 min)
- Paper 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict (studied from the Muslim/non-religious perspective). 50% of final grade. (1hr 45 min)

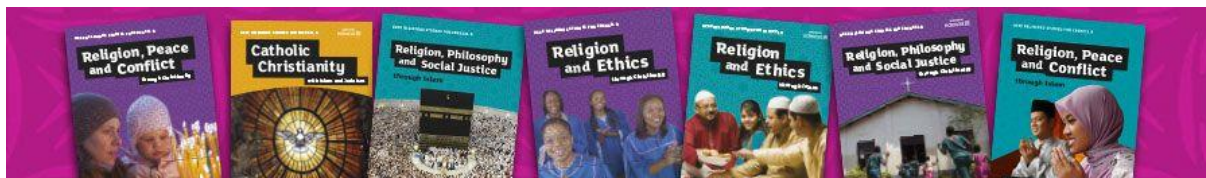
## What does a lesson look like?



There is lots of reading, writing, discussing and debating. We engage with philosophical, religious and ethical views on topics such as belief, practice, medical ethics and what makes a society. The lessons are based around the philosophies, beliefs and practices of the Christian and Islamic faiths and we counterpoint these against humanism and non-religious worldviews when evaluating the impact that these have upon society today. We will look at the impact of belief upon communities and society and how we can make good moral choices when confronted with difficult decisions such as abortion or euthanasia. You will be well supported in regularly practicing exam skills, evaluating belief and ideas and learning how to synthesise a range of opinions to construct your own opinion on each of the topics.

## What does Homework look like in this subject?

Homework will be extension learning; tasks, reading and questions to help you understand what we have done in class in greater depth. We will also set you assessment preparation homework, in which you will be required to support you and give you the opportunity to demonstrate that you have prepared properly for assessment.



# GCSE Spanish



**Title of Course:** Spanish

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

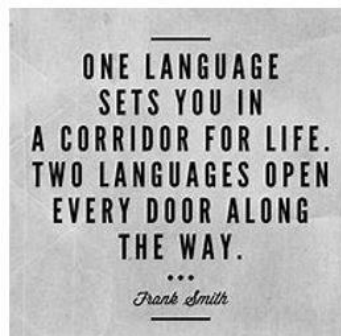
**Examination Board:** EDEXCEL

## Why study this subject?

It may seem that everyone speaks English, but in fact, 75% of the world's population do not. There is an increasing huge demand globally for Spanish speakers in a wide range of industries. However, currently, only 4% of the British population can speak fluent Spanish. Therefore, getting a GCSE Spanish will make you stand out from the crowd and set you in an excellent position when it comes to employment.

Spanish lessons at GCSE are fun to learn; you listen to songs, do film and cultural projects all in a different language and once the pandemic is over, there is going to be a trip to Spain for Spanish GCSE students.

Being able to speak to locals when you go on holiday is just one of the many reasons why you should learn a language at GCSE.



***Remember that, language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses that trade internationally.***

**How will I be assessed?** 4 papers worth 25% each.

**Paper 1 Listening**

(Higher 45 minutes – Foundation 35 min.)

**Paper 2 Speaking**

(Higher 10-14 min. – Foundation 8-12 min.)

**Paper 3 Reading**

(Higher 1 hour – Foundation 45 min.)

**Paper 4 Writing**

(Higher 1h. 20 min. – Foundation 1 h. 10 min.)

**GCSE Themes:**

**1. Identity and culture**

- Who am I?
- Daily life
- Cultural life

**2. Local area, holiday and travel**

- Holidays
- Travel and tourist transactions
- Town, region and country

**3. School**

- What school is like
- School activities

**4. Future aspirations, study and work**

- Using languages beyond the classroom
- Ambitions
- Work

**5. International and global dimension**

- Bringing the world together



- Environmental issues

### **What does homework look like in this subject?**

In Spanish, homework is varied, engaging and differentiated to make sure that all tasks are both suitable and challenging for all levels.

Every week, students have to hand in a piece of homework. Each assignment focuses on a particular skill (Speaking, Listening, Reading or Writing) and some weeks students are given a list of key vocabulary to learn.

### **What does a Spanish lesson look like?**

Spanish lessons at GCSE are fun to learn and there is plenty of variety. We work on the four skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) on a regular basis to make sure that, when the times comes, you are truly prepared for your GCSE assessments.

We combine examination style activities as: photo-cards, video and audio files, short writings, role-plays and readings with cultural activities to make sure that students get a good grasp of the language and a real cultural experience.

Our lessons also include lots of memory recall short activities and memory games to make sure that students learn and retain new vocabulary.



# Hospitality and Catering



**Title of Course:** Hospitality and Catering

**Type of Qualification:** Technical Award

**Examination Board:** Eduqas

## **Why study this subject?**

Our Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering will develop students' knowledge and understanding of the Hospitality and Catering sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills. It covers the hospitality and catering industry and hospitality and catering in action.

## **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering or food industries.

## **How will I be assessed?**

**Unit 1 Exam: 50% (Examined Unit) The hospitality and catering industry**

- **Hospitality and catering provision**
- **How hospitality and catering providers operate**
- **Health and safety in hospitality and catering**
- **Food safety in hospitality and catering**

**Unit 2 NEA: 50% (NEA) Hospitality and catering in action**

- **The importance of nutrition**
- **Menu planning**
- **The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes**

- **Evaluating cooking skills**

### **What skills will I develop?**

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Confidence
- Learning independently
- Organisation
- Problem solving
- Research
- Self-discipline
- Taking on responsibility Time management.

### **The course learning itself is split into the following:**

- The operation of the front and back of house
- Hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements
- Health and safety in hospitality and catering provision
- Food safety
- Preventative control measures of food-induced ill health.
- The importance of nutrition
- Menu planning
- The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes
- Evaluating cooking skills

### **What does homework look like in this subject?**

Homework tasks can range from bringing in ingredients for the practical lessons to researching recipes. There will be research tasks set on the topics list above and in year 11, revision for tests throughout the year alongside examination past papers.

# GCSE Art & Design – Photography



**Title of Course:** Art and Design - Photography

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** OCR

## **Why study this subject?**

GCSE Photography is great for creative students who are interested in photography and enjoy taking pictures that showcase their arty side! You will be required to research famous and successful photographers to help inform and develop your own work and style. You will also learn how to properly use a digital SLR camera on its manual settings; understanding elements such as shutter speed, depth of focus, exposure and white balance. During the course you will experiment with numerous camera techniques, composition, studio lighting and a range of editing techniques which will enable you to create beautiful, professional looking final pieces.

**What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?** A level photography, A level Media/film, Commercial Photography apprenticeship



## **What will a lesson look like?**

You will be analysing the work of other photographers in detail; planning your photoshoots and taking photos; learning how to use an SLR camera; learning how to use editing software such as photoshop to edit and manipulate your photograph; writing and documenting in detail your intentions as your work progresses.

## How will I be assessed?

### Component 01: 60% of total GCSE

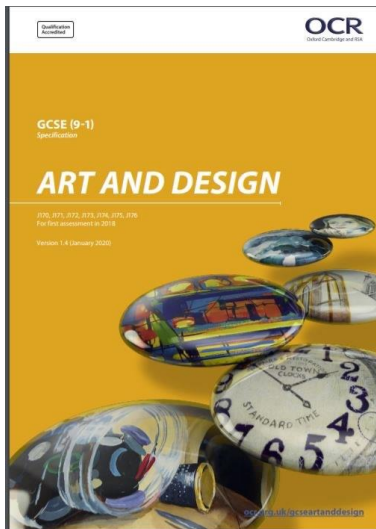
Portfolio - Learners should produce:

- A portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to either a centre- or learner-set starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus.

### Component 02: 40% of total GCSE

Externally set task

- The early release paper will be issued on 2nd January each year and will provide learners with five themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points and stimuli.
- A practical response should be based on one of these options.



### What does Homework look like in this subject?

For homework you will be required to research photographers and analyse their work, as well as, put into practice skills learnt during lesson time, to take a body of images based on your chosen themes.

# GCSE Business



**Title of Course:** Business

**Type of Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

## **Why study this subject?**

If you aspire to set up a business of your own in the future or you simply have an interest in the way businesses operate, then this subject might be of interest to you. It is difficult to imagine businesses like McDonalds, Nike and Apple starting out as an idea considering they are now multi-million pound global giants of the business world. Studying this subject will give you some awareness of their success but also the reasons behind many business failures.

## **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

A level Business or vocational equivalents in business related subjects. There are also a wide range of university degrees in business disciplines such as management, entrepreneurship, marketing, human resources and operations.

## **What does a lesson look like?**

Business lessons follow the same pattern as most with Do Now tasks, developing an understanding of subject content and plenaries. There is also plenty of reading and writing expected as the course has lots of business theory to learn and case study material to analyse.

You can also expect the use of short video clips to explain some business concepts and a collaborative approach to learning with students working in pairs or small groups to discuss various business scenarios. We also look to create group presentations where students get the opportunity to apply their knowledge.

Expectations are no different to other lessons, therefore students need to display the characteristics such as resilience and determination to progress. Some of the content



can be tricky but with positive engagement, you will overcome this and hopefully enjoy the subject.

### **How will I be assessed?**

100% Written examination in two 1 hr and 45 min written papers worth 50% each.

#### **Paper 1 (1 hr 45 mins):**

1. Business in the real world
2. Influences on business
3. Operations
4. Human resources

#### **Paper 2 (1 hr 45 mins):**

1. Business in the real world
2. Influences on business
3. Marketing
4. Finance

### **What does Homework look like in this subject?**



This will consist of a variety of tasks such as creating mind maps, flash cards for in class assessment preparation. Also, multiple choice, short and long answer questions to support examination technique. There will also be research activities to improve application of knowledge.



# Cambridge National In Sports Science



**Title of Course:** OCR Cambridge National in Sports Science

**Type of Qualification:** Cambridge National

**Examination Board:** OCR

## **Why study this subject?**

Studying an OCR Cambridge National equips students to learn about applying the principles of training and fitness needed in sport, the dietary requirements in sport and reducing the risk of injuries in sport.

**There is no practical sporting assessment element to this course.**

## **What can this qualification lead to after Year 11?**

This course will prepare learners for the further study of Sports Science based courses.

## **What does a Cambridge National lesson look like?**

The Cambridge National lesson will mainly be computer room based, with the students learning about components of fitness and dietary requirements in sport. They will have to type up all coursework units and submit on MS Teams.

## **How will I be assessed?**

You will have to submit two modules of coursework and then sit a 75 minute written exam out of 70 marks.

**Coursework 1:**

**R181: Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance**

**Coursework 2:**

**R183: Nutrition and sports performance.**

**Written Exam Paper:**

**R180: Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions**

**What does Homework look like in this subject?**

Once a week a 30-minute piece of homework will be set, this will be set on the Ever Learner which is a World Leading online Learning Platform.

<https://theeverlearner.com/>