



Skidders' Academy

Key Stage 4 GCSE Course Guide



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The Curriculum

GCSE (9-1) grading system

Your GCSEs will be graded 9-1, rather than A*–G. Grade 9 is the highest grade, set above the former A*. The 9-1 system is intended to help provide more differentiation, especially among higher achieving pupils. A grade 5 will be equivalent to a high grade C and this is considered a “good pass.”

BTEC Tech Awards - Level 1 & Level 2

Pupils motivated by a hands-on learning style can study BTEC Tech Awards alongside their GCSEs.

After the first year of study, pupils will be entered for either the ‘Level 1 Foundation’ or ‘Level 2 Higher’ qualifications. BTECs are graded as a Pass, Merit, Distinction at Level 1, with the addition of Distinction* for those undertaking the Level 2 qualification.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The English Baccalaureate recognises achievements in a range of subjects. The EBacc is not a qualification as such, however, it is recognition that a pupil has a well-rounded academic education and a good pass in all of the following subjects at GCSE: English, mathematics, sciences (inc. computer science), languages and geography or history. It is likely that universities will look favourably on pupils who have achieved the EBacc.

Progress 8

The Progress 8 measure is designed to encourage schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum at KS4, and reward schools for the teaching of all their pupils. The new measure will be based on pupils’ progress measured across eight subjects: English; mathematics; three other English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects; and three further subjects, which can be from the range of EBacc subjects, or can be any other approved, high-value arts, academic, or vocational qualification.

Attainment 8

Attainment 8 measures the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications including mathematics (double weighted) and English (double weighted), three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measure and three further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or technical awards from the DfE approved list.

Course Title: English Language & Literature

Course Code/Codes: 8700 & 8702

Examining Body: AQA

What are the aims of these courses?

In English at KS4, you will study two separate GCSEs: English Language and English Literature.

The aim of the Language course is to encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of English as they:

- develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language
- explore data and examples of language in use
- engage creatively and critically with a varied programme for the study of English
- develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.

Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level. Courses based on this specification should also encourage students to:

- read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading
- read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- develop the habit of reading widely

and often

- appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
 - acquire and use a wide vocabulary
- English Language & Literature provide a strong foundation for analytical thinking, problem solving and the ability to think critically. It has shared features with History, RS, Drama and many other subjects meaning that you will gain skills that you can use across the curriculum.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 - Literature: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 40% of qualification

Paper 2 - Literature: Modern texts and poetry

- Written exam: 2hr 15mins
- 60% of qualification

Paper 1 - Language: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 50% of qualification

Paper 2 - Language: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 50% of qualification

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in English. These include:

- Journalism
- Law
- Medicine
- Teaching

Course Title: Mathematics

Course Code/Codes: J560 (F) / 1MA1 (H)
Examining Body: OCR (F) / Pearson Edexcel (H)

What are the aims of this course?

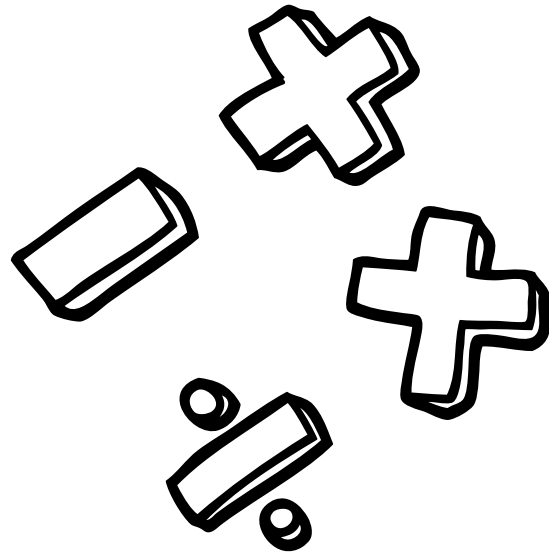
This course will enable you to develop your knowledge and understanding of problem solving, reasoning, applying maths in context and the functional element of maths.

You will explore deeper into topics you were introduced to in KS3; Number, Algebra, Ration & Proportion, Geometry & Measure and Probability & Statistics.

This course will encourage you to develop a positive attitude to mathematics and appreciate the place of mathematics in society. You will be able to apply mathematical concepts to situations arising in daily life. You will develop the skills necessary to take advantage of modern technology in the form of calculators and ICT.

Mathematics is a core subject of the National Curriculum, thereby making it compulsory for all pupils to study. However, it is important that you tackle it at the most appropriate level, therefore you will be placed in a suitable set based on your mathematical ability.

GCSE mathematics at Grade 4 or above is required by most universities for further study on the majority of courses. Successful completion of GCSE mathematics will allow progression to post-16 mathematics and mathematics related courses.



How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Calculator (F) / Non-Calculator (H)

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 33.33% of qualification

Paper 2: Non-Calculator (F) Calculator Allowed (H)

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 33.33% of qualification

Paper 3: Calculator Allowed (F & H)

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 33.33% of qualification

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in mathematics. These include:

- Mathematician
- Engineering
- Accounting
- Statistician
- Data analyst

Course Title: Combined Science

Course Code/Codes: 1SC0

Examining Body: Pearson Edexcel (H)

What are the aims of this course?

The aim of this science course is to provide you with knowledge and understanding of the various and interesting science topics that you will experience in your everyday lives. Through a range of activities, you will be able to recognise the impact that science and technology will have in the future as you make informed decisions about issues and employment opportunities that involve science.

Science is a practical-based course and we aim to teach the topic through a series of practical activities.

Although this is a combined science course, you will learn detailed physics, chemistry and biology as discrete disciplines. It is anticipated that all the exams will be sat in Year 11 to give you ample opportunity to do your very best in the course.

The combined science course is compulsory for every pupil. It will

prepare you for further studies in all the natural sciences at post-16 level. If you pass this course you can progress onto A-Level courses in biology, chemistry or physics; or BTEC courses in science or health and social care.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 - 6: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

- Written exam: 1hr 10mins (each)
- 16.67% of qualification (each)

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in Science.

These include:

- Healthcare
- Forensic science
- Lab technician
- Researcher
- Pharmacy
- Engineering
- Banking
- Law



Course Title: Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

Why do I need to study this?

Schools have a statutory duty to promote young people's wellbeing and statutory responsibilities to provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. Under Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010 such a curriculum must: promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

A good PSHE education provides young people with both the knowledge and skills to manage their lives, make the right decisions and thrive as individuals and members of society. High quality PSHE is also essential to keeping pupils safe and healthy, inside and outside the school gates. Young people today face unprecedented pressures posed by modern technology. Good quality PSHE can provide them with the information they need to stay safe and build resilience against the risks of exploitation or radicalisation. At its heart, good PSHE supports young people to make informed choices.

2015 Government response: Life lessons: PSHE and SRE in schools | www.gov.uk



Course Title: Physical Education (C)

Why do I need to study this?

Playing sports helps to keep people healthy and is good for communities. Playing sports at school or in a local club is also the first step to competition at the highest level, which helps improve our reputation as a sporting nation, and contributes to economic growth.

But when people leave school they often stop playing sports, which can lead to a less healthy lifestyle. We want to get more people playing sports safely from a young age, and help them keep playing sport throughout their life, no matter what their economic or social background.

2010-2015 Government policy : Sports participation | www.gov.uk

When we bid for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games we did it in part so that its legacy would inspire young people to play more sport. As Skinners' Academy's core values were inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic values, the Academy serves to contribute to being part of the legacy of the Games.

What is the difference between Physical Education (C) and Physical Education GCSE Please note Physical Education (C) does not result in a GCSE. If you would like to gain a GCSE in Physical Education you will need to select GCSE Physical Education as one of your option courses.

For more information on GCSE Physical Education please turn to page 25.

Course Title: French

Course Code/Codes: 8658

Examining Body: AQA

What is the aim of this course?

This course aims to develop your ability to understand and use French effectively for practical communication and offers you an insight into the culture of French speaking countries and communities. You will be taught in a productive and supportive environment, which will enable you to form a sound base of the skills, language and attitude required for further study, work and leisure.

Why should I choose this course?

French is the language of our closest European neighbours. It is spoken in many other parts of the world including Canada and many countries in Africa. In opting to study French, you will be able to communicate more confidently and accurately with French speakers.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 – Listening: Understanding & responding to different types of the spoken language.

- Written exam: 35mins or 45mins
- 25% of qualification

Paper 2 – Speaking: Communicating & interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9mins (Foundation) + preparation time
- 10–12mins (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 25% of qualification

Paper 3 - Reading: Understanding & responding to different types of written language.

- Written exam: 45mins or 1hr
- 25% of qualification

Paper 4 - Writing: Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

- Written exam: 1hr or 1hr 15mins
- 25% of qualification

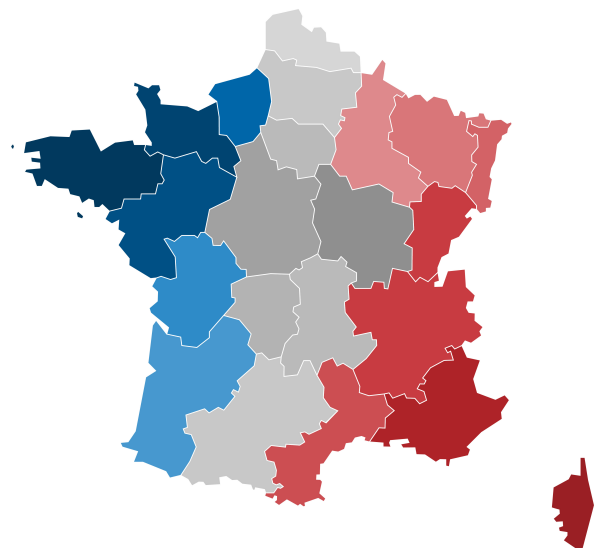
Possible career opportunities

The range of career possibilities using languages is broad, including:

- Teaching
- Interpreting
- Translating

In addition, over 90% of careers where languages are used are within non-linguistic professions such as:

- Marketing
- Sales
- Media
- Finance



Course Title: Geography

Course Code/Codes: 8035

Examining Body: AQA

What is the aim of this course?

This course will allow you to develop fantastic numeracy, literacy and geographical abilities. You will be able to use all kinds of data, statistics, maps, graphs, photos and news reports, and be able to analyse them effectively.

You will be able to write clearly using evidence to develop arguments, theories, and valid conclusions. Most importantly, you will understand the world you live in from an environmental, political, economic and social perspective.

The course has three main units. As part of the course, you will have field trip opportunities including residential visits, day trips, museums, and gallery visits that are appropriate to your course.

Why should I choose this course?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is exciting. You can 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 environment.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 35% of qualification

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 35% of qualification



Paper 3: Geographical applications

- Written exam: 1hr 15mins
- 30% of qualification

Is this course for me?

Do you... want to travel? Have an interest in the news, the environment, and the way people live in other countries? Interested in the way we can survive as a human race in the future? Want to plan the cities of the future or repair the cities of today? If you answered 'Yes' then the geography course is right for you.

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in geography. These include:

- Green technology development
- Tourism
- Outdoor education
- Politics
- Property development



Course Title: History

Course Code/Codes: 1HI0

Examining Body: Pearson Edexcel

What is the aim of this course?

The aim of the course is to allow you to understand how and why the world is as it is. You will learn about some of the most significant, unpredictable, and often bizarre events that have shaped everything about the present day. History is also about being able to decide what evidence we can trust; this course will help you identify people from the past who haven't told the truth and work out why.

Why should I choose this course?

The most obvious reason is because it is fascinating. However, beyond that, history is mostly about explaining why people decided to do certain things at certain times. Often these decisions can seem strange, by studying this course you will start to solve these mysteries. The other reason is that it's an incredibly useful subject to have studied; the knowledge and skills it gives you are highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers. If you have History GCSE, people will take you very seriously.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Thematic study & historic environment

- Focus: Medicine in Britain, c1250-present
- Written exam: 1hr 15mins
- 30% of qualification

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

- Focus: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588 & Superpower Relations: The Cold War 1945-1991
- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 40% of qualification

Paper 3: Modern depth study

- Focus: The USA, 1954-1975: conflict at home and abroad
- Written exam: 1hr 20mins
- 30% of qualification

Is this course for me?

Do you... like answering big questions, solving mysteries, explaining why things happen and giving your opinion about things, then history could well be a great choice for you.

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in history. These include:

- Law
- Politics
- Finance and Accountancy
- Business
- Teaching
- Advertising



Course Title: Spanish

Course Code/Codes: 8698

Examining Body: AQA

What is the aim of this course?

This course aims to develop your ability to understand and use Spanish effectively for practical communication and offers you an insight into the culture of Spanish speaking countries and communities. You will be taught in a productive and supportive environment, which will enable you to form a sound base of the skills, language and attitude required for further study, work and leisure.

Why should I choose this course?

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world. It is the mother tongue of Spain and all the Spanish territories in Europe, Africa and most South/ Central America. By opting to study Spanish, you will be able to communicate more confidently and accurately with Spanish speakers.



Is this course for me?

Do you... enjoy your Spanish lessons? Have sound knowledge of the language and wish to learn more about the culture? Want to have an advantage if you apply to university? If you answered 'Yes' then the Spanish course is right for you.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 – Listening: Understanding & responding to different types of the spoken language.

- Written exam: 35mins or 45mins
- 25% of qualification

Paper 2 – Speaking: Communicating & interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9mins (Foundation) + preparation time
- 10–12mins (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 25% of qualification

Paper 3 - Reading: Understanding & responding to different types of written language.

- Written exam: 45mins or 1hr
- 25% of qualification

Paper 4 - Writing: Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

- Written exam: 1hr or 1hr 15mins
- 25% of qualification

Possible career opportunities

The range of career possibilities using languages is broad, including:

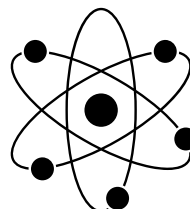
- Teaching
- Interpreting
- Translating

In addition, over 90% of careers where languages are used are within non-linguistic professions such as:

- Marketing
- Sales
- Media
- Finance

Course Title: Triple Science

Course Code/Codes: 1BI0, 1CH0, 1PH0
Examining Body: Pearson Edexcel (H)



What are the aims of this course?

The aim of this science course is to provide you with the knowledge and understanding of the various and interesting science topics you will experience in your everyday lives. Triple Science comprises three separate qualifications; Biology, Chemistry and Physics, taught in the time of two.

Triple Science is a practical-based course and we aim to teach the topic through a series of practical activities.

Why should I choose this course?

Through a wide range of activities, you will be able to recognise the impact that science and technology will have in the future as you make informed decisions about issues and employment opportunities that involve science.



How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 & 2: Biology

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins (Each)
- 50% of qualification (Each)

Paper 1 & 2: Chemistry

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins (Each)
- 50% of qualification (Each)

Paper 1 & 2: Physics

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins (Each)
- 50% of qualification (Each)

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in Science. These include:

- Healthcare
- Forensic science
- Lab technician
- Researcher
- Teaching
- Engineering
- Banking
- Law

Triple Science Selection Criteria

'If you have consistently shown outstanding achievement in science and have been recommended by your teacher, you will be invited to study Triple Science.

Those who do not meet these criteria will pursue the COMBINED SCIENCE course. More information on Com- bined Science can be found on page 8.

Course Title: Art, Craft & Design

Course Code/Codes: 1AD0

Examining Body: Pearson Edexcel (H)

What are the aims of this course?

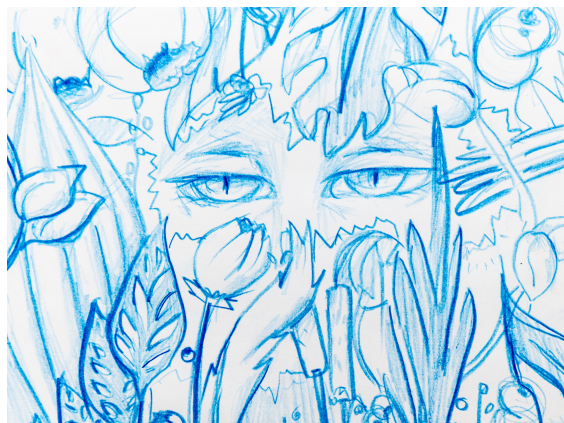
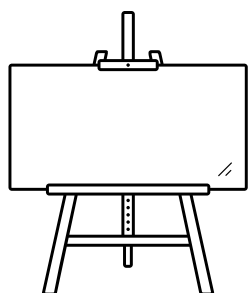
This course will equip you with the skills you will need to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts.

Art has immense value as a GCSE and this course will provide the opportunity for you to explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design first hand. You will have numerous opportunities to visit museums, galleries, art shows and fairs to experience audio-visual productions, including still and moving imagery.

You will have an individual approach to art, craft and design making, and will develop the skills needed to select your best and most appropriate work for presentation.

Why should I choose this course?

You should only choose to study art if you enjoy creating and being independent. By studying art you will develop transferable skills including applying a creative approach to problem solving and developing original ideas from initiation to realisation. You will critically analyse your own work and the work of others, expressing individual thoughts and choices confidently. You will not be afraid to take risks, experiment and learn from any mistakes.



Is this course for me?

Do you... enjoy art? Create your own work outside of school? Want to work independently? Wish to explore and respond to the world around you in new and exciting ways? If you answered 'Yes,' then the art, craft & design course is right for you.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Personal Portfolio

- Sketchbooks (vital) and research
- 60% of qualification

Component 2: Practical work

- Sustained focus period: 10hrs
- 40% of qualification

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in art, craft & design. These include:

- Architecture
- Animation
- Art conservation
- Photography
- Set/prop design
- Graphics designer
- Landscape designer
- Product designer

Course Title: Business

Course Code/Codes: 1BS0

Examining Body: Pearson Edexcel (H)

What are the aims of this course?

This course will develop your ability to explore the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? You will learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Then you'll move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? You will learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions you need to make when growing a business and working in a global business. You'll learn about meeting customer needs, marketing, operational tasks, finance, and human resourcing decisions, and you will explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows.

Why should I choose this course?

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied business prior to taking this course. You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you understand all this and more.

After this qualification you will understand the world of business and have developed skills in:

- Making decisions and developing persuasive arguments
- Creative and practical problem solving
- Understanding data, finance and communication

Is this course for me?

Do you... enjoy communicating and explaining your ideas? Think creatively? Enjoy working with numbers to solve business problems? Want to learn about the world of business through real local and international brands? If you answered 'Yes', then the business course is right for you.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 - Theme 1: Investigating small business

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 50% of qualification

Paper 2 - Theme 2: Building a business

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 50% of qualification

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in Business.

These include:

- Management
- Law
- Finance/Banking
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Retail



Course Title: Computer Science

Course Code/Codes: J277

Examining Body: OCR

What are the aims of this course?

During this course you will learn about theoretical aspects of computer systems. You will work with a range of software applications, planning tools and specialist programs to help you develop the understanding required to be successful on this course. You will focus on computational thinking, algorithms and programming as well as submitting a piece of controlled assessment for a programming project.

Why should I choose this course?

This course will provide you the opportunity to further develop a range of computational skills and fuel your passion for computer science. You will have the opportunity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. You will also develop an understanding of the impacts digital technology has on an individual and to the wider society.

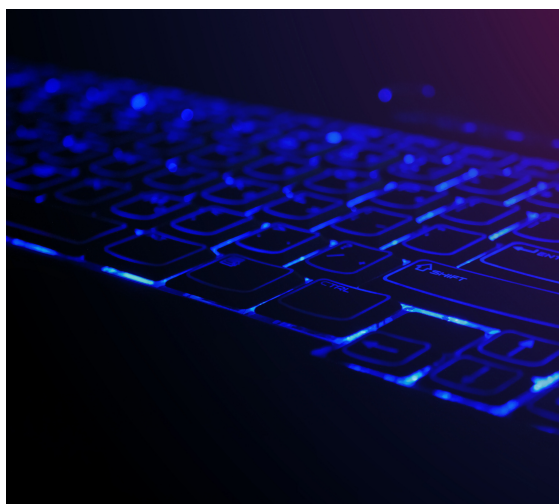
Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in computer science. These include:

- Web designer
- Network manager
- IT manager
- Computer programmer
- Games developer
- Systems analysts
- Specialist computing teacher

Is this course for me?

Do you... have practical skills? Portray a 'can-do' attitude? Enjoy being creative? Have the confidence to tackle and solve problems? Enjoy working in a team? Display initiative to source materials and determination and drive to become a keen computing pupil? If you answered 'Yes,' then the computer science course is right for you.



How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Computer systems

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 50% of qualification

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms & programming

- Written exam: 1hr 30mins
- 50% of qualification

Course Title: Design & Technology

Course Code/Codes: J310

Examining Body: OCR

What are the aims of this course?

This course will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on design and technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

This course will allow you to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Why should I choose this course?

Have you ever wondered how buildings are designed or the process behind the creation of your phone? Studying design & technology will help you to answer these questions through a practical approach to your learning. The main focus is experimenting with different materials, tools and processes to create a product which can be evaluated for commercial viability.



Is this course for me?

Do you... have practical skills? Have a risk taking attitude? Enjoy being creative? Have confidence when using machinery? Display good drawing/writing skills? Have a good understanding of measurement and an eye for design? If you answered 'Yes', then the resistant materials course is right for you.

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in resistant materials. These include:

- Product design
- Industrial design
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Graphics design
- Furniture design
- Interior design
- Games/App developer

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Principles of design and technology

- Written exam: 2hrs
- 50% of GCSE

Coursework: Iterative design challenge

- Approx 40hrs
- 50% of GCSE

Course Title: Drama

Course Code/Codes: 1DR0

Examining Body: OCR

What are the aims of this course?

This course aims to equip you with the knowledge and understanding needed to explore, make, perform, and respond in drama.

You will study engaging set texts and stimuli to perform, direct, design, analyse and explore. There is a practical approach to all aspects of the course; in this way, you will explore theatre from a variety of perspectives, as performers, directors, designers, and analysts.

You will perform to live audiences and experience through practice what it feels like to succeed through hard work, a shared goal and through careful planning and preparation.

Why should I choose this course?

Have you ever wanted to be a performer? A lighting, costume, set or sound designer? A director? Do you enjoy watching live theatre and want to know how moments are created from page to stage? Are you interested in people, how stories are told, having a voice, and are interested in theatre as a platform to share it? Through Drama you will regularly practice and develop skills in areas such as communication, presentation, teamwork, leadership, problem solving, initiative and the ability to work to a deadline. If any of this spark your interest, then drama would be a great course for you.



Is this course for me?

Do you... enjoy expressing yourself through practical work? Work well in a group by contributing your ideas? Enjoy working on projects and reaching a shared goal? Are you interested in learning about the world by exploring themes and ideas? Want to try putting yourself in other people's shoes to empathise and explore different experiences and perspectives? Enjoy playing many parts in different imaginary situations? Do you want to create your own drama work and enjoy looking at plays written by other people? Are you interested in going to watch live theatre on school trips? If you answered 'Yes' to any of these, then the drama course is right for you.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Devising

- Coursework: Performer or Design paths available.
- 40% of GCSE

Component 2: Performance from Text

- Coursework: Performer or Design paths available.
- 20% of qualification

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 40% of qualification

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in drama. These include:

- Actor/Actress
- Stage manager
- Lighting, sound, set, costume design etc.
- Arts administrator
- Dramatherapist
- Television production assistant
- Radio presenter
- Theatre director

Course Title: Economics

Course Code/Codes: 8136

Examining Body: AQA

What are the aims of this course?

Economics examines one of the fundamental issues facing our society today: the problem of how people and physical resources are developed and employed to produce the goods and services we need for survival, comfort and fulfilment. GCSE Economics aims to empower students to develop skills to make sense of why some countries are poor and others are rich. Students will gain an insight into the ways in which society operates, from the day-to-day decisions made by consumers, businesses and governments, to making ethical judgment on whether or not it is fair to tax the rich to feed the poor. This course aims to prepare you for further study in drama and theatre studies, as well preparing you to apply the skills learned to other aspects of your future life and careers.

Why should I choose this course?

Economics is one of the most popular subjects to study in the school as it challenges young students to practically think about the way in which the world function. Students who are currently on the course have particularly gained a better understanding about why the financial crises occurred in 2008, what the impacts were and how it can be prevented in the future. The course will provide opportunity for students to develop 'financial literacy' or understand how to manage finance effectively as well as developing their ability to become good problem solvers, independent thinkers and enquirers.



Is this course for me?

Do you... enjoy being innovative and solving problems? Have a desire to learn about current affairs? Regularly read or listen to the news? Enjoy debating? Have a good level in English and mathematics? If you answered 'Yes', then the economics course is right for you.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: How markets work

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 50% of qualification

Paper 2: How the economy works

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 50% of qualification

Possible career opportunities

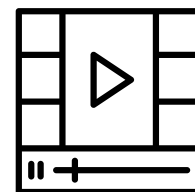
There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in economics. These include:

- Investment banking
- Law
- Politics
- Corporate/Business management
- Economist
- Financial analyst
- Media

Course Title: Media Studies

Course Code/Codes: J200

Examining Body: OCR



What are the aims of this course?

Media Studies plays an integral role in the decoding of dominant and elitist representations of class, race and gender in a period of tremendous shift in Global socio-economic narratives. Our intent is to inspire students to become an active part of the narrative, as individuals; by developing critical, analytical, deconstructive skills and theoretical knowledge in the key areas of; media industry, audience, representation and language. This intellectual and personal development combined with the integration of their existing media awareness can be of benefit to the school and the wider community.

Our curriculum content aims to reflect the diverse cultural and gender mix of the borough and one of our key objectives is to support students in the development of an informed, nuanced, articulate and confident voice through the exploration of key concepts such as feminism, gender, economic & cultural capital, with the inclusion of relevant historic and contemporary film, posters, books, podcasts, blogs and articles.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Television & Promoting Media

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins (inc. 30min viewing)
- 35% of qualification

Paper 2: Music & News

- Written Exam: 1hr 15mins
- 35% of qualification

Controlled Assessment: Creating Media

- 30% of qualification

Is this course for me?

Consider this, everything you love, enjoy or take part in, has in some way shape or form employed the 'media.' Following on from that, it is perfectly logical to conclude that you can pretty much get a job in anything you enjoy, like or have an interest in. Your favourite sports team has a media specialist dedicated to promotion and media coverage. Public opinion of your country of origin, culture or religion is in large part shaped and defined by the media. Already being saturated in so many aspects of the media affords you the amazing opportunity of being at the forefront of change.

Why should I choose this course?

If you are always consuming media products (films, television shows, newspapers, magazines, social media, Youtube, podcasts) and are fascinated with the processes in which these types of products are created then this course is perfect for you. You will get the unparalleled opportunity to learn how the world is manipulated, engage with things that are essential to your day-to-day living and express yourself creatively.

This is balanced with the theoretical aspect of the course that opens your eyes to how the world you live in is sliced up, packaged and beautified before being re-presented back to you.

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in creative media production.

These include:

- Photography/Video production
- Sound/Audio production
- Games design
- Animation
- Interface design
- Interactive product development
- Camera operator

Course Title: Music

Course Code/Codes: 3660QS

Examining Body: WJEC



What are the aims of this course?

We experience music in a wide range of ways in our everyday lives. Studying music teaches you to understand the hugely diverse and varied world of music that exists within and beyond your day to day experience. It also allows you to gain experience and expertise in an area that you have a particular creative interest in.

The course provides music students with skills and knowledge to become musicians, performing and composing music with your voice, instruments and technology. It also allows you to make choices about your specialist instrument and composing styles as you gain knowledge and refine your interests.

Why should I choose this course?

The course focus on contemporary approaches to music creation and the ways we listen to music, it also looks backwards into history and also outside of Western culture to ensure you have a broad range of knowledge and skill.

A key aim of the course is to ensure you develop excellent performance skills on an instrument of your choice or voice, or music technology. In addition to this you will learn to create original engaging and inspiring music in a range of different ways.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Performing Music

- One solo & One ensemble (4mins total)
- 30% of qualification

Component 2: Composing Music

- Two original composition pieces (3mins total)
- 30% of qualification

Component 3: Listening to Music

- Written Exam (1 hour 15 mins)
- 40% of qualification

Is this course for me?

Do you... already play an instrument or want to learn to play an instrument? Enjoy music technology? Listen to music and have an interest in learning about different music genres? Want to be creative and enjoy developing your own music or have a desire to work in the world of music? If you answered 'Yes', then the music course is right for you!

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in music. These include:

- Musician/Composer
- Record/Music production
- Recording engineer
- A & R co-ordinator
- Promotion manager
- Healthcare
- Game music designer
- Singer/Songwriter

Course Title: Physical Education

Course Code/Codes: 8582

Examining Body: AQA

What are the aims of this course?

During this course you will be expected to demonstrate a high degree of sporting skill and a serious commitment to the theoretical component of the course. You will examine health, fitness training and performance as well as study the anatomy and physiology of the body and sport.

You will also develop your practical ability in a range of different sports, analyse performance and find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles.

Why should I choose this course?

Physical education isn't just about sports. You will learn about health, well-being and the human body. Physical Education helps develop and maintain confidence, well-being and social skills. In addition, enterprise skills such as teamwork, risk taking, problem solving and creativity will be developed within a sporting context.

Is this course for me?

Do you have a keen interest in PE and Sport? Represent a sports team or participate regularly in sports outside of the Academy? Demonstrate good levels of sportsmanship and behaviour in your PE lessons? If you answered 'Yes', then the physical education course is right for you.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

- Written exam: 1hr 15mins
- 30% of qualification

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Written exam: 1hr 15mins
- 30% of qualification

Practical: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

- Assessed on three different physical activities
- 40% of qualification



Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in physical education. These include:

- Sports science
- Physiotherapist
- Professional sportsperson
- Sports coach/consultant
- Sports policy at local and national level
- Diet and fitness instructor
- Personal trainer

Course Title: Psychology

Course Code/Codes: 1PS0

Examining Body: Pearson Edexcel

What are the aims of this course?

During this course you will be introduced to the fundamentals of psychology whilst developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills.

You will learn how you developed as a child, how your memory works, how depression or addiction affects people, how your brain affects you and how others affect you. You will learn through conducting psychological research.

You will also be given the choice to study two further topics including; why do people become criminals? What makes you who you are? How do you interpret the world around you? Why do you need to sleep and dream? And how do you communicate with others?

Why should I choose this course?

Have you ever wondered what makes some people behave the way they do? Why you're scared of spiders? How different things can affect your mood and even your confidence?

Psychologists could hold the answers to your questions, and if they don't yet, you can be sure they are looking for them.

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour.

Psychologists observe and

conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact. They try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us, and use this understanding to help us tackle personal and social problems.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Topics 1-5

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 55% of qualification

Paper 2: Research methods, Sleep and Criminal psychology

- Written exam: 1hr 20mins
- 45% of qualification

Is this course for me?

Do you... have a interest in exploring human behaviour? Want to develop an understanding of yourself and others? Want to understand why some people suffer from stress or mental illness? If you answered 'Yes', then the psychology course is right for you.

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in psychology. These include:

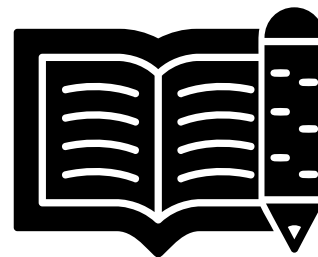
- Mental healthcare
- Business
- Psychologist
- Law
- Education
- Social Services & Social Studies



Course Title: Religious Studies B

Course Code/Codes: 1RB0/ZN

Examining Body: Pearson Edexcel



What are the aims of this course?

This course covers a wide range of topics and explores the relevance of religion to issues of morality, questions of meaning, lifestyle and choices, with reference to Christianity and Islam. It enables you to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion. An in-depth exploration of beliefs and practices will provide a platform for you to engage with critical thinking and participate in debate & discussion around ethical issues.

You will study two religions - Christianity and Islam. The study of each religion comprises of four sections: beliefs, practices and thematic topics such as peace & conflict, crime and punishment, marriage & family and matters of life after death.

Engaging with a range of ethical issues and philosophical questions, you will gain an insight into both religious and non-religious viewpoints. Central to this will be your ability to provide well-reasoned arguments of your own as well as developing tolerance and empathy for others, all required for a rapidly changing world.

This will be a great opportunity for you to learn in some depth about two of the world's largest religions, their beliefs and practices and the impact these can have on national and international events.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Christianity and Ethics

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 50% of qualification

Paper 2: Islam - Peace & Conflict

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 50% of qualification

Possible career opportunities

This course is useful for you if you wish to pursue a career that requires critical thinking, communication or debating skills in a multifaith society. These include:

- Medicine
- Business
- Law
- Politics
- Education

Course Title: Sociology

Course Code/Codes: 8192

Examining Body: AQA

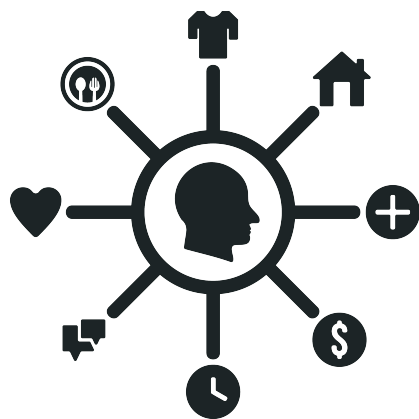
What are the aims of this course?

During this course you will gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, issues and processes through the study of families, education, crime, and deviance based upon a person's gender, ethnicity or wealth and social status.

You will develop your understanding, reasoning and communication skills by comparing views on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making supported judgements and drawing conclusions.

Why should I choose this course?

Mankind is often baffling in its behaviour, sociology's prime benefit is gaining a greater understanding of the confusing yet charmingly simple nature of mankind, and the societies in which we organise ourselves. By studying societal behaviour we can make comparisons, attempt to solve issues and gain a rational understanding of some of society's more frustrating habits.



How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 50% of qualification

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- 50% of qualification

Is this course for me?

Do you... have a deep curiosity about the world? Have an interest in diversity and can work well with others? Want to develop your critical thinking skills and gain skills that will help you in every aspect of your life? Want to make sense of the world? If you answered 'Yes', then the sociology course is right for you.

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in sociology.

These include:

- Healthcare
- Family planning
- Counselling
- Community/Social work
- Law
- International aid

Course Title: BTEC Award in Sport

Course Code/Codes: 603/7068/3

Examining Body: Pearson

What are the aims of this course?

The Tech Award in Sport gives students the opportunity to develop and apply knowledge and skills through a vocational context within the sport sector.

Throughout the course, students will explore the different types of providers in sport and will develop an understanding of how technology and equipment aid performance. They will examine why different types of people choose to participate in sport and they will use this information to plan how to increase participation in others, using realistic real life scenarios. Students will also explore the topic of anatomy and physiology and will participate in practical lessons to develop their planning, communication and leadership skills.

Why should I choose this course?

Pupils should choose this course if they have a passion for sport and are interested in developing their leadership and coaching skills. This course would be beneficial for any student who is interested in a career in the sport industry, and it provides real world applications for the knowledge and skills required to be successful in

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in sociology. These include:

- Coaching
- Teaching
- Sport Science
- Physiotherapy
- Personal trainer
- Product designer
- Sports therapist eg masseuse
- Officiating

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity

Assessment method: Coursework (internally assessed)

- Types and providers in sport
- Types and needs of participants
- Barriers to participation
- How equipment, clothing and technology aids participation and performance
- Leading a session – warm up

Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance

Assessment method: Coursework (internally assessed)

- Components of fitness
- Techniques and strategies used in sport
- Officials in sport
- Rule and regulations of sport
- Plan and lead a coaching session

Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity

Assessment method: Exam

- Components of fitness
- Principles of training
- Training thresholds
- Fitness testing
- Methods of training
- Provisions in sport
- Long term effects of fitness
- Designing a fitness programme



Course Title: Digital Information Technology

Course Code/Codes: 603/7050/6

Examining Body: Edexcel

What are the aims of this course?

The Tech Award in Digital IT gives students the opportunity to develop and apply knowledge and skills through a vocational context within the digital sector.

Throughout this course, students will study of a range of topics and using realistic vocational contexts, students will have the opportunity to explore, develop and apply highly sought-after key skills such as data management and data protection, project planning, and the design of user interfaces and dashboards to present and interpret data. They will learn about the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, codes of conduct, and legal and ethical issues. In addition, students will gain an understanding of relevant employability skills and personal attributes, such as self-management and communication skills and the ability and willingness to evaluate and critically analyse their own performance.

This course covers topics and themes that are very relevant to today's digital landscape, it is a perfect stepping-stone into a BTEC National in IT & Computing Level 3 or A Level.

Why should I choose this course?

Pupils should choose this course if they love to use technology, exploring the use of technology to design and develop digital solutions from UX and interface to data management and IT systems. This course takes an engaging, creative, practical and inspiring approach to learning Digital IT which plays an important part in many areas of our everyday lives and is also an important part of the UK economy.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques · Coursework unit (internally assessed): Totalling 36 guided hours of learning

- 30% of qualification

- 60 marks available

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data · Coursework unit (internally assessed): Totalling 36 guided hours of learning

- 30% of qualification

- 60 marks available

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices · Written exam (externally assessed): 1hr 30mins

- 40% of qualification

- 60 marks available

Is this course for me?

Do you... have practical and technical skills, creativity and confidence in creating digital solutions? Can show your own initiative when sourcing materials and assets? If you answered "Yes", then the Digital IT course is right for you.

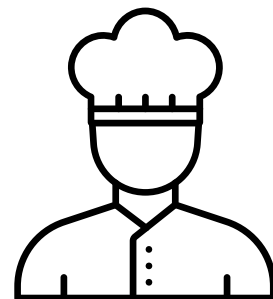
Possible career opportunities

- Systems analyst
- Network Management
- Cyber Security
- Graphic designer
- Social Media Officer
- Web designer
- Games / App Developer
- Multimedia specialist
- UX analyst/designer
- VFX artist
- Specialist IT and Computer Science Teacher

Course Title: Hospitality and Catering

Course Code/Codes: 5409QA

Examining Body: WJEC



What are the aims of this course?

The WJEC Hospitality and Catering course gives you a great introduction to the world of food, cooking, and the hospitality industry. You'll learn practical cooking skills, how to plan menus, and explore what it takes to run a successful hospitality business. The course also covers important topics like food safety, healthy eating, and customer service, helping you understand what's involved in careers like catering, event planning, or working in hotels and restaurants. It's a hands-on course with plenty of opportunities to get creative while preparing you for further study or jobs in this exciting industry.

Why should I choose this course?

The Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Unit 1 enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety. Unit 2 enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.

How will I be assessed?

- Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry
Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes
40% of qualification
80 marks
Questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.
- Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action
Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours
60% of qualification
120 marks
An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available via the WJEC Secure Website.

Is this course for me?

This course is perfect for you if you enjoy working with food, being creative, and learning practical skills. It's ideal for students who like hands-on activities, are interested in how the hospitality industry works, and want to explore careers in catering, cooking, or event planning. If you're passionate about food, enjoy teamwork, and want to learn skills that are useful both in and out of school, this could be the right choice for you. It's also a great option if you're curious about running a business or working in customer-focused roles.

Possible career opportunities

The WJEC Hospitality and Catering qualification can lead to a range of careers, including roles such as chef, baker, catering manager, event planner, hotel manager, restaurant manager, food technologist, food stylist, barista, bartender, or positions in tourism and hospitality. It also provides a strong foundation for further study or apprenticeships in the industry.

Course Title: Health & Social Care

Course Code/Codes: 603/7047/6

Examining Body: Pearson Edexcel

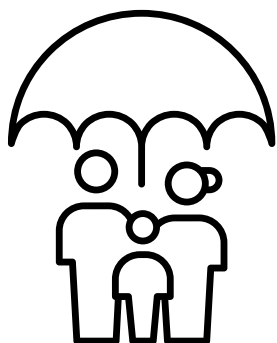
What are the aims of this course?

The course is made up of three components. Through these individual components, you will gain knowledge about human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing. You will also consider attitudes and values that are vitally important in the health sector and get the opportunity to practise applying them through role-play and real-life case-studies.

Why should I choose this course?

Health and Social Care is all about helping people. During this 2020 pandemic, we have seen how important it is to help vulnerable people in the community and provide them with support. Health and Social Care workers can improve peoples' way of life. Health and social care is so varied; people need physical, mental, and nutritional support to stay healthy and well. Health care and social care professionals say it is an incredibly rewarding life.

Health and Social Care is an exciting course, which takes commitment and dedication where you learn how to care for others.



How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

- Non-exam: Internal assessment set by Pearson
- Assignments totalling 36hrs
- 30% of qualification

Component 2: Health and Social Care Values

- Non-exam: Internal assessment set by Pearson
- Assignments totalling 36hrs
- 30% of qualification

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

- External assessment set by Pearson
- Written exam: 2hr
- 40% of qualification

Is this course for me?

Do you... reflect on your own health and well-being? Do you want to learn how to interact with different people in a positive and non-judgemental way? If you answered 'Yes', then the health and social care course is right for you.

Possible career opportunities

There are a range of career choices open to you should you decide to continue your education in health & social care. These include:

- Paramedic
- Nursing
- Health care practice
- Diet and nutrition
- Occupational therap
- Psychology
- Mental health care
- Childcare
- Social work



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