

# Hartshill Academy

## Year 9 Curriculum Pathways



**Hartshill Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

HART Group: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Introduction from the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Welcome to Year 9 Pathways!

This is where we start the process of looking at the changes that take place when pupils finish Year 9 and start on their Year 10 pathway. The most significant change is that pupils will be studying fewer subjects in September, and they will be able to choose some of them. This booklet gives you all the information you need to make those choices.

Choosing the right courses for each pupil is very important. Outlined in this booklet is a full range of courses, which we believe provides for the needs of all our pupils. This will offer all of them progression routes into further and higher academic or vocational education.

We talk to pupils about our HART value of ambition and making the right decisions for their future. To make informed choices they need to look at all of the options available to them before they decide what is right for them. It is, therefore, very important for pupils to read the enclosed information thoroughly, to discuss preferences with their parents and to seek advice from their teachers and HART Coach.

This process of reading, reflection and discussion is very important, as we offer a wide range of subjects, including some that were not studied in the curriculum so far. It is therefore essential to take time to understand what each course offers, what combinations are possible, and what is most suitable for each pupil as an individual. In some instances, your HART Coach or other teachers will have specific advice and guidance to offer on what would be most suitable, and pupils should take this into account when completing the preferences form.

It is important to note, however, that at this stage, you are opting for a preference for your choices. We will make every effort to meet these choices. On rare occasions, some options may not recruit a viable group. We will contact you as soon as possible to discuss alternative choices.

Our Pathways Evening on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 5:30 - 7pm at Hartshill Academy** is an opportunity to hear about the Pathways process in some detail and to speak to staff about courses. Our Careers Advisors, will also be there if you wish to speak to them about post 16 options or careers in general.

Any queries regarding options can be emailed to:

[Suzi.Shepherd@Hartshillacademy.org.uk](mailto:Suzi.Shepherd@Hartshillacademy.org.uk)

I look forward to welcoming you to Hartshill Academy for Pathways Evening

Miss Lorraine Taylor  
Principal



Lorraine Taylor, Principal

### Key Dates

- **Progress Evening**
  - **8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024**
  
- **Pathways Evening**
  - **22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024**
  
- **Pathways Deadline**
  - **29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024**

Year 9 Pathway Choices Form  
2024-2026



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## KS4 Pathways

We understand that making a decision about which subjects to specialise in during Year 10 and Year 11 can be difficult.

So when making decisions about the right specialist subject pathways for you, there are some key questions to ask:

### Which subjects do you enjoy?

Read the pages in this booklet carefully to get an idea about the topics you will be studying. Then talk to your teacher if you still aren't sure.

### How do your subject pathways balance each other?

If you choose to specialise in too many similar subjects, it doesn't give you as many options post 16. Usually, choosing a balanced mix of subjects is the best way. We help out with some of this by having core subjects, which everyone does, and then specialist subject pathways where we try to give you a good range of choices in each pathway.

### What kind of careers do these subjects lead to?

Again, remember that there are different routes to the same destination, but some subject specialisms are often linked to particular careers.

## Qualifications Explained

### GCSE or BTEC

- GCSEs make up most of the subjects we offer. They are two year qualifications which are almost all assessed by a final examination in year 11, which means that you study different units for two years and then take your exams in the summer term of Year 11. GCSE stands for 'General Certificate in Secondary Education' and they aim to give you a good general understanding and skill base in each subject.

- BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications. They are linked to specific sectors, or areas, of employment – e.g. business, engineering or ICT. BTECs are studied over two years, but unlike GCSEs, you will gain marks towards the final BTEC all the way through, based on assignments you will complete. BTECs do also contain externally marked exams which can only be sat at particular time of the year, just like GCSEs.

### Core Subjects

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined or Triple Science
- GCSE Statistics

### All pupils will also take 2 non exam subjects

- Physical Education
- HART

# HART

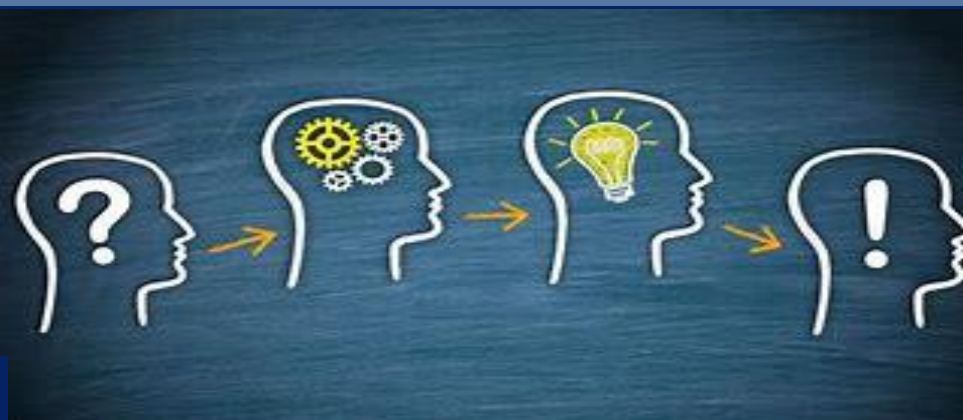
## No Exam

During HART time pupils will be involved in a variety of group and individual topics. This includes Character development; PSHE curriculum. Votes for schools and skills builder qualifications.

These are non assessment morning sessions where pupils learn invaluable skills that will support their self development.

**Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance** All pupils in year 11 receive a 1:1 Careers Interview with our Careers Advisor, which results in an individualised action plan for every pupil.

1. Past, present and future employment
2. Employment opportunities in my local area use of Labour market Information (LMI)
3. Qualities and skills for work
4. Making applications for Post 16 choices
5. Building your Curriculum vitae



### What does the course offer me?

All pupils will receive lessons covering a wide range of topics, all of which help to provide information and knowledge which will be useful for adult life. Every opportunity is taken for pupils to be reflective about their own beliefs and others', develop a moral purpose, use and develop a range of social skills and understand and respect a full range of cultural influences.

### What does the course involve?

You study a variety of topics in Year 10 and then focus on Religious Education in Year 11.

### Health and Wellbeing

In this topic pupils will deepen their knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy, both emotionally and physically, including through exercising and healthy eating and personal development.

1. Stress, anxiety and depression; strategies for promoting own wellbeing
2. Body image – cosmetic and aesthetic procedures
3. Cancer – self examination
4. Habit, dependence and addiction
5. Wider risks of legal and illegal substance use
6. Risks – phone use

### Relationships

1. Contraception
2. Sexually transmitted diseases (STI) links to fertility
3. Teenage pregnancy
4. Reasons for abortion, adoption and fostering
5. Legal positions on abortion
6. Consent

### Citizenship

1. How does the law apply to me?
2. The justice system in the UK
3. Types of punishment and Purpose



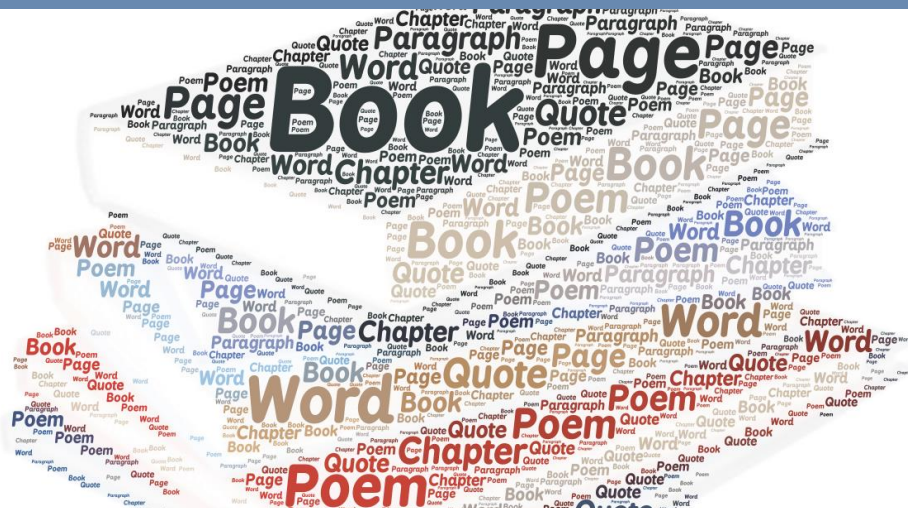
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# GCSE

## 100% External Examination

**Paper Two:** Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of GCSE). The aim of this paper is to develop pupils' insights and responses into the viewpoints, attitudes, perspectives and ideas about important issues, themes and ideas that are important to the way we live our lives. In Section A, pupils have to read, respond to and compare two unseen non-fiction texts. In Section B, they are asked to produce their own nonfiction text, developing their own point of view.



This course encourages pupils of all abilities to develop key communication skills, with a key focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening. Further, it enables and equips them with the skills needed to respond to and experience a robust breadth and range of texts from across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Throughout this course, pupils are encouraged to become analytical, critical and independent thinkers and communicators who can read and write fluently.

- Reading and comprehension
- Reading critically and analytically
- Exploration and evaluation of writers' use choice of form, structure, language and grammatical features
- Comparison from texts across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries
- The production of a range of texts, written for a range of audiences, contexts and purposes
- Presentation of information and ideas
- Delivery of an individual speech; engagement in group discussion

English Language is a core subject and is at the heart of the education of all pupils. Upon the completion of GCSE, pupils may then go on to study the subject at A Level and beyond. A-Level options include: English Language, English Literature and combined English Language and Literature courses. A qualification in English can be used to support any future career path: it is also vital in enhancing basic life and communication skills.

Web content manager  
Writer  
Academic librarian  
Advertising copywriter  
Arts administrator  
Learning mentor  
Teacher

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# English Literature

**GCSE**

## Assessment

### AQA GCSE (9-1) English Literature (8702)

100% External Examination

This GCSE English Literature course is a two year, linear course  
Pupils will sit two external exams in Year 11 on:

- Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel
- Modern Texts, Pre-prepared and Unseen Poetry

#### Paper 1:

Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel

40% of the total GCSE

1 hour 45 minute external exam

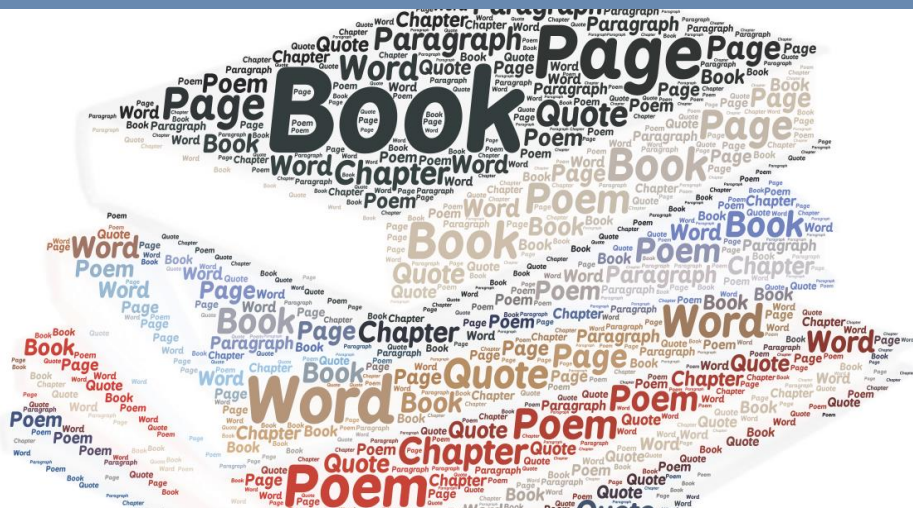
#### Paper 2:

Modern Text and Pre-prepared and Unseen Poetry

60% of the total GCSE

2 hours 15 minute external exam

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.



## What does the course offer me?

This course encourages pupils to engage with and respond to a range of literary texts from across time. As well as supporting the development of key communication skills, the Literature course pushes pupils to develop and formulate their own opinions about texts. It also equips them to become insightful, analytical and independent learners.

In preparation for the course and the exams to follow, pupils will study a Shakespeare text, a modern text (prose or drama), a nineteenth century novel and a selection of poetry from across time (including a theme-based cluster from the AQA poetry anthology).

As with Language, throughout this course, pupils are encouraged to become analytical, critical and independent thinkers and communicators who can read and write fluently.

## What does the course involve?

Reading and responding to a range of classic literature from across time including;

Macbeth, A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology (AQA)

- Reading in depth and exploring meaning
- Critical, exploratory and analytical study of texts
- Writing accurately, effectively and analytically

## Career Links:

English Literature is a core subject of the National Curriculum and is at the heart of the education of all pupils, despite their ability. Upon the completion of GCSE, pupils may then go on to study the subject at A Level and beyond. A-Level options include: English Language, English Literature and combined English Language and Literature courses

Digital copywriter  
Editorial assistant  
Lexicographer  
Magazine journalist

Web content manager  
Writer  
Academic librarian  
Advertising copywriter

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# Mathematics

## GCSE

### Assessment

#### Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics (1MA1)

100% External Examination

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher (content is defined for each tier). The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

- Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 80 marks.

The content outlined for each tier will be assessed across all three papers.

A calculator is required for this course.

We recommend the Casio FX-83GT



### What does the course offer me?

The aims and objectives of Mathematics is to enable pupils to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

### What does the course involve?

The course covers six main areas of maths:

1. Number
  - a. Structure and calculation
  - b. Fractions, decimals and percentages
  - c. Measures and accuracy
2. Algebra
  - a. Notation, vocabulary and manipulation
  - b. Graphs
  - c. Solving equations and inequalities
  - d. Sequences
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
  - a. Properties and constructions
  - b. Mensuration and Calculation
  - c. Vectors
5. Probability
6. Statistics

### Career Links:

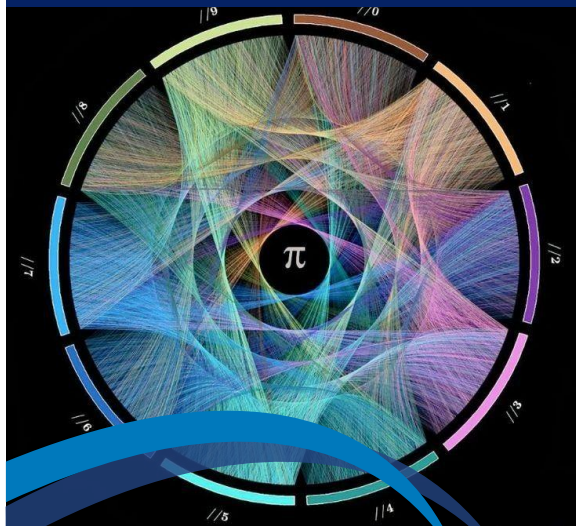
As well as being a vital life skill the combination of a skills shortage and a growing need for maths skills means more and more employers are on the looking for people with who can demonstrate strong maths skills

Accounting  
Medicine  
Engineering  
Games development  
Scientific research

Forensic pathology  
Finance  
Business  
Civil Service  
Design

Consultancy  
Teaching  
IT / Programming  
Construction  
Astrophysics

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# Combined Science

**GCSE**

## Assessment

**AQA GCSE (9-1) in Combined Science: Trilogy**

**(8464F ,8464H)**

100% External Examination

## Combined Science

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher.

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics.

Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

- Foundation: Each paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes long
- Higher: Each paper is 1 hour and 45 min.
- Each paper has 70 marks.



## What does the course offer me?

Science is a set of ideas about the material world. This course includes investigating, observing, experimenting, testing out ideas and thinking about them. The way scientific ideas develop through the course will support you in building a deep understanding of science. This will involve talking about, reading and writing about science plus the actual doing. This specification encourages the development of knowledge and understanding in science through opportunities for working scientifically.

## What does the course involve?

### Biology Paper 1 topics:

Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

### Biology Paper 2 topics:

Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

### Chemistry Paper 1 topics:

Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes

### Chemistry Paper 2 topics:

The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

### Physics Paper 1 topics:

Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

### Physics Paper 2 topics:

Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism.

## Career Links:

As well as being a vital life skill the combination of a skills shortage and a growing need for Science skills means more and more employers are on the looking for people with who can demonstrate strong maths skills.

Accounting and Finance  
Aerospace Engineering  
Biotechnologist  
Marine Biologist

Nanotechnologist  
Astronomer  
Pharmacologist  
Research Scientist

Chemical Engineer  
Clinical Scientist  
Forensic Scientist  
Geophysicist

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# Triple Science

## GCSE

### Assessment

AQA GCSE (9-1) in  
Biology/Chemistry/Physics

(8461)/ (8462)/(8463)

100% External Examination

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher. There are two papers for each GCSE qualification: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

- Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long.
- Each paper has 100 marks.



### What does the course offer me?

Science is a set of ideas about the material world. This course includes investigating, observing, experimenting, testing out ideas and thinking about them. The way scientific ideas develop through the course will support you in building a deep understanding of science. This will involve talking about, reading and writing about science plus the actual doing, as well as representing science in its many forms both mathematically and visually through models. This specification encourages the development of knowledge and understanding in science through opportunities for working scientifically.

### What does the course involve?

#### GCSE Biology

Biology Paper 1 topics: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology Paper 2 topics: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

#### GCSE Chemistry

Chemistry Paper 1 topics: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes

Chemistry Paper 2 topics: Chemistry topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

#### GCSE Physics

Physics Paper 1 topics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Physics Paper 2 topics: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism and Space Physics.

### Career Links:

Accounting and Finance  
Aerospace Engineering  
Biotechnologist  
Marine Biologist  
Microbiologist

Nanotechnologist  
Astronomer  
Pharmacologist  
Research Scientist  
Analytical Chemist

Chemical Engineer  
Clinical Scientist  
Forensic Scientist  
Geophysicist  
Toxicologist

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# Statistics

## GCSE Core Subject

### Assessment

100% External Examination

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher (content is defined for each tier). The qualification consists of two equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 80 marks.
- Both are calculator papers

The content outlined for each tier will be assessed across all three papers.



### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

Statistics ensures that students develop the confidence and competence with statistical techniques to enable them to apply those techniques flexibly to solve statistical problems through a practical programme of study

The content is covered in GCSE Mathematics lessons, there are no additional lessons in GCSE statistics

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

1. The Collection of Data
  - a. Planning
  - b. Types of Data
  - c. Populations and sampling
  - d. Collecting Data
2. Processing, Representing and analysing data
  - a. Tabulation, diagrams and representations
  - b. Measures of central tendency
  - c. Measures of dispersion
  - d. Summary statistics
  - e. Scatter diagrams and correlation
  - f. Time Series
3. Probability

### Career Links:

As well as being a vital life skill the combination of a skills shortage and a growing need for maths skills means more and more employers are on the looking for people with who can demonstrate strong maths skills

Accounting  
Medicine  
Engineering  
Games development  
Scientific research

Forensic pathology  
Finance  
Business  
Civil Service  
Design

Consultancy  
Teaching  
IT / Programming  
Construction  
Astrophysics

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# Core PE

## No Exam

### Assessment

There is no assessment in Core PE



### What does the course offer me?

In Core PE pupils have the opportunity to take part in sport in a non-examination based scenario. It offers pupils the chance to participate in a wide variety of sports and gain an appreciation and understanding of the multitude of sports available to them both in school and the local community. These include football, netball, basketball, dance, badminton, fitness and many more. Core PE provides pupils with a chance to relax and contributes significantly to their health and wellbeing. Pupils will be able to maintain or improve their fitness as a result of taking part in frequent exercise, as well as benefit from the stress relief effects of taking part in physical activity.

### What does the course involve?

The Core PE lessons will involve playing different sports. The frequency of the rotations will vary depending on the time of year and facilities available to the PE department. Pupils will be able to choose from a number of sports the PE staff timetabled for the lesson offer to them. It is essential for Core PE lessons that Pupils are in their full PE kit as well as suitable footwear to ensure they are safe throughout the entire lesson. Pupils are still expected to wear their kit even if not taking part as they may be required to help officiate or move equipment, and for this they need to be suitably attired.



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## EBacc

### What is the EBacc?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people

### EBacc future proofs your child's prospects

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc is:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography or History
- French

## GCSE Grading

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

### Subject hours per week

- English (Literature and Language)  
5 Hours
- Mathematics including Statistics  
4 hours
- Combined Science  
5 Hours
- Triple Science  
6 Hours
- Core PE with Combined Science  
2 Hours
- Core PE with Triple Science  
1 Hour
- All Option Subjects  
3 hours





## KS4 Option Curriculum

As Year 9 pupils you have all been following a broad curriculum, consisting of a wide range of subjects. In Years 10 and 11 you will be following a reduced number of courses, most leading to GCSE examinations. We are now asking you to start thinking about which subjects you would like to continue, and which you think you should discontinue.

Your decision will influence not only your school career, but also possibly your adult career. You may think you know exactly what you want to do for your career, but you are likely to change your mind a number of times before you leave school. You should try not to make choices which would prevent you from taking up a possible career or Higher Education course later on.

### THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS:

#### What type of course will suit me best?

As well as choosing what subjects you want to take, you'll need to think about the way you prefer to study and learn.

#### Do you enjoy learning through hands-on, practical tasks?

Vocational (job-related) courses offer you a chance to learn work-related skills through practical learning, projects and real workplace experience.

#### Do you prefer more traditional coursework and exams?

GCSEs cover general education subjects such as English, maths, science and history. Some subjects will combine coursework with exams while others will just have exams.

#### Would you like to combine both ways of learning?

Some courses combine classroom and hands-on learning. You may also be able to take vocational and traditional courses together.

#### Making the right choice for you.

The very worst reason for choosing a particular subject is because your friend or your group is going to do it. You are bound to talk about it among your friends, but your friends are not very well placed to guide you in what you should do with your life. Find out all you can, discuss as much as you can with different people, but in the end make up your own mind. Similarly, try not to be influenced by which teachers you like best (or least); they may never teach you again and, after all, it's the subject you're choosing, not the teacher. Good luck and please do come and talk to us if you have any questions, even after you have made your choices!

### Subjects

- Art ( Art Craft and Design)
- Art (3D)
- Art (Photography)
- Digital Information Technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Hospitality and Catering
- French
- Music
- Performing Arts (Acting)
- Performing Arts (Dance)
- Physical Education
- Sports Studies
- Religious Education

# Art

## Art, Craft & Design

### GCSE

#### Assessment

#### Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9 - 1) in Art and Design, Art, Craft and Design

60% Coursework. This will be done during lesson time and you will be given clear guidance on what to do.

40% Examination. The examination will involve a longer piece of work which you will spend time working on in school. The theme of this is set by the examination board.

Your work is continually assessed throughout the course using 4 assessment objects. These are the same for both the Portfolio and the Set task.

Your teacher will formally assess all of your work including your exam to generate your final mark. This is then externally verified.

The exam is a 10 hour practical based around a given theme



#### What does the course offer me?

The course develops the skills, techniques, materials, processes and concepts that are essential to all areas of study in Art, Craft & Design including painting, printing, textiles and sculpture. This course utilises a wide range of materials, media and techniques which allows us to experiment in a range of different specialisms.

Pupils develop practical skills that they know employers will value and which will help them get a job in the future.

#### What does the course involve?

The course is a practical one and the marking criteria is split 60% portfolio (coursework). This will allow you to demonstrate a wide variety of artistic skills in a variety of contexts. Guided by your teacher you will put together a showcase of your best work. 40% Set Task (Exam). This set task from the exam will be given you by your teacher and you spend time completing the work for this during the school day. You are required to produce a wide range of coursework throughout the 2 years. You will be required to research and develop work in your own time.

#### Career Links:

These courses would lead onto a diverse range of degree courses or apprenticeships.

- A Level in Fine Art
- BTEC Level 3 Art and Design
- Foundation Studies in Art and Design.

Leading on to careers in:

- Art Therapist
- Web designer
- Graphic designer
- Make Up Artist
- Fashion Designer
- CAD Technician
- Illustrator
- Building Surveyor
- Architect
- Pattern Cutter



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# Art 3D

## GCSE

### Assessment

#### Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9 - 1) in Art and Design, Art, Craft and Design

60% Coursework. This will be done during lesson time and you will be given clear guidance on what to do.

40% Examination. The examination will involve a longer piece of work which you will spend time working on in school. The theme of this is set by the examination board.

Your work is continually assessed throughout the course using 4 assessment objects. These are the same for both the Portfolio and the Set task.

Your teacher will formally assess all of your work including your exam to generate your final mark. This is then externally verified.

The exam is a 10 hour practical based around a given theme



### What does the course offer me?

The coursework begins with a series of workshops introducing and developing students' skills within different materials and medias including model making, constructing, surface treatment, assembling, modelling, exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

Students will be encouraged to experiment with varied drawing materials, clay, wood, metal, plaster, plastic and found materials.

Pupils develop practical skills that they know employers will value and which will help them get a job in the future.

### What does the course involve?

The course is a practical one and the marking criteria is split 60% portfolio (coursework). This will allow you to demonstrate a wide variety of artistic skills in a variety of contexts. Guided by your teacher you will put together a showcase of your best work. 40% Set Task (Exam). This set task from the exam will be given you by your teacher and you spend time completing the work for this during the school day. You are required to produce a wide range of coursework throughout the 2 years. You will be required to research and develop work in your own time.

### Career Links:

These courses would lead onto a diverse range of degree courses or apprenticeships.

- A Level in Fine Art /3D Art
- BTEC Level 3 Art and Design
- Foundation Studies in Art and Design.

Leading on to careers in:

- Art Therapist
- Web designer
- Graphic designer
- Make Up Artist
- Fashion Designer
- Architect

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# Art Photography

## GCSE

### Assessment

#### Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9 - 1) in Photography

60% Coursework. This will be done during lesson time and you will be given clear guidance on what to do.

40% Examination. The examination will involve a longer piece of work which you will spend time working on in school. The theme of this is set by the examination board.

Marks are awarded through four objectives in each component.

AO1 – Develop ideas through investigations demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2 – Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3 – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful



### What does the course offer me?

The GCSE Art and Design Photography course presents an exciting opportunity for pupils to focus on identifying and developing individuality in their chosen art discipline. It enables each pupil to explore and convey their own thoughts and ideas in creative diverse ways through the discipline of photographic techniques and manipulations. The course enables an opportunity for pupils to reflect on and refine skills as young photographers.

### What does the course involve?

Pupils gain understanding on how to use a camera and what makes a successful photograph. Pupils refine their photography skills throughout the course, combining and experimenting with digital and traditional manipulation techniques. They explore the work of artists throughout history discovering ways to convey ideas and use materials, media and techniques. The pupils are encouraged to explore issues of a political, social or personal nature, such as the refugee crisis, racism, modern day slavery and mental health awareness.

### Career Links:

These courses would lead onto a diverse range of degree courses or apprenticeships.

- A Level in Photography
- BTEC Level 3 Art and Design
- Foundation Studies in Art and Design.

Leading on to careers in:

- Drone pilot
- Photographer
- TV or Film Camera Operator
- Photographic Stylist
- Medical Illustrator
- Set Designer



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# Digital Information Technology

## BTEC Tech Option

### Assessment

#### Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Two-thirds of the course will be assessed through internal assessment.

This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice

Practical components focus on:

- the development of core knowledge and understanding of different methods of storing and processing data into useful information
- the application of subject knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings
- the development and application of skills to project-based tasks in order to produce required solutions for users with specific needs
- reflective practice through the development of skills and techniques that allow learners to respond to feedback on their and to identify areas for improvement
- Learners will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.
- The examination content, worth a third of the final grade focuses on:
  - exploring the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society
  - investigating how information technology is used



#### What does the course offer me?

This course is designed to provide a basic overview of current business and information systems and trends, and to introduce pupils to fundamental skills required for today's business and academic environments. Emphasis is placed on developing proficient fundamental computer skills. ICT includes the exploration and use of: databases, the internet, spreadsheets, image manipulation, automatic documentation, and the integration of these programs using software that meets industry standards. Other areas of business including personal branding and the use media will be covered

#### What does the course involve?

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces and dashboards as a way to present and interpret data.
- Process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

#### Career Links:

- Information Scientist
- IT Security Coordinator
- Digital Marketer
- Web Content Editor
- Web Designer

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# Food Preparation & Nutrition

## GCSE

### Assessment

#### AQA GCSE (9-1) in Food Preparation and Nutrition (8585)

50% Written examination

50% Non-exam assessment (NEA) tasks

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes.  
(100 marks)

NEA 1 (30 marks) this is a practical investigation involving looking at the functional and chemical properties of ingredients in recipes.

NEA 2 (70 marks) this is a food preparation task which involves cooking 3 dishes and will show your planning, preparation, cooking skills and presentation of food.

Both NEA tasks are set each year by AQA.



### What does the course offer me?

Food Preparation and Nutrition equips pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. This course will teach you 12 key food preparation skills, examples of these include cooking methods, sauce making, use of equipment and knife skills.

### What does the course involve?

#### Food, nutrition and health

In this unit you will learn about the nutrients your body needs to maintain good health. You will look at macronutrients and micronutrients, which includes finding out about all the different vitamins we need and why we need them

#### Food science

Find out why we cook food and the different ways we can cook it. You will learn about the changes that happen to food and the nutrients in it during the cooking process. You will also understand how different chemical raising agents help baked recipes such as cakes rise during cooking.

#### Food safety

Keeping food safe helps to prevent spoilage and contamination. In this unit you will learn about the causes of food spoilage which include yeasts, moulds and bacteria.

#### Food choice

Why do we eat the foods we eat and what influences our choice of foods? In this topic you will find the answer to this question. You will also look at British and International cuisine and in your practical work cook a range of recipes.

#### Food provenance

Knowing where your food comes from is important and in this unit you will learn about different methods of food production such as organic or free range. You will also find out how food production is influenced by technological developments and can have benefits to our health.

### Career Links:

Food product development  
Food scientist.  
Nutritional therapist.  
Food labelling specialist.  
Food safety

Food writer  
Professional chef  
Corporate hospitality  
Health care assistant  
Dietician



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# Geography

## GCSE

### Assessment

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in  
Geography B (1GB0)

#### Paper 1

Global geographical issues 37.5% 1 hour  
30 mins

#### Paper 2

UK geographical issues 37.5% 1 hour 30  
mins

#### Paper 3

People and the environment issues 25%  
1 hour 30 mins



### What does the course offer me?

Geography is a broad based academic subject which will open up options for you in your future. The Geography course offers a fantastic opportunity to explore physical and human aspects of Geography and the application of these in different contexts. Our GCSE Geography specifications feature the popular topics including hazards, climate change and urban challenges, plus new content such as extreme weather and globalisation.

### What does the course involve?

You will study a wide range of topics on human and physical geography. Physical geography looks at the natural processes of the Earth, such as climate and plate tectonics. Human geography looks at the impact and behaviour of people and how they relate to the physical world.

#### Paper 1

This component draws across physical and human processes and people-environment interactions to consider key contemporary global geographical issues. The component is divided into three sections:

- Topic 1: Hazardous Earth
- Topic 2: Development dynamics
- Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

#### Paper 2

This component draws across physical and human processes and people-environment interactions to consider key contemporary geographical issues for the UK. The component is divided into three sections:

- Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape.
- Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape
- Topic 6: Geographical investigations

#### Paper 3

- Topic 7: People and the biosphere
- Topic 8: Forests under threat
- Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

### Career Links:

Data Analyst  
Statistician  
Seismologist  
Cartographer  
Food safety

Hydrologist  
Geospatial technician  
Quantity Surveyor  
Meteorologist  
Dietician



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# Health and Social Care

**BTEC**

## Assessment

### Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care (RHS3)

Component 1 (30%) and Component 2 (30%) are internally assessed coursework. This means you will complete it under the supervision of your teacher. You will be given lots of guidance to do this and will apply what you have been taught.

Component 3 (40%) is an examination which is set by the examination board. The examination lasts for 2 hours and is worth 60 marks.



### What does the course offer me?

About 3 million people work in health and social care. Demand for both health and social care employment is likely to rise due to technological advancements which maintain people's health and also because people today are living longer.

### What does the course involve?

#### Component 1 - Human Lifespan Development

How do people grow and develop through their lives? How can factors such as lifestyle choices and relationships affect this? In this component, you will study how people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to old age, this includes physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, and the different factors that may affect them. An individual's development can be affected by major life events, such as marriage, parenthood or moving house

#### Component 2 Health and Social Care Services and Values

At some point in your life you will need health care. It is likely that you have already had an appointment with a doctor. If you did, you are described as a 'service user'. This means that you have been given health care from a person who was trained to give you care – they are called 'service providers'. You might know someone who needs social care. This is different from health care, although both types of care are closely linked. People who need social care are not always ill – they may be unable to carry out everyday activities like getting dressed or feeding themselves, or they may need help with their day-to-day lives.

#### Component 3 - Health and Wellbeing

What does being healthy actually mean? It can mean different things to different people: you might think 'healthy' is not having to visit the doctor but an older person might consider it being mobile and able to get out and about, being happy and having friends. In this component, you look at the factors that can have a positive or negative influence on a person's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators, and what they mean for someone's state of health. You will learn how to use this information to design an appropriate plan for improving someone's health and wellbeing, including short-and long-term targets.

### Career Links:

Senior care Worker • Care Worker • Mental Health Worker • Social Worker • Health Promotion Worker • Environmental Health Officer



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# History

## GCSE

### Assessment

**Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2  
GCSE (9-1) in History (1H10)**

You will have three final examinations.

The first will be on British Medicine (30%)

The second on the cold war and Elizabeth 1  
(40%)

The final examination focused exclusively on  
Weimar and Nazi Germany. (30%)



### What does the course offer me?

Pupils of History gain knowledge and understanding of how the past has been interpreted and what has caused some of the most significant events and changes of the last 500 years

### What does the course involve?

You will develop and extend knowledge and understanding of key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history, encompassing the vast scope and diversity of human experience. You will develop important skills which can be useful in many careers and engage in historical enquiry, developing the knowledge needed to be a critical and reflective thinker. You will develop an awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them and organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in different ways to reach substantiated conclusions.

#### British Medicine

The medicine unit includes astonishing details that really bring the past to life. As pupils move through the centuries, they recognise the reasons for and changing rate of medical progress, and become grateful that they never experienced surgery before the modern era.

#### A period study of The Cold War

This is an opportunity to examine big themes such as change and continuity and how differences in ideology can exert a huge influence on societies in the past.

#### Elizabeth 1

This story will both shock and fascinate.

#### Weimar and Nazi Germany

We consider both the Weimar and Nazi periods of German history. We look at what life was like before the dictatorship and then we analyse the key changes after Hitler came to power. This in-depth look at a crucial period of the 20th century allows pupils to investigate the reasons for the rise of a fascist regime.

#### Career Links:

Archivist • Social Worker • Police Officer • Lawyer • Journalist • Human  
Resources Manager • Museum Curator • Teacher • Barrister • Market  
Researcher



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# Hospitality and Catering

**BTEC**

## Assessment

**WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering (NA1/78654932)**

### 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.

### Unit 2:

#### Hospitality and catering in action

- Controlled assessment which is set each year by the examination board
- You will spend approximately 12 hours planning and cooking dishes on a topic set by the examination board.
- 60% of qualification 120 marks.
- This assessment is done at school in the Food classroom.



## What does the course offer me?

This course will teach you about the hospitality industry, and the businesses which make-up the hospitality sector including hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, pubs and bars, leisure parks and food service operators. You will find out about employment opportunities such as waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants, chefs, hotel and bar managers, and food technologists. You will also learn a wide range of cookery skills and complete practical work linked to different catering sectors. There are two units you study.

## What does the course involve?

### Unit 1: 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: Hospitality and Catering in Action

In this unit you will gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutritious menus. This unit has a large amount of practical cooking. You will learn skills and techniques for the preparation cooking and presentation of dishes as well as evaluating your cooking skills.

- You will look at catering establishments and the operation of the front and back of house
- How hospitality and catering provision can meet specific nutritional requirements
- The importance of health and safety in hospitality and catering provision
- The importance of nutrition
- How to plan menus

## Career Links:

- Hotel receptionist
- Catering manager
- Bartender
- Kitchen assistant
- All chef roles in a kitchen
- Food service assistant
- Kitchen supervisor
- Hotel manager
- Contract caterer



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# French

## GCSE

### Assessment

AQA GCSE (9-1) in French (8658)

GCSE has a foundation tier (grades 1-5) and a higher tier (grades 4-9)

You will be required to complete an examination in four areas to demonstrate your language skills.

These are

- Reading French,
- Listening in French
- Writing in French
- Speaking in French.



### What does the course offer me?

By taking a language at GCSE you will have amazing skills and is a valuable talent that's applicable to almost everything you do. Language classes are interactive and you cover things at a slightly quicker pace, but this is good as you will easily notice the improvements that you make in your foreign language. By taking a French GCSE you don't just learn the language, you get to find out about other people, countries and cultures so it really is an interesting and varied subject.

### What does the course involve?

Pupils are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where French is spoken. The different topics you will study will involve you speaking, reading, writing and listening in French. You will develop in self-confidence as you become more practised at speaking another language and develop important work readiness skills through studying a language.

#### Identity and culture

- Me, my family and friends
- Technology in everyday life
- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals in French speaking countries/ communities

#### Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social issues
- Global issues
- Travel and tourism

#### Current and future study and employment

- My studies
- Life at school/college
- Education post-16
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

#### Career Links:

Interpreter  
Political risk analyst  
Secondary school teacher  
Cartographer

Diplomatic service officer  
International aid/development worker  
Logistics and distribution manager  
Meteorologist



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# Music Practice

**BTEC**

## Assessment

### Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice (RMP3)

The course is separated into three components, two of these are internally assessed and one is externally assessed.

#### Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

- Explore different styles and genres of music
- Take part in practical workshops
- Develop techniques in realising musical products
- 30% internally assessed

#### Component 2: Music Skills Development

- Reflect on your skills
- Choose a job role and explore the skills it needs
- Apply skills in a music performance and product creation
- 30% internally assessed

#### Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief

- Choose an area of the industry that excites you
- Create and arrangement of an existing song changing it to a different musical style
- 40% externally assessed



### What does the course offer me?

The Pearson Edexcel BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is a hands on practical course which aims to give you a taste of what the music sector is like, as well as giving you the skills and confidence to succeed in your next steps.

### What does the course involve?

You will learn about the various music products, develop valuable skills and techniques in music creation, performance and production, and explore potential careers in the music industry. During the course you will:

- Develop skills such as teamwork, leadership and interpersonal skills
- Develop and present music to a brief
- Analyse different music styles, iconic performers and their role in the music industry and explore the development of technology over time
- Evaluate and enhance your performing and composing skills through self-analysis and reflection

During the course you can see whether the music industry is one you want to be in, where you could go and gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in your next steps

### Career Links:

- Classical musician
- Session musician
- Film or video games music composer
- DJ
- Music promotions manager
- Music therapist
- Music educator
- Pop musician
- Musical instrument maker or repairer
- Radio broadcaster
- Sound Technician
- Private tutor

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# Performing Arts Acting

**BTEC**

## Assessment

### Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (RPA3)

#### Component 1 — 30% (Internally Assessed)

**EXPLORE** - You will take part in practical exploration of three different pieces of professional repertoire and complete a written assignment for assessment.

#### Component 2 — 30% (Internally Assessed)

**DEVELOP** - You will be assessed on the development of your skills through workshops and Performances. You will also complete a written assignment evaluating your own practise.

#### Component 3 — 40% (Externally Assessed)

**APPLY** - You will be assessed on devising in a group piece of theatre based on a given exam brief. This will be accompanied with a written piece under exam conditions.



## What does the course offer me?

The BTEC Performing Arts Course, allows you to explore the performing arts through existing repertoire examining Professional Practitioners Performance work, looking at the inter-relationships between key features of performance material. You will be able to interpret writers and performers intentions, you will be performing as a professional theatre company through devising and creating performances.

## What does the course involve?

Explore a variety of performance styles including physical theatre, naturalism, devising, and script work.

- Investigate how a variety of practitioners create their work.
- Discover performance and production roles, their responsibilities, skills and the processes they have to take.
- Take part in a variety of workshops and rehearsals.
- Gain and develop physical, and vocal skills as well as interpretative and rehearsal skills.
- Apply the above skills to a performance and be able to reflect in an evaluation report.
- Work from a given brief to generate a number of ideas and turn those into a performance.
- Be able to perform in front of a variety of audiences.
- Review own practice in a written log

We go on a number of trips which includes to the Theatre and future colleges who offer Performing Arts at Level 3.

## Career Links:

- Community Arts Worker
- Arts Administrator
- Stage Manager
- Stage Hand
- Live Sound Engineer
- Choreographer
- Tourist guide



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# Performing Arts Dance

**BTEC**

## Assessment

### Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (RPD3)

#### Component 1 — 30% (Internally Assessed)

**EXPLORE** - You will take part in practical exploration of three different pieces of professional repertoire and complete a written assignment for assessment.

#### Component 2 — 30% (Internally Assessed)

**DEVELOP** - You will be assessed on the development of your skills through workshops and Performances. You will also complete a written assignment evaluating your own practise.

#### Component 3 — 40% (Externally Assessed)

**APPLY** - You will be assessed on devising in a group piece of theatre based on a given exam brief. This will be accompanied with a written piece under exam conditions.



## What does the course offer me?

The BTEC Performing Arts Course, allows you to explore the performing arts through existing repertoire examining Professional Practitioners Performance work, looking at the inter-relationships between key features of performance material. You will be able to interpret writers and performers intentions, you will be performing as a professional theatre company through devising and creating performances.

## What does the course involve?

Explore a variety of performance styles including

- Contemporary, Jazz, Ballet and Hip Hop.
- Investigate how a variety of practitioners create their work.
- Discover performance and production roles, their responsibilities, skills and the processes they have to take.
- Take part in a variety of workshops and rehearsals.
- Gain and develop physical skills/technique as well as interpretative and rehearsal skills.
- Apply the above skills to a performance and be able to reflect in an evaluation report.
- Work from a given brief to generate a number of ideas and turn those into a performance.
- Be able to perform in front of a variety of audiences.
- Review own practice in a written log

We go on a number of trips which includes to the Theatre and future colleges who offer Performing Arts at Level 3.

## Career Links:

- Community Arts Worker
- Arts Administrator
- Stage Manager
- Stage Hand
- Live Sound Engineer
- Dance Teacher
- Choreographer
- Tourist guide



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# Physical Education

## GCSE

### Assessment

#### OCR GCSE (9-1) In Physical Education (J587)

The course involves 4 components:

- Component 1

Physical factors affecting performance - written examination – 1 hour, 30%

- Component 2

Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology- written examination – 1 hour, 30%

- Component 3

Practical performance in 3 sports, 30%

- Component 4

Analysis and evaluation of performance – NEA 10%



### What does the course offer me?

The GCSE PE course offers pupils the opportunity to study elements of sport science, sport psychology and participation issues in a detailed way, relevant to what is going on in the field of sport currently.

Further to this you will also be required to demonstrate your sporting ability in a combination of team and individual sports, 3 of which you will be assessed in as your final sports contributing towards your GCSE PE grade.

Understanding the importance of how physical exercise can play a part in a healthy lifestyle is also preparing you for a life after school. You will develop a wide range of skills which can also contribute to your success in future work. This is a good course for those pupils wishing to study PE or Sport at level 3, university and in to their careers.

### What does the course involve?

You will learn about through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on both ours and other's everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people out perform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and also gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

The emphasis throughout the course is on introducing the concepts with Physical Education and relating these to performance whilst developing your knowledge, competence and confidence in a wide variety of skills that will enable you to confidently move forward in life. The theoretical side of the course is complemented by the practical element where you will get to put this newly learned theory into practice and improve and develop in your chosen activities.

### Career Links:

• PE Teacher • Physiotherapist • Sports Coach • Sports Psychologist • Performance analyst • Bio-mechanical sports performance analyst • Sports Broadcaster • Data Analyst • Sports journalist • Social Media Manager



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# Sports Studies

## Cambridge National

### Assessment

#### OCR Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies

##### Unit 1

Contemporary issues in sport, 1 hour 15 mins  
examination, 40%

##### Unit 2

Performance and Leadership in sport  
activities, Coursework, 40%

##### Unit 3

Sport and the Media, Coursework 20%



#### What does the course offer me?

This sport qualifications offer pupils the chance to develop different types of skills through largely practical means. Communication, problem solving, team working, evaluation and analysis, performing under pressure, and formulating written findings from practical investigation are all transferable skills which can be learned and assessed through this qualification and utilised in many other educational and employment settings. This qualification has been designed with practical and engaging ways of teaching in mind and enable pupils to:

- develop a range of skills through involvement in sport and physical activity in different contexts and roles
- develop their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations
- gain a better understanding of the complexity of different areas of sport and the sports industry
- increase their awareness of different ways to stay involved in sport and physical activity and of different careers and roles within sport.

#### What does the course involve?

This course in Sport Studies can take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport and physical education themes. Pupils have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance.

They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics, role models and sport and the media. Learners will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and how this shapes the sports industry.

#### Career Links:

- PE Teacher • Physiotherapist • Sports Coach • Sports Psychologist • Performance analyst • Bio-mechanical sports performance analyst • Sports Broadcaster • Data Analyst • Sports journalist • Social Media Manager



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# Religious Education

## GCSE



### Assessment

#### WJEC Eduquas Religious Studies Route A

##### Unit 1: Themes

50% of qualification, 2 hour written exam

##### Unit 2: Study of Christianity

25% of the qualification, 1 hour written exam

##### Unit 3: Study of Islam

25% of the qualification, 1 hour written exam

### What does the course offer me?

This course offers the opportunity to think about the big philosophical questions such as “Where does evil come from?” and “What happens when you die?”. It also allows you to explore key ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment. An additional aspect of the course is learning about the key beliefs and practices in Christianity and Islam.

### What does the course involve?

#### Unit 1: Themes

**Theme 1: Issues of Relationships** This theme requires you to consider characteristics of relationships, marriage and family life. Through a study of beliefs and teachings, questions relating to issues of relationships in the twenty-first century will be considered, including same sex relationships and gender roles.

**Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death** In this theme you will discuss religious and non-religious beliefs about the nature of life and death and the of the universe and human life. This includes the religious beliefs about abortion and euthanasia. A Humanist point of view will also be studied in this unit.

#### Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil

This theme requires learners to consider the nature of good and evil. Also the causes of crime and attitudes towards the aims of punishment and treatment of criminals. There will be opportunities to debate the death penalty.

#### Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights

This theme considers contemporary issues of human rights and social justice and their relationship with religion and belief. Learners will be expected to consider specific issues of wealth and poverty, racial prejudice and discrimination.

#### Unit 2: Study of Christianity

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity

#### Unit 3: Study of Islam

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam

#### Career Links:

• Counselling and social services • Marketing • Sales and advertising • Catering and hospitality • Leisure, sport and tourism • Retail sales and customer services • Education and training • Medicine and nursing • Service sector roles.



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