



YEAR 9

OPTIONS 2021

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Year 9

Welcome



Steve Wilson
HEADTEACHER

This option booklet includes information about all the courses available to study at GCSE level.

All students study English, maths and science (core subjects). In addition to the core subjects, students can select a number of other option subjects. Each head of department has included details of the syllabus and assessment and some comments from students about the types of learning in their subject.

Students will get lots of support in helping them make these important GCSE choices. This help includes a meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss options and offer further advice and guidance. Our intention is, given the importance of these meetings, that they will take place face to face following social distancing guidance.

At any stage in the process parents must not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require further support.

The school number is 0191 731 7070.

Contents

Department Heads

English Language and Literature

Mathematics

Science

Applied Studies

Art and Design

Art and Design Textiles

Business

Child Development

Computer Science

Design Technology (DIT)

Drama

Food

French

Geography

German

Health and Social Care

History

Information Technology

Music

Philosophy and Ethics

Physical Education

Sports Studies

Spanish

Department Heads

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Science	Alan Keegan
Applied Studies	Dave Lee
Art and Design	Alice Robertson
Art and Design Textiles	Justine Chapman
Business	Ben Cox
Child Development	Justine Chapman
Computer Science	Andrew Johnson
Design Technology (DIT)	Ian Teasdale
Drama	Annalisa Reith
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Justine Chapman
French	Brin Reece
Geography	Kirsty Cuthbert
German	Brin Reece
Health and Social Care	Justine Chapman
History	Hilary Henderson
Information Technology	Jane Bennetts
Music	Kieran Baldwin
Philosophy and Ethics	Hilary Henderson
Physical Education	Lisa Wrigglesworth
Spanish	Brin Reece

English Language and Literature

AQA



“GCSE English is brilliant, you really start to look at the heart of the language. You study films, novels and poems which makes lessons really enjoyable.”

Course Overview

In English students develop their knowledge of English language and English literature. They will develop their understanding of how to be a writer and this will involve them writing narratives and descriptions as well as writing non-fiction for a range of different purposes and audiences such as argumentative pieces for newspaper articles. In literature students will study a variety of literary texts including novels, plays and poetry and covering a wide range of themes including power and conflict, morality and society. At the heart of our curriculum is the idea that students need to become adept at the following key skills: to be able to curate knowledge to develop their own understanding; to be able to become a critic of texts; to be able to understand the writer’s craft and to be able to craft their own writing. Students who specialise in English can enter a range of careers such as teaching, journalism and writing, theatre, media, public relations, cultural and heritage work.

English Literature:
Assessment through
examination

100%

English Language:
Assessment through
examination

100%

Summary of Components

English Literature

Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century novel

Students will study ‘Macbeth’ by William Shakespeare in order to answer an exam question on an extract which they must link to the whole text. They will also study the novel ‘Jekyll and Hyde’ by Robert Louis Stevenson and again answer a question on an extract and the whole text.

Modern Texts and Poetry

Students study a collection of poetry from an anthology based on the themes of Power and Conflict. They have to compare two poems in the exam. They are also required to analyse ‘unseen’ poetry in the exam. Students also study the play ‘An Inspector Calls’ and answer a question on character or theme in the exam.

English Language

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing


Students analyse narratives and look at how writers craft their texts through their use of language and structure. They are then required to write their own narrative or description.

Viewpoints and Perspectives

Students focus on non-fiction writing and again explore how writers craft their texts to shape meaning. They have to compare two non-fiction texts and then produce their own. For example, they may be asked to write an article or speech.

Mathematics

AQA

A photograph showing a group of students sitting at desks in a classroom, focused on their work. A teacher is partially visible on the left, looking towards the students. The students are wearing school uniforms, including dark blue sweaters and white shirts. There are books and papers on the desks, and a window in the background showing greenery outside.

“Teachers make maths lessons fun but at the same time make sure you have all the skills to do well in your GCSE exam.”

Course Overview

GCSE maths builds on the core skills students have embedded throughout middle school and in year 9. We will develop skills in number, ratio, algebra, data, probability and shape. Students are taught how to use problem solving in each aspect of maths and are taught how to answer traditional mathematical questions and those that are in a real life context. With the new focus of problem solving in GCSE maths and many careers requiring certain grades, GCSE maths will help access a very broad range of careers.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Algebra

This unit covers linear equations, quadratics, functions (higher only), simultaneous equations, graphs and inequalities.

Number

This unit includes knowledge of types of numbers, fractions, indices and surds.

Ratio

In this unit, students will learn how to simplify, divide into a ratio and as well as problem solving with ratio.

Data


In this unit, students will learn about a various range of data including; pie charts, scatter graphs, venn diagrams, tree diagrams, histograms (higher only) and cumulative frequency graphs (higher only).

Shape

This unit includes area and perimeter, Pythagoras, trigonometry, volume and circle theorems (higher only).

Science

AQA



"The practical work we do really helps me understand the things we are studying."

Course Overview

Students will gain a greater appreciation of the world around them through the study of biology, chemistry and physics. Practical work forms the backbone of the course and students will gain important analysis and evaluation skills from the experiments they conduct. Many students go on to study science at A-level and beyond.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

AQA Combined Science (2 GCSEs in Science)

Followed by the great majority of students at Whitley Bay High School. It offers a good grounding in all 3 scientific disciplines and will support progress towards any science A-level. Students will be awarded two science GCSEs upon completion of the course.


AQA Separate Science (3 GCSEs in Science)

This course will be offered to some students at the end of year 9. This course leads to individual awards in biology, chemistry and physics.

This accelerated course is only suitable for the most able students. Like combined science, students will be able to study all science options at A-level. The school will choose the small number of students we believe can be successful following this more demanding route.

Applied Studies

This is only available for students for whom an alternative curriculum is the most appropriate pathway.



"I like the variety of lessons and opportunities we get. The lessons are more practical based and there are fewer exams than my other subjects."

Course Overview

The vocational learning pathway is ideal for young people who are creative and willing to try new experiences. The pathway is managed by the alternative provision team who will offer students tailored pastoral support alongside their bespoke learning package.

Each bespoke learning package will be individualised to the student's needs based on advice, guidance and initial assessment at the start of the pathway. Students complete this as a double option with six lessons timetabled per week alongside two other option choices as well as English, maths and science. Students who opt for the vocational learning pathway are also given the opportunity to experience some vocational area of work which can be an individualised programme tailored to their personal needs or as part of a group. This can include a one-off taster session or may incorporate up to a full day per week with an external training provider.

Assessment through
examination

See
below

Assessment through
non examined work

See
below

Summary of Components

There are four qualifications that make up the Vocational Learning Pathway:

GCSE Photography

This course includes studio photography, experimental imagery, fashion photography, photo-journalism and moving image work (film and video). This qualification is assessed with 40% set assignment and 60% examination.

Level 2 Certificate in Occupational Skills for the Workplace

There are range of tasks and experiences that students will engage with, this includes practical opportunities at our allotment area where students will care for a planted area, prepare soil and apply an organic mulch, prepare and plant a hanging basket, use a leaf-litter blower and identify weeds. This qualification is assessed with 100% theory and practical portfolio work.

Level 2 Certificate in Sport, Health and Fitness

This Level 2 qualification provides learners with an understanding of the sports sector in order to either start a career in sport, leisure or fitness, or to progress to a Post-16 course within the sector. This qualification is assessed with 100% theory and practical portfolio work.

V Cert Level 2 Interactive Media

The course is designed to provide students with the skills, knowledge and understanding of digital media including a combinations of electronic text, graphics, moving images and sound in a structured digital computerised environment. This qualification is assessed with 20% external assessment and 80% portfolio work.

Art and Design

AQA



"In Art most lessons are spent on project work. There is room for a lot of creativity. We do a lot of drawing, painting, as well as sculpture, clay work and print-making."

Course Overview

GCSE art builds and develops students understanding of art and its practice. Throughout the course students will develop their practical skills by working in a variety of media across a series of projects. They will be encouraged to challenge themselves by working on a larger scale or with new media and techniques. They will learn how to analyse artist work, using this information to inform and develop their own ideas along a theme. Students will build their communication skills using a visual language, to discuss issues and ideas personal to them. As students' confidence increases they will develop their own projects, researching their own artists and developing their independent study skills. There is a written content element where students use art specific vocabulary to explain their ideas and development of their work as well as analysing the work of other artists. This written content is assessed in the form of an essay for each project and is created through the full course.

Assessment through
examination

40%

Assessment through
non examined work

60%

Summary of Components

Portfolio Unit

(Coursework) This is composed of 3 projects, 2 in year 10 and 1 in year 11. In year 10 students work on 2 projects - Food and Identity and in year 11 the trial exam, these come together to create a body of work that demonstrates students skills and abilities to develop sustained projects.

Externally Set Task

(Exam) This unit is set by the exam board. Students respond to a theme as set by AQA. They must develop a project, informed by other artists, leading to a final outcome that they will create in 10 hours supervised time at the end of year 11.

Art and Design Textiles

AQA



"Textiles allows me to be really creative with a wide range of media. It's great because we can choose themes based on our own personal interests. We learn how to do garment making too."

Course Overview

Art and design textiles is a perfect platform for anyone interested in fashion and being creative. The coursework portfolio is made up of several projects which allows you to develop your creative sewing skills, learn about garment construction and fashion drawing. You will be taught a variety of textile techniques such as reverse applique, free machine embroidery, quilting, fabric melting, digital printing and dyeing. You will also attend a printing workshop to explore printing techniques. A trip to Edinburgh to see the Christmas markets and the Museum of Scotland which hosts the best fashion collection in the country also takes place.

Students who specialise in art and design textiles can enter a wide range of careers within the fashion and textile industry, including fashion marketing.

Assessment through
examination

60%

Assessment through
non examined work

40%

Summary of Components

Year 10 Modules


Two mini projects based on a personalised theme which allows you to explore creative textiles and garment construction.

Year 11 Modules

In year 11 there is one mini project. Coursework amounts to 60% and there is an externally set project 40%.

Business

AQA



“Business is one of my favourite subjects because the lessons are really enjoyable and I’ve learnt a lot of different skills which will help me in the future.”

Course Overview

GCSE business introduces students to what they need to know about working in business. The focus of the course is on giving students an opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. They will be applying their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour. The skills that they will develop in business are always very transferable and valued in a wide range of careers. Skills such as problem solving, numeracy, decision making and evaluation are all integral parts of the course.

Students who study business can access a very broad range of careers ranging from marketing to property management.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Business in the Real World

The purpose of business activity, the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business.

Influences on Business

The importance of external influences on business and how businesses change in response to these influences.

Business Operations

All the elements that go into the production of goods and the provision of services, and how important customer service is.

Human Resources

How organisations are structured and how important the process of recruitment is, motivation and training is to creating a successful workforce.

Marketing


The importance of businesses understanding their customer’s needs and wants to be able to deliver appropriate marketing strategies.

Finance

How a business raises finance and how to analyse the financial performance to help businesses make decisions.

Child Development

Cambridge Nationals Level 2



"This is a great course if you are interested in learning about how children develop. You learn about lots of interesting facts and have the opportunity to do a range of fun activities too!"

Course Overview

This qualification is for those who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in child development. It is designed with both practical coursework and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in child care, health and social care, psychology and social sciences.

Students who specialise in child development can enter a wide range of careers including: child care, nursery nursing, primary school teacher, nursing (including midwifery), health and social care and psychology.

Assessment through
examination

50%

Assessment through
non examined work

50%

Summary of Components

Health and Wellbeing for Child Development (50%)

Students will develop the essential knowledge and understanding in child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, postnatal provision, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety. This is an examined unit. There is an opportunity to take the interactive babies home.

Understanding the development of a child from birth to five years (25%)

In this topic of study, students will gain an understanding of the development norms from birth to five years and the stages and benefits of play. They will plan and carry out play activities with a child under five. This is a portfolio unit.

Understanding the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years (25%)

In this topic of study, students will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. They will also learn about feeding babies and children. This is a portfolio unit.

GCSE Computer Science

AQA



"I really enjoy learning how to program and solve problems with code."

Course Overview

GCSE computer science helps you think about how technology is created. It allows you to understand how people work together with computers to develop world changing programmes like Facebook, Spotify and eBay. You'll gain the skills to enable you to understand how to design and build apps, investigate how algorithms help create computer codes and the importance of cyber security and the ethical impacts of digital technology.

GCSE computer science can lead to a vast array of employment opportunities from programming and designing to careers in GCHQ with MI5 and MI6.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Fundamentals of Algorithms

Problem solving and algorithm creation, representing algorithms using pseudo-code and flowcharts.

Programming

Learn how to program in Python.

Fundamentals of Data Representation

Understand how 0s and 1s can represent sound, text and images on your computer.

Computer Systems

Learn how hardware and software makes up a computer and how they work.

Fundamentals of Computer Networks

Learn about the main types of computer networks, how they work, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Fundamentals of Cyber Security

Learn about modern day threats to computer systems including cyber security attacks and social engineering practices.

Ethical, Legal & Environmental Impacts of Digital Technology on Wider Society

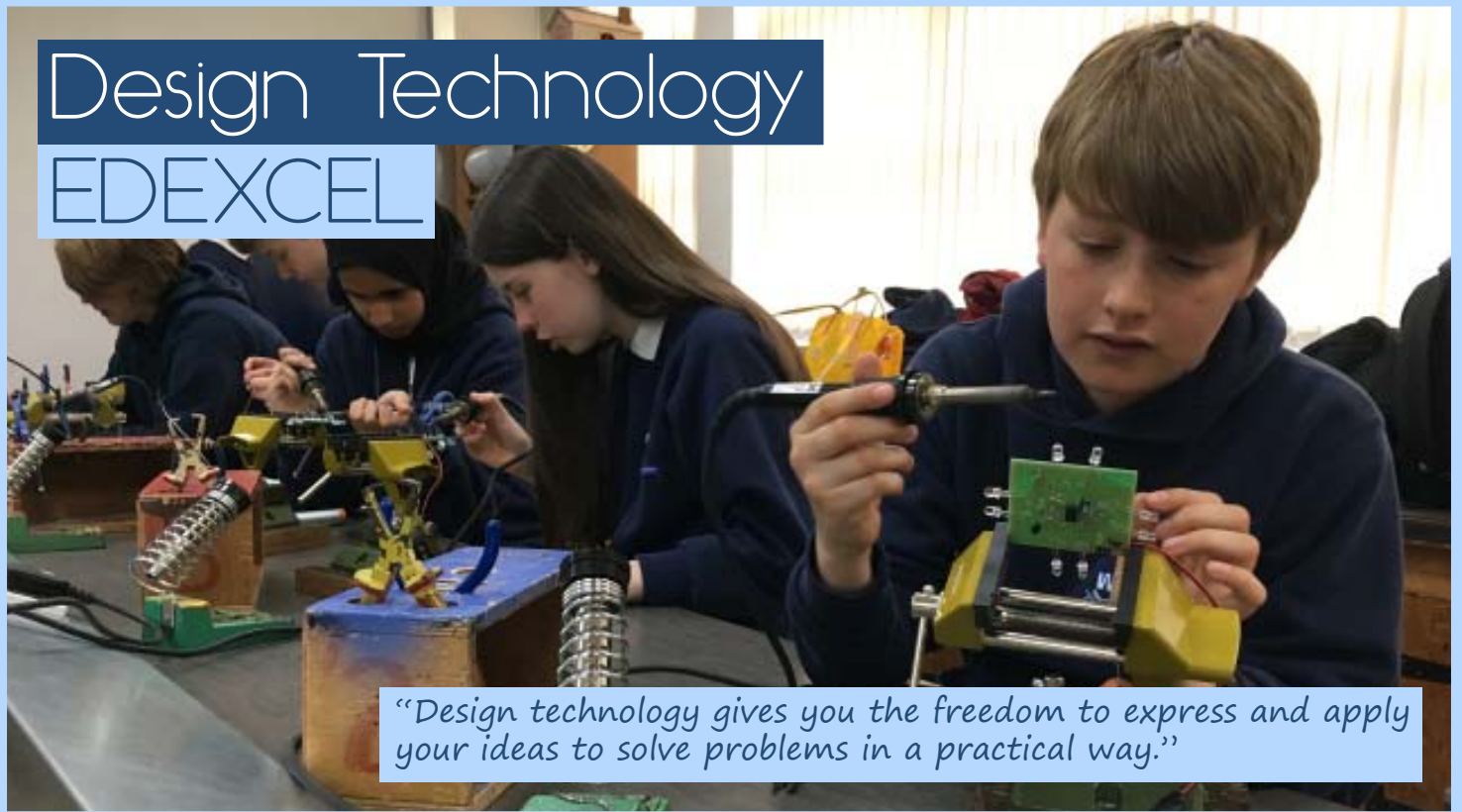
Study the current ethical, legal and environmental impacts and risks of digital technology on society.

Aspects of Software Development Brief Summary

Understand the systems lifecycle and how software is created through the process of design, implementation, testing and evaluation.

Design Technology

EDEXCEL



“Design technology gives you the freedom to express and apply your ideas to solve problems in a practical way.”

Course Overview

Design Technology gives students the knowledge, skills and experience to be able to design and manufacture solutions to problems. They will develop an iterative approach to their designs, testing ideas and making improvements before manufacturing high quality products. They will learn how manufacturing is organised and the issues surrounding the efficient use of materials and energy that will be required in the future.

They will also make use of their knowledge from other subjects such as science, business and geography and particularly maths and they will learn how to use this to further improve their designs.

Design Technology can lead to a number of career pathways. It is particularly suited to design careers, engineering, computing and other technical routes including those focussing on visual design but may also enhance many other careers that would benefit from a practical, problem solving approach.

Assessment through
examination

50%

Assessment through
non examined work

50%

Summary of Components

Core

All students will study the core components of design technology where they cover a range of topics that they will need to be able to successfully design and manufacture products to solve problems. Areas will include looking at a range of woods, metals and plastics, basic electronics and programming, drawing and computer aided design and environmental issues. In addition to the core, students choose between the following three options:

Electronics and Programming

Students will be taught more about the best way to design, make and test electronic circuits including controlling them with computer programs. They will learn about a range of sensors and the best way to power them.

Timber Design and 3D Modelling

Students will find out about a range of timbers, which ones are best for a particular use, which way of cutting and joining is best so you can design and make successful solutions to a problem.

Graphic Products and 3D Modelling

Students will learn about the different types of materials used in designing 3D Graphic products and the different ways of using them to make realistic and perhaps scale models of your intended designs.

Drama

EDEXCEL



“As well as creating and performing drama you learn to work with others, solve problems and to communicate.”

Course Overview

Drama enhances students' artistic and creative abilities and gives them a better understanding of themselves and of their world. Not everyone who studies drama wants to become an actor. The study of GCSE drama will benefit you in so many ways; you will develop vocal and physical confidence, the ability to work in a team, negotiation skills, time management skills, public speaking skills, the ability to read body language, to experience a life beyond your own life, to feel empathy, to understand what it is to walk in another person's shoes. Making theatre requires torrents of hard graft; not just creativity, but the architecture of forming a story, the mathematics of production, the determination to succeed, the drafting and re-drafting, the rehearsals, the technical demands, the pressure. Every skill that you acquire in a GCSE drama class is a transferable skill. Drama teaches skills for life.

Assessment through
examination

40%

Assessment through
non examined work

60%

Summary of Components

Devising

As a performer you will work in a group to create and develop an original piece of drama in response to a stimulus. The analysis and evaluation of both the development and performance will be presented in a 2000 word written portfolio.

Performance from Text

As a performer you will explore two key extracts from a performance text. You will then rehearse and perform the extracts to a visiting examiner. Your performance can be either a monologue, or a duologue, or a group performance.

Bringing Texts to Life


You will be asked to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how a performance text can be developed and performed. You will practically explore the text in preparation for the exam.

Live Theatre Evaluation

You will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance that you have seen during the course. You are permitted to take 500 words of notes into the exam to help you respond to the questions.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

EduQas (WJEC)



"I love how practical and creative food technology is."

Course Overview

GCSE food preparation and nutrition equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages students to cook, enable them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allow them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and in later life. Over the course students will develop a wide range of practical skills in preparation for a three hour practical exam where they must demonstrate 20 of these skills. Students will generate a portfolio of skills as they complete the course.

Students who specialise in food preparation and nutrition can enter a wide range of careers including: hospitality and catering, sports industry, food manufacturing, food technology, medical research, government agencies and occupations such as a dietician.

Assessment through
examination

50%

Assessment through
non examined work

50%

Summary of Components

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Students will be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the five areas of content through theory and practical based tasks and activities. Those areas include investigating staple foods in our diet, understanding the nutrients found in foods and their functions, sources and deficiencies, investigating the nutritional needs of different groups of people, diet related diseases and the principles of healthy eating, food hygiene and awareness of where the food comes from. This is an examined unit which is taken in year 11.


Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action

This component consists of two pieces of coursework; a scientific food investigation which will assess the students knowledge and understanding in relation to scientific principles and a food preparation assessment where students will need to prepare, cook and present three dishes.

This coursework is completed in year 11.

French

AQA



“Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and improves your memory.”

Course Overview

GCSE French develops and strengthens what students already know about the language, culture and country. The focus of the course is on giving students an opportunity to improve their performance in all four of the skills assessed at this level: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Through a wide range of activities including comprehension, translation, videos, films, songs, literature, interactive ICT work and a wealth of fun and informative games, students can gain the confidence that they need to succeed at their chosen entry level.

The skills that they will develop in French are transferable to many other subjects and help to build confidence in interpersonal skills, develop vocabulary and grammar, and most importantly, provide the students with the ability to travel, work, and live around the world.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Identity and culture

Students will explore themes of relationships and family as well as hobbies and activities. They will explore vocabulary and sentences around technology and deepen their understanding of customs and festivals in French-speaking countries and communities.

Local, national, international and global areas of interest

In this unit, students will explore global issues like the environment and homelessness as well as social issues including voluntary work, healthy eating and travel and tourism.

Current and future study and employment

This unit focuses on student life, school studies, life at school and jobs and careers opportunities in the future.

Geography

AQA



“Geography helps me to understand the world around me.”

Course Overview

Geography is the study of natural landscapes (physical geography) and of people and how they interact with their environment (human geography). In this course, you will learn about the physical and human processes that affect places and environments that shape the world in which we live. You will develop a range of skills, both within and outside the classroom. These include fieldwork, map skills, analysing skills, decision-making and presentational skills. You will improve your literacy through different styles of written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. This course helps to develop your teamwork skills when undertaking fieldwork and develops your ability to solve problems when completing Issue Evaluations.

Geography helps you to develop a range of transferable skills, which will be beneficial for careers ranging from Environmental Consultants to Engineers, Journalists to Town Planners, Architects, to Solicitors and Accountants to Health Professionals.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Living with the Physical Environment

This exam is comprised of three sections: The Challenge of Natural Hazards, Physical Landscapes in the UK (coastal and river landscapes) and The Living World (ecosystems and cold environments).

Challenges in the Human Environment

This exam is comprised of three sections: Urban Issues and Challenges, The Changing Economic World and The Challenge of Resource Management.

Geographical Applications

This unit consists of three elements; Issue Evaluation, Fieldwork and Geographical Skills.

German

AQA

"It's an impressive achievement to speak a foreign language and you'll have better options for the future."

Course Overview

GCSE German develops and strengthens what students already know about the language, culture and country. The focus of the course is on giving students an opportunity to improve their performance in all four of the skills assessed at this level: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Through a wide range of activities including comprehension, translation, videos, films, songs, literature, interactive ICT work and a wealth of fun and informative games, students can gain the confidence that they need to succeed at their chosen entry level.

The skills that they will develop in German are transferable to many other subjects and help to build confidence in interpersonal skills, develop vocabulary and grammar, most importantly, provide the students with the ability to travel, work, and live around the world.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Identity and culture

Students will explore themes of relationships and family as well as hobbies and activities. They will explore vocabulary and sentences around technology and deepen their understanding of customs and festivals in German-speaking countries and communities.


Local, national, international and global areas of interest

In this unit, students will explore global issues like the environment and homelessness as well as explore social issues including voluntary work, healthy eating and travel and tourism.

Current and future study and employment

This unit focuses on student life, school studies, life at school and jobs and careers opportunities in the future.

Health and Social Care Cambridge Nationals Level 2



“It is a course which requires a lot of hard work and contains regular deadlines, but you get a lot out of it such as a first aid course and planning creative activities with first school children.”

Course Overview

If you are interested in a career in nursing, child care or health and social services then opting for Cambridge Nationals in health and social care level 2 could be the course for you.

Cambridge Nationals in health and social care will equip students with sound specialist knowledge and skills for everyday use. They will also challenge students by introducing them to demanding material and skills; encouraging independence and creativity; providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the national curriculum (including values of care and the current legislation requirements) and the importance of softer skills such as communication skills to ensure individuals' right to independence and dignity.

Assessment through
examination

25%

Assessment through
non examined work

75%

Summary of Components

Essential Values of Care of Use with Individuals in Care Setting

This unit focuses on the rights of individuals and will instill the values of care to be used when working in a health, social care or early years environment. This is an examined unit.

Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years

This unit involves producing a portfolio and planning and carrying out interactions with peers based on a range of scenarios.

Using Basic First Aid Procedures

As part of this unit all student will undertake a certificated training course from St John's Ambulance. This is a portfolio unit.

Creative Activities to support individuals in health, social care and early years settings

As part of this unit you will plan, carry out and deliver a creative Christmas activity for children in a local first school.

Or Body Systems

This unit looks at the functions and malfunctions of the human body. This is a portfolio unit.

History

AQA



“History is a really interesting and enjoyable subject. Written work is important and the teachers show you how to make revision notes as you go along so it helps you keep up to date with your work.”

Course Overview

Students of GCSE history will develop a knowledge of the ideas, events, and people who have shaped our modern world. The skills they will develop in terms of communication, analysis, evaluation, as well as gaining an understanding of the process of change and continuity will stand them in good stead for a number of A level subjects.

History is respected across a wide range of areas and further study leads to careers from law to broadcasting and journalism and from accountancy to marketing and advertising.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Conflict and Tension 1919-1939

How Europe tried and failed to keep the peace between the wars.

The USA

Opportunity and Inequality: 1920-1973: A depth study on the making of the USA.

The Normans

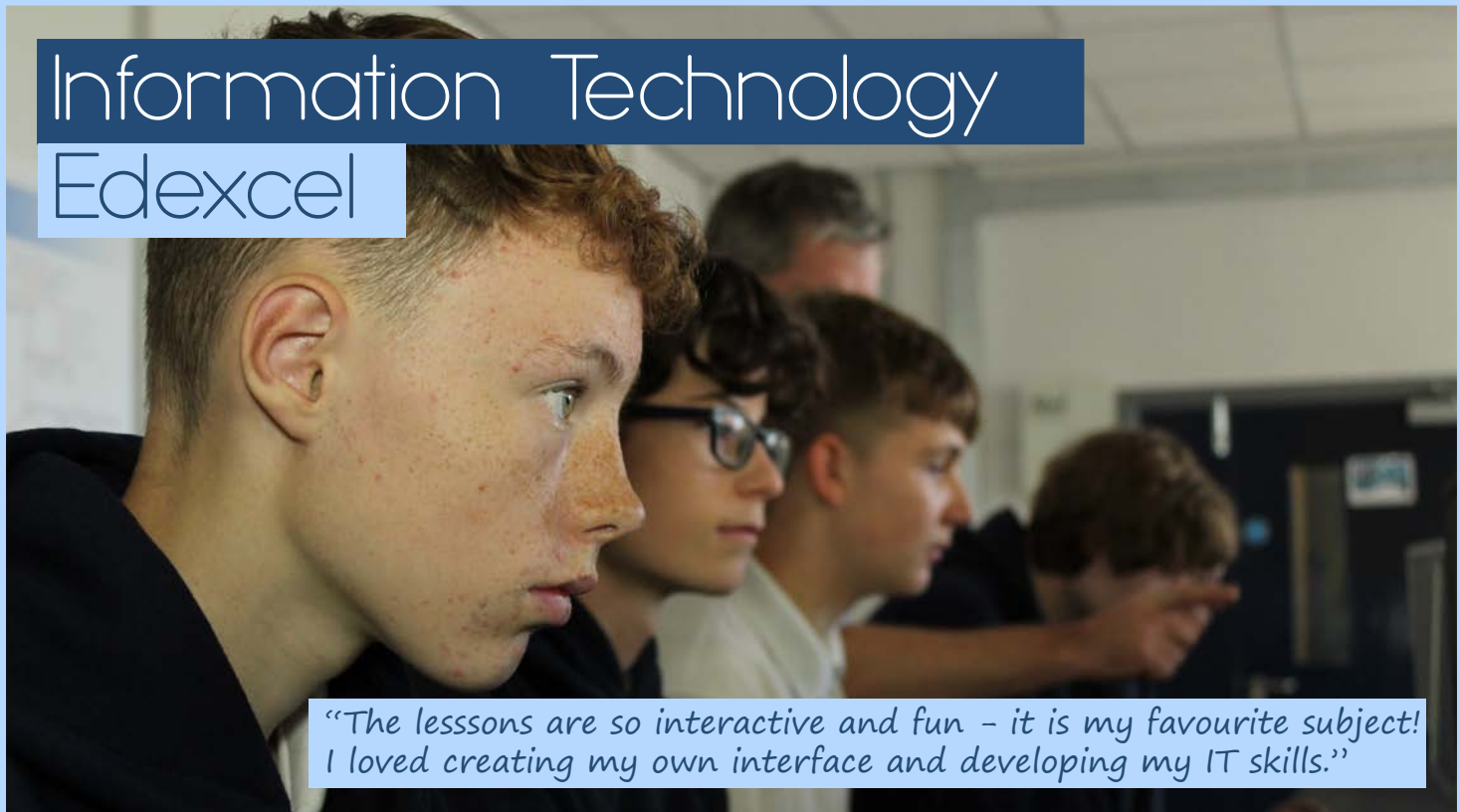
How did the Norman Conquest change England and make it how it is today?

Power and the People

Students will explore the key events that have shaped British rights and democracy.

Information Technology

Edexcel



"The lessons are so interactive and fun - it is my favourite subject! I loved creating my own interface and developing my IT skills."

Course Overview

Students will develop knowledge of interface design. This will allow them to be creative and develop their own, like the one they use in real life from food ordering systems (like you find in McDonald's) or the interfaces used on gaming consoles.

Students will develop skills in interface design, cyber security and computer ethics. Students who specialise in Digital IT can enter a range of careers in growth areas such as software developers, designers, data analysts to database administrators.

Assessment through
examination

40%

Assessment through
non examined work

60%

Summary of Components

Effective Digital Working Practices

In this unit, students will look at modern technology and cyber security.


Interface Design

This unit will involve you looking at day to day interfaces e.g. McDonald's ordering systems, analyse them and plan and create your own interface.

Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting data

This unit will allow you to see how data is used in the real world to make decisions. You will then create your own system for a real life scenario.

Music EDEXCEL



“GCSE Music is really good fun. We study many different genres of music and have a go at performing them and composing imitations of them. I enjoy music more as I have a greater understanding of it.”

Course Overview

Students will explore how composers use the elements of music to write and produce music in a variety of different styles. They will explore instrumental and vocal music from the western classical tradition alongside popular music, music for stage and screen and fusions of music from different cultures. Students will develop their performance skills on their chosen musical instrument and/or in singing. They will also develop their composition skills, writing music in a variety of styles and learning how to use music publishing software (Sibelius) and music production software (Logic Pro). There are many career paths in music industry including performing, composing, recording, teaching, music therapy and events management. Studying music and learning a musical instrument promote the development of imagination and resourcefulness, resilience, problem-solving, team-working and technical skills. These are the skills which will enable young people to navigate the changing workplace of the future. These meta-skills are critical in all sectors, not just the creative industries.

Assessment through
examination

40%

Assessment through
non examined work

60%

Summary of Components

Performance (30%)

This unit is composed of a solo performance (minimum one minute) and an ensemble performance (minimum one minute).

Composition (30%)

This unit is made of two compositions; one set to a brief (minimum one minute) and one free composition (minimum one minute).

Written and Listening Examination (40%)

This unit is composed of four areas of study; Instrumental Music 1700-1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen, Fusions. They comprise of two set works in each.

Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)

AQA

"This subject will appeal to you if you frequently ask the question WHY? You need to be confident with more abstract ideas as well as factual information."

Course Overview

In GCSE philosophy and ethics we study two key religious philosophies, which have helped to shape ideas about society and the world around us, Christianity and Buddhism. We also look at ethical issues which have no simple answers, and you will be required to make your own judgements and give your own opinions on a range of issues.

As a result, this is a well-respected GCSE and further study of philosophy and ethics can lead to careers in fields such as law, journalism, medicine, the media, education and a range of other areas, such as working with charities, and environmental agencies.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Christianity Beliefs and Practices

Students will explore the ways in which Christianity is expressed.

Buddhism Beliefs and Practices

Students will learn about the ways in which Buddhism is expressed.

Ethical Issues

A range of ethical issues, including human rights, prejudice and discrimination, the family, gender and sexuality, reasons for and attitudes towards crime and protection of natural world and the sanctity of life.

Life

This unit includes the study of the origins of the world, environmental issues, including animals and the right to life.

Physical Education

AQA



"GCSE PE is a great course. You have to learn loads of different topics which are really interesting. The practical lessons are really good but I have to play sport outside my lesson to get a good mark."

Course Overview

Students will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance. Students will also understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport.

Students will perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. Students will also develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.

This course can lead to a wide ranging number of careers with sports specific ones like sports coaching, PE teaching, or leisure centre manager but can also help with more scientific jobs such as physiotherapy, dietician and medicine.

Assessment through
examination

70%

Assessment through
non examined work

30%

Summary of Components

Applied Anatomy and Physiology

Students should develop knowledge and understanding of the key body systems for example the muscular system, skeletal system, cardiovascular system and respiratory system and how they impact on health, fitness and performance in physical activity and sport.

Socio-cultural Influences and Wellbeing in Physical Activity and Sport

Students should also develop knowledge and understanding of the psychological factors that can affect performers in physical activity and sport together with the socio-cultural factors that impact on physical activity and sport, and the impact of sport on society.

Coursework

Students should develop knowledge and understanding of the psychological factors that can affect performers in physical activity and sport.

Non-exam Assessment

Practical performance in physical activity and sport. Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Sports Studies

OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies Level 2



"I enjoy taking part in a range of activities with my friends and getting a chance to learn about sporting issues."

Course Overview

OCR Cambridge National in sports studies introduce students to the world of sport. The course enables students to practically participate and officiate a wide range of sports whilst exploring the contemporary issues of sport, gaining a further understanding of the impact sport has on wider society and discovering numerous ways of being involved in the sports industry.

The skills that they will develop in PE are always transferable and valued in a wide range of careers within the sports industry. Skills such as problem solving, numeracy, decision making and evaluation, communication and teamwork are all integral parts of the course.

Students who study PE can access a very broad range of careers ranging from a physiotherapist and sports psychologist to a personal trainer or a sports coach.

Assessment through
examination

25%

Assessment through
non examined work

75%

Summary of Components

Contemporary Issues In Sport

The purpose of this unit is for students to explore a range of topical and contemporary issues relating to participation levels and barriers, the promotion of values and ethical behaviour through sport and the role of high-profile sporting events as well as the positive impact sport has upon society beyond providing entertainment.

Developing Sports Skills

The aim of this unit is to develop skills, techniques and use of tactics/strategies/compositional ideas in both an individual and a team sporting activity, as well as their understanding of the rules to allow them to act in a number of officiating roles within an activity. Students will also be given the opportunity to consider the use of different practice methods in order to improve their performance.

Sports Leadership

Within this unit students will develop some of the knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to be an effective sport leader and plan, deliver and review safe and effective sporting activity sessions themselves.

Sport and the Media

Within this unit students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the relationship between sport and the media as well as their ability to evaluate and interpret the different ways in which sports items may be represented by the media.

Spanish

AQA



"A different language is a different version of life."

Course Overview

GCSE Spanish develops and strengthens what students already know about the language, culture and country. The focus of the course is on giving students an opportunity to improve their performance in all four of the skills assessed at this level: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Through a wide range of activities including comprehension, translation, videos, films, songs, literature, interactive ICT work and a wealth of fun and informative games, students can gain the confidence that they need to succeed at their chosen entry level.

The skills that they will develop in Spanish are transferable to many other subjects and help to build confidence in interpersonal skills, develop vocabulary and grammar and most importantly, provide the students with the ability to travel, work, and live around the world.

Assessment through
examination

100%

Assessment through
non examined work

0%

Summary of Components

Identity and Culture

Students will explore themes of relationships and family as well as hobbies and activities. They will explore vocabulary and sentences around technology and deepen their understanding of customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.

Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest

In this unit, students will explore global issues like the environment and homelessness as well as explore social issues including voluntary work, healthy eating and travel and tourism.

Current and Future Study and Employment

This unit focuses on student life, school studies, life at school and jobs and careers opportunities in the future.



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