

GCSE OPTIONS



GCSE

What will I study?

Key skills

Assessment

Possible careers



Introduction

I cannot believe that already you are considering making your GCSE option choices. It does not seem two minutes since we attended Leeds University on Transition Day when you were still in year 6. However, since then you have worked hard, shown real dedication and grit to make great progress across the curriculum. I am very proud of the scholars that you are all becoming. We have designed a curriculum to ensure that you are best placed to get the best results you can, coupled with teachers who genuinely care about you, which will ensure you are successful and happy as you move through years 9 to 11. All scholars will study English, mathematics, science and religious education. These subjects are vital for most careers. Most scholars will also study Spanish and either geography or history. You will then get to choose a subject that you thrive in along with still participating in sports, stretch and our wide range of co-curricular electives and enrichment. Please do speak to a member of staff if you feel you need help or additional support in making your decisions.

Best wishes,
Mrs Senior

Compulsory overview

Compulsory subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- RE
- Spanish

You will also continue to have lessons in PDS, stretch, co-curricular and PE (non-GCSE)

Optional subjects:

- Art
- Computing
- Drama
- Food preparation and nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Music
- PE
- Product design
- Textiles

Research

Researching your options

- **Time:** allocate enough time to read and talk about each subject that you are interested in.
- **Keeping notes:** make notes when you talk to trusted adults or read useful information. This will help you remember any important points when making your final decision.
- **Beginning to make long-term plans:** Knowing what degrees or careers interest you have can help you choose GCSEs that will support you on this path.

Two strategies for beginning to make long-term plans are:

- Look at careers websites, such as launchpad, to find out more about the knowledge and skills needed to study different subjects. Make sure you complete the quizzes on launchpad about your skills and interests. You can ask your advisor for your login details.
- Look at prospectuses for universities; these will show you different degrees you can study when you are older and help you think about what you will need to study now to keep your options open. There are prospectuses in the iBase, and every university lists its courses on its website.

Other sources of information and advice:

- Trusted relatives and family friends
- Older scholars
- Your teachers
- Your advisor
- Careers advisors and helplines
- GCSE bitesize (to see an overview of what is studied)



Top tips

Good reasons to pick a subject

- "I enjoy it."
- "I am good at it."
- "It is relevant to a degree or career that interests me."
- "I would like a new experience."
- "I'm not sure about what I want to do in the future; this subject will help me to keep my options open for A-Level and university."
- "It is a challenging subject, and I would like a challenge."
- "It is a subject I would like to get better at; I'm ready to work hard to improve."

Poor reasons to pick a subject

- "I like the teacher." They might not be your teacher for GCSE. You are more likely to be successful if you have a good relationship with all of your teachers.
- "My friends are doing it." You might not enjoy the subject, and could lose motivation to revise and work hard. Studying something you like will help you to get to know even more people who have similar interests to you.
- "It sounds easy." No GCSE is easy! Don't pick a subject that doesn't motivate you to work hard to get the best grade possible. If you are worried about getting the grades you want, speak to your teachers.
- "I'm in a rush and didn't research the other options." Make sure you take the time to find out about all the options to avoid any regrets.
- "I am under pressure to take the subject." You will already have a broad range of compulsory subjects that will help you to go to university (or a real alternative) and get a top job. Although others' advice is valuable, be guided by your own strengths and interests.



STAFF

Case studies

Mr Greenwood

PE and business studies

What did you enjoy about studying at KS4?

KS4 gave me the chance to further study subjects that interested me. It also gave me the chance to study subjects that I previously hadn't had the chance to in KS3.

How did you make your choices?

I picked subjects which I knew I would find interesting. I spoke to my parents and teachers regarding my choices. With the advice from people close to me and professionals at school, I knew 100 percent I had made the right choices.

Do you have any advice for Y8?

Do your research and make sure you are happy with the choices you make. Take advice from close family. Don't choose subjects because friends have chosen them.

Miss Bell

Food technology, art and history

What did you enjoy about studying at KS4?

I enjoyed having the opportunity to be able to study the subjects I liked most. When deciding my options for KS4 I felt empowered because I had some ownership over my own learning. I had always enjoyed studying music and media at school and was eager to learn more. As well as the theory side of the lessons I enjoyed practicing, performing and creating.

How did you make your choices?

I thought hard about the lessons I enjoyed most and the lessons which I knew I could strive in. I then spoke to my teachers and attended Option Evenings to find out more information before making my final decision.

Do you have any advice for Y8?

My best piece of advice is make sure you make the best decision for you, not anyone else. If in doubt, get advice from teachers and family but the end decision is yours. Chose subjects you are most passionate about, ones you will enjoy and ones you will really excel in.



STAFF

Case studies

Mr Handley

History, IT,
economics

What did you enjoy about studying at KS4?

I enjoyed studying subjects I was interested in learning more about why things happened. I really like the opportunity of studying subjects I had no prior knowledge of.

How did you make your choices?

I made my choices by visiting evenings that school had and taking advice from my family and teachers.

Do you have any advice for Y8?

Choose subjects you are passionate about and interested in. Don't copy your friends as this is your life and you need to make your own choices.

Mrs Kitson

Drama, performing arts,
music

What did you enjoy about studying at KS4?

I was interested in studying subjects I could be creative in. Drama in particular gave me opportunities to get involved in extra curricular activities which I really enjoyed. Art was a wonderful subject which I still enjoy now and drama opened many doors for me as I went on to study performing arts at university.

How did you make your choices?

I spoke through my options with my family. I also attended events that provided me with useful information, so I could make the right decision for me.

Do you have any advice for Y8?

Choose the subjects you love! The most important thing is that you enjoy your learning and look forward to your lessons every day. Choose your subjects for yourself, not for others.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

What will I study?

Subject content- there are 3 parts to the GCSE qualification

- Explorations in creative reading and writing - Paper 1
- Writers' viewpoints and perspectives - Paper 2
- Non-exam assessment- speaking and listening endorsement

GCSE English Language will help you develop your analytical skills and appreciation of the techniques that writers use to create effects in their writing. The range of texts from nineteenth century writers to twenty-first century writers will engage and educate you to consider the world we live in now compared to the world of centuries gone by. You will be able to explore a range of different texts; look at the key conventions used by the writers and understand different features of different genres.

You will develop and secure clear writing skills: writing in a range of styles for a range of purposes and writing for different audiences.

Your basic skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be practised and this will help you in your other GCSE subjects.

Key skills

You will become a stronger reader by reading and studying a range of texts. Your ability to infer (work things out) will improve as we ask you think about what is suggested to you by a writer's use of language and structural features. Your writing skills will improve as you will understand what features to include in different pieces of writing and you will develop your accuracy as you will be asked to check your work and correct it for common misconceptions. Finally, your communication skills will be enhanced as you will be frequently asked to present to the rest of class, share ideas in discussions and work with your peers in groups.

This core subject is diverse and exciting; it will provide you with many opportunities to build on your success in KS3 and to bring in your knowledge from outside the classroom to enhance your learning.

At the end of the course these skills will be transferable to use in your further studies.

Assessment

Both papers are 1 hour and 45 mins long with Section A focusing on reading and Section B focusing on writing.

Paper 1 - Reading fiction and creative writing

One written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

You will read one fiction text and then be given a choice of creative writing tasks.

Paper 2 - Reading non-fiction and transactional writing

One written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

You will read two non-fiction texts and then be given a transactional writing task.

Possible careers

A qualification in English language can open doors to a wide variety of job opportunities, such as teaching, either in primary or secondary education, journalism or writing and marketing and public relations.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What will I study?

Subject content- there are 2 parts to the GCSE qualification

- Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th century novel
- Paper 2 - Modern texts and poetry

GCSE English Literature will help you develop your critical reading skills, whilst introducing you to a range of texts and authors from the 1600s to the present day. You will develop an understanding of different writing styles as you engage with poetry, plays and novels, and will be able to analyse and comment on the reasons why writers make certain choices in their texts. Your engagement with 19th century writing (such as Charles Dickens) will stretch your reading skills which will build your confidence in understanding and analysing challenging texts.

You will develop and secure and clear academic writing skills which will help you across a wide range of subjects and in later life.

Your basic skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be practised and this will help you in your other GCSE subjects.

Key skills

You will become a stronger and more critical reader by reading and studying a range of complex and challenging texts. Your close reading and analysis skills will improve as you study the set texts and you will grow to understand the importance of contexts in literature; this means that you will learn to consider the writers' message and intentions.

Your academic (essay writing) will improve as you learn to plan, form a line of argument and express your ideas clearly. Finally, your communication skills will be enhanced as you will be frequently asked to present to the rest of class, share ideas in discussions and work with your peers in groups.

This core subject is diverse and exciting; it will provide you with many opportunities to build on your success in KS3 and to bring in your knowledge from outside the classroom to enhance your learning. At the end of the course these skills will be transferable to use in your further studies.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

One written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE
- Closed book (you are not allowed to take your texts into the exam)

You will answer one question on Macbeth and one question on A Christmas Carol. Both of these are 'extract to whole' questions, which means that you are given a short extract and have to discuss this extract and some moments in the rest of the play/novel in your response.

Paper 2 - Modern texts and poetry

One written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes

- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE
- Closed book (you are not allowed to take your texts into the exam)

You will answer one essay question on An Inspector Calls, one comparative essay question on Power and Conflict poetry, one essay question on unseen poetry (for this you analyse a poem you have not seen before) and one short (8 mark) question on the methods two poets have used to have an effect on the reader.

MATHS

What will I study?

At DMA we begin our study of the compulsory maths GCSE (Edexcel) in year 7. Over the next few years you will continue to master the following topic areas:

- 1 Number
- 2 Algebra
- 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- 4 Geometry and measures
- 5 Probability
- 6 Statistics

Key skills and assessment

A01

- accurately recall facts, terminology and definitions
- use and interpret notation correctly
- accurately carry out routine procedures or set tasks requiring multi-step solutions

A02

- make deductions, inferences and draw conclusions from mathematical information
- construct chains of reasoning to achieve a given result
- interpret and communicate information accurately
- present arguments and proofs
- assess the validity of an argument and critically evaluate a given way of presenting information

A03

- translate problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts into a process or a series of mathematical processes
- make and use connections between different parts of mathematics
- interpret results in the context of the given problem
- evaluate methods used and results obtained
- evaluate solutions to identify how they may have been affected by assumptions made

Possible careers

The top two jobs for mathematics graduates are finance and investment analyst and adviser, and chartered or certified accountant. Other roles in the top five include programmer, software developer and actuary.

SCIENCE

What will I study?

You will study the three sciences biology chemistry and physics. Biology topics include the study of cells, organisms, infections and disease, how the body responds to change, evolution and ecology. Chemistry topics involve the study of the structure of atoms and the periodic table, bonding and structure of molecules, chemical and energy changes, factors that affect the rate of a reaction and chemistry of the atmosphere. Physics topics involve the study of energy, electricity, states of matter, forces, waves, magnetism and space. Scholars are studying the GCSE that will effectively manage their workload and well being and lead them to being most successful at GCSE and gaining access to college or sixth form on their desired level 3 course.

Assessment and key skills

Assessment is 6 papers in total: two biology papers, two chemistry and two physics. Overall the 6 papers involve testing the following assessment objectives:

A01 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific techniques and procedures. 40%

A02 - Apply knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures. 40%

A03 - Analyse information and ideas to: interpret and evaluate; make judgements and draw conclusions; develop and improve experimental procedures. 20%

15% of marks will assess practical skills based on the required practicals undertaken throughout the course. Scholars will also be tested on working scientifically and maths skills which in Biology papers is 10% of marks; Chemistry 20% of marks and Physics 30% of marks. For combined science each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes, for separate sciences each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Possible careers

With a science qualification the opportunities are endless and include doctor, pharmacologist, research scientist, vet, secondary school teacher, marine biologist, dentist, geophysicist / field seismologist, healthcare scientist, medical physics, scientific laboratory technician, structural engineer, analytical chemist, chemical engineer, clinical biochemist and toxicologist.

SPANISH

What will I study?

The Spanish GCSE course covers three distinct themes which apply to all four question papers. Scholars 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 the Spanish speaking world.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Key skills and Assessment

AO1 – Listening – Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

AO2 – Speaking – Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

- Non-exam assessment
- 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) and preparation time
- 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) and preparation time
- 60 marks (Foundation and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

AO3 – Reading – Understanding and responding to different types of written language

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (Foundation and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

AO4 – Writing – Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

- Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier
- 25% of GCSE

Possible careers

Academic researcher, Interpreter, Political risk analyst, Teacher, Translator, Broadcast journalist, International aid / development worker, logistics and distribution manager, marketing executive, sales executive, tour manager, flight attendant.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

What will I study?

Subject content – There are 2 parts to the GCSE qualification

Paper 1 – An in depth study of the Beliefs, teachings and practices of both Christianity and Islam.

Paper 2 – Application of religious beliefs and teachings to thematic studies of relationships and families, crime and punishment, religion and life and peace and conflict.

GCSE Religious Education will help you develop your evaluation skills and appreciation of the different approaches to practicing faith in the UK and around the world. The thematic studies paper allows you to formulate opinions on some of the biggest issues relevant in the world we live today.

You will develop and secure clear writing skills: writing using a range of techniques, which demonstrate both subject knowledge and the ability to formulate arguments based on your own opinion.

Your basic skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be practised and this will help you in your other GCSE subjects.

Key skills

Your writing skills will improve as you will understand how to approach different questions with a unique skill to maximise effectiveness in answering the exam questions. This includes evaluation, considering different points of views in application to topical debates within society, as well as considering how the beliefs of both Christians and Muslims influence them to act day to day.

This core subject is diverse and exciting; it will provide you with many opportunities to build on your success in KS3 and to bring in your knowledge from outside the classroom to enhance your learning.

At the end of the course these skills will be transferable to use in your further studies.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Christian and Muslim Beliefs, teachings and practices

One written exam – 1 hour 45 minutes, 102 marks, 50% of GCSE

You will answer a 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 mark question on each of the below topics:

- Christian Beliefs
- Christian Practices
- Muslim Beliefs
- Muslim Practices

Paper 2 – Thematic Studies

One written exam – 1 hour 45 minutes, 96 marks, 50% of GCSE

You will answer a 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 mark question on each of the below topics:

- Relationships and Families
- Crime and Punishment
- Religion and Life
- Peace and Conflict

ART

What will I study?

The AQA GCSE art and design course will provide you with a range of opportunities to experiment and refine your understanding of different techniques. During the course you will do two, three or four projects based on a given title or theme.

Throughout the GCSE you will create a portfolio of coursework, including drawing, painting, print-making, ceramics, textiles, graphic design and photography. This work will be submitted for formal assessment in Year 11 and will be worth 60% of your final grade.

The remaining 40% of your marks at GCSE come from your externally set task which you will start in January of Year 11. This is a project set by AQA and will contain a number of different starting points which you are able to choose from. You will have time to create a body of preparatory work in a sketchbook before spending 10 hours on a final piece. These 10 hours will be split across a number of days. Art is an extremely rewarding subject which requires dedication and commitment. In order to be successful you will need to be able to experiment, research, develop ideas and concepts, practise, and present a final outcome.

Key skills

Scholars will develop their ability to:

- develop their ideas through investigations informed by selecting and critically analysing sources
- apply an understanding of relevant practices in the creative and cultural industries to their work
- refine their ideas as work progresses through experimenting with media, materials, techniques and processes
- record their ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually and through written annotation, using appropriate specialist vocabulary, as work progresses
- use visual language critically as appropriate to their own creative intentions and chosen area(s) of study through effective and safe use of: media, materials, techniques, processes, technologies
- use drawing skills for different needs and purposes, appropriate to context
- realise personal intentions through sustained application of the creative process.

Assessment

Both your course work and externally set assignment will be marked in the same way, using four assessment objectives;

AO1 – The development of ideas through independent research into different artists

AO2 – Experimenting and refining ideas and techniques using a range of materials

AO3 – Recording from observation, including drawing, painting, photography and annotation

AO4 – Presenting a body of work which explores a theme or idea culminating in an outcome

Possible careers

Artist, gallery technician, architect, art therapist, artist and repertoire administrator, art director, artist manager, museum conservator, magazine art editor.

ART TEXTILES

What will I study?

The AQA GCSE art textiles course will provide you with a range of opportunities to experiment and refine your understanding of different techniques and processes. During the course you will do two, three or four projects based on a given title or theme. Throughout the GCSE you will create a portfolio of coursework, including drawing, painting, print-making, sewing, dyeing, embroidery and garment construction. This work will be submitted for formal assessment in Year 11 and will be worth 60% of your final grade. The remaining 40% of your marks at GCSE come from your externally set task which you will start in January of Year 11. This is a project set by AQA and will contain a number of different starting points which you are able to choose from. You will have time to create a body of preparatory work in a sketchbook before spending 10 hours on a final piece. These 10 hours will be split across a number of days. Art textiles is an extremely rewarding subject which requires dedication and commitment. In order to be successful you will need to be able to experiment, research, develop ideas and concepts, practise, and present a final outcome.

Key skills

You will learn many new skills on this course, based on historical and contemporary textile artists, including advanced sewing machine skills. You will learn how to apply various techniques such as batik, quilting, CAD / CAM embroidery, applique, printing, felting as well as garment construction.

Assessment

Both your course work and externally set task will be marked in the same way, using four assessment objectives;

- A01** – The development of ideas through independent research into different artists
- A02** – Experimenting and refining ideas and techniques using a range of materials
- A03** – Recording from observation, including, drawing, painting, sewing and modelling
- A04** – Presenting a body of work which explores a theme or idea

Possible careers

Artist, fashion designer, print designer, product designer, costume designer, fashion buying and merchandising, garment technologist, pattern cutting.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

What will I study?

- The design process
- Choice of different design briefs
- Key research skills
- How to produce creative and inspiring designs
- Modelling and development of designs
- Practical making skills
- Preparation for the final exam
- New and emerging technology

Key skills

GCSE Product Design enables students to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. You will study different design movements and create a range of different design ideas in order to produce outcomes in various materials including wood, metals and plastic. Throughout the GCSE you will learn different skills by working with a variety of materials and processes, including electronics, graphic design, 3D modelling, resistant materials, CAD / CAM and technical drawing.

In order to be successful in product design you must be committed to producing a detailed, thorough and consistent design portfolio. You will need to be dedicated and motivated to working independently and as a part of a team. You will have the opportunity to develop your designing and making skills through a number of creative practical tasks and portfolio work.

Assessment

Your design portfolio will contribute to 50% of your GCSE marks, with the remaining 50% coming from a written exam at the end of year 11.

Possible careers

Consumer product design, marketing, product design consultancy, design research, project planning, technical sales, CAD/CAM, buying, interior / exhibition design, advertising, display design, web design, engineer.

COMPUTING

What will I study?

This carefully planned course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

Through this qualification students can:

Develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work.

Look at the use of algorithms in computer programs.

Become independent and discerning users of IT. Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts.

Develop computer programs to solve problems. Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs / solutions and the impact of computer technology in society.

Why choose OCR GCSE Computing?

It's a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science will find it provides a superb stepping stone. You will need to be confident with mathematics as a lot of computing is based on mathematical and logical thinking.

The Units

Computer systems - computational thinking, algorithms and programming - practical programming

Key skills

Learners gain a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. This course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. Students develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.

Assessment

Computer systems - exam (50%)

This is assessed by a written paper, which assesses students' understanding of computer systems and legislation

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - exam (50%)

This is assessed by a written paper which assesses students' knowledge of algorithms, programming and pseudocode

Practical programming

All students must be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s), either to a specification or to solve a problem (or problems), during their course of study. Students may draw on some of the content in both components when engaged in Practical Programming

Possible careers

Software programmer, games designer, web developer, software engineer, app designer, systems engineer, network manager.

DRAMA

What will I study?

- GCSE Drama allows you to expand your knowledge of the use of drama and the performing arts. You will have the opportunity to study a variety of full published plays; exploring them practically and performing extracts to a range of audiences.

You will also be challenged to devise your own performances after exploring a given theme. In order to create these performances you will develop your understanding of a range of genres including naturalism, epic theatre and physical theatre.

You will also develop your critical thinking by watching a variety of professional performances, writing critical reviews of the work.

Key skills

You will learn many new skills on this course based on historical and contemporary performance genres.

You will develop your communication skills, critical thinking, scripted and devising skills.

You will be introduced to a variety of technical skills including the use of costume, mask, sound, lighting and staging.

Assessment

Component 1: Understanding drama

Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes - 40% of GCSE.

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

40% of GCSE - This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3:

Performance of Extract 1 and Extract 2 - 20% of GCSE. This component is marked by AQA.

Possible careers

Actor, director, producer, stage manager, writer, blogger, vlogger, teacher, journalist, lawyer, arts manager.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

What will I study?

The new food preparation and nutrition GCSE will help you to develop a greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. You'll also learn about food from around the world, through the study of British and international culinary traditions as well as developing an understanding of where food comes from (food provenance) and the challenges surrounding food security. You'll master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking. This is an exciting and creative course which will allow you to demonstrate your practical skills and make connections between theory and practice.

Key skills

This is a course with a strong practical focus. You'll master a variety of technical skills and become proficient in the kitchen. In addition, you'll develop an in-depth knowledge of food science, food safety, food choice, nutrition and health.

Assessment

There will be one exam for this qualification, which will assess your knowledge of the theory behind food preparation and nutrition. The exam will be 1 hour and 45 minutes long. The second part of the assessment will be a non-examination assessment and will consist of two tasks, involving practical work.

Task 1: Students will carry out and an investigation into the scientific principals that underpin the preparation and cooking of food. This task will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and practically apply your understanding of the science behind cooking. You'll practically investigate ingredients and explain how they work and why.

Task 2: Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a 3 course menu. This task will provide you with an opportunity to cook up a storm and showcase your creativity and cooking skills. You might make a street food menu, create delicious tapas dishes or cook up a menu for a student on a budget.

Possible careers

Food scientist, nutritionist, dietitian, chef, baker, farmer, catering manager, teacher, food development, food engineer, confectionary leader.

GEOGRAPHY

What will I study?

Exam Board - AQA

Year 9

Living with the physical environment: coastal and river landscapes, earthquakes and volcanoes, tropical storms, weather hazards and climate change.

Year 10

Living with the physical environment: ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments. Challenges in the human environment: population, city challenges, development, economic futures, resource management and energy.

Year 11

Geographical applications: issue evaluation (synoptic unit), fieldwork in both a rural and an urban setting and geographical skills.

Key skills

You must have an interest in the world around you and like finding out about new things. You need to be able to use ICT and be able to work with others. Geography will suit you if you like using a variety of materials such as photos, videos, maps and diagrams etc.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three terminal exams. There is no coursework, however you will need to be able to understand the key areas of fieldwork and be able to interpret data.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment 1hr 30 mins

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment 1hr 30 mins

Paper 3: Geographical applications (skills, fieldwork and synoptic) 1hr 15 mins

Possible careers

Journalism and media, the law, engineering, business management, ICT, environmental management, teaching, economic planning, marketing, leisure, recreation and tourism.

HISTORY

What will I study?

The board that scholars will be following – OCR Schools History Project

The difference from key stage 3

GCSE continues to help students develop a range and depth of History knowledge, and to use historical evidence. KS4 further develops students' ability to engage in historical enquiry, with a greater focus on evaluating evidence and testing interpretations about the past. Students learn to make and support their own judgements which are grounded in the evidence.

The attributes required to be successful in the subject

- An interest in the past!
- A curiosity about what the evidence can (and can't!) tell us about the past

Key skills

History is a 'training of the mind'. It develops skills of analysis and critical thinking. History is a good choice if you enjoy reading and finding information. It involves using information and sources to argue your case and reach your own judgements. This can involve questioning and challenging views from the past, or weighing up the importance of different reasons.

Assessment

Thematic Study:

The People's Health c1250 – present British Depth Study: The Norman Conquest, 1580-1603

1 hour 45 minute paper 40% of GCSE

History Around Us:

Site study of Fountains Abbey

1 hour paper 20% of GCSE

Period Study:

The Making of America, 1789-1900

World Depth Study: Living Under Nazi Rule 1933-1945

1 hour 45 minute paper 40% of GCSE

Possible careers

Potential career pathways that your subject area may be linked to Law, journalism, public service, teaching, politics, human resources, university research. Any career in which you are required to communicate your opinions and conclusions effectively.

MUSIC

What will I study?

Music at GCSE will continue to focus on aspects you have already looked at in KS3 Music. The three core modules are performing, composing and listening and appraising. The performance section of the course will include:

- Performing as a soloist
- Performing within an ensemble

The composition aspect will include:

- Composing two pieces of music independently. These pieces of music should be linked to one of your areas of study.

The listening and appraising section will include:

- Studying a variety of pieces of music to enable you to write informed answers on certain pieces of music.

In detail, studying twelve set pieces linked to your four areas of study.

- Area of Study 1: Instrumental music 1700-1820
- Area of Study 2: Vocal music
- Area of Study 3: Music for stage and screen
- Area of Study 4: Fusions

Key Skills

Performing, composing, listening, appraising and score analysis are main skills you will learn while studying Music at GCSE.

Assessment

Performance (30%) one solo and one ensemble performance recorded and performed under controlled conditions.

Composition (30%) two compositions that should each be written in 15 hours of controlled conditions. 90 minute exam (40%) involving the 12 set works you will have studied in preparation.

Pupils will be following the Edexcel specification.

Possible careers

Session musician, TV and film composer, film music director, arts management, sound engineer, producer, teacher, musical director, music therapist, musicologist, promoter, radio researcher.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What will I study?

Content / topics

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data & interoperating data
5. Sports psychology
6. Socio-cultural influences
7. Health, fitness and well-being

Key Skills

Listening, reading, writing, literacy, numeracy and speaking are the key skills you will learn over this course. You also need to have the physical attributes to perform sporting activities under pressure.

Assessment

How will I be assessed

2 written examinations each of 1 hour 15 mins (60%)

Practical assessment in three sports (30%)

Written coursework on strengths and weaknesses of a chosen sport (10%)

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

- Topics:
- Applied anatomy – human body including muscles and bones
 - Movement analysis – how the body moves during sport
 - Physical Training – how to plan and implement a training program

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

- Topics:
- Sports psychology – how the brain works during sport
 - Socio-cultural influences – how media and culture can impact sport
 - Health, fitness and well-being – how to keep fit and healthy

Practical assessment

- 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).

Possible careers

Doctor, PE teacher, sports psychologist, sports coach / conditioning, sports scientist, nutritionalist, physiotherapist, professional sports player.

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL SPORTS SCIENCE

What will I study?

Content / topics

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data & interoperating data
5. Sports psychology
6. Socio-cultural influences
7. Health, fitness and well-being

Key Skills

Listening, reading, writing, literacy, numeracy and speaking are the key skills you will learn over this course. You also need to have the physical attributes to perform sporting activities under pressure.

Assessment

How will I be assessed

Scholars must complete 2 mandatory units;

- Reducing the Risk of Sports Injuries - 1 hour written exam, written coursework
- Students learn how to prepare participants to take part in physical activity so that they minimise the risk of injuries. They also learn how to respond to common sporting injuries and how to recognise the symptoms of some common medical conditions.
- Applying principles of training – written assignments
- Students develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of training and how to keep performers in peak physical condition. They apply practical skills in fitness testing and in designing bespoke training programmes to suit individual requirements.

Scholars must complete 2 of the following units that will be decided by the class teacher and will be completed as written coursework;

- The body's response to physical exercise
- Sports psychology
- Sports nutrition
- Sports technology

Possible careers

Doctor, PE teacher, sports psychologist, sports coach / conditioning, sports scientist, nutritionalist, physiotherapist, professional sports player.

NOTES



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Dixons McMillan Academy
Trinity Road, Bradford
West Yorkshire, BD5 0JD
Telephone: 01274 424350
www.dixonsma.com
@DixonsMA