

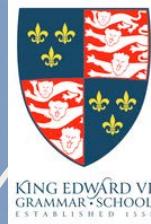


KING EDWARD VI  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
ESTABLISHED 1551

# 2026-28 GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET



# Dear Students,



Throughout KS3 we have provided you with a broad course of study, covering a variety of subjects that we hope have helped you develop an awareness of your strengths, interests and skills. You have now reached the point where you will need to make some significant choices about the subjects you will study through KS4.

The KS4 curriculum is designed to continue offering you a broad range of subjects, providing you with as many opportunities for VI form and beyond.

For students starting Yr 10 in September 2026 our main curriculum route is the EBacc to ensure that you still study a broad and balanced curriculum for as long as possible.

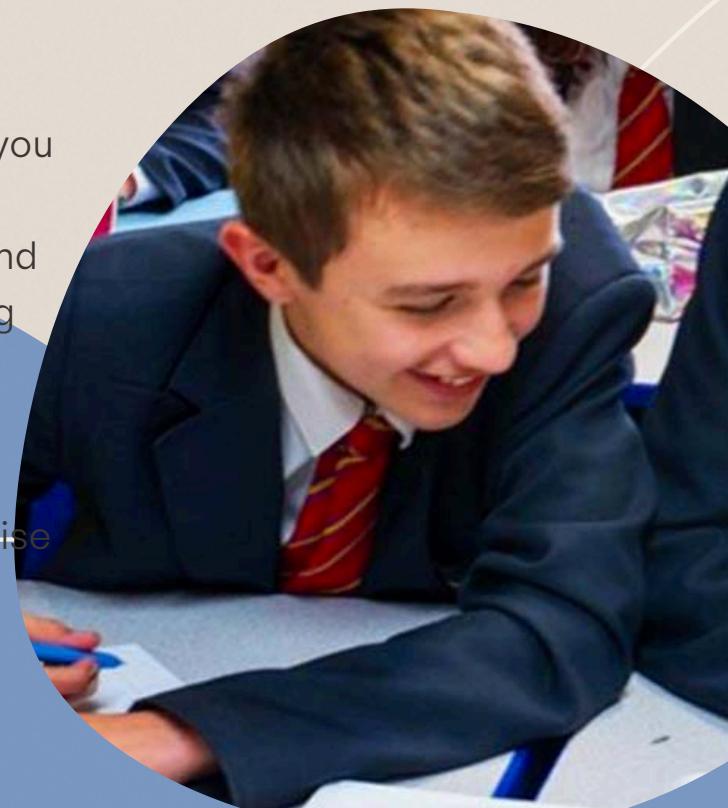
In making your choices, it is important to bear in mind what you enjoy, the skills you are likely to develop, what your strengths are and what your career interests are.

The remainder of this booklet aims to provide you with information about the different GCSE subjects on offer, how to select your options and the deadlines for this academic year for making these choices.

Please do take time to view the summary from each subject, the student testimonials and advise from our Careers advisor, Mrs. Craig.

*Miss Teasel*

Deputy Head Academics  
[adele.teasel@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:adele.teasel@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk)





# The curriculum offer

The KS4 curriculum contains compulsory core subjects that all students must take together with elements of choice.

## Compulsory examined curriculum:

All students must take English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (the majority of our students take exams in all three sciences separately) and RE (this will be examined as a full GCSE for those opting for it in the subject blocks and within the Personal Development curriculum for the remaining students).

## Compulsory non-examined curriculum:

All students are required to continue to study Physical Education, RSHE and RE

## The EBacc Route (automatic route)

In addition to the core subjects students must choose from the options below:

- At least one Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish).
- At least one Humanities subject from Geography or History
- 2 additional options subjects of your choice (it is possible to study Geography & History and both Languages if you wish).

For those students on a modified curriculum, individual conversations about your KS4 curriculum will take place to support decision making with Mrs. Kershaw, Mrs. Reeve and Mrs. Hargreaves.



# Support with making these choices

We know that making these choices can feel a little overwhelming, especially if you are unsure of what you would like to do when you leave school. That is OK, our curriculum is designed to keep your options open as long as possible.

This stage in a students academic career is the first opportunity for them to begin to focus their efforts on subjects they enjoy while keeping options open in the future.

## Things to consider when making your choices:

- We usually require students to achieve a grade 6 or higher to continue studies in that subject at A Level.
- Many of our students secure places at Russell Group universities. For a number of these courses they will expect students to have studied facilitating subjects at A Level. When considering options 'facilitating subjects' are those that should be taken alongside chosen subjects - these are usually the compulsory subjects for the EBacc route.
- Some subjects have a large proportion of the course assessed via 'Non-Examined Assessments' when selecting subjects such as Art, Drama, Music students should take this into consideration as the preparation for final pieces and performances can mean additional time outside of lessons being given.

For advice and guidance you have multiple resources available to you, please make sure you use them before completing your form:

- Options Assemblies with Miss Teasel and Mrs. Hargreaves
- Your teachers - ask/email them with subject specific questions.
- This booklet - read each page carefully and watch the student testimonials.
- Our dedicated careers advisor, Mrs Craig - she offers group and 1-1 guidance sessions, you can find her in Norton Lodge or at [becky.craig@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:becky.craig@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk)
- Our Careers Website (click the Future U logo below for a direct link).
- Unifrog - use the activities and course library to explore your interests
- The PCE event will allow feedback from teachers on suitability of each subject for you.

# Completing your options form

Deadline for submitting your options form:  
Friday 27th February 2026

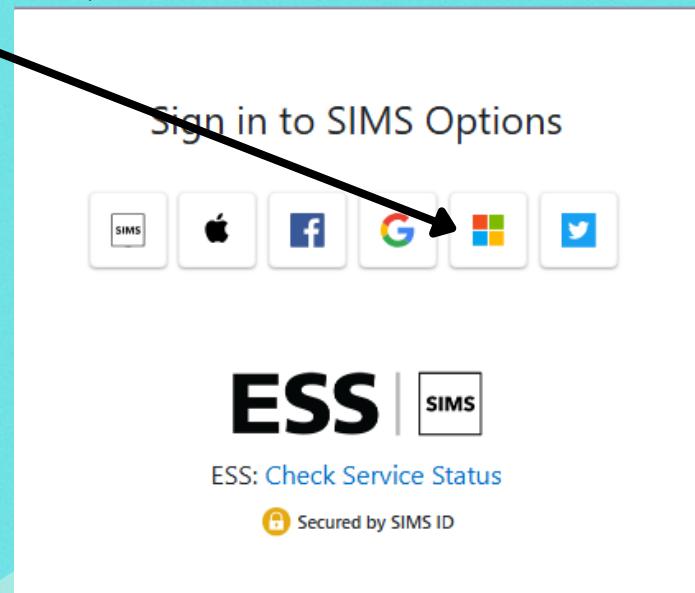
## SIMS options online - support guide



The SIMS online options package is registered to and accessed by the students using their school email address and password (MS365 account). Parents will access using their existing SIMS app log-ins to approve options for their child.

### Step 1 - Accessing SIMS options online

1. Log onto the options website [www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)
2. Sign-in with your Microsoft account



3. Enter the details for the account, this is your @kevigs.lincs.sch.uk



4. Enter your school password (use to access your school email, MS teams and school computers)



# Completing your options form

## SIMS options online - support guide

### Step 2 - choosing your options

Your options pathway will have been set based on your Yr 9 options and recommendations from each of our subject leaders. The vast majority of students should see the form for 'EBacc Pathway'. You only need to select your options subjects, not compulsory subjects.

1. Read the guidance boxes carefully.
2. Select your four priority subject options from the list by clicking the subject button - they will turn blue once selected.
3. click the 'reserve' section of the subject button to select your two reserve subjects

You have chosen 4 of 4 courses and 2 of 2 reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Business GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Learning Support GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Religion+Worldview GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Sports Stu GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve				

4. You need to order your choices and reserves in order of preference - your EBacc choices (MFL/Hum choices) should be 1 and 2). Your free choices will be the ones replaced by the top reserve choice if we are unable to meet that request.

**My Choices in Order of Preference** (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Pathway
2 Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Pathway
3 Religion+Worldview GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Pathway
4 Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Pathway

**My Reserves in Order of Preference** (Total Reserves: 2)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Business GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Pathway
2 Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Pathway

Optional - you can add comments if there is something you feel the school needs to know about your choices.

# Art & Design

## Why is this subject important?

Art and Design is a very important subject, in fact, the UK's creative industries are developing new jobs faster than other sectors. Art and Design provides you with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore your interests in ways that are personally relevant and truly developmental in nature.

## What topics will I study?

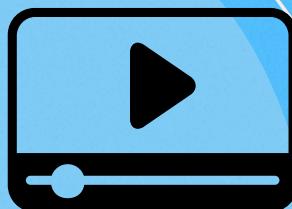
You will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of fine art media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. You will have the opportunities to extend skills learnt at key stage 3 and to learn new processes such as acrylic painting, print making, collage, clay work, photography, ink drawing and painting on canvas. You will learn how to annotate work, how to research and work independently. You will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of Fine Art, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples.

## What skills do I need to succeed in this subject?

You must have a passion for Art, plus the motivation to work outside of lessons as it is a time-consuming subject, and it will help if you draw or create your own artwork in your spare time. A reasonable amount of artistic skill is required for this course but because you can work in a range of media, you do not always have to be an excellent 'drawer' to succeed. You will have to be able to research a given topic and develop a theme resulting in a final piece of work, and you will need to have the ability to work independently.

## What careers might this subject lead to?

This course can lead to a variety of different opportunities including any type of design career including fashion, textiles, graphics, architecture, animation, television and media, landscape gardening, hair and beauty and interior design. It can also lead to careers in teaching, art therapy, illustration and photography. What A levels might this support? Art and Design, Graphics, Textiles, Photography and Media.



AQA	Art & Design (Fine Art)	8202
100% practical assessment	Component 1 – Portfolio Component 2 – Externally set assignment	



# Business Studies

## Why is this subject important?

Whatever you intend to do when you leave school you will come into contact with businesses. Some of you may be budding business people intending to set up your own business, whereas many of you will work for small, medium or large scale businesses. It is therefore important to have an understanding of the ways in which businesses are structured and how they function.



## What topics will I study?

The subject content is divided into two exam papers based on units of study (each examined by a 1.5 hour formal written exam - there is no course work element to this subject), and these are listed below:

Paper 1: Business Activity, Marketing & People - These units examine the objectives of businesses and the alternative forms of business organisation available to entrepreneurs. They focus on the processes a business goes through to successfully meet the needs of consumers and investigates the concept of enterprise and the importance of business plans. They cover the reason businesses need to market their products and the principles of the marking mix. Finally, these units look at how businesses recruit, train, manage and reward their workforce.

Paper 2: Operations, Finance and Influences on Business Production - These units focus on the methods used by a business to produce goods, to control stock and to ensure a quality product or service is produced. They also consider the most appropriate sources of finance in different business contexts, as well as investigating the ethical and environmental considerations of businesses.

## What skills and attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

No specific skills and attributes are required, although you should be willing to develop skills in relation to: Improving your own learning and performance, Problem solving, Working both independently and with others, Information Technology, Report writing and data analysis

## What careers might this subject lead to?

Major areas of employment for students studying Business include: Accountancy and Taxation, Marketing, Banking and Financial Services, The Media, Human Resources, Management, Insurance Management, Consultancy, The Civil Service ... and of course, you could always set up your own business!

## What A levels might this subject support?

This course should help to facilitate the study of Business Studies and Economics courses in particular.

Component	% of overall GCSE (9–1) in Business (J204)		
	AO1	AO2	AO3
Business 1: business activity, marketing and people (J204/01)	16–19%	16–19%	14–16%
Business 2: operations, finance and influences on business (J204/02)	16–19%	16–19%	14–16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>30%</b>



# Computer Science



## Why is this subject important?

In an age where artificial intelligence writes poems, drives cars, and recommends our next obsession, understanding how these systems work is a form of modern literacy. Fluency with the technology that underpins science, business, communication, and daily life is now essential. Computer science doesn't just teach students how to code; it develops clear, analytical thinking for navigating and shaping a world increasingly run by machines.

## What topics will I study?

At the heart of the Computer Science GCSE is programming and you will become fluent in the language Python (chosen because it provides a good teaching language and is used in the real world). As well as programming, you will study systems architecture, wired and wireless networking, systems software and moral, legal and environmental issues.

## What skills or attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

Success in this subject will require enthusiasm and tenacity in equal measures. Students will be expected to complete programming activities in their spare time, above and beyond regularly set homework. Becoming an accomplished programmer is somewhat like learning a musical instrument; it requires time, patience and practice. You will need excellent problem solving skills and be prepared to invest the hours in gaining fluency. Since this course is likely to be oversubscribed, students wishing to embark on this GCSE will be invited to take a programming aptitude test before options are selected. This does not require any formal revision but will enable the school to make a decision as to whether this subject is a good fit for a particular student.

## What careers might this subject lead to?

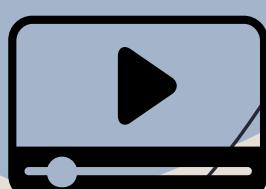
Whatever future career in industry or academia you are considering, an understanding of how computers actually work is likely to be beneficial. This is, of course, supplemented by the myriad of information technology, scientific and engineering jobs that require people to actually program devices to produce an end product.

## What A Levels might this subject support?

Successful students will become excellent at thinking logically about problems. This GCSE has clear links with Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics but also has less tangible but very real benefits to a raft of A Level subjects.



OCR	Computer Science	J277
100% external examination	Paper 1 – Exam (50%) Computer Systems Paper 2 – Exam (50%) Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	





# Drama

GCSE Drama is an exciting course for students with a genuine interest in drama and performance. Students are assessed on their practical work and on their written responses too. Regular performances - solo and group - in front of audience are an essential part of the course right from the start.

The three areas of focus of the Drama course are:

- Component 1: Devising (making an original performance) AND coursework portfolio (1500 to 2000 word record of the devising process, completed under exam conditions)
- Component 2: Performance from a Text (performing two extracts from a published play)
- Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (written exam paper with questions about the full length play studied and a live theatre performance we watch together).

Students will be assessed on their performance work and they will also write an exam, which will assess their analytical and evaluative skills. Students' contributions during the preparation period as well as their final performance are assessed. There will be a range of texts to study and opportunities for live theatre visits in preparation for the written exam. Students are actively encouraged to see as many live performances as they can to help develop their own opinions and preferences and evaluation skills.

In GCSE Drama, students will take part in a range of activities during the course, including:

- Improvisation
- Devising work for performance
- Small group practical tasks
- In-role writing
- Solo performance tasks (e.g. performing a monologue to the class)
- Constructive criticism of own and others' work
- Learning about the work of drama practitioners and how these could inform student work
- Analysis of a play (in a practical way e.g. acting out scenes from the play and also in written tasks)
- Written evaluation tasks, including a detailed Portfolio for Component 1
- Short and long answer questions, preparing for the written exam
- Journal-style writing tasks, keeping a record of the rehearsal process

## What careers might this subject lead to?

Career opportunities for students who study Drama at a higher level include: the media, theatre, television, radio, the film industry, arts administration, drama therapy, education.

## What A levels might this subject support?

The content of this specification provides a smooth transition to A-level courses in Drama and Theatre Studies. GCSE Drama could lead on to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies, Performing Arts and Expressive Arts at A-level and above, or other related subjects such as English, Music, Dance, Art and Design.



Edexcel Drama 1DR0	
60% practical performance 40% exam	Component 1 – Devising Component 2 – Performance from a text Component 3 – Theatre makers in practice

# English Language & Literature

Both English Language and English Literature are compulsory subjects at GCSE level, and you will gain two separate GCSEs at the end of the course. Why are these subjects important? English is the basis of ALL subjects: language is the tool we use to make sense of the universe, it is the means we employ to influence others – without language no other subject makes sense.

All other academic subjects will require you to write essays either for coursework or final examinations; some may require oral presentations. These are skills you will learn and develop in your English lessons. Literature is the analytical study of what other people have written. This brings about greater understanding of the human condition, empathy, and a wider appreciation of how both historical and current contexts are important.

## What topics shall I study?

A variety of non-fiction, media and literary texts including novels, short stories, plays and poems. English Language and English Literature are fully linear courses with assessment at the end of the course – the content is not divided into modules.

In both English Language and English Literature, students will be awarded a grade from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest, and 4 being the equivalent of a “pass”, equivalent to the old grade C. There will be no tiering, i.e. the subjects will not be split into Higher and Foundation Tiers. Assessment will be by speaking and listening tasks and four final, formal written examinations – two for English Language, and two for English Literature.

## What skills or attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

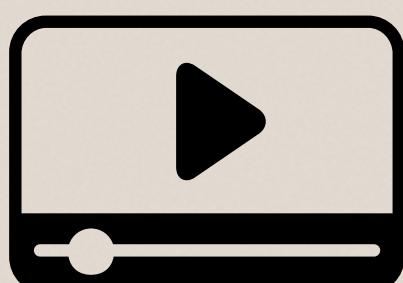
To succeed in these subjects you need both imagination and the ability to express your opinions clearly, fluently and accurately. You also need to listen carefully to the ideas and opinions of others. To do really well, regular wider reading – and the re-reading of set texts – is essential.

## What careers might this subject lead to?

For the majority of careers and a place at university, at least a grade 5 – the equivalent of a grade C – in GCSE English is required.

## What A-levels might this subject support?

All A-levels require you to have the ability to read, write, speak and listen well.



AQA English Literature 8702	
100% external examination	Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel Paper 2 – Modern texts and poetry
AQA English Language 8700	
100% external examination	Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing (50%) Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (50%)
Spoken Language component	All students need to prepare and perform an oral presentation to an audience of their peers.

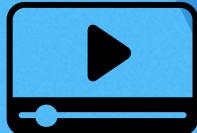
# Geography

## Why is this subject important?



Geography helps you to be more aware of the everyday life and problems of the people who live around you, in other parts of Britain and across the world. When you see magazine or TV reports about new shopping centres and factories, unemployment, arguments about new roads, exciting changes or disasters in Asia and Africa, your Geography course will help you to make sense of what is going on. Geography also cares about how we use the world's natural resources. So you will also find out about recreation, tourism, the need for conservation and the fight against pollution.

## What topics will I study?



### Living with the Physical Environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Section B: The Living World

Section C: Physical landscapes of the UK

### Challenges of the Human Environment

Section A: Urban Issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

### Geographical Applications

Section A: Issue Evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork At GCSE you will extend your knowledge of the following:

- 1) Maps, Fieldwork and Geographical Skills. There will be the requirement to go on 2 fieldtrips - a human based study and a physical based study. Please bear in mind there will be a cost associated with these.
- 2) Place: processes and relationships to look at a range of elements in the Geography of the UK
- 3) Physical geography: processes and change to possibly include Geomorphic processes and landscape and/or Changing weather and climate.
- 4) People and environment: processes and interactions to possibly include Global ecosystems and biodiversity and/or Resources and their management
- 5) Human geography: processes and change to possibly include Cities and urban society and/or Global economic development issues.

## What skills or attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

If you are enjoy studying Geography and are good at it - carry on studying it! You are more likely to obtain your best results in a subject you enjoy and are good at!

Do you think you can develop the following skills?

- Collecting, analysing and synthesising information • Research, thinking and organisational skills
- Communicating ideas and information orally and through writing
- Problem solving and decision making skills



## What careers might this subject lead to?

For many jobs it is a real help if you have taken Geography - so think seriously about the subject if you

are interested in any of these types of work:  
Agriculture and forestry Armed services Local government  
Nature conservancy Estate management Transport  
Architecture (designing buildings) Landscape architecture Police  
Cartography (map-making) Leisure industry Surveying  
Town and country planning Nature conservancy Civil aviation  
Travel agency and tourism Sale and Marketing Estate agency

## What A levels might this subject support?

Geography A level can be successfully combined with a wide range of other A level subjects including Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Politics, History, Economics, Business Studies, English and MFL.

AQA Geography	
100% external examination	Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment Paper 3 – Geographical applications

# History

## Why is this subject important?

The study of History helps you to develop an enquiring mind, to be a reflective and critical thinker and to develop knowledge and understanding of interesting and important periods of the past. The subject is also very important in helping you to develop your literacy skills and to help your personal development as a responsible citizen and to make sense of the world around you.

## What topics will I study?

You will study different eras of history. Topics include;

- Wider world depth study; Conflict and Tension, 1918 – 1939
- A period study; Germany 1890-1945, Democracy and Dictatorship
- Thematic study; Health and the people: c1000 to the present day
- British depth study; Elizabethan England, 1568-1603

## What skills or attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

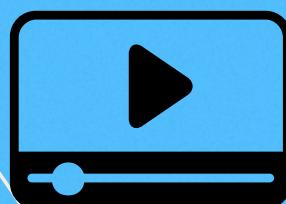
History is, above all else, an academic subject. Literacy and communication skills are very important and you will also be encouraged to develop speaking and debating skills. Analytical skills are also important: you will develop your ability to select relevant material and to apply it to the question, to summarise arguments, and to evaluate and assess critically a variety of historical sources and the views of others.

## What careers might this subject lead to?

The analytical skills developed by the study of the past are exceptionally useful for any career and an A level in History is still a very highly regarded academic qualification for a wide range of degree courses. The skills acquired in studying History are especially relevant to careers in Law, local government, politics, the civil service, human resources, teaching, the media, journalism, the library service, archaeology, and in the archive, museum and heritage site work.

## What A levels might this subject support?

Any! Pupils who have studied GCSE History have gone on to study the full range of A levels offered by this school. Apart from A level History a GCSE in this subject is also an especially suitable preparation for studying A level Government and Politics, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, English Literature and Geography.



AQA	History	8145
100% external Examination	Paper 1 (50%) Exam Paper 2 (50%) Exam	



# Media

## Why is this subject important?

Media is a truly contemporary subject which is relevant to all our pupils' lives. The media saturates everything we do in the developed world in the 21st Century. Giving pupils the tools to analyse and critique the media affords them the chance to see the ways in which the media pervades their lives. Media Studies is a genuinely vocational subject, which involves pupils making their own films, writing their own newspapers, setting up their own websites, creating their own music videos – it is extremely hands-on. Pupils interact with modern technology in lots of ways, using all the customary IT programs such as word processing and presentation software as well as video and sound editing software.

## What topics will I study?

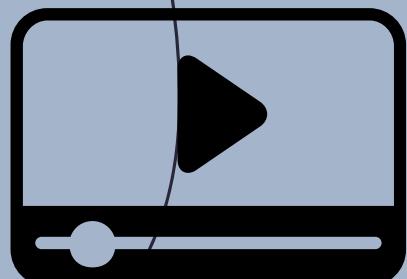
In Media Studies you will cover a range of different elements of media including documentaries, film genres, popular music, celebrity, soap operas, sports and the media, news, advertising, and video games. You will be taught the theory behind media production and produce a practical personal response using skills acquired in lesson. You will also look into the ~~academic theory~~ behind media and develop analytical skills when looking at elements from current media such as television shows, websites and magazines.

## What skills or attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

You will need to be a focused and dedicated student willing to put the time and effort into a subject that is both academically challenging and has a practical portfolio of work. Students will need a willingness to work with others for practical elements of their work and will need to be willing to explore all aspects of media to successfully complete this GCSE.

## What careers might this subject lead to?

In today's society media is one of the growth industries. A small number of possible careers include: Multimedia specialist, programme researcher, broadcasting/film/video, public relations officer, social media manager, television/film/video producer, web content manager, broadcast journalist, editorial assistant, event manager, film manager and magazine journalist.



## What A levels might this subject support?

This will support A-levels in Media Studies, Art, Photography, Business Studies, English Literature.

OCR J200 Media studies	
70% external examination	Component 1: 35% of total GCSE 1hr 45 min exam Component 2: 35% of total GCSE 1hr 15 min exam
30% Non-Examined Assessment	Total marks for this component are 30 (weighted to 60 by OCR)

# Modern Foreign Languages

## French/Spanish

### Why are these subjects important?

One or more languages at GCSE is your passport to other cultures, new friends and exciting job opportunities. Many universities look for proof of language skills on applications, even for non-language based courses, and many of our former students find themselves having to do a language module as part of their degree. Employees with more than one language can earn considerably more money.

### What topics will I study?

At GCSE you will build on the topics already covered in KS3.

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

### What skills and attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

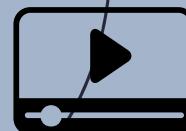
Learning vocabulary and grammar is a high priority, as is independent preparation, especially for the final exams. However, the very best results are attained by those who treat their language as they do English, by watching films, surfing the Net, playing games and listening to music in that language.

### What careers might this subject lead to?

One or more languages will be an asset in any career! Engineering, accountancy, law, anything! Businesses never work in isolation and need good communicators. Of course there are some careers which are purely language based, such as translating, interpreting and teaching.

### What A levels might this subject support?

Many students understand that an A Level in a language is an excellent and worthy subject to support any combination, for all the reasons set out above. Students of Psychology, History and English will find many of their research and essay writing skills mirrored in their foreign language studies. However, Science and Maths students often welcome a change in study skills too!

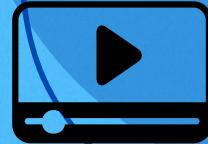


### Which language should I choose?

You will have to choose one foreign language at GCSE level, but you may choose to do two. If just one... which one? This should depend on your confidence and ability in that language, how often you visit or intend visiting the country or maybe there is a specific link with that language in a chosen career or course. We are happy to help you to decide!

AQA	French – 8658	Spanish - 8692
100% external examination	Paper 1 – Listening (25%) exam Paper 2 – Speaking (25%) recorded on site Paper 3 – Reading (25%) exam Paper 4 – Writing (25%) exam	

# MUSIC



## Why is this subject important?

Music is one of the oldest academic subjects. Oxford and Cambridge universities each have prestigious music departments, as do most other great and ancient universities around the world. Last year the British music industry contributed over £4 billion to the UK economy. Music is the vital soundtrack to human life and always has been: we use it for great public celebrations, for mourning, relaxation, dancing, to define our identity, and to enrich our lives in countless ways. An understanding of music allows us to intimately appreciate our cultural heritage (and that of other great civilisations) and to commune through it with people of all times and places.

## What topics will I study?

The Edexcel course has three areas:

Performance: you will develop your skills as a performer and are expected to submit two performances by the end of the course, one a solo and another in a group with at least one other person.

Composing: you will complete two compositions by the end of the course, one a free choice in any style, another to a brief set in the final year (e.g. a film score based upon a short story.)

Listening: there are eight set works including pieces by Bach, Beethoven, 'Defying Gravity' from the show 'Wicked', part of the score of 'Star Wars', songs fusing Celtic and Brazilian styles, and the song 'Killer Queen' by the band Queen. There is a limited amount of Music Theory, but this part primarily looks at how music is made in a number of different ways, and why.

## What skills and attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

By the end of the course, you need to perform to a minimum Grade 4 standard on any instrument or voice. A willingness to work with others and participate in the various choirs, orchestras and bands in the school is expected.

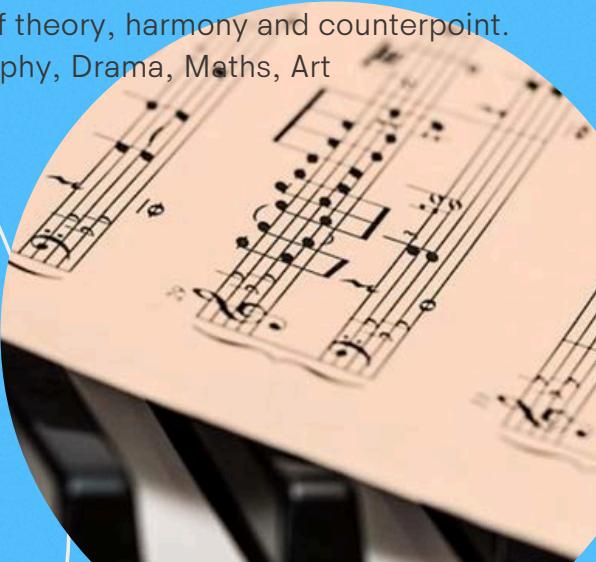
## What careers might this subject lead to?

The GCSE Music qualification is valuable for those who wish to pursue a career in journalism, broadcasting, performing, arts administration, composing, music therapy, studio and recording work, media studies and performing arts. It is an asset for would-be primary school teachers.

## What A levels might this subject support?

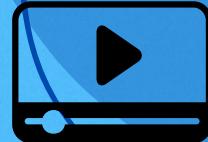
The study of Music as a social, historical and ethnological phenomenon complements any of the humanities subjects. Essay-based and Arts subjects are also supported through the analytical written part of the course. Drama pupils will find the study of Music Theatre very useful. There has long been a proven link between Maths and Music, particularly in the study of theory, harmony and counterpoint.

English Language, English Literature, History, Geography, Drama, Maths, Art



Edexcel Music 1MA1	
60% Practical performance	Component 1- Performing (NEA)
40% Exam	Component 2 – Composing (NEA) Component 3 – Appraising (Exam)

# MUSIC



## Why is this subject important?

Music is an important academic subject that develops creativity, discipline and confidence. It plays a central role in culture and society and is a significant part of the UK's creative industries. Music is used to celebrate, communicate ideas and emotions, and express identity, and it is a subject that allows students to develop both practical and analytical skills. Studying Music helps students to develop independence, teamwork and problem-solving skills, alongside an understanding of how music is created, performed and analysed across a range of styles and traditions.

## What topics will I study?

Eduqas GCSE Music is divided into three components:

Performing Students will submit two performances:

- One solo performance
- One ensemble performance

Performances may be on any instrument or voice and are recorded during the course. Composing.

Students will complete two compositions:

- One free composition in a style of their choice
- One composition set to a brief released by Eduqas

Students will learn how to develop musical ideas, structure compositions and use music technology where appropriate.

Appraising (Listening and Exam) Students will study a range of music through four Areas of Study:

- Musical Forms and Devices
- Music for Ensemble
- Film Music
- Popular Music

This component is assessed through a listening and written examination.

## What skills and attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

By the end of the course, students should be performing to approximately Grade 4 standard on an instrument or voice. Students must be prepared to practise regularly and work independently outside of lessons. A willingness to work with others and participate in rehearsals and ensemble activities is essential.

## What careers might this subject lead to?

This course can lead to opportunities in performing, composing, music technology, recording and production, media and broadcasting, arts administration, music therapy and education. Music is also a valuable subject for students considering a wide range of creative and academic career paths.

## What A levels might this subject support?

Music supports progression to A Level Music AND Music Technology and works well alongside subjects such as Drama, English Language and Literature, History, Geography, Maths, Art and Media Studies.



## WJEC Eduqas GCSE Music: C660QS

60% Practical performance  
40% Exam

Component 1- Performing (NEA)  
Component 2 – Composing (NEA)  
Component 3 – Appraising (Exam)

# Sports Studies

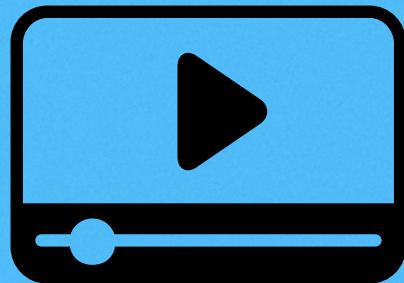
## Why is this subject important?

You will take part in a number of different sports and activities in different roles and positions. You will use methods of practice to improve your performance. Most importantly, you will learn how to be physically active as part of a balanced healthy lifestyle. You will strengthen this with the theoretical knowledge of the demands of physical activity.

## What you will study

Core topics are:

- Applied anatomy and physiology with physical training
- Sport psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health fitness and well-being
- Practical performance



You will study different games and activities and will be assessed on how well you perform. As a Performer you will be assessed in your 3 strongest sports. These must comprise of 2 team and one individual or 1 team and 2 individual activities. These can be sports that you play in school (e.g. Rugby, Netball, Football, etc....) or outside (e.g. Swimming, Boxing, Rowing, Horse Riding etc...). You will complete one analysis task based on the self-assessment of your own strengths and weaknesses in a sport of your choice. You will develop an awareness and appreciation of your own and others cultures in relation to PE. This will help you underpin your practical performances with theoretical knowledge.

## What skills or attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

Pupils considering this subject must be competent in at least 3 activities (a minimum grade of 6 out of 10 in their strongest 3 based on Y9 assessments). PE staff will also provide feedback on suitability based on their knowledge of your current assessments. As the course is 40% practical, this needs to be considered when choosing your options. You need to have an interest in physical activity. You also need to be a talented and confident performer in sport. (Please ask for a comprehensive list of the sports you can be assessed in). Development of some of these roles will be essential for progress through the course. (The department will also offer an offsite residential to pupils we feel need an additional sport to help their grade – please ask for further details).

## What careers might this subject lead to?

There are many varied careers available in sport and sport related subjects: E.g. Coaching, professional player, manager, dietician, sports nutritionist, sports psychologist, personal trainer, leisure centre instructor, PE teacher, physiotherapy, design work for new technology in sport, lifestyle coach, sport science research and sports logo designers, community sports development, injury and sport therapist.

## What A levels might this subject support?

Physical Education GCSE can lead to a wide range of subject disciplines e.g. Biology Chemistry Sport Studies Sociology Psychology



# Religion & World Studies

## Why is this subject important?

It is important that students are religiously literate in a world that is more diverse than ever. Religious Studies offers students the chance to explore different beliefs and attitudes to religious and nonreligious issues in contemporary British society. They will be aware that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, and that religious traditions in Great Britain are also wide-ranging. Our aim is to have students who are tolerant of other's beliefs and who will question the world around them.

## What topics will I study?

### AQA GCSE Religious Studies Route A:

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose, and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

**Component 1 -Beliefs and Practices:** Students will study two major world faiths; Christianity & Islam. This component builds upon existing student knowledge from KS3, and focuses on the core, fundamental beliefs that compliment religious practice. Topics include some of the following: The Nature of God, Creation, the Problem of Evil and the Afterlife. This is a written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes / 50% of GCSE. Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

**Component 2 – Thematic Studies:** This component allows studies to apply not only the religious views of Christianity & Islam but to explore religious, philosophical, and ethical studies too. Students are encouraged to develop their own opinion and understanding of the following four topics: Religion, Peace & Conflict, Crime & Punishment, Religion & Life and Families & Relationships.

Similarly, to component 1, this is a written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes / 50% of GCSE. Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

## What skills and attributes will I need?

This course is perfect for students who are looking to develop their confidence in voicing their own opinions and being able to take part in focused discussions and debates. Students will need to be comfortable with structuring essays and formulating arguments that are supported by a range of evidence. The Religious Studies GCSE will allow students to develop analytical and critical thinking skills, along with the ability to work with abstract ideas, whilst enhancing leadership and research skills.

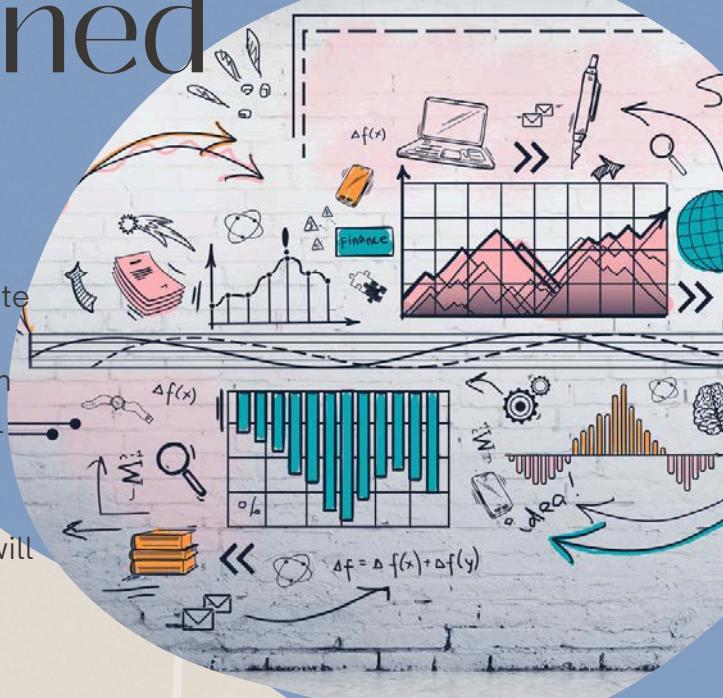
**A-Levels & Future Careers with Religious Studies** Students looking to develop their religious knowledge further will have the chance to study an A-Level in Religious Studies. This focuses on Christianity as the core religion and offers an in-depth study of philosophical concepts and ethical issues. Furthermore, Religious Studies in the future will be useful for students going onto university who wish to either enhance their religious, ethical, philosophical, or theological studies. Alternatively, this subject is useful for a wide variety of career paths, for example, students wishing to pursue a career in health and social care, law, medicine, education, and journalism.

<b>AQA Religious Studies 8062</b>
<b>100% external Examination</b>
<b>Paper 1 (50%) Exam</b>
<b>Paper 2 (50%) Exam</b>



# Science (Combined & Triple)

Science is a core subject which all students take, over twelve periods per fortnight. This will be taught as separate sciences by specialist teachers and will be suitable for students who may wish to take A Level Science courses in the Sixth Form. During the three year course students will be entered for either:- Combined Science: Trilogy or Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Separate Sciences) The decision as to which course students will be entered for will be made during the Autumn term during Year 10.



## Combined Science:

**Trilogy (Double Award)** This double award is equivalent to two GCSEs. Students studying Combined Science: Trilogy will cover the three science disciplines in the traditional fashion. The subject content and the practical's also appear in the separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs. This means that students studying the Combined Science (Double Award) will still be able to access A level Science courses.

**Practical's:** We know that practical's are not only one of the most engaging parts of a science education but are also essential for students' understanding of scientific theory. There are 16 required practical's, but students will perform many more.

**Exams:** Six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics.

**Duration:** All papers are 1 hour 15 minutes. Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

## Triple Science - Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Separate Sciences)

Studying the separate sciences means students will cover more content than GCSE Combined Science, but this will not take up more curriculum time than the Combined Science route.

**Practical:** There are eight required practical's for each of the separate sciences, however students will perform many more.

**Exams for each separate science:** Two papers: each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics.

**Duration:** All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes. Tier: Foundation and Higher.

### Why is this subject important?

All the GCSE Science courses contain a high proportion of practical work to develop scientific skills. Learning opportunities include instruction, group discussions, practical's and personal study using a wide range of resources. The courses are designed to stimulate curiosity, interest and enjoyment in science and its methods of inquiry and to develop abilities useful for a career in science. We also hope our students will become confident citizens in a technological world and will be able to recognise that the study of science is very relevant to everyday life.

# Science (combined & Triple) cont...

## What topics will I study?

### Biology

- Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology

### Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using resources

### Physics

- Forces • Energy • Waves • Electricity • Magnetism and electromagnetism • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure

## What skills or attributes do I need in order to succeed in this subject?

In order to be successful when studying science, you will be required to:

- Extract information from tables, graphs and charts
- Draw Graphs from given data
- Work out means, percentages, decimals and scales
- Use formulae
- Measure rates and percentage change
- Write text which is legible, with clear punctuation and grammar
- Make effective use of ICT
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- Acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society
- Acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## What careers might this subject lead to?

Science is the ideal foundation for anyone who is seriously intending to follow a science related career, particularly important for: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Biochemistry and Engineering.

## What A levels might this subject support?

All the science related A levels such as: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Psychology, Sports Studies and Mathematics

