

Oasis Academy Brislington

Options Guidance

Unleash Potential.

Explore opportunities. **Enjoy** challenge. **Enhance** your future.

"The choices you make at school are important because they set the foundation for your future. Don't be afraid to follow your passions—choosing subjects that excite you is the first step toward a fulfilling career."

The Guided Process

Choosing your options for Years 10 and 11 is a key opportunity to shape your learning and future GCSE studies at Oasis Academy Brislington.

In Year 9, you'll decide which courses to take for Key Stage 4. It's important to carefully review all the information provided to fully understand your options and make thoughtful decisions with the help of your parents or carers.

In addition to this booklet, we encourage you to visit our website before finalizing your choices. Each subject has a short video that offers more details, helping to answer common questions and giving you an insight into what you'll learn. This year, you will also have the chance to try out some of these subjects during taster sessions in Term 3.

We offer a wide range of subjects, including vocational and work-related qualifications, to ensure you find the most suitable courses. While we strive to accommodate your preferences, we cannot guarantee all choices will be available, as group sizes depend on the number of students selecting each subject. Remember, your choices should reflect your strengths, interests, and future career aspirations.

Key Dates

Year 9 – Introduction to GCSE Options takes place during term 2 Fundamental Skills

Throughout term 2, your careers fundamental skills sessions will focus on supporting you to make informed options choices. You will watch the subject specific videos and answer checking for understanding questions. These sessions are also an opportunity for you to discuss your options with your peers and your tutor.

During the taster sessions in term 3 you will be able to experience hands on what you will study in this subject. You will also be able to speak to some of our student ambassadors who will be able to talk to you about their work and what is expected. You will have the opportunity to ask teachers more detailed questions to ensure the choice you are about to make is 100% the right one for you.

You will be given the deadline for your options choices by Mr Campbell

We want to ensure that no student rushes to make their choices without giving this important decision due attention. The form will be sent to you after your taster day.

After the deadline we will look at choices of subjects made and construct a timetable to allow as many first choices as possible. **Occasionally, it is not possible to offer all the first-choice combinations requested.** If this is the case, alternatives will be discussed with you and your parents.

Option choices will be confirmed with students during term 5.

Choosing your Courses

When considering your options, it's essential to think about the subjects you might want to study after Year 11. While some post-16 courses require you to have studied the subject at GCSE, this isn't always the case. Follow the five steps below when making your options choices:

1. Information on Courses and Qualifications

Carefully review this booklet for details on the courses you might be interested in. Information about each course can be found on pages 10–26, and we recommend reading through them all.

2. Getting Further Information

You can access more detailed information through:

- Course overviews from staff: Subject teachers, Directors of Faculties, and Subject Leaders will discuss the courses with students during lessons. You can also approach them directly for more guidance.
- Information videos: Most subjects have videos available on the Academy website for additional insight.

3. Know Yourself

- Personal interests: Think about the subjects you enjoy and where you're most likely to succeed.
- Strengths: Use your latest report to identify your strengths.
- Learning style: Choose subjects that match how you learn best.
- Teacher feedback: Speak with teachers to see if they believe you'll enjoy and succeed in a particular course.

4. Discuss Your Ideas

Making informed decisions involves consulting others. Consider speaking with:

- At school: Subject teachers, your tutor, Student Progress Leader, or staff who know you well.
- At home: Parents or carers, older siblings, relatives, or friends who know you well.

5. Choose What's Best for You

After completing taster sessions, rank your top three choices on the options form in Microsoft Forms. Make sure your choices are informed by considering:

- The amount of work required in each course.
- The type of assessment (coursework vs. exams).
- Choosing for yourself, not based on friends or specific teachers.
- Selecting a broad, balanced range of subjects that you'll enjoy.
- Avoiding choices that might limit your future education or career options unless you're certain about a particular path.

6. Complete Your Option Form

Courses will be allocated based on demand and group sizes. Ensure you make appropriate choices and submit your form by the deadline.

What does the Academy offer?

All students must take the following subjects to the end of Year 11:

ENGLISH (Language & Literature)	MATHEMATICS	SCIENCE
A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (French or German)	HUMANITIES (Geography or History)	PE

RSHE/ Citizenship / Work Related Learning

OPTIONS

Students choose two further subjects from the list below ensuring as broad a balance of subjects as possible

All students will study:

5 lessons of English per week

5 lessons of Maths per week

4 lessons of Science per week

3 lessons of French/ German per week (or intervention)

1 lesson of Core PE per week

3 lessons of either Geography or History per week **(OPTION 1)**

3 lessons of your High Value Option 1 per week
3 lessons of your High Value Option 2 per week } **(OPTION 2)**

You need to choose:

OPTION 1:

Either **Geography** or **History**

OPTION 2:

You will study TWO of the subjects listed below.

- BTEC Child Development
- BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- BTEC Travel and Tourism
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Art, Craft & Design
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE 3D Design
- GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Triple Science

Careers Related Information

It is always worth bearing in mind that the subjects you study for GCSE could affect your career choices in the future. However, it is most important that your subjects are chosen for the right reasons. So ask yourself: Do I really enjoy a subject and am I good at it?

If you have a particular career in mind, then it is always advisable to check which subjects are required for entry. To choose a subject that has presented difficulties in the past only because it is needed for a particular career is not such a good idea – if you get a low grade then this may not enable you to enter that career, and if the subject plays a large part in the job, then it might not be the right path for you anyway. If you are considering higher education, then it is worth remembering that three or four subjects taken at GCSE might have to be studied at A Level for entry to university, meaning you are making choices for four rather than two years of study.

If you have no career ideas at present, that is perfectly normal at this stage. It is important, however, to consider what career areas you could be ruling out with your choices and be sure that you are happy about them. Don't forget that there are equal opportunities in all subject choices so do not be swayed by people telling you there are subjects suited better to certain genders.

During termly assemblies you have already heard about employability skills, post 16 choices and possible career pathways. The library is also open every day and after school containing a wealth of career related information. There are also some very useful websites to aid your careers research:

www.grofar.com

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

www.careerpilot.org.uk

www.icould.com

www.careersbox.co.uk

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors

Every student will also get the opportunity to have a one-to-one careers interview with an independent careers adviser either in Year 10 or Year 11.

For more information, please contact John Campbell (Assistant Principal)

Geography or History

Geography or History *must* be chosen for option 1.



GCSE GEOGRAPHY

For further information contact: Ms R Paton

Exam board and course code: AQA 8035

What will I study?

You will study a wide range of remarkable and current geographical topics through investigation of the UK and the wider world. You will learn how natural forces shape and change our planet, how humans and the environment interact and will also have the chance to develop your geographical and fieldwork skills. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. You will also grow in your understanding of our roles in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Subject content:

Living with the Physical Environment

The Challenge of Natural Environments

including tectonic hazards, climatic hazards and climate change.

The Living World

including ecosystems, tropical rainforests, and cold environments.

Physical Landscapes of the UK

including coastal and river landscapes.

Challenges in the Human Environment

Urban Issues and Challenges

including urbanisation, Bristol, and Rio de Janeiro.

The Changing Economic World

including development, Nigeria and the UK economy.

The Challenge of resource management

including UK food, water and energy resources and global water supply and demand.

Please be advised that if you select Geography as one of your High Value Options, one of your Tutor/FS sessions will be an additional lesson of Geography, as you will only receive 2 lessons of timetabled contact time. This will be for Y10 only as your timetabled contact time will increase to 3 lessons a week in Y11.

How will I be assessed?

Three exams, all sat at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment
– 1 hour 30 minutes – 35%

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment
– 1 hour 30 minutes – 35%

Paper 3: Geographical Applications
– 1 hour 30 minutes – 30%

Why study Geography?

This is a highly regarded subject which is more relevant than ever as the world experiences the effects of climate change in a more real way each day. It is a challenging subject, but immensely rewarding and applicable, so should therefore be seriously considered by any ambitious student. Geography links to many other subjects across the curriculum, employing knowledge from Science, Maths and History, to name a few. It is valued in many career paths, along with further and higher education courses. These include environmental science, politics and humanities-based A levels and degree qualifications.



I enjoy the lessons and like finding out more about the world, not just the UK.

I didn't think the course would connect to my everyday life as much as it has.

Lucy (Y11)



For further information contact: Ms Emily Worgan
Exam board and course code: Edexcel: GCSE History

What will I study?

Migrants in Britain & Notting Hill (30%)

In this unit you will study the progression of a diverse range of peoples' experiences of migrating to Britain from the Middle Ages, through the Renaissance, into the Industrial Revolution and up until modern day. There is then a bolt on topic on migration within Notting Hill, which is entirely source-based.

Early Elizabethan England & The American West (40%)

In this section, students will look at Early Elizabethan Society (1558-1588) covering topics such as Elizabeth's Religious Settlement, her problems with Mary Queen of Scots, war and conflict with Spain and then finally Elizabethan society.

The second half of this paper will look at the Superpower Relations and the Cold War. We track the politics across the world from the end of World War Two and watch the tensions unfold across the USA and the USSR in the nuclear arms race, to establish how peace was eventually reached in the 1980s.

Weimar & Nazi Germany (30%)

This unit will involve us studying the structure of Germany under the Weimar government between 1918-29. Following the Treaty of Versailles, we will look at how Hitler rose to power between 1919 - 1933. We will then study Nazi policies and methods of control and the impact of these laws on the population of Germany.

Please be advised that if you select History as one of your High Value Options, one of your Tutor/FS sessions will be an additional lesson of History, as you will only receive 2 lessons of timetabled contact time. This will be for Y10 only as your timetabled contact time will increase to 3 lessons a week in Y11.

How will I be assessed?

Medicine In Britain & The British Sector of the Western Front (30%)

Time 1 hour 15 minute exam

Early Elizabethan England & The American West (40%)

Time 1 hour 45 exam

Weimar & Nazi Germany (30%)

Time 1 hour 20-minute exam

Why study History?

A GCSE qualification in History is highly revered by academic institutions and employers alike. It is a general qualification and, as such, prepares candidates for a wide range of occupations and higher-level courses. The above course allows our students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key individuals, events, societies, and issues in both Britain and across the world. Students will actively engage in the process of historical enquiry, organise and communicate their knowledge, use ICT effectively and analyse and evaluate. It will provide them with a basis for their role as responsible and active citizens in society, as well as for the possible further study of History.

“

I didn't know that people shaved chickens and held them against plague boils to try and make themselves get better.

Lily (Year 11)

”

OPTION 2

Information about each subject you can CHOOSE is given on the following pages, in alphabetical order. Each subject gives details of the qualification, exam board and an outline of the course.



GCSE ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

For further information contact: Mrs C Toogood

Exam board and course code: AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design

What will I study?

There are 4 elements to the course

- Contextual references (the work of artists and designers)
- Refining ideas (experimenting with resources, media, materials, techniques, and processes)
- Recording ideas (drawing, sketching, photography, annotating)
- Personal response ('final piece' making connections, demonstrating skill and understanding)

You will develop your observational skills through drawing and have the opportunity to experiment with different materials, skills and processes in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. You will be able to bring your own creative talents to set projects to make exciting new work.

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework – all work undertaken is considered as coursework.

40% Externally set assignment (exam – exam theme chosen in January of Year 11; 10 hour timed assessment at conclusion in controlled conditions).

Why study Art, Craft and Design?

You can continue to develop skills by taking an 'A' level course in Art where there are specialisms offered such as Fine Art, Graphic Communication or Photography. You can take a Level 3 BTEC course in Art and Design.

Colleges, Post 16 Centres, and employers are looking for candidates who are able to show a range of skills and talents. An Art GCSE enables you to show that you are a creative thinker, can manage your time successfully, that you can work collaboratively and independently and that you are a flexible learner able to develop new skills and talents.



People think that art will be easy, but it requires lots of work from a passionate and motivated person, There are lots of career opportunities in art such as jobs in fashion, design and architecture.
Sophie (Year 9)





BTEC LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

For further information contact: Mrs J Mir

Exam board and course code: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development

Qualification number: 603/7058/0

What will I study?

You will explore how children grow and develop. In the BTEC Tech Award in Child Development, you will explore how children grow and develop from birth to five years old across five key areas: physical, cognitive, communication, social, and emotional development. You will learn how these areas of development are interlinked and how each plays a vital role in a child's overall growth.

The course includes studying the factors that influence child development, such as family environment, health, social interactions, and financial stability. You will also learn about the importance of play and how it supports a child's learning and development. Through hands-on tasks, you will investigate how to create child-friendly environments and adapt play activities to meet the individual needs of children.

You will develop practical skills in planning and managing activities that support learning through play while gaining theoretical knowledge about child development milestones and how different professionals, such as early years educators, health visitors, and paediatricians, contribute to a child's growth.

How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of three components, each contributing to your final grade:

1. Children's Growth and Development (Component 1)

- This component focuses on how children develop from birth to five years old. You will study key development milestones and learn how to monitor and support children's progress. You will complete assignments set by Pearson, which are assessed by your teachers and moderated externally.

2. Learning Through Play (Component 2)

- You will learn about the different types and stages of play, from sensory and imaginative play to social and physical play. You will complete practical tasks to demonstrate how you can design play-based learning activities that promote development in young children.

3. Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop (Component 3)

- This is an externally assessed written exam where you apply what you have learned from the first two components. You will respond to realistic scenarios, showing how to adapt activities to support children's individual learning needs and ensure they reach development milestones.

The internal assessments include coursework and projects, while the external assessment is a formal exam, ensuring a balanced evaluation of your practical and theoretical skills.

Why Study Child development?

Studying child development is valuable if you are interested in careers in childcare, education, health, or social care. The course builds essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, and planning. It provides a foundation for further studies and careers like teaching, paediatrics, psychology, and early years education.

Understanding child development equips you to support children's growth, learning, and well-being. Why Study Child Development?

BTEC LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD IN SPORT

For further information contact: Mr A Cunningham

Exam board and course code: Edexcel Pearson BTEC Tech Award Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport

Qualification number: 603/7068/3

What will I study?

BTEC Tech Award in Sport can help you take your first steps towards a career in sport and fitness.

You have a keen interest in sport and physical activity. To be successful in BTEC you must have positively engaged in PE lessons in Years 7-9 and have a keen interest in sport and sporting activities.

Students will have to complete all coursework in allocated assessment windows. This work includes essays that could be up to 5 pages long, these will be completed independently in line with the exam board's criteria.

Students studying this course will complete three mandatory components:

Component 1: Preparing to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants' Sporting Performance

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: and **Component 2** are internally assessed, meaning they are completed by undertaking coursework. Students will complete their coursework in lessons. They must complete and submit their assignments by specified dates. Please note, that practical performances may be recorded as evidence for the exam board.

Component 3 is assessed through an exam taken at end of the course.

Grading is given as a Level 1 pass, Level 2 pass, Level 2 Merit or Level 2 Distinction depending on the marks achieved.

Why study Sport?

The BTEC Tech Award Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport provides a good foundation for learners to enter post-16 education, or to entry-level job roles within the sector. Achievement at level 2 provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector through progression on to other vocational qualifications, such as Pearson BTEC Level 3 qualifications in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences. The underpinning knowledge, practical and vocational skills learnt will also enhance and support progression to a relevant competency-based qualification, such as the Pearson Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Sports Development, or the Pearson Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Leisure Management. Successful learners at level 2 may also consider general qualifications at level 3, such as a GCE in Physical Education or Leisure Studies.

“If you love sport, then this is the course for you! It is hard work and you have to be organised. I can't wait to start my college course and continue with sport”

(Lewis Year 11)

BTEC Level 1/Level2 TECH AWARD IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

For further information contact: Mrs J Mir

Exam board: Pearson

and course code: 603/7047/6

What will I study? You will complete 2 pieces of coursework. Both tasks involve practical investigations. Component 3 is a written exam.

Component 1: Improving the well-being of an individual

In this component, you will study how people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to adulthood, this includes PIES development and the different factors that may affect this. An individual's development can be affected by major life events, such as marriage, parenthood or moving to a new house and you will learn about how people adapt to these changes, as well as the types and sources of support that can help them.

Component 2: Promoting healthy living

This component will give you an understanding of health and social care services and will help you to understand the skills, attributes and values that are common across the sector (some of which are transferable to other sectors that involve interactions with clients or customers).

Component 3: Development through the life stages - Exam Unit

In this component, you will explore the factors that can have a positive or negative influence on a person's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators and what they mean for a person's state of health. You will learn how this information is used to recommend appropriate actions for improving a person's health and wellbeing. Additionally, you will explore the difficulties an individual may face when trying to make these changes.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete two components through coursework, both involve practical investigations. Component 3 is a written exam normally completed at the end of the course.

Why study Health and Social Care?

Learners who achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects

Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Health and Social Care, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the health or social care sector.

Students could also go straight into work at entry level with an apprenticeship.

There are lots of opportunities for those with skills in health and social care in sectors such as Hospitals, care homes, nurseries and many more.

“
Studying Health and Social has allowed me to get an apprenticeship in nursing.

(Laytaya ex-student)



BTEC LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD IN TRAVEL AND

TOURISM

For further information contact: Mr I Partridge

Exam board: Pearson

and course code: 603/7048/8

What will I study?

In the BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism, you will explore the inner workings of one of the world's largest industries. This course provides a deep dive into the key areas of travel and tourism, including how organisations operate, meet customer needs, and adapt to a constantly evolving industry.

You will study three core components:

- **Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations:** You will learn about the various types of travel and tourism organisations, such as airlines, tour operators, and visitor attractions. You will examine how these businesses operate, including their ownership structures, goals, and the services they provide. You'll also explore popular tourist destinations, including what makes them appealing to different types of travelers and how tourism routes are developed.
- **Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism:** This component focuses on understanding the diverse needs of travelers. You will learn how companies gather information through market research, identify travel trends, and adapt their services accordingly. You'll also gain practical experience by planning travel itineraries tailored to specific customer profiles.
- **Influences on Global Travel and Tourism:** This section covers the global impact of tourism, including how social, environmental, economic, and political factors shape travel experiences. You will explore how tourism affects local communities, how destinations manage tourism responsibly, and how organisations respond to external changes such as environmental disasters or economic crises.

Throughout the course, you will build valuable skills such as research, decision-making, problem-solving, and customer service, which are directly applicable to careers in the travel and tourism sector.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment for the BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism is designed to reflect real-world tasks, helping you gain practical experience while developing a strong academic foundation. The course includes two types of assessment methods: internal assessments and an external examination.

Internal Assessments (60%):

These assessments are based on coursework and involve a variety of tasks set by Pearson. You will complete two key components through these assessments:

- **Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations:** You will undertake research on tourism organisations, their services, and popular tourist destinations. Tasks include creating reports, conducting case studies, and making travel recommendations.
- **Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism:** You will complete projects that involve researching travel trends, understanding customer requirements, and planning detailed travel itineraries. This includes practical assignments like creating a holiday package tailored to specific customer needs.

External Assessment (40%):

This is a written examination for **Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism**, where you will answer questions related to global travel trends, destination management, and the impact of tourism on economies and environments. The exam is designed to test your ability to apply the knowledge and skills learned throughout the course to real-world scenarios.

These assessments ensure that you gain both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, preparing you for further study or a career in the travel and tourism industry.

Why study Travel and Tourism?

Studying Travel and Tourism opens up a dynamic and growing sector that supports millions of jobs worldwide. This course helps develop practical skills like research, communication, and problem-solving while offering insight into one of the largest global industries. You'll gain valuable experience that can lead to further study or careers in travel planning, hospitality, customer service, or destination management.

For further information contact: Mr D Savory
Edexcel Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Business (1BS0)

What will I study?

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Know and understand business concepts, business terminology, business objectives, the integrated nature of business activity and the impact of business on individuals and wider society.
- Apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues and to different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global contexts.
- Develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems.
- Develop as effective and independent students, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- Use an enquiring, critical approach to make informed judgements.
- Investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues to construct well-argued, well-evidenced, balanced, and structured arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of business.

Develop and apply quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.

How will I be assessed?

Theme 1: Investigating small business (1BS0/01)

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Worth 50% of the qualification

Content overview

- Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
- Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
- Topic 1.4 Making the business effective
- Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2: Building a business (1BS0/02)

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

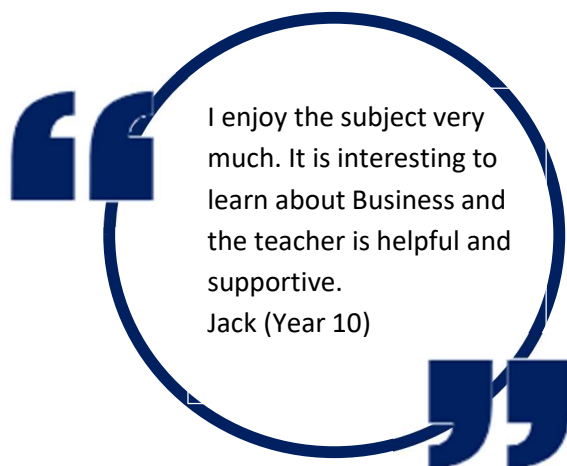
Worth 50% of the qualification

Content overview

- Topic 2.1 Growing the business
- Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions
- Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions
- Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions
- Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

Why study Business?

Pupils can go on to study Business Studies at AS or A-Level and Level 3 BTEC Business.



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

For further information contact: Miss F Kernan

Exam board and course code: OCR Computer Science (J277)

Important note:

This course is only suitable for students working at **grade 6 or above in Math** due to the advanced mathematics on this course.

What will I study?

Students will gain the ability to design and create computer programs in Python. Additionally, they will learn how a computer works, both as a machine and as part of a network. Wider issues like the importance of cybersecurity and the ethical/social issues of digital technology will also be covered.

Subject Content:

1. Fundamentals of algorithms
2. Programming
3. Fundamentals of data representation
4. Computer systems
5. Fundamentals of computer networks
6. Fundamentals of cyber security
7. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy
8. Aspects of software development.



This is a great subject for **future careers** as you can go into any tech careers in any job sector. It is, however, quite hard and you really need to be **passionate** about computer science, not just games.

Gabriel (Year 11)



How will I be assessed?

Assessments:

50% of GCSE Paper 1 – J277/01: Computer systems (exam 1.5 hrs)

This component will assess:

- 1.1 Systems architecture
- 1.2 Memory and storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols
- 1.4 Network security
- 1.5 Systems software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental

50% of GCSE Paper 2 – J277/02:

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (exam 1.5 hrs)

This component will assess:

- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Why study Computer Science?

The increasing importance of information technologies in every field of study and work means there is growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field. Computer Science also teaches problem solving and gives you valuable transferable skills that you can use in every walk of life.

GCSE Drama

For further information contact: Miss E Chapman

Exam board and course code: AQA 8261

Qualification number: 601/8575/2

What will I study? AQA Drama GCSE is for learners who want to acquire theoretical knowledge and technical skills through studying acting theatre and literature. The qualification recognizes the value of both practical and theoretical skills and will compliment an English GCSE well. The qualification will broaden the learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

- You will study the theory of theatre; this will grow your knowledge and understanding of plays.
- Our set text is *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller where you will be asked to explore and dive into his dramatic intentions for his play, looking at characters, costumes and key moments. We will use similar techniques to English literature to study this.
- You will analyse and evaluate the work of Live Theatre- Students will attend a trip to London to watch a show.
- You will be asked to be involved in the process of creating devised drama- Where you will reflect and provide feedback on your performance and research process which evidences your learning journey.
- Perform a play with clear dramatic intentions of why you performed it a certain way- considering your vocal and physical skills to help convey meaning.

I enjoy the subject because it allows to express yourself.
Tom (Year 9)



How will I be assessed?

The content of GCSE drama is being assessed in three ways, with 200 marks to be gained.

Component 1: Open book, 1hr45 which will be sat in Summer term of year 11 which is worth 40% (80marks) It is a combined paper broken down in to 3 components: Knowledge and theory of theatre, *The Crucible* and an evaluation of a Live Theatre Performance (*Woman in Black*) You will need strong English skills and be ready to write analytically. AQA exam board will grade this.

Component 2: Devising a performance. This overall is worth 40%. 20 marks is available for your devised performance which is filmed and sent off for moderation; particularly looking at your acting skills, dramatic techniques and dramatic intentions. This is also supported with coursework which is worth 60 marks (30%) where you explain your research process, dramatic intentions, and reflect on your process. AQA will moderate.

Component 3: Text in Practice: Performing 20% (Worth 40 marks) Students will perform a play by Mark Wheeler (*Chicken*, *Arson About*, *Too Much Punch for Judy*) This will be performed live in front of an examiner, and they will mark.

Why study Performing Arts?

By studying drama, you are opening your mind to a wide range of subjects which underpin all learning. For example, history, politics, sociology, psychology, philosophy, literature, and language. Beyond that, if you wish to work within the creative arts industry then drama will give you an insight into not just being a performer but also a deviser and all the roles that go into creating theatre. Additionally, the study of drama can provide you with access to an emotional toolkit to understand yourself and the global world around you.

GCSE 3D Design

For further information contact: Mr Advani
Exam board and course code: AQA GCSE 3D Design

What will I study?

There are 4 elements to the course

- Contextual references (the work of artist & designers)
- Refining ideas (experimenting with resources, media, materials, techniques and processes)
- Recording ideas (Isometric drawing & designs, sketching, photography, annotating)
- Personal response (Making, demonstrating skill, and understanding)

Subject Content:

- architectural design
- sculpture
- ceramics
- product design
- jewelry and body adornment
- interior design
- environmental/landscape/garden design
- exhibition design
- 3D digital design
- designs for theatre, film and television.

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework – all work undertaken is considered as coursework.

40% Externally set assignment (exam – exam theme chosen in January of Year 11; 10 hour timed assessment at conclusion in controlled conditions).

Why study 3D Design?

3D design opens the door to a whole host of industries. From construction, engineering and product design to architecture, fashion or technology and many more. This subject offers life skills such as designing, develops creativity, product management, numeracy skills and problem solving.



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

For further information contact: Mr J Advani

Exam Board and course code: Eduqas Food Preparation & Nutrition

What will I study?

Component one: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Students will learn about food commodities, the principles of nutrition, what is meant by diet and good health, the science of food and where food comes from.

Component two: Food Preparation in action

Students will be able to apply their understanding of how to safely prepare, cook and present a range of nutritional dishes. Student will draw on their learning of component one completing their own scientific investigation into food. As well as this, students will have the opportunity to prepare and cook their own two-course menu.

How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of two components:

Component one is a paper/onscreen assessment. This counts as 50% towards the final grade.

Component two is two pieces of controlled assessment. Assessment 1 is an investigation into food and is worth 15% of the final grade. Assessment 2 is a food preparation task worth 35% of the final grade.

Why study Hospitality and Catering?

Studying food preparation and nutrition will put you in good stead for pursuing a job in the hospitality & catering industry, sports, and nutrition industry or even a job in food science. Students will have the opportunity to discuss career routes into the industry with the City of Bristol College during the careers fair.

Students that are working at a grade 6 in science should consider GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition.

“

This course prepares you for the real world. You learn about healthy living and do a lot of practical work. When we catered at the achievement evening even though it was quite hard but really rewarding.
Joe (Year11)

”

For further information contact: Mr Peters

Exam board and course code: Eduqas C660QS

What will I study?

Our Eduqas GCSE (9-1) Music qualification enables students to engage in content through the context of four Areas of Study and specific set works. These Areas of Study support the teaching of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language through performance, composition, and appraising. Students will be taught how to master their instrument of choice, how to compose a fully structured piece of music with creativity and development and how to analyze scores in depth using the acronym 'MADTSHIRTS'

“

Music is an incredible option as it is filled with great opportunities. It allows you to express yourself by creating and playing music!

”

How will I be assessed?

Assessment Component 1: Performing 30%

Students are expected to perform a solo/ensemble grade 3 standard piece of music with accuracy, technical control and expression for a total of 72 marks.

Assessment Component 2: Composing 30%

Students are expected to compose a free composition as well as a composition set to a brief with creativity, technical control, and stylistic coherence for a total of 72 marks.

Assessment Component 3: Appraising 40%

Students will cover 4 Areas of Study plus two set works that they must learn in depth. They will sit a 1h 15 minute exam for total of 96 marks answering questions on:
Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Music for Film and Popular Music

Why study Music?

Having a Music GCSE can lead you on to becoming a sound technician, music therapist, teacher, private tutor, and lots of other jobs in the Music Industry.

GCSE Music provides a range of transferable skills that would provide you with an opportunity to work in Film, TV, Theatre or Radio.

GCSE Photography

For further information contact: Mrs C Toogood


Exam board and course code: AQA GCSE Art and Design: Photography

What will I study?

There are 4 elements to the course

- Contextual references (the work of artists and photographers)
- Refining ideas (experimenting with techniques and processes, editing, using Photoshop)
- Recording ideas (photography, composition, annotating)
- Personal response ('final piece' making connections, demonstrating skill and understanding)

You will develop your observational skills through taking still or moving images and have the opportunity to experiment with different techniques, skills and processes in composition, exposure and editing. You will be able to bring your own creative talents to set projects to make exciting new work. There is a drawing requirement in both the coursework and externally assessed units and you will have to annotate and evaluate your work in pieces of extended writing.



I chose photography because it is very creative and practical. There are also lots of excursions to different places at different times of year. Great fun.
Callum (Year 10)

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework – all work is considered as coursework

40% Externally set task (exam – exam theme chosen in January of Year 11; 10 hour timed assessment at conclusion in controlled conditions)

You will be expected to develop independent Photography skills taking Photographs outside of the academy day as homework tasks

Why Study Photography?

You can continue to develop skills by taking an A' level course in Art where there are specialisms offered such as Fine Art, Graphic Communication or Photography. You can take a Level 3 BTEC course in Art and Design.

Colleges, Post 16 Centers and employers are looking for candidates who are able to show a range of skills and talents. A Photography GCSE enables you to show that you are a creative thinker, can manage your time successfully, that you can work collaboratively and independently and that you are a flexible learner able to develop new skills and talents.

GCSE (9-1), RELIGION PHILOSOPHY and ETHICS

For Further Information Contact: Ms M Reynolds

Exam Board and Course Code: WJEC Eduqas

What will I study?

The GCSE challenges learners to develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes, providing the opportunity to engage with questions of belief, purpose and truth. It enables students to understand the diverse views of society, and understand contemporary ethical and philosophical issues.

It allows students to develop a deep understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs and teachings, such as atheism and humanism. Enabling them to construct well-argued, well informed, balanced, and structured written arguments, all fantastic skills that will prepare the students for any AS/A-Level and help them to lead constructive adult lives in the modern world.

If you are interested in the people and the world around you then you will enjoy studying RPE.

The GCSE has 3 components:

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World:

Theme 1: Relationships – *characteristics of relationships, marriage and family life, issues of relationships in 21st century e.g., same sex relationships and gender roles.*

Theme 2: Life after Death – *religious and non-religious beliefs about the nature of life and death, origins and value of human life e.g., attitudes to abortion and euthanasia.*

Theme 3: Good and Evil – *origins of good and evil, crime and punishment, the death penalty.*

Theme 4: Human Rights – *human rights, social justice, wealth & poverty, racial prejudice and discrimination.*

How will I be assessed?

The course is 100% exam.

There are three papers:

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World:

Weighting 50%

Component 2: Study of Christianity

Weighting 25%

Component 3: Study of Islam

Weighting 25%

Why Study Religious Studies?

- Improve philosophical thinking skills and the ability to think outside of the box.
- Understand ethical issues such as medical ethics and religious extremism.
- Highly thought of by employers due to the excellent written skills required and the ability to create a balanced argument.
- It is an opportunity to practice debating and communication skills
- It also shows awareness of a tolerant and understanding attitude which would be desirable to any employer.

The GCSE complements many other subjects such as Art, Philosophy, English, History, Science and Psychology.

'I find RPE really interesting as we study different religions and their beliefs.' Darcey Y11.

'I enjoy having debates and listening to peoples' opinions (Jess Y11). I took RPE because I found it interesting to look at social issues and to learn about the death penalty and euthanasia (Katie Y11).



GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE

For further information contact: Mr A Tamkin

Exam board and course code: AQA

Biology 8461

Chemistry 8462

Physics 8463

What will I study?

The Triple Science pathway is good preparation for those students who wish to study science to a higher level. The extended units are designed to be a bridge between the GCSE and the A level and so will prepare you well for A levels in the three Sciences. You will be best suited to follow the Triple Science pathway if you are likely to study at least two pure A levels in science subjects, and also have been working at a **current forecast grade of 6 or above in Science and Maths** due to the additional demands of the course compared to the Combined Science pathway.

The course consists of all of the content included in the Combined Science course, but with additional content in each area of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This often involves more demanding aspects of concepts that will stimulate the minds of students who enjoy the challenges of science.

How will I be assessed?

There are six exams that are 1 hour and 45 minutes in length, two in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will receive separate grades for the three subjects, each one being awarded on the combined mark of the two exams.

Why Study Triple Science?

Triple Science will enable students to access the pure Science A levels, and this could lead on to the many and varied degree courses available in scientific disciplines.



I love Science. I do want to study science for A-Levels as I would like to do something science related in the future.
Sam (Year 10)



Additional Language GCSEs

This is for students who have a first language other than English. These are not taught GCSEs, but if you already speak another language, you may be eligible for entry.

For further information contact: Ms Lambert-Gorwyn or Mrs Reppold

Exam board: Various (see below) Arabic (Edexcel), Bengali (AQA), Chinese (AQA), Greek (Edexcel), Gujarati (Edexcel), Hebrew (AQA), Italian (AQA), Japanese (Edexcel), Latin (Edexcel), Panjabi (AQA), Persian (Edexcel), Polish (AQA), Portuguese (Edexcel), Russian (Edexcel), Spanish (AQA), Turkish (Edexcel), Urdu (AQA) and Welsh (WJEC)

What will I study?

The languages listed above are not taught at OAB. This option is for students who have a first or home language that is different to English.

Themes covered in the exams are similar to themes covered in taught language GCSEs (French and German).

You will be expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to your own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where your language is spoken.

Under the theme **identity and culture**, you might encounter language about family, friends and relationships, technology in everyday life, free time activities or customs and festivals.

Under **local, national, international and global areas of interest**, you might explore your hometown, social issues, global issues or travel and tourism. you may delve into school life, post-16 education, jobs and career ambitions being explored.

Under **current and future study and employment**,

How will I be assessed?

Language GCSEs assess you across all four language skills: speaking, reading, listening and writing. You will sit an exam for each of these skills.

Speaking exam (22-24 mins)

Reading exam (1 hr)

Listening exam (45 mins)

Writing exam (1hr 20 mins)

Why take an additional language GCSE?

Most students who take this option score very high marks. It is well known that being bilingual carries many attributes:

- Being good at understanding different cultures, people and ideas
- Being good at *multitasking*
- Having good concentration skills and memory
- Having good problem-solving skills
- Being able to think creatively

These qualities are highly sought after by employers and universities alike. Therefore, having a high score in an additional language GCSE can look great of your CV or when you apply to colleges and universities.

