



UXBRIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Year 9 Options 2018





This booklet has been designed to help and inform students and their parents or carers of their choices for their next phase of education. Key Stage 4 is undertaken after careful and thoughtful planning and details of the courses studied at Key Stage 4 can be found at the back of this booklet.

We hope that you find this information informative and interesting. Should you need any points clarified please do not hesitate to ask members of staff. We are only a phone call or email away if you need extra help.

Key Stage 4 covers Years 10 and 11 and students will study GCSEs and BTEC First qualifications, complete coursework and sit examinations. The result of this work will make up the qualifications upon which future study and career prospects will depend.

In Years 7 & 8, all students follow the same curriculum. During Year 9 students follow a pre-option pathway. However for Key Stage 4, different arrangements exist. There are some decisions that have to be made as to the courses that each student will follow. Some decisions are automatic and all students continue to study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Citizenship

In addition, students will follow three or four other courses and it is the selection of these courses that requires careful and thoughtful consideration. Our aims with these choices are to ensure that:

- All students embark upon a course of study that will enable them to achieve at the highest level.
- All students can work towards obtaining a minimum of 8 examination grades at grade 5 or higher, including English and maths.
- All students plan to continue their studies in our Sixth Form.

### **The KS4 Curriculum at Uxbridge High School**

All students must study English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Religious Education and Citizenship. They are then able to select three or four additional subjects to study, depending upon which pathway they are following.

### **UHS Option Pathways**

Students have been grouped by their ability and put into an option pathway to make the selection of choices easier for them. This has allowed us to create bespoke options for each pathway to help them select the courses that are most appropriate to their learning styles and needs and will therefore help them to go on to achieve greater success with their GCSEs. All of the option pathways fully support the government's progress measures, which means that all students will be well placed for their future career and job plans.

We have designed our curriculum for KS4 to allow choice and flexibility in which subjects students can opt for, whilst also ensuring students study a broad and balanced range of subjects that keep future and changing career options open to them. Students will receive a coloured option form, which will reflect the pathway they have been selected for. Their

form tutor will provide them with further guidance on why this is the best pathway for them.

### **Types of Course**

There are some variations in the types of courses on offer. These include GCSEs, Institute of Finance Services, BTECs and VCERTs (Vocational Certificates).

### **GCSE Courses**

These are traditional qualifications that can involve coursework, controlled assessments and examinations. Most GCSEs have a higher proportion of examinations than coursework and many are assessed entirely through examination.

### **Equivalent Vocational Courses**

These vocational courses are offered in Business Studies, Technology, PE and IT Technology. They have a vocational or work related bias with a high coursework component and a reduced number of formal examinations to sit compared with GCSE. These courses are all offered at level 2 and are equivalent to one GCSE.

These courses are assessed largely by controlled assessment rather than examinations, although 25% of the modules will be assessed by an examination.

### **English Baccalaureate**

Students and parents may be aware of the 'English Baccalaureate' which is a specific combination of GCSE subjects. These are: English, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language. One of the pathways is designed so students study triple science and this combination of subjects. Other students can opt to follow this combination of subjects if they are performing well in these subjects and have a genuine interest in them. Please be encouraged to ask questions on the suitability of this curriculum for your child.

Please note that when choosing a modern foreign language, students should select the one they currently study. It is not possible to change languages at this point as GCSE builds on the prior learning completed in KS3.

### **How are your subjects graded?**

Examinations and controlled assessments are designed to assess what students know, understand and can do.

Subjects will often have examination papers and coursework at different levels of difficulty so that knowledge, understanding and ability can be tested properly. Different grades may be awarded for each level and certificates will represent fairly how good students are at a subject.

GCSEs are now graded on a new numerical scale between 9 and 1, where a 9 is roughly the equivalent of an A\* and a 5 broadly equivalent of a top C grade or a low B grade. A grade 5 is the new benchmark for progressing to A Levels and other Level 3 qualifications.

Vocational courses are graded differently. Students can gain a level 2 pass, merit, distinction or distinction\* grades – each of these grades are equivalent to a GCSE grade 4 to 9, or a Level 1 pass which is broadly equivalent to a GCSE grade 4 to 9.

## **Written papers**

All GCSEs have written papers taken under formal examination conditions. These examinations are taken in the final term of Year 11.

Students will be given practice in examination techniques, both in lessons and in 'examination' conditions in an exam hall.

Some subjects have practical examinations taken in specialist rooms, such as Art and Drama. All examinations are very formal, with strict rules as to what may or may not be allowed, e.g. what equipment may be taken into the examination.

## **Coursework**

A few subjects have some form of controlled assessment, although this is being reduced by the exam boards.

Where a course is run at both GCSE and BTEC you will be allocated the most appropriate course for your learning style.

## **Options selection form**

Your son/daughter will be given one of three different Options Selection Forms, each one is printed on coloured paper according to the pathway. They will also be given the opportunity to meet with a member of staff to go through the form. This form must then be completed and signed by a parent. Completed forms must be returned by 15<sup>th</sup> March, when they will be checked and signed by your son/daughter's form tutor, before going to the Head of House for a final check.

It is important that the form is completed accurately and indicates the preference of the subject opted for. This is shown clearly on each form. However, if you have any queries, please contact the school directly.

## **After examinations**

The courses taken during the next two years will result in the highest possible grades for our students. These grades will help determine future study and career opportunities.

The Sixth Form at Uxbridge High School offers a full range of courses to meet the needs of all students.

Advanced Level courses (Level 3) will normally require the higher pass grades. Students will need to achieve 5 GCSEs at Level 5 or merit or distinction level in BTEC or VCERT. There are also Level 2 courses in a range of subjects. These are one-year courses and require a lower range of GCSE / BTEC First Certificate passes.

Although the majority of students continue to study and gain more qualifications in our Sixth Form, a number do enter the world of work and take up apprenticeships. For these students every effort is made to ensure that their qualifications are the most suitable.

## **Careers education and guidance**

All students at Uxbridge High School follow a planned programme of careers education and guidance. Three broad aims are identified for this programme:

- to help students to understand themselves and develop their capabilities
- to help students to investigate careers and opportunities
- to help students to implement their career plans

This programme continues in Key Stage 4. There will be many more opportunities for our students to develop skills that will enable them to take a greater responsibility for managing their lifelong learning and career development.

### **Making decisions**

Students have been introduced to the following four-step plan to help them handle the process of making decisions.

- Step 1                    Get the question clear
- Step 2                    Find out all the facts
- Step 3                    Weigh the facts up in your mind
- Step 4                    Make the decision

Careful and thoughtful planning now will help ensure success at the highest possible level.

#### **Step 1                    Get the question clear**

*What subjects can I choose from?  
Do all the subjects lead to examinations?  
How long have I got to make up my mind?  
Who is around to help me if I get into difficulties?*

#### **Step 2                    Find out all the facts that matter**

*What is the content of the subjects I am about to choose?  
Are there any new subjects I have not studied before?  
What methods of study does each course use?  
What special skills might I need to be successful in them?  
Where do my subject strengths and weaknesses lie?*

#### **Step 3                    Weigh up the facts in your mind**

*Which subjects do I consider more important at this stage?  
If my career choice changes, will my subject choice still suit?  
How much of a balance do I get in my choice?  
Will my abilities change as I get older?*

#### **Step 4                    Make the decision**

*Has everyone been consulted - parents, subject teachers, careers teachers?  
Is this choice my own individual one?  
Am I happy about my choice?  
Have I got any worries?  
Who is the person to talk to if there are any worries?*

Completed options selection forms are checked to make sure the most appropriate and suitable courses have been chosen. During this period, students may be invited to an interview to discuss their option choices.

Parents will be informed by letter of the courses allocated to their son/daughter.

Please remember that every effort is made to offer all the courses mentioned in this booklet but financial, timetable and staffing constraints could mean that if only a small number of students select a particular course it may not be possible to offer it. If this is the case, students will be offered a reserve subject.

## More information?

It is important that students consult fully with their parents and subject teachers if they are to make informed decisions.

Please find below the names of other staff who may be able to provide additional information or help you answer your questions:

Heads of House and House Guidance Leaders:

Lancaster House:	Mr Sahota and Mrs Fisher
Stuart House:	Mrs Jarvis and Mrs Herbert
Tudor House:	Mr Raja and Mrs Harrison
Windsor House:	Mr Wolf and Mrs Konieczny
York House:	Mr Janar and Mrs McCarthy

Art	Miss McMahon
Drama	Miss Walker
Geography	Mr Gill
History	Mrs Harris
Computer Science	Mr Burton
Languages	Miss Goddard
Technology	Mr Buckley

Form Tutors are also fully involved in supporting students at this critical time. They will check and sign the options selection form when completed.

## Online Support

The following websites may be of some help:

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

<http://www.plotr.co.uk/career-choices/school/gcse-options-advice-guide/>

<https://www.brightknowledge.org/education/year-911>

## Important Dates

**Monday, 26 February 2018**

Year 9 Options Assembly

**Thursday, 1 March 2018**

Year 9 Parents' Information Evening

**Friday, 2 March 2018**

Options forms given to students

**Friday, 16 March 2018**

Deadline for the return of the completed Options Selection Form

**Monday, 19 March 2018**

Year 9 appointments with Head of House/other staff

# ART AND DESIGN

Art and Design courses at Key Stage 4 build on the learning, skills and ideas you have developed throughout Years 7, 8 and 9. You will learn new techniques and processes that will help you to become more imaginative and creative in your ideas. At times you will be led in what to do, but throughout the course you will develop into an independent learner. We will encourage you to look at objects, people, art and cultures in different ways, so that the work you create is unique and interesting.

## GCSE ART AND DESIGN

GCSE Art and Design comprises of a coursework unit, where the themes are set by the school and an exam unit, for which the theme is set by the exam board. Students are assessed on four criteria, worth 25% of the marks:

1. Developing ideas and investigating other artists' work.
2. Refining ideas through experimenting with different materials and techniques
3. Ability to show artistic skills in different areas – drawing, painting, sculpture, ICT and printing.
4. Developing and completing final outcomes.



The coursework unit focuses on the development of your skills in drawing, painting, applied art (applied art is the application of design and decoration to everyday objects to make them aesthetically pleasing), photography, printing and ceramics. 60% coursework, 40% exam. These will be linked to you developing your own ideas and final outcomes. All work produced inside and outside of sketch books is coursework and it will all count towards the final grade. Each year you will attend trips that are relevant to your topic of study, this includes an annual trip to London's Borough Market to explore food cultures from all over the world. We also have artists from the Royal Academy of Drawing that come into school for workshop days. At the end of November, in Year 11, students will sit a 10-hour exam where a final outcome is produced based on the theme of 'Food & Drink'. The externally set Unit of Work, which is worth the remaining 40% of the course, is issued by the exam board, Edexcel. The projects runs for an estimated 10 weeks and will include coursework and a final 10-hour exam.

These units are designed to develop your skills in a variety of media and techniques. You will be able to relate artists' work to your own and make clear links between your work and theirs. You will learn how to develop your own ideas, experiment with different media to choose the best and then produce several final outcomes. You will be issued homework each week and there are strict deadlines throughout the course.

Everyone who takes Art and Design will have their work displayed in exhibitions at school for students, parents and the general public to appreciate. This is a celebration of the successes of all students.

Miss McMahon (Curriculum Leader of Art), Mrs Goodman and Miss Smyth will all be happy to talk to you further about GCSE Art and Design.

# BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE (VCERT)

This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise that includes a vocational and hands-on element. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire learners about a career in business and enterprise.

The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to either set up their own business, move into employment, or progress onto further study.

This qualification aims to:

- develop a broad and comprehensive understanding of business and enterprise
- develop a significant knowledge core which spans the vocational sector
- provide academic and study skills that will support progression within business and enterprise and more broadly.

The objectives of this qualification are to help learners to:

- add breadth to their knowledge and understanding of the sector as part of their career progression and development plans
- progress to a level 3 qualification, an apprenticeship or set up their own enterprise.

Throughout the delivery of this qualification, the following core areas and transferable skills should be evident:

- team working – the qualification requires learners to work with others either on small tasks or during the final project task
- communication skills
- presentation skills – learners will learn to present their work to those around them in a suitable way and will also learn the most appropriate way of communicating as an entrepreneur
- use initiative – learners will learn what initiative is and why it is important for an entrepreneur or business person
- work independently – learners will understand how to work independently on specific tasks.

The qualification consists of four units:

1. Introduction to business and enterprise (Internally assessed)
2. Marketing for business and enterprise (externally assessed)
3. Finance for business and enterprise (internally assessed)
4. Plan, develop and participate in a business or enterprise project (internally assessed)



**Business &  
Enterprise**

***For more information, please ask either Mr Weller (Curriculum Leader for Business) or any other Business Studies teachers or your careers advisor.***

# **BUSINESS STUDIES AND FINANCE**

## **GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES (AQA)**

This is an interesting and fascinating GCSE that deserves serious consideration for anyone thinking about running their own business, becoming a captain of industry or those that think they have entrepreneurial talents.

You will cover a range of topics including:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

You will learn about different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts.

You will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour and you will apply this knowledge and understanding to business decision making including:

- the interdependent nature of business activity, influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, and how these interdependencies underpin business decision making;
- how different business contexts affect business decisions;
- the use and limitation of quantitative and qualitative data in making business decisions;
- use business terminology to identify and explain business activity;
- apply business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts;
- develop problem solving and decision making skills relevant to business;
- investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues;
- make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data including its selection, interpretation, analysis and evaluation, and the application of appropriate quantitative skills.

This is a 100% exam based GCSE. At the end of year 11 you will sit two 1 hour and 45 minute exams that will assess your learning over the two years.

The course is an excellent stepping stone to A level Business Studies or Economics and BTEC Level 3 Business Studies and then relevant degree courses.

It prepares students for working in a world driven by commerce and would support employment in this sector such as working in banks, the finance industry as well as helping students to go on and run their own businesses or enterprises.

***For more information, please ask Mr Weller (Curriculum Leader for Business Studies), any other Business Studies teachers or your careers advisor.***

# CITIZENSHIP

*Have you ever seen something on the news and thought, 'That's not fair'?  
Do you enjoy giving your opinion and listening to different perspectives on real, modern life?*

Citizenship is a compulsory course studied in one hour over each two-week cycle with your tutor.

## What topics are studied?

- Government
- PSHE
- Sex Ed.
- Identity
- Global Issues
- Multiculturalism
- Fairness and Justice
- What it means to be a British Citizen



## What skills can Citizenship Studies give you?

- The ability to justify your own point of view as well as understand, criticise and evaluate someone else's.
- You will take part in discussions, which will develop your confidence and listening and speaking skills.
- You will learn how to present a convincing argument to try to persuade others to change, think again or support it.
- You will gain a deeper understanding of world issues.
- Develop knowledge of citizenship, individual rights and responsibilities.
- Learn about how citizens play a co-operative, active and fulfilling role within their society.
- Discover the laws and customs that lay down the expectations for civic society.
- Study democracy and political involvement, which can help with a-levels in Government and Politics, English, Philosophy, Religious Studies, History and many others.

## What teaching and learning methods are used?

- Discussion and debates.
- Media such as video and newspapers.
- Internet Research
- Literacy skills

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy and the role of Computer Science both as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering, in a field that is growing rapidly.

Businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals. This is even more so in the gaming, mobile and web related industries.

## GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Paper 1: Computational thinking 50%
- Paper 2: Written assessment 50%
- Non-exam assessment

### Course aims

- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

### 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
9. Non-exam assessment



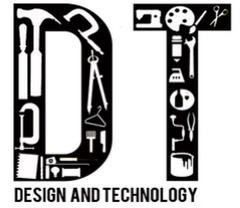
### Programming

You will be required to use written code to create your own computer program. We will be using Python to code applications.

This subject is offered as a GCSE.

# GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (AQA)

GCSE Design and Technology (D&T) is a new specification that was released by the AQA exam board last year. In the past, D&T was split into 5 separate areas and students opted for options that were delivered by their school. D&T areas have now merged into one GCSE course where students gain an understanding and learn about a variety of subject areas: Resistant Materials; Graphic Products; Textiles and elements of Product Design.



Although students will access information on all areas, the main focus for the year 11 NEA (non-examined assessment) folder/practical work will be on Resistant Materials or Graphic Products. However, these are broad areas that allow for a multitude of design outcomes with a range of materials accessible. Each student will opt for their preferred area of choice, however this may not always be given.

The course is split into two sections: the NEA is worth 50% of the overall grade and the formal examination (sat in the summer of 2019) makes up the other 50% of the overall grade.

GCSE Design and Technology is a practical subject which requires the application of design and material knowledge and understanding. Students will use Computer Aided Design (CAD) facilities, in combination with traditional hand drawing and design skills to develop innovative ideas that directly link with manufacturing products and prototypes. The course helps students develop the ability to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques.

## **NEA**

### ***Resistant Materials***

Much of the practical work will focus on wood, metal and plastics as the main materials. Students will use a wide range of machinery, materials, processes, hand tools and equipment throughout the course.

### ***Graphics Products***

Within the NEA the practical work will focus on the use of CAD and printing methods with paper and boards as the main materials. Students will use a wide range of hand drawn and CAD processes to create their final prototypes throughout the course. The final product that is designed and made for the NEA will be completely individual to each student based on the brief given by the exam board.

Students choosing this option need to have a real passion for creative design and be motivated to widen their skill set using a range of design media and manufacturing processes.

These GCSEs can lead to further studies in and a vast range of careers:

- Product and Industrial Designer
- Architecture
- Jewellery Designer
- Engineer
- Film and Theatre Set Designer
- Costume Designer
- Fashion Designer
- Graphic Designer
- Illustrator
- Cartoonists
- Animator
- Book and Magazine Designer
- Construction and trade roles

# DRAMA



Drama is an ever popular GCSE subject for students at Uxbridge High School, due to the invaluable life skills it allows students to develop and the strong record of outstanding achievement. We follow the Pearson course which advances students' creative thinking, communication, problem solving and presentation skills as well as developing their confidence. We are based in the brand new state-of-the-art Orsino Building.

*'Over the past 10 years, the number of students across the country taking GCSE drama has more than doubled. This has been largely due to students realizing the opportunities drama offers them to develop key life skills which employers respect on job applications as well as the creative freedom it gives students to explore key themes and ideas. Drama develops them as confident people'* **Arts Council for England**

<b>Component 1</b> 40%	<b>Component 2</b> 20%	<b>Component 3</b> 40%
<b>Content: Devising</b> - Create and develop a devised piece of drama from a stimulus. - Performance of this devised piece. - Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance. (Performer or designer routes available.)	<b>Content: Performance from Text</b> Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text. (Performer or designer routes available.)	<b>Content: Theatre Makers in Practice</b> - Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text (Unseen extract in exam). - Live theatre evaluation.
<b>Assessment: Internal</b> - Performance - Portfolio (up to 2000 words)	<b>Assessment: External</b> - Performance	<b>Assessment: External</b> - Written examination



## What requirements are there to take drama?

Enthusiasm for the subject is a must, as is good attendance. Every lesson you will be working towards performances and assessments, which are mostly in groups. If your attendance is not good then not only will you jeopardize your own mark, but also the marks of others. You will need to ensure you are committed to the subject as there will be some occasions when you may need to do extra rehearsals.

## What is the point of taking drama if I don't want to be an actor?

If you are interested in theatre, TV or film, either on stage or off, then GCSE drama is a must as you will learn about all the different elements of the industry. If you don't want to be an actor or you know you are not a very confident person, then drama is still an excellent choice. Your confidence will increase and you will learn many other life skills such as team work, presentation skills, creative thinking, evaluation techniques and problem solving, which will be useful in any job. This is an exciting, enjoyable and hugely rewarding course which develops both creative and personal skills.

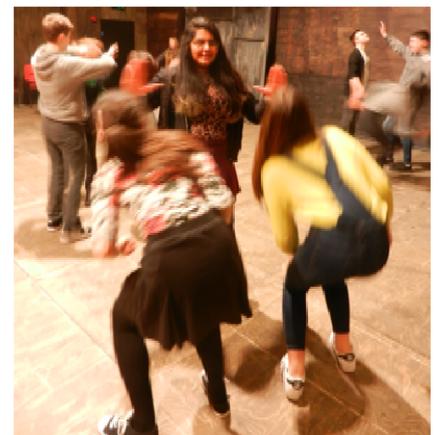


## Royal Shakespeare Company Partnership

There has never been a better time to take drama at UHS. We are currently one of only 11 schools in the country to be a Lead Associate School with the famous Royal Shakespeare Company. This means that while preparing for your GCSE you will have the opportunity to see several live theatre productions, work with experienced actors and even have the chance to perform on a professional stage.

If you have any questions please see Miss Walker or a member of the drama curriculum area.

This subject is offered as a GCSE (9 -1).



# NCFE LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE in ENGINEERING STUDIES (VCERT)

Students that choose this option will gain an experience of using different tools and materials to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of what the engineering sector may involve. The units within this qualification help develop a significant core knowledge and understanding in engineering and allow the student to apply that knowledge through a project. Students will be able to develop a deeper understanding of how drawing, using tools and machinery and materials are applied in engineering.

The course is split into 4 Units. They are a mixture of internally assessed and externally moderated portfolios of evidence. There is also an externally assessed assignment (Unit 2) which will be based on 2D and 3D Engineering drawing. They will learn and demonstrate how to use measurements, scale and proportion when producing engineering drawings.

**Unit 1:** This is a mandatory unit which will introduce the student to engineering in the industry and the wider community. It will introduce them to the knowledge and skills needed to become a competent engineer.

**Unit 2:** This is the externally assessed exam.

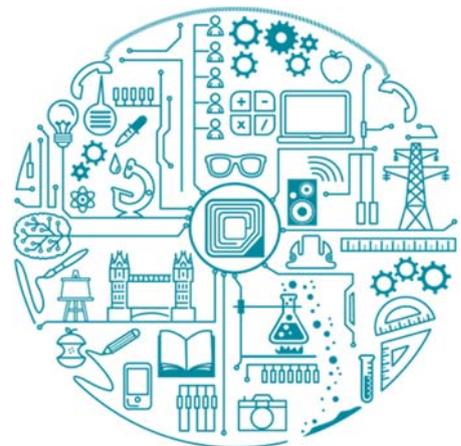
**Unit 3:** This is also a Mandatory unit which aims to introduce students to the common tools and equipment used in an engineering environment. Students will be able to handle tools in a correct and safe manner and demonstrate practical maintenance techniques.

**Unit 4:** This mandatory unit will help students gain an understanding of different engineering materials and their properties and qualities.

Students choosing this option need to have a real enthusiasm for the engineering sector and be willing to access the opportunities given to develop the skills necessary to achieve the higher Merit and Distinction awards for all the units undertaken.

This VCERT Award can lead to further studies and a vast range of careers:

- BTEC L2 Diploma in Engineering
- Diploma in Automotive Engineering
- Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Diploma in Engineering Maintenance
- Diploma in Engineering Toolmaking
- Diploma in Electrical Power Engineering
- Diploma in Engineering Construction
- Mechanical Engineering
- Gas and Heating Engineer
- Industrial Design Engineer
- Various other Construction/Engineering tradesman





# NCFE LEVEL 2 AWARD: FOOD AND COOKERY (VCERT)

Students that choose this option will develop a broad and comprehensive understanding of food and cookery. They will begin to gain a core understanding of how to eat and cook with health and nutrition as the main focus. The academic and practical skills developed will allow for progression into vocational sectors and studies. They will learn to prepare themselves and environments safely for cooking, understand food functions in the body and in recipes for health and for balanced diets. Students will be able to assess a diet and make recommendations, as well as to plan and produce dishes for a specific purpose.



The course is split into 4 Units. They are a mixture of internally assessed and externally moderated portfolios of evidence. There is also an externally assessed exam (Unit 3) which will be based on the individual requirements of a balanced diet. They will learn answers to questions about reference index (RI)/guideline daily amounts (GDAs) and how food labels can inform healthy eating.

**Unit 1:** This is a mandatory unit which will be based on developing the students' knowledge on how to prepare environments and get them ready to cook in a safe and hygienic manner.

**Unit 2:** This is also a mandatory unit which teaches students how to understand the different factors that influence our food choices.

**Unit 3:** This is the externally assessed exam.

**Unit 4:** This mandatory unit will give learners the opportunity to bring together their learning and skills developed throughout the course to produce a menu in response to a brief.

This course requires a practical understanding and students will be expected to cook regularly in order for them to develop the skills necessary to achieve the higher Merit and Distinction awards. Students choosing this option need to have a real passion for food and cooking. There will be opportunities to use a range of processes that will enhance skills and understanding in healthy eating and maintaining a balanced diet.

This VCERT Award can lead to further studies and a vast range of careers:

- Catering
- Hospitality
- Food Technologist
- Advanced GCE in Design and Technology: Food Technology
- Advanced GCE in Home Economics (Food, Nutrition and Health)
- Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery (Preparation and Cooking)
- Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles
- Professional Cookery Studies

# GEOGRAPHY

## Why Study Geography?

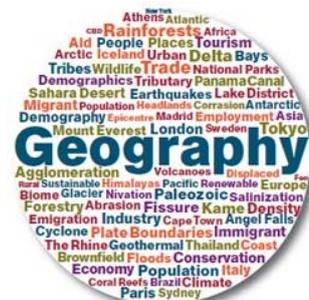
Floods in Brisbane; earthquakes in India; global warming in Alaska; tsunamis in Thailand; over population in China.

This is the world that we live in.

This subject looks at the issues that are facing people in all parts of the world today and asks how they might affect you as a citizen of tomorrow's world and how you might be able to influence events. It allows you to find out more about how people are using different environments, both your own and those in other parts of the world.

You will investigate issues such as sustainability; will the Earth still be able to provide us with all the resources we take for granted now? Is global warming happening? How will it affect the Earth? What really causes 'natural disasters' like floods, earthquakes and volcanoes? How can people cope with them?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is relevant to the world you live in and to your future, which focuses on the environment and involves practical fieldwork outdoors at a UK coastline.



## What skills might I develop?

Geography is an ideal subject for developing a full range of skills. You will learn how to research information from a range of sources and present it in a variety of ways, both written and in diagrams. You can get experience of manipulating data, using statistics, ICT software such as databases, spreadsheets and graphics packages. Your fieldwork will help you to develop the skills of organising your own time and working and co-operating with others. You will also learn to review your own work and progress. These 'transferable' skills will not just be useful in your study of Geography, but will help you make progress in many of your other subjects too, both at GCSE and beyond. They are also skills that are highly valued by employers and will be useful in the world of work. A GCSE in Geography is a stepping-stone to a whole range of future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in further studies and employment.

## In Geography we offer the new AQA GCSE. How is it assessed?

<b>Paper 1</b>	Paper 1: Living with the physical environment Natural Hazards, Living world and Natural Landscapes	35%
<b>Paper 2</b>	Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment Urban issues, economic world and challenges of resource management	35%
<b>Paper 3</b>	Paper 3: Geographical applications Fieldwork analysis and World issues	30%

This subject is offered as a GCSE.

# HEALTH AND FITNESS VCERT

At Uxbridge High school we offer **VCERT Level 2 in Health and Fitness**. This qualification is designed for students with an interest in health and fitness, such as exercise, lifestyles and diet. This qualification develops knowledge and understanding of the health and fitness industry and allows students to apply that knowledge in preparing, planning and developing a health and fitness programme.

The qualification has a **strong emphasis on coursework**, which is continually assessed throughout the course. This will take a variety of forms and could be written, presented or performed. This course would be a really good opportunity for students who enjoy working practically and are interested in a career in health and fitness.



## The units are:



**Unit 1:** Principles of Health and Fitness  
**(Coursework)**

**Unit 2:** Healthy Lifestyles  
**(Coursework)**

**Unit 3:** Preparing and Planning for Health and Fitness  
**(Exam Paper)**

**Unit 4:** Develop a Personal Health and Fitness Programme  
**(Coursework)**

## What can I study next?

Once completed students can progress further and study the following qualifications:

- Level 3 Certificate in Sport (Sport, Exercise and Fitness)
- Level 3 Award in Nutrition for Physical Activity
- Level 3 Certificate in Sports Coaching

## A Levels in:

- Physical Education
- Sciences (Biology)
- Psychology



# HISTORY



## Why should I choose History?

Students who study history at GCSE and beyond are fearless explorers of the past. If you enjoy investigating about societies (people), politics, cultures, languages, health, art, education, money and conflicts, then look no further. Studying GCSE history will enable you to not only understand the past, but enable you to make sense of the increasingly complex world we live in today. Like a good detective, you will be able to make sense of information, organise it and come to a clear conclusion.

Whilst what you study about lies firmly in the past, and is remembered in the present, the range of skills which historians at UHS develop are wide-ranging and colleges, universities and future employers respect them. If you choose history at GCSE, you will develop: **excellent communication and writing skills; the ability to construct a clear argument; research and problem solving skills; as well as analytical and interpretation skills.** In addition, through the study of history, you can access a range of different sectors: **law; politics; public sector; business; journalism; education; historical curation and academia.** The idea that all historians work in museums is a folly – the majority work across the above sectors.

## What does the course include?

You will learn about many topics from British and world history, which will be examined by three examinations at the end of the two years.

Firstly, you will look at a longer thematic study on **Crime and Punishment in Britain from c.1000AD to the present**, which will include a historical examination of how British society has dealt with crime through different ages and the emergence of a police force in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to limit and investigate crimes in inner cities.

Secondly, you will study about the **Anglo-Saxons and Norman England, c.1060 to 1080**, which will include a historical examination of how society became embroiled in an Anglo-Norman feud which shaped the nature of our country for one thousand years. There is an important focus on personalities, including William I, as well as one of Britain's earliest governments, the Witan, and key battles, including the Battle of Hastings. As part of this course, you will also focus on the **Superpower Relations and the Cold War, from 1941 to 1991**. This is a truly fascinating topic of enquiry whereby you will focus on issues including the ideological differences between the USA and USSR, how the Cold War started, ensued and ended during the late 1980s.

Lastly, you will study **life in Weimar and Nazi Germany**; an in-depth study about German recovery from 1918 to 1939 in the wake of the Treaty of Versailles and consider the range of different social, political, economic and religious reasons for Hitler's rise to power.

## How is it assessed?

Paper 1	<b>Thematic Study:</b> Crime and Punishment (1 hour 15 minutes)	30%
Paper 2	<b>Period Study and British Depth Study:</b> The Anglo-Saxons and Norman England, C. 1060-1080; Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91 (1 hour 45 minutes)	40%
Paper 3	<b>Modern Depth Study:</b> Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39 (1 hour 20 minutes)	30%

**In history we offer the new Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1).**

*This subject is offered as a GCSE.*

# ICT LEVEL 2

This ICT course is a vocational qualification developed for creative learners with a passion for digital content.

This next generation of digital applications qualifications, are based on the structure and content of the popular DiDA suite, which has been successfully delivered in UK schools for over 10 years.

## ICT level 2

ICT is a single award with 120 Guided Learning Hours (GLH). It is equivalent in size to a GCSE and graded A\*-C.

Learners who successfully achieve ICT at Level 2 will be awarded grades A\*-C, which are equivalent in value to GCSE grades A\*-C.

ICT at Level 2 consists of 2 units, Unit 1, Developing Web Products, is a mandatory Unit and is externally assessed through a practical examination, which accounts for 25% of the qualification. One of the following optional units makes up the remaining 75%:

- Unit 2 - Creative Multimedia
- Unit 3 - Artwork and Imaging
- Unit 4 - Game Making



## Course aims

The ICT qualification aims to empower learners to play an active role in the digital sector rather than being simply consumers of digital content. Tailor-made to meet the needs of today's creative industries, the qualifications cover imaging, creative multimedia, website development and computer game production. This qualification is ideal for students who want the opportunity to explore and acquire a broad understanding and knowledge of the creative digital industries, and the ability to apply that knowledge in practical contexts.

## Subject content

### Unit 1: Developing Web Products

When your attention is captured by a web page advertising a competition, promoting an event or launching a new product, what makes you stop and look? Don't be fooled by technical wizardry. It may have spectacular images, eye-catching animation or attention grabbing text, but what makes it effective is the way the components work together.

This unit aims to give you the knowledge and skills you need to produce attention grabbing web products using web authoring software, multimedia assets and navigation features. You will demonstrate your ability to design, build and test a web product in a practical computer-based examination set by Pearson.





# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (French, German and Spanish)



## Languages at UHS – your passport to the future!

Do you want to stand out from the crowd? Do you want become more fluent in English? Do you see yourself travelling in the future? Do you want a challenge? Do you want the chance to practice problem-solving skills outside of maths lessons? Do you want to boost your confidence and debating skills? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, consider continuing with a modern foreign language for GCSE!

## What do you get out of it?

Whatever your future plans are, you are going to have something that very few other people do – a GCSE qualification in a foreign language. You'll stand out from the crowd, and you'll also hone, refine and sharpen your literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, team work, sequencing and verbal reasoning skills, making you a force to be reckoned with at any college, university or job interview!

## How does the course work?

Over the GCSE course, you will study a range of topics relating to the modern world and how the language you have chosen plays a part in global society. You will learn how to translate to and from English, thus boosting your chances at higher grades in GCSE English, as well as being able to engage with written work and visual media aimed at native speakers. You will also learn how to deal with real-life situations in the target language – great for holidays or impressing friends and family!

You also get the added bonus of attending one of the few schools in Hillingdon which allows you to have regular contact with native speakers (Foreign Language Assistants) from French, Spanish and German speaking countries, who will help you to improve your overall grade. It's like having a private tutor – for free!

## How is it assessed?

The exam board is AQA, and GCSE French, German and Spanish are 100% exam based. There is no coursework, but you will sit mock exams at certain points of the year.

Skill	Assessment
Listening	25% of final grade – assessed at the end of Year 11
Reading	25% of final grade – assessed at the end of Year 11
Writing	25% of final grade – assessed at the end of Year 11
Speaking	25% of final grade – assessed at the end of Year 11

## Still not sure?

If you are concerned about choosing to continue with a language because you didn't enjoy it last year? Don't worry! You will be with people who want to learn – people like you who want to do their best, develop skills that will help them in all GCSE subjects, and aren't afraid of a challenge!

## We want you!

If you think you'd like to know more about a GCSE in Modern Foreign Languages, about any of the careers it could lead to, other subjects it works well with, or just want to ask about tips for success, feel free to talk to either your current class teacher or to Miss Goddard, the Curriculum Leader.

À bientôt! Bis bald! ¡Hasta luego!



# MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a core subject that all students study.

## Assessment

Examination Board: Edexcel

Examinations: Three papers (no coursework)

- 67% calculator allowed
- 33% non-calculator

## Two Tiers

Foundation (Grades 1 to 5)      Higher (Grades 3 - 9)

## Syllabus Content

### *Using and applying Mathematics*

- Make and monitor decisions to solve problems
- Communicate mathematically
- Develop skills of mathematical reasoning

### *Number and algebra*

- Using and applying number and algebra.
- Understanding place value and the decimal number system.
- Numbers and the number system.
- Understand and use the relationship between numbers.
- Solve numerical problems.
- Understand and use equations, formulae and identities.
- Use sequences, functions and graphs.

### *Shape, space and measure*

- Understand and use properties of shape.
- Understand and use properties of position, movement and transformation.
- Understand and use measures.
- Use and locate co-ordinates.

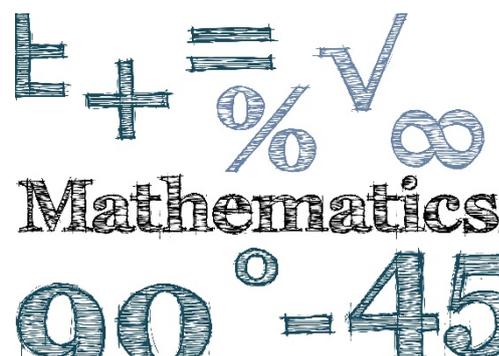
### *Handling data*

- Collect, process, represent and interpret data.
- Estimate and calculate the probability of events.

## Jobs/Careers Mathematics is Useful for

Statistician, Scientist, Sales Representative, Pharmacist, Armed Forces, Motor Mechanic, Medicine, Law, Engineering, Teaching, Business, Banking, Accountancy, Office Work, Builder, Tax Officer, Retail.

This subject is offered as a GCSE.



# MUSIC

## “If music be the food of love, play on...”

Studying music at Uxbridge High School means working in some of the best music facilities in Hillingdon. The Orsino Building is a state-of-the-art facility, with a digital recording studio, Mac suite and practice suite. Music should be the heartbeat of any school, and we are proud to support our students’ love for listening to and creating music.



## Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy:

- Composing and performing music
- Learning an instrument or singing
- Creating music on computers or in a recording studio
- Learning about all kinds of music, including classical, popular and world music

If you decide to take GCSE music, you will learn how:

- To improve your performing skills
- How music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product
- To analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed over the last 400 years or so.

## How will I be assessed?

Performing (30%)	Composing (30%)	Appraising (40%)
<p>Students <u>perform</u> for at least <u>four minutes</u> in total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solo performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces</li> <li>• Ensemble performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces</li> <li>• Internally marked and externally moderated.</li> </ul>	<p>Students compose <u>two</u> compositions, that must be at least three minutes long in total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One composition to a brief set by Eduqas</li> <li>• One free composition set by the student</li> <li>• Internally marked and externally moderated.</li> </ul>	<p>Written theory and listening examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes</p> <p>Areas of Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popular Music</li> <li>• Musical Forms and Devices</li> <li>• Music for Ensemble</li> <li>• Film Music</li> </ul>

## What are the entry requirements for this course?

- If you study music in Year 9 you have already gained many of the basic skills needed for this course.
- You enjoy making music, either as a soloist or in a group. The GCSE course encourages you to perform music of your own choosing and in any style, as a soloist and also in a group.
- **To start this course, it’s important that you should be able to play a musical instrument beyond ‘beginner level’ or enjoy singing a variety of songs.**

## Where can GCSE music lead?

The confidence you gain from performing music is valued in all kinds of careers, from business and law to sales. The advanced listening skills you will develop will increase your focus and can significantly boost your ability to learn and analyse in many situations. Music is valued in many careers, not just in the performing arts industry (alone worth £6 billion a year in the UK).

This subject is offered as a GCSE (9-1).

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At Uxbridge High School the physical education curriculum area has chosen to follow the new Edexcel specification for GCSE PE. A breakdown of how the course is structured is below, you will notice there is a heavy influence on Sport Sciences, which are assessed through written examinations.

Component	Assessment	Content overview
<b>Component 1:</b> Fitness and Body Systems	 Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes  36% of the qualification	 Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology  Topic 2: Movement analysis  Topic 3: Physical training  Topic 4: Use of data
<b>Component 2:</b> Health and Performance	 Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes  24% of the qualification	 Topic 1: Health, fitness and well-being  Topic 2: Sport psychology  Topic 3: Socio-cultural influences  Topic 4: Use of data
<b>Component 3:</b> Practical Performance	Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated  30% of the qualification  105 marks, (35 marks per activity)	 One team activity, one individual activity and a free choice from the list published by the DfE  Skills in isolation  Skills in a competitive/ formal situation
<b>Component 4:</b> Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)	Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated  10% of the qualification  20 marks	 Aim and planning analysis  Carrying out and monitoring the PEP  Evaluation of the PEP



# PHOTOGRAPHY

The photography course is based over two years and has two units.

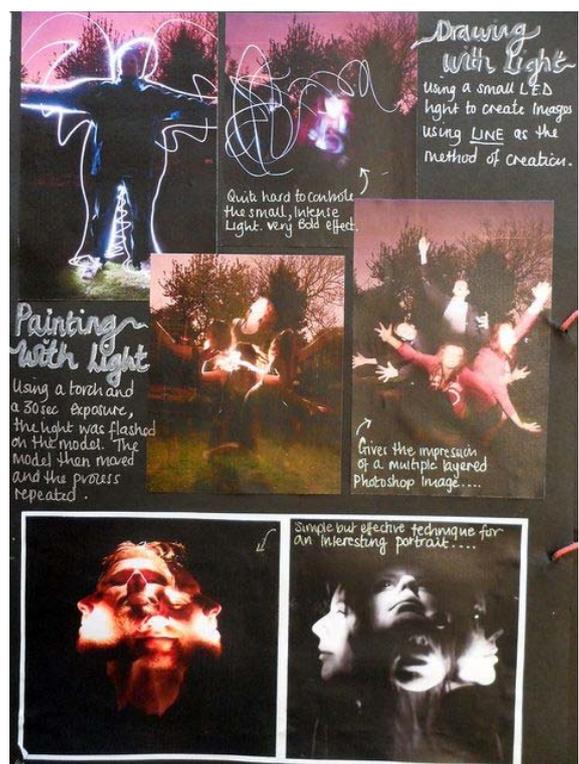
Unit 1 is coursework based and worth 60% of the final grade.

Unit 2 is an externally set exam and this is worth 40% of the final grade.

Students will study two projects throughout unit 1: capturing light and photo manipulation. To support study of the course students will be taught how to use digital cameras and photoshop. Homework will be issued on a weekly basis and will require students to print their own photographs and present them.

Throughout the first project students will be encouraged to spend several hours outside capturing natural light and how it changes their surrounding environment. The outcomes of their work are instant and students are able to visually monitor their own progress through the whole two year course.

Miss McMahon (Curriculum Leader of Art), Mrs Goodman and Miss Smyth will all be happy to talk to you further about GCSE photography.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

All students have the opportunity to study GCSE Religious Studies as an interesting and engaging option subject.

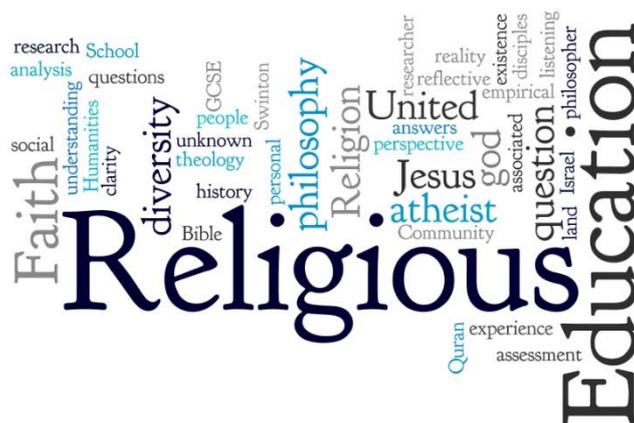
## Which syllabus is used?

We use the Eduqas syllabus. Past papers and other valuable resources are available from the Eduqas website.

## What topics are studied?

### Highly engaging topics are studied such as:

- Euthanasia
- Abortion
- Human Rights and religion
- Family
- Racism



## What teaching and learning methods are used?

- Discussion and debates
- Research
- Essay writing skills

## What skills can Religious Studies give you?

- Enhance your discussion and debate skills, which will develop your listening skills, and ability to develop a clear and reasoned argument.
- Opportunities to build on your presenting skills.
- Read and analyse information from many different types of documents, both historical and modern.
- Be able to have a deeper understanding of world issues including moral and social topics such as the media, medical ethics and belief.

Religious Studies can be used as a great asset on your CV as it shows you have great awareness for those from all cultural and religious backgrounds, an understanding and respect towards people in different situations and the ability to discuss, debate and argue in both verbal and written work.

This subject is a full course GCSE.

# AQA -SCIENCE TRILOGY- Combined Science

## Exams

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

**Duration:** all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.

**Tiers:** Foundation and Higher.

**Weighting:** the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks.

**Question types:** multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

Practical work is at the heart of science, so we have placed it at the heart of both Combined and separate specifications.

There are 16 required practicals that have to be completed throughout the course for GCSE Combined Science and 8 for each separate science.

This specification encourages the development of knowledge and understanding in science through opportunities for working scientifically.

Working scientifically is the sum of all the practical activities that scientists do for the following reasons:

1. To support and consolidate scientific concepts (knowledge and understanding).
2. To develop investigative skills.
3. To build and master practical skills such as:
  - using specialist equipment to take measurements
  - handling and manipulating equipment with confidence and fluency
  - recognising hazards and planning how to minimise risk.

## Summary of content

### 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



# AQA -SCIENCE TRILOGY- Separate Science

## BIOLOGY

### Exams

**Two papers:** each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clearer and simpler language, to assess students only on their scientific ability.

**Duration:** both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

**Tier:** Foundation and Higher.

**Weighting:** the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

**Question types:** multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.



### Summary of content

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

## CHEMISTRY

### Exams

**Two papers:** each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clearer and simpler language, to assess students only on their scientific ability.

**Duration:** both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

**Tiers:** Foundation and Higher.

**Weighting:** the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

**Question types:** multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

### Summary of content

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

## PHYSICS

### Exams

**Two papers:** each paper will assess different topics.

**Duration:** both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

**Tiers:** Foundation and Higher.

**Weighting:** the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

**Question types:** multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

### Summary of content

1. Forces
2. Energy
3. Waves
4. Electricity
5. Magnetism and electromagnetism
6. Particle model of matter
7. Atomic structure
8. Space physics

Studying the Separate sciences means students will cover more content than the GCSE Combined Science. The new GCSE separate sciences will provide great preparation for AS and A-level, without overlapping content.

# SOCIAL SCIENCES

These engaging and effective qualifications introduces students to the fundamentals of psychology and sociology, developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills.

## Option 1: Psychology

### Is this the right subject for me?

This subject is a great choice for those who have always wondered 'why' humans behave the way we do. Students will explore different reasons behind behaviour from the nature approach (genetics) through to the nurture approach (environment). An interest in science (particularly biology) is important for success in psychology.

### How will I be assessed?

<b>Paper 1 – Cognition and Behaviour</b>	<b>Paper 2 – Social Context and Behaviour</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Memory</li><li>• Perception</li><li>• Development</li><li>• Research Methods</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social influence</li><li>• Language, thought and communication</li><li>• Brain and neuropsychology</li><li>• Psychological problems</li></ul>
<b>Written Exam</b> – 1 hour 45 minutes Mix of multiple choice, short answer and extended response.	<b>Written Exam</b> – 1 hour 45 minutes Mix of multiple choice, short answer and extended response.

## Option 2: Sociology

### Is this the right subject for me?

GCSE sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. It allows students to explore the developments in society and present reasoned arguments as to why society is always changing.

### How will I be assessed?

<b>Paper 1 – The Sociology of Families and Education</b>	<b>Paper 2 – The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Sociology of Families</li><li>• The Sociology of Education</li><li>• Relevant Areas of Social Theory and Methodology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Sociology of Crime and Deviance</li><li>• The Sociology of Social Stratification</li><li>• Relevant Areas of Social Theory and Methodology</li></ul>
<b>Written Exam</b> – 1 hour 45 minutes Mix of multiple choice, short answer and extended response.	<b>Written Exam</b> – 1 hour 45 minutes Mix of multiple choice, short answer and extended response.