# Liverpool College

love the journey

# Key Stage 4 Options Booklet 2024-2025

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## Introduction

Welcome to this year's Option Booklet. This is to be read in conjunction with the presentation by staff in February.

During the next few weeks there are, as you know, some important decisions to be made about the subjects which you will study over the next two years. This booklet is designed to help you understand the choices and the subjects which are available to you. Consult it carefully and pass it on to your parents/carers so that they too can read it and discuss it with you. As you look forward to Key Stage 4 and beginning your public examination courses, it is important that you **make the course selections which are right for you, ensuring that your studies will give you breadth and balance but include some flexibility and choice.**

Pupils have a Core Provision that all must take in KS4. These include:

Mathematics
English Language
English Literature
Science
Religious Studies
Games
PSHE

| Subject | Year 10 Hours per fortnight |
|---|---|
| Mathematics | 8 |
| English | 8 |
| Science | 9 |
| RS | 1 |
| Games | 2 |

## When Choosing subjects the following should be considered:

**Student**

- What do I enjoy studying?
- What are my strengths?
- If I choose this option now, will it keep more options open later for further study/training/employment?

**Parent/Carer**

- Are they choosing a subject to stay in the same class as friends?
- Are they choosing a subject because they believe that it won't involve much work?
- Are they choosing a subject because they like the teacher?
- Have they chosen subjects which challenge them but allow them to achieve their potential?

**If you have any questions about the Key Stage 4 Curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact us or talk through them with us.**

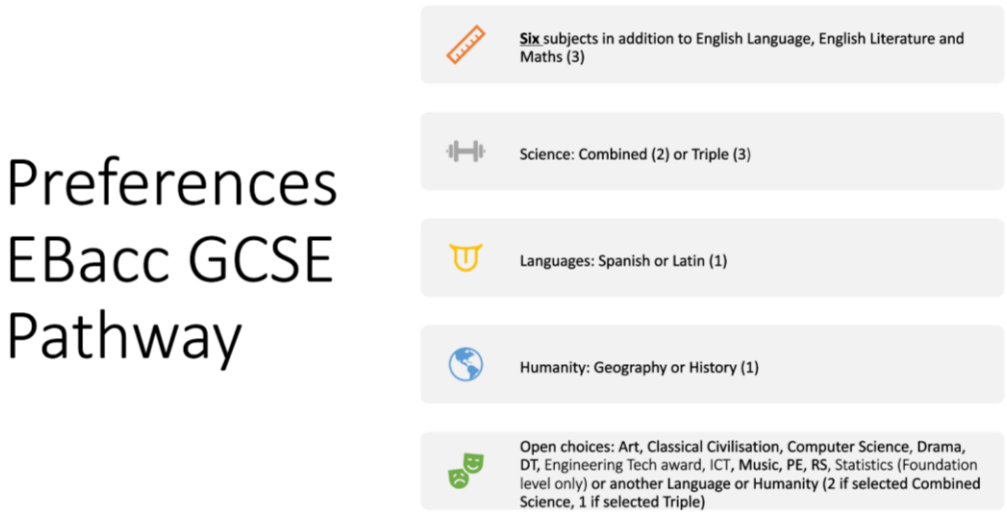
All year 9 pupils have had a 1:1 meeting with our Careers Advisor to help with making their initial option choices.

# The Different Pathways at Liverpool College

We offer 3 Pathways at Liverpool College EBacc, GCSE and Skilled Pathway. When deciding on what Pathway is appropriate for each pupil we consider progress during Key Stage 3.
The Three Pathways are listed below:

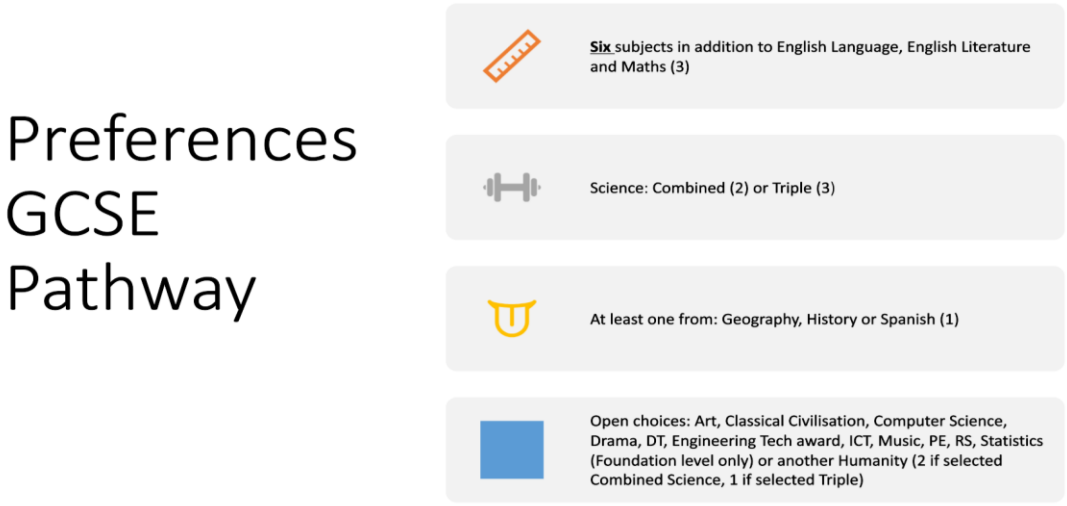
**EBacc Pathway**

You and your parents may be aware of the "English Baccalaureate" and how this standard can be met. We will encourage a high proportion of our students to follow the English Baccalaureate pathway by choosing to study a modern foreign language (i.e. Latin or Spanish), plus either History or Geography in addition to English, Mathematics and Science plus one/two optional subjects (dependent on Triple Science).



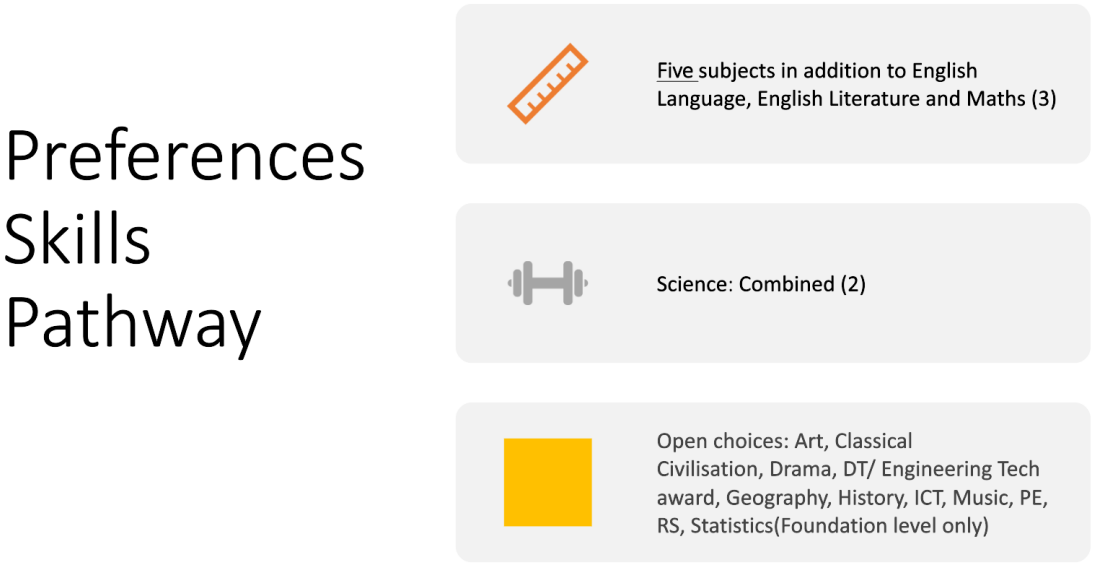

**GCSE Pathway**

Pupils on the GCSE Pathway will be eligible for the EBacc if they choose to study a Humanities subject and a Language in addition to English, Mathematics and Science plus two/three optional subjects (dependent on Triple Science).



**Skills Pathway**

This pathway offers a bespoke curriculum suitable for a very small number of pupils. Pupils will follow the Core Curriculum and an Options Curriculum tailored to meet their specific needs. They study a range of academic and vocational courses such as GCSEs and BTECs.




**The pathway you are on does NOT determine sets or class groups. It is a guide to help you decide which subjects would be best suited to your ability and will give you the best outcomes.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

**How do we help you choose a 'Pathway'?**

At Liverpool College, we give you a selection of subjects and suggested pathways from which you can state your preferences. While we want you to make your own choices as far as possible, there may be some choices you make that we may feel are not appropriate for you. In cases such as this we will meet with you and possibly your parents or carer(s) to discuss your choices and consider what might be a more appropriate selection. In this way, we will try to maximise your chances of attaining your full potential across a good range of qualifications recognised by post 16, colleges, universities and employers. Ultimately, your course choices will be up to you.

**How will I know if a particular choice of subjects is not appropriate for me?**

Based on the evidence of your progress so far, we will consider how appropriate a particular subject would be for you, based on your past performance in lessons, exams and classwork. We will consider whether the choices you have made are appropriate based on your past performance and measured against what people with similar grades to you have achieved nationally.

**What if I don't like the pathway you have suggested for me?**

We have chosen a pathway that will maximise your chances in a range of subjects which will, in our belief, lead to future success and fulfilment for you. If in our opinion your choices may not push you enough, or that you may find the choices you have chosen too difficult, we will contact your parents/carers to discuss this. In most cases this will not become an issue.

**Does the pathway determine sets?**

No. Pupils from across all pathways could and will be in the same classes.

**How can I decide what subjects are best for me?**

'What do you enjoy most?' is your first question. 'What am I best at?' is your next. You will also want to strongly consider what you want to do post 16 and post 18.

**Who can help me decide what to choose?**

Listen to advice from your parents/carers, teachers, friends and older brothers and sisters. At the end of the day make sure you make the final decision.

Don't pick a subject just because . . .

- Your friend is doing it. You may not be in the same group and they are very likely to have different tastes to you.
- You like a teacher. You may not get the same teacher in KS4.
- You haven't fully researched the subject and you are unclear what the subject will demand of you. It could be a different experience in KS4 to your experience in KS3.

**Am I guaranteed to get the subjects that I choose?**

Unfortunately, if there are not enough students choosing a course, we cannot run it - therefore, you may not get your first choice. Normally this doesn't happen to many students. We could limit the number of subjects we offer and make sure they all run but then we would limit your choice. It may

be the case that two of the subjects you choose have to run on the timetable at the same time and this will mean you will have to choose between them. All courses need enough students to run. There are limited places in some subjects. As a result we cannot guarantee that students will automatically be given all of their first preferences.

If your teacher does not think it is in your best interest to study their subject we will discuss this with you and we will make the final decision on what is in your best interest. This decision will be based on our experience of previous students outcomes with similar starting points to you.

We will always make these decisions with your best interest at the centre of these decisions.

***Please note: Information in the booklet is accurate at the time of writing but the introduction of new national regulations may mean that amendments are made at a later stage.***

Once you complete the online form all options will be checked individually to see that each student has chosen courses which are challenging and that offer a chance of success. This process does take some time and final confirmation of choices will be made during the Summer Term.

**What is the English Baccalaureate?**

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), as they feel they help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science Combined or 3 single Sciences Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- History or Geography
- A language

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. However it can also be for some the most challenging part of the combination of subjects that is why we always work with the Language faculty on deciding which pupils should be given the choice of taking a Language and these pupils are placed on the GCSE or skilled pathway.

**What are Entry Level Certificates?**

Entry level qualifications can help you build skills, increase your knowledge and boost your confidence. They are known as 'certificates' or 'awards', and are open to anyone interested in gaining a recognised qualification. Entry Level qualifications are made up of a number of separately assessed units so your achievements are recognised as you complete each unit. You are assessed on a combination of tests, assignments and tasks which can be written, oral or practical.

Different subjects and courses will vary in structure, content and the number of units. When you complete all the units, you get the full certificate.

# Art

Examination Board: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab_overview

## Why study art?

Because it opens the door to many prestigious art colleges offering exciting courses, where you will meet with the foremost designers and artists of the day. Most colleges have connections with the music industry, fashion houses, television, theatre, film architecture and design in every form. You will meet with like-minded people, who think "outside the box", always push the boundaries and rarely, if ever, conform. They lead, others follow. The vibrant world of art allows you to achieve anything you want to if you really want it.

## Is Art for me?

Yes, if you are creative, not just in terms of technical ability but also in the way you gather ideas, make visual connections and have a definite desire to experiment with colour, texture, materials and methods. These include computer manipulation, fashion design, textiles, sculpture, painting and drawing on paper, card, wood, silk and even on yourself sometimes. We aim to help you develop your own unique art style, by working to your strengths and channelling your enthusiasm into the production of rich exciting art work.

## What skills will I develop?

You will acquire a "visual vocabulary" which will enable you to have the confidence to draw or paint anything you choose. You will learn to make independent choices and have a structured approach to problem solving. You will learn to analyse your own work and that of others and be able to discuss ideas knowledgeably. You will also have the opportunity through workshops, visits and twilight sessions to work with professional artists, thereby understanding the skills needed to run a successful studio or commercial business.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

We use Eduqas as our exam board and are required to produce two modules:

**Module 1**: The Coursework Folio – 60%. This consists of work gathered throughout the two year course. The projects are set and directed by art staff and will include painting and drawing, photography, computer manipulation and a choice of fashion design, sculpture, print and/or textiles.

**Module 2** : The Externally Set Assignment – 40%. The titles for which are set by the Board. The preparation work for this module is done in class time and at home. However, the exam composition is worked on over a period of ten hours in supervised time. On completion of both modules an exhibition of work is mounted which is marked and moderated, first by the art staff and the by an outside moderator designated to the school.

# Biology
Biology

## Biology

Examination Board: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461

### Why study Biology?

Biology is a fascinating and challenging subject. New ideas and concepts are always being developed and advances in technology enable new discoveries to be made. Genetic discoveries such as cloning, disease resistant crops and DNA finger printing have placed biology at the forefront of today's science.

### Is Biology for me?

GCSE biology is a firm foundation for students wanting to study biology A level and a good background for specialising in other sciences. It is an important subject for students wishing to pursue many different careers, including medicine, physiotherapy and dietetics, dentistry, microbiology, teaching and research.

### What skills will I develop?

You will develop knowledge and understanding of biological concepts and principles and an attitude of curiosity and scientific enquiry through a practical approach to the subject. You will learn to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments, including those related to the environment and to personal health.

### Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

The new AQA GCSE biology is a linear course meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

Subject content:

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

There are two examination papers worth 50% each that assess all of the content. Each examination is 1 hour 45 minutes in length and contains a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

# Chemistry

Examination Board: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462

## Why study Chemistry?

You might not realise it, but chemistry is all around you. Every time you travel in a car, bake a cake or simply breathe, you rely on chemical reactions. Products we use in our everyday lives, such as make up and medicines have been developed by people trained in chemistry. Chemists are involved in research as diverse as developing fertilisers to help feed a hungry world, researching new fuels to help reduce global warming and exploring new materials and dyes for clothing. Studying chemistry will develop your understanding of some key areas of science which have a real impact on our everyday lives.

## Is Chemistry for me?

GCSE chemistry is an important science. It gives students a good understanding of the nature of substances, how they react together and how our knowledge of chemistry is used in business and industry. An important part of chemistry is an understanding of how our use of raw materials as fuels and in manufacturing can affect the local and global environment. GCSE chemistry is an ideal foundation for students wanting to study A level chemistry and for a good grounding in scientific ideas.

## What skills will I develop?

GCSE chemistry gives you a wide range of transferable skills. You will learn to write clearly on technical topics, become competent in a range of practical techniques and extend your problem-solving skills.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

The new AQA GCSE chemistry is a linear qualification, meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

Subject 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

There are two examination papers worth 50% each that assess all of the content. Each examination is 1 hour 45 minutes in length and contains a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

# Classical Civilisation

Examination Board: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/classical-civilisation-j199-from-2017/

## Why study Classical Civilisation?

The ancient world is a fascinating place to spend time. In this GCSE you will be introduced to some new aspects of the past - such as the Bronze Age settlements of ancient Greece - and you will extend your understanding of some materials you have encountered before - the lives of women in Greece and Rome. This subject is for you if you would like to improve your historical knowledge and enjoy looking at a wide variety of material. Although the subject does not lead to any one career in particular, Classicists are highly adaptable, because they have learned to analyse, evaluate and articulate their thoughts.

## Is Classical Civilisation for me?

This subject involves a good deal of reading and essay-writing, and there is a lot of content to memorise, so you need to make sure your skill-set or interests match with that. But our material is stimulating and usually memorable, and many people enjoy reading about the adventures of Odysseus or learning about the scandals of Clodia or Cleopatra. If you have enjoyed learning about the ancient world in Years 7-9, there is a good chance that you will enjoy this subject at GCSE too.

## What skills will I develop?

You will develop your analytical skills. By studying a wide range of evidence - literature, archaeological remains, visual arts - you will learn to draw conclusions about the lives of people who were sometimes similar to, and sometimes very different from ourselves. Your writing skills should also develop as you learn to express your opinions on the evidence you are analysing.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

We use the OCR exam board, and there are two modules, each one assessed by a 90 minute written examination. There is no coursework. The modules are called The Homeric World (in which we study Bronze Age Greece and the Odyssey of Homer) and Women in the Ancient World (in which we study the lives and expectations of women in Greece and Rome).

# Computer Science

Examination Board: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j276-from-2016/

## Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science is all about problem solving, analysing and modelling problems, designing and creating solutions and then evaluating them. You will learn about how and why computers work, data and how it is transferred, programming, designing and developing applications and project management techniques.

It's using technology to come up with your own creative and practical answers to questions and problems. Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of computer science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly. The Government considers it important enough to include it on the English Baccalaureate.

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded.

## Is Computer Science for me?

Strength in mathematics is an advantage for Computer Science, but you do not have to be a Grade A student. You must be creative and dedicated. Computer Science is not an easy GCSE but you should not think of it as too complicated and technical. No prior knowledge is assumed and you will be taught everything during the 2 year course. If you take pleasure in designing, creating and sharing, this could be the subject for you. The course will engage and motivate you by developing cutting edge computing skills and you will explore how technology impacts upon our everyday lives.

## What skills will I develop?

You'll learn skills and techniques that will help you in your career, whatever you go on to do. Basic project management techniques, product development cycles and problem solving are skills that you'll find useful every day in every career, not just the IT industry. Then there is the understanding you'll get of modern technology – not just how to use it but how to create it. How information is stored, transferred, manipulated and controlled.

- Programming – you'll be taught to programme in SQL and Visual Basic and will use them practically and creatively.
- Algorithms – and why they are at the heart of how computers work
- Data – how it is handled and stored and what it can be used for
- Hardware – how computers and networks are made up and how they communicate
- Basic concepts of software engineering – the product development lifecycle, prototyping and application testing.

**In short, you'll get a solid grounding in the concepts of Computer Science, and learn a wide range of valuable skills that will help equip you for your working life.**

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

OCR Specification – the course consists of 20% Non-exam Assessment and 80% examination.

Year 11 – non-exam Assessment – 20 hours (in lesson time, spread over a number of weeks)
**Internally assessed and externally moderated.**
You will complete one task working independently to demonstrate your ability to design, create, test and evaluate a solution to a given problem. The tasks will be set in an engaging and relevant context. The task will be set by the exam board.

Year 11 – Examinations – Two papers (1 hour and 30 minutes each)
**Externally assessed**
All questions are compulsory and will be taken from across the subject content (theory you will be taught). This will contain a range of question types from multiple choice to extended answers.

# Design Technology

Examination Board: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552

## Why study Design & Technology?

Design and technology is an exciting, engaging and challenging subject that should enable students to develop a range of skills and acquire knowledge and understanding.

Through a product design approach, students develop creative ideas using graphic techniques, developments and modelling alongside considering the requirements of users and develop understanding of human factors such as ergonomics, anthropometrics, fashion/trends and the use of clients and feedback in real-time. Students will experience using a range of craft and resistant materials during modelling, planning and manufacturing stages. They will also use 2D and 3D CAD software as well as a range of CAM equipment to develop their designs and to produce high quality practical outcomes.

## Is Design & Technology for me?

Design and technology is suitable for all sorts of students. You do not need to be the best drawer in the world or the most creative, design and technology is suitable for the logical thinker, the critical thinker, the creative mind and those looking for something different. Because the subject content is broad, pupils are able to personalise their learning and projects to suit their interests. The subject is an excellent foundation for pupils wishing to continue into a career in graphics design, product design, technical posts in the armed forces, construction, architecture, electrical engineering but also has many attributes that are used in medical and dental careers.

## What skills will I develop?

Students will develop their creative and technical drawing skills, problem solving skills, their understanding and experience of using materials and finishes. The course is mainly thought through practical means which will develop students' dexterity and experience using machinery and a range of workshop tools and equipment.

Students will develop their understanding of sustainable technology and how technology can overcome some of our issues our world faces today. They will also explore new manufacturing techniques including an increased use of CAD/CAM. Pupils will become more independent learners through the study of design and technology and will develop a more critical approach to self-evaluation.

## Specification: AQA Design & Technology Product Design GCSE

AQA design and technology product design GCSE comprises of two modules, which are completed in Year 11.

**50% Non Examined Assessment** – major project selected form a set of themes set by the exam board.
**50% Exam** – based on the learning from Year 10 and through the controlled assessment.

# Digital Information Technology (BTEC Tech Award)

Examination Board: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology.html

## Why study Digital Information Technology?

The course will engage and motivate you by developing cutting edge ICT skills and you will explore how technology impacts upon our everyday lives. The Tech Award in Digital Information Technology, is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden the learners experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

## Is Digital Information Technology for me?

The vast majority of jobs we could do in our world today require us to have up-to-date ICT skills. This course will provide you with essential skills to allow you to be successful in whatever your chosen career is. With technology changing every day employers need you to have up-to-date ICT skills to allow you to be successful in your job. Can you afford to not choose ICT?

## What skills will I develop?

- Developing your aptitude in digital information technology,
- Project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data
- Cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct
- Personal management and communication

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

The course has three components:
**Component 1** (Coursework - 25%)
**Component 2** (Coursework – 25%)
**Component 3** (Exam – 50%)

Graded at Pass, Merit and Distinction.

# Drama

Examination Board: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/drama/specifications/AQA-8261-SP-2016.PDF

## Why study Drama?

This is an exciting, creative and rewarding course. It fosters independence and is therefore an excellent preparation for Sixth Form study. It requires students who are not only enthusiastic, but also committed and hardworking. The course allows students to actively engage in a wide range of creative and stimulating activities to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

## Is Drama for me?

If you enjoy studying a subject that will encourage team-work, problem solving, communication and commitment, but which is ultimately fascinating and exciting, then Drama is for you. There are many aspects of the course, and you will have a free choice as to which two practical options you undertake.

## What skills will I develop?

Drama fosters many key skills which are essential in the world of work and in further education;

- communication
- problem solving
- team work
- leadership
- independence
- time management
- critical Thinking
- commitment

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

### Component 1: understanding drama (written exam)

**What's assessed**

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of a set play
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

**How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40% of GCSE

### Component 2: devising drama (practical)

**What's assessed**

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

**How it's assessed**

- Devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total
- 40% of GCSE

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA

### Component 3: texts in practice (practical)

**What's assessed**

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)

**How it's assessed**

- Performance of Extract 1 (25 marks) **and** Extract 2 (25 marks)
- 50 marks in total
- 20% of GCSE

# Engineering Tech Award

Examination Board: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-engineering/#tab_keydocuments

## Why study Engineering BTEC?

Do you ever look around your home and think of handy products that could improve people's lives or get inspired by the amazing feats of engineering all around you? Are you creative, and want to start building the skills you need for a successful career in the industry?

If so, it's time to uncover your potential – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

## Is Engineering BTEC for me?

If you have an interest in Engineering this qualification will focus on applied learning i.e. acquiring and applying knowledge, skills and understanding through purposeful tasks set in context.

## What skills will I develop?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Learning independently
- Research Taking on responsibility
- Time management

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

Unit 1: Manufacturing engineering products

- Have the opportunity to interpret different types of engineering information in order to plan how to manufacture engineering products.
- Develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment in order to manufacture and test a final product.

Unit 2: Designing engineering products

- Explore how an engineered product is adapted and improved over time. It offers the opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding to adapt an existing component, element or part of the product that you will have manufactured for Unit 1.

Unit 3: Solving engineering problems

- Introduced to a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general.

# English Language and Literature

Examination Board: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702

## Why study English Language & English Literature?

English is invaluable for you, irrespective of your prospective future career. A good command of spoken and written English will help you every day. Moreover, it will benefit all your other GCSEs too. Whatever you will end up doing in life, English is an essential subject for school, university and any future career.

## Is English Language and English Literature for me?

GCSE English Language will allow you to demonstrate the use of English in real life, investigate how language is used and use your own creativity. GCSE English Literature offers the chance of studying classical texts and modern literature too.

## What skills will I develop?

English will help you:

- To work independently
- Be creative
- Become a critical thinker
- To communicate ideas with confidence, both spoken and written
- To think logically

In speaking and listening activities you will learn these skills through discussions, presentation and role play.

In writing you will learn how to write for a specific audience or purpose, as well as writing creatively.

In reading you will discover how writers use their skills when writing fiction or non-fiction.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Paper 1: 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing':**

**Section A: reading**

One literature fiction text

**Section B: writing**

Descriptive or narrative writing

**Assessed**

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

**Paper 2: 'Writers' View points and Perspectives':**

**Section A: reading**

One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

**Section B: writing**

Writing to present a viewpoint

**Assessed**

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Paper 1: Shakespeare and The 19th Century Novel**

**Macbeth**
**A Christmas Carol**

**Assessed**

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks

40% of GCSE

**Paper 2: 'Modern texts and Poetry':**

**Animal Farm**
**Unseen Poetry**
**Poetry Anthology**

**Assessed**

Written exam: 2 hour

15 minutes

96 marks

60% pf GCSE

# Geography

Examination Board: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035

## Why study Geography?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant, and it is fun. Geography will help you get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our planet.

## Is Geography for me?

Are you interested in how the earth was shaped by physical processes?
Do you care about what the planet will look like in the future?
Do you wonder how human history has shaped some of the countries we know so well today?

## What skills will I develop?

Geography is a very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer-based mapping (called GIS), interpreting images, fieldwork skills, presenting, role playing and debating techniques. It will also develop your ability to critically think and evaluate.

You will improve your literacy through report writing and extended writing, a new requirement of the GCSE specification. There is no escape from essays if you are seeing Geography as the easy option compared to History. You will also make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret and construct graphs using varying types of data.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

AQA

3 exams at the end of year 11 including a practical based paper examining fieldwork.

Paper 1 + 2 = 70%

Paper 3 - 30%

# History

Examination Board: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse

## Why study History?

Why study the past? Because it helps us to understand the future! This GCSE will focus on what people did, who governed them, war, health, love and scandals. There's something for everybody. So much has happened in the history of this planet, there's bound to be something you'll like learning about. The exams are stimulating and make you think about the period of history in question; you can think about what is was like to be there.

## Is History for me?

If you have an enquiring mind and enjoy an argument this is the subject for you. Be a part of the thriving, lively and successful department and learn about events that have shaped the world you live in and the people and circumstances that shaped these events. History is a fascinating and challenging subject. You will be looking at massive changes and analysing why they happened. It is not just an account of the past but an investigation of why things happened the way they did.

## What skills will I develop?

Use information effectively
Make links between events, issues, beliefs or people
Weigh up different viewpoints before developing an opinion of your own
Be analytical and critical when given sources or information
Learn the art of debate and expressing your own opinion
All of these skills are highly valued by colleges, universities and employers.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

**AQA**

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. GCSE history students must take assessments in both of the following papers in the same series:

**Paper 1**

Topic 1: Germany 1890-1945. A depth study that begins with the government of Kaiser Wilhelm II and continues into the aftermath of WWI and the formation of the Weimar Republic. From here the course progresses into the rise of the Nazis and life in Germany under a totalitarian regime.

Topic 2: Conflict and Tension, 1919-1939. This study begins with the Versailles Peace Settlements and goes on to study the League of Nations. It ends with an investigation of the causes of WWII.

**Paper 2:**

Topic 1: Elizabeth I. A depth study of the reign of Elizabeth I, Tudor government, society, poverty and religion. This includes the study of an Elizabethan historical site.

Topic 2: Power and the People. A breadth study of the development of British democracy and rights. This study ranges from Magna Carta to the modern governments of Tony Blair. It includes a range of topics from the Peasants Revolt to the American Civil War to the Anti-Slavery campaigns to the Chartists and Suffragettes to Windrush and the Brixton Riots. It follows several key themes and assesses change over time.

# Latin

Examination Board: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/latin-gcse/#tab_overview

## Why study Latin?

Latin is a great mixture of linguistic training and cultural study. As well as extending your understanding of Latin grammar, so that you can translate more complex passages, we begin to study the literature of ancient Rome, studying various pieces of literature on two themes. These themes help us to explore the culture and beliefs of the Roman world, by looking at what they read and thought. The themes this year are *Magic and Superstition* and *Disaster Narratives.*

## Is Latin for me?

You will need to have studied Latin up to and including Year 9. You will enjoy Latin GCSE if you like languages, but remember the emphasis is on reading the language - there is no speaking or listening component. Latin GCSE also involves reading literature written by the Romans, both in poetry and prose. This is our first real chance to read the works of famous authors such as Virgil, Horace, Suetonius and Pliny. If you enjoy reading and analysing literature, and using it to learn about other cultures, then this is your only chance to do that in a foreign language at GCSE.

## What skills will I develop?

Latin is a challenging subject which really trains your eye for detail and your analytical skills. You will also hone your skills of literary analysis and learn to argue why authors have made the stylistic choices they have, and what their effect on the reader could be. Writing skills will be developed as you show your knowledge of the ancient world and its literature in extended answers.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

We follow the Eduqas specification. There are three modules. Latin Language (50%), Latin Literature and Sources (30%) and Latin Literature Narratives (20%). All of the modules are assessed by examination - there is no coursework. For the Latin Language paper, you will need to know a Defined Vocabulary List of 400 words, and the associated grammar to translate unseen passages of Latin. The Literature papers are open book, and we will have read all of the material in class throughout the course.

# Mathematics

Examination Board: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html

## Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is taken by all to GCSE. A sound knowledge of mathematics is seen as an essential part of a general education and may be an entry requirement for higher education.

While studying mathematics you will be expected to:

- Use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems.
- Use logic and reason to solve problems.
- Break down problems into small steps in order to solve them.
- Use mathematics to solve problems that might happen in real life.
- Learn how to use a calculator to solve problems quickly and effectively.

GCSE mathematics pupils are expected to develop skills in:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability and statistics

They are then expected to be confident in using and applying the mathematics contained in these areas to a range of problems.

There is no coursework requirement.

## Is Mathematics for me?

The Mathematics department will ensure that each student is well prepared for the final linear examinations, incorporating time for revision and past paper practice into the lessons and homework. It is imperative throughout the GCSE course that all equipment is brought along to every lesson, all homework is completed on time and corrections are always attempted. There is extra help available at lunchtime whenever further explanation and help is needed. A student should endeavour to attend every lesson – where absence is unavoidable, it is the student's responsibility to catch up any work that has been missed. A positive, conscientious approach is important for success.

## What skills will I develop?

- critical thinking.
- problem solving.
- analytical thinking.
- quantitative reasoning.
- ability to manipulate precise and intricate ideas.
- construct logical arguments and expose illogical arguments.
- communication.
- time management.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

There are two levels of entry. The higher tier covers grades 4-9 and the foundation tier covers grades 1-5. The examination board is Edexcel.
Assessment is through three terminal examinations based on five areas of study.

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability and statistics

- each paper contributes one third of the qualification
- each paper lasts 1 hour 30 minutes
- each paper is worth 80 marks
- paper 1 is non-calculator, paper 2 and paper 3 are calculator papers

# Music

Examination Board: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html

## Why study GCSE Music?

To work alongside like-minded, creative individuals.
Because you have a passion for music and you want to strive to see just how good you can be.
To give yourself a strong foundation for further education and a career performing or composing music.

## Is GCSE Music for me?

If music is your passion and you enjoy theory, listening and analysing classical and other forms of music, such as film and jazz then this is the course for you.

If you have theoretical knowledge and can read music you will find it much easier accessing this course.

It is if you love to create and perform music.

It is if you are both logical and imaginative.

## What skills will I develop?

Through performance you will increase your musical repertoire.

You will learn to interpret and create compositions that will satisfy yourself and inspire others.

You will be guided through the history of music; popular music of the 20th and 21st centuries and music from around the world.

You will use knowledge of music theory to compose and analyse scores and listening extracts.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment:

### GCSE MUSIC - EDEXCEL

Unit 1 : performing music 30%

You will offer one individual performance and one group performance.

Unit 2 : composing music 30%

You will complete two compositions: one set to a brief set by the board and one free composition.

Unit 3 : music – listening and appraising 40%

You will complete a 1-hour and 45-minute listening exam answering questions relating to the set works you will study.

# Physics

Examination Board: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463

## Why study Physics?

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us and the world beyond us. We are living in a highly advanced age in which the average person relies on technology without understanding how it works. Physics challenges our imagination and leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers that change our lives. Physics covers the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. It is the basis of many other sciences, including chemistry, oceanography and astronomy. Physics is an important part of STEM and can lead to future careers such as engineering that are considered shortage subjects in the UK.

## Is Physics for me?

Students taking GCSE physics can use the knowledge and skills they gain to specialise in any of the three sciences, and it is an excellent base to launch into A-level physics. The course is up-to-date, with real-life examples and thought-provoking practicals.

## What skills will I develop?

Studying physics can help you develop a range of skills from problem-solving, numeracy and practical to communication and ICT. Other very valuable and transferable skills include independent working, team work and organisation. Perhaps the greatest skill a physics student develops is a sense of curiosity about the world and how things work.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

The new AQA GCSE physics is a linear qualification, meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

Subject content:

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

There are two examination papers worth 50% each that assess all of the content. Each examination is 1 hour 45 minutes in length and contains a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

# Physical Education (GCSE)

Examination Board: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/

## Why study PE?

GCSE PE is an excellent choice for anyone who wishes to further their understanding and skill level in sport. It can lead to A-level PE which is a good choice for a range of careers including medicine, physiotherapy and the leisure industry. Learning in PE is centred around physical components alongside learning how the body works, how the mind works in sport, and other influential factors such as Government policies, social groups, religion and disability. Studying PE complements other subjects, as well as developing skills of team work, analysis, and communication.

## Is GCSE PE for me?

Choose PE if:
You have a passion for sport and exercise science
You are interested in a career path in sport
You play various sports competently and competitively
You are organised and willing to work hard
You would be interested in studying sport in further education.

## What skills will I develop?

The ability to interpret and answer a variety of examination questions.
Determination to succeed through regular assessment and feedback on both practical and academic performance.
The ability to analyse and adapt ones own performance and that of another person's.
Independent study skills required to be successful in GCSE PE
The practical skills and techniques required for your chosen **3 sports.**

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

The course is split into theory (60%) and practical (40%)
**Theory is split into two topics:**
*Anatomy & Physiology (Paper 1)*
*Socio – Cultural Influences (Paper 2)*
*Practical (40%)*
*- Sport 1*
*- Sport 2*
*- Sport 3*
*- Analysis and evaluation of practical performance coursework*

**Practical Sport expectations**

You will be assessed practically in three sports of your choice with guidance

They will need to consist of either one "individual" and two "team" sports
**OR**
One "team" sport and two "individual" sports
You will be assessed on your "Isolated skills" and your "game play in a live match
All students will fill in a participant logbook for their three sports which will be signed by their coaches. This will be submitted to the moderated in year 11 and viewed alongside their practical performances.
Pupils opting for "off-site" sports will have a higher level of responsibility as they are expected to have their practical performances filmed.

# Physical Education (BTEC)

Examination Board: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/sport-2022.html

## Why study BTEC PE?

BTEC Sport award in PE is a new and exciting course for anyone who has an interest in sport. It is an excellent choice for any individual that would like to further their understanding of the different aspects on sport. It can lead to A-level PE/BTEC PE which is a good choice for a range of careers including medicine, physiotherapy and the leisure industry. Learning in BTEC Sport is centred around fitness and exercise in sport, principles of personal training. Studying BTEC Sport complements other subjects, as well as developing skills of team work, analysis, and communication.

## Is PE BTEC for me?

This course requires a hard working and organised individual who has a passion for sport and exercise. This course is excellent for individuals who want to pursue a career in the sports industry. The course is up to date with real life situations happening in the sporting community and highlights aspects of sport that is not shown practically. There is no practical element to the course, it is solely based off coursework and examination.

## What skills will I develop?

The ability to interpret and answer a variety of examination questions.
Determination to succeed through regular assessment and feedback on academic performance.
The ability to analyse and adapt one's own performance and that of another persons.
Independent study skills required to be successful in BTEC PE.
The ability to write extended pieces of coursework that analyse and evaluate a chosen sector of sport.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

**Internal examinations (60%):**
Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity
Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance

**External examinations (40%):**
Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity

# Religious Studies GCSE

Examination Board: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab_overview

## Why study Religious Studies?

Religion can be considered the most important influence on the lives of everyone in the world. Even if we think that we do not believe in any religion, and that it is nothing to do with us, nevertheless, it affects many aspects of our everyday lives. Religious Studies is an attempt to explain those things for which we do not otherwise have an answer. An opportunity to identify, investigate and respond to fundamental questions of life raised by religion and human experience, including questions about the meaning and purpose of life.

## Is Religious Studies for me?

Throughout the course you will reflect on your experience and engage with other students to develop your own views and opinions. Varied teaching methods will be used including debate and discussion work. You will have the opportunity to visit places of worship and to listen to guest speakers.
The specification is accessible to students of any religious persuasion or none.
The course is of value to any student considering any of the following professions: teaching, medicine, social work, law, travel and tourism, journalism, the armed forces, police force.

## What skills will I develop?

Both syllabuses studied will enable you to gain a thorough understanding of religious, spiritual and moral issues. Studying the course will enable you to develop your knowledge and understanding of religion by exploring the significance, impact of beliefs, teachings, sources, practices, and forms of expressing meaning. You will also develop your own thoughts and ideas about religious and moral issues and learn to express a personal response and informed insights on fundamental questions.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

Religious studies GCSE is a 2 year course and will follow the WJEC specification, following route A.

**Component 1: 50% of final GCSE**

In this component students will study four themes:
Theme 1: issues of relationships
Theme 2: issues of life and death
Theme 3: issues of good and evil
Theme 4: issues of human rights
This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focusing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the identified themes.

**Component 2: 25% of final GCSE**

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of christianity

**Component 3: 25% of final GCSE**

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of one world faith

**There is no coursework in Religious studies**

# Science GCSE

Examination Board: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464

## Why study combined science?

This course, worth 2 GCSE's, for the good "all-rounder" who wishes to keep their options open before making their final choice of Sixth Form courses. It also ensures that all students acquire understanding and knowledge of the concepts, principles and applications of all three sciences, so that they may become confident citizens in a technological world.

## Is combined science for me?

GCSE science offers students a good knowledge of science, by studying aspects of GCSE biology, chemistry and physics. Science GCSE provides the opportunity to gain a good understanding across a range of topics such as keeping healthy, the transfer of energy and elements and atoms. The Science department's advice to any pupil who definitely wants to take science in the Sixth Form is to follow the separate GCSE sciences courses.

## What skills will I develop?

You will acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding for progression to further learning as well as developing your understanding of how science works and its role in society.

## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

The new AQA GCSE combined science is a linear qualification, meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

Subject content:

| Biology | Chemistry | Physics |
|---|---|---|
| Cell Body | Atomic structure and the periodic table | Forces |
| Organisation | Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter | Energy |
| Infection and Response | Quantitative chemistry | Waves |
| Bioenergetics | Chemical changes | Electricity |
| Homeostasis and response | Energy changes | Magnetism and electromagnetism |
| Inheritance, variation and evolution | The rate and extent of chemical changes | Particle model of matter |
| Ecology | Organic chemistry | Atomic structure |
| | Chemical analysis | |
| | Chemistry of the atmosphere | |
| | Using resources | |

There are six examination papers, two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each examination is worth 16.7% of the qualification and is 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. They contain a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

# Spanish GCSE

Examination Board: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/2ryknb1s/eduqas-gcse-spanish-spec-from-2016-e-04-11-2020.pdf

## Why study Spanish?

Spanish is the third world language after Chinese and English. A modern foreign language is an asset when you are applying to university or seeking employment. Lawyers, accountants and journalists, for example, increasingly need languages, as many firms are internationally based. Specialist professions include teaching, interpreting and translating.

## Is Spanish for me?

GCSE Spanish will give you the opportunity to develop your practical communication skills, enabling you to converse with Spanish people when you are on holiday in Spain and helping you to appreciate Spanish culture. You will need to write in more detail and develop your grammatical awareness as the GCSE course progresses. You will also increasingly understand written and spoken Spanish.

## What skills will I develop?

Your comprehension skills will improve, you will develop more oral confidence and you will acquire greater grammatical accuracy. You will also learn how to express your opinions, and will read and listen to authentic material (newspaper articles, surveys, interviews)

## Specification, Exam Board, and Assessment

We follow the Eduqas specification. There are final examinations at foundation and higher level in reading, listening, speaking and writing worth 25% each.

The examinations cover the following themes: Identity and culture; local, national, international and global areas of interest, and finally current and future study and employment.

# Statistics GCSE

Examination Board: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/statistics-

## Why study Statistics?

Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students **the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data**. It complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers – from weather forecasting to the biological sciences.

## Is Statistics for me?

If you enjoy subjects that have a clear relevance to the working world you will probably find GCSE statistics very rewarding. The subject focuses on how statistics are used in the 'real world' and you may be surprised how widely useful they actually are. You will learn about the strengths and limitations of statistics in realistic scenarios that won't have you begging the question "When will I ever use this knowledge again?"

If you enjoy problem solving and decision making. GCSE Statistics involves a lot of probability and interpreting data, both of which force you to make fast, logical decisions under time constraints. If this sounds like the sort of problems that you could easily solve then you will be definitely well up for GCSE Statistics.

If you aspire to work in a role that requires handling statistics then GCSE Statistics is an obvious choice for you. There are plenty of jobs that involve handling statistics including epidemiologist, public affairs manager, biostatistician, research psychologist, marketing and many more!

## What skills will I develop?

Students are introduced to the skills of statistical enquiry, and practise the underpinning statistical calculations and interpretation using real world data and authentic contexts. The approach supports skills development for progression to a range of subjects and develops an awareness of statistics beyond the classroom.

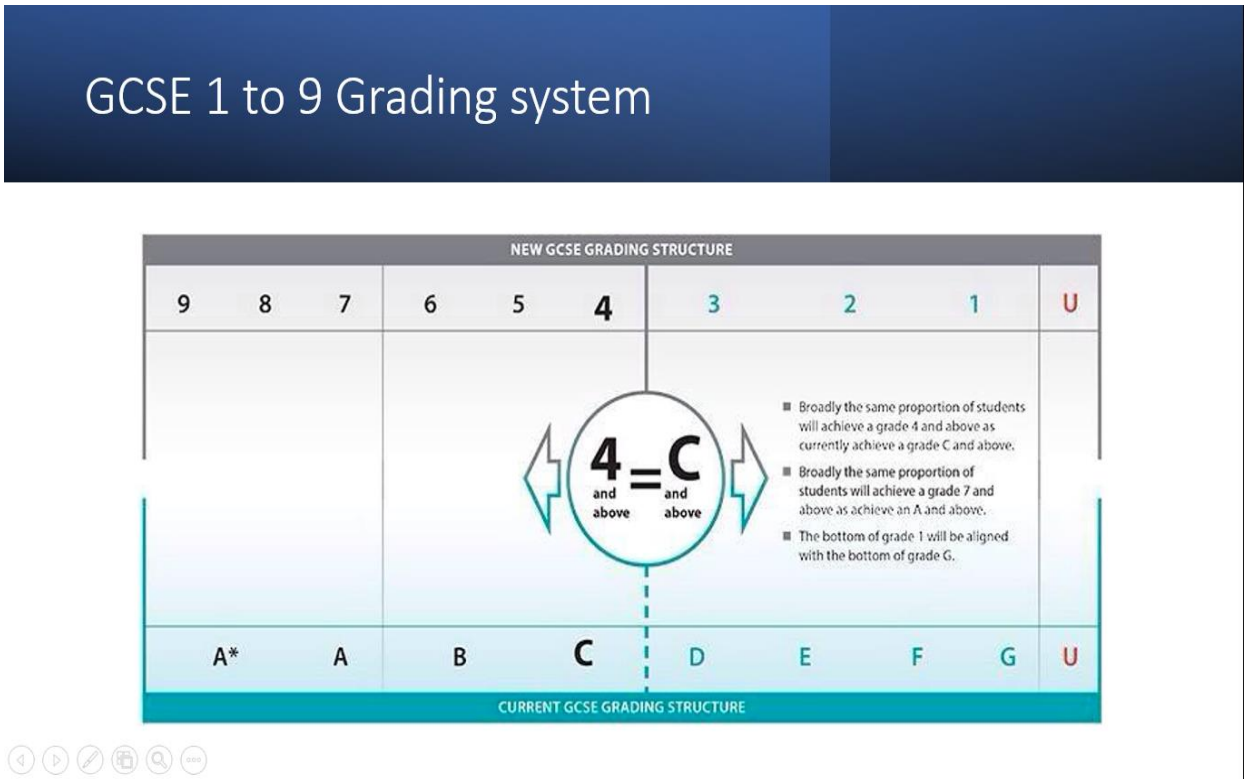
## Specification, Exam Board and Assessment

There is a Higher and Foundation tier. Both courses consist of 2 externally assessed papers.

**Paper 1** (*Paper code: 1ST0/1F and 1ST0/1H)
Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes
50% of the qualification 80 marks
Content overview:
1. The collection of data
2. Processing, representing and analysing data
3. Probability

**Paper 2** (*Paper code: 1ST0/2F and 1ST0/2H)
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
50% of the qualification 80 marks
Content overview:
1. The collection of data
2. Processing, representing and analysing data
3. Probability

## GCSE grade conversion



## BTEC Grades v GCSE grades