

AQA GCSE Science

All students will study Combined Science which is worth 2 GCSEs, unless they choose the Triple Science option.

GCSE Combined Science

Course Outline

Students studying this AQA course will cover topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics over a two year period. At the end of which they will be awarded the equivalent of 2 GCSE grades. There will be a 17 point grading scale, from 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1, 1-1.

As part of the course content there will be 16 required practicals, which will feature in the written examinations.

Assessment

There will be 6 exams: 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics papers. Each exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Links

BTEC National Certificate in Applied Science
A Level - Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Careers

- Lab technician
- Nurse and other healthcare careers
- Teacher
- Food technology
- Psychologist

Should students opt for Triple Science the following applies:

Triple Award - recommended for students wanting to take sciences at A Level

Course Outline

Students studying this AQA course will be awarded three GCSE qualifications graded from 9-1 in Chemistry, Biology and Physics at the end of Year 11.

The students are required to cover 8 required practicals for each subject, which will feature in the written examinations.

Assessment

For each subject students will sit two examination papers at the end of Year 11, resulting in a total of 6 exams. Each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Links

A Level - Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Careers

- Research scientist / lecturer
- Doctor / dentist / pharmacist / pathologist / psychiatrist / vet
- Engineer
- Routes into Law, Accountancy or Teaching

OCR Cambridge National Certificate in IT

Course Outline

This qualification will teach the learner what different technologies could be used, why they should use them and how to make best use of them, to gather, store, manipulate and present data; this is known as data management.

They will learn about tools and techniques for use in different digital hardware and software technologies, and how these can be integrated to create digital solutions to manage and communicate data and information. They will also be taught what data and information are and the legal, ethical and moral considerations when using technology to gather, store and present data and information, and how to mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks. Through this qualification they will be able to select and use the most appropriate technology safely and effectively, to complete a data management task, such as a cable TV provider monitoring customers' viewing to make recommendations for additional packages in the customer's subscription.

They will also learn to follow a project life cycle of initiation, planning, execution and evaluation to complete a data management task and use their skills, knowledge and understanding of technology to complete each of the phases of the project life cycle.

The skills, knowledge and understanding they will develop through this qualification are very relevant to both work and further study. These skills will support the students in a range of subject areas such as A Levels in Business or Geography, or Cambridge Technicals in IT. They can also support their progression into employment through Apprenticeships in career spaces such as Digital Marketer or Business Administrator.

Assessment

Students will undertake two mandatory units of work. One is an externally assessed theory exam, sat at the end of Year 11. The other, a centre-assessed controlled assignment delivered in Year 11. Final grading is a 50% split between the two units.

Links

Level 3 vocational qualification in ICT, Cambridge Technical Certificate in IT

Careers

Officer manager, personal assistant, audio technician, graphic designer, animator.

OCR GCSE Computer Science

Syllabus

OCR GCSE (9–1) in Computer Science (J277)

Course Outline

The qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study. The content has been designed not only to allow for a solid basis of understanding but to engage learners and get them thinking about real world application. Studying Computer Science will encourage learners to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- Solve problems through practical experience 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

Assessment

- **Computer systems (01) - 40%**
1 hour and 30 minutes, 80 marks, written paper, no calculators allowed
- **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (02) - 40%**
1 hour and 30 minutes, 80 marks, written paper, no calculators allowed
- **Programming project (03/04) - 20%**
20 hours, 40 marks, non-exam assessment

Links

A Level Computer Science
Level 3 vocational qualification in ICT

Careers

- IT consultant / database administrator / systems developed
- Information systems manager
- Web designer / games developer
- Business analyst

Personal Development

Course Outline

Students will have one lesson of Personal Development each week. This is a non examined subject which covers a variety of topics including:

Religion and Beliefs which focuses on topics such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism – God Spirituality, Religions & Society, Philosophy & Ethics.

PSHE which covers aspects of Personal Wellbeing (Drugs Education, Sex Education, Healthy Eating) Economic Wellbeing and Financial Capability.

Citizenship which includes topics such as Rights and Responsibilities, Government, Elections and Voting and Debating Global Issues.

SEAL which includes topics such as Managing My Feelings, Motivation and Self Awareness, Empathy and Social Skills.

Careers which includes work experience, job applications i.e. CVs, personal statements, mock interviews, looking at and understanding the local job market, and learning about progression pathways including Apprenticeships and Further or Higher Education opportunities.

Course Outline

Games/PE

Students will take part in one lesson of physical education a week. This is a non examined subject. Students will study a variety of sporting activities which could include:

- Swimming
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Football
- Hockey
- Netball
- Aerobic activities
- Athletics
- Trampolining
- Dodgeball

AQA GCSE Fine Art and Design or Photography

GCSE Fine Art and Design

Course Outline

This course aims to develop the practical and creative skills associated with art and design activities. There will be opportunities to draw and paint and to work in other areas such as printing, textiles, sculpture and graphics. The use of ICT will be encouraged both in school and at home.

Assessment

This course is assessed via a portfolio of work completed throughout Year 10 and into Year 11. Two units have to be completed, consisting of research, observational drawings, initial sketches, development and final outcome. In Year 11 pupils are required to produce a personal response from one of the selected exam questions. Students will complete their final outcome in a 10 hour timeframe.

Links

A Level Art and Design (Fine Art)

Careers

- Exhibition designer
- Fine artist
- Teacher or lecturer
- Illustrator
- Museum or gallery curator
- Printmaker
- Art therapist
- Commercial art gallery manager
- Interior designer
- Multimedia programmer

GCSE Photography

Course Outline

Candidates will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more area(s) including theme-based photography (portrait, landscape, still-life, reportage), documentary photography, photo-journalism, narrative photography, experimental imagery, photographic installation, new media practice, video, TV and film.

Assessment

This course is assessed via a controlled assessment portfolio (60%) and external examination (40%)

Links

A level Photography

Careers

- Graphic designer
- Magazine editor
- Photographer
- Illustrator
- Television camera operator
- Advertising art director

AQA GCSE French

Course Outline

The French course allows students to develop language skills in a variety of contexts whilst developing the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will learn to understand and provide information and opinions about the following themes and topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends Relationships with family and friends Marriage/partnership	Topic 2: Technology in everyday life Social media Mobile technology
Topic 3: Free-time activities Music Cinema and TV Food and eating out Sport	Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French -speaking countries/communities

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

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region	Topic 2: Social issues Charity/voluntary work Healthy/unhealthy living
Topic 3: Global issues The environment Poverty/homelessness	Topic 4: Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Topic 1: My studies	Topic 2: Life at school/college
Topic 3: Education post-16	Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Assessment

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four examination papers at the same tier.

Paper 1: Listening

How it's assessed:

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

(Each exam includes 5 minutes to read the question paper before the listening is played.)

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

Paper 2: Speaking

How it's assessed:

- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different questions for the Photo card and different materials for the role-play. The timings are different too:

- Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier)
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier)
- General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading

How it's assessed:

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

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally
- Section C – translation from French into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)

Paper 4: Writing

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier

25% of GCSE

Questions

Foundation

- Question 1 – message (You will have to write four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks
- Question 2 – short passage (You will write a response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks
- Question 4 – structured writing task (You should answer four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

Higher

- Question 1 – structured writing task (You will have to answer four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks
- Question 2 – open-ended writing task (You will answer two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

Links

A level French

Any subject that involves communication with others.

Careers:

- Translator
- Interpreter
- Teacher
- Broadcast journalist
- Tourism and travel services industry including airlines and hotels
- Diplomatic services
- Aid worker
- Ministry of Defence
- International Embassies
- Social services including immigration services

OCR GCSE Geography

Course Outline

This GCSE combines Physical and Human Geography, giving the pupils core knowledge of the subject, which can be applied to places and current events through case studies.

The GCSE consists of 3 units as detailed below:

Unit 1. Living in the UK today

Landscapes in the UK (rivers)

People of the UK (UK economic development, settlement and population)

UK environmental challenges (flooding, agriculture, energy)

Unit 2. The world around us

Ecosystems of the planet (rainforests and coral reefs)

People of the planet (global economic development and urbanisation)

Environmental threats to our planet (climate change, hurricanes and drought)

Unit 3. Geographical skills

Geographical skills (OS map skills, statistical skills, graphical skills and analytical skills)

Fieldwork assessment (identifying questions for investigation, methods of data collection, data presentation, data analysis, conclusion and evaluation)

Throughout the GCSE, pupils will develop a wide range of skills including, cartographic, analytical, graphical, literacy, numerical and diagrammatic skills. The pupils will also participate in two days fieldwork.

Assessment

The GCSE will be assessed as three modular units. These will be examined at the end of Year 11. Units 1 and 2 consist of a 1 hour examination, each is worth 30% of the final marks. Unit 3 consists of a 1 hour 30 minute examination which is worth 40% of the final marks.

Links

A Level Geography, Biology, Chemistry

Careers

- Cartographer
- Surveyor
- Environmental consultant
- Town planner
- Teacher
- Geographical information systems officer
- Aid worker
- Landscape architect
- Market researcher
- Nature conservation officer
- Transport planner
- Tourism officer
- Land manager or economist

Edexcel GCSE History

Course Outline

The brand new GCSE Edexcel History qualification encompasses a wide range of themes, historical events and eras, so you can understand the past and its impact on the world around you. The specification covers more than a thousand years of history, with topic choices ranging from medieval England to the present day.

The specification builds on Key Stage 3 topics to help you confidently develop a better understanding of history and it also provides a stepping stone to further study at AS and A level with the content and skills covered.

You will study the following:

- **British Thematic Study with Historic Environment:** Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000 to present with Whitechapel, c1870–1900: crime, policing and the inner city.
- **Period Study:** Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
- **British Depth Study:** Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88
- **Modern Depth Study:** Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Assessment

You will be assessed by THREE examination papers taken at the end of the course of study.

- **Paper 1: British Thematic Study with Historic Environment**, 30% weighting, 1 hour 15 minute examination.
- **Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study**, 40% weighting, 1 hour 45 minute examination.
- **Paper 3: Modern Day Depth Study**, 30% weighting, 1 hour 20 minute examination.

Links

A Level History

Careers

- Archaeologist
- Teacher
- Archivist
- Museum or gallery curator
- Public services e.g. police, law
- Journalist or reporter
- Librarian
- Historic buildings officer / heritage manager
- Conservation officer
- Editorial assistant
- Politician's assistant

AQA GCSE Media Studies

Course Outline

Media is a contemporary and interactive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, analytical, research and communication skills, through exploring a range of media forms and perspectives. Students will take part in creating professional, practical projects (Music Video, TV extract, newspapers / magazine pages, advertising / marketing campaigns, on-line / social / participatory Media platforms or Video games).

They will make close study of the industries surrounding these media and learn the professional techniques to create comparable products ("industry standard editing software" and Premier Pro will be the editing software used).

Students will be able to develop their knowledge and skills in film and photography, programming and print and the key concepts are based on media language, representation, industries and audiences.

Assessment

The assessment requirements are as follows below:

2 exams – both at the end of Year 11

Paper 1:

What's assessed: Questions will focus on three main areas of theory: industry, audience and representation.

How it's assessed: Written exam – 1 hr 30, 84 marks, 35% of the GCSE

Questions: Multiple choice, short answer and extended response

Paper 2:

What's assessed:

Media Language and context – analysis of real media products

How it's assessed:

Written exam – 1 hr 30, 84 marks, 35% of the GCSE

Questions: Multiple choice, short answer, stepped response and extended response

Non exam assessment (NEA)

Application of knowledge and understanding of theory

Practical skills relating to a media format of your choice

How it's assessed:

A choice of topics – music video, TV, Magazine / Newspapers etc

72 marks (30% of GCSE)

Assessed by teachers

Moderated by AQA

Students produce:

A statement of intent

A media product for an intended audience

Links

A Level Media

A Level English Language or Literature

Careers

- Public relations officer
- Advertising executive
- Film producer
- Journalist / reporter
- Editorial assistant
- Events organiser
- Market researcher

AQA GCSE Music

Course Outline

The course is split into 3 components and consists of coursework and examination elements. Students are involved in listening activities, composing their own music and preparing solo and group performances.

Students need to have established an understanding of musical notation and they must have performing ability on an instrument and/or voice.

Areas of Study:

You will be taught to listen attentively to unfamiliar music from all four areas of study to identify and accurately describe musical elements and use musical language (including staff notation).

AoS 1: Western Classical Tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)

AoS 2: Popular Music

AoS 3: Traditional Music

AoS 4: Western classical tradition since 1910

As part of the course it is compulsory that all students are receiving weekly tuition on their instrument and practise most days.

Assessment

40% - Understanding Music - Listening & Contextual understanding – 1 hour 30 min examination

30% - Performing - Solo and ensemble

30% - Composition - 2 pieces

Links

A Level Music

Careers

- Musician
- Film or video broadcaster
- Teacher
- Theatre stage manager
- Sound technician
- Music therapist
- Events organiser
- Radio producer
- Community arts worker

AQA GCSE Design and Technology

Course Outline

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. The GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. Please note that the new GCSE integrates elements of resistant materials, product design and textiles. Separate GCSEs in these subjects are no longer offered.

Assessment

Component 1 (50%)

Written Paper

How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hours

100 marks

50% of GCSE

What is assessed

Core technical principles

Specialist technical principles

Designing and making principles

Component 2 (50%)

Non-Examined Assessment

How it's assessed

Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Design and make task selected from a range of given contexts

Links

A Level Product Design

A Level Textiles

Careers

- Engineer including automotive
- Textile designer
- Fashion designer
- Materials scientist
- Interior designer
- Teacher
- Textiles manufacturer
- Artist
- Product designer
- Advertising executive
- Graphic designer
- Product manager

WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

Course Outline

Students will gain knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life. It is an ideal course for students who may choose a career in the Hospitality and Catering Industry.

Course Specification

The specification will give students the opportunity to:

- ◆ Learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations.
- ◆ Develop in learners the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, product processes, diet and health choices.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- Prepare and cook a range of recipes using a variety of skills and equipment.
- Present food to restaurant standard using appropriate garnishing ingredients and techniques.
- ◆ How they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful
- ◆ Learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations.
- ◆ Develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

Unit Number	Unit Title		Assessment
1	The Hospitality and Catering Industry	Mandatory	External
2	Hospitality and Catering in Action	Mandatory	Internal

Through the two units, learners will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression. Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering such as:

Careers

- Caterer
- Food manufacture manager
- Childcare assistant
- Food Microbiologist
- Nurse
- Marketing executive
- Hospitality manager
- Dietician
- Restaurant manager
- Teacher
- Product Developer
- Environmental Health Officer

BTEC First: Sport

Course Outline

Students will complete a unit in Fitness for Sport and Exercise. This unit is assessed by an online external test. Leading Sports Activities and Practical Sports Performance will also be covered in Year 10.

In Year 11 units covered will be Training for Personal Fitness and Practical Sport Performance. These units are internally assessed.

Students will complete a Leading Sports Activity unit during the course.

Pearson BTEC (Edexcel) Level 1/ Level 2 First Award in Sport		
Unit Number	Core Units	Assessment Method
1	Fitness for Sport and Exercise	External
2	Practical Sports Performance	Internal
Optional Specialist Units		
3	Training for Personal Fitness	Internal
4	Leading Sports Activities	Internal

Assessment

Three units are internally assessed against the assessment and grading criteria for the specific unit. A summative unit grade will be awarded upon completion of all units.

One unit is externally assessed by a one hour online test. (25%)

*Subject to change due to information from the DfE and OFQUAL

Links

Level 3 Diploma course in Sport.

Careers

- Fitness centre manager
- Sports coach
- Physiotherapist
- Sports therapist
- Health promoter
- Teacher
- Outdoor education manager
- Sport psychologist

BTEC Tech Award Health & Social Care

Course Outline

Students will cover three components including:

- Component 1 -Human Lifespan and Development - internally assessed – 30%
- Component 2 -Health and Social Care Services and Values - internally assessed – 30%
- Component 3 -Health and Wellbeing. - externally assessed – 40%

As part of this course students will develop their communication and presentation skills. They will investigate various health & social care settings to aid their understanding of working within this field.

Assessment

2 units are internally assessed against the assessment and grading criteria for the specific unit. A summative unit grade will be awarded upon completion of all units. There is however externally assessed task, in which students create a health and wellbeing improvement plan for an individual, based on a brief for Component 3. This unit will be externally examined.

Examinations - 60% internal assessment 40% exam (external assessment)

Careers

- Teacher
- Nurse
- Nursery Worker
- Paramedic
- Physiotherapist
- Social worker
- Childcare assistant
- Police
- Probationary services officer
- Speech therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Medical sales representative
- Carer
- Counsellor

BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts

Course Outline

Students will create their own theatre company and be tasked to complete 3 assignments independently and professionally. These assignments are called components and are designed to give students a broad and balanced understanding of the development of professional theatre. Students will be expected to research and rehearse work and perform regularly to invited audiences. Students will keep a log book of their development and practice which highlights their learning journey and tracks their development of performance skills

Pearson BTEC (Edexcel) Level 1/ Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts			
Component Number	Core Units	Assessment Method	Percentage of Grade
1	Exploring the Performing Arts	Internal	30%
2	Developing skills in Performing Arts	Internal	30%
BTEC external assessments ask pupils to write and direct their own professional performance based on a given stimulus.			
3	Performing to a brief	External	40%

Internal Assessment

Students will have the opportunity to explore a range of professional performance repertoire. Students will independently research the work of practitioners and explore work practically with their theatre companies. Based on their exploration assignments will be set which encourage pupils to demonstrate their growing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of theatre in performance. 60% of their final grade will be based on their completion of assignments both practically in performance and in writing through diaries, log books, research and reflection. Performance work is video recorded in order for practical rehearsals to be shared in moderation with examiners. This course is not for the camera shy.

External Assessment

The external assessment is set by Pearson and is the same task for students across the country. Students, in response to the set task, will create their own practical performance piece and reflect on its success and opportunities for development. The task is usually completed over a period of six weeks and includes four one hour written assignments where students comment of the development, rehearsal, performance and evaluation of their practical performance.

Links

BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts/GCSE Drama/A Level Drama and Media Studies

Careers

- Actor
- Drama therapist
- Theatre director or stage manager
- Film director
- Presenter
- Teacher
- Publicist
- Lawyer
- You-tube blogger