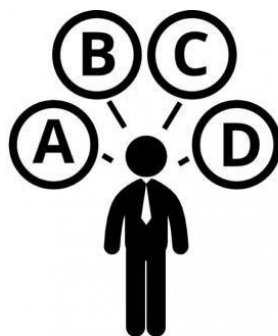


The  
**Emmbrook**  
School



Year 9  
Options 2026



Choosing GCSE options in Year 9 is an exciting milestone for your child. It is the first time they can tailor their education to their interests and aspirations. These decisions will influence future pathways, including post-16 choices such as sixth form, college, apprenticeships, and ultimately university or employment. We understand that this can feel daunting, so our aim is to make the process as smooth and informed as possible.

To support students, we have planned a range of activities. Following our information evening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January pupils will be offered short information sessions for new subjects such as Business, Marketing and Enterprise, 3D Design, Media Studies, Creative Media Production, Classical Civilisation, and Health and Social Care, as well as taster sessions in all other subjects during lesson time.

Making an informed decision is essential. Students should read the information provided in this booklet and on the school website. They are encouraged to speak to their teachers about subject suitability, transferable skills, and potential career pathways. Talking to current students and discussing choices at home will also help ensure decisions are well thought out.

Our curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced, relevant and challenging, and to provide enjoyment and opportunities for progression. All students will study core subjects, including

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core PE
- Core RS

In addition, they will choose four option subjects from a wide range, including GCSEs in Computer Science, Geography, History, French, Spanish, 3D Design, Business, Classical Civilisation, Media Studies, Design & Technology, Drama, Fine Art, Music, PE, and Religious Studies, as well as vocational courses such as Creative Media Production (BTEC), Health and Social Care (BTEC), Marketing and Enterprise (CNAT), and Sport Studies (CNAT).

Students must select at least one subject from Computer Science, Geography, History, French, or Spanish.

Certain subject combinations are not permitted, including:

- GCSE Media with Creative Media Production
- GCSE Fine Art with GCSE 3D Design
- GCSE Business with CNAT Marketing and Enterprise

GCSE qualifications are assessed through examinations at the end of the course and graded from 9 to 1.

Vocational qualifications involve continuous assessment with some external components and are graded from Distinction\* to Pass.

For some students, alternative pathways may be recommended, such as Functional Skills in Mathematics and English or ASDAN, a personal development programme. These will be discussed directly with families if appropriate.

Although every effort will be made to accommodate all pupils' choices, it is possible that this may not be possible so pupils will also need to select one reserve option.

Applications for options will be made online. Students will receive unique access information, with applications opening on **9<sup>th</sup> February 2026**. The deadline for applications is **27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

Once pupils have selected their options, they will have a short check in with a senior member of staff to review their option choices and offer further guidance or support as needed. These check ins will take place from **16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.

Choice will be confirmed with pupils and parents during **May 2026**.

If you have any questions or need further support, please contact [AHowes@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:AHowes@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), [ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) or your child's tutor. For SEN-related queries, please email [sbaker@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:sbaker@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

We are here to help ensure this important step is a positive and informed experience for every student.

## What is the course about?

Students opting for Art will be introduced to a broad range of creative experiences. They will gain understanding of a wide variety of materials to improve technical ability and develop their own personal response from a given starting point to produce ambitious final pieces. The course aims to encourage individuality and nurture skills that prepare students for a variety of future pathways.



## What topics will I study?

Students will look at contextual influences such as artists, cultures and events. Within the Year 10 GCSE, pupils will experience a broad range of approaches giving them the opportunity to be experimental with both ideas and media.

In Year 10 and 11 students continue to build on prior skills with a clear focus on specific artists and themes. The Portfolio Unit culminates in a large-scale final outcome. Previous topics covered include Cubism, Pop Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Typography and Portraiture.

## What activities will there be?

We have strong links with the Reading University Institute of Education Art Department, giving students the opportunity to visit the department and use the facilities. We also organise collaborative trips with the University that enrich students Art experience.

The Art Department offer a range of after school catch up sessions which students are encouraged to attend. In the past this has proved a successful contributor in helping students realise their potential.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

60% of the Art GCSE is Portfolio. This encapsulates all work completed within class and home learning. The remaining 40% is an Externally Set Task from the exam board completed towards the end of Year 11.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Art GCSE leads to a range of courses at Further and Higher Education. Previous Emmbrook students have specialised in various disciplines including: Fine Art, Fashion, Architecture, Animation, Illustration and Graphics, Theatre Design and Games, Web and Product Design. Universities, including the Russell Group Institutes, recognise the importance of students undertaking a rounded and diverse curriculum. All Emmbrook students who apply for a Post 16 & 18 Art related course are successful in their application.

## Exam board and useful website? AQA Art & Design

Visiting galleries and exploring the websites of The Tate Galleries, The National Gallery, The Royal Academy, Hayward Gallery, Serpentine Gallery, White Cube and the Saatchi Gallery.

What is the course about?

The Edexcel GCSE Business course is designed to give students a practical and theoretical understanding of how businesses operate and make decisions. It covers key topics such as business activity, marketing, finance, operations, and human resources, while also exploring external influences like economic and legal factors. The course emphasizes real-world application through case studies and encourages analytical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, preparing students for further study or careers in business.



What topics will I study?

<b>Theme 1: Investigating Small Business.</b> Focuses on how businesses start and operate on a small scale.	<b>Theme 2: Building a Business</b> Focuses on how businesses grow and compete on a larger scale.
Enterprise and entrepreneurship – why people start businesses.	Growing the business – methods of expansion and globalisation.
Spotting a business opportunity – market research and identifying customer needs.	Marketing decisions – strategies for larger markets.
Putting a business idea into practice – objectives, finance, and planning.	Operational decisions – production, quality, and efficiency.
Making the business effective – marketing mix and customer service.	Financial decisions – interpreting accounts and managing resources.
Understanding external influences – economic, legal, and technological factors.	Human resource decisions – recruitment, training, and motivation.

What activities will there be?

Students will engage in a variety of interactive activities designed to bring business concepts to life. These include analysing real-world case studies, exploring current news articles to understand business in context, and completing problem-solving tasks that mirror real business challenges. A strong emphasis is placed on building core exam skills, such as interpreting data, applying theory to scenarios, and developing well-structured written responses, ensuring students are fully prepared for assessment.

What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

There is **no** coursework for this subject. The final grade is based on 2 exams which will be taken at the end of year 11. This is an academically structured subject.

What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

After completing the GCSE Business course, students have a strong foundation in key business concepts and skills that open up a range of opportunities. Many go on to study A-level Business or Economics, or choose vocational qualifications such as BTEC Business. The course also provides valuable knowledge for careers in areas like marketing, finance, management, and entrepreneurship, as well as transferable skills such as problem-solving and data analysis that are useful in any profession.

Further Information

The course is the Edexcel GCSE Business course. Please scan the QR codes for the specification and a detailed explanation from the curriculum leader of what the course entails.

Specification:

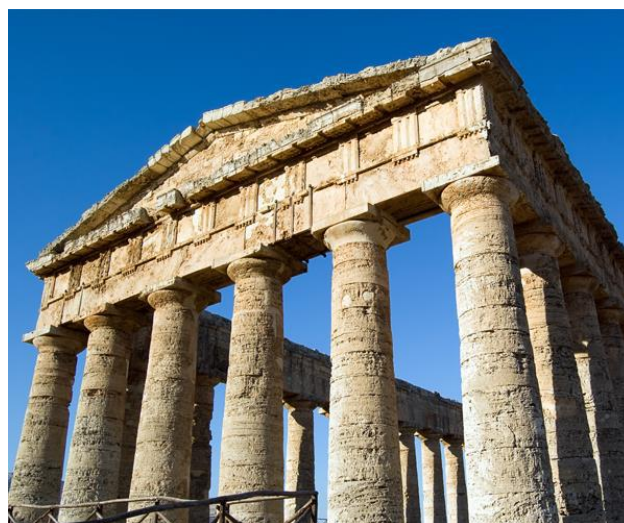


Course Explainer Video



## What is the course about?

Studying elements of the Classical world that helps students understand the literature, history, culture and archaeology of Greek and Roman civilisations. Students will look at a range of sources to help develop their understanding of life in the ancient world and how it has been remembered. Hollywood epics have immortalised characters such as Cleopatra, Caesar and Alexander the Great. This course will help students understand the world that formed these individuals.



## What topics will I study?

1. Myth and religion – this involves a study of the Gods of Greece and Rome and their role within the world. We will also look at the concept of the ancient hero in looking at the stories of Heracles/Hercules. We will then study the practise of religion, format of temples and the festivals that the ancients were involved in.
2. War and warfare – this will involve a study of Athens, Sparta and Rome. We will look at the armour and weapons of the ancient armies as well as look at key military engagements, such as Thermopylae and Salamis.

## What activities will there be?

Lots of interactive learning, exam practice, group work, individual research projects, films and trips. We will visit relevant sites (if the national situation permits), such as The British Museum to take part in workshops with artefacts and a visit to Roman military sites.

What percentage of the final grade is from coursework? No coursework

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College):

Students can use Classical Civilisation for a number of different A Levels or degrees including History, Classics, RS, law, government and politics. Classical Civilisation is a well-regarded academic subject that helps develop well rounded students that have an increased understanding of the world they live in. Classical Civilisation would be a useful addition to a university application and can be pursued at A level.

## Exam board and useful website?

OCR - <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/classical-civilisation-j199-from-2017>

## What is the course about?

The computer science GCSE will teach you about Computer Systems covering all the physical parts involved in a computer and Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming which is what you need to be able to write Computer programs and solve problems using computers. You will also learn to program and we offer exposure to Python throughout the two years of study. If you already use a programming language and would like to continue using this then we can discuss.



## What topics will I study? The course is split into three main sections:

### Computer Systems

This is where you will learn about the physical part of a computer and their networks. The topics include: Computer Systems architecture • Memory • Storage • Wired and wireless networks • Network topologies, protocols and layers • Network security • System software • Moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

### Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This is where you start to think like a programmer. You will cover: Programming techniques • Translators and facilities of languages • Algorithms • High- and low-level programming • Computational logic • Data representation

### The Practical Part

You will write lots of different programs each required to solve a given task. You will learn to solve problems which are quite advanced in nature. You will be required to write sub programs also which, when brought together will solve a bigger task. The department will always look to support any students who has a particular interest in programming especially if they have already been learning in a particular language.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

The course is graded 100% on the final examinations. There is no graded coursework.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Obviously if you want to become a programmer, work in the IT or Games industry and of course with the development of Artificial Intelligence, then Computer Science will start you off on this path however it is important to realise that Computer Science underpins Maths, Science, Animation, Web Design, Media and many other career paths which you may be considering. It is a rigorous GCSE which will be viewed favourably by colleges, sixth form centres and employers.

## Exam board and useful website?

OCR - <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

**What is the course about?**

Creative Media Production at The Emmbrook is a hands-on course exploring the media sectors of publishing, (newspapers, magazines, books, e-magazines, comics) moving image/audio (TV programmes, films, video shorts, animations, radio broadcasts) and the interactive sector (websites, mobile applications, mobile games, video games, online games).

You will explore these sectors while:

- developing valuable technical skills and techniques in the Adobe Suite, producing a digital media product in response to a brief & reviewing and reflecting on the process and outcome.



**The Aims of the course are:**

To learn about the sector and investigate media products across the sub-sectors, develop technical skills and techniques in the chosen discipline(s) of audio/moving image, publishing and interactive. Apply digital skills and techniques by responding to a digital media brief.

**Throughout the course you will**

Explore the media sub-sectors while: developing valuable technical skills and techniques in the Adobe Suite, producing a digital media product in response to a brief, reviewing and reflecting on the process and outcome.

**What activities will there be?**

The majority of the course is taught in the practical form and are taken in a computer room, using the computers most lessons. The course starts by exploring the media sub sectors by researching and discussing existing media products. We learn what media language is and how products are creative for a specific audience and purpose. We then look at developing our production skills in the Adobe Suite by producing a range of products for an intended audience. Examples include but not exclusive to:

- Creating film posters, magazine covers and articles
- Photography & image editing
- Filming and audio recording & editing

**What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?**

60% of the final mark comes from two components internally assessed. The third component is externally assessed and worth 40%

**What about after Key Stage 4?**

Students can continue on to further

- vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.
- A-Level Media

**Exam board and website?**

Pearson EdExcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/creative-media-production-2022.html>

## What is the course about?

Students opting for Design Technology GCSE will, in Year 10, be introduced to a wide variety of new materials and processes, building on their prior knowledge from KS3. The course aims to encourage individuality and enables students to develop skills across a range of materials. This is a GCSE course with a coursework project from the end of year 10 till around Easter in year 11 and written exam at the end of Year 11.



## What topics will I study?

Students will look at contextual influences such as; key designers, significant inventions and cultures. Within Year 10 students will engage with all areas of Design Technology through a diverse range of projects. Materials covered include; paper and card, timber, metals, plastics, textiles and electronics.

In Year 10 and 11 students continue to develop their skills and knowledge but are able to specialise in a particular material for example, woodwork. Students work with a clear focus on specific design movements and themes to design products to specific briefs. The coursework culminates in a final working prototype and a portfolio of research and design.

## What activities will there be?

The course is taught with both the practical and theory elements. We learn about working practically with different material types: woods metals and plastics, as well as learning 2D and 3D CAD skills.

We offer a range of after school catch up and revision sessions which students are encouraged to attend, particularly in the lead up to exams.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

50% of the Design Technology GCSE is coursework. This encapsulates all work completed within class and home learning. The remaining 50% of the course is a written exam paper completed at the end of Year 11.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Design Technology GCSE leads to a range of courses at Further and Higher Education. Careers could include Graphic Designer, Fashion Design, CAD technician, Architect, Web Designer, Games Developer, Engineer (Mechanical, civil or Robotics), Software Programmer and skilled trades (joiner, electrician). The nature of the skills developed means that Design Technology is a perfect stepping stone for any career with creative, analytical and problem-solving attributes.

## Exam board and useful website?

Exam board – AQA. <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/introduction>

**What is the course about?**

Taking Drama at Emmbrook will teach you how to analyse and stage a scripted performance effectively, techniques for devising your own work, rehearsal techniques and practitioner skills, how to polish work to a very high standard and how to analyse and evaluate live theatre effectively. You will also study a 'Set Text' which will be 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman.

The aim of the course is to give you a wide range of experiences with different types and aspects of drama so that you have a comprehensive understanding of theatre.

**What topics will I study?****Year 10**

Practitioner Workshops  
 Response to Live Theatre  
 Set Text – Noughts and Crosses  
 Devised Performance Exam

**Year 11**

Set Text – Noughts and Crosses  
 Response to Live Theatre  
 Scripted Performance Exam  
 Final Exam Preparation

**What activities will there be?**

The majority of the course is taught in the practical form. Lessons are taken in a studio and you will be asked to work in pairs, small groups and large groups to create a variety of pieces of drama. Alongside the performance work, you will be given chance to experiment with stage design, using the department's wide range of equipment. You will explore the work of theatre companies, directors and practitioners and learn to apply these to your work. You will be taught how to imaginatively write about your performance ideas for a published play as well as how you have created your own, original performance work. You will also be taught how to deconstruct live theatre that we will take you to see!

**What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?**

60% of the final mark comes from 2 performance exams – Devised and Scripted

**What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)**

Drama at Emmbrook is a perfect route into A-level Theatre Studies that we offer in the sixth form. Both our GCSE and A-Level courses are the AQA exam board and so go very well together. However, Drama is a highly sought after subject in both college and the workplace if A-Levels are not for you.

**Exam board and website?**

AQA ([www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk))

# Subject: Enterprise & Marketing

## What is the course about?

The OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge Nationals in Enterprise and Marketing is a vocational qualification designed to give students a practical understanding of business concepts and entrepreneurial skills. It focuses on the key principles of enterprise, marketing, and business planning, enabling learners to develop knowledge and apply it in real-world contexts.



## What topics will I study?

The course is divided into 3 units – with R068 and R069 making up a focus for class work in year 10.

R068 – Design a business proposal	R069 – Market and Pitch a business proposal	R067 – Preparing for the final exam
- Market Research	- Developing a Brand	- Characteristics, risk and reward for enterprise
- Customer Profiling	- Creating a promotional campaign	- Market research to target a specific customer
- Develop a product proposal	- Developing a pitch for a proposal	- What makes a product financially viable
- Self and External Appraisal	- Delivering a pitch for a proposal	- Creating a marketing mix to support a product
- Financial Viability	- Reflecting on the pitch and the proposal	- Factors to consider when starting up and running an enterprise
- Self assessment and project success prediction		

R067 is a revision of the theory that sits behind the projects that students will then learn that theory and apply them to other small businesses to articulate decision making.

## What activities will there be?

Students studying Enterprise and Marketing will take part in a variety of activities that combine theory with practical application. These include developing business proposals, designing and refining product ideas, conducting market research, and creating marketing campaigns. Learners will also practice pitching their ideas to an audience, work on financial planning and budgeting exercises, and use digital tools to present and promote their concepts. These activities are designed to build creativity, problem-solving, and communication skills while giving students a real-world insight into business practices.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

R068 and R069 are both projects (coursework), they are worth **30%** each = **60%**.

R067 is an external exam which will take place in year 11 worth **40%** of their final mark for the subject.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Students can progress to a range of pathways. These include Level 3 qualifications such as A-Levels in Business or Economics, or vocational courses like BTEC Nationals in Business. The skills developed—such as market research, financial planning, and pitching—also prepare learners for apprenticeships in business administration, marketing, or retail.

## Exam board and website?

The course is the OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing which is included in the standard KS4 Performance tables, meaning students who study this course can go on to all Level 3 pathways. Please scan the QR codes for the specification and a detailed explanation from the curriculum leader of what the course entails.

Specification:



Course Explainer Video



**What is the course about?**

You will learn to understand, speak and write in French. You will have opportunities to express your opinions, and to learn about life in other countries. The work builds on your achievements so far at Key Stage 3 - in fact you have already covered some Foundation Level GCSE work.

**What topics will I study?**

You will cover some of the Key Stage 3 topics in greater depth, such as Family, School, Free time and Food. The course also features new topics, such as Technology in everyday life, Healthy living, Career choices and Marriage and Partnerships.

**What activities will there be?**

You will learn to understand spoken and written French across a range of topics. You will write and speak about many of these topics, expressing opinions and using a range of language. Lessons will contain activities in each of the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also develop translation skills.

**What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?**

All four skills will be tested in examinations at the end of the course. You may enter at Foundation or Higher level.

**What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)**

You can study French at A level. The language learning skills you develop will also help you to learn other languages. Languages are important in a wide range of jobs as so many companies and professions operate in a global market.

**Exam board and useful website?**

AQA <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages>

There are also many other useful websites you can access for language learning.

## What is the course about?

Geography helps us to appreciate how places and landscapes are formed, the physical systems that govern our world, how people and environments interact, the consequences that arise from our decisions and the diverse range of cultures and societies that exist. Students will learn this through a range of skills that they will develop from data gathering on fieldwork trips to evaluating the consequences of climate change and analysing recent events from the news.



## What topics will I study?

- Unit 01: Our Natural World. Topics include weather/ tectonic hazards, climate change, rivers/coasts, and ecosystems with a fieldtrip to the South Coast to collect data.
- Unit 02: People and Society. Topics include urban populations, global development, the geography of the UK, and resource reliance with a fieldtrip to Windsor to collect data.
- Unit 03: Geographical Exploration. This includes both geographical skills and a decision-making exercise where students have the opportunity to give their opinion on an issue backed up with evidence from a resource book.

## What activities will there be?

Students will learn in a variety of ways including group work activities, presentations, independent research and traditional teaching methods. Also, data collection for both coastal and urban environments through primary and secondary techniques will be undertaken.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

None. The qualification comprises of 3 exams at the end of the course. Students will however be asked questions in their exams about the 2 days of fieldwork that they will undertake.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Geography offers real opportunities for progression. It provides a solid grounding in terms of human and physical geography which overlaps and supports other subjects such as the sciences, business studies, economics and history. Students become confident utilising many formats of information such as digital sources, articles, books and news reports. They also learn to be critical and evaluative; these skills are highly respected and transferable to further education and the workplace.

## Exam board and useful website?

OCR B – Geography for Enquiring Minds

Specification: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/737448-specification-accredited-gcse-geography-b-j384.pdf>

# Subject: BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Health & Social Care

Optional

## What is the course about?

This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care provides students with a broad foundation of knowledge required for further study in this field including nursing, social care sectors, community roles such as a youth worker, occupational therapist and many more.



## What topics will I study?

### Human Lifespan Development

Students will explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. They will explore the different events that can impact on individuals physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development and how individuals cope with and are supported through changes caused by life events.

### Health and Social Care Services and Values

students will explore different health and social care services and how they meet the needs of the service users. They will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

### Health and Well-being

Students explore the factors that affect health and well-being, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person-centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individual's health and well-being.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

60% coursework (component 1 completed in Y10, component 2 completed in Y11)

40% exam set and marked by Pearson.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Students who achieve a level 2 in health and social care may choose to study this further at sixth form to achieve a level 3. This will prepare students to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move onto higher education by studying a degree in the health or social care sector.

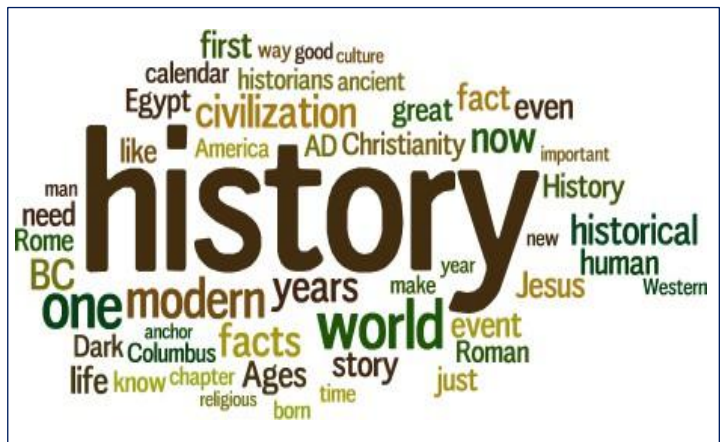
## Exam board and useful website?

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care.html>



## What is the course about?

History helps us understand the world we live in. We answer 'why' questions in helping unpick the mystery of human actions. Studying elements of history which range from c.1000 to modern times. We study the actions of famous individuals and the lives of ordinary people, working out how and why people have shaped the world.



## What topics will I study?

1. Crime and Punishment in England c.1000 – Present day. We look at the development of law enforcement and consider questions such as the abolition of capital punishment. We address a number of case studies: witchcraft, the gunpowder plot and the police investigation into Jack the Ripper.
2. Superpower relations and the Cold War and Early Elizabethan England. We study the conflict between the USA and the USSR following the Second World War. We will also look at the key events and characters of Elizabethan England, such as Mary Queen of Scots, Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada
3. Weimar and Nazi Germany. This looks at Germany at the end of WW1 and looking at how Hitler emerged as leader of Germany. We study the experiences of young people, women and minority groups.

## What activities will there be?

Lots of interactive learning, exam practice, team work, individual research projects, films, historical documentaries and trips! If the situation improves, trips include a Crime tour of Whitechapel in London centred around Jack the Ripper, a revision workshop on Nazi Germany (with artefacts) at the Imperial War Museum and a trip to Berlin (subject to demand).

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework? No coursework

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College):

Students can use History for a number of different A Levels or degrees. History is a well-regarded academic subject which can open doors to graduate schemes, careers in teaching, law, journalism, government and many more. It teaches you how to write at an extremely high level, research, process information and present information in a variety of different. These transferable skills are very valuable in all areas of work and further education.

## Exam board and useful website?

Edexcel: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

## What is the course about?

Students opting for Hospitality & Catering will be introduced to a wide range of knowledge and skills required within the catering industry. They will gain the skills and techniques that mirror industry practice. As well as the ability to plan, prepare and cook an extensive variety of dishes.



## What topics will I study?

This course will enable learners to gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to this specific vocational sector. Unit 1: Hospitality and catering industry: Focuses on different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the sector. Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action: This encompasses practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting.

## What activities will there be?

Students will explore a broad range of topics based around Hospitality & Catering. This will focus on careers in the food industry and understanding the range of opportunities available. The emphasis of this course is on developing a range of practical skills, and students can expect to complete practical lessons regularly. Assessment is split between a written examination and a practical assignment, allowing students to demonstrate both their knowledge and applied skills. Learners will complete research, planning, and evaluation tasks, including costing dishes and adapting menus to meet specific needs, helping them build confidence, independence, and transferable skills valued by employers.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

The course offered is broadly equivalent to a GCSE grade 4-9. By the end of Year 11 students will complete level 1 & 2 of the vocational award. Unit 1 40% Hospitality and catering industry Unit 2 60% Hospitality and catering in action

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

After completing Level 2 Hospitality and Catering students have the opportunity to progress in other qualifications relevant to working in the sector, such as Food Science & Nutrition, Hospitality & Catering, Professional Cooking or Hospitality & Tourism Management. They can also go onto apprenticeships in industry.

## Exam board and useful website?

WJEC Hospitality and Catering Level 1&2 Award <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering/hospitality-and-catering-level-1-2-award.html>

## What is the course about?

Media is about mass communication. The media create products designed to **entertain** and **inform**. Whenever you are watching television, streaming films, scrolling through social media or listening to podcasts, you are consuming media. On the GCSE course, you will analyse how media products like TV programmes and music videos use **images, sounds, and language** to create meaning. You will learn about **media industries** and how media products are made. You will explore the concept of **audience**, asking why we are no longer considered passive consumers *of*, but active participants *in* media. Finally, you will consider the role of the media in shaping **representations** of people and issues, and ask how these influence our own identities and values. You will also learn to create your own media products.



## What will be studied?

A range of media forms, such as: Television; Online Media; Advertising and Marketing; Film; Magazines; Newspapers; Social and Participatory Media; Music Video; Radio; Video Games

## What activities will there be?

While 70% of the course is examined through written assessment, which requires you to develop analytical skills, there is a significant practical element where you have the opportunity to create music videos, magazines, television sequences, advertisements and more. In your practical work, you'll be able to apply what you've learned about the media in the production of your own media products.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

Assessment will consist of a mixture of examinations and non-examined assessment.

- Component 1: Exploring the Media - Written examination: 1hour 30mins, 40% of assessment
- Component 2: Understanding Media Forms - Written examination: 1hour 30mins, 30% of assessment
- Component 3: Creating Media Products - Non-exam assessment (coursework) 30% of assessment

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers, Sixth Form & College)

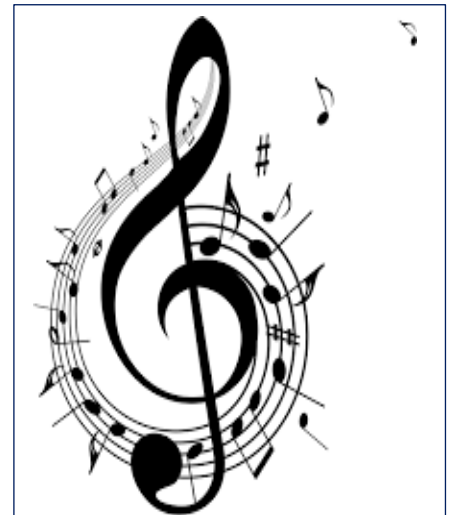
During the GCSE Media Studies course you will develop and practise a range of skills which will equip you for progression to A Level study. They will also help in other areas such as English, Humanities and Social Sciences. Over one hundred universities offer courses in Media in the UK. An A Level qualification in Media Studies, informed by study at GCSE level, helps you to move towards these courses, as well as to those in a range of other areas. If university is not for you, there is a huge array of career opportunities in the media; it is an industry that is growing very quickly. If you are interested in the idea of a career in TV and film production, advertising, journalism, interactive media, digital marketing, technical production, special effects, web design and post-production, then studying Media at GCSE level is a great place to start. There has never been a better time to become a student of the media.

## Exam board? Eduqas

**What is the course about?**

You will learn about a wide-range of musical styles and genres through a mixture of listening and practical activities – composing and performing.

As well as studying specific topics, you will have the freedom to develop your own musical interests, particularly when composing and performing, using appropriate music technology. This course brings theory, listening and composition to life and links strongly to the world around us. It will allow you to broaden your mind and foster a love of all music – for all abilities and backgrounds.

**What topics will I study?**

1. Understanding music: Western classical tradition 1650-present (specific works/composers/styles/genres); Popular music; Traditional music. A combination of questions which involve listening to unfamiliar music as well as questions relating to the study of set works.  
(Assessment – Listening Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes)
2. Performing music – two performances must be given and recorded (one solo and one ensemble). There is also a Music Technology option for these performances, in addition to those using instruments or voice.
3. Composing music – two compositions (one to a brief and the other a free choice).

**What activities will there be?**

A combination of activities which integrate the key skills of listening, performing and composing, and help you to develop your all-round musical understanding and theoretical knowledge. Much practical music-making alongside the study of particular topics and set works. There is a lot of scope for you to develop your music-making in ways that suit you as an individual, and that particularly interest you as a musician.

**What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?**

60% Coursework – two performances (30%) and two compositions (30%).

**What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)**

Any Music or Performing Arts further/higher education courses – Music, Music Technology and Sound Engineering. Careers – education (teaching) and the broader music industry, including theatre, video game and film industries, TV and radio. The course develops a range of transferable skills valuable in all areas of work and further education.

**Exam board and useful website?**

AQA Music (8271) [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

**What is the course about?**

GCSE Physical Education is an exciting course that combines practical performance with theory to help students understand the science behind sport and physical activity. Students will learn about how the body works during exercise, including the musculoskeletal and cardiovascular systems, and how training improves fitness. They will explore sports psychology, motivation, and mental preparation techniques, as well as health, diet, and overall well-being. The course also looks at social and cultural influences on participation and the role of media and technology in sport.

**What topics will I study?**

Paper 1 – The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

- Applied anatomy & physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training

Paper 2 – Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being

**What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?**

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA):

- Practical Performance (30%)
  - Three activities: one team, one individual and one either team or individual
- Analysis and Evaluation (10%)
  - Written coursework analysing performance and suggesting improvements

Students taking GCSE PE are strongly encouraged to play sport outside of school, either for a local club or at least one school team. This helps them develop the practical skills needed for assessment and ensures they can achieve their best in the practical component of the course.

**What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)**

GCSE PE opens the door to a wide range of opportunities. Many students go on to study A-Level Physical Education, BTEC Sport, or other sport-related qualifications at college. It also provides a strong foundation for careers in areas such as: sport science, physiotherapy, sports coaching, teaching, personal training and fitness Industry and rehabilitation and health promotion. Studying GCSE PE develops transferable skills like teamwork, leadership, and communication, which are valued in many professions beyond sport.

Exam board and useful website? AQA GCSE PE

# Subject: Religious Studies

## What is the course about?

GCSE Religious studies entail the study of the core religious beliefs, teaching and practices of two of the world religions. It also enables students to consider philosophical questions and ethical dilemmas which relate to modern life in Britain. The course challenges students with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.



## What topics will I study?

The course will involve the following topics:

- Key beliefs, teachings & practices of Christianity & Islam
- Worship, Festivals & Duties in Christianity & Islam
- Religious, Philosophical & Ethical Issues such as Peace & conflict, Capital Punishment and Abortion

## What activities will there be?

The course will be delivered using a variety of teaching methods. Students will predominantly engage in written work and class discussions. Other activities will involve pair and group work, research tasks, project work and debates.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

Full Course GCSE Religious Studies is 100% exam based.

It will entail 2 exams to be sat at the end of Year 11. One exam is on Christianity and Islam, the other is on the 4 'Themes'

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Students will develop analytical & critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas and research skills. As a result of this, this course enables students to develop skills that are crucial for many subjects including Philosophy & Ethics, History, Geography, Sociology & English. It is also looked at positively in many career paths due to its understanding of a range of cultures, faith as well as the skills developed including the Armed Forces, Law, Teaching and public services

## Exam board and useful website?

Exam Board: AQA Religious Studies Specification A

Website for GCSE specification: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>



## What is the course about?

You will learn to understand, speak and write in Spanish. You will have opportunities to express your opinions, and to learn about life in other countries. The work builds on your achievements so far at Key Stage 3 - in fact you have already covered some Foundation Level GCSE work.



## What topics will I study?

You will cover some of the Key Stage 3 topics in greater depth, such as Family, School, Free time and Food. The course also features new topics, such as Technology in everyday life, Healthy living, Career choices and Marriage and Partnerships.

## What activities will there be?

You will learn to understand spoken and written Spanish across a range of topics. You will write and speak about many of these topics, expressing opinions and using a range of language. Lessons will contain activities in each of the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also develop translation skills.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

All four skills will be tested in examinations at the end of the course. You may enter at Foundation or Higher level.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

You can study Spanish at A level. The language learning skills you develop will also help you to learn other languages. Languages are important in a wide range of jobs as so many companies and professions operate in a global market.

## Exam board and useful website?

AQA <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages>

There are also many other useful websites you can access for language learning.

**Subject:**

**OCR Level 2 Cambridge National in  
Sport Studies**

**Option**

What is the course about?

Sport Studies focuses on applying knowledge to real-life practical activities. Students will develop performance and leadership skills, evaluate the techniques required for success, and study contemporary issues that affect sport. They will take part in both playing and leading sporting activities and have the opportunity to explore outdoor and adventurous activities.



What topics will I study?

Performance and leadership in sports activities. You will develop your skills as both a performer and as a leader. You will learn how to plan and lead a sports activity session, work independently and as part of a team, and communicate effectively.

Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. You will learn about outdoor and adventurous activities available locally and across the UK. You will find out what equipment, clothing, and safety measures are needed and plan to take part in an activity safely. You will also participate in an outdoor activity and evaluate your experience.

Contemporary issues in sport. You will learn about a range of contemporary issues in sport, including participation levels and barriers to involvement. You will explore how sport promotes values and ethical behaviour, the impact of major sporting events, the role of national governing bodies, and how technology is used in sport. This unit is assessed through a written exam at the end of Year 11.

What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

Performance and leadership in sports activities. Students will complete five tasks, two practical and three written tasks. 30% of their overall grade.

Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. Students will complete four tasks, which will be practical activities and written tasks. 30% of their overall grade.

What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Completing OCR Sport Studies can lead to further study in Sport and Physical Activity, such as Cambridge Technicals, BTEC Sport, or A-Level PE at college. It also provides a strong foundation for careers in areas like sports coaching, fitness training, and sports management.

Exam board and useful website? OCR Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport Studies

## What is the course about?

Students opting for Three-dimensional Design in will be introduced to a broad range of processes and materials, focused around functional design and sculpture. The course aims to encourage individuality and nurture skills that prepare students for a variety of future pathways. This subject bridges Art & Design Technology, with the advantage of no written exam at the end of the course.

You cannot opt for both Fine Art and 3D Design, however, you can take 3D Design and DT.



## What topics will I study?

Students will look at contextual influences such as three-dimensional artists, design movements, makers, cultures and the design process. Pupils will experience a broad range of approaches giving them the opportunity to be experimental with both ideas and materials. Previous topics have included; Cubism, Pop Art, natural and mechanical forms and Food.

In Year 10 and 11 students will consolidate skills gained and begin to develop a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating a wide variety of approaches to three-dimensional design.

## What activities will there be?

We have strong links with the Reading University Institute of Education Art Department, giving students the opportunity to visit the DT and Art departments and use the facilities. We also organise collaborative trips with the University that enrich students' creative experience.

The Art & Design Department offer a range of after school catch up sessions which students are encouraged to attend. In the past this has proved a successful contributor in helping students realise their potential.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

60% of the Three-Dimensional Design GCSE is coursework. This encapsulates all work completed within class and home learning. The remaining 40% is an Externally Set Task from the exam board completed towards the end of

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Three-dimensional Design GCSE leads to a range of courses at Further and Higher Education, these include; Fashion design, Architecture, Product Design, Sculpture, Theatre, Film and Television, Design and Games, Animation and Web Design.

## Exam board and useful website?

AQA Three-dimensional Design Visiting galleries and exploring the websites of local sculpture parks, The Design Museum, The Tate Galleries, The National Gallery, The Royal Academy, Hayward Gallery, Serpentine Gallery, White Cube and the Saatchi Gallery.