

Five Acres High School

Year 9 Curriculum Pathways

2024-2026



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Introduction

As students finish Year 9 and start Year 10 they make the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. This brings changes to the curriculum, most obviously, students no longer study all subjects. This process is traditionally called the Options Process or Pathways. This document is designed to provide the information about the Options Process, the subjects all students take, and the subjects that are now optional. If you have questions about individual subjects, please contact subject teachers directly. If you have questions about the Options Process, please email options2024@5acreshighschool.co.uk

The Options Process

Step 1 - Information is provided during Options Pathways Information Evening on **Thursday 25th January** and in this document

Step 2 - Students and parents/carers have the opportunity to discuss options with teachers during Year 9 Parents' Evening on **Thursday 1st February**

Step 3 - Students should make their choices using the Google form sent directly to their school email address. Changes are possible until **Friday 9th February** at 9am.

Over the following pages information can be found on the subjects that are available for students to choose in the upcoming process.

There are two categories of subject:

- **Core subjects:** these are the compulsory subjects all students must learn
- **Options subjects:** these are the subjects students need to choose - students choose four subjects in total, one subject from each option block. If you have chosen a subject in one option block, you must choose a different subject. Please note you can only study the language which you currently study.
- **Reserve choices:** choose 1 reserve choice from **Option C** and **Option D**

Core Subjects	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Maths English Language English Literature Science Core Religious Studies Core PE* Computer Science* PCSHE*	History Geography French Spanish	History Geography French Spanish	RE PE Design & Technology Music Business Studies Economics Art Hospitality and Catering	RE PE Design & Technology Performing Arts Business Studies Computer Science Art Photography

*Non examined (no qualification gained)				
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Guidance

Some students may already have a clear idea of what Options Subjects they wish to do, while others may still be deciding. For many students, choosing Options Subjects will be the first time that they have been given the opportunity to take ownership of their learning. The points below are advice for selecting Options:

- It is essential that students take this process seriously as the decisions students make will directly affect the next two years of their education, and will affect what they do once they have finished their journey at Five Acres High School.
- Consider possible courses at college and possible careers. Many subjects require specific subjects at Key Stage 4.
- Before selecting a subject, students should think about whether they like the subject and would be happy to study the selected subject for two more years to the end of Year 11. Changing Options subjects midway through Year 10 is not advisable, and may not be possible at all due to timetable constraints.

Further points to consider:

1. Students generally need to select a Humanities subject (Geography and/or History) and/or a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish). Educational research highlights that studying these subjects allows students to progress to Russell Group universities, which should be a key aim for all students.
2. This process is not based on a first come first served basis; where a subject is chosen by a lot of students there will be multiple classes. Students shouldn't rush their decisions, instead taking time to carefully consider the subjects they would like to study for the next two years.
3. We may be unable to offer some courses following this process if numbers mean it is not viable for the course to run effectively. Please be advised that courses are not finalised until all students have selected their subjects and the process is finalised.
4. Should events transpire to disrupt the Options Process we maintain the right to re-run this process.
5. We have included potential costs for materials, revision guides etc for courses where known. Please note that allowances will be made for Pupil Premium students where appropriate.

If you have any queries about individual subjects you can email the specific teachers identified on the subject pages. The deadline to make changes to your choices is **Friday 9 February 2024 at 9am.**

Core Subject - GCSE English 2024-2026

Further information available from Mrs Rontree-Jones

What does English involve?

You will achieve two separate GCSEs in English: English Language and English Literature. English Language requires you to develop your reading skills through responding to unseen texts. You will also be assessed for both your fiction and non-fiction writing skills. English Literature requires you to study a range of texts. These are currently *Macbeth*, *Lord of the Flies*, *A Christmas Carol* and the *AQA Love and Relationships Poetry Anthology*. There is also an examined unseen poetry element on Literature Paper 2.

What should I do to succeed?

Reading widely is one of the most important things that you can do to be successful. We also encourage you to take on an active role as a participant in all of your English lessons. This will help you to develop the confidence and curiosity needed to be successful in this subject. Have the faith and belief in yourself that you can achieve in English. The responses that you will need to produce are part of a process and the more that you commit to the process the more likely you are to achieve. It is a two year course and by working hard consistently through years 10 and 11, you improve your chances of successful GCSE grades at the end of year 11.

How is the course marked?

English Language

Fully assessed through two final exams. There is a fiction paper and a non-fiction paper. On each paper, you will respond to a variety of questions based on an unseen text. These questions remain the same, only the texts change. You will be expected to complete an extended piece of writing for each paper.

English Literature

Fully assessed through two final exams. Literature Paper 1 has an 'extract' question on *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol*. Literature Paper 2 consists of a modern text essay question, a poetry comparison (the anthology) and an unseen poem essay question then a comparison question.

All exams are 'closed text', meaning that you will not be able to have copies of the texts in the exam.

Possible careers

There are many careers that require English for further study. Some of these include:

- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Solicitor
- Teacher
- Copywriter
- Librarian
- Media researcher
- Marketing executive
- Arts administrator
- Publishing
- Travel and tourism

Useful websites

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english>

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

<https://www.shmoop.com/>

Cost

Personal copies of texts can be ordered for approximately £5.

Revision guides can be ordered at a cost of around £3

Core Subject - GCSE Maths 2024-2026

Further information available from Mr Cockeram

What does Maths involve?

We cover a wide range of core and advanced mathematics skills. They are split into the five big ideas: Number, Ratio & Proportion, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics & Probability. The ability to use your skills to solve multi-dimensional mathematics problems is key to achieving the highest grades.

What should I do to succeed?

Take increasing responsibility for the planning and execution of your work, particularly revision for exams. Use a variety of methods for consolidation of classwork including hegartymaths.co.uk and revision guides. The scientific calculator that we use is the Casio FX-83GT+. To be able to apply maths in different contexts is becoming more important within GCSE Maths.

How is the course marked?

The qualification consists of three exams (1x non calculator and 2x calculator)
Each exam is out of 80 marks
Qualifications are graded: 1-9 (1 being the lowest and 9 being the highest)
Higher Tier grades: 9-3
Foundation Tier grades: 5-1

Possible careers

- Acoustic Consultant
- Actuarial Analyst
- Astronomer
- Bank Manager
- Chartered Accountant
- Data Analyst
- Investment Analyst
- School Teacher
- Software Engineer
- Sound Engineer
- Statistician

Useful website

www.sparx.co.uk

Costs

Casio FX-991CW Scientific Calculator — £20.75 (current school shop price)
Revision Guide — £6
Knowledge Organiser - £3

Core Subject - Science 2024-2026

GCSE AQA Combined Science –

this qualification will be worth 2 GCSEs

GCSE AQA Separate Science - this is worth 3 GCSEs

Further information available from Mrs Motterham

What does Science involve?

Science is taught across three subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics - all students study all three at GCSE.

There are two different GCSE courses offered at Five Acres: Combined Science (Trilogy) and Separate Science. Combined Science results in two Science GCSEs, ranging from a 1-1 to a 9-9. Separate Science results in three GCSEs, one in Biology, one in Chemistry and one in Physics. The grades range from 1 to 9. Both Combined Science and Separate Science courses are structured similarly, and students will learn the foundation knowledge of each subject, ready to study A Levels, a range of skills around practical work, such as methodology, data processing, analysis, and evaluation.

What should I do to succeed?

Take responsibility for your learning by working hard in lessons. We use Seneca as our homework platform and set weekly assignments in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The assignments we set are focussed on helping you revise and consolidate knowledge, so if you complete your homework well you will give yourself a big advantage in your Science studies. Further support for your studies can be found in your Science Knowledge Organisers.

How is the course marked?

Both Combined Science and Separate Science are structured in a similar way: students will take two papers each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students studying Combined Science therefore have six 1-hour 15mins papers out of 70 marks. Separate Science students have six 1-hour 45mins papers out of 100 marks.

The key difference between Separate Science and Combined Science is the additional content taught, otherwise, the two courses are similar. Both Combined Science and Separate Science are available at Higher and Foundation tier. In Combined Science, grades available are 1-1 to 5-5 on Foundation and 4-4 to 9-9 on Higher tier. In Separate Science, each science can be tiered separately, and in each case the grades available are 1-5 on Foundation and 4-9 on Higher.

Each paper will have questions on knowledge recall / knowledge application / drawing links between course topics / science practicals / numeracy and data handling / data analysis / evaluation

Possible Careers

Science qualifications are valued by all employers due to the level of knowledge students must learn and the skills they must develop to be successful.

Research scientist (medical, biologist, chemist, physicist, climate, astronomy) / Health (being a doctor, nurse, dentist, vet, pharmacy) / Teaching / Engineer / Psychologist / Anthropologist / Astronaut

Useful websites

www.senecalearning.co.uk

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Freesciencelessons/featured>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4/subjects/combined-science>

Core and Option Subject - Religious Studies 2024-2026

Further information available from Mrs Jones

What does Religious Studies involve?

The course is highly valued and rated by the police, armed forces, nursing and teaching, anyone who is going to work with people.

Both short course and long course Religious Studies will develop your skills of organising and using information, describing and explaining ideas, and evaluating different perspectives on various religious and moral issues. It will require you to think, understand different points of view and develop skills of argument. Lessons will involve a wide range of different activities including reflection, discussion and various activities to communicate your ideas and understanding to others.

What should I do to succeed?

All students have the opportunity to complete a GCSE-level qualification in Religious Studies. Students will be challenged about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All of these skills will help prepare them for further study. All students will explore the key teachings, beliefs and practises of Buddhism and Christianity. They will also be assessed through the thematic studies of two or more philosophical and ethical themes.

Topics will include: marriage, divorce, human rights, war and peace, evil and suffering, crime and punishment, death penalty, medical ethics.

How is the course marked?

Students who take long course Religious Studies will complete 2 written exam papers, each 1 hour 45 minutes. Students will achieve a GCSE grade 1-9. All other students will take short course religious studies, and will complete a single 1 hour 45 minute paper.

Possible careers

- Retail
- Police
- Armed Forces
- Healthcare
- Aid/Refugee/Immigration
- Conservation

Useful website

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

Cost

Revision Guide — £10

Option Subject - Art and Design 2024-2026

Further information available from Miss Trumm

What does Art involve?

Expressing ideas, using your imagination and creativity, and learning new skills. Art is a suitable course for students who wish to develop their interests and enthusiasm for creative activities.

A wide range of practical activities developing your studies and showing links with other artists, experimenting and exploring with different ideas and media, resulting in producing a final piece of work from your studies. If you choose to study Art as one of your options you will work with a wide range of materials. These could include: Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Design, Clay, Sculpture and Photography, you can develop any of these different disciplines.

What should I do to succeed?

If you are creative, and enjoy practical activities and exploring art then it could be for you.

Art is fun, but like all subjects it also involves hard work, most people find that their Art coursework requires more effort than they expected.

The blend of qualities that you need are; a desire to be creative, lots of enthusiasm, dedication, different ways of thinking, new ideas and being able to complete homework.

How is the course marked?

Typically the coursework involves three projects. This will involve creating a portfolio of work that documents your creative journey, which can include investigation and a final outcome.

Two projects will be completed in Year 10 and beginning of Year 11 and Project 3 will be completed in Year 11 in preparation for the Art exam.

For the exam: You will be expected to respond to an externally set project. You will create a portfolio of work that will result in one final outcome produced within 10 hours under exam conditions.

Possible careers

Studying Art unfolds creative thinking and risk taking qualities required by many employers

- Visual Merchandising
- Jeweller
- Special FX Make-Up
- Graphic Design
- Interior Design
- Animation
- Fashion Design
- Games Design
- Illustrator
- Artist

Cost

Art folder with materials — £15

Option Subject - GCSE Business 2024-2026

Further information available from Mr Maidment

What does GCSE Business involve?

GCSE Business students will discover and understand business concepts, terminology, objectives and the impact of business on individuals and wider society. This course will teach students to apply business knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues and to different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global context. Students will develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen, and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems. In addition students will develop and apply quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.

What should I do to succeed?

Success in GCSE Business requires critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Students will be required to construct well-argued, well-evidenced, balanced and structured arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of business. Students will therefore require both sound numeracy and literacy skills. Successful students will have an interest in business and an enthusiasm that will allow them to apply the concepts learned in the classroom to the world around them.

How is the course marked?

Students who take GCSE Business will complete 2 written exam papers, each 1 hour 45 minutes. Paper 1 is based on the first unit (Investigating Small Business) and Paper 2 is based upon the second unit (Building a Business). Students will achieve a GCSE grade 1-9.

Possible careers

- Business Manager
- Business Analyst
- Project Manager
- Financial Advisor
- Entrepreneur
- Management Consultant

Useful websites

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>

https://www.youtube.com/@Bizconsesh/playlists?view=50&shelf_id=1

Option Subject - GCSE Economics 2024-2026

Further information available from Mr Maidment

What does Economics involve?

Economics is a study of the choices made by individuals, firms and governments. Studying Economics at GCSE will improve your knowledge and understanding of how economies operate in micro contexts (consumers, businesses, government) and macro contexts (within and between countries). It will equip you with the skills to analyse and evaluate qualitative (words/language) data and quantitative (numerical) sources, which are invaluable skills for academic success, employability and full engagement in the world.

The course will strengthen your financial literacy and deepen your transferable knowledge, giving you an understanding of how economic contexts influence other subjects, such as Politics, Philosophy, Geography and History. It will also help you understand the economic arguments and consequences in current debates, especially surrounding sustainability and clean-growth, trade blocs and the global cost of living crisis.

What should I do to succeed?

To succeed in GCSE Economics, you need to be a critical and reflective thinker with a deep curiosity about the world around you, so that you are sufficiently motivated to work, enjoy the curriculum and capitalise on the opportunity to study such a vital subject. It will equip you with the knowledge and skills to understand and flourish in our modern society.

When responding to GCSE questions, you will need to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of various concepts and theories through a range of question types, including multiple-choice, calculations, explain/describe and extended responses that involve evaluation. As such, you will require sound literacy and numeracy skills.

How is the course marked?

There are two examination papers to complete, both of which are 1 hour and 45 minutes and worth 50% of the GCSE. Paper 1 is based on the first unit (How Markets Work) and Paper 2 is based upon the second unit (How the Economy Works). The knowledge and skills you develop from one paper will support the other. Although a topic on one paper may not be directly assessed on the other, your knowledge and understanding will help you when reading case studies and responding to evaluation questions.

Possible careers

- Economist
- Financial services (Accountancy and Banking)
- Business
- Politics
- Policy (Research and Analysis)
- Consultancy (e.g. Financial/ Management)
- Journalism
- Management roles (e.g. Project Manager)
- Corporate sector
- Charity and other public service work

Useful website

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/gcse/economics-8136>

Option Subject - Design & Technology 2024-2026

Further information available from Mr Thomas

What does Design and Technology involve?

Design and Technology at GCSE involves using the iterative design process to create interesting solutions. You will problem solve constantly to be able to design and make products for potential clients that provide a working solution to an issue they face.

You will learn how to see a project from start to finish, considering how to research your project for your client before going on to design using a range of techniques and industry standard projections. You will then develop your ideas to ensure you're creating the best solution for the client before making and evaluating your work.

Alongside this, you will be working on gaining theory knowledge across all areas of Design and Technology including Resistant Materials, CAD/CAM, Textiles, Engineering, Electronics, Product Design and Graphics.

What should I do to succeed?

Have an interest in problem solving and reworking existing designs.

Be passionate about seeing a project through from the initial research stages, to design, to development, to making and then evaluating.

Be prepared to create your very own design portfolio that can be used to support college and even university applications.

Be curious and adopt a "let's try it" attitude without the worry of something not working in the way you thought it would. In the words of James Dyson, "I made 5,127 prototypes of my vacuum before I got it right. There were 5126 failures. But I learnt from each one. That's how I came up with a solution. So I don't mind failure."

How is the course marked?

The course is marked by a 50/50 split between coursework and exam.

The coursework is your project portfolio focussing on a context given by AQA worth 100 marks.

The 2-hour exam is worth 100 marks and takes place at the end of the course.

Possible careers

- Interior Designer
- Architect
- Product Designer
- Visual Merchandiser
- Project Manager
- Computer Games Designer
- Engineer

Useful websites

<https://www.ucas.com/job-subjects/design-technology>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zn7h8xs/jobs-that-use-design-and-technology/1>

<https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/396/Careers-in-Design-Technology-Where-Can-Design-Tech-Take-You%3F>

Option Subject - BTEC Performing Arts 2024-2026

Further information available from Mr Williamson

What does Performing Arts involve?

In a world that is increasingly full of global media, it is now more important than ever that young people know how to effectively communicate. Performing Arts allow you not only to build your confidence and self-esteem but also challenges you to see life from the perspective of others. It is a chance to express yourself in a highly creative and enjoyable environment. For anybody wishing to have a career in acting, Performing Arts is definitely a qualification that you will need. However, it is now one of the most sought after subjects in various other career pathways such as journalism, politics and any job in the public sector where you come into contact with the public.

Performing Arts is not just about acting. The course inevitably covers all sorts of transferable skills that will be useful throughout life: communication, presentation/public speaking, group and leadership skills, problem solving, time management, initiative and the ability to work to a deadline and get it right the first time.

What should I do to succeed?

First and foremost, be enthusiastic and have a passion for performing. You should show a willingness to completely immerse yourself in performing, be able to communicate well with others, share and respond to ideas, actively participate in workshops, retain Drama terminology for both self and peer feedback, respond well to constructive criticism and most of all, have a sense of enjoyment in your learning.

How is the course marked?

Students have the fantastic opportunity to take BTEC Performing Arts in Year 10. This is primarily a practical course but it does involve a substantial amount of writing alongside it with an approximate 50/50 split. The course separates into three components with various elements of performance and evaluation, culminating in a final practical exam at the end of Year 11. The three components are:

Component One – Exploring the Performing Arts (Internally assessed – 30% of final grade)

Pupils will practically study three texts of varying styles and genres of performance whilst continually analysing the stylistic qualities of each. They will then prepare a presentation explaining these differences and elaborating on their findings. The three chosen texts are *The Woman in Black*, *Blood Brothers* and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Component Two – Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (Internally assessed – 30% of final grade)

This unit is all about learning and honing new skills to perform a 10-minute extract from a published play in groups of between 2 and 5 people. This unit is largely practical and allows pupils to explore the various ways in which a character can be presented. Pupils must keep a regular journal of their progress and development of skills but, by and large, the main focus of this component takes place through practical rehearsals.

Component Three – Responding to a brief (Externally assessed – 40% of final grade)

Using the skills, techniques and understanding of performance that have been developed over the previous two components, pupils will be given a stimulus and have to create a 12-15 minute performance in a chosen style in groups of between 2 and 5. This allows pupils to use their creative talent to put together a piece of drama that interests them. There are three short essays that pupils must complete at regular intervals through the devising process but this component is primarily assessed on practical ability.

Option Subject - GCSE French 2024-2026

Further information available from Ms Williams

What does French involve?

The French Edexcel GCSE course covers the following themes:

My personal world, lifestyle and wellbeing, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future, travel and tourism.

Within these themes, students will find many of the areas familiar from Key Stage 3, such as: me, my family and friends; free-time activities; home, town, neighbourhood and region; life at school. The course will enable you to describe events and activities, and express yourself in French. You will develop communication skills that will allow you to travel and open up job opportunities around the world.

What should I do to succeed?

- Have an interest in other cultures.
- Be prepared to work hard in lessons and at home, revising vocabulary and structures.
- Try hard in all lessons and develop resilience in learning.
- Always be prepared to “have a go” and not be afraid to make mistakes!

How is the course marked?

To attain this qualification, candidates acquire the necessary linguistic skills to perform tasks in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Each skill is worth 25% of the final GCSE and all are tested through externally assessed final exams at Foundation or Higher tier.

Possible careers

In today's jobs market, many employers consider the study of a modern foreign language a definite advantage.

Many universities require a Modern Language GCSE from applicants.

- Education: French teacher or teach English abroad
- Translation / Interpretation
- Editing / Proofreading
- Travel, Tourism, Hospitality: tour guide; air steward/hostess; hotel staff; chef; waiter
- Foreign Service: ambassador; diplomat
- International Development: charity work; think tank research
- Law

Useful website

<http://french.about.com/od/francophonie/ss/jobs-using-french.htm>

Option Subject - GCSE Spanish 2024-2026

Further information available from Ms Williams

What does Spanish involve?

The Spanish Edexcel GCSE course covers the following themes:

My personal world, lifestyle and wellbeing, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future, travel and tourism.

Within these themes, students will find many of the areas familiar from Key Stage 3, such as: me, my family and friends; free-time activities; home, town, neighbourhood and region; life at school. The course will enable you to describe events and activities, and express yourself in Spanish. You will develop communication skills that will allow you to travel and open up job opportunities around the world.

What should I do to succeed?

- Have an interest in other cultures
- Be prepared to work hard in lessons and at home, revising vocabulary and structures.
- Try hard in all lessons and develop resilience in learning.
- Always be prepared to “have a go” and not be afraid to make mistakes!

How is the course marked?

To attain this qualification, candidates acquire the necessary linguistic skills to perform tasks in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Each skill is worth 25% of the final GCSE and all are tested through externally assessed final exams at Foundation or Higher tier.

Possible careers

In today's jobs market, many employers consider the study of a modern foreign language a definite advantage.

Many universities require a Modern Language GCSE from applicants.

- Education: Spanish teacher or teach English abroad
- Translation / Interpretation
- Editing / Proofreading
- Travel, Tourism, Hospitality: tour guide; air steward/hostess; hotel staff; chef; waiter
- Foreign Service: ambassador; diplomat
- International Development: charity work
- Law

Useful website

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/spanish/jobs-that-require-spanish/>

Option Subject - GCSE Geography 2024-2026

Further information available from Mrs Harman and Miss Turvey

What does Geography involve?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. The subject will give you the chance to 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 the world. A key aspect of the course will be the study of the geography of the UK as well as the wider world. Topics covered will include a study of the formation of different landscapes, factors affecting population and environmental challenges at a UK and global scale.

What should I do to succeed?

Have a genuine interest in the subject matter and a desire to learn about your local area and the wider world. To have an active role in making decisions and problem solving. To spend time outside of lessons researching/reading about current events.

There are opportunities to develop a range of skills such as map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. Fieldwork or working outside the classroom is a really important part of Geography and throughout the course there will be opportunities to take part in school-based and local field work.

How is the course marked?

The course is marked via three exams:

Paper 1: Marked out of 88 (Lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes)

Paper 2: Marked out of 88 (Lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes)

Paper 3: 76 marks (1 hour and 15 minutes)

Possible careers

- Architecture
- Meteorology (Weather)
- Management
- Environmental Consultant
- Volcanologist
- Hydrographer
- Climatologist
- Environmental Planner

Useful websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc>

<https://www.rgs.org/choosegeography>

Option Subject - OCR GCSE History B 2024-2026

Further information available from Ms Smith and Miss Cavill

What does History involve?

By choosing GCSE History you will be able to: understand how and why the world came to be as it is today, as History asks 'how did things get to be this way?'; handle and analyse data; develop excellent communication and writing skills; learn how to construct an argument to solve all sorts of problems; question how reliable information is; learn how to select relevant and significant evidence; learn how to effectively organise information; develop research skills.

History deals with big issues that affect you every day: racism, power, war, politics, discrimination and terrorism. Therefore, it is a vital subject for you to truly understand the world that we live in today.

What should I do to succeed?

In Year 10 and 11 we will focus on the content and skills you need for your examination and enjoyment of History, including a historical site study visit. We will cover these exciting events from our past:

Component 1—British History: The thematic study overtime, The People's Health c.1250 to Present, will evaluate the changes and continuities made to the way we diagnose and treat people, from a time where it was legitimately believed that God caused the Plague, to the development of our modern NHS and discoveries such as penicillin. The depth study focuses on the Elizabethan period (1580-1603) during which time our country faced severe pressure due to possible and actual invasion and encourages students to engage with a range of ways in which history is constructed and interpreted.

Component 2—History Around Us: Students study the history of a selected site. Studying the history around them provides a valuable approach to studying history, and helps students find a connection with the lives of people from the past.

Component 3—World History: The period study, Viking Expansion c.750-c.1050, offers the opportunity to study the narrative of a wider world society during a particularly interesting period in its history. The world depth study, Living under Nazi Rule 1933-1945, enables learners to develop an understanding of a traumatic short period in world history when different cultures or ideologies were in conflict.

How is the course marked?

You will sit three exam papers based on the components studied.

Possible careers

Genealogy (researching ancestors), Antique dealing/Auctioneering, Stonemasonry/Property restoration, Anthropology (researching humans)

Useful Website

http://www.history.org.uk/resources/public_resource_2914_76.html

Costs

Revision Guide — £18

Site study visit to Chepstow Castle — £15 (approx)

Option Subject - WJEC Hospitality and Catering Level 1/2

Further information available from Mrs Watts

What does Hospitality and Catering involve?

The WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering award is designed for learners who want an introduction to food and cookery that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the food industry or progress onto further study.

You will develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as knowledge regarding nutrition and also transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

Areas of study are shown below:

Content area 1: Health and safety relating to food, nutrition and the cooking environment
Content area 2: Food legislation and food provenance
Content area 3: Food groups, key nutrients and a balanced diet
Content area 4: Factors affecting food choice
Content area 5: Food preparation, cooking skills and techniques
Content area 6: Recipe amendment, development and evaluation
Content area 7: Menu and action planning for completed dishes

What should I do to succeed?

Be passionate about food and nutritional theory as well as practical cooking. The award consists of both 60% coursework (non exam assessment) and also an externally marked exam - 40%. Due to the nature of the coursework, it is extremely important that you are able to meet strict deadlines when producing your work. Your timetable will usually consist of three theory lessons, which include written work based upon the topics shown above, and two practical lessons per fortnight. As many practical/evaluation lessons run over two or three days, it is extremely important that you attend EVERY lesson.

How is the course marked?

Unit 1 - 1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment, externally set and externally marked written exam (40%)

Unit 2 - 12 hour non-exam assessment, externally set, internally marked and externally moderated synoptic project, including a 3 hour practical cooking assessment (60%)

Possible careers

- Chef
- Hotel and Bar Management
- Events Manager
- Food Technologist
- Food Manufacturing
- Tourism / Hotel Concierge
- Cruise Ship Hospitality and Catering
- Community Education Officer
- Health Improvement Practitioner
- International Aid/development Worker
- Nutritionist/Nutritional Therapist

Option Subject - OCR GCSE Computer Science 2024-2026

Further information available from Mr Strachan

What does Computer Science involve?

Computer Science involves learning and applying the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.

Students will learn to:

- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

What should I do to succeed?

The qualification involves a great deal of programming (using python). Anyone interested in computer programming would benefit from taking this course.

How is the course marked?

The course is examined using 2 papers each lasting 90 minutes and worth 50% of the total marks.

Paper 1: Computer systems— This paper covers the theoretical aspects of computer science.

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming —This paper deals with the skills and knowledge students develop when programming.

Possible careers

- Web design
- Programming
- Games development
- Network engineer
- Network manager
- Systems analysts

Option Subject - BTEC Tech Award Music Practice 2024-2026

Further information available from Mr Brinson

What does Music involve?

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- Development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music such as responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music industry, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal and performance to respond to a music industry brief
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the music industry, including personal management and communication
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as musical skills and styles.

This Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes, by broadening experience and skills participation in different types of musical techniques for different musical styles. The Award gives learners the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills in a practical way through exploration and development of techniques and styles.

How is the course marked?

The course is divided into 3 Components, listed below; all coursework based, with varying guided learning hours (GLH).

Component 1 will be completed in Year 10; Component 2 spans both Years 10 and 11, whilst Component 3, which is set to an external brief, will be studied from January to May of Year 11.

Component 1—Exploring music products and styles

Assessed internally

Component 2—Music skills development

Assessed internally

Component 3—Responding to a commercial music brief

Assessed external synoptic

Possible careers

The music industry is a vibrant, exciting and highly competitive industry that contributed around £5.8 billion to the UK economy in 2019, with the live sector alone contributing £1.3 billion to the economy.

The industry is constantly evolving and finding new ways of reaching out to audiences as well as continuing to offer many exciting new work opportunities, across many sectors; from performers and composers to producers, and so much more.

Costs

Music lessons — up to £150 for a block of 10 lessons for the term.

Further financial support may be available to students who require this.

Option Subject - GCSE Photography 2024-2026

Further information available from Miss Price

What does Photography involve?

The Photography GCSE helps to diversify the Art curriculum. Photography is defined here as the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images.

Within this course there is flexibility to experiment with one or more of the following areas of Photography: portraiture; location photography; studio photography; experimental imagery; documentary photography; moving image; film, video and animation and fashion photography.

Analyse and develop how ideas, themes, subjects and feelings can inspire creative responses informed by different styles, genres and aesthetic considerations and/or an individual's distinctive view of the world.

Use photographic techniques and processes, appropriate to student's personal intentions, for example: lighting, viewpoint, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement, digital media programs and related technologies.

What should I do to succeed?

If you are creative, and enjoy practical activities and exploring art then it could be for you.

Photography is fun, but also involves hard work. Most people find that their Photography coursework, which makes up 100% of the qualification, requires more effort than they expected.

The blend of qualities that you need are; a desire to be creative, lots of enthusiasm, dedication, different ways of thinking, new ideas and being able to complete homework.

It is not essential to have your own digital camera, but it is an advantage as you are required to be independent and develop your work outside of the classroom.

Possible careers

- Photographer
- Film Maker
- Photojournalist
- Documentary Maker
- Visual Merchandising
- Graphic Design
- Fashion Design
- Games Design
- Illustrator and Artist

Costs

Sketchbook, folder and SD card- £7.50

Option Subject - OCR GCSE PE 2024-2026

(additional to Core PE taken by all students)

Further information available from Mr Hayward

What does PE involve?

The course equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to develop their own performance in sport. They develop their understanding of socio-cultural influences on participation in sport, and the benefits of physical activity to health, fitness and well-being.

The course has a heavy practical element and students will be practically assessed in three activities, including at least one 'team' and at least one 'individual' sport from the approved activity lists, all performed in competitive situations. We would therefore suggest that students who choose this subject have a keen interest in playing sports and already play sports both for the school and for clubs outside of school.

What should I do to succeed?

Be passionate about practical sport and the theory linked to sport - anatomy and physiology & physical training, socio-cultural influences, sports psychology & health, fitness and well-being. The award consists of both 60% exam and 40% coursework which includes written and practical work. Due to the nature of the coursework, it is extremely important that you are able to meet strict deadlines and you must be physically fit and free from injury or illness to complete the practical requirements. As the practical element is performance based it is recommended that you already regularly take part in sport for school and club as this will help with your performance scores.

How is the course marked?

The course has four units in total

- Physical factors affecting performance: This component will assess: Applied anatomy and physiology & Physical training. This is assessed by a 60 minute written exam.
- Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology: This component will assess: Socio-cultural influences, Sports psychology & Health, fitness and well-being. This is assessed by a 60 minute written exam.
- Practical Performances: This component will assess core and advanced skills in three activities taken from the approved lists: one from the 'individual' list, one from the 'team' list & one other from either list. This is assessed in lessons and will be moderated externally on a moderation day with other schools.
- Analysis and Evaluation of Performance: This component draws upon the knowledge, understanding and skills a student has learnt and enables them to analyse and evaluate their own or a peer's performance in one activity. This is assessed by a written task that must be produced under controlled conditions (controlled coursework).

Possible careers

- Professional Sportsperson
- Sports Therapist
- Sports Journalist
- Personal Trainer
- Sports Coach

Careers Advice

Further information available from Mrs Dobson
adobson@5acreshighschool.co.uk

You can use the following websites to research possible careers and explore ideas about your next steps. You may get ideas about which subjects to take as different careers sometimes require specific qualifications. For some jobs and careers you will need to go to university, for others it is an option.

National Careers Service

Use this to explore jobs and what qualifications and skills are needed

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles>.

icloud

Take the Buzz Quiz profile test to see what careers could suit your personality. This is a really good site for seeing things as they really are. You can watch a five-minutes video of people working in a particular industry and find out how they got their job and the training required. There is also some detailed LMI (Labour Market Information) available, which tells you where jobs are available geographically, and what you could earn.

www.icould.com/buzz

Apprenticeship schemes

Use this to look for apprenticeship vacancies - both locally and nationally, it might give you some ideas of what apprenticeships are on offer.

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

SACU

Great independent and impartial source of careers information. Take the Spartan Test, which gives you a list of careers you might consider based on your answers. There is also a wealth of research material.

sacu-student.com

Plus

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice>

www.college.police.uk