KEY STAGE 4 EXPERIENCE BOOKLET 2018

King's Academy Ringmer

Contents

CORE SUBJECTS

Subject	English Language
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**1 GCSE 9 - 1**

What will I learn?

English now follows the new specification in which students are examined on English Language and English Literature as two separate GCSEs that form one course.

The new GCSE from 2015 is exam only, meaning students will no longer complete controlled assessments or coursework in class. For Language, students will study reading and writing skills for both fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, which will be tested over two 1 hour 45 minute exams. The exams will be a series of short and long answer questions for reading and one extended writing question which is marked for both content and technical accuracy.

Students are also required to deliver a short presentation for the Spoken Language element of the course. This is an enjoyable part of the GCSE that allows students to express themselves and develop in confidence. Although this no longer contributes towards the overall grade awarded for English Language, students gain a separate mark of pass, merit or distinction for this component.

How will I be assessed?

During the course students will be prepared for two end of course exams:

1. Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
    - Section A – Reading: one literature fiction text
    - Section B – Writing: descriptive or narrative writing

2. Paper 2 – Viewpoints and Perspectives
    - Section A – Reading: one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
    - Section B – Writing: writing to present a viewpoint

Will this course suit me?

All students study English Language and English Literature.

What could this course lead to?

The successful study of English GCSE provides essential skills for both the workplace and further study. The three cornerstones of English (communicating, reading and writing) are necessary in all aspects of life.

Subject	English Literature
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**1 GCSE 9 - 1**

What will I learn?

English now follows the new specification in which students are examined on English Language and English Literature as two separate GCSEs that form one course.

In English Literature you will study a Shakespeare text, a 19th Century novel, a modern novel and poetry. The course from 2015 is exam only, meaning knowledge of all of these texts will be tested in exams at the end of the two-year course in a 'closed book' format.

How will I be assessed?

For English Literature you will complete two exams:

1. Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
    - You will answer a question on each of these texts using an extract as a starting point

2. Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry
    - You will answer one essay question from a choice of two on the novel you have studied
    - For poetry you will answer one comparative question on one named poem and one poem of your choice from the cluster you have studied
    - You will also answer two questions on an unseen poem

What could this course lead to?

The study of literature encourages analytical understanding, communication and insight into our literary heritage. The skills developed through the study of English Literature are marketable in a wide variety of professional areas such as: journalism and other areas of media, law, publishing, advertising, arts administration, library and information management, as well as teaching and academia.

Subject	Mathematics
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**1 GCSE 9 - 1**

What will I learn?

Students develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

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

The aims and objectives of the AQA GCSE (9–1) in
Mathematics are to enable students to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

How will I be assessed?

Three written papers all equally weighted towards the final grade. There is no coursework element to this GCSE. The first paper is without a calculator while the second and third papers will require the use of a scientific calculator.

Will this course suit me?

This course builds on the ideas seen at KS3 and will suit all students. Maths is an exciting subject that requires deep understanding and the ability to solve some quite complex problems. The maths course therefore is not just about numeracy, although this is a vital element of maths. It is more about looking at a problem, then selecting the best method to use to solve it. Maths is about accumulating knowledge; thus homework is a vital element to this acquisition of knowledge. Maths suits everybody, but requires effort and the ability to learn from mistakes.

What could this course lead to?

GCSE is an entry requirement for many further and higher education courses. Mathematics is directly relevant for careers in computing, teaching, accountancy, engineering, market research, science and banking.

Success in the Mathematics course will develop skills in the following areas:

Cognitive skills

- **Non-routine problem solving** – expert thinking, metacognition, creativity.
- **Systems thinking** – decision making and reasoning.
- **Critical thinking** – definitions of critical thinking are broad and usually involves general cognitive skills such as analysing, synthesising and reasoning skills.
- **ICT literacy** - access, manage, integrate, evaluate, construct and communicate.

Interpersonal skills

- **Communication** – active listening, oral communication, written communication, assertive communication and non-verbal communication.
- **Relationship-building skills** – teamwork, trust, intercultural sensitivity, service orientation, self-presentation, social influence, conflict resolution and negotiation.
- **Collaborative problem solving** – establishing and maintaining shared understanding, taking appropriate action, establishing and maintaining team organisation.

Intrapersonal skills

- **Adaptability** – ability and willingness to cope with the uncertain, handling work stress, adapting to different personalities, communication styles and cultures, and physical adaptability to various indoor and outdoor work environments.
- **Self-management and self-development** – ability to work remotely in virtual teams, work autonomously, be self-motivating and self-monitoring, willing and able to acquire new information and skills related to work.

Transferable skills enable young people to face the demands of further and higher education, as well as the demands of the workplace, and are important in the teaching and learning of this qualification.

Science

In Science, students follow one of two pathways during KS4, taking either Combined Science (worth two GCSE's) or GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Separate Science, worth three GCSE's in total). In Year 9, all students have now started on the separate science route. In Year 10, some students will continue with separate science, and others will be moved to the combined science route.

Subject	**Combined Science**
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**2 GCSE's 1-9**

What will I learn?

This course covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Science is a set of ideas about the material world. Students will investigate, observe, experiment, test out ideas, and think about them. Scientific ideas flow through the science curriculum, and help students to build a deep understanding of science. This involves talking about, reading and writing about science plus the actual doing, as well as representing science in its many forms both mathematically and visually through models. This science curriculum encourages the development of knowledge and understanding in science through opportunities for working scientifically. Working scientifically is the sum of all the activities that scientists do.
Students complete 'required practical activities' throughout the course, and a selection of these practical activities will be assessed in the examinations.

How will I be assessed?

6 Examinations: 100%

The 6 exams (2 each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are each worth 70 marks (75 minutes) and worth 16.7% of the GCSE.

Content:

- Biology paper 1: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
- Biology paper 2: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
- Chemistry paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
- Chemistry paper 2: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.
- Physics paper 1: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
- Physics paper 2: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

Students will be entered for the tier that most suits their ability (Higher grades 9-4, Foundation grades 5 –1). The level of examination entry is determined by end of topic test performance and mock examinations.

Will this course suit me?

This is a course for most students in KS4, as it leads to a broad range of understanding in many areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What could this course lead to?

Preparation for AS/A2. Needs to be followed by any student with a science requirement for college.

Subject	Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**3 GCSE's 1-9**

What will I learn?

The same broad topics as for combined science, but in greater depth and some additional content within each topic.

How will I be assessed?

6 Examinations: 100%

The 6 exams (2 each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are each worth 100 marks (105 minutes) and worth 50% of each GCSE (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Will this course suit me?

You should really enjoy Science and be keen to study it further in great depth.

You should be expecting to achieve at least a 4 in Science at the end of KS3, and want to take science for A level.

What could this course lead to?

Excellent preparation for students wishing to take any science at AS/A2. A must for future doctors, vets or dentists etc.

ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

Subject	Art, Craft & Design
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**1 GCSE grade: 9 to 1**

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What will I learn?

A GCSE course in Art and Design offers an opportunity for candidates to express themselves visually in a wide range of contexts relating to their personal interests. As a fundamental part of their course, candidates should work on producing individual and unique pieces of artwork. Art, craft and design develops candidates' interdisciplinary skills – 2d and 3d formal elements, their capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence. Students are encouraged to be creative and imaginative, to enquire and question and to make connection with artists and other influences. Students will need to manipulate materials, processes and technologies, responding, experimenting, adapting their thinking, and arriving at diverse solutions.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (Coursework) 60 %
This involves two projects. This will include sketchbooks; A1 presentation boards; working design drawings and a final outcome. The final outcome needs to be a personal response of the project and needs to have a minimum of 10 hours spent on it. There will also be a trip to a gallery or museum, to enrich student's experiences of art and support the assessment objectives. As well as the annual Art & MFL trip- recently 2017 & 2018 Barcelona.
Unit 2 (Externally Set Assignment) 40 %
This is a 10 hour exam. Students are given a list of titles to choose from and have a limited number of weeks to research and develop ideas in order to produce a final outcome in the exam.

Will this course suit me?

This would suit you if you enjoy being creative and thinking outside of your box. If you enjoy creating, making and want to combine visual communication. You will work with a spectrum of 2D materials including painting, drawing, printing, photography and use a range of 3D materials, for example, wire, mod roc and fashion.

What can this course lead to?

This course is an ideal foundation if you are interested in studying art, textiles, photography and ceramics post 16. This course is the fundamental pathway for students wishing to focus their education on creative avenues and the basis of other creative A Level courses. This course is enjoyable and allows students to express their ideas and experiences added to the development of their art technique.

There are a wide range of career paths within the arts, including: teacher, architect, interior designer, fashion designer, artist, set designer, photographer and computer game designer, artist, illustrator, film and animator.

Subject	Computer Science
Examination Board	Edexcel
Worth	1 GCSE 9-1

What will I learn?

You will be introduced to core principles of computer science and develop skills in problem solving and computational thinking. This builds on skills learned in Key Stages 1 to 3 in Computer Science/IT. Following on from more visual programming environments your programming skills will be further developed using high-level textual programming languages.

You will learn the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.

You will learn how to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.

You will learn about the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems – networks and the internet. Also the impact of digital technology on the individual and to wider society – environmental issues, privacy and security. You will apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

How will I be assessed?

Principles of Computer Science (40% of GCSE)
Examination 1 (1 hour 40 minutes)
This paper consists of multiple-choice, short open response, open response and extended open response answer questions.

Application of computational thinking (40% of GCSE)
Examination 2 (2 hours)
This paper is based on a scenario. It consists of short open response, open response and extended open-response answer questions.

Content:
Algorithms, program code, binary representation, data representation, data storage and compression, encryption and databases, components of computer systems, truth tables, logic statements, computer networks, the internet and the worldwide web, emerging trends in computing technologies, the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Project (20% of GCSE)
You will develop a computer program. The content for this component will draw on:
- algorithms, decomposition and abstraction
- design, write, test and refine a program
- data representation.

Will this course suit me?

If you are passionate about working in computing, industrious, good at meeting deadlines, good at Maths (Target of 5 or above at GCSE) and expect to work with ICT in the future, this course will suit you. Do you think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically?

What could this course lead to?

The GCSE in Computer Science will help you develop the core skills for working with computers and would therefore be useful if you are aiming to go straight into employment. It will also prepare you for the BTEC National Award, an Advanced Subsidiary or Advanced GCE or Applied GCE in IT/Computing or an NVQ or in a related discipline.

Subject	Dance
Examination Board	**AQA Specification 8236 Performing Arts Dance**
Worth	**1 GCSE 1-9**

What will I learn?

You will develop knowledge, understanding and skills of dance through Performance, Composition and Appreciation of your own and others' work. GCSE Dance is a practical course designed for students who are enthusiastic about dance. It is open to all students, although some experience of dance is necessary. Dance is an empowering and powerful form of non-verbal communication which enables the development of creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. Dance is both physical and expressive – this is what makes it similar to and different from other art forms and physical activities.
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How will I be assessed?

The course is split into two components, Performance & Choreography and Dance Appreciation

Component One - Performance & Choreography (60%)
What's assessed:
Performance: (30%)
You will learn four set phrases and perform two as a solo (approx. 45 seconds each)
Collaboratively choreograph either a duet or a trio based on the set phrases **not** being performed as a solo (three minutes in a dance which is a maximum of five minutes in duration).
Choreography: (30%)
Either a solo choreography (2-2.5 minutes) or group choreography (3-3.5 minutes), choreographed in response to a range of stimuli chosen by the exam board.

The practical component is marked out of 80 and is worth 60% of the overall GCSE Grade. This is a non-exam assessment (NEA) marked by the centre (here at school) and moderated by AQA.

Component Two: Dance Appreciation (40%)
What's assessed:
Knowledge and Appreciation of choreographic processes and performing skills
Critical Appreciation of your own work
Critical Appreciation of professional dance works

40% of the overall GCSE grade and is assessed through a 90 minute written exam.

Will this course suit me?

Students opting for GCSE Dance should demonstrate the willingness to commit to extracurricular activities and at least two theatre trips. If you have a good level of practical performance and compositional skills and enjoy working and dancing with others, this could be a course for you. If you are taking Physical Education, dance can help to increase your flexibility, strength and stamina equally it can complement skills needed for Drama and builds confidence. However, if you do not want to continue with a career in Dance but enjoy working in a physically challenging and creative environment then you should consider this course. You must be prepared to perform to peers and in public and should not have any long term injuries/conditions. You will also be expected to learn sequences as well as choreograph your own dances.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities
In previous years GCSE Dance students have been involved in workshops with professional dancers such as James Cousins Company and we have also run a range of trips to see companies including: The Balletboyz, Matthew Bourne, Jasmin Vardimon and Rambert.

Students are expected to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular dance activities including the GCSE Evening, the annual Dance show in March and regular after school clubs and rehearsals after school. In year 11, students will also be expected to run their own individual rehearsals for their final choreography pieces.

What could this course lead to?

This course is an ideal basis for anyone looking towards a career in expressive arts and it is a good foundation for AS/A level or BTEC performing Arts. Dance helps students to express themselves both physically and verbally. It boosts confidence and facilitates a widening of personal horizons.

Subject	D & T Paper and Boards specialising in Graphic Design
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**1 GCSE 9-1**

What will I learn?

Core technical principles:
New and emerging technologies, Energy storage and generation, Modern and Smart materials, Systems, Mechanical devices, Materials and their properties.

Specialist technical principles relating to Graphic products including papers and boards.
You will be able to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems in graphical contexts relating to your personal interests. Design and Technology develops your capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.
You will undertake design and make projects in year 10 which are based on printing and packaging before starting your major project.

The course provides opportunities for you to apply aesthetic, moral, social, economic and industrial awareness in your design work. You will be encouraged to use a range of communication skills, including verbal, graphical, ICT and modelling skills.

How will I be assessed?

EXAM PAPER:- Design Technology written paper (50% of GCSE)

- **Section A (20marks) Core technical principles:**

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

- **Section B (30 marks) Specialist technical principles**

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – (50 marks) Designing and making principles
A mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12-mark design question.

PRACTICAL:- Design and make task (50% of GCSE)
Investigating, Designing, Making, Analysing and evaluating
You will carry out an analysis of the given problem, generate a range of ideas for solutions and develop them. You will then plan the making, carry out the making, shape, form and assemble your prototype and evaluate the project. You will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

Will this course suit me?

This would suit you if you have good making, presentation, drawing and rendering skills or you are looking to improve on these. You will work with a spectrum of 2D materials including plastics, card, Styrofoam and paper to make models and build 3D pieces like point of sale

displays, pop up books and board games. Use of CAD/CAM including Photoshop and 2D design plays a big part in this subject.

What could this course lead to?

Design Technology is recommended as a preparation for A Level Design & Technology. It is also a basis for working in the fields of Web Design, Printing, Corporate Identity, Typography, Architecture, model making and TV and media.

Subject	D & T Electronic and Mechanical systems (Engineering Option)
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**1 GCSE 9-1**

What will I learn?

Core technical principles:
New and emerging technologies, Energy storage and generation, Modern and Smart materials, Systems, Mechanical devices, Materials and their properties.

Specialist technical principles relating to electronic and mechanical products.
You will be able to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems in electronic contexts relating to your personal interests. Design and Technology develops your capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.
You will undertake design and make projects in year 10 which are based on electronics before starting your major project.

The course provides opportunities for you to apply aesthetic, moral, social, economic and industrial awareness in your design work. You will be encouraged to use a range of communication skills, including verbal, graphical, ICT and modelling skills.

How will I be assessed?

EXAM PAPER :- Design Technology written paper (50% of GCSE)

- **Section A (20marks) Core technical principles:**

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

- **Section B (30 marks) Specialist technical principles**

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – (50 marks) Designing and making principles

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12 mark design question.

PRACTICAL :- Design and make task (50% of GCSE)
Investigating, Designing, Making, Analysing and evaluating
You will carry out an analysis of the given problem, generate a range of ideas for solutions and develop them. You will then plan the making, carry out the making, shape, form and assemble your prototype and evaluate the project. You will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

Will this course suit me?

This would suit you if you are good at maths, computer science and problem solving and enjoy logical thought processes. You will work with a range of electronic components including

programmable chips, transistors and integrated circuits to design, construct and test prototype circuits. You will be interested in how things work and have an inquisitive mind. Use of CAD/CAM including circuit wizard and 2D design plays a big part in this subject.

What could this course lead to?

Design Technology is recommended as a preparation for A Level Design & Technology. It is also a basis for working in the fields of engineering, product design and electronics.

Subject	**Drama**

Examination Board	Edexcel
Worth	1 GCSE graded 9 - 1

What will I learn?

Students will learn a variety of acting techniques and drama forms and work within a number of dramatic styles and genres: Devised work, performing and exploring a script from an actor/director's point of view, improvisation, role-play. All GCSE students will perform to an audience as a vital part of the assessment. Theatre trips will allow students to see professional actors and directors at work. A written exam will ask students to demonstrate their understanding of text in performance and the meaning created through lighting, sound, set design and costume. This is a highly practical course with 60% of student's marks given for their practical skills and application.

How will I be assessed?

There are three components to this examination:

- Component 1 – 40% Devised performance based on a stimulus/theme
- Component 2 – 20% Performance of a text
- Component 3 – 40% Theatre makers in practice – written exam

Will this course suit me?

You should be someone who enjoys working with others in a collaborative way. All students are required to contribute in the lessons, whether in discussion work, developing group ideas, or getting up and performing in front of others. You will therefore need a certain amount of confidence to *"have a go"*.

Drama is a creative and artistic art form, and through this course you will be working to develop a creative approach to performance and stage work.

What could this course lead to?

This course offers an ideal foundation to A Level Theatre Studies, A Level Performing Arts, Btec National Diploma in Performing Arts, and certain media courses.

The qualification is an indicator to employers and admissions tutors of a pupil's confidence, creativity and communication skills and their ability to effectively in groups – leading, contributing and negotiating.

The arts and entertainment industries are the single largest growth area in UK employment.

Subject	Food Preparation and Nutrition

Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**1 GCSE – Grade 9-1**

What will I learn?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a new exciting and creative course which focuses on practical skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food Nutrition and Health
- Food Science
- Food Safety
- Food Choice
- Food Provenance

The majority of the specification will be delivered in Year Ten and will include both practical and written work. Practical activities will be undertaken to reinforce the work covered and develop practical skills therefore ingredients will be required on a regular basis.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Full Course
One tier of assessment covering Grades 9-1
Paper 1: Written Examination: 50% 1 hour 45 minutes
Section1: Multiple choice questions (20 marks)
Section 2: Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)
Non-exam Assessment (NEA): 50%
Task 1: Food Investigation
This will examine understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Students will be required to produce a written report (1,500 – 2,000 words).
Task 2: Food Preparation Assessment
This will examine knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to a chosen task.
Students will be required to prepare, cook and present three dishes made within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.
The assessments above will be carried out in Year 11.

Will this course suit me?

This course is for you if you:

- are interested in food and food preparation
- would like to develop your practical skills
- showed flair and creativity in Key Stage Three
- are well organised
- have good presentation skills
- are prepared to work hard and achieve your best

What could this course lead to?

A wide variety of career opportunities including:

- jobs in the Hospitality and Catering Industry e.g. Chef, Food and Beverage Manager, Hotelier, Contract Caterer, Restaurant Manager
- Environmental Health Officer
- Biotechnologist
- Nutritionist
- Food Scientist
- Dietician
- Market Researcher
- Food Stylist

Subject	**Geography**
Examination Board	**AQA spec A**

Worth	1 GCSE graded from 9 to 1

What will I learn?

In GCSE Geography you will learn about the world around you – both the physical factors which shape the Earth and the way that the actions of human beings affect it. You will also develop key geographical skills covering: graphical skills, numerical skills, statistical skills, cartographical skills and atlas skills.

You will study:

Physical Geography

Natural Hazards – We explore the earth's inner heat and its role in plate tectonics, volcanoes and earthquakes. This is then followed by studying weather hazards, with particular focus on tropical storms. What are the effects of climate change and how do we manage them?

The living world – the world we live in is home to incredible places and ecosystems and this topic investigates rainforests and hot deserts. What strategies can be used to reduce the risk of desertification?

Physical landscapes in the UK – We look at the ways our coastlines are shaped by the sea and the effects of coastal erosion. In addition, you will study river processes and landforms. Finally, we evaluate attempts to control and manage flood events. How can flood risk be reduced?

Human Geography

Urban issues and challenges – Already more than 50% of us live in in urban areas now. This topic compares the challenges and opportunities in rich and poor parts of the world. Are cities a positive development for our planet or simply a sprawling nightmare?

The changing economic world – In this topic you will explore why global economic development is so uneven, what causes this and you will explore strategies to close the development gap. Can everyone be rich?

The challenges of resource management – Have you ever wondered where our water comes from? Is this topic you will explore if there is enough drinking water for everyone on the Earth and how water supply can be managed. You will also explore where our energy comes from and how energy can be used sustainably.

Fieldwork enquiry

You will investigate a topic by collecting data as part of a fieldwork trip in the local area. You will then present the data, analyse it and then evaluate the whole process. You will have to write about your fieldwork as part of your paper 3 exam.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 Physical geography:- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG)) • 35% of GCSE
Paper 2 Human geography:- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG) • 35% of GCSE
Paper 3 Geographical applications:- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG) • 30% of GCSE • Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before. Paper 3 exam based on pieces of fieldwork in the local area.

Will this course suit me?

This course is for you if you:

- are interested in both human and physical Geography
- would like to develop your graphical, numerical and cartographic skills
- have an enquiring mind
- are interested in global and environmental issues
- don't mind collecting data outside in all weather
- take pride in your work
- are prepared to work hard

What could this course lead to?

Geography is an EBacc GCSE subject and the fifth most desirable degree employers recruit from. It's an excellent springboard to all sorts of careers – the Armed Forces, weather forecasters, architecture, planning, local government, geologists all use geographical skills, but any job which requires you to collect information and analyse it will draw upon your experience in this subject. Also, Geography is viewed favourably by Higher Education institutions, when allocating course places, as it equips students with key skills that are easily transferable.

"Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?" Michael Palin

Subject	History
Examination Board	**Edexcel**
Worth	**1 GCSE 9 - 1**

What will I learn?

This GCSE covers the period 1250 to the present day! From the Black Death in 1348 to Superpowers threatening to blow up the whole world in 1962, the most famous date in history (1066) to the Western Front in World War I and the Nazis destroying democracy in Germany in 1933, students build on their skills of interpreting diverse sources of information, and learn newer skills of critical thinking and problem-solving.

How will I be assessed?

3 written papers. (NO COURSEWORK)
Paper 1: (1 hour 15 minutes).

- Medicine in Britain 1250 – present day
- The British sector of the Western Front 1914–1918 : injuries, treatment and the trenches

Paper 2: (1hr 45 minutes)

- Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-1991
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-1088

Paper 3 : (1 hour 20 minutes)

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

Will this course suit me?

History GCSE will suit you if you have enjoyed History so far, and if you are curious about the events which have shaped the world we live in. There is a fair amount of extended writing, although we also use photographs, films, cartoons, videos, newspapers, letters and diaries as our sources.

What could this course lead to?

History is an Ebacc subject and provides students with a wide range of transferable skills. Principally, students develop the ability to understand and analyse issues and events to a high level of competence. Other marketable skills include:
• a talent for clear expression, both oral and written;
• putting forward ideas and arguments in a concise manner;
• gathering, investigating and assessing material;
• basing conclusions on research and generating ideas;
• organising material in a logical and coherent way.
To employers who recruit people in any discipline, these skills will be more important than the actual subject. In addition, History GCSE is excellent grounding for A-Level study in History, Politics, Classics, Economics, English and further study of these and other enquiry-based subjects. Many journalists, politicians, editors, TV presenters, novelists and those working in advertising and the media have studied History.

Subject	French or Spanish
Examination Board	**Edexcel**
Worth	**1 GCSE 9 - 1**

What will I learn?

GCSE French and Spanish help you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in Spain or France to international campaigns and events. You will learn about Spanish or French culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.
The GCSE is organised into five themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

How will I be assessed?

You will take four exams worth 25% each. You can take foundation or higher level, and you will be given a grade between 1 and 9, with 9 being the highest.

- **Listening.** This requires you to listen to recordings in Spanish/French and answer questions on what you hear. Some of these questions will be multiple-choice and some will need you to write short answers in English and Spanish/French.
- **Reading**. The reading section will give you passages to read and questions to answer. Some of these questions will be multiple-choice and some will need you to write short answers in English and Spanish/French. Passages will be from Spanish/French sources such as emails, magazines and books. You will also need to translate sentences or a short passage from Spanish/French into English.
- **Writing.** In the foundation paper you will write about a photo, write a short passage and write a longer passage on one of a choice of two topics. In the higher paper you will write longer passages about two topics from a choice of four. At both levels there is also a translation exercise, from English into Spanish/French.
- **Speaking.** In this part of the exam you will do a short role play with the examiner and talk about a photo. You will also talk about two of the topics you have studied.

Will this course suit me?

This course builds on the ideas seen at KS3 and will suit all students. The new GCSE has been developed to help students of all abilities progress and develop a passion for languages, through culturally engaging content.

What could this course lead to?

People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world. Here are just some of the advantages:

- Stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons!
- Attract more interest from employers and university courses who are looking for young people who have gained a qualification in MFL
- Have much more fun when travelling to a French / Spanish speaking country
- Be able to continue to study languages at AS and A2 level
- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or to work abroad.
- Feel confident about communicating in a foreign language when travelling. The language learning skills you learn over the 2 years will provide you with the foundations which you can apply to learning other languages

Subject	Materials Technology
Examination Board	**AQA**
Worth	**Level 2 Equivalent to 1 GCSE** **Grades: Level 2 distinction * - Level 1 Credit**

What will I learn?

This Level 1/2 Technical Award in Materials Technology gives you a whole host of easily transferable skills. You will develop a wide range of practical making skills including using hand tools for cutting or shaping, casting or moulding and using joining and finishing techniques in a range of materials.

You will also develop an understanding of commercial processes and an in-depth knowledge of materials and their properties, processes and manufacture, joining components, adhesives and finishes, product specifications, commercial practice and careers opportunities.

Additionally, you will gain transferable skills such as communication and teamwork that will benefit you in the workplace.

You will be making a range of high quality products, prototypes and samples, using woods, metal and polymers (plastics) using traditional skills and modern technologies.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Skills assessment
You will undertake a number of mini projects that will be assessed against 12 practical skills.
30% of overall qualification

Unit 2: Extended making project
You will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills you have developed in Unit 1 and the knowledge you have developed through Unit 3. You will produce a made outcome in addition to a small portfolio to evidence the planning and development and testing and evaluation stages.
30% of overall qualification

Unit 3: Fundamentals of materials technology
Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes:
20 multiple choice questions and a mixture of short answer and extended response questions
You will be assessed on your knowledge and understanding of:

- materials and their working properties
- processes and manufacture
- joining, components, adhesives and finishes
- product specification
- commercial practice
- careers opportunities.

40% of overall qualification

Will this course suit me?

If you want to study materials in a practical way and understand the working properties of woods, metals and polymers you will really enjoy this course. It will enable you to work in a hands-on way to develop the core skills to make high-quality products using woods, metals and polymers. You will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and also modern technologies.

What could this course lead to?

This Technical Award in Materials Technology will help learners develop the knowledge, skills and experience to potentially open the door to a career in related industries. Upon completion, learners can progress to Technical Certificates and other Level 3 vocational qualifications such as NVQ Carpentry or Manufacturing and Production and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design.

Subject	Music
Examination Board	Edexcel
Worth	GCSE 1-9

What will I learn?

The new exciting new Music GCSE course is available to all pupils who have studied music at KS3. Pupils have the opportunity to perform, compose and study music from different times in history and from different cultures. All students learn 8 set works which are new to the syllabus in specific detail, in addition to a suggested list of composers and pieces which complement the set works.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Music is divided into three areas with their assessment percentage:

1 **Performance Coursework 30%:** Pupils have to practice and perform a solo piece and an ensemble piece. The solo performance piece can be for voice or instrument and can be accompanied by a pianist or backing track. The ensemble performance piece can be for a duet, trio, band or larger ensemble. Students may perform with musicians not from their GCSE group.

2 **Composition Coursework 30%:** Pupils have to submit two original compositions. Both compositions need to be in different styles from each other and be presented as a recorded track and music score.

3 **Written examination Paper 40%:** Pupils are required to study 8 different pieces which are called Music GCSE Set Works.

- **Instrumental Music**
- **Vocal Music**
- **Music for Stage and Screen**
- **Fusions**

In the written exam at the end of Year 11, students will need to be able to discuss musical elements in each set work from these categories mentioned above. In addition to answering questions on the 8 set works, students will be played a short excerpt from an unfamiliar piece of music. The unfamiliar piece will originate from a genre relating to one of the set works. They will be required to make comparisons between the unfamiliar piece and a particular set work. This is a new element in this GCSE Music syllabus and will allow students a wider understanding of the genres of music studied at GCSE and aid them to better place their set work learning within context.

Will this course suit me?

This course would suit you if you enjoy listening to and making music. Each lesson is divided into different sections where you will study one of the set works and then spend time on compositional and performance tasks.

What could this course lead to?

Music A/S and A Level, Music Technology A/S and A Level, Creative and Media Diploma, Degree in Music. Working in the fields of: music performance or music technology, recording artist, recording engineer, Music Teaching, TV and media, arts organisations.

Subject	Physical Education
Examination Board	**Edexcel**
Worth	**1 GCSE graded 9 - 1**

What will I learn?

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. You will be assessed in your ability to perform in different sports. You should have an interest in physical education and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy. An interest in Biology, Nutrition, Psychology and Sociology would also be beneficial.

You will:

- develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities
- examine the effects of exercise on the body systems and how training can improve performance
- find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles
- identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity.
- Be Participating in sport outside of the college

Students will also be required to regularly participate in organised sporting activities/clubs in different areas.
Students will be asked to complete a PBL task prior to commencement of the course.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment is split into two key areas:

Theory Examination – Combined worth 60%
Component 1 (1 Hour 45 mins) Applied anatomy & physiology, movement analysis, physical training & Use of data.
Component 2 (1 Hour 15 mins) Health, fitness and well-being, sport psychology, socio-cultural influences & Use of date.

Practical (controlled) Assessment – Combined 40%
Practical Performance- One team activity, one individual activity & one free choice- Skills in isolation and in competitive situation
Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) Aim and planning analysis, carrying out and monitoring the PEP, Evaluation of the PEP

Will this course suit me?

- You will need to have a love of Physical Education and Sport, and be prepared to challenge yourself to reach new levels of performance.
- You are considering a career in a sport related field (see below).

- You are keen on topics such as Biology, Nutrition, Psychology and Movement analysis

If you enjoy:
• sport and recreation
• developing knowledge and understanding through practical involvement
• learning about the benefits of sport and exercise
• improving your own performance in a range of sports roles
• or if you are considering a sports-related career or an A Level/higher education course then our GCSE in Physical Education is the right subject for you.

What could this course lead to?

- A-Level PE / Sports Studies
- BTEC National Sport and Exercise Sciences
- Physical Education Teacher
- Sports Coach
- Sports Physiotherapist
- Sports Psychologist
- Sports Journalist
- Leisure & Recreation Industry
- Uniformed Services

As well as being the ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course, GCSE Physical Education allows for progression to related vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Firsts and Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences. The course develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in areas such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry, the armed forces and the Civil Service.