



Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Year 10 & 11

2024/2025





Contents...

<i>Page 3:</i>	<i>Introduction</i>
<i>Page 4:</i>	<i>How to decide which subject to study at Key Stage 4</i>
<i>Page 5:</i>	<i>Structure of Compulsory Subjects</i>
<i>Page 6:</i>	<i>Pathways at Park High School</i>
<i>Page 7:</i>	<i>English Baccalaureate (EBacc)</i>
<i>Page 8:</i>	<i>Information and Guidance</i>
<i>Page 9– 15:</i>	<i>Compulsory Core Subjects</i>
<i>Page 16 - 34:</i>	<i>GCSE Subject Descriptions</i>
<i>Page 35:</i>	<i>Park High Curriculum Offer</i>

Introduction

At Park High School we aim to provide a broad education for all our students. This enables our students to develop a wide range of capabilities and skills designed to keep further or higher education and career options open. At the same time, the school is committed to ensuring that each student follows a course that is appropriate to their needs and capabilities.

This means that Year 9 students at Park High will be making choices for GCSE courses this academic year. This Preferences booklet will provide you with all the information about the courses on offer and help you work with your child to select the courses they feel best meet their aspirations for the future. In addition, all students will prepare for this process by attending assemblies, talking to teachers and tutors and completing a self-assessment linked to progress and interests. It is hoped that he/she has also been discussing this with you at home.

I am sure that everyone will be aware that excellent attendance, punctuality and behaviour are essential to success at Key Stage 4. Every student will need to maximise the help given by teachers by being in every lesson for each of the subjects that he/she is studying.

This booklet will provide an outline of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum. The rest of this information booklet gives further detail about the individual pathways and preferences open to your child. As well as the courses contained within this booklet all students will follow a course of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education which will include work on Pathways to Employability along with Careers Education.

How to decide what subjects you want to study at Key Stage 4

During Years 7, 8 & 9, all students will have followed the same set of courses as all other students in their year group. As they move into Key Stage 4, however, students will be able to follow a more personalised programme, tailored to their specific needs and interests.

*There will still be some subjects which **all** students will follow. This is the core curriculum:*

English

Mathematics

Science

Philosophy & Ethics

Physical Education

PSHCEe

This year students will complete a Preferences form online in the Spring term.

Structure of courses taken at Key Stage 4

Compulsory subjects for all students at Key Stage 4		
Core subject	Number of qualifications	Comments
English	2	All students take English Literature & English Language
Mathematics	1	Higher or Foundation
Science	3 (or 2)	Separate GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics or a GCSE Combined Science (trilogy: gaining 2certificates).
Core Philosophy & Ethics		In line with our statutory obligation
Core Physical Education		Sports Leader Level 1 Award, National Governing Body Award and St John's Ambulance First Aid Award
PSHCEe		In line with our statutory obligation

Subject Choices at Park High School

Beyond the core curriculum, all students will have the opportunity to select a further four additional courses. We aim to help guide students' decisions so that each student has the greatest opportunity to succeed. We believe that secondary school is a 7-year journey: we strive to ensure that all students can join our 6th Form and then continue to enjoy academic success beyond their time with us.

Depending on individual strengths, students will select subjects from one of the Pathways below:

Based on a range of academic and pastoral indicators, the most appropriate combination of GCSE subjects for your child to follow will include:

A

- one subject from Geography, History or a Modern Foreign Language;
- three further preferences from the full list of subjects available.

Based on a range of academic and pastoral indicators, the most appropriate combination of GCSE subjects for your child to follow will include:

B

- one Humanities subject (either Geography or History)
- a Modern Foreign Language
- two further preferences from the full list of subjects available.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

This is a suite of subjects used as a performance measure. There is no separate qualification or certificate to say you have the EBacc but you will be able to say you have this award if you achieve a grade 5 or above in the following subjects:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- History or Geography
- The Sciences
- A language

The government have informed schools that at least 90% of students should be following these courses and as a school, we would support this.

If a student enjoys these subjects and is likely to be successful in them, we will advocate them selecting a language and a humanities subject within their preference choice. It is also important to note that a range of subjects within the preferences is advisable and, as such, students should consider including a subject from the Arts, Business, Design & Technology, Media Studies and/or Sport Science.

Information and Guidance

Students may be suited to one particular learning approach which should be considered when identifying subject choices.

Students should be very clear about the high mathematical demands of GCSE Business, GCSE Computer Science and GCSE Engineering. Embarking on a course which they will find difficult to access is often a poor choice and can lead to disappointing outcomes at the end of year 11. Please beware of this before selecting one of these courses.

Subject combinations

*The following information must be adhered to. If not, it may affect the courses allocated. Students may only select **one** from:*

- *Art, Craft & Design and Art Photography*
- *GCSE Engineering, GCSE Design Technology and GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition*

COMPULSORY

Core Subject Descriptions



GCSE English Language

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/4505/5

GCSE English Language

Course Overview

The GCSE English Language course is now 100% linear terminal assessment. Students will sit two exam papers for this qualification.

This exam will require learners to:

- read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding
- read critically, and use knowledge gained from wider reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write effectively, coherently, and creatively using Standard English
- write for a variety of purposes and audiences
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary and subject terminology.

Assessment

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Writing Prose (40% of final grade)

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive writing (60% of final grade)

Component 3: Spoken Language (non-exam assessment and unweighted)

20% of the marks for this qualification are awarded for accuracy in spelling, grammar and punctuation.



GCSE English Literature

Course Overview

The course aims to develop students' reading skills and develop their ability to think critically and evaluate texts. They will need to read a wide range of literature and make connections across texts.

Assessment

Students will study prose, drama, and poetry from across a range of time periods and cultural contexts. Like English Language, this will be a linear, terminally assessed course with two 'closed book' exams:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century Novel (40% of final grade)

'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare

Either

'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson

or

'Sign of Four' by Arthur Conan Doyle

Paper 2: Modern Drama/Novel and Poetry (60% of final grade)

'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley

AQA 'Power and Conflict' Poetry Anthology including poems by William Blake, Simon Armitage, and Imtiaz Dharker

Paper 1 will be 1 hour 45 minutes.

Paper 2 will be 2 hours 15 minutes.

[GCSE English Literature](#)

**Exam Board: AQA
8702**



GCSE Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)
1MA1

GCSE Mathematics

Course Overview

Students will start the GCSE Mathematics course in Year 10 and will complete three exam papers at the end of Year 11. With an increase in both content and rigour, both tiers will provide their own challenges for students. The foundation tier will focus more on core mathematical understanding and skills for all students to master, and the higher tier will do this in much greater depth and with more demanding topics.

Assessment

Students will work towards a terminal exam at the end of Year 11. The specification assesses the following objectives that are assessed in all three equally weighted papers, of which one is non-calculator and two are calculator. Each Paper will be of 90 minutes.

Use and apply standard techniques

Foundation:50% Higher:40%

Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically

Foundation:25% Higher:30%

Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts

Foundation:25% Higher:30%

Tier Potential Grades

Foundation: 1-5

Higher 4-9

Examinations will assess the different content domains in these proportions:

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Foundation</u>
Number	15%	25%
Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change	20%	25%
Algebra	30%	20%
Statistics and Probability	15%	15%
Geometry and Measures	20%	15%



GCSE Science

Course Overview

The scientific method teaches students how to think, learn, solve problems and make informed decisions. The practical element in Science will give students opportunities to develop skills handling complex apparatus and to apply theory in a practical context. These skills are integral to every aspect of a student's education and life, from school to career.

mu

Biology

Cells and organisation Diseases and bioenergetics Biological responses
Genetics and reproduction Ecology

Chemistry

Atoms, bonding and moles
Chemical reactions and energy changes Rates, equilibrium and organic chemistry
Analysis and the earth's resources

Physics

Energy and energy resources Particles at work
Forces in action Waves and
electromagnetism
Space (Separate Science only)

Practical

As part of the GCSE course there is a set number of required practicals which will be carried out in lessons. The written exams can draw on any knowledge and skills you have developed in these practicals.

Assessment

*At the end of Year 10, students and parents will be informed of their science pathway, which will be either the Combined Science or Separate Science route. *During the Summer of Year 11, students will sit public exams where questions will be in the form of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response. All students will sit **six written** papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each written paper carries equal weighting, with the option of Foundation and Higher tier. Depending on the pathway taken, the length of the exams will be as follows:

Combined Science (Trilogy) Each written paper is 75 minutes long.

Separate Sciences Each written paper is 105 minutes long.

[GCSE Science](#)

Exam Board: AQA

Bio: 8461

Chem: 8462

Phys: 8463

Comb:8464



Core Philosophy and Ethics

Course overview

Core Philosophy and Ethics enables students to think for themselves about moral, social, philosophical and ethical issues. Exploring spirituality, the course aims to develop students' intellectual curiosity about the world around them helping them to understand how to contribute positively to society as responsible citizens. It also offers students development of skills in discussion, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence.

Core Philosophy and Ethics provides students with opportunities for their own social and cultural development by building an awareness of the multiplicity of worldviews. The subject promotes respect and tolerance for different people's faiths/non-faiths by getting students to think of themselves as 'global citizens' who are not only part of a wide and diverse local community but a worldwide community.

This is achieved by studying topics such as social responsibility, peace and conflict, wealth and poverty, diversity, the environment and medical ethics.

Assessment

Units are assessed using a variety of multiple-choice, short-answer, spoken-word and extended- writing questions. Students will also be given the opportunity to develop speech writing and presentation skills which they can readily transfer to other GCSE subjects such as English Language, Business Studies, Languages and Humanities.

No Exam

Core Physical Education

Course overview

In Year 10 all students continue to receive two PE lessons each week. In these lessons in the summer term, students follow a programme of study that gives them an experience of leadership through sport. This culminates in a final assessment, where students deliver a sports experience to a group of local primary school children. The students learn about the skills and qualities of good leader, they have opportunities to implement these and receive feedback and they will explore how these can be transferred to other contexts. In the first two terms of the year, students will follow a carousel of activities. The emphasis is on applying the skills learnt at KS3 and using these alongside decision making and tactics. Students also develop their understanding of the benefits of taking part in sport and physical activity.

In Year 11 all students also receive two PE lessons each week. Students begin by completing a programme of coaching and officiating. They recap and put into practice, through leadership, the skills and rules required to take part in the activity they are coaching. Later in the year, students then complete the Basic First Aid course from St John Ambulance.

On the leadership courses running in both Year 10 and Year 11, students explicitly work on developing their communication, self-belief, self-management, problem-solving and teamwork. They examine the definitions of the skills and qualities, learn how to apply them through sport and discuss how they are useful in other settings. The lesson focused on participation across Year 10 and Year 11 helps to encourage students to lead balanced, active and healthy lifestyles.



No Exam

English Baccalaureate

Subject Descriptions



GCSE Geography

Course Overview

“Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, but also one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world’s current problems boil down to Geography and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from the city to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities and retail. Studying geography can help people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and enjoyable.

Geography illustrates the past, explains the present and prepares us for the future... what could be more important than that” Michael Palin - Geographer and member of the Royal Geographical Society.

You will study three core themes that cover a variety of topics including globalisation, physical systems and people-world interactions. Some of the skills include graphical and statistical analysis, critical thinking and teamwork; not to mention OS map interpretation!

Assessment

Linear examinations which will occur at the end of Year 11

Component 1: (40%)

Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

Three structured data response questions with some extended answers

Question 1 will assess aspects of Theme 1, Changing Places—Changing Economies. Question 2 will assess aspects of Theme 2, Changing Environments.

Question 3 will assess aspects of Theme 3, Environmental Challenges.

Component 2: (30%)

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Component 3: (30%)

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

A written examination in three parts using a variety of structured data response questions some of which will require extended responses. This paper is based on a ***compulsory residential fieldtrip***.

GCSE Geography

Exam Board: Eduqas

601/8153/9



GCSE History

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)
1HI0

GCSE History

Course overview

History GCSE builds on your learning from Years 7 to 9, focusing on 4 big topics across different periods of time. Together, this helps you understand more about why the UK and the world are the way they are today. You will increase your knowledge of some very important periods in history and develop your application of knowledge by analysing, evaluating, comparing and explaining different features, events, causes, changes, consequences, interpretations and sources of evidence.

Paper 1 (30%) is the thematic study and historic environment. This looks at Medicine in Britain from 1250 to the present, as an overview of the discoveries and developments which led to improved treatment and prevention of diseases and illnesses. There is an in-depth focus on the British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-18, which studies how soldiers were medically treated during World War One. This study is enhanced by a 3-day residential trip to the battlefield sites and war memorials of Belgium and France.

Paper 2 (40%) includes (the period study) Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1945-91, which explores the state of tension and rivalry between the USA and USSR, a conflict which nearly brought the world to nuclear war. It also includes (the British Depth study) Early Elizabethan England 1558-88, which helps you to understand how the conflict between Catholics and Protestants led to wars, rebellions and executions. It is also a period of great change in society, with theatre and overseas exploration flourishing.

Paper 3 (30%) is the Modern Depth Study. This is about Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-39 and investigates how defeat in World War One left Germany in a weakened position, allowing the Nazis to rise to power and impose a brutal and totalitarian regime on the country.

Assessment

You will sit 3 written examinations, with a wide variety of questions ranging from 4 to 16 marks. Exams are between one hour 15 minutes and one hour 45 minutes.



[GCSE Languages](#)

Exam Board: AQA

Fr: 8658

Ge: 8668

Sp: 8698

GCSE MFL FRENCH/GERMAN/SPANISH

Course Overview

The GCSE MFL exam is a linear two-year course, with an assessment in listening, speaking, reading and writing at the end of the course. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. The expectations of the exam board are high and require a lot of manipulation of language, a variety of linguistic structures and the use of authentic source material. The focus of the course is communication and the skills you learn will not only be valuable for travel and holidays, but also useful for work and business and will increase students' employability.

There are 3 main topic areas:

Identity and culture

Local, national, international, and global areas of interest

Education / Work

Assessments

Paper 1 - Listening 25%	Paper 2 - Speaking 25%
Listen and respond to a range of authentic material Section A – questions & answers in English Section B – questions & answers in Target Language Foundation Tier: 35 minutes Higher Tier: 45minutes	Role- Play, Photo card, General Conversation Foundation Tier: 7–9 minutes Higher Tier: 10–12 minutes
Paper 3 - Reading 25%	Paper 4 - Writing 25%
Section A – questions & answers in English Section B – questions & answers in Target Language Section C – translation into English Foundation Tier: 45 minutes Higher Tier: 1 hr	Foundation Tier: 1hr 10 mins Question 1 – describing a photo Question 2 – short writing task Question 3 – translation to Target Language Question 4 – structured writing task Higher Tier: 1hr 15 mins Question 1 - structured writing task Question 2 - open-ended writing task Question 3 - translation into Target Language

GCSE

Subject Descriptions



GCSE Art & Design: Art, Craft and Design

Course Overview

The course offers you the opportunity to produce work in a wide range of materials, to build up technical skills and to express your feelings and creative ideas in both two and three dimensions. The course is increasingly using new technology, and digital image manipulation plays a key role in the art projects. There are also opportunities to experiment with photography and film/animation.

The course is suited to students who have a particular interest or ability in art and wish to improve their creative thinking and problem-solving skills. You will need to take the initiative in decision making and be able to research projects in your own time. You will need to be self-motivated, have a creative imagination, with a firm sense of commitment to the subject. Many of our students progress on to an A Level course and university study, including such careers as Architecture and Interior Design.

Assessment

Component 1 Portfolio 60%

Duration: Three terms

Students develop responses to initial starting points, project briefs or specified tasks and realise intentions informed by research, the development and refinement of ideas and meaningful engagement with selected sources. Responses will include evidence of drawing for different purposes and needs as well as written annotation.

Component 2 Externally set assignment 40%

Duration: One term

Students respond to a starting point provided by EDUQAS. This response provides evidence of the student's ability to work independently within specified time constraints, realise intentions that are personal and meaningful and explicitly address the requirements of all four assessment objectives.

GCSE Art and Design

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/8087/0



GCSE Art & Design: Photography

Course Overview

The course offers you the opportunity to master both digital and analogue (film based) photography. You will learn how to use the camera's manual settings to create a range of imaginative and technical outcomes. By making the smallest changes to your camera settings, you can make the ordinary, extraordinary!

Past projects include:

Detail—exploring the macro (close up) lenses and settings.

Surface—experimenting with photographic surfaces by cutting, folding and tearing.

Identity — portraiture work.

Having taken a range of photoshoots using a DSLR camera, you will learn how to manipulate and print your images using a photographic darkroom and Photoshop.

The course is suited to students who have a particular interest or ability in image making and wish to improve their creative thinking and problem solving skills. You will need to take the initiative and be able to work both independently and creatively. You will need to be self-motivated with a firm sense of commitment to the subject as there is a high level of technical understanding required.

Assessment

Component 1 Portfolio 60%

Students develop responses to initial starting points, project briefs or specified tasks and realise intentions informed by research, the development and refinement of ideas and meaningful engagement with selected sources. Responses will include evidence of photoshoots for different purposes and needs as well as written annotation.

Duration: Three terms

Component 2 Externally set assignment 40%

Students respond to a starting point provided by EDUQAS. This response provides evidence of the student's ability to work independently within specified time constraints, realise intentions that are personal and meaningful and explicitly address the requirements of all four assessment objectives.

Duration: One term

GCSE Art and Design

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/8087/0



GCSE Business

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)
1BS0

GCSE Business

Course overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 2 GCSE in Business consists of two externally-examined papers.

Assessment

Theme 1: Investigating small business Written examination

1 hour and 30 minutes

50% of the qualification (90 Marks)

Content overview

Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship

Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity

Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice

Topic 1.4 Making the business effective

Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Assessment overview

The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended- writing questions.

Theme 2: Building a business

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

50% of the qualification (90 marks)

Content overview

Topic 2.1 Growing the business

Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions

Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions

Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions

Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

Assessment overview

The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended- writing questions.

In order to follow this course students must fulfil the mathematical requirement which will be clarified on their personalised letter.



[GCSE Computer Science](#)

Exam Board: OCR
J277

GCSE Computer Science

Course Overview

Computer science is essential knowledge for the twenty-first century in a world where computers define so much of how society works! GCSE computer science will encourage students to;

- understand and apply the fundamental principles of computational thinking.
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving problems, including designing, writing, and debugging programs.
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another.
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically, and critically.

In order to follow this course students must fulfil the mathematical requirement which will be clarified on their personalised letter.

Assessment

The course is broken up into two main components. Both components are equally weighted (50%) and are assessed at the end of the course via a written exam.

Component 1: Computer Systems

A written exam paper that can include multiple-choice, short response, and extended response questions.

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms, and programming

This paper is divided into two sections: Section A will be structured similarly to the component 1 assessment, and Section B will include questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms using a high-level programming language covered in the course.

Practical programming

In addition to the above, students will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task, to solve a problem, during their course of study.



GCSE Dance

Exam Board: AQA
8236

GCSE Dance

Course Overview

An exciting and demanding course which requires energy, commitment and a willingness to learn in a range of dance styles. The course is highly practical and requires you to perform dance pieces in various shows and events throughout the three years. It also requires you to creatively explore your own style of movement, choreograph your own dances and analyse the creative work of others.

Assessment

This course is divided into 2 main components.

Component 1- Practical Performance and Choreography 60%

Performing practical skills in different styles of dance such as Jazz, Urban and Contemporary.
Improving performance skills in a group and as a soloist.
Choreographing your own group or solo dance piece

Component 2- Written paper: Dance Appreciation 40%

Develop a deeper theoretical understanding of the physical, technical, performance, choreographic and mental processes of dance.

Critically analyse your own choreographic style, devices and methods

Critically analyse 6 set professional dance works from the AQA Dance Anthology A 90 minute terminal exam will be taken at the end of Year 11.

To succeed in dance, you don't need to have any previous dance training, but it does help. Students may wish to consider ballet or jazz training, as these both provide the dancer with a solid technique and good control. Signing up to one of the dance extra-curricular clubs would also support in preparation for this course.



[GCSE Drama](#)

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/8420/6

GCSE Drama

Course Overview

Drama is an enjoyable, practical and creative subject that allows you to learn through putting yourself in someone else's shoes. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. Drama is an extremely popular subject to study because the skills learn help you to develop into a confident person who works well in a team, has good communication skills and is reliable. These skills are transferrable to any business or future employment.

Assessment

GCSE Drama is split into three components.

Component 1 Devising Drama 40%

This gives you the opportunity to develop your skills as a creator of exciting performances. Through the exploration of many different practitioners and styles you will develop understanding of structuring, developing and innovation. We will look at a wide range of stimuli which help you to develop your empathy and understanding of many different themes and ideas.

Component 2 Performing Theatre 20%

This gives you the opportunity to develop the understanding of how to perform work from texts. We look at how to create characters, understand themes and ideas within a text and appreciate a vast variety of subject matter.

Component 3 Interpreting Theatre 40%

This is a written paper at the end of year 11. This 1hr 30m terminal exam requires you to explain your understanding of play texts and your appreciation of live theatre performance. For this aspect of the course, we will see at least one live show per year throughout your GCSE in order to prepare and develop your written skills.



GCSE Design & Technology

Course overview

Students will receive a GCSE in Design and Technology and will specialise in all aspects of product design working primarily in fabrics, wood, metals and plastics. This course focuses on the design and construction of products manufactured from a wide variety of materials. It brings together the application of materials, production techniques, Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture. Product design is about developing design ideas and making skills and an understanding of how products have evolved through the development of smart materials and changes in manufacturing and production techniques. We explore new and emerging technologies, technical principles, energy and sustainability all of which are vital for design development. You will also develop skills in problem solving, researching, making, testing and evaluating.

Assessment

Assessment for this subject is 50% Controlled Assessment and 50% Terminal Exam.

The Controlled assessment (100 marks) is delivered over 35 hours entailing the following: Research (5%) Design Brief & Specification (5%) Design Sketching (10%) Development of Ideas (10%) Planning and Making (10%) Critical Evaluation and modifications (10%)

The 2 hour written exam is worth 100 marks. In the exam the following will be assessed Core Technical Principles (10%) Specialist Technical Principles (15%) Designing & Making Principles (25%)

GCSE Design and Technology

Exam Board: AQA
8552



GCSE Engineering

Course Overview

Students will engage in a range of intellectual and practical processes in order to solve problems through engineered outcomes. Students develop an awareness of emerging technologies (in areas such as materials science, IT, energy, medicine and robotics) and sustainable development in the context of engineering. Technical knowledge will include mechanisms and the physical and mechanical properties of a range on materials from polymers to composites. Computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing will also be covered. The core content will be on engineering materials, engineering manufacturing processes, systems, testing and investigation, the impact of modern technologies and practical engineering skills.

In order to follow this course students must fulfil the mathematical requirement which will be clarified on their personalised letter. A strong appreciation of physics is also important.

Assessment

Question Paper: Externally Assessed 60% of overall grade

In the exam the following will be assessed:

- Engineering materials
- Engineering manufacturing processes
- Systems
- Testing and investigation
- The impact of modern technologies
- Practical engineering skills

Non-Exam Assessment: Practical Engineering 40% of overall grade

A brief, set by the Exam Board, released on 1 June in the first year of study.
Engineering drawings or schematics to communicate a solution to the brief.
An engineering product that solves a problem.

[GCSE Engineering](#)

Exam Board: AQA
8852



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Course Overview

During the course students will specialise in five core areas:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

Alongside this core subject content, students will learn and develop food preparation skills over twelve skill groups; these skill groups will be integrated into the five subject content areas and all Non-exam Assessment projects.

Assessment

Assessment for this GCSE is 50% Non-exam Assessment (NEA) and 50% Terminal Exam.

The terminal examination is a 2 hour paper with multiple choice questions, short answer questions and essay style questions. Students are examined on all the five core areas.

The NEA is delivered in two sections:

Task 1: Food Investigation. Students will investigate the properties and characteristics of a specific ingredient through practical experiments. They will produce a report which will include research into 'how ingredients work and why'. This piece of work takes about 10 hours and accounts for 15% of the whole GCSE.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment. Students will prepare cook and present a final menu of three dishes to meet the needs of a specific context. Students will demonstrate a range of practical skills outlined in the twelve skill groups. Students will produce a written and photographic portfolio with research, planning and authentication of final dishes. This piece of work takes about 20 hours and accounts for 35% of the whole GCSE.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA
8585



[GCSE Media Studies](#)

Exam Board: Eduqas
603/1115/0

GCSE Media Studies

Course Overview

The Media Studies course is designed to make students ask hard questions about the media- dominated world we live in and its many impacts on our lives. It will also enable students to apply the knowledge gained through creating their own media productions.

Key media concepts:

Media representation: how the media portray events (such as elections or disasters), issues (such as injustices, media ownership or the impact of the internet and social media), people and social groups (such as women and minorities).

Media language: how the media through their forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings in a range of media texts including adverts, films, TV drama and the news.

Media industries: how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect the media forms and platforms.

Media audiences: how media forms target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of the audience become producers themselves.

Assessment

Component 01: Exploring the media Written exam

Section A: Exploring media language and representation

Section B: Exploring Media Industries and Audiences 40%

Component 02: Understanding Media Forms and Products Written exam

Section A: Television

Section B: Music (music videos and online media) 30%

Component 03: Creating Media Products Non-exam assessment (coursework) 30%

Students create media products following a set brief, applying their knowledge and understanding of

Students create media products following a set brief, applying their knowledge and understanding of media language and conventions (photography, Photoshop, film, editing).



GCSE Music

Course Overview

Music is a wonderful subject to study if you enjoy combining both practical skills, and theoretical knowledge and understanding. You will perform as a solo musician and as part of an ensemble. You will have opportunities to make your own music and compose in a number of different styles. You will have the opportunity to use up to date technology in a purpose-built Mac Suite/Studio using Logic Pro, MuseScore and GarageBand.

Assessment

The areas of study include a wide range of music including classical, world music and popular music, with the opportunity to use music technology in performance and as a compositional tool. Students complete two compositions, a solo and ensemble performance and a 75-minute appraising paper. The GCSE is divided into three assessment areas:

30% Composing

30% Performing

40% Appraising

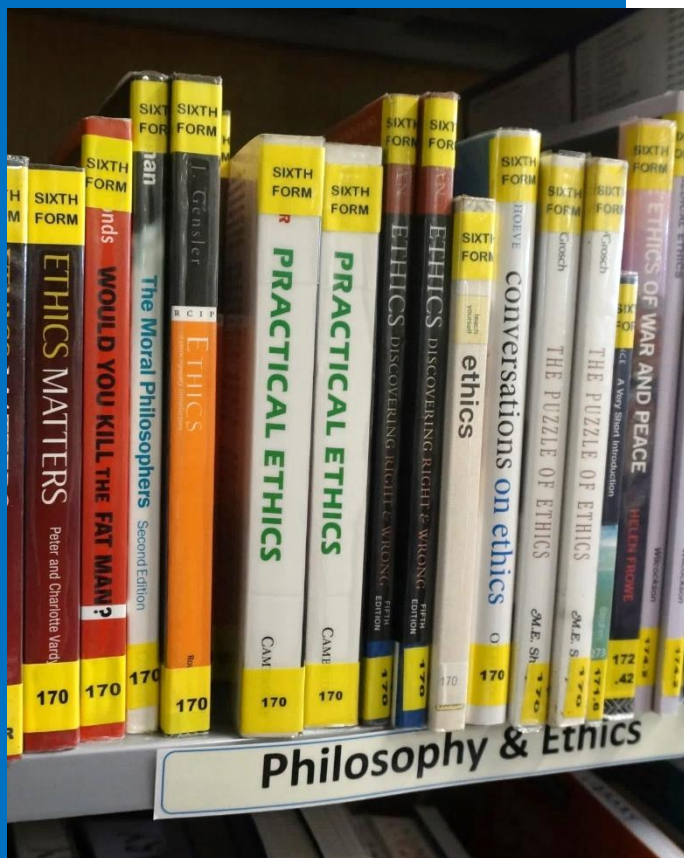
All pupils are expected to have weekly instrumental lessons and to be actively involved in the Music Department. To support this, all GCSE pupils are offered **free** instrumental tuition at Park High. Students will be expected to participate in performances throughout the year during school time and at evening concerts and information evenings.

As well as being an active musician with a fair understanding of notation, you need to be good at working with others as many of the experiences of learning are in group situations. Group challenges are set for students to enhance their ensemble skills and students get the opportunity to record their collaborative and individual work to share with others.

There are many opportunities for enrichment activities within Music such as visits to see West End Musicals, attending performances at Cadogan Hall, The Royal Albert Hall, The Festival Hall and participating in workshops.

[GCSE Music](#)

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/8131/X



GCSE Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Course Overview

The Philosophy and Ethics GCSE is an opportunity for students to develop their understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs as well as reflect on their own values, beliefs and attitudes. The course will allow students to understand that religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse and to deepen their understanding of the relationship between people. Students will become informed about common and divergent views within traditions in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed.

Assessment

Over the two years, students will study eight units:

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World. Written examination: 2 hours 50%

Candidates will study the following four themes. All questions are compulsory.

Theme 1: Issues of Relationships

Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death

Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil

Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights

This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focusing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the identified themes.

Component 2: Study of Religion: Christianity. Written examination: 1 hour 25%

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity.

Component 3: Study of Religion: Sikhism. Written examination: 1 hour 25%

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Sikhism.

GCSE Religious Studies

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/8879/0



GCSE Sport Science

Course Overview

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired at Key Stage 3 in Physical Education. It will give you exciting opportunities to develop these further in a variety of theoretical and practical activities whilst promoting an active and healthy lifestyle.

You will take part in a range of different sports and be assessed as a performer. You should have a keen interest in Physical Education and Sport, enjoy being active, appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy and be willing to take part in extra-curricular activities, both inside and outside of school. Students who select this course should be prepared for assessment through two written examinations and through practical performance. There is also a coursework element which is worth 10% of the total grade.

Assessment

60% Theory:

Two written exams.

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

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport

Each exam will have a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended answers questions.

30% Practical Performance:

Assessment of three different activities in the role of player/performer.

One assessment must be a team activity, one must be an individual activity and the third can be from either a game or as an individual.

10% Practical Analysis:

A written analysis and evaluation of practical performance, with a training programme.

[GCSE Physical Education](#)

Exam Board: AQA
8582

Park High Curriculum Offer

2024-2026

There is a wealth of information available on our website on the [Moving towards GCSE](#) page and SharePoint, both in the [Year 9 Student Room](#) and the [Careers & Employability Room](#). Students receive a great deal of guidance in preparation for this decision. Please engage with them at home, discuss their strengths and areas for development and ensure that, since their choice is limited, that they select subjects they enjoy.

If you have further questions, please direct them initially to your child's tutor and we will do our best to answer them quickly.

Please also note that whilst the offer is broad, due to timetabling constraints and staffing limitations it may not be possible to follow every combination of subjects. Where there is insufficient interest, a subject may be withdrawn from the offer.

		Compulsory
English	GCSE	Yes
Mathematics	GCSE	Yes
Science	GCSE	Yes
Core Philosophy & Ethics	No exam	Yes
Core Physical Education	No exam	Yes
Geography	GCSE	
History	GCSE	
French	GCSE	
German	GCSE	
Spanish	GCSE	
Art & Design	GCSE	
Art Photography	GCSE	
Business	GCSE	
Computer Science	GCSE	
Dance	GCSE	
Drama	GCSE	
Design & Technology	GCSE	
Engineering	GCSE	
Food Preparation & Nutrition	GCSE	
Media Studies	GCSE	
Music	GCSE	
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE)	GCSE	
Sport Science	GCSE	

Head of Year:

Mr Fowler | rfowler4.310@parkhighstanmore.org.uk

PSA:

Miss A Ali | aali316.310@parkhighstanmore.org.uk



Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1PL

Tel: 0208 952 2803 | Fax: 0208 952

Email: info@parkhighstanmore.org.uk

Website: www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk