

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Year 10 & 11

2026/2027



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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 they have also been discussing this with you at home.

We are 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 they are 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

Either Geography or History

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 2 certificates)
History or Geography	1	Must follow one of these but can choose the other as a Preference if they wish to
Core Philosophy & Ethics		In line with our statutory obligation
Core Physical Education		Sports Leader 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:

X

- one subject from Geography or History.
- one subject from a Modern Foreign Language, Art, Photography, Dance, Drama, Music and D&T.
- two 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:

Y

- one subject from 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 recognised for the breadth of education they offer. There is no separate qualification or certificate to for 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

Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Mathematics.

All students will follow either Geography or History (they can choose both if they wish). If a student enjoys their modern foreign language and is likely to be successful in it, we advocate them selecting a language 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 considered to be Creative (Art, Photography, D&T, Dance, Drama and Music) as well from our broad range of other qualifications which include Computer Science, Media Studies, Statistics, Sport Science, Business, Engineering and Food Preparation & Nutrition.

Information and Guidance

Students may be suited to one 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 study **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

Course Overview

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

This exam will require you 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 your 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

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

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Writing Prose. Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive writing. Written exam, 2 hours (60%)

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

GCSE English Language

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/4505/5



GCSE English Literature

Course Overview

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

Assessment

You 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. Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)

Either 'Macbeth' or 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare

And

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. Written exam, 2 hours 15 minutes (60%)

'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley

And

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



GCSE English Literature

Exam Board: AQA
8702





GCSE Mathematics

Course Overview

You 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. The foundation tier will focus more on core mathematical understanding and skills for you to master, and the higher tier will do this in much greater depth and with more demanding topics.

In Mathematics is a tiered qualification. There are two tiers:

Foundation: 1-5 | Higher: 4-9

Assessment

You will work towards a terminal exam at the end of Year 11.

The specification assesses the following objectives in all three equally weighted papers, of which one is non-calculator and two are calculator.

Assessment Objectives and weightings

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%)

Examinations will assess the different content domains in these proportions:

Topic area	Foundation	Higher
Number	25%	15%
Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change	25%	20%
Algebra	20%	30%
Statistics and Probability	15%	15%
Geometry and Measures	15%	20%

Paper 1: Non calculator Written exam, 1 hour and 30 minutes (33.33%)

Paper 2: Written exam, 1 hour and 30 minutes (33.33%)

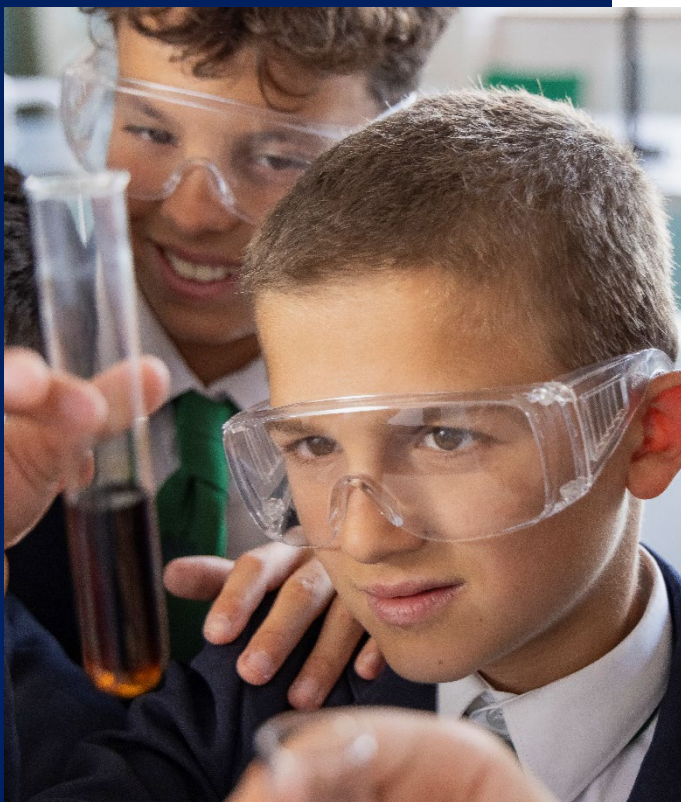
Paper 3: Written exam, 1 hour and 30 minutes (33.33%)

GCSE Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)

1MA1





GCSE Science

Course Overview

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

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, you and your parents will be informed of your Science pathway, which will be either the Combined Science or Separate Science route. During the Summer of Year 11, you will sit public exams.

All students will sit **six written** papers:

- 2 x Biology
- 2 x Chemistry
- 2 x 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 exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes (16.7%)

Separate Sciences: Each written exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes (50%)

GCSE Science

Exam Board: AQA

Biology: 8461

Chemistry: 8462

Physics: 8463

Combined Science: 8464





No Exam

Core Philosophy and Ethics

Course overview

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

Core Philosophy and Ethics provides opportunities for your own social and cultural development by building an awareness of the multiplicity of world views. The subject promotes respect and tolerance for different people's faiths/non-faiths by encouraging you to think of yourself as a 'global citizen' who is 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. You will also be given the opportunity to develop speech writing and presentation skills which can readily transfer to other GCSE subjects such as English Language, Business Studies, Languages and Humanities.



Core Physical Education

Course overview

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

In Year 11, you also receive two PE lessons each week, beginning with completing a programme of coaching and officiating. You recap and put into practice, through leadership, the skills and rules required to take part in the activity you are coaching. Later in the year, you will complete the Basic First Aid course from St John's Ambulance.

In the leadership courses delivered throughout Years 10 and 11, you will actively develop key skills including communication, self-belief, self-management, problem-solving and teamwork. You will explore what these skills involve, learn how to apply them through sport, and discuss how they can be transferred to other areas of life. The participation-focused lessons across both years also support you in maintaining a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle.



No Exam



English Baccalaureate

Subject Descriptions



GCSE Geography

Exam Board: AQA
8035



GCSE Geography

Course Overview

Geography allows you to travel the world from the classroom, studying your local area, London and far beyond. In this dynamic subject you will discover global shifts in economic power, sustainable resource use, deprivation, climate change, tectonic and natural hazards, a range of ecosystems and more! We also cover a range of important graphical, statistical, and critical thinking skills, enabling you to draw informed conclusions about contemporary issues by considering different viewpoints and attitudes.

Most importantly, you will learn and understand your role in society and be able to make a positive impact on the world.

Geography is no longer about borders; it is about the connections of our world and how they are changing.

Assessment

Linear examinations which will occur at the end of Year 11. There will be three exam papers each 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment. 1 hour and 30 minutes (35%)

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. 1 hour and 30 minutes (35%)

Paper 3: Geographical applications. 1 hour and 30 minutes (30%)

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 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.

Assessment

You will sit 3 written examinations, with a wide variety of questions ranging from 2 to 16 marks.

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment. Written exam, 1 hour and 20 minutes (30%)

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: Period study and British depth study. Written exam, 1 hour and 50 minutes (40%)

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: Modern depth study. Written exam, 1 hour and 30 minutes (30%)

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.



GCSE History

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)

1HI0





GCSE Modern Language

Exam Board: AQA

German: 8662

Spanish: 8692

French: 8652



GCSE MFL FRENCH/GERMAN/SPANISH

Course Overview

The GCSE Modern Foreign Languages is a linear two-year course, with four exams at the end of Year 11 (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. To achieve the award, you must complete all assessments in the same series (either Foundation or Higher Tier). The expectations of the exam board are high and require a variety of linguistic structures and the use of authentic source material. The focus of the course is on communication, and the skills you learn will not only be valuable for travel and holidays, but also beneficial for work and business and will increase your employability.

There are 3 themes:

- People and Lifestyle (Identity and relationship with others, Healthy living and lifestyle, Education and work)
- Popular Culture (Free time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Celebrity culture)
- Communication and the world around us (Travel and tourism including places of interest, Media and technology, the environment and where people live)

Assessments

Paper 1: Listening. Foundation: 35 minutes | Higher: 45 minutes (25%)

Listen and respond to different types of spoken language & Dictation.

Paper 2: Speaking. Foundation: 7–9 minutes | Higher: 10–12 minutes (25%)

Role-Play, Reading out loud task, Photo card.

Paper 3: Reading. Foundation: 45 minutes | Higher: 1 hour (25%)

Read and respond to different types of written language & Translation into English.

Paper 4: Writing. Foundation: 1hr 10 minutes | Higher: 1 hour and 15 minutes (25%)

Foundation:

- Q1. describing a photo in five sentences.
- Q2. writing task of five compulsory bullet points
- Q3. grammar task of five short sentences with a missing word, select from three options
- Q4. short translation into Target Language
- Q5. writing task of three compulsory bullet points

Higher:

- Q1. translation into Target Language
- Q2. writing task of three compulsory bullet points
- Q3. writing task of two compulsory bullet points

GCSE

Subject Descriptions



GCSE Art & Design:

Course Overview

The course gives you the opportunity to work with a wide range of materials, develop strong technical skills, and express their ideas and emotions in both two and three dimensional forms.

It is well suited to you if you have a particular interest or strength in art who wish to further develop their creative thinking and problem-solving abilities. You are expected to take initiative in decision-making and to carry out independent research. You should be self-motivated, imaginative, and committed to the subject. Many students go on to study Art at A Level and progress to university courses and careers such as Architecture and Interior Design.

The specification covers four principal areas of art, craft and design, supporting critical, practical and theoretical learning. It emphasises analytical understanding, practical experimentation, research skills and personal expression, all of which are essential at GCSE level.

- AO1 Critical understanding
- AO2 Creative making
- AO3 Reflective recording
- AO4 Personal presentation

Assessment

This course is divided into 2 main components.

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

You develop responses to initial starting points, project briefs or specified tasks and realise intentions informed by research, the experimentation, development and refinement of ideas and meaningful engagement with selected sources. You will work on a sustained project for Component 1, responding to a theme created by the department. Responses will include evaluation of artist work, experimenting with various media developing and refining work making a sustained outcome, as well as written annotation.

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%)

You will respond to a starting point provided by EDUQAS. This response provides evidence of your 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 enables you to master both digital and analogue (film-based) photography. You will learn how to use a camera's manual settings to produce a variety of imaginative and technically skilled outcomes. By making even the smallest adjustments, you can transform ordinary scenes into something extraordinary.

This course is ideal if you have a particular interest or aptitude in image-making and want to develop your creative thinking and problem-solving skills. You are expected to take initiative, work both independently and creatively, and demonstrate self-motivation and commitment, as the course requires a strong level of technical understanding.

The specification covers four principal areas for critical, practical and theoretical study within art, craft and design. It emphasises analytical understanding, practical experimentation, research skills and personal expression key qualities needed for success at GCSE level.

- AO1 Critical understanding
- AO2 Creative making
- AO3 Reflective recording
- AO4 Personal presentation

Assessment

This course is divided into 2 main components.

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

You will 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. You will work on a sustained project for Component 1, responding to a theme created by the department. Responses will include evidence of photoshoots for different purposes and needs, as well as written annotation.

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%)

You will respond to a starting point provided by EDUQAS. This response provides evidence of your 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 Business

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)
1BS0



GCSE Business

Course overview

This course introduces you to the dynamic world of business, helping you to develop a strong understanding of key concepts, terminology and objectives, as well as the way businesses operate and influence individuals and society. You will apply your knowledge to real and contemporary business scenarios, exploring organisations of different types and sizes at local, national and global levels. Throughout the course, you will develop commercial awareness, creativity and problem-solving skills, enabling you to make informed decisions using evidence and data. By investigating real business opportunities and challenges, you will learn to construct well-reasoned, balanced arguments and think critically, independently and analytically, skills that are essential for success both within and beyond the classroom.

In order to follow this course, you will need to access a high mathematical challenge. It is vital to consider this before selecting this course.

Assessment

The Pearson Edexcel Level 2 GCSE in Business consists of two externally examined papers. The papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended- writing questions.

Theme 1: Investigating small business - Written exam, 1 hour and 45 minutes (50%)

- 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

Theme 2: Building a business - Written exam, 1 hour and 45 minutes (50%)

- 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



GCSE Computer Science

Course Overview

Computer Science is essential knowledge for the 21st Century, in a world where computers define so much of how society works. GCSE Computer Science will encourage you 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, you will need to access a high mathematical challenge. It is vital to consider this before selecting this course.

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. Written exam, 1 hour and 30 minutes (50%)

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

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms, and programming. Written exam, 1 hour and 30 minutes (50%)

This paper is divided into two sections:

- Section A will be structured similarly to the Component 1 assessment
- Section B will include questions assessing your ability to write or refine algorithms using a high-level programming language covered in the course.

Practical programming

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

GCSE Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

J277





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 two 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 duo/trio and as a soloist.

Choreographing your own group or solo dance piece.

Component 2: Dance Appreciation. Written paper, 1 hour and 30 minutes (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 six set professional dance works from the AQA Dance Anthology.

To succeed in dance, you do not need to have any previous dance training, but it does help. You may wish to consider ballet or jazz training, as these both provide 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 Dance

Exam Board: AQA
8236





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 learnt 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 innovating. 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 your 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 1 hour 30 minute 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

You 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 GCSE is 50% Controlled Assessment and 50% Terminal Exam.

Non-Exam Assessment: Controlled assessment (50%)

(100 marks) 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%)

Written exam, 2-hour (50%)

(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

You will engage in a range of intellectual and practical processes in order to solve problems through engineered outcomes. You 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, you will need to access a high mathematical challenge. It is vital to consider this before selecting this course. A strong appreciation of physics is also important.

Assessment

Assessment for this GCSE is 40% Non-exam Assessment (NEA) and 60% Terminal Exam.

Written exam, 2 hours (60%)

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%)

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 and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA
8585



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Course Overview

During the course you will specialise in five core areas:

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

Alongside this core subject content, you 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.

Non-Exam Assessment: (50%)

The NEA is delivered in two sections:

- **Task 1: Food Investigation.** You will investigate the properties and characteristics of a specific ingredient through practical experiments. You will produce a report which will include research into 'how ingredients work and why'. This piece of work takes 10 hours and accounts for 15% of the whole GCSE.
- **Task 2: Food Preparation Assessment.** You will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes to meet the needs of a specific context. You will demonstrate a range of practical skills outlined in the twelve skill groups. You will produce a written and photographic portfolio with research, planning and authentication of final dishes. This piece of work takes 20 hours and accounts for 35% of the whole GCSE.

Written exam, Food preparation and nutrition. 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)

Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from Sections 1 to 5.



GCSE Media Studies

Exam Board: Eduqas
603/1115/0



GCSE Media Studies

Course Overview

The Media Studies course is designed to make you ask hard questions about the media-dominated world we live in and its many impacts on our lives. It will also enable you to apply the knowledge gained through creating your 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 1: Exploring the Media. Written exam, 1 hour and 30 minutes (40%)

- Section A: Exploring media language and representation.
- Section B: Exploring Media Industries and Audiences

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products. Written exam, 1 hour and 30 minutes (30%)

- Section A: Television
- Section B: Music (music videos and online media)

Component 3: Creating Media Products. Non-exam assessment (coursework) (30%)

You create media products following a set brief, applying your 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.

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.

You 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. You 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 you to enhance their ensemble skills and you 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.

Assessment

The GCSE is divided into three assessment areas:

Component 1: Performing. Non-exam assessment (30%)

A minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration. The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble.

Component 2: Composing. Non-exam assessment (30%)

Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by WJEC. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

Component 3: Appraising. Written exam, 1 hour and 15 minutes (40%)

GCSE Music

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/8131/X





GCSE Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Course Overview

The GCSE in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics invites you to explore religious and non-religious worldviews, deepening your understanding of beliefs, teachings, practices and sources of wisdom across traditions and the diverse faith landscape of Great Britain. Through engaging with key texts and big questions about meaning, purpose, truth and human values, you will learn to reflect on your own beliefs while appreciating both common and differing perspectives within and across religions. The course develops the ability to construct well-informed, balanced and coherent arguments, encouraging thoughtful discussion and critical thinking about how beliefs shape individuals and communities in a pluralistic, global society.

Assessment

Over the two years, you will study eight units:

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

You 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

Component 2: Study of Religion: Christianity. Written exam, 1 hour (25%)

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

Component 3: Study of Religion: Sikhism. Written exam, 1 hour (25%)

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

GCSE Religious Studies

Exam Board: Eduqas
601/8879/0





GCSE Physical Education

Exam Board: AQA

8582



GCSE Sport Science

Course Overview

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills you 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. You will be expected to attend weekly extra-curricular sports training sessions as part of your home learning for this course, these sessions can be in school or outside of school.

Assessment

Assessment is through two written examinations and through practical performance. There is also a coursework element which is worth 10% of the total grade.

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. Written exam, 1 hour and 15 minutes (30%)

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport. Written exam, 1 hour and 15 minutes (30%)

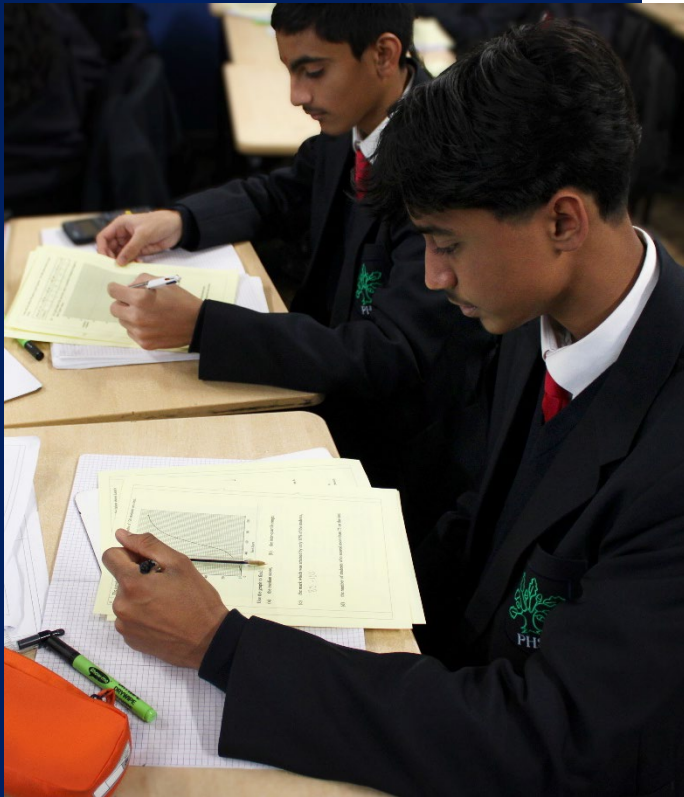
Non-exam assessment: Practical Performance (30%)

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.

Non-exam assessment: Practical Analysis: (10%)

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



GCSE Statistics

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)
1ST0

GCSE Statistics

Course Overview

GCSE Statistics builds on concepts from Mathematics while introducing deeper analytical skills. Beyond calculating averages, you will explore which average is most representative of a dataset as well as making sure the collection of data is accurate. In addition to the relatively simple inter-quartile range method looked at in Mathematics, measures of spread are studied which will help to open doors to much more accurate predictions. This fosters a critical approach to evaluating information – an essential skill for subjects that rely on data analysis, such as Business, Media Studies, Geography and History. Additionally, it provides valuable experience for those pursuing Psychology or Sociology, where interpreting research findings is a key advantage.

If you enjoy Maths and want to enhance your analytical skills in a way that benefits data-driven subjects, this course is for you. It is ideal if you want a technical GCSE to demonstrate your ability to collect and interpret data - an asset for future studies in business, economics, and beyond. You don't need to find Mathematics easy to succeed; in fact, studying GCSE Statistics can help to improve Mathematics grades. If you are thinking that Further Maths GCSE is for you, then this course may not be the right choice - this is best suited to those who are curious, resilient and eager to understand how data shapes the world.

Assessment

The course follows the Edexcel exam board, ensuring consistency with GCSE Maths in both content and assessment. Assessment consists of two equally weighted exam papers at the end of Year 11.

Content assessed:

- The collection of data
- Processing, representing and analysing data
- Probability

Paper 1: Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes (50%)

Paper 2: Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes (50%)



Park High Curriculum Offer

2026-2028

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	Either Geography or History
History	GCSE	Either History or Geography
French	GCSE	
German	GCSE	
Spanish	GCSE	
Art, Craft & 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	
Statistics	GCSE	



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