



GCSE SUBJECT INFORMATION

2024-25

Welcome

Welcome to the GCSE Subject Information Booklet for the 2024-25 academic year.

Please find enclosed information about all GCSE exams. The information provides details of exam boards, exam breakdown, revision guides, online resources and other advice.

As ever, please let me know if I can do anything to support you or your child.

Miss Donlin

Raising Standards Lead – Year 11

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Art & Photography GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
Coursework and Exam	<p><u>Coursework is worth 60% of the final grade:</u> Students are required to submit 2 projects, 1 of these must be an extended project showing personal development of a theme or idea. Students will work on their 'Extended Project' theme until the end of November and will have two final weeks to review, refine and collate all their coursework for the final submission in December.</p> <p><u>Coursework Deadline:</u> students must submit all coursework in December in their final art or photography lesson prior to the Christmas holiday.</p> <p><u>Coursework Study Support:</u> Study support sessions and an 'open studio' will run throughout the Autumn term every Monday after school from 3.30-4.30pm in the Art Department. Students will be able to complete their coursework improvements and have support with practical work as needed. It is advisable for students to use this additional time to refine the quality of their sketchbooks and final pieces.</p> <p><u>The Exam Unit is worth 40% of the final grade:</u> Students respond to 1 of 7 themes or starting points provided by the exam board. Students will have a 10 week preparatory period to research and develop their ideas for their Exam project, starting in January. The final exam is a 10 hour practical controlled test that takes place over 2 days in the Art department (this practical exam is usually scheduled soon after the Easter holiday).</p> <p><u>Exam Study Support:</u> Study support sessions and an 'open studio' will run throughout the Spring term every Monday after school from 3.30-4.30pm and every Friday Break 2 in the Art Department. Students will be able to complete their weekly exam project tasks and have support with practical work as needed. Students will need to use this additional time to refine the quality of their sketchbooks and prepare for their practical exam.</p>
Revision guide	<p>Not applicable. Students should refer to the Personal Learning Checklists and Knowledge organisers for the key learning objectives & success criteria. They can also use GCSE Bitesize Art & Design to consolidate their understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Help sheets & related documents can also be found on the Art department VLE.</p>

Business Studies

Exam Board	Edexcel GCSE Business Studies
Exams	Unit 1: Investigating small business, 50% of final grade Unit 2: Building a business, 50% of final grade Exams 90 minutes
Revision guide	Please purchase the Edexcel Revision Guide and Revision Workbook, priced around £12: https://www.amazon.co.uk/Business-Edexcel-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/1789080894/ref=sr_1_1?crid=5PBY7V3OY6E7&keywords=New+GCSE+Business+Edexcel+Complete+Revision&qid=1695723621&srefix=new+gcse+business+edexcel+complete+revision%2Caps%2C77&sr=8-1
Online Resources	G.C.S.E. Bitesize & Tutor2u (various topics), PLC's for both theme 1 and theme 2, Lesson PowerPoint's for topics covered

Combined Science AQA

Separate Science: Biology, Physics and Chemistry AQA

Exam Board	AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy Or for separate science AQA GCSE Chemistry AQA GCSE Biology AQA GCSE Physics
Exams	Combined Science – 6 x 1hr 15 minutes exams (2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics) Biology: 2 Exams 1hr 45mins Physics: 2 Exams 1hr 45mins Chemistry: 2 Exams 1hr 45mins
Revision guide	Sold in the Science Office - revision guide and workbooks are available from the Science Office at a discounted rate.
Online Resources	BBC Bitesize, Seneca, G.C.S.E. Pod, KERBOODLE – all students have a login and password in their planners and can access an online book to help them with revision.

Computer Science GCSE

Exam Board	OCR –Specification J277
Exams	2 Exams in summer 2024, dates to be confirmed both 50% of G.C.S.E. Unit 1 Computer Systems - 80 marks Unit 2 Computational Thinking - 80 marks 1 Non-Exam Element (Currently worth 0% but must be completed)
Revision guide	OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science J277 OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science J277: <i>S Robson and PM Heathcote</i> ISBN: 9781910523216 Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision - OCR GCSE 9-1 Computer Science Complete Revision & Practice ISBN: 978-0-00-853523-0 Please also see Mr Courtice I have several you can borrow.
Online Resources	All available via the Google VLE & CragDave Website for video index

Creative iMedia

Exam Board	OCR National
Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graphic design portfolio unit, submitted in January. Develop a creative brand identity for a specified audiencePrepare for the creative unit's exam paper begun in Year 10; sit paper in January (retake and resubmission in the summer, if need be). <p><u>How you are assessed:</u> 40% examination and 60% portfolio. R093: Creative iMedia in the creative industry. Written paper, OCR set and marked. 1 hr 30 mins. R094: Visual identity and digital graphics. Centre assessed tasks, OCR moderated. R096: Animation with audio. Centre assessed tasks, OCR moderated. 70 marks (Completed in Year 10).</p>
Online Resources	The Media Department V.L.E contains all the lesson Power-Points and materials, an online e-learning Hodder Dynamic Learning text-book. www.technologystudent.com , http://www.bbcbitessize.com
Past Papers	Practice papers are used throughout the course in both physical and digital form and are free of charge

Design & Technology

Exam Board	AQA
Coursework and Exam	<p><u>NEA</u>: 50% of final grade, completed by March. <u>Exam</u>: 50% of final grade - 2 hour written paper. Study Support / Open Workshops. Study support will run at the following times: Mr Taylor's Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Monday 3:30-4:30pm in DT5 <p>Mrs Newman's Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Wednesday 3:30pm in DT7 <p>Students should attend these sessions to complete their NEA project portfolio or have support with practical work as needed. It is advisable for students to use this additional time to refine the quality of their portfolio and practical work well in advance of the NEA deadline.</p>
Revision guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision questions: Set for Home-Learning • Revision Materials: Seneca & Focus Education • PG D&T GCSE AQA textbooks available to use in DT6 before, during and after college.
Online Resources	<p>Useful websites:</p> <p>https://www.focusededucational.com/login-to-focus-elearning/ https://www.technologystudent.com/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm</p>

Drama

Exam Board	EDUQAS
Exams	<p>Component 1: Devising Theatre. Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 40% of qualification Component 1 is a performance of a devised group piece along with an individual creative log and evaluation of the final performance. The current year 11 cohort have already completed this component.</p> <p>Component 2: Performing from a Text. Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner 20% of qualification This is a practical performance unit with no coursework. Students will be assigned to a group and provided with two extracts from a script to interpret and perform. The exam takes place between Christmas and Easter.</p> <p>Component 3: Interpreting Theatre. Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification Section A: (45 marks) A series of questions on the Set Text I Love You Mum, I Promise I Won't Die – Mark Wheeler</p> <p>Section B: (15 marks) Live Theatre Review. Students will have seen a live performance (trip) and answer one question from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of the live theatre production seen.</p>
Revision guide	<p>Teachers will give students all the study material required in lessons. Students will need to buy their own copy of I Love You Mum, I Promise I Won't Die – Mark Wheeler (ISBN: 9781350011304) to read. There will be a series of home learning tasks in addition to extra rehearsals for C2.</p>

Online Resources	Set Text Guidance GCSE Drama - Eduqas - BBC Bitesize EDUQAS Drama Knowledge Organisers
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English

Exam Board	AQA
Exams	<p>AQA English Language – 2 papers</p> <p><u>Paper 1</u> Section A Reading unseen C20 fiction & answering 4 analytical questions based on the text (40 marks) Section B Writing - descriptive and/or narrative</p> <p><u>Paper 2</u> Section A Reading unseen literary fiction and non-fiction & answering 4 analytical questions based on the texts (40 marks) Section B Writing – viewpoint writing (40 marks)</p> <p><u>AQA English Literature - 2 papers</u> <u>Paper 1</u> Macbeth and Jekyll and Hyde <u>Paper 2</u> An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry Analysis.</p>
Revision guide	Students have an exercise book for each Literature text and a separate one for English Language. These, along with the Knowledge Organisers, contain key information for each part of the course. They also have their own annotated copies of each of the set texts for Literature. Where possible, students should reread their texts (and annotations) in order to build their text knowledge. There are a number of revision guides available to purchase including York notes, Spark notes and CGP. In order to revise for Literature, students should ensure that they have reread their set texts alongside their revision notes.
Online Resources	Seneca Learning contains interactive revision materials and quizzing to support all areas of GCSE English content. Students can also access BBC Bitesize for many elements of the course. YouTube videos made by Mr Bruff are also useful for revision. Past papers can be found on the AQA website.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board	WJEC EDUQAS
Coursework and Exams	<p><u>Coursework:</u> Students complete 2 coursework units during lesson time worth 50% of the final grade: NEA 1 worth 15% NEA 2 worth 35% For each lesson students are absent for, they MUST attend a study support session. See below for times. Final Coursework Deadline: 27th March 2024</p> <p><u>Exam:</u> Food Investigation Assessment 50% Written exam – 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p><u>Study Support:</u> Catch up club every Monday break 2 and after school from 3:30-4:30 in DT6 with Mrs Dyer & Miss Whittington</p>

Revision guide	Please use the link below which is a digital copy of the GCSE book and has videos, links to click on and watch. Online textbook: https://illuminate.digital/eduqasfood/ Student Username: SKINGSBRIDGE4 Student Password: STUDENT4
Online Resources	See Seneca for additional online revision

French and Spanish

Exam Board	AQA
Exams	Listening Paper 1 (25% of exam) Speaking (Teacher assessed 25% of exam & assessed during the academic year.) Reading Paper 3 (25% of exam) including translation into English on the higher paper Writing Paper 4 (25% of exam)
Revision guide	Resources issued to students: G.C.S.E. AQA vocabulary book, Speaking booklet & Writing booklet.
Online Resources	Seneca- https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/Modules 1-8 Languages on line https://www.languagesonline.org.uk (no password needed), https://www.linguascope.com/ (username : KCC password : happyhippo75) and go to the Intermediate section).
Past papers	GCSE past papers will be used with students and are available on the AQA website

Geography

Exam Board	AQA
Exams	<p>Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment: Paper 1 1 hr 30min (35% of the GCSE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Challenge of Natural Hazards • Physical Landscapes in the UK • The Living World <p>Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: Paper 2 1 hr 30min (35% of the GCSE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Issues and Challenges • The Changing Economic World • The Challenge of Resource Management <p>Unit 3: Geographical Applications: Paper 3 1 hr 30 min (30% of the GCSE)</p> <p>Unit 3 comprises of 2 sections; students will be examined on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Evaluation - students will be given a set of resources in March (released by the exam board) on a geographical issue. We will interpret and analyse these prior to the exam. They will have to answer questions and make a decision on the issue. • Fieldwork - students will be asked short answer questions that require them to interpret results and evaluate methods from other theoretical fieldwork and longer questions about their own fieldwork.

Revision guide	GCSE 9-1 Geography: Revision Guide Oxford publisher Use your book for CASE STUDIES revision
Online Resources	Seneca BBC Bite size GCSE Pod Make sure you watch the news!
Any other advice/information	Students really need to develop their ability to answer challenging questions which will have command phrases such as “Assess the extent to which...”, “evaluate the factors that...”. They need to have a good grasp of how to use connectives effectively.

History

Exam Board	OCR
Exams	<p>Students will be taking the following 3 exams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J411/11: People’s Health c.1250 to present with The Norman Conquest, 1065-1087 (1hr 45 mins) • J411/21: History Around Us (Buckland Abbey) (1 hour) • J411/39: The Making of America 1789-1900 with Living Under Nazi Rule 1933-1945 (1hr 45 mins) <p>NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT</p>
Revision guide	<p>Revision guides to be issued in the Spring Term 2025. The exercise books they have been working are structured in a way to revise from. And they will have a revision exercise book they will be working in from February 2024.</p> <p>Available to purchase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Revision Notes: OCR GCSE (9-1) History B: Schools History Project <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGP GCSE History OCR B: Schools History Project Revision Guide
Online Resources	BBC Bitesize G.C.S.E. POD Seneca

Maths

Exam Board	Edexcel - IMAI
Exams	<p>3 papers (1hr 30 mins each)</p> <p>Paper 1 non-calculator paper, Paper 2 Calculator paper and Paper 3 Calculator Paper.</p> <p>Any topic from the syllabus can be tested on any of the papers.</p> <p>There are 2 tiers – Higher (grades 9 – 4) and Foundation (grades 5 – 1). The majority of students will sit the Higher Tier examination.</p>
Revision guide	<p>There is a lot of choice of revision guides and workbooks for Edexcel GCSE Maths available. Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) is very closely matched to the style of the exam questions. CGP Edexcel GCSE Maths is also very thorough. We recommend using the online free online revision resources below.</p>

Online Resources	<p>Maths Genie are online revision guides which have video tutorials to recap the topic with the opportunity to complete practice questions within the video or via PDFs.</p> <p>The details of these sites are; https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.html. No login details are required for this free website.</p> <p>Sparx Independent Learning is the revision section of the Sparx Home Learning package our students have used throughout Years 7-10. This will generate questions of a GCSE style and automatically mark them. There is video support available for every question.</p>
Any other advice/further information	<p>We are completing fortnightly past papers, every Tuesday Week A. Make sure that you use the Responsive Feedback sheets to prioritise your independent revision and use the Sparx Independent Learning to practice the topics.</p> <p>Make sure that you are completing your home learning tasks in full every week and seek help from your teacher prior to the submission date.</p>

Music GCSE

Exam Board	Eduqas
Coursework and Exams	<p>60% Coursework</p> <p>30% Performance – One solo performance, one as part of an ensemble</p> <p>30% Composition – One free composition and one composed to a brief set by the exam board. Using Apple Macs and Logic Pro software to support with this.</p> <p>40% – 1 hour and 15 mins taken in the June series of Year 11.</p> <p>Listening exam focusing on answering questions on familiar and unfamiliar music, inc. Set Works.</p>
Revision guide	<p>Illuminate Publishing Eduqas/WJEC GCSE Music Student Workbook</p> <p>Illuminate Publishing Eduqas/WJEC GCSE Music Revision Guide</p>
Online Resources	<p>Focus on Sound</p> <p>BBC Bitesize</p>

Physical Education

Exam Board	AQA
Exams	<p>40% NEA (Non-Examined Assessment)</p> <p>30% Practical: Students will be assessed across three activities. These can be two individual activities and one team activities or two team activities and one individual activity. Information on the skills for each activity can be found: AQA G.C.S.E. PE- specifications for exams from 2016- p47-169.</p> <p>We are running moderations for practical sports. These will be communicated home via the announcements function on class charts, students must attend these in order to get their skills marks.</p> <p>If students are taking an activity that they compete in outside of college they must have footage of them competing by Christmas in order for this to count towards their GCSE. For activities like skiing please contact your PE teacher.</p> <p>10% Written Coursework: One piece of coursework 'Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity' (worth 25 marks). All NEA needs to be completed by the end of the Autumn term.</p>

	60% Theory: This is covered by two 1hr 15mins papers worth 78 marks each: Paper 1 – The human body and movement in physical activity and sport & Paper 2– Socio- cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.
Revision guide	Hodder education: My Revision Notes: AQA G.C.S.E. 9-1 PE second edition –Kirk Bizley. Available to buy for £10 from the P.E. Office- Please ask your G.C.S.E P.E. teacher if you would like to purchase a copy of this.
Online Resources	AQA GCSE PE B.B.C Bitesize, 'Planet P.E' on YouTube- GCSE PE Paper 1 topics & GCSE PE Paper 2 topics playlists and the online textbook on S.M.H.W and the KCC V.L.E.

Religious Education

Exam Board	EDUQAS
Exams	<p>There are three exams.</p> <p>Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies of the Modern World (50% of G.C.S.E. - 2 Hours)</p> <p>Component 2: Christianity Beliefs, Teachings and Practices (25% of G.C.S.E. - 1 Hour)</p> <p>Component 3: Buddhism Beliefs, Teachings and Practices (25% of G.C.S.E. - 1 Hour)</p>
Revision guide	<p>My Revision Notes WJEC Eduqas GCE (9-1) Religious Studies: Route A ISBN: 978-1510414624 - These are purchasable from bookshops and online.</p> <p>You will also be given an extensive pack of basic revision materials by your teacher.</p>
Online Resources	<p>All of the revision materials that have been created by the college, including past papers, will be made available to students. They will be told how and when you can access these materials. Feel free to email Ms Donlin or Mr Bentham asking questions if you are unsure about any of the content covered or come and find one of us.</p> <p>One of the team will respond with an answer to your question.</p> <p>BBC Bitesize - the two religions you are studying are - Christianity Paper 2 and Buddhism Paper 3 (Beliefs and teachings and Practices). Paper 1 covers: Relationships, Life & Death, Good & Evil and Human Rights.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z68sjhv</p>

Sports Studies (J829)

Exam Board	OCR Cambridge National
Exams	<p>Units include: R184 Contemporary issues in sport (Exam) R187 Outdoor and adventurous activities (Coursework) R185 Performance and leadership in sporting activities (Coursework)</p> <p>All coursework needs to be submitted before 10th December. Students should be working on their coursework on Microsoft teams in their own time as will be moderated by the exam board after Christmas.</p>
Revision guide	Cambridge: Cambridge national level 1/level 2 Sport Studies student book
Online Resources	Cambridge National Level 1/Level 2: Sports Studies Revision Guide and Workbook, Duncan Jagger. All of the revision materials that have been created by the college, including past papers, will be available on Microsoft TEAMS. You will be told how and when you can access these materials. Feel free to email the Mr Meatyard asking questions if you are unsure about any of the content covered or come and find one of us.