



GCSE Booklet

Key Stage 4
2023 – 2026

Welcome

Dear Pupils and Parents

Moving into GCSE courses marks an exciting stage in education. The groundwork has been prepared over the first three years across the curriculum and pupils have already been introduced to some of the concepts and ideas needed for GCSE. Years 10 and 11 form a two-year course. After GCSE in Year 11 our students almost always continue with further study in Sixth Form either taking A Levels or BTec diplomas or occasionally apprenticeships.

The reformed GCSEs are challenging: the content is harder than previously, there is no longer coursework and there are more exam papers. Grades are now numbers not letters, ranging from the lowest Grade 1 up to Grade 9. Pupils will have to work consistently and to work hard to achieve the top grades.

In Years 10 and 11 we offer a wide range of GCSE subjects and we guide pupils towards choosing courses that ensure a well-balanced programme of study. Latest government strategy suggests that a good education at GCSE should include one humanity (History or Geography) or modern language (French or Spanish), as well as a core of subjects including English, Mathematics and Sciences.

All students will follow a 'common core' of compulsory subjects: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. Pupils also have PSHE lessons which include Citizenship and Careers, and have compulsory PE lessons in both Year 10 and Year 11.

Pupils will choose to study up to a further 4 additional GCSEs.

This booklet is to provide information for you about the courses on offer. As you consider your option subjects, bear these points in mind:

1. Choose option subjects that you are good at and that you happily spend time working on at home.
2. Don't base your choice on what your friends are choosing, or on whether or not you like the teacher.
3. Choose subjects that complement any career ideas you may already have.
4. Ask your teachers, who know your strengths and weaknesses in their subject, whether you have the potential to do well at GCSE. Listen to their opinions.
5. There will be occasions when a teacher might not advise taking a subject because current performance indicates the pupil will not be successful in the course.
6. The Separate Sciences option is by invitation only for some of the Set 1 Science pupils, due to the challenging nature of the course.

Following the Year 9 parents evening in the Autumn Term, pupils will be asked to fill in a selection sheet for their preferred subjects. Please be aware that there is no guarantee that pupils will be able to choose their top 4 subjects due to the nature of timetable blocking.

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

(Please note that this information is correct at the time of publication)

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Computer Science
Drama
French
Geography
Graphic Design (Graphic Communication)
History
Music
Physical Education
Sociology
Spanish
Triple Science

Key Stage 4 Core Curriculum Compulsory Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science: Trilogy
- Citizenship PSHE and Careers (Non GCSE)
- PE/Games Lesson



English Language GCSE

AQA

8700

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

There are two exams:

- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites: BBC Bitesize, This is English, Mr Bruff, Youtube

Books: CGP- study and revision student work books and revision books; Collins- study and revision student work books and revision books.

How the course is assessed

You will have two examinations of equal weighting. There will be one tier containing integrated reading and writing tasks at the end of the course in Year 11 (levelled from Grade 1-9)

Introduction

You will learn to read, understand, analyse and evaluate and develop a critical viewpoint about a range of literature prose, non-fiction and literary non-fiction texts from the 20th and 21st centuries. You will learn to write in a range of styles and for a range of purposes: descriptive, narrative and to present a viewpoint. You will learn to communicate using Standard English effectively, developing your ideas and taking part in discussions as well as giving presentations (some presentations will be recorded and graded separately to the GCSE award level).

Course content

Year 10
Introduction to the course and enthusing students about English!
Consolidating Fundamental Skills and Concepts (on which to build throughout the course):

Key technical skills: vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, grammar, structure.

Key concepts: literary form, genre, narrative perspective, theme, literal and metaphorical reading, analysing writer's choice, attitude and viewpoints.

Reading, understanding and responding to texts - texts used: AQA Text book for GCSE and study of a selection of thematically linked fiction, poetry or non-fiction (autobiographical writing, extracts from print and online media, speeches and letters texts) e.g. poetry, war poetry, extracts from works of fiction, letters, news reports, editorial comment, diaries and letters.

Year 11
A consolidation and revision of the reading and writing skills built on in year 10, developing comparative and critical viewpoints and practice for responding to exam style questions.

Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed?

- Section A: Reading - One literature text
- Section B: Writing - Descriptive or narrative writing

How is it assessed?

1 hour 45 minutes written exam worth 50% of GCSE

Paper 2 Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed?

- Section A: Reading - One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
- Section B: Writing - Writing to present a viewpoint

How is it assessed?

1 hour 45 minutes written exam worth 50% of GCSE

English Literature

GCSE

AQA
8702

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

There are two exams:

- Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
- Modern texts and Poetry

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites: BBC Bitesize, This is English, Mr Bruff, Youtube

Books: CGP- study and revision student work books and revision books; Collins - study and revision student work books and revision books; York notes

Introduction

You will study a modern prose or drama text, modern poetry and poems from the English Literary Heritage from the set anthology and learn how to respond to and compare unseen poems. You will study a Shakespeare play and a 19th century novel. You will develop personal and literary responses to texts. You will develop planning, reading, note-taking and independent study skills.

Course content

Year 10

Study of a Shakespeare Play (Romeo and Juliet) and developing skills to respond to an exam style question.

Study of a selection of poems from the AQA anthology of poems and developing skills to respond to and compare anthology poems and unseen poems.

Study of a modern drama text - An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley

Study of a 19th century Novel - A Christmas Carol

Year 11

Further study and revision and development of critical viewpoints of the texts read in year 10 and practice responding to exam style questions.

How the course is assessed

Paper 1 worth 40% and Paper 2 worth 60% of the GCSE. There will be one tier containing integrated questions at the end of the course in Year 11 (levelled from grade 1-9)

Paper 2 Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A: Modern texts - One essay question on the modern prose or drama text studied

Section B: Poetry - One comparative question from the chosen cluster of poems from the anthology

Section C: Unseen Poetry - One question on an unseen poem and one question comparing it with a second unseen poem

How is it assessed?

2 hour 15 minutes written exam worth 60% of GCSE

Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Section A: An extract based question on the Shakespeare play that has been studied

Section B: An extract based question on the 19th century novel that has been studied

How is it assessed?

1 hour 45 minutes written exam worth 40% of GCSE

Mathematics

GCSE

AQA
8300

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- Three 1½ hour written papers each weighted at 33⅓% and consisting of compulsory questions. Paper ONE is non-calculator.

Introduction

Mathematics equips you with many of the skills you need for day-to-day life. It is a cross-curricular subject, which means that mathematics is used in many of the subjects you will study. As a core subject, it will also provide you with an essential qualification for further education. The specification focuses on applying mathematics in context, problem solving, reasoning, as well as on using standard mathematical techniques.

Course content

Calculations 1, Fractions, Decimals, Percentages, Ratio and Proportion, Calculations 2, Factors, Powers and Roots, Expressions, Formulae and Functions, Equations and Inequalities, Graphs 1, Graphs 2, Measures and Accuracy, Sequences, 2D Shapes, 3D Shapes, Circles and Constructions, Pythagoras and Trigonometry and Vectors (higher only), Units and Proportionality, Handling Data 1, Handling Data 2, Probability 1, Probability and Combined Events.

How the course is assessed

You will sit three written papers at GCSE, at either the Foundation (Grades 1 to 5) or Higher (Grades 4 to 9) Tier. At school you will take AQA topic assessments, testing both calculator and non-calculator aspects of the course. Your classwork and homework will also be used to monitor your progress throughout the course and to determine your next steps. All final papers are taken in May and/or June in Year 11.

Useful website links, text books used and additional information

The core text book is AQA GCSE Maths Higher or AQA GCSE Maths Foundation. Additional resources will be used to supplement the core courses, such as the use of past-paper questions and exam-style questions compiled from the AQA question bank, Exampro. Hegarty Maths is also used by all students featuring over 500 skill tutorials across all topics and grades, each linking to one or more quizzes, with workings and answers.



Combined Science: Trilogy GCSE

AQA
8464

SYLLABUS CODE

**NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/
UNITS**

Introduction

All students study Combined Science as part of their core curriculum in Normanhurst. At the end their course, they have to opportunity to be awarded 2 GCSEs which are based on the average of their performance across 2 papers each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A high grade in Combined Science, along with some transition work during the summer, is good preparation for students considering applying on to an A level Science qualification.

At Normanhurst, we follow the AQA Trilogy Specification that leads to the Double Award. Course content Assessment details are specified below.

Course content

Students will cover the topics for each Science discipline below:

Biology:

Topic 1: Cell Structure and Transport
Topic 2: Cell Division
Topic 3: Organisation and the Digestive System
Topic 4: Organising Animals and Plants (Circulatory and Respiratory Systems)
Topic 5, 6, 7: Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases
Topic 8: Photosynthesis
Topic 9: Respiration
Topic 10: The Human Nervous System
Topic 11: Hormonal Coordination
Topic 12: Reproduction
Topic 13: Variation and Evolution
Topic 14: Genetics and Evolution
Topic 15: Adaptations, Interdependence and Competition
Topic 16: Organising an Ecosystem
Topic 17: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Chemistry:

Topic 1: Atomic Structure
Topic 2: The Periodic Table
Topic 3: Structure and Bonding
Topic 4: Chemical Calculations
Topic 5: Chemical Changes
Topic 6: Electrolysis
Topic 7: Energy Changes
Topic 8: Rates of Reaction
Topic 9: Crude oil and fuels

Physics:

Topic 1: Conservation and Dissipation of Energy
Topic 2: Energy Transfer by Heating
Topic 3: Energy Resources
Topic 4: Electric Circuits
Topic 5: Electricity in the Home
Topic 6: Molecules and Matter
Topic 7: Radioactivity
Topic 8: Forces in Balance
Topic 9: Motion
Topic 10: Force and Motion
Topic 11: Wave Properties

How the course is assessed

The course is assessed by six written papers, each of 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. These can be taken at Foundation Tier (Grades 1 – 5) or Higher Tier (Grades 4 to 9). There is no practical assessment but practical work is interwoven into the course and will be addressed in the written papers by assessing key 'required practicals' studied in lessons.

Biology Paper 1: (70 marks, 16.7% of GCSE) – Topics 1 – 9

Biology Paper 2: (70 marks, 16.7% of GCSE) – Topics 1, 10 – 17

Chemistry Paper 1: (70 marks, 16.7% of GCSE) – Topics 1 – 7

Chemistry Paper 2: (70 marks, 16.7% of GCSE) – Topics 1, 8 – 12

Physics Paper 1: (70 marks, 16.7% of GCSE) – Topics 1 – 7

Physics Paper 2: (70 marks, 16.7% of GCSE) – Topics 1, 8 – 13

All papers will contain multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

Useful website links, text books used and additional information

- www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463
- www.kerboodle.com
- www.my-gcsescience.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv

Student OUP textbooks. All students are given textbooks to use as part of their studies.



Citizenship and PSHE (Including Careers) (Core - Non-GCSE)

Non-GCSE

N/A
SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/
UNITS

- N/A

Useful website links, text books
used and additional information

- www.pshe-association.org.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/11_16/site/pshe.shtml
- www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3ckjxs

Introduction

Citizenship and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) is a compulsory subject. Citizenship is designed to complement the role of education in producing well-rounded adult citizens. Units on citizenship are blended into PSHE and aspects of the subject are highlighted in the more traditional subjects.

PSHE is designed to promote and support the development of personal qualities, skills, attitudes and values which will enable pupils to become independent adults, and for them to be able to manage relationships, understand moral issues and accept social responsibility in the modern world. You will also have the opportunity to receive careers education and guidance.

Course content

Among a wide-ranging programme you will learn about career pathways, CV construction and post-16 choices as well as topics including:

- Health and lifestyle issues like sex and drugs education
- Politics and Economics
- British Values
- Local, National and Global issues including environmental concerns and human rights
- Careers Education and Interview practice
- Study and revision skills

How the course is assessed

There is no formal assessment but you will be peer and teacher assessed through discussions, presentations and some written work.

Physical Education (Core) (Non-GCSE)

Non-GCSE

N/A
SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/
UNITS

- N/A

Introduction

The aim of this course is to equip pupils with an active interest in sport which they can use and develop in their adult lives.

We offer a diverse programme to allow pupils to find their own particular interests and strengths. Pupils will be involved in working on aerobic machinery in the gym, team games, and outdoor adventurous activities.

What will I learn?

You will work in groups, taking a wide range of roles and responsibilities, to help each other and act as a team.

You will develop the ability to challenge yourself physically and to become aware of how to develop and improve your level of fitness in a safe and sensible manner.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by the PE Department using levels and success criteria.



Key Stage 4 Option Subjects

- Art and Design (Fine Art)
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- Graphic Design (Graphic Communication)
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Triple Science



Art and Design (Fine Art) GCSE

AQA 8202

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- Unit 1 (60%)
- Unit 2 (40%)

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zdwtsbk
- www.lightboxresource.co.uk/assess/gcse-gce-examples/gcse-fine-art/
- www.filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016-V1-0.PDF

Introduction

Fine Art is defined here as the need to explore an idea, convey an experience or respond to a theme or issue of personal significance.

This course is aimed at pupils who may wish to pursue careers and further study within the area of Art and Design, and is seen as a precursor to A Level, GNVQ, BTEC, Foundation and Degree Courses.

Course content

The course is split into two Components. Component 1 comprises two separate projects in which pupils respond to a theme and develop ideas from concept through to a final piece. The development work is completed between Year 10 and Year 11 and is recorded in two separate sketchbooks. The development work and final pieces in Component 1 represent 60% of the final mark.

Component 2 is the third and final project. Pupils are given a choice of different themes and are asked to develop ideas in preparation for a 10 hour exam during which pupils create their final artwork under exam conditions. Component 2 represents 40% of the final mark.

This course aims to teach pupils how to manipulate line, shape, form, colour, tone, pattern and texture using a wide variety of media and techniques to achieve a diversity of outcome. This includes drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, collage, printmaking, photography, photo-manipulation, ICT and mixed media work.

How the course is assessed

Pupils produce a portfolio of work in Years 10 and 11 which accounts for 60% of their final grade. This Controlled Assessment submission includes two units and will be assessed on the following:

- AO1 Developing ideas through investigations
- AO2 Refining ideas through experimenting with different media
- AO3 Recording ideas, observations and insights
- AO4 Presenting a personal, informed and meaningful response

Examination:

Pupils are given a choice of themes of which they have to research and develop ideas. This culminates in a 10 hour timed examination which involves pupils producing a final piece of work relating to their chosen theme. The Exam and preparatory work account for 40% of their final grade.

Business Studies GCSE

OCR J204

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- Business 1: Business Activity, Marketing and People
- Business 2: Operations, Finance and Influences on Business

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/>
<http://businesscasestudies.co.uk/#axzz30SousxK4>
<http://www.revisionstation.co.uk/index.htm>
OCR GCSE (9-1) Business Third Edition – Mike Schofield and Alan Williams

Introduction

This qualification equips learners with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect business decisions. It is a well-rounded introduction to the subject. The qualification will encourage learners to make informed choices about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways as well as develop life skills that enable them to become financially and commercially aware.

Course content

OCR GCSE (9-1) in Business

The key features of OCR's GCSE (9-1) in Business will enable learners to develop:

- An interest in business and entrepreneurial skills
- Connections between theory and practice so that learners are able to apply their understanding of business to real organisations
- An informed approach that will help learners to evaluate choices and decisions about their own future working lives
- Confidence in using both qualitative and quantitative data to make business decisions.

Link to OCR website:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-business-j204-from-2017/>

How the course is assessed

Unit 1 Business activity, Marketing and People (50%)
This Unit is externally assessed (1.5 Hour Examination)

Unit 2 Operations, Finance and Influences on Business (50%)
This Unit is externally assessed (1.5 Hour Examination)

Computer Science GCSE

OCR J277

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- J277/01: Computer systems
- J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
- J277/03: Practical Programming

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/
- www.teach-ict.com and follow the link to the GCSE Computer Science
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zmtchbk
- www.codecademy.com
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8H6-anK0t4&list=PLCiOXwirraUAvkTPDWeeSqAKty3LAG37-
- www.mrfraser.org
- New GCSE Computer Science OCR Complete Revision & Practice - Grade 9-1 (with Online Edition) (CGP GCSE Computer Science 9-1 Revision) - Amazon

Introduction

The course will enable learners to develop computational thinking skills built on a sound base of conceptual learning and understanding.

What to expect in the qualification:

The qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study. The course has been designed not only to allow for a solid basis of understanding, but also to engage learners and get them thinking about real world application.

The qualification enables pupils to:

- To understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, algorithmic thinking, logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- To analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- To think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- To understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- To understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- To apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

How the course is assessed

The two exams and a programming task:

Computer systems:

This unit is externally assessed, written examination paper lasting 1hr 30mins (80 marks max awarded) - 50% of GCSE

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:

This unit is externally assessed, written examination paper lasting 1hr 30mins (80 marks max awarded) - 50% of GCSE

Practical Programming:

All students are given the opportunity to undertake a programming task or tasks during their course of study.
(Not externally moderated and no marks awarded, however compulsory)

Drama GCSE

AQA

8261

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- Component 1: Understanding drama (written exam) 40%
- Component 2: Devising drama (practical exam with written portfolio) 40%
- Component 3: Texts in practice (practical) 20%

Introduction

Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course that allows students to develop a creative problem solving ability and leadership skills that are key to success. Although ability is important, maturity, motivation and enthusiasm are vital if you are to succeed on the course. You need to be willing to open up and take risks. Students need to be prepared to visit the theatre more than once and may need to rehearse after school. 70% of the course involves writing and 30% is performance.

What will I learn?

- Character and content
- Performance skills
- Genre, style and conventions
- Dramatic form and structure
- Social, historical and political issues
- Analytical and evaluative skills

What will I be doing in Drama lessons?

You will mainly work in small groups or as a whole class in creating pieces of drama. Some of the drama which you create will be based on a play text, but often you will explore meaning and invent characters/situations with your teacher and fellow students. In a typical lesson, you might expect to begin with a stimulus, make comments about it and then use appropriate drama techniques to develop a scene or performance.

You might then share your work and hear what other students have to say about it, as well as the teacher's comments. For homework you will be asked to complete a variety of written and practical tasks such as after school rehearsals. You will take part in workshops and exciting theatre visits for inspiration and write a theatre evaluation as part of your written exam.

What will I have to do?

Component 1 – Understanding drama (written exam): In preparation for the 1 hour 45 minutes written exam students must study and explore one set play and learn how to evaluate the work of live theatre makers (performers and/or designers).

Component 2- Devising drama (practical exam with written portfolio): This is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance, apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance and analyse and evaluate their own work.

Component 3 - Texts in practice (practical): This component is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance. What are the important deadlines during this course?

Comp. 2 will begin in Year 10 Summer Term, Comp. 3 in Year 11 Autumn Term and Comp. 1 in Year 11 Spring/ Summer Term.

French GCSE

AQA

8658

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- 4 papers
- Listening , Reading, Speaking and Writing

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.kerboodle.com (pupils already have their logins to access the interactive book)

www.quizlet.com (useful to practise vocabulary)

BBC Bitesize - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z9dqxb>

www.aqa.org.uk (French past papers)

AQA GCSE Revision Guide

Introduction

Studying French will enable you to communicate with the Francophone peoples and thus enable you to appreciate the richness of other cultures. Studying a modern language at GCSE level is considered to be an indicator of a broad and balanced education.

Course content

- Theme 1: Identity and culture e.g. family, free-time activity, customs and festivals
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest e.g. the environment, travel and tourism
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment e.g. education post-16, jobs and careers

How the course is assessed

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). You will take all four question papers (Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing) at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series. Each paper will account for 25% of your GCSE final grade.

Listening paper: Foundation paper (35 minutes) Higher paper (45 minutes), both Tiers have two sections. Section A: questions in English to be answered in English. Section B: questions in French to be answered in French.

Reading paper: Foundation paper (45 minutes) Higher (1 hour) both Tiers have three sections. Section A: questions in English to be answered in English. Section B: questions in French to be answered in French. Section C: translation from French into English (approximately 35 words at Foundation Tier and 50 words at Higher Tier).

Speaking paper: The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher but with different length. There are three sections. Role-play (2 minutes for both Tiers) , photo card (2 minutes at Foundation Tier and 3 minutes at Higher Tier) and general conversation (3-5 minutes at Foundation Tier and 5-7 minutes at Higher Tier).

Writing paper: (Foundation Tier 1 hour, Higher Tier 1h and 15 minutes). Foundation Tier has four questions. Question 1: message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo), question 2: short passage (maximum 40 words), question 3: translation from English into French (minimum 35 words) and question 4: structured writing task (90 words approximately) there is a choice from two questions.

Higher Tier has three questions. Question 1: structured writing task (90 words, with a choice of two questions), question 2: open-ended writing task (150 words approximately, with a choice of two questions) and question 3: translation from English into French (minimum 50 words).

Geography GCSE

AQA

8035

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- Examination 1: 35% Physical
- Examination 2: 35% Human
- Examination 3: 30% Geographical applications

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following are AQA approved textbooks publishers:

- Cambridge University Press
- Oxford University Press
- Hodder Education

Introduction

The study of Geography stimulates an interest in and a sense of wonder about places. It helps young people make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. It explains where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected. It builds on pupils' own experiences to investigate places at all scales from the personal to the global.

Course content

Living with the physical environment

- 3.1.1. The challenge of natural hazards, 3.1.2 Physical landscapes in the UK, 3.1.3 The living world 3. Geographical skills
- Challenges in the human environment
- 3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges, 3.2.2 The changing economic world, 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management, 3.4 Geographical skills
- Geographical applications
- 3.3.1 Issue evaluation, 3.3.2 Fieldwork, 3.4 Geographical skills

How the course is assessed

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST))
35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for SPGST)
35% of GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical applications

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes

76 marks (including 6 marks for SPGST)
30% of GCSE

Pre-release resources made available from 15 March in the year of the exam

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

Graphic Design (Graphic Communication) GCSE

AQA

8203

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- Unit 1 (60%)
- Unit 2 (40%)

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zbrqxb/resources/1
- www.lightboxresource.co.uk/assess/gcse-gce-examples/gcse-graphic-communication/
- <http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016-V1-0.PDF>

Introduction

Graphic Communications is defined here as the process of designing primarily visual material to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given or self-defined brief.

This course is aimed at pupils who may wish to pursue careers and further study within the areas of Design, Architecture, Graphic Design, Advertising, Illustration, etc.

Course content

The course is split into two Components. Component 1 comprises of two separate projects in which pupils respond to a design brief and develop ideas from a concept to a final Graphic product. The development work is completed between Year 10 and Year 11 and is recorded in two separate sketchbooks. The development work and final products in Component 1 represent 60% of the final mark.

Unit 2 is the third and final project. Pupils are given a choice of different design briefs and are asked to develop design ideas in preparation for a 10 hour exam during which pupils create their final product under exam conditions.

Component 2 represents 40% of the final mark.

During the course pupils will be taught how to:

- Explore and create packaging and advertising for a range of different products
- Use computer aided design to develop ideas
- Promote and advertise a product
- Analyse products and artefacts, disseminating the various features and functions so that they can 'improve', enhance, or develop those products further

How the course is assessed

Pupils produce a portfolio of work in Years 10 and 11 which accounts for 60% of their final grade. This Controlled Assessment submission includes two units and will be assessed on the following:

- AO1 Developing ideas through investigations
- AO2 Refining ideas through experimenting with different media
- AO3 Recording ideas, observations and insights
- AO4 Presenting a personal, informed and meaningful response

Examination: Pupils are given a choice of themes of which they have to research and develop ideas. This culminates in a 10 hour timed examination which involves pupils producing a final piece of work relating to their chosen theme. The Exam and preparatory work account for 40% of their final grade.

History GCSE

AQA 8145

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- Two written papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Textbooks approved by AQA have been purchased for the course.
- Students will also watch relevant videos and DVDs.

Introduction

Students will build on their work in Year 9 by continuing to study Germany in detail and international relations between 1918-1939. They will also look at key developments in Britain over a long period of time up to the present day, and develop skills including chronology, causation, change and continuity, and significance.

Course content

Year 10 will study the first topic in Paper Two called 'Shaping the Nation'. This is a thematic British study, with a focus on 'Migration, Empires and the People' from the 8th Century to the present day. This engaging study allows the students to examine conquests of and migration to and from Britain, the expansion of the British Empire and its legacy. They will then move on with the topics from Paper One called "Understanding the modern world". They will first study 'Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1890-1945.'

Year 11 is likely to begin with the second section of Paper One and study 'Conflict and Tension' during the Cold War period in Asia between 1950 and 1975, primarily the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The final topic of study is for Paper Two, and is a detailed British Depth Study examining the reign of Charles II and the Restoration. This topic focuses on the 25 years of the reign of King Charles II including 1665 Plague and the Great Fire of London. Together, the two papers cover the requirement that the GCSE must include 40% of British history. Much of this builds and extends work already done in Year 9.

History is an academic subject which requires a considerable amount of writing. Students should therefore have a positive attitude towards written work. Many employers, as well as universities, value a good history qualification as historians are able to demonstrate the ability to retain and analyse information and then effectively communicate their analysis; a valuable skill for many professions, in particular law.

How the course is assessed

Both papers are worth 50% of the GCSE and assessed by written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. They are each worth 84 marks, including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Music GCSE

OCR J536

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- 01/02: Integrated Portfolio:
- Solo performance and composition to a brief set by student
- 03/04: Practical Component:
- Ensemble performance and composition to a brief set by OCR
- 05: Listening and Appraising:
- A written paper based on the Areas of Study: 2,3,4 & 5

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- CCP OCR GCSE Music Revision Guide 2018-2019
- BBC Bitesize/ GCSE/Music www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpf3cdm

Introduction

GCSE Music is an exciting, creative and challenging course enabling pupils to develop their skills in performing, composing and analysing. There are also lots of opportunities to use technology.

Although current ability is important, a mature attitude to learning is vital for success in this course.

Whilst students who already learn an instrument have an advantage at GCSE, it is open to all those who are determined to improve their playing and can learn to read stave notation. By the end of Year 9 pupils should be able to read basic notation and confidently play at least one instrument and/or be a confident singer/ performer.

Students are expected to take greater responsibility for their own learning in preparation for further education at college.

Students need to have an open mind about listening to a range of music from around the world; not only their favourite music but also a variety of music from Western classical, world, film and pop as 40% of the overall mark comes from the listening exam.

We encourage students to become effective independent learners who are able to think creatively, reflect on their own learning, work effectively as part of a team, self-manage and participate effectively in lessons.

We encourage students to take part in all school music events and take the initiative in all music activities, taking opportunities inside and outside school in order to build their confidence in performance.

Course content

OCR GCSE (9-1) in Music

- AoS 1: My music
- In this Area of Study you will study a main instrument or voice. You will perform a piece on your main instrument and compose a piece for one or more instruments/ voices.
- AoS 2: The Concerto through Time
- AoS 3: Rhythms of the World
- AoS 4: Film Music
- AoS 5: Conventions of Popular Music

How the course is assessed

Moderated coursework : 60% of GCSE qualification

- 01/02 : Integrated Portfolio:
- Solo performance: 15%
- Composition to a brief set by you: 15%

03/04: Practical Component:

- Ensemble performance: 15%
- Composition to a brief set by the examination board (OCR) :15 %
- Listening and Appraising: 40% of GCSE qualification (assessed externally)
- Listen to extracts of music from the Areas of Study 2,3,4 & 5 and answer by analysing features of the music

Physical Education GCSE

AQA

8582

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- 60% Theory; 40% Non-exam Practical Assessment
- Paper 1 Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes - 78 marks 30% of GCSE
- Paper 2 Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes - 78 marks 30% of GCSE
- Non exam assessment: Assessed by teachers (moderated by AQA): 100 marks 40% of GCSE

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- AQA text book for each pupil
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/znyb4wx>
- AQA GCSE Revision Guide

Introduction

This course will appeal if you:

- Have a keen interest in sport and always look forward to your PE lessons.
- Want to develop your knowledge and understanding through practical involvement.
- Want to learn more about the benefits of sport/exercise and the body in motion.
- Want to improve your performance in a range of sporting roles.
- Are considering a sports related career or an A Level/higher education course.
- Have secure knowledge of the sciences, as there is a lot of biology and physics in the content.

Question style

- Answer all questions on the paper.
- A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.
- There is an allocated mark for spelling, punctuation and grammar in each paper.

What could this lead to?

This course is suitable for pupils who are considering any A Level/higher education qualification.

This course is aimed at pupils who wish to pursue a career related to the ever-growing sport industry.

Paper 1 - The human body and movement in physical activity and sport applied

- Anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

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

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and wellbeing
- Use of data
-

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

Chose three different physical activities:

- One team activity
- One individual activity
- A third in either team or individual activity
- Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Sociology GCSE

AQA

8192

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- Paper 1 Families and Education
- Paper 2 Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- If you have any queries you can see Mrs Marks in room 22. Or use the link to the specification we are following:
- www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192

Introduction

If you want to understand how a plant has developed, you might look at the properties of the soil, the levels of light or the air temperature of its environment. If you want to understand how an individual has grown into the person they are today, you might look at their family, education or cultural background. Sociologists look at how wider society shapes us and influences our beliefs and behaviours. If you are the kind of person that likes to ask questions about the world around you, then sociology is the subject for you.

What will I learn?

You will study six topics throughout the course: Core sociological theories such as functionalism and Marxism; Families; Education; Crime and deviance; Social stratification and inequality within society; Research methods. Throughout the course you will be required to debate ideas, present persuasive arguments in essays, analyse classic sociological theory and develop your own opinions about the world around you. Please note that sociology and psychology are two very different subjects, so do not opt for this subject assuming you will be studying the brain or conducting experiments. Although they both look at people, sociology studies group of people whilst psychology studies individuals.

How will I be assessed?

Your class work and homework will be regularly marked and feedback given will ensure you know how to improve your progress and attainment. There will be two exams at the end of the course, each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. Your final grade will reflect your performance in these exams; there is no coursework in this subject. The exam will contain a mixture of short answer questions and essay style questions. You will also be required to apply your knowledge to analyse a range of sources.

What qualifications will I get at the end of the course?

A GCSE in Sociology at a grade that reflects your work ethic and commitment.

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Students who have studied sociology will have a better understanding of why people think or act the way they do, making them ideal for any jobs that involve interacting with members of the public, such as teaching, social work, counselling or policing. The critical thinking, analytical and communication skills students develop will also help those interested in a career in law, business or journalism.

Post-16 Progression -After securing a good GCSE grade in sociology you will have the option to continue with the subject at A-Level. The most obvious higher education path would be to study a degree in sociology but due to the diversity of the subject you are able to choose a vast array of courses, to name just a few: psychology, media studies, criminology, history, geography, social work, English, law, politics and journalism.

Spanish GCSE

AQA
8698

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- 4 papers
- Listening , Reading, Speaking and Writing

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Text book:
AQA GCSE Spanish Foundation/
Higher student book, by John and
Viv Halksworth

Useful websites:
languages online, linguascope, oye,
bbc bitesize, languages resources.

Introduction

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world. It is the mother tongue of Spain and most South and Central American countries. By choosing to study a language you will gain the English baccalaureate qualification and you will enhance your chances of obtaining a good job in the future.

Course content

- Theme 1: Identity and culture e.g. family, free-time activity, customs and festivals
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest e.g. the environment, travel and tourism
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment e.g. education post-16, jobs and careers

How the course is assessed

GCSE Spanish has a total of four papers: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Every paper has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and Higher Tier (4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. Each paper represents 25% of the overall GCSE.

Listening paper: Foundation paper (35 minutes) Higher paper (45 minutes), both Tiers have two sections. Section A: questions in English to be answered in English. Section B: questions in Spanish to be answered in Spanish

Reading paper: Foundation paper (45 minutes) Higher (1 hour) both Tiers have three sections. Section A: questions in English to be answered in English. Section B: questions in Spanish to be answered in Spanish. Section C : translation from Spanish into English (approximately 35 words at Foundation Tier and 50 words at Higher Tier)

Speaking paper: The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher but with different length. There are three sections. Role-play (2 minutes for both Tiers) , photo card (2 minutes at Foundation Tier and 3 minutes at Higher Tier) and general conversation (3-5 minutes at Foundation Tier and 5-7 minutes at Higher Tier).

Writing paper: (Foundation Tier 1 hour, Higher Tier 1 hour 15 minutes). Foundation Tier has four questions. Question 1: message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo), question 2: short passage (maximum 40 words), question 3: translation from English into Spanish (minimum 35 words) and question 4: structured writing task (90 words approximately) there is a choice from two questions.

Higher Tier has three questions. Question 1: structured writing task (90 words,

Triple Science GCSE

AQA

Biology 8461, Chemistry 8462,
Physics 8463

SYLLABUS CODE

NUMBER AND TITLE OF PAPERS/ UNITS

- 2x Biology
- 2x Chemistry
- 2x Physics

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS, TEXT BOOKS USED AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463
- www.kerboodle.com
- www.my-gcsescience.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv

Student OUP textbooks. All students are given textbooks to use as part of their studies.

Introduction

Students who pick the Triple Science option will have the opportunity to be awarded 3 GCSEs, one in Biology, one in Chemistry and one in Physics. The course is good preparation for students considering applying on to an A level Science qualification. Students on the course are expected to work well independently, be undaunted by a high level of challenge and confident scientists and mathematicians.

At Normanhurst, we follow the AQA Separate Sciences curriculum. This includes everything they learn during their Combined Science lessons following the AQA Trilogy Specification and additional content specified below.

Course content

The extra content that students will learn in the triple option are as follows:

Biology

Plant Diseases, Monoclonal Antibodies, The Brain and The Eye, Plant Hormones, Homeostasis, The Kidney, DNA, Cloning, Darwin's Ideas, Food Production.

Chemistry

Nanoparticles, Chemical Calculations, Fuel Cells, Organic Reactions, Polymers, Testing for Ions and The Haber Process.

Physics

Static Electricity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion, Moments, Momentum, Force and Pressure, Sound, Light, Electromagnetism and Space.

How the course is assessed

The course is assessed by two written papers per Science discipline, each of 1 hour and 45 minutes in length. These can be taken at Foundation Tier (grades 1 – 5) or Higher Tier (grades 4 to 9).

There is no practical assessment but practical work is interwoven into the course and will be addressed in the written papers by assessing key 'required practicals' studied in lessons. The content in these exams is taken from their Combined Science lessons in addition to their Triple lesson work.

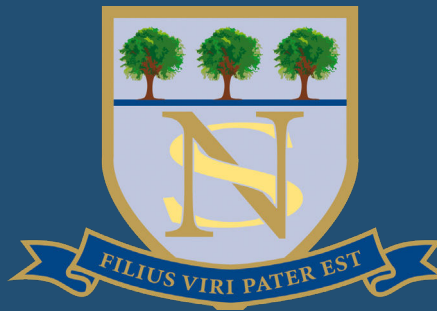
- Biology Paper 1: (100 marks, 50% of GCSE)
- Biology Paper 2: (100 marks, 50% of GCSE)
- Chemistry Paper 1: (100 marks, 50% of GCSE)
- Chemistry Paper 2: (100 marks, 50% of GCSE)
- Physics Paper 1: (100 marks, 50% of GCSE)
- Physics Paper 2: (100 marks, 50% of GCSE)

Notes

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced, horizontal green lines running across the width of the page. The background is plain white, providing a clear guide for letter height and placement. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal green ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Normanhurst School, 68 - 74 Station Road
North Chingford, E4 7BA

Telephone 020 8529 4307

www.Normanhurstschool.co.uk | info@Normanhurstschool.co.uk