

# Year 9 Options

Course Information;  
for September 2026



**Meopham School**

Tenacity • Respect • Unity • Excellence



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# Key Information

**“Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world.” (Nelson Mandela)**

## **For our students:**

You are about to embark on an exciting stage in your education. For the first time you have the chance to make some decisions about your future by choosing the subjects you want to study in Years 10 and 11. Making the decision can be tough, and sometimes confusing, so here are some simple ways to make it easier to make the right choice:

Try to choose subjects.....

that you think you will enjoy and feel you are good at;

that you may need for your future education and/or career;

that you are most likely to work enthusiastically and succeed at;

that provide a balance and variety. By keeping a balance at this stage, you will not close off future options.

## **For parents and carers:**

I hope you find the information in this guide interesting, useful and accessible. While there are a core suite of subjects your child must study, they will also be able to consider their optional subjects.

The curriculum, both nationally and at Meopham School, has undergone significant changes over recent years, and is continually evolving. Our aim is to provide an educational pathway to ‘future-proof’ your child against these changes, whilst our over-arching principle is that we will deliver a curriculum that is ambitious for all, adhering to our TRUE values: tenacity, respect, unity and excellence.

Our mission at Meopham School is to provide our students with an excellent education through a fully inclusive and appropriately challenging curriculum that provides students with the creativity to meet the demands of an ever-changing world.

**Mrs Romney**

**Deputy Headteacher**

**“Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right path, but the final forming of a person’s character lies in their own hearts.” (Anne Frank)**

# Key Stage 4: The Core

## **The core curriculum is studied by all students:**

At Meopham School the curriculum structure changes for students at the start of Year 10 as they enter Key Stage 4, and students can choose some optional courses.

However, certain subjects are statutory for all.

All students will study the following subjects until the end of Year 11:

### **English Language and English Literature**

All students will complete a GCSE in both English Language and English Literature. More details on these courses can be found on pages 6 and 7.

### **Mathematics and Statistics**

All students will complete a GCSE in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Statistics. More details on these courses can be found on pages 8 and 9.

### **Science**

All students will study GCSE Science. For many this will be the Combined Science Double Award. More details can be found on page 10. Some students may choose to study the three separate sciences of GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics through completing our Triple Science course. More details on these courses can be found on page 30.

### **Core PE**

All students have core PE lessons each week. This continues the programme of study from Key Stage 3, with a focus on health-related fitness alongside a wide variety of sports. This subject is not examined.

### **Personal Development (TRUE)**

All students have a weekly Personal Development (TRUE) lesson which covers the statutory elements of the curriculum such as PSHE, Relationships and Sex Education, Citizenship and RE. This is also not an examined course.

# English Language GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?	No
How many exam papers?	2 exam papers
How long is each exam?	Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes
Are the exam papers content specific?	Paper 1: Fiction and creative writing Paper 2: Non-Fiction and persuasive writing
Is there any coursework?	3-5 minute speech on a topic of the student's choice, prepared and delivered in Year 10

## Why should I study this subject?

English is vital in all careers. As a qualification it is very well respected by universities and employers alike. It shows insight, empathy and competence with language.

A GCSE grade 4 or 5 in English is highly advantageous for almost any career, but particularly vital for those wishing to pursue careers in journalism, publishing, screenwriting, editing and teaching.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

To support your learning, you need to read widely to expand your vocabulary. It helps to read a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts.

**For further details please speak to your English teacher, or Mrs Williamson, Curriculum Leader for English: [suzi.williamson@swale.at](mailto:suzi.williamson@swale.at)**

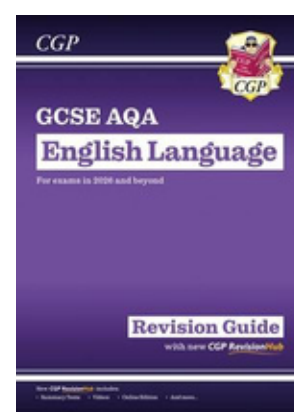
Bitesize



Mr Bruff



AQA



# English Literature GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?	No
How many exam papers?	2 exam papers
How long is each exam?	Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes
Are the exam papers content specific?	Paper 1: Macbeth and A Christmas Carol Paper 2: An Inspector Calls, Power & Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry
Is there any coursework?	No

## Why should I study this subject?

English Literature is valuable for a range of careers. It is a qualification that shows you have the ability to write essays and make arguments in extended writing. As a qualification it is very well respected by universities and employers. It demonstrates competence in critical thinking and writing.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

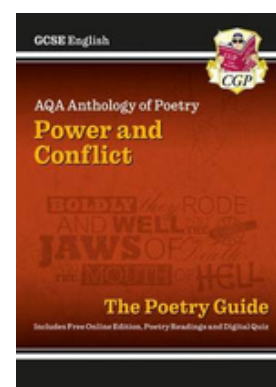
To support your learning, you need to read widely to expand your vocabulary. It helps to read a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts.

**For further details please speak to your English teacher, or Mrs Williamson, Curriculum Leader for English: [suzi.williamson@swale.at](mailto:suzi.williamson@swale.at)**

Bitesize



Mr Bruff



# Mathematics GCSE

Exam Board	OCR
Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?	Yes
How many exam papers?	3 exam papers
How long is each exam?	Paper 1: 90 minutes Paper 2: 90 minutes Paper 3: 90 minutes
Are the exam papers content specific?	For both Foundation and Higher, paper 1 is calculator, paper 2 non-calculator and paper 3 calculator
Is there any coursework?	No

## Why should I study this subject?

Mathematics is a compulsory subject, however it is also one of the most highly regarded, and a good grade will lead you into any chosen career path. You will gain skills which will enable you to control your finances, travel to foreign countries and deal with everyday problems which involve numbers.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Key topics include number, algebra, ratio, geometry, probability and statistics.

**For further details please speak to your Maths teacher, or Mr Hicks, Curriculum Leader for Maths: [chris.hicks@swale.at](mailto:chris.hicks@swale.at)**

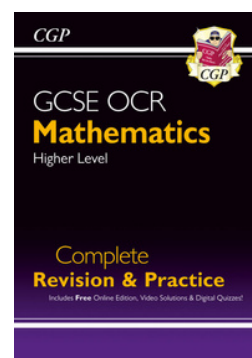
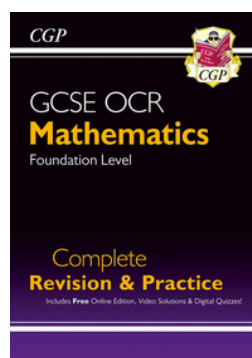
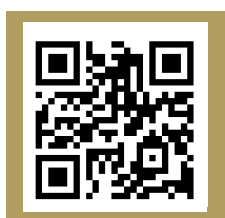
Maths Genie



Bitesize



Sparx



# Statistics GCSE

<b>Exam Board</b>	Edexcel
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	Yes
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	2 exam papers
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	Paper 1: 90 minutes Paper 2: 90 minutes
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	For both Foundation and Higher, the exams are calculator based.
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	No

## Why should I study this subject?

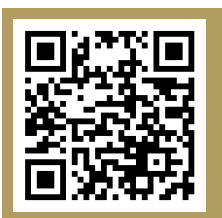
The statistics GCSE qualification incorporates numerous examples of real-life data and contexts, which build skills that students will use in other subjects such as Science and Geography. Based on the principles of the statistical enquiry circle, students gain a rounded understanding of how to interpret and apply data to a number of scenarios, both across subjects and in the real world. For those who want to study higher level Mathematics, Statistics offers important subject preparation. It also complements other subjects like Psychology, Sociology and Business Studies.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

There is an overlap of skills between GCSE Maths and Statistics, so studying GCSE Statistics will help your GCSE Maths outcome, whilst providing you with a deeper understanding of statistics. Understanding what statistics are telling you, and how they are communicated, including potential misuse, is an extremely useful life skill.

**For further details please speak to your Maths teacher, or Mr Hicks, Curriculum Leader for Maths: [chris.hicks@swale.at](mailto:chris.hicks@swale.at)**

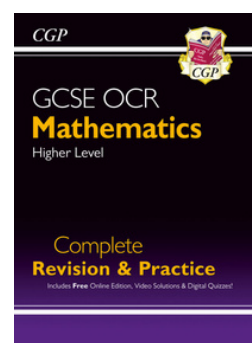
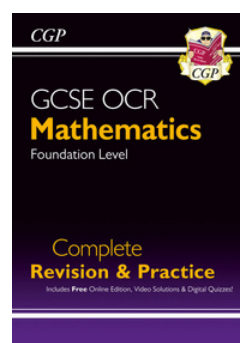
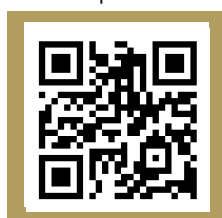
Maths Genie



Bitesize



Sparx



# Science - Combined (Double Award) GCSE

<b>Exam Board</b>	AQA
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	Yes
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	6 exam papers
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	1hr 15 minutes each
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	<p>Biology Paper 1 - Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.</p> <p>Biology Paper 2 - Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.</p> <p>Chemistry Paper 1 - Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.</p> <p>Chemistry Paper 2 - The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.</p> <p>Physics Paper 1 - Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.</p> <p>Physics Paper 2 - Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism</p>
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	No

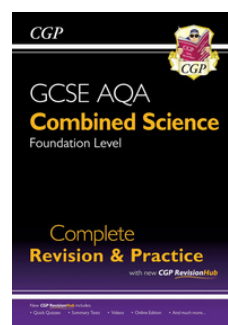
## Why should I study this subject?

Students develop their ability to communicate scientific information, deepen their critical thinking and broaden their understanding of scientific processes.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

The Double Award provides a strong foundation in all three sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course encourages students to be engaged in, inspired by and motivated to complete practical challenges alongside the required theory.

**For further details please speak to your Science teacher, or Mr Whitnell, Curriculum Leader for Science: [tommy.whitnell@swale.at](mailto:tommy.whitnell@swale.at)**



Bitesize



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# Optional Subjects and Courses

**At Key Stage there are different types of qualifications which students can complete:**

## GCSE Subjects

These subjects offer the full range of grades from 1 through to 9. A grade 4 is considered the equivalent to a grade C, with a 9 representing an A\*.

These courses have 'terminal' exams, meaning the exams are completed at the end of the course in the summer of Year 11.

They have no or minimal coursework involved, and are therefore largely exam focused.

The optional GCSE subjects we are offering are:

- Art
- Computing (Computer Science)
- Drama
- Design Technology
- Geography
- History
- French
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- Sociology
- Triple Science

## BTEC Subjects

BTEC courses are closely linked to vocational work and case studies, and are examined in a slightly different way. Students can achieve either a Level 1 (grades 1-3) or a Level 2 (grades 4 and above), and will be graded either Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\*. BTEC courses are 'modular', meaning that assessments are completed through the whole of Year 10 and 11, and are a mixture of coursework, controlled assessments and examinations.

The BTEC subjects we are offering are:

- Business
- Digital IT
- Health and Social Care
- Music
- Sport

Due to the high level of coursework involved, students will only be able to complete **ONE** BTEC.

## Other vocational courses

We also offer WJEC Catering. This course is a mixture of both theory and practical examinations, which are completed throughout the course.

## KS4 Grading

All courses at Key Stage 4 are of equal weighting, but the grades students achieve will vary depending on the type of course they complete. The table below shows what this looks like for both GCSEs and BTECs, and compares this with old style letter grades to help put these into context.

Key Stage 4 Grading Explained		
Old Grades	New GCSE Grades	BTEC
A*	9	Level 2 Dist*
	8	
A	7	Level 2 Dist
B	6	Level 2 Merit
	5 (Strong pass)	
C	4 (Standard pass)	Level 2 Pass
D	3	Level 1 Pass
E		
F		
G		
U	U	U

### Options Assessments

Due to the nature and demands of some of the options courses, and/or the fact that students have not studied these subjects before, some courses will have a short assessment to help us ensure students are selecting subjects which are right for them. Students will also get an insight into the skills and content involved in these subjects, to help them make an informed choice.

Subjects which will have an assessment are:

- GCSE Computing
- GCSE Sociology
- GCSE Triple Science
- GCSE / BTEC Business

# Support and Guidance

It is important to consider your future career aspirations when choosing your options.

Ms Bishop is the independent Careers Advisor for our school, and can provide guidance and support to help you make the right decisions.

Alongside this there are a range of websites and services to help you when considering your next steps:

**National Careers Service** - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

**Kent Choices** - <https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/>

**Apprenticeships** - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

**I could** - <https://icould.com/>

**Career Pilot** - <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

**Kent Training and Apprenticeships** -  
<https://www.kenttrainingandapprenticeships.co.uk/>

**Informed Choices** - <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

**UCAS** - <https://www.ucas.com/>

Should you have any questions or queries regarding Options choices or the Options process, please contact the Raising Standards Lead: Ms Bland using the Academic Enquiry contact form found on the school website.

**[Academic Enquiry Form](#)**

# Options Choices Explained

## The Core:

A reminder that all students will complete the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Statistics, and Combined Science. This will be complemented by Core PE, and Personal Development (TRUE) lessons.

Some students will be able to extend their scientific understanding if they choose to complete Triple Science.

## The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc):

This is not a qualification, but a suite of subjects designed to keep students' options open for future study and careers.

The EBacc subjects are:

English

Maths

Science

Geography or History

A Language

Studying all of these subjects in combination means you have gained the 'Ebacc'.

Whilst the DfE is no longer suggesting that the majority of students follow this pathway, we still believe this is a helpful combination of subjects for students to study.

## A balanced curriculum

The DfE are keen for students to study a broad and balanced curriculum. They have therefore proposed that all students study subjects from at least **TWO of the Humanities, Languages, and Creative subjects**. They will also have the choice of a **third option** from the wider range of subjects.

## Support for making choices

As well as support from staff at the school, we will be providing students with a series of Options assemblies and Taster sessions, so that they are able to make informed decisions about their next steps.

# Art and Design GCSE

## (Fine Art, 3D Design, Art Craft and Design)

<b>Exam Board</b>	AQA
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	2 Components
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	Component 1: Term 1 of Year 10 - Term 2 of Year 11 Component 2: Term 3 to Term 5 of Year 11 ending in 10 hour practical exam.
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	Component 1: Internally set title which students respond to. Component 2: Externally Set Assignment including a range of titles which students select and respond to
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	Essentially 100% coursework, including a 10 hour practical exam to create final outcome(s), however this is still marked within Component 2 holistically

### Why should I study this subject?

Students will gain creative practical skills to visually record the world around them. They will also develop analytical skills by reviewing their own work, and that of others, including a range of key artists. These skills are transferable for a wide range of careers from architecture to forensic science.

### Is there anything else I need to know?

A strong interest in art, some creative ability and the desire to listen and respond to feedback is essential to be successful on this course.

Students can choose to specialise in either Fine Art, 3D design, or art, craft and design as part of this course, making it versatile and bespoke to meet their personal areas of interest.

**For further details please speak to your Art teacher, Miss Hodd, or Mr Knight, Acting Curriculum Leader for Creative Arts: [tom.knight@swale.at](mailto:tom.knight@swale.at)**

# Business Studies BTEC

<b>Exam Board</b>	Edexcel
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	1 exam paper (Component 3 - promotion and finance for enterprise)
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	2 hours
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	60% coursework: Component 1 (exploring enterprises) and Component 2 (planning for and running an enterprise). This is a supervised assessment, about 6 - 7 hours of assessment time broken down into several tasks.

## Why should I study this subject?

Studying Business allows students to acquire enterprise skills by studying the knowledge, behaviours and skills related to researching, setting up, running and reviewing a business. Students will develop their technical skills such as market research, planning, promotional and financial skills using realistic scenarios. They will be able to transfer these skills to other subjects and a range of careers.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

There is a maths element to this course, covered in the finance section. Business lessons will also develop ICT and literacy skills.

**For further details please speak to Mr McQuillan: [david.mcquillan@swale.at](mailto:david.mcquillan@swale.at)**



# Computer Science GCSE

Exam Board	Edexcel
Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?	No
How many exam papers?	2 exam papers
How long is each exam?	1 hour 30 minutes each
Are the exam papers content specific?	Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science. Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking
Is there any coursework?	No

## Why should I study this subject?

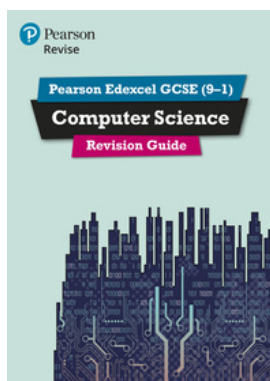
Students will gain analytical and problem solving skills, and gain experience of meeting particular end-user requirements. The content is highly mathematical and requires strong logical reasoning.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Students will cover topics such as algorithms, programming, data representation, computer systems and networks, cyber security and software development. The course is best for students with a logical / mathematical approach to problem solving, and a keen interest in computing.

Students cannot choose both Computer Science GCSE and Digital IT BTEC.

**For further details please speak to Mr Kasumu: [bolaji.kasumu@swale.at](mailto:bolaji.kasumu@swale.at)**



# Digital Information Technology BTEC

<b>Exam Board</b>	Edexcel
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	1 exam paper
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	1 hour 30 minutes
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	Component 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	60% Pearson set Assignment. Component 1 and 2.

## Why should I study this subject?

The aim of this course is to provide a broad range of IT skills in a practical and engaging way. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the modern digital sector by developing technical skills, planning realistic solutions to a brief, and appreciating the importance of ethics when working with data. You will gain software and hardware skills that allow you to access most jobs in the future.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Having a keen interest in IT is essential for success. There are three components; exploring interface design principles; collecting, presenting and interpreting data; effective digital working practices.

Students cannot choose both Computer Science GCSE and Digital IT BTEC

**For further details please speak to Mr Kasumu: [bolaji.kasumu@swale.at](mailto:bolaji.kasumu@swale.at)**

Know it all ninja



# Drama GCSE

Exam Board	Edexcel
Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?	No
How many exam papers?	1 internally assessed performance, 1 externally assessed performance, 1 written examination
How long is each exam?	Component 1 - 10-15 min performance and 2000 word portfolio Component 2 - performance of two extracts Component 3 - 1 hour 45 min written exam
Are the exam papers content specific?	Component 1 - Devising Theatre (40%) Component 2 - Performance from a Text (20%) Component 3 - Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)
Is there any coursework?	60% Performances: Component 1 and 2.

## Why should I study this subject?

**Physical & Vocal Expression:** Learning how to use your body and voice to create a character.

**Analytical Writing:** Evaluating why certain theatrical choices work and others don't.

**Collaboration:** Working under pressure in a creative team.

**Semiotic Awareness:** Understanding how a single red light or a specific prop can tell a whole story to an audience.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

You need to have an interest in drama both practically and analytically. The course requires a balance of written skills and practical drama. You need to be a reliable student with good attendance, as group work is essential. Therefore, you will also be required to demonstrate the skills needed to work as part of a team and with a variety of peers. You must be able to commit to staying after school to rehearse and develop your work in preparation for performances in front of a live audience. You must be confident in performing in front of an audience or be willing to develop this.

**For further details please speak to Mr Knight, Curriculum Leader for Performing Arts: [tom.knight@swale.at](mailto:tom.knight@swale.at)**

# Design and Technology GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?	No
How many exam papers?	1 exam paper
How long is each exam?	2 hours
Are the exam papers content specific?	Paper 1 - analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes, demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of technical principles and designing and making processes.
Is there any coursework?	Yes - controlled assessment worth 50% of marks. This will take around 30-35 hours to complete and consists of the development of a prototype, supported by a portfolio of evidence.

## Why should I study this subject?

This course prepares students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing, making and applying technical and practical expertise.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Students will study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

**For further details please speak to Miss Hodd or Mr Knight:  
tom.knight@swale.at**

# French GCSE

<b>Exam Board</b>	AQA	
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	Yes	
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	4 exam papers	
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	Foundation: Paper 1: 35 minutes Paper 2: 7-9 minutes + 15 minutes prep time Paper 3: 45 minutes Paper 4: 1 hour 10 minutes	Higher: Paper 1: 45 minutes Paper 2: 10-12 minutes + 15 minutes prep time Paper 3: 1 hour Paper 4: 1 hour 15 minutes
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	Paper 1 Listening Paper 2 Speaking (NEA) Paper 3 Reading Paper 4 Writing	
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	No	

## Why should I study this subject?

GCSE French builds on prior knowledge and learning, developing more complex vocabulary and structures, as well as deepening your understanding of the language and French culture. The course covers three themes: people and lifestyle; popular culture; communication and the world around us. Studying a language enhances listening skills and memory, increases analytical ability, and builds aptitude in problem solving.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

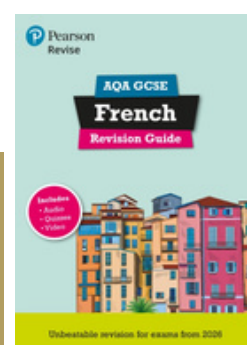
Studying a language helps broaden students' horizons, and encourages them to see the world in new ways.

**For further details please speak to your French teacher or Ms Letocart, Curriculum Leader for Modern Foreign Languages: [stephanie.letocart@swale.at](mailto:stephanie.letocart@swale.at)**

Bitesize



Oak National Academy



# Geography GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?	No
How many exam papers?	3 exam papers
How long is each exam?	Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes Paper 3: 1 hour 30 minutes
Are the exam papers content specific?	Paper 1 - Physical Geography Paper 2 - Human Geography Paper 3 - Geographical Applications
Is there any coursework?	No

## Why should I study this subject?

Geography is a traditional academic discipline which has universal acceptance amongst employers, and as an entry qualification for Further Education. You will learn to use the skills of observation, description, analysis and interpretation, as well as reporting on information and world-wide issues. These skills are transferable to many other subjects and careers.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

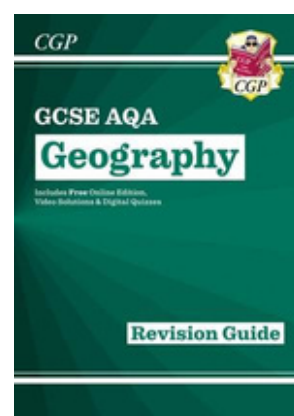
Paper 3 involves a fieldwork trip to collect and sample data of your own. It is compulsory to complete this trip.

**For further details please speak to your Geography teacher or Mrs Hatch: [jill.hatch@swale.at](mailto:jill.hatch@swale.at)**

Bitesize



Save my exams



# Health and Social Care BTEC

<b>Exam Board</b>	Pearson - BTEC TECH Award
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	1 written exam paper
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	2 hours
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	2 components of coursework which are completed as controlled assessments in exam conditions during set times. These are completed in both Year 10 and 11, and count towards their real result.

## Why should I study this subject?

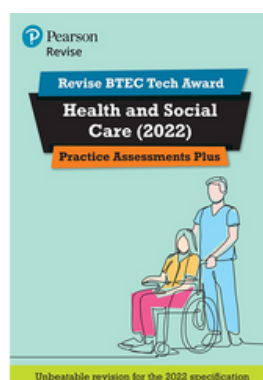
This course prepares students for a range of roles and careers in their future. It also provides key transferable skills. Component 1 looks at the human lifespan, exploring different aspects of growth and development across the life stages. Component 2 examines health and social care services, and how they meet the needs of service users. It also explores the values and attributes required when providing care. Component 3 looks at factors affecting health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and recommendations for improvement.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Students will be assessed practically for one section of the course, meaning they need to be confident in role-play.

**For further details please speak to your PE teacher or Mrs Huggens, Curriculum Leader for Sport, PE and Health and Social Care:  
lily.huggens@swale.at**

You Tube



# Hospitality and Catering

<b>Exam Board</b>	WJEC
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	1 exam paper
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	1 hour 20 minutes
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	Yes. The exam paper is based on Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry. This is 40% of qualification
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	Yes-Unit 2 Practical Controlled Assessment. 12 hrs. This is done in Year 11, 60% of qualification

## Why should I study this subject?

Students will acquire knowledge of all aspects of the industry, and be able to propose new hospitality and catering provision for specific locations, using their understanding of different types of establishment and job role to determine the best solutions. They will also use their learning to prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. The course allows students to develop a range specialist and general skills supporting progression into employment in a range of roles.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

There is a financial commitment to this course. Students are expected to provide or contribute towards ingredients. Students in receipt of free school meals, or in instances of financial hardship, can be supported with this.

Lesson are a mixture of practical and theory.

**For further details please speak to Ms Kerr:  
tamara.kerr@swale.at**

Bitesize



# History GCSE

Exam Board	Edexcel
Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?	No
How many exam papers?	3 exam papers
How long is each exam?	Paper 1: 1 hour 20 minutes Paper 2: 1 hour 50 minutes Paper 3: 1 hour 30 minutes
Are the exam papers content specific?	Paper 1 - Crime and Punishment, including a depth study on Whitechapel Paper 2 - Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 / Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91 Paper 3 - USA: Conflict at Home and Abroad 1954-75
Is there any coursework?	No

## Why should I study this subject?

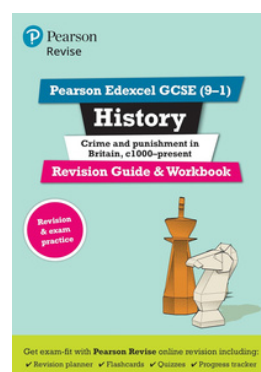
Studying History provides students with skills which are invaluable in many areas, and the ability to analyse, explain and prioritise information is vital to decision making and effective communication. This not only provides an effective skill set for students, but opens doors to a wide array of careers options.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

To succeed in History pupils will need strong levels of literacy, the ability to work and research independently, and a commitment to higher level working and thinking.

**For further details please speak to your History teacher, or Mr Finch, Curriculum Leader for History: [matthew.finch@swale.at](mailto:matthew.finch@swale.at)**

Bitesize



# Music BTEC

<b>Exam Board</b>	Pearson - BTEC TECH Award
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	Three coursework components
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	N/A
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	3 components completed as controlled assessment in exam conditions. Component 1 - students develop an analytical understanding of musical genres and products, as well as developing understanding of how they can be composed, performed and remixed. Component 2 - students develop their musical skills, tracking progress via a video diary. Component 3 - students respond to a brief provided by the exam board. They have the creative freedom to decide how to respond.

## Why should I study this subject?

This course provides opportunities to develop performance, analytical and creative skills. If you are interested in learning why music is created as it is, how songs are composed, and how to create your own music from a spark of imagination then this is the course for you.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Students taking this course should have an interest in music and how it is made. Students need to be either learning a musical instrument already, or willing to start to do so throughout the two year course. They should be committed to developing their musical skills both inside and outside school.

**For further details please speak to your Music teacher, or Mr Knight, Curriculum Leader for Performing Arts: [tom.knight@swale.at](mailto:tom.knight@swale.at)**



# Philosophy, Religion and Ethics GCSE

<b>Exam Board</b>	AQA
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	3 exam papers
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	Sat together-Paper 1 option 3 and option 5: 1hr 45 minutes Themes Paper 2a: 1hr 45minutes
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	Paper 1 Option 3- Christianity Paper 1 Option 5- Islam  Paper 2a- a. Family and relationships b. Religion and life d. Religion, peace and conflict e. Religion, crime and punishment
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	No

## Why should I study this subject?

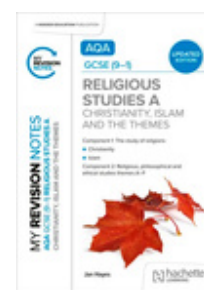
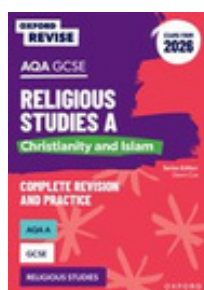
All human beings, religious or not, have beliefs. These beliefs mould our understanding of the world, and inform us how to lead our lives. Students will find that this subject requires them to think critically about the viewpoints of others as well as their own. Through the course students will develop their knowledge and understanding as well as their evaluative skills, and help them to express their opinions clearly and in an informed way.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

To succeed in this subject students will need to have good literacy skills, the ability to research effectively, and a commitment to higher level critical thinking.

**For further details please speak to Mr Obbard, or Mrs Eaton Curriculum Leader for Personal Development and Philosophy: [hannah.eaton@swale.at](mailto:hannah.eaton@swale.at)**

Bitesize



# Sociology GCSE

<b>Exam Board</b>	AQA
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	2 exam papers
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	Paper 1 - Paper 2 -
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	Paper 1 - The Sociology of Families and Education Paper 2 - The Sociology of Crime and Social Stratification  Both papers are worth 50% for your qualification
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	No

## **Why should I study this subject?**

Most people walk through life accepting things "just because that's the way it is." Sociologists ask why. Why do we wear certain clothes? Why do we have certain laws? Why is there a gap between rich and poor? You will develop a "sociological mind" with the ability to see how your personal life is connected to society. Sociology teaches you how to debate topics that can sometimes be uncomfortable or 'taboo' and understand society from different viewpoints. Learning about other cultures/families can help you to be more empathetic, which is highly beneficial for working with people

## **Is there anything else I need to know?**

Students will study 5 units: sociological theories and methods, the purpose of education, family as a 'mini-society', social stratification and crime and deviance.

**For further details please speak to Ms Alger, Curriculum Leader for Social Sciences: [louise.alger@swale.at](mailto:louise.alger@swale.at)**

# Sport BTEC

<b>Exam Board</b>	Pearson - BTEC TECH Award
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	No
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	1 written exam paper
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	1 hour 30 minutes
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	2 components of coursework which are completed as controlled assessments in exam conditions during set times. These are completed during both Year 10 and 11, and count towards their real result. These will also involve filming of practical skills and filming of sports sessions.

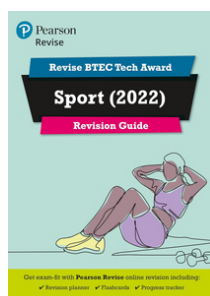
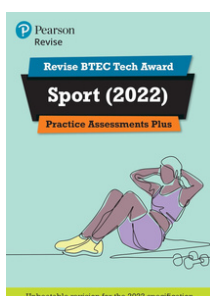
## Why should I study this subject?

This course is for students who want to explore different providers of sport and physical activity, and the equipment and technology available for participation. Students will also examine different types of participants in sport, and their needs, in order to gain an understanding of how to increase participation for all. You will develop skills such as analysis, leadership, communication, planning and team work through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Students will need to enjoy both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education.

**For further details please speak to your PE teacher or Mrs Huggens, Curriculum Leader for Sport, PE and Health and Social Care:  
lily.huggens@swale.at**



# Triple Science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs

<b>Exam Board</b>	AQA
<b>Is this a tiered course, Foundation / Higher?</b>	Yes
<b>How many exam papers?</b>	6 exam papers (2 per Science)
<b>How long is each exam?</b>	1hr 15 minutes each
<b>Are the exam papers content specific?</b>	Each subject is taught in greater depth than Combined Science over two years, allowing students to develop a stronger understanding of scientific concepts, practical skills, and the mathematical application of science. In addition to the core curriculum, Triple Science will explore topics such as : Biology: the complex structure of the human brain and eye; Chemistry: advanced organic chemistry; Physics: space physics.
<b>Is there any coursework?</b>	No

## Why should I study this subject?

Studying Triple Science develops a deeper scientific understanding and prepares students particularly well for A-level sciences and STEM pathways. Students will develop strong skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, data analysis, and scientific communication

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Triple Science is highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers, and is especially advantageous for students considering careers in medicine, engineering, scientific research, veterinary science, computing or environmental science.

**For further details please speak to your Science teacher, or Mr Whitnell, Curriculum Leader for Science: [tommy.whitnell@swale.at](mailto:tommy.whitnell@swale.at)**

# Key Terminology

Please see below some key words and terms used in this booklet:

**BTEC** - a vocational alternative to a GCSE course

**Controlled Assessment** - coursework produced under exam conditions. These can be either internally or externally assessed.

**Core subject** - a subject which all students must study. It may or may not be examined.

**Coursework** - examined work which must be completed as part of a course, usually assessed by your teachers.

**Ebacc / English Baccalaureate** - a suite of qualifications designed to offer a broad academic curriculum.

**Final / terminal examinations** - assessments completed at the end of a course.

**GCSE** - traditional academic examination course.

**Key Stage 3 (KS3)** - collective name for Years 7-9.

**Key Stage 4 (KS4)** - collective name for Years 10 and 11.

**National Curriculum** - subjects every student in England must study from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 3.

**Tier** - the level of examination you are entered for e.g. higher or foundation. This only applies to certain subjects.

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