

GCSE Curriculum Information 2009-2011

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GCSE

In Years 7, 8 and 9 all pupils study a wide range of subjects. In Years 10 and 11 most pupils follow a curriculum which leads to nine GCSE awards.

The **core curriculum** is compulsory for all:

- English and English Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics
- Science (2 GCSEs)

The remaining four subjects are chosen from a broad range of options.

Pupils are strongly advised to opt into those subjects that they enjoy and are good at. Higher Education and career aspirations should also be considered.

Wherever possible it is sensible to aim for a balanced programme of study. However, the School does **not** require that pupils choose courses to include all the main curriculum areas (languages, humanities, creative subjects and technology). It is possible, therefore, to select a combination of subjects tailored to individual needs.

The process of choosing subjects may take some time. The School provides advice and consultation for pupils and parents during Year 9 to help them make appropriate choices.

This booklet provides basic information about the GCSE courses provided at St Christopher and will be a good starting point for discussion.

Subject

Examining Group

Syllabus Title

Examinations

Coursework

English

AQA

English A (3702)

Paper 1 (1¾ hours) 30%

Reading response to unprepared non-fiction/media materials.

Writing tasks which argue, persuade or advise.

Paper 2 (1½ hours) 30%

Reading response to poetry.

Writing tasks which inform, explain or describe.

Speaking and Listening 20%

Reading 10% Shakespeare

Writing 10% Prose study

Original writing

Media

Subject

Examining Group

Syllabus Title

Examinations

Coursework

English Literature

AQA

English Literature A (3712)

One Paper (1¾ hours) 70%

One question on 20th Century Prose

One question on poetry

Three assignments 30%

Shakespeare play

Pre - 1914 Prose

Post - 1914 drama text

Pupils are placed in sets according to aptitude and interest in the subject. This enables teachers to adapt the content and pace of lessons to individual needs.

Most pupils are entered for the Higher Tier examination.

Subject

Mathematics

Examining Group

EDEXCEL

Syllabus title

GCSE Mathematics (2381)

Assessment

Two levels of entry:

Foundation (C - G)

Higher (A*- D)

GCSE

Stage 1 March 2010

30%

Stage 2 June 2010

20%

Stage 3 June 2011

50%

All sets

Pupils will be following the GCSE modular course. The course is assessed by examination only; 50% of the course is examined in Year 10 (IV Group) and 50% in Year 11 (V Group). Pupils in the lowest set will follow the Foundation level of study. The other two groups will follow the Higher level of study. The GCSE course comprises topics from four main areas: Number, Algebra, Shape and Space and Data Handling.

Pupils in the top set will take the Stage 1 and Stage 2 modules in November 2009 and March 2010 respectively. This will leave sufficient time to enable them to prepare for both the Stage 3 modules in June 2011 and an Additional Mathematics qualification.

Subject Science

Science, Additional Science and Separate Sciences

Examining Group	AQA
Syllabus title	Science A (4461) Science B (4462), Additional Science (4463) GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics (4411, 4421, 4451)
Assessment	

Year 10

	Module Tests (75%) These are 30-minutes and 40-minutes each, can be multiple choice or short answer. There are two in each of Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Exams may be taken in November, March or June.
based on taken in lessons and marked submitted.	Coursework (25%) Coursework consists of 45-minutes <i>ISA</i> tests, practical exercises set by the Board, when appropriate during the course internally. The best set of marks is

There is no coursework to do at home.

Year 11

Examinations (75%)
Progress in lessons and module results in Year 10 and Year 11 allow us to decide the best combination of examinations which can be used to achieve either 2 GCSEs or 3 GCSEs in Science. The top two sets in Science will be following a course aiming to achieve 3 GCSEs. Exams may be taken in January or June. Coursework (25%) following the same pattern as in Year 10.

GCSE Options

Art and Design
Design and Technology
Drama
French
Spanish
Geography
History
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education

Subject **Art and Design**

Examining Group

AQA

Syllabus title

Art and Design GCSE

Assessment

Students are provided with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interest in Art and Design in ways that are personally relevant and truly developmental in nature. Students can work within any of the following areas of study: Fine Art, Textiles, Three-Dimensional Design, Graphic Communication and Lens-based and Light-based Media.

60% Portfolio of Work

The content of the portfolio will be determined by the particular requirements of the course of study undertaken.

There is no restriction on the scale of work produced. Students may submit in their portfolio a selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study.

There should be more than one extended collection of work, or project which demonstrate an ability to sustain work from initial starting points or project briefs to the realisation of intentions and includes evidence of research, the development of ideas and meaningful links with critical/contextual sources.

40% Externally Set Task

Students are required to elicit a personal response from one starting point or project brief within the paper for which they have been entered.

AQA will set a paper containing a selection of starting points. Papers should be issued to students from 1 January in the year of the examination. There is unlimited preparation time followed by a ten hour period of sustained focused study in which students are expected to develop their own unaided work informed by their preparatory studies. During the preparatory period, teachers may discuss starting points with students and give them general guidance on the choice of materials, how to carry out preparatory studies or how to begin research on their chosen starting point.

Subject

Design and Technology

Syllabus title

D+T Resistant Materials Technology GCSE

Assessment

60% Major Project

The Major Project counts for all coursework marks. This project allows the candidate to design and make a complex product from first idea to final realisation.

40% Theory examination

The questions are a mixture of CDT 'Theory', such as types of material, and 'Designing' questions which give the candidate the chance to sketch design solutions set within the paper (rather like the design work in their projects and Year 9 theory tests). Theory is addressed during the course and especially in the first half of the Summer Term of Year 11.

Pupils should consider CDT as an option if they already enjoy:

- coming up with creative ideas
- finding out about how things are made and used
- freehand sketching and accurate measured drawings
- designing 3D shapes on the computer (ProDesktop)
- making projects in the workshop
- using all sorts of materials, tools and machines
- learning about DT theory (doing well in the Year 9 CDT tests)
- being motivated and organised with project work

The differences between Year 9 work and GCSE are chiefly

- the opportunity to design and make a more complex project
- smaller classes so more individual help - especially in the workshop
- the chance to use a wide variety of tools and machines
- greater emphasis on planning ahead through the design folder

Extra-curricular opportunities include weekly 'shed' sessions after school: it is not required but expected that candidates will make use of some of these times to enhance their project progress / marks. Extra-curricular sessions increase in the Spring Term of Year 11, and pupils usually enjoy the busy atmosphere at this time. Very ambitious projects are often completed by using a good deal of this 'shed' time.

The course is well suited to both artistic and more technically-minded students.

Subject **Drama**

Examining Group	AQA
Syllabus title	Drama (3241)

The course aims to develop:

1. Theatre skills
2. Imagination and creativity
3. Social skills

Course Content:

Practical (60%)

Year 10: Each student will act in two mini-productions. One will be a scripted performance and one devised. These will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Year 11: Students can continue in acting with a further two mini-productions: one scripted and one devised. However, there will also be opportunities to be assessed in technical areas such as lighting, set design and sound. Again, both assignments are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Scripts range from old (Shakespeare) to new (Godber).

Devised work is based on narrative.

Written (40%)

There is one written paper in the final term of Year 11. Students have to answer questions on two live productions they have seen during the GCSE course.

Theatre Trips:

Students can expect to see at least one production a year with the School.

Subject

French

Examining Group	OCR
Syllabus title	French (J730)
Examinations	Papers in Listening (20%), Reading (20%) and Writing (30%) at Foundation or Higher level.
Speaking test	Conducted and recorded by the teacher (30%), internally assessed and externally moderated.

It is expected that most pupils will continue with the study of French in Year 10. The emphasis of GCSE on communication and an exchange programme with a French school gives added relevance to this course.

Subject

Spanish

Examining Group	OCR
Syllabus title	Spanish (J732)
Examinations	Papers in Listening (20%), Reading (20%) and Writing (30%) at Foundation or Higher level.
Speaking test	Conducted and recorded by the teacher (30%), internally assessed and externally moderated.

During the GCSE course pupils will continue to develop all of the skills which they will have already practised in their first 3 years of Spanish. At the beginning of Year 10 they will have the opportunity to visit Spain and stay with a Spanish family, which will greatly enhance their knowledge of the language and of Spanish culture.

Other Options: Other Languages can be followed at an extra charge.

Subject

Geography

Examining Group

Edexcel

Syllabus Title

Geography Syllabus B (5GB)

Paper 5GB1 (1 hour, tiered) Weighting: 25%

A question is set on each of the topics listed below. Each question contains a mixture of question styles and will involve using material covered throughout the course.

Unit 1 – Dynamic Planet

- Introduction to Dynamic Planet – (compulsory) climate and change, restless earth, battle for the biosphere and water world.
- Small scale Dynamic Planet – (option) coastal change and conflict or river processes and pressures.
- Large scale Dynamic Planet – (option) oceans on the edge or extreme climates

Paper 5GB2 (1 hour, tiered) Weighting: 25%

A question is set on each of the topics listed below. Each question contains a mixture of question styles and will involve using material covered throughout the course.

Unit 2 – People and the Planet

- Introduction to People and the Planet – (compulsory) population dynamics, consuming resources, living spaces and making a living.
- Small scale People and the Planet – (option) changing cities or changing countryside.
- Large scale People and the Planet – (option) development dilemmas or world at work

Paper 5GB3 (1 hour, tiered) Weighting: 25%

Unit 3 - Making Geographical Decisions

This paper takes the form of a decision making exercise. It includes a booklet with resources such as maps, photographs and newspaper articles, all based on issues that relate to sustainable development and the environment. Candidates are asked structured questions using the resources to consider the issue being examined.

Paper 5GB4

Unit 4 - Researching Geography Coursework: a fieldwork investigation worth 25% - Internally assessed

Candidates are required to complete ONE fieldwork investigation at a local scale to investigate an argument, problem or assertion. They will collect the data during a visit to Cambridge in the Summer Term of Year 10 and complete the write up within a **specific time frame** during the Autumn Term of Year 11.

Subject

History

Examining Group

EDEXCEL

Syllabus title

Syllabus A
The Making of the Modern World

The GCSE syllabus provides candidates with the opportunity to study crucially important aspects of Twentieth Century World History in outline and in depth. Assessment is by three examinations worth 25% each and one piece of coursework worth 25%.

Examinations

Unit 1 – (Outline Study) – (75% of total)
Peace and War:

International Relations during the Cold War 1943-1991

Unit 2 – (Modern World Depth Study)

Russia 1917-1939

Unit 3 – (Modern World Source Enquiry)

A Divided Union? The USA 1945-1970

Coursework

Unit 4- (Representations of History) –
(25% of total)

**The Impact of War on Britain
c.1914-1950**

Subject

Media Studies

Examining Group

AQA

Syllabus Title

GCSE Media Studies

What is it?

In an increasingly media-driven society GCSE Media Studies encourages students to analyse and interpret the variety of texts and images with which they are presented using a similar skill set to that expected in GCSE English. The course then allows students to put theory into practice, designing and producing their own media products such as news broadcasts, web pages and magazine articles, and then critically evaluating their success.

How is it assessed?

The AQA syllabus is followed. Students are assessed by means of coursework and a final case study style examination.

Coursework is 50% of the overall mark in Media Studies. It is made up of three assignments and a practical production. Each assignment is composed of a mix of written and practical tasks and covers topics such as:

- the changing face of teenage magazines
- the BBC as an institution
- the representation of the Vietnam War on film
- the rise of Internet social networking

For their final project students will work as part of a team to construct a media product of their own, focusing on the music industry. They will keep a record of their progress throughout, presenting their initial research, design portfolio and final product along with a detailed critical evaluation of their work for assessment.

The examination is also worth 50% and takes the form of a case study. There is a three-hour controlled test on a topic set by the board. Last year the controlled test was on television quiz shows. In the exam students are expected to answer two essay questions and produce design work for a media product. This is an open examination and therefore students can conduct their research and produce preliminary design work before the exam itself.

Who should take it?

Pupils should consider Media Studies as an option if they already enjoy:

- Applying skills of analysis to a range of different texts

- Coming up with creative ideas
- Investigating the world around them
- Working as part of a team
- Using ICT to design publications
- Creating organised, professional looking work
- Working with moving images

Subject

Music

Examining Group

OCR Syllabus title Music (1919)

Music GCSE covers a wide range of topics and activities. The focus is on four areas of study:

Area of Study 1	Performing on and understanding your instrument.
Area of Study 2	Techniques of Melodic Composition. For this pupils learn about different ways of writing melodies or tunes.
Area of Study 3	DANCE MUSIC In this Area of Study pupils learn about three different styles of dance music – Elizabethan dances called pavan and galliard, waltzes and disco.
Area of Study 4	TRADITIONS AND INNOVATIONS This studies the way composers combine old and new ideas. Pupils look at three different types of music that do this – bhangra, salsa and minimalism.

Coursework

Pupils complete a module of coursework. It is split into two areas.

Part A - Integrated Coursework (30%)

Pupils study 3 pieces of music for instrument or voice and do work based on all three.

1. Pupils PERFORM one of the pieces and write an appraisal to say how well they think they played and what you could have done better.
2. Pupils COMPOSE a new piece using ideas from all three pieces and write an appraisal saying how well you did.

Part B - Further coursework (30%)

1. Pupils PERFORM another two pieces – these can be anything the pupils wish.
2. Pupils compose one more piece, in one of the styles covered in Area of study 3 and 4.

Examinations (25%)

At the end of Year 11 there are two exams.

1. TERMINAL task – pupils have to compose a piece of music on a simple idea within 30 minutes.
2. LISTENING and APPRAISING – pupils listen to music from Area of Study 2, 3 and 4 and answer questions on it.

Subject **Physical Education**

Examining Group	EDEXCEL 5PE01
Syllabus	Physical Education

Theory

This section of the course accounts for 40% of the final assessment and falls under three broad headings:

- Anatomy and Physiology.
- Factors affecting physical activity.
- Safety aspects of physical activity.

Practical Skills

Each student must participate in four activities from at least two of the following areas:

Games	Athletic Activities
Gymnastic Activities	Dance
Outdoor and Adventurous Activities	Swimming

This may be achieved as a performer, leader or official.

It is anticipated that each student will study more than just four activities to enable them to choose the four most appropriate for examination. It may also be possible to negotiate the inclusion of certain activities pursued outside of school (such as martial arts). This section not only includes physical performance itself, but also the ability to plan and evaluate performance, and also to analyse performance with a view to improving it. 35% of the marks are awarded during the course and 25% for a final practical assessment.

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GCSE

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The **core curriculum** is compulsory for all:

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- Mathematics
- Science (2 GCSEs)

The remaining four subjects are chosen from a broad range of options.

Pupils are strongly advised to opt into those subjects that they enjoy and are good at. Higher Education and career aspirations should also be considered.

Wherever possible it is sensible to aim for a balanced programme of study. However, the School does **not** require that pupils choose courses to include all the main curriculum areas (languages, humanities, creative subjects and technology). It is possible, therefore, to select a combination of subjects tailored to individual needs.

The process of choosing subjects may take some time. The School provides advice and consultation for pupils and parents during Year 9 to help them make appropriate choices.

This booklet provides basic information about the GCSE courses provided at St Christopher and will be a good starting point for discussion.

Subject

Examining Group

Syllabus Title

Examinations

Coursework

English

AQA

English A (3702)

Paper 1 (1¾ hours) 30%

Reading response to unprepared non-fiction/media materials.

Writing tasks which argue, persuade or advise.

Paper 2 (1½ hours) 30%

Reading response to poetry.

Writing tasks which inform, explain or describe.

Speaking and Listening 20%

Reading 10% Shakespeare

Writing 10% Prose study

Original writing

Media

Subject

Examining Group

Syllabus Title

Examinations

Coursework

English Literature

AQA

English Literature A (3712)

One Paper (1¾ hours) 70%

One question on 20th Century Prose

One question on poetry

Three assignments 30%

Shakespeare play

Pre - 1914 Prose

Post - 1914 drama text

Pupils are placed in sets according to aptitude and interest in the subject. This enables teachers to adapt the content and pace of lessons to individual needs.

Most pupils are entered for the Higher Tier examination.

Subject

Mathematics

Examining Group

EDEXCEL

Syllabus title

GCSE Mathematics (2381)

Assessment

Two levels of entry:

Foundation (C - G)

Higher (A*- D)

GCSE

Stage 1 March 2010

30%

Stage 2 June 2010

20%

Stage 3 June 2011

50%

All sets

Pupils will be following the GCSE modular course. The course is assessed by examination only; 50% of the course is examined in Year 10 (IV Group) and 50% in Year 11 (V Group). Pupils in the lowest set will follow the Foundation level of study. The other two groups will follow the Higher level of study. The GCSE course comprises topics from four main areas: Number, Algebra, Shape and Space and Data Handling.

Pupils in the top set will take the Stage 1 and Stage 2 modules in November 2009 and March 2010 respectively. This will leave sufficient time to enable them to prepare for both the Stage 3 modules in June 2011 and an Additional Mathematics qualification.

Subject Science

Science, Additional Science and Separate Sciences

Examining Group	AQA
Syllabus title	Science A (4461) Science B (4462), Additional Science (4463) GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics (4411, 4421, 4451)
Assessment	

Year 10

Module Tests (75%)
These are 30-minutes and 40-minutes each, can be multiple choice or short answer. There are two in each of Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Exams may be taken in November, March or June.

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Coursework (25%)
Coursework consists of 45-minutes *ISA* tests, practical exercises set by the Board, when appropriate during the course internally. The best set of marks is

There is no coursework to do at home.

Year 11

Examinations (75%)
Progress in lessons and module results in Year 10 and Year 11 allow us to decide the best combination of examinations which can be used to achieve either 2 GCSEs or 3 GCSEs in Science. The top two sets in Science will be following a course aiming to achieve 3 GCSEs. Exams may be taken in January or June. Coursework (25%) following the same pattern as in Year 10.

GCSE Options

Art and Design
Design and Technology
Drama
French
Spanish
Geography
History
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education

Subject **Art and Design**

Examining Group

AQA

Syllabus title

Art and Design GCSE

Assessment

Students are provided with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interest in Art and Design in ways that are personally relevant and truly developmental in nature. Students can work within any of the following areas of study: Fine Art, Textiles, Three-Dimensional Design, Graphic Communication and Lens-based and Light-based Media.

60% Portfolio of Work

The content of the portfolio will be determined by the particular requirements of the course of study undertaken.

There is no restriction on the scale of work produced. Students may submit in their portfolio a selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study.

There should be more than one extended collection of work, or project which demonstrate an ability to sustain work from initial starting points or project briefs to the realisation of intentions and includes evidence of research, the development of ideas and meaningful links with critical/contextual sources.

40% Externally Set Task

Students are required to elicit a personal response from one starting point or project brief within the paper for which they have been entered.

AQA will set a paper containing a selection of starting points. Papers should be issued to students from 1 January in the year of the examination. There is unlimited preparation time followed by a ten hour period of sustained focused study in which students are expected to develop their own unaided work informed by their preparatory studies. During the preparatory period, teachers may discuss starting points with students and give them general guidance on the choice of materials, how to carry out preparatory studies or how to begin research on their chosen starting point.

Subject

Design and Technology

Syllabus title

D+T Resistant Materials Technology GCSE

Assessment

60% Major Project

The Major Project counts for all coursework marks. This project allows the candidate to design and make a complex product from first idea to final realisation.

40% Theory examination

The questions are a mixture of CDT 'Theory', such as types of material, and 'Designing' questions which give the candidate the chance to sketch design solutions set within the paper (rather like the design work in their projects and Year 9 theory tests). Theory is addressed during the course and especially in the first half of the Summer Term of Year 11.

Pupils should consider CDT as an option if they already enjoy:

- coming up with creative ideas
- finding out about how things are made and used
- freehand sketching and accurate measured drawings
- designing 3D shapes on the computer (ProDesktop)
- making projects in the workshop
- using all sorts of materials, tools and machines
- learning about DT theory (doing well in the Year 9 CDT tests)
- being motivated and organised with project work

The differences between Year 9 work and GCSE are chiefly

- the opportunity to design and make a more complex project
- smaller classes so more individual help - especially in the workshop
- the chance to use a wide variety of tools and machines
- greater emphasis on planning ahead through the design folder

Extra-curricular opportunities include weekly 'shed' sessions after school: it is not required but expected that candidates will make use of some of these times to enhance their project progress / marks. Extra-curricular sessions increase in the Spring Term of Year 11, and pupils usually enjoy the busy atmosphere at this time. Very ambitious projects are often completed by using a good deal of this 'shed' time.

The course is well suited to both artistic and more technically-minded students.

Subject **Drama**

Examining Group	AQA
Syllabus title	Drama (3241)

The course aims to develop:

1. Theatre skills
2. Imagination and creativity
3. Social skills

Course Content:

Practical (60%)

Year 10: Each student will act in two mini-productions. One will be a scripted performance and one devised. These will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Year 11: Students can continue in acting with a further two mini-productions: one scripted and one devised. However, there will also be opportunities to be assessed in technical areas such as lighting, set design and sound. Again, both assignments are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Scripts range from old (Shakespeare) to new (Godber).

Devised work is based on narrative.

Written (40%)

There is one written paper in the final term of Year 11. Students have to answer questions on two live productions they have seen during the GCSE course.

Theatre Trips:

Students can expect to see at least one production a year with the School.

Subject

French

Examining Group

OCR

Syllabus title

French (J730)

Examinations

Papers in Listening (20%), Reading (20%) and Writing (30%) at Foundation or Higher level.

Speaking test

Conducted and recorded by the teacher (30%), internally assessed and externally moderated.

It is expected that most pupils will continue with the study of French in Year 10. The emphasis of GCSE on communication and an exchange programme with a French school gives added relevance to this course.

Subject

Spanish

Examining Group

OCR

Syllabus title

Spanish (J732)

Examinations

Papers in Listening (20%), Reading (20%) and Writing (30%) at Foundation or Higher level.

Speaking test

Conducted and recorded by the teacher (30%), internally assessed and externally moderated.

During the GCSE course pupils will continue to develop all of the skills which they will have already practised in their first 3 years of Spanish. At the beginning of Year 10 they will have the opportunity to visit Spain and stay with a Spanish family, which will greatly enhance their knowledge of the language and of Spanish culture.

Other Options: Other Languages can be followed at an extra charge.

Subject

Geography

Examining Group

Edexcel

Syllabus Title

Geography Syllabus B (5GB)

Paper 5GB1 (1 hour, tiered) Weighting: 25%

A question is set on each of the topics listed below. Each question contains a mixture of question styles and will involve using material covered throughout the course.

Unit 1 – Dynamic Planet

- Introduction to Dynamic Planet – (compulsory) climate and change, restless earth, battle for the biosphere and water world.
- Small scale Dynamic Planet – (option) coastal change and conflict or river processes and pressures.
- Large scale Dynamic Planet – (option) oceans on the edge or extreme climates

Paper 5GB2 (1 hour, tiered) Weighting: 25%

A question is set on each of the topics listed below. Each question contains a mixture of question styles and will involve using material covered throughout the course.

Unit 2 – People and the Planet

- Introduction to People and the Planet – (compulsory) population dynamics, consuming resources, living spaces and making a living.
- Small scale People and the Planet – (option) changing cities or changing countryside.
- Large scale People and the Planet – (option) development dilemmas or world at work

Paper 5GB3 (1 hour, tiered) Weighting: 25%

Unit 3 - Making Geographical Decisions

This paper takes the form of a decision making exercise. It includes a booklet with resources such as maps, photographs and newspaper articles, all based on issues that relate to sustainable development and the environment. Candidates are asked structured questions using the resources to consider the issue being examined.

Paper 5GB4

Unit 4 - Researching Geography Coursework: a fieldwork investigation worth 25% - Internally assessed

Candidates are required to complete ONE fieldwork investigation at a local scale to investigate an argument, problem or assertion. They will collect the data during a visit to Cambridge in the Summer Term of Year 10 and complete the write up within a **specific time frame** during the Autumn Term of Year 11.

Subject

History

Examining Group

EDEXCEL

Syllabus title

Syllabus A
The Making of the Modern World

The GCSE syllabus provides candidates with the opportunity to study crucially important aspects of Twentieth Century World History in outline and in depth. Assessment is by three examinations worth 25% each and one piece of coursework worth 25%.

Examinations

Unit 1 – (Outline Study) – (75% of total)
Peace and War:
International Relations during the Cold War 1943-1991

Unit 2 – (Modern World Depth Study)
Russia 1917-1939

Unit 3 – (Modern World Source Enquiry)
A Divided Union? The USA 1945-1970

Coursework

Unit 4- (Representations of History) –
(25% of total)
**The Impact of War on Britain
c.1914-1950**

Subject

Media Studies

Examining Group

AQA

Syllabus Title

GCSE Media Studies

What is it?

In an increasingly media-driven society GCSE Media Studies encourages students to analyse and interpret the variety of texts and images with which they are presented using a similar skill set to that expected in GCSE English. The course then allows students to put theory into practice, designing and producing their own media products such as news broadcasts, web pages and magazine articles, and then critically evaluating their success.

How is it assessed?

The AQA syllabus is followed. Students are assessed by means of coursework and a final case study style examination.

Coursework is 50% of the overall mark in Media Studies. It is made up of three assignments and a practical production. Each assignment is composed of a mix of written and practical tasks and covers topics such as:

- the changing face of teenage magazines
- the BBC as an institution
- the representation of the Vietnam War on film
- the rise of Internet social networking

For their final project students will work as part of a team to construct a media product of their own, focusing on the music industry. They will keep a record of their progress throughout, presenting their initial research, design portfolio and final product along with a detailed critical evaluation of their work for assessment.

The examination is also worth 50% and takes the form of a case study. There is a three-hour controlled test on a topic set by the board. Last year the controlled test was on television quiz shows. In the exam students are expected to answer two essay questions and produce design work for a media product. This is an open examination and therefore students can conduct their research and produce preliminary design work before the exam itself.

Who should take it?

Pupils should consider Media Studies as an option if they already enjoy:

- Applying skills of analysis to a range of different texts

- Coming up with creative ideas
- Investigating the world around them
- Working as part of a team
- Using ICT to design publications
- Creating organised, professional looking work
- Working with moving images

Subject

Music

Examining Group

OCR Syllabus title Music (1919)

Music GCSE covers a wide range of topics and activities. The focus is on four areas of study:

Area of Study 1	Performing on and understanding your instrument.
Area of Study 2	Techniques of Melodic Composition. For this pupils learn about different ways of writing melodies or tunes.
Area of Study 3	DANCE MUSIC In this Area of Study pupils learn about three different styles of dance music – Elizabethan dances called pavan and galliard, waltzes and disco.
Area of Study 4	TRADITIONS AND INNOVATIONS This studies the way composers combine old and new ideas. Pupils look at three different types of music that do this – bhangra, salsa and minimalism.

Coursework

Pupils complete a module of coursework. It is split into two areas.

Part A - Integrated Coursework (30%)

Pupils study 3 pieces of music for instrument or voice and do work based on all three.

1. Pupils PERFORM one of the pieces and write an appraisal to say how well they think they played and what you could have done better.
2. Pupils COMPOSE a new piece using ideas from all three pieces and write an appraisal saying how well you did.

Part B - Further coursework (30%)

1. Pupils PERFORM another two pieces – these can be anything the pupils wish.
2. Pupils compose one more piece, in one of the styles covered in Area of study 3 and 4.

Examinations (25%)

At the end of Year 11 there are two exams.

1. TERMINAL task – pupils have to compose a piece of music on a simple idea within 30 minutes.
2. LISTENING and APPRAISING – pupils listen to music from Area of Study 2, 3 and 4 and answer questions on it.

Subject **Physical Education**

Examining Group	EDEXCEL 5PE01
Syllabus	Physical Education

Theory

This section of the course accounts for 40% of the final assessment and falls under three broad headings:

- Anatomy and Physiology.
- Factors affecting physical activity.
- Safety aspects of physical activity.

Practical Skills

Each student must participate in four activities from at least two of the following areas:

Games	Athletic Activities
Gymnastic Activities	Dance
Outdoor and Adventurous Activities	Swimming

This may be achieved as a performer, leader or official.

It is anticipated that each student will study more than just four activities to enable them to choose the four most appropriate for examination. It may also be possible to negotiate the inclusion of certain activities pursued outside of school (such as martial arts). This section not only includes physical performance itself, but also the ability to plan and evaluate performance, and also to analyse performance with a view to improving it. 35% of the marks are awarded during the course and 25% for a final practical assessment.