



ROBERT CLACK
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

Year 9 Options Subject Information



2025-2026

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Welcome

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

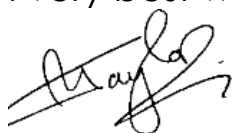
Your child is approaching the end of Key Stage 3, which represents an important milestone in their educational journey. During Year 9, pupils have the opportunity to exercise a degree of choice over what they will study at school in Years 10 and 11. These decisions will shape their GCSE experience and future pathways.

By now, you and your child will have a good sense of their strengths, interests, and aspirations. Our goal is to combine this understanding with expert advice and guidance from the school, ensuring that your child selects subjects where they can thrive and achieve success in their GCSE examinations.

In this booklet you will find detailed information about each subject, including what your child will study, how they will be assessed and how studying the subject will benefit them in the future. This, together with the information you gather during our Options Evening, will help you and your child make informed and confident choices.

We very much look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to ensure that your child fulfils their potential.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr R Taylor
Executive Headteacher

General Information

Choosing the subjects your child will be studying in Year 10 and Year 11 will involve parents/carers and children discussing several important questions about their future. It is vital to consider these important choices with your child to ensure that they can make an informed and confident decision about their future. Having a choice of subjects at this stage in your child's education enables them to focus on subjects they enjoy and those they show talent for. As a parent/carer it is your job to guide and advise them to make sensible subject selections.

Some subjects are considered essential for all students because they are so important in any future plans your child might have. These subjects are called the **core** subjects which everyone must take. Students have already started their Religious Education GCSE course in year 9. Alongside these the school offers a wide range of **option** subjects, some of which will be new to your child. In addition to these subjects, students can take an additional GCSE if they are fluent in another language. You can find out more about this on the **community languages** page.

You will have access to a **personalised online options form** which shows the subjects available for your child to study at KS4. These vary from student to student. The options available and any requirements for choices are stated on the student's personalised option form. You can find out more about the subjects on offer in this booklet. Our website also has very detailed **curriculum pages** which give further information as well as links to the exam board websites.

Core Subjects

All students will take the following compulsory subjects: -

English	Mathematics	Physical Education	Religious Education	Science
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Optional Subjects

Students must take one of the following subjects: -

French	Geography	History	Separate Sciences
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Students will also choose two of the following subjects*: -

Art	Beauty	Business
Computer Science	Construction	Dance
Design Technology	Drama	French
Food and Nutrition	Geography	History
Hospitality and Catering	ICT	Music
Photography	Physical Education	Psychology
Separate Sciences	Sociology	Statistics/Level 3 Algebra

* Not all of these options will be available to all students.

English Language and English Literature (AQA)

What do I study?

For GCSE English Language students will draw upon a range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction, as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. Students will use this as writing stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts to produce writing for a range of genres, audiences and purposes. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying language skilfully and imaginatively.

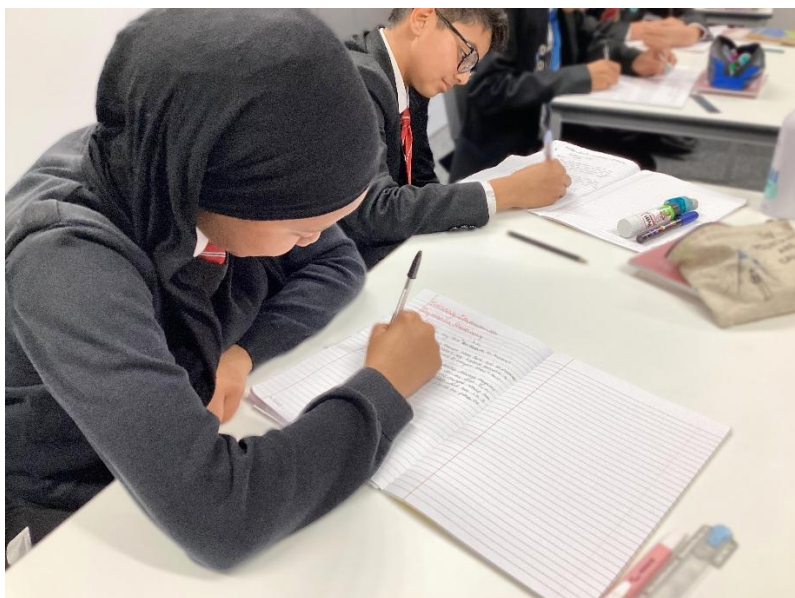
For GCSE English Literature students develop knowledge and skills in reading, essay writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written including Shakespeare and Dickens, a modern drama and a range of poetry. Studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure, and provides effective preparation for studying at a higher level.

How am I assessed?

Both the GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature qualifications are assessed entirely through written examination.

How will this help me in the future?

English equips you with a wide range of skills including analysis, interpretation, evaluation, debate, written arguments and independent study skills, all of which are applicable in a wide range of fields including law, advertising and marketing, publishing, film and creative media, politics and advocacy and education.



Mathematics (Edexcel)

What do I study?

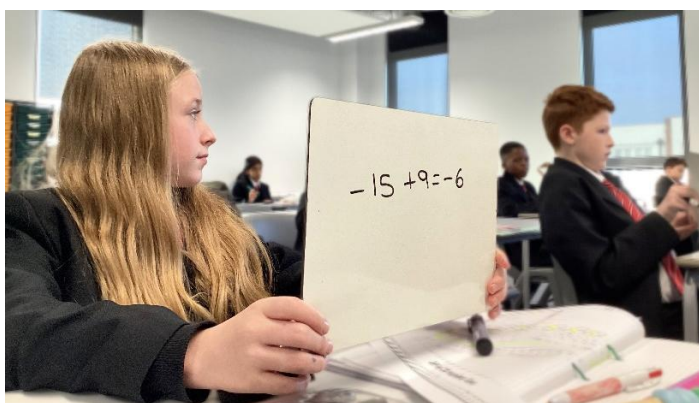
All Year 10 and 11 learners follow the Edexcel GCSE (9-1) course which meets the requirements of the Mathematics National Curriculum. It provides opportunities for learners to develop their skills, consolidate their understanding and be confident in the use of the following areas:

- Statistics
- Probability
- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Processing mathematics in a real-life context

How am I assessed?

There are two assessment levels which enable pupils to show their ability in the subject.

Tier	Grades
Foundation	5,4,3,2,1
Higher	9,8,7,6,5,4



The subject is assessed at the end of the course by 3 examinations of length 1.5 hours, one non-calculator and two calculator papers. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

How will this help me in the future?

The body of knowledge and practice known as mathematics is derived from the contributions of thinkers throughout the Ages and across the planet, of varying nationalities. It gives us a way to understand patterns, to quantify relationships, to solve problems and to predict the future. It helps us to understand the world and the world helps us to understand maths. As a powerful tool for global understanding and communication it allows students to make sense of the world and solve complex and real problems.

GCSE maths is a stepping stone on the mathematicians journey. The course helps students fulfil their mathematical potential and prepares them for the study of A level Mathematics and Further Maths. It complements other subjects such as Science, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers, such as Accountant, Actuary, Economist, Astronomer, Data Analyst, Marine or Mechanical or Civil or Aero Engineer, Teacher, Software engineer, Computer programmer, Researcher, Statistician etc.

Science (OCR)

What do I study?

All pupils will begin their Science KS4 in Year 9. There are two different routes open to pupils studying Science: -

GCSE Separate Sciences (Triple Science)

GCSE Combined Science

In **GCSE Combined Science** students study a mixture of Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules. This qualification provides students with two GCSEs at the end of Year 11 with a grade based on the average mark for all of the modules.

The **GCSE Separate Science** which students can choose as an option, allows them to study the same modules as the Combined Science course but each module is slightly longer allowing students study the topics in more depth and achieve 3 separate GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course provides a good grounding for study of the sciences at A Level.

How am I assessed?

Both courses are assessed by written examinations which will test student's knowledge of the topics that they have learnt, their ability to apply it to new and different situations and their understanding of how scientists work based on the practical work that they have completed.

All students will be automatically enrolled into the GCSE Combined Science course unless they choose to study GCSE Separate Sciences as an option.

How will this help me in the future?

Science, being a core subject, helps students to understand the world around them and how living and non-living systems work allowing them to deal with everyday situation that they will encounter in life. Studying science will give students the opportunity to unlock exciting university courses as well as leading on to a diverse range of careers from astronomy to zoology and atmospheric science to x-ray crystallography.



Physical Education (Core)

What do I study?

Physical Education continues to play a crucial role in the development of a pupil's education. The pupils will still follow the National Curriculum, mainly in single sex groupings in core PE and participate in 2 practical lessons per week.

More emphasis will be placed on learning through games activities and students will be given increased opportunity for independent learning.

Curriculum time is supported by our large extra-curricular programme which allows our pupils to enjoy participation in both competitive and non-competitive activities.

How am I assessed?

There is no qualification awarded for core PE. Students will be assessed on participation and effort.

How will this help me in the future?

It is our departmental aim to promote full participation and to encourage pupils to develop their interests and good habits in physical activity and wellbeing, so they are motivated to continue to be active when they have left school.



Religious Education (WJEC)

What do I study?

Religious Studies is a foundational subject for many other subject areas and particularly works well with English, History, Geography and Sociology. The subject seeks to find answers to “ultimate questions” about the meaning, purpose and origin of life. When dealing with ethical issues students consider different approaches to making moral decisions, looking at student's own responses concerned with issues such as marriage, human rights and life after death.

Alongside their own views pupils also explore the beliefs of those who follow Christianity, Islam and Humanism and how these faiths/traditions will respond to the issues discussed in lessons. Pupils are also given the opportunity to expand their study and knowledge of both Christianity and Islam, by investigating and learning about the key beliefs, practices and the roles of both faiths in a modern society.

The three main areas of study are:

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World

- Issues of Relationships
- Issues of Life and Death
- Issues of Human Rights
- Issues of Good and Evil

Component 2: Study of Christianity

- Christian Beliefs
- Christian Practices

Component 3: Study of Islam

- Islamic Beliefs
- Islamic Practices



How am I assessed?

Students studying Religious Studies will sit three exams at the end of **Year 10**:

- Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical studies in the Modern World - 2 hours
- Component 2: Study of Christianity- 1 hour Component 3: Study of Islam- 1 hour

How will this help me in the future?

It is possible for students to do an A/S and A2 (A Level) in Religious Studies at Robert Clack School. The sixth form course focuses mainly on Philosophy and Ethics. A Religious Studies qualification is useful for a variety of career options. It is a subject that has close links with many other subjects as many courses and careers have a strong moral element to them. For example, how could someone have a career in Law, Medicine, Politics or the Police force without an awareness of moral issues and understanding the needs of others?

Community Languages

Community Languages is an optional additional GCSE which you can take if you are fluent in another language.

What do I study?

There will be no teaching provided by the school for these examinations, so you should already be proficient in all aspects of the language (reading, listening, writing and speaking), and be able to demonstrate that you are willing to make the necessary commitment to completing assignments and doing the appropriate preparation for your exams in your own time.

Each course for every Community Language is different and therefore, you should use the specifications available online via the various exam boards to find out the topics you will cover and the vocabulary you will require.

Examinations can be taken in the following languages at GCSE: (Exam Boards are shown in brackets):

Arabic (EdExcel)	Bengali (AQA)	Chinese (Mandarin) (AQA)
German (AQA)	Greek (EdExcel)	Gujarati (EdExcel)
Italian (AQA)	Japanese (EdExcel)	Panjabi (AQA)
Persian (EdExcel)	Polish (AQA)	Portuguese (EdExcel)
Russian (EdExcel)	Turkish (EdExcel)	Urdu (AQA)
Spanish (AQA)	French (AQA)*	

*You may be entered for this Language even if you have not opted to study them for GCSE.

How am I assessed?

The assessments you will take will be dependent on the language. Generally speaking, there are 4 exams in total (Writing, Reading, Listening and Speaking). Preparation for these exams can be done by making use of the hub of resources available via the Community Languages Google Classroom. There are also plenty of past papers available via the exam boards' websites together with mark schemes allowing you to assess yourself and identify areas for improvement.

Although no formal teaching of the language is available, we can offer general guidance on exam skills for languages.

How can this help me in the future?

We believe that the study of any foreign language enables pupils to develop their skills of speaking, listening and writing which can help them to make progress in many other school subjects. A GCSE in a Community Language can be completed in one year, freeing up time to focus on other subjects. Taking a GCSE in your own language gives you a formal qualification for the future which is looked upon favourably by many higher education institutions, as well as counting towards your Post-16 choices.

Art and Design (Edexcel)

What do I study?

There are two aspects to the Art program, the practical and the academic, which work together and are designed to give pupils, not just the skills to generate art and express themselves individually, but also the ability to understand context, develop ideas independently and apply creative thinking to wider frameworks.

Pupils will develop their practical skills through various techniques and processes including hands-on experimentation with traditional and non-traditional art materials, such as printmaking, sculpture, textiles and painting. They will also develop an awareness of critical analysis of artists' work, social and historic context, and insight into the process of idea development through formal annotation and image analysis.

Pupils will also make links to the wider world outside of the art studio, participating in several outside workshops, contests, programs, and trips.

How am I assessed?

Assessment is divided into two parts:

- Personal Portfolio Unit 1
- Externally Set Assignment Unit 2

Personal Portfolio - internally set (60%) Unit 1

- a combination of all coursework produced in y10 and y11. This will initially start with a series of skills units designed to improve and expand pupils practical understanding and skills such as drawing, printing, painting, etc. These units will then open up to a themed unit where pupils will apply their skills in a more independent and holistic way to develop their own ideas, inspirations, and influences in their work culmination in a large final piece.

Exam portfolio- Externally Set Exam theme Unit 2 40%

- similarly, to the independently themed unit in the coursework, the exam unit asks pupils to develop a final piece and supporting evidence, such as initial drawings, artist/ historical research and context and experimental work, printing, collage ect. based on an externally set theme. During the period between the distribution of the pupils' paper and the final exam date, students will work on their preparatory studies with the aid of their teacher, which will amount to eight weeks of prep. time. The controlled production of the final piece must be carried out in a period of 10 hrs. (two days) All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.



How can this help me in the future?

The subject is important not just for pupils considering a career in any creative sphere, but it is also a subject that educates us in understanding and communicating with imagery and design, which for our visual world, opens doors for careers in Marketing, Business Studies, Engineering, Architecture, Media, Advertising, or Social Promoter. A qualification in Art is crucial for careers in Engineering, Animation, Exhibition Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture Design, Theatre Design, Floristry, Hairdressing, Fashion Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Museum/Gallery Curation, Photography, Textile, Painting and Decorating.

Beauty Therapy (VTCT)

What do I study?

The VTCT NVQ Level 1 course is a vocational qualification teaching practical and theory based skills allowing students several future employment or further study options. We estimate this course to be a very popular choice for students interested in Health and Beauty. This course is primarily practical skills based and gives the students an opportunity to progress onto an NVQ Level 2 course in year 12 – followed by the NVQ Level 3 course in year 13. Please note that it is compulsory for Beauty students to practice on each other weekly. This will include removal of make up for practical lessons and touching of each other's face/body.

How am I assessed?

Level 1 NVQ assessments consist of 75% practical assessments, 10% external examinations and 15% theory work. Practical assessments are taken throughout the year after each completed module. This process reduces pressure on the student and allows them to work at a steady pace for maximum achievement. Learning and assessment takes place in one of the two state of the art, no expense spared beauty salons allowing students to study and learn in a realistic salon environment.

How can this help me in the future?

This subject is the foundation to advance onto Beauty Level 2 and then Beauty Level 3. Completing all levels could be important to students who wish to pursue a career in not only Health and Beauty but in related subjects such as Hair Dressing, Nursing, Stage/ TV/ Theatre Make Up, Art and Design, Prosthetics, Level 4 Spa Management and other University places to name just a few. This course will develop interpersonal skills as a foundation to any future working with the public. Completing all levels could also allow employment in top Spas such as Champneys and The Sanctuary, allows employment in the best Beauty Salons in the country such as Harrods and Selfridges and top jobs in Beauty Salons all over the world as well as on Luxury Cruise Ships – allowing students to work and see the world at the same time!



Business (Edexcel)

Why study GCSE Business?

The GCSE Business course is an introductory course to studying Business and is ideal for any student who: -

- wants a good understanding of how businesses work.
- is intending to study any business subject in the future.
- wishes to understand how to make a success of their future career in business.
- who might be thinking of setting up their own business.

GCSE Business looks to give students an understanding of a wide range of ideas, theories and skills that are essential for any business to succeed, with particular focus on small businesses and business start-ups.

The first year of the course focuses on “Investigating Small Businesses” and looks at identifying business opportunities, understanding and researching the competition and developing the skills of the business “entrepreneur” (the person who sets up and runs a business).

Whilst in the second year, students look to develop their understanding of “Building a Business” focusing on key business functions including - Marketing, Finance, People, and Operations and the impact of the economic environment on businesses.

What skills will I gain from studying Business Studies?

Students will develop a broad understanding of the range of activities businesses undertake to compete and be successful in the global economy. Key to the course is understanding and developing the skills that an entrepreneur needs to be successful in business with activities being undertaken to improve students' teamwork, leadership, communication, presentation, thinking and risk-taking skills.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is assessed by two exam papers sat at the end of the course. The exams are the same in both length and structure and include case studies of real businesses, with the main difference between the two exam papers being the size and nature of the businesses being considered.

Key features of both exams papers:

- Written examination
- 1 hour and 45 minutes in length
- Each paper accounts for 50% of the GCSE
- Calculations
- Multiple-choice questions
- Short answer questions
- Extended writing questions

What can you do with Business in the future?

The skills you will learn can be applied on any scale, from leading a small team to running a company. There are many careers that you could pursue with business including market research, management, public relations, banking or advertising.

This subject supports a pathway to Business and Economics courses at Key Stage 5, both through A Levels and with Cambridge Technical Courses too.

Computer Science (OCR)

What do I study?

The Computer Science course focusses on software development (computer programming). It delves in deeper into the theories that surround software development. This qualification specialises in Computer Science and software development. This consists of two written exam papers lasting one and a half hours each (80 Marks). Candidates will learn a deeper understanding of software development.

How am I assessed?

Unit 1: Externally assessed examination accounting for 50% of overall mark. This unit Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Unit 2: Externally assessed examination accounting for 50% of overall mark. In this unit students apply knowledge and understanding gained in unit 1. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

In this unit students are also given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language.

How can this help me in the future?

At Robert Clack School, we currently have a lot of courses available at sixth form (Key Stage Five (KS5)). A-Level Computer Science has limited spaces and our IT course at KS5 is extremely popular and has a greater emphasis on vocational 'hands on' learning. Following KS5 courses learners can go on to BTEC High National, Foundation or Degree courses.

IT skills and knowledge are essential to the modern world and most jobs require them. IT developments are continuous, and the performance of IT equipment has been doubling every two years. Over the last 10 years, the IT industry was one of the few areas in the workforce that was continually expanding, even during the recession. This has not changed today.

There are many areas of IT where our pupils can choose to develop a career in. Below are some of the most popular areas of IT, pupils will learn elements of the following fields in the IT courses we offer: support, administration, media, graphics, project management, web development and software development.

Construction (WJEC)

What do I study?

This qualification is made up of one mandatory unit, which all students will need to complete as well as a unit where students will look at different construction skills.

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

You will:

- Be introduced to the principles of the built environment and have the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment.
- Explore a range of professional and trade roles.
- Explore some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment.

Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment

- You will study three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.

How am I assessed?

You will have one exam for Unit 1 which will be worth 40% of your qualification. The exam will last 1 hour and 30 minutes, it will be made up of short and extended response questions.

Unit 3 will be assessed via project work (no exam), which is worth 60% of your qualification. Here you will be asked to prepare and complete three trade-based tasks e.g. creating a simple lighting circuit, building a brick structure and making a wooden planter.

How can this help me in the future?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Independent learning
- Research
- Time management.

The construction industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities, from tradesperson to leading large scale construction projects, and from an architect to renovator of our historic built environment.

Dance (AQA)

What will I study?

Students will develop skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as choreographer, performer, and critic through:

- Applying and developing a wide range of skills and techniques in performing and choreographing dance
- Creating solo and group choreography in response to different stimuli
- Developing the ability to analyse, evaluate and appreciate dance.
- Writing about your own practice in performance and choreography, and the GCSE Dance selected professional works.

Students will also recognise the contribution of dance to their personal and social health, fitness and wellbeing, and develop on their understanding of nutrition and exercise.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Internally marked and externally moderated - Performance – 30% of GCSE / 40 marks

- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration)
- Duet/trio performance (three minutes in a dance which is a maximum of five minutes in duration)

Choreography – 30% of GCSE / 40 marks

- Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes)

Unit 2: Externally marked by AQA - Dance Appreciation – 40% of GCSE (1½ written paper / 80 marks)

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works

How can this help me in the future?

The course will provide you with the opportunity for examination success and enable you to access any college or sixth form courses in this subject area. There are many jobs that dance can lead to such as: Choreographer, Costume/Set Designer, Performer, Film Maker, Physiotherapist, Dance Lecturer or Academic Researcher, Photographer, Producer, Teacher, Lighting Designer/Technical Production. Creative subjects like Dance looking excellent on CVs and university applications, Dance will shape you to be more confident, body aware, assertive and creatively intelligent. It challenges you to be brave and decisive and gives you the chance to inspire others. Above all, if you genuinely enjoy being in the studio creating and learning new choreography then you will enjoy Dance.

Drama (Edexcel)

What will I study?

Drama aims to promote creativity and self-discipline and provides the opportunity to work with other students as part of a team. Drama develops performance skills and students must also look at the way actors, directors and designers create work. The course is combines both practical and written assessments.

How am I assessed?

Component 1: Devising Drama: Devise your own play (40%)

- In groups, you will devise a short original performance based on a stimulus you study in class. You will rehearse it over several weeks and perform it as part of your assessment. You will write a portfolio (2000 words) evaluating the process and final performance you created. You will be marked on your contributions, your final performance and your written work.

Component 2: Performance: Perform in a scripted play (20%)

- In groups you will rehearse and perform in two extracts from a published play. You will perform in front of a visiting examiner. You will be marked on your final performances.

Component 3: Written exam: 1 hour 30 min (40%)

- There are two sections to the exam:
 - Section A: Bringing Texts to Life (45 marks) Play: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
You will be given an unseen extract from the play and write about it from the perspective of an actor, director and designer based. The exam consists of one question broken into five parts (short and extended responses).
 - Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation (15 marks)
The second part of the exam requires you to go to the theatre and analyse and evaluate a play you have seen.



Design and Technology (AQA)

What will I study?

The Design and Technology courses explore the use of materials and design through the use of various design processes. Pupils will have the opportunity to design and make products using a variety of skills and materials (eg. wood, metal, plastic, card, foamboard etc.), they will develop skills in designing products using a range of graphical techniques and make their final design using a variety of materials and processes. Within the subject area almost every aspect of industrial and commercial design is included, from engineering drawing to package design and the more adventurous graphics of advertising. Computers will feature in almost all areas of work, from computer-aided machines for manufacturing to computer-aided design. Control systems may be included in Design and Technology work.

Students will be involved in developing their own ideas and learn the skills necessary to transform them into reality by using appropriate materials and techniques. The emphasis is very much on 'learning by doing'. Researching, developing, creating and evaluating are important aspects of the work done in all areas. The experience aims to introduce students to crafts, design and technology. At the same time students are also encouraged to feel confident with several different media and a range of tools, machines and equipment.

How am I assessed?

- **50% of the final grade** - Written exam: 2 hours • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE. Based on
 - Core technical principles
 - Specialist technical principles
 - Designing and making principles
- **50% of the final grade** - Non-exam assessment (NEA): • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE

How can this help me in the future?

This is a practical qualification with a focus on developing practical design and layout skills, learners will have the opportunity to use traditional skills, such as drawing and sketching in 2D and 3D and also modern technologies, including web design.

- Develop a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies.
- Develop practical skills to produce high quality functional prototypes and/or products.
- Develop decision making skills through both independent, team and collaborative work.
- Communicate their decisions effectively to a third party.
- Produce, read, interpret and work from drawings, briefs and instructions.
- Present ideas and proposals to a near professional standard.
- Develop an understanding of quality, and how this can be achieved using a variety of techniques, both traditional and digital.
- Use materials efficiently in relation to cost and environmental impact.
- Demonstrate safe working practices.
- Use key technical terminology related to materials and processes.
- Develop the knowledge and understanding to evaluate and refine their own skills.
- Develop an awareness of industrial practices and employment opportunities.

Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE Eduqas)

What do I study?

By studying food preparation and nutrition you will be able to:

- demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- understand the relationship between diet, nutrition, and health.
- understand the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices.
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.

How am I assessed?

Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition will be assessed through a written 1 hour 45 minutes examination which is worth 50% of the qualification. The paper is made up of two sections both containing compulsory questions

- Section A: questions based on stimulus materials
- Section B: a range of question types to assess all content related to food preparation and nutrition

Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action will be assessed through two non-examination assessment: marked by your teacher, externally moderated by WJEC. These are worth 50% of the total qualification.

- **Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment**
 - 15% of the total marks available
 - Will involve practical experimental work and written work based on a specific food commodity e.g. bread, pastry.
- **Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment**
 - 35% of the total marks available
 - Will involve research to respond to a given brief plus planning, preparation, cooking (1 x 3 hour session) and presentation of three dishes plus accompaniments (if appropriate) to form a menu.

How can this help me in the future?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is the foundation for the study of Food and Nutrition at Level 3 for example Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition. This qualification will also provide a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for you if you do not progress to further study in this subject. In addition, the qualification will introduce you to a new way of thinking about food which could help you make informed decisions about a wide range of career pathways.

French (AQA)

Studying GCSE French allows you to develop valuable communication skills, explore new cultures, and open future opportunities in education, travel, and careers. With an updated syllabus from 2025, the course is more focused on practical language use and cultural awareness, ensuring students are prepared for real-world scenarios.

What do I study?

The course follows the **AQA 2025 GCSE French specification** and covers three main themes:

- **Theme 1: People and lifestyle** (Identity and relationships with others, Healthy living and lifestyle, Education and work)
- **Theme 2: Popular culture** (Free-time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Celebrity culture)
- **Theme 3: Communication and the world around us** (Travel and tourism, including places of interest, Media and technology, The environment and where people live)

How am I assessed?

The course is equally weighted across four exams (25% each):

- **Listening:** Comprehension and dictation of spoken French.
- **Speaking:** Includes reading aloud, informal role-plays, and conversations about photos.
- **Reading:** Text comprehension and translation to English.
- **Writing:** Extended written responses and translation to French.

How can this help me in the future?

GCSE French equips you with practical language skills and a broader cultural perspective.

It's an excellent choice for students interested in languages, global travel, or international careers.

For more information, speak to your French teacher or visit the AQA GCSE French website by scanning the QR code.



Geography (AQA)

What do I study?

The course will involve the study of both natural and human geography as well as the relationship between areas of different economic development. Pupils will study actual places from both at home and abroad.

The aims of the course are:

- To develop a knowledge and understanding of geographical ideas and their relevance to our changing world.
- To appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments from local to global.
- To appreciate the differences and similarities between people's views of the world, its environments, societies and cultures.
- To understand the importance of people's values and attitudes to the development of issues and how they can be resolved.
- To develop responsibility as a global citizen and to recognise how they can contribute to a sustainable future.
- To participate in fieldwork and out of classroom learning.
- To use geographical skills and technology.

How am I assessed?

The final grade is based on and three external examinations taken at the end of the course.

How can this help me in the future?

Geography GCSE offers an opportunity for students to achieve academic excellence whilst also providing them with skills and a knowledge of our fast-changing world. This will enable them to have a better understanding of the global trends that will affect their lives in the future. For example, how to understand the possible implications of climate change and the effects it might have on water supply, flood risks and coastal management.



History (AQA)

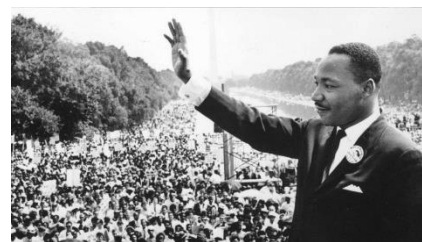
What do I study?

Year 10 Overview



Britain, Health and the people: c,1000 to the present day Pupils will study the development of Medicine and health from the year 1000 to the present day. They will be looking at medical knowledge, treatment and public health. As students explore the course chronologically, they will also be required to explain which factors have enabled or hindered change.

America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality Pupils will begin by studying the economic boom of 1920s in America before it plummets into the Great Depression of the 1930s. We look at America in the war and the subsequent struggle for Civil Rights. Pupils will track the progress of different social groups within America including women and African Americans and explain the impact of governmental policies on their lives.



Year 11 Overview



Elizabethan England, c1568–1603 Pupils will explore the different challenges facing Elizabeth when she came to the throne in 1558 and further challenges she faced throughout her reign as a female ruler. Themes such as Gender, Marriage and Succession and Foreign Policy will be analysed. One element of the paper is a site study which changes every year.

Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972 Pupils will begin by examining the political problems caused in the aftermath of the Second World War and origins of the Cold War. From here pupils will explore the expansion of the Soviet Union in Europe, the development of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.



How am I assessed?

Assessment is 100% exam and students are required to combine detailed knowledge with a wide range of historical skills. Students will be required to have an understanding of change and continuity across a large sweep of history. In addition, they will also have to develop in depth knowledge on a particular subject covering a 50-year period.

How can this help me in the future?

History GCSE offers pupils the opportunity to learn more about the individuals and events that have shaped the modern world. By learning about the past, analysing evidence, and evaluating different historical interpretations, the subject improves both pupils' critical thinking and written skills.

Universities and employers value the skills of a historian. This is because they are thoughtful, critically minded, and articulate individuals, who can consume large amounts of information and communicate it in a clear and concise manner. This is a key skill for careers such as law, consultancy, politics, public relations, advertising, academia, to name but a few. History will open doors and allow you to access a huge range of careers. The skills of a historian are highly valued and makes History a well-respected and popular subject.

Hospitality & Catering (WJEC Level 1/2 Award)

What do I study?

Ever wondered what it takes to work in a top hotel or restaurant? Does food and discovering new flavours in the kitchen inspire you? Maybe you're interested in developing the skills you need to work front of house? If so, it's time to uncover your potential – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

This qualification is made up of 2 units,

- Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering industry

You will:

- Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry.
- Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health.

- Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action.

You will:

- Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value.
- Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively.

How am I assessed?

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment. Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam which is worth 40% of your qualification. In unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours.

How does this help me in the future?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including – communication, confidence, learning independently, organisation, problem solving, research, self-discipline, stamina, taking on responsibility and time management

The hospitality industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities which include - Chef de partie, Commis chef, Concierge, Executive chef, Front of house manager, Head waiter, Housekeeper, Maitre d'hôte, Pastry chef, Receptionist and Sous chef.

ICT (CNAT)

What do I study?

The Cambridge National in IT will encourage students to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of IT, including the use of IT in the digital world, Internet of Everything, data manipulation and Augmented Reality.
- Understand, apply and use IT appropriately and effectively for the purpose and audience.
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the IT sector and more widely.
- Plan, design, create, test and evaluate/review IT solutions and products which are fit for purpose and meeting user/client requirements and apply design and Human Computer Interface (HCI) considerations appropriate for a defined audience.
- Understand the impacts of digital technologies on the individual, organisation and wider society.
- The QR code is a link to example year 11 coursework videos where the pupils are required to produce an AR application.

How am I assessed?

The course is spread over three units which are:

- IT in the digital world (examination - 40%)
- Data manipulation (coursework - 30%)
- Using augmented reality to present information (coursework - 30%)



Success rate

We have achieved an above 80% 4-9 score consistently with our pupils since running the course, with over 30% achieving a 7-9 grade.

How can this help me in the future?

At Robert Clack School, we currently have a lot of courses available at sixth form (Key stage five (KS5)). Our A-Level Computer Science course has limited spaces and our IT course at KS5 is extremely popular and has a greater emphasis on vocational 'hands on' learning. Following KS5 courses learners can go on to Higher National (Level 4), Foundation (Level 5) or Degree courses (Level 6).

Jobs are very plentiful in this field and can start with minimal experience. There are many ways to develop skills in IT such as industry qualifications and apprenticeships, but going to University and completing a sandwich degree or a degree apprenticeship are the most lucrative options (minimising the debt occurred to study).

Music (Eduqas)

What will I study?

GCSE Music allows you to explore the music you experience every day while developing your creativity, confidence, and practical skills. You will study a wide range of musical styles from the 16th century to the present day, building on your work from Key Stage 3. Music is a unique and rewarding subject that strengthens skills valued across all areas of learning.

You will develop your **performing** skills on a chosen instrument or voice (singing, rapping, or beatboxing), develop your **composing** skills using professional software, and broaden your understanding of musical elements, genres, and historical eras to prepare for a listening and **appraising** exam.

How am I assessed?

COURSEWORK (60%)



Component 1: Performing (30%)

You will perform two pieces (4–6 minutes total):

- One **ensemble** performance (minimum one minute)
- One **solo or ensemble** performance
- You will receive a free instrumental lesson to support this component



Component 2: Composing (30%)

You will compose two pieces:

- One **free composition** based on your own brief
- One composition responding to a **set brief** from the exam board

EXAM (40%)



Component 3: Appraising (40%)

You will complete a written exam testing your listening skills and musical understanding across a wide range of styles, divided into four Areas of Study.

Throughout the course, you will listen to and analyse music using the **MAD T SHIRT** musical elements, revisiting concepts you have already learned and developing a deeper understanding at GCSE level.

How can this help me in the future?

GCSE Music provides a strong foundation, and our Sixth Form BTEC Music course develops both traditional music skills and practical knowledge of the music industry. One or both of these courses open doors to careers in performing, composing, producing, and the wider creative industries. They build transferable skills like creativity, teamwork, discipline, and critical listening, while supporting achievement in other subjects. Music also encourages self-expression, wellbeing, and is valued by universities, who like to see music qualifications or hobbies on applications.

Photography (Edexcel)

What will I study?

There are two aspects to the Photography program, the practical and the academic, which work together and are designed to give pupils, not just the skills to generate images and express themselves individually, but also the ability to understand context, develop ideas independently and apply creative thinking to wider frameworks.

Pupils will develop their practical skills through various techniques and processes including portraiture, lighting, digital and manual editing, and film in a variety of photoshoot locations and set ups. They will also develop an awareness of critical analysis of photographer's work, social and historic context and insight into the process of idea development through formal annotation and image analysis.

Pupils will also make links to the wider world outside of the photography studio, participating in several outside workshops, contests, programs, and trips.

A 35mm single lens camera is desirable, however, a good smart phone is usually what we use. Everything else will be provided.

How am I assessed?

Assessment is divided into two parts:

Personal Portfolio Unit 1 60%

- a combination of all coursework produced in y10 and y11. This will initially start with a series of skills units designed to introduce, improve and expand pupils practical understanding and skills such as composition, lighting, editing, abstraction etc. These units will then open up to a themed unit where pupils will apply their skills in a more independent and holistic way to develop their own ideas, inspirations, and influences in their work culmination in a series of final images.

Exam portfolio- Externally Set Exam Theme Unit 2 40%

- similarly, to the independently themed unit in the coursework, the exam unit asks pupils to develop a final piece and supporting evidence, such as initial photoshoots, photographer/historical research and context and experimental work, photoshop, collage etc. based on an externally set theme. During the period between the distribution of the pupils' paper and the final exam date, pupils will work on their preparatory studies with the aid of their teacher, which will amount to eight weeks of prep. time. The controlled production of the final images must be carried out in a period of 10 hrs. (two days) All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

How can this help me in the future?

The subject is important not just for pupils considering a career in any creative sphere, but it is also a subject that educates us in understanding and communicating with imagery and design, which for our visual world opens doors for careers in Marketing, Business Studies, Engineering, Architecture, Media, Advertising, Journalism, or Social Promoter. A qualification in Photography is crucial for careers in Animation, Exhibition Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture Design, Theatre Design, Floristry, Hairdressing, Fashion Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Museum/Gallery Curation, Photography and Textiles

Physical Education (AQA)

What do I study?

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and wellbeing

How am I assessed?

The assessment of this course is 60% exam at the end of year 11 and 40% practical which you complete by displaying practical ability in 3 activities and completing a training programme.

- Component - Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. Written Paper - 30%
- Component – Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport. Written Paper – 30%
- Component 3: Practical performance in physical activity and sport. NEA (Non exam Assessment) – 40%

If you are choosing this course you need to be a competent sports person who would be able to display ability and skills in at least 3 sporting activities.

Students should only consider this option if they regularly and willingly attend school sport clubs. This is an expectation of the course.

How can this help me in the future?

This qualification will provide students with a sound introduction to a potential career in the sport industry. The qualification is also the start of a pathway into the academic qualifications that we offer at the sixth form and potentially on to university thereafter.



Psychology (Edexcel)

What do I study?

The Edexcel GCSE course introduces students to core theories, concepts and research in Psychology. It focuses on key questions that relate to the understanding of human behaviour and includes theories from renowned psychologists. The course is well rounded covering a range of psychological approaches for example biological, cognitive and learning theories. Students will develop understanding of research methodology and critical analysis skills. They will have to opportunity to use their psychological knowledge to explain real-life issues.

The course includes understanding of the brain and data analysis, which offers the chance for pupils to apply their knowledge of Biology and Mathematics within a psychological framework.

Pupils wishing to study Psychology must have a good memory for names and dates and should not be put off by detailed written work.

Paper 1 – assessed at the end of year 11

- Development – How did you develop?
- Memory – How does your memory work?
- Psychological problems – How would psychological problems affect you?
- The Brain and neuropsychology – How does your brain affect you?
- Social influence – How do others affect you?

Paper 2 – assessed at the end of year 11

- Criminal psychology – Why do people become criminals?
- The self – What makes you who you are?
- Research methods



How am I assessed?

The course is 100% exam.

- Paper 1 – written exam worth 55% of total GCSE. 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Paper 2 – written exam worth 45% of total GCSE. 1 hour and 20 minutes.

*10% of the final mark awarded, will relate to assessment of mathematical skills.

How can this help me in the future?

Progression to further study from GCSE will depend upon the number and nature of the grades achieved. Broadly, pupils who are awarded mainly grades 1 to 4 at GCSE could either strengthen their base through further study of qualifications at Foundation Level within the National Qualifications Framework or could proceed to Intermediate level. Pupils who are awarded mainly grades 5 to 9 at GCSE would be well prepared for study at AS and Advanced Level within the National Qualifications Framework.

Separate (Triple) Science (OCR)

What do I study?

All students will study **GCSE Combined Science** which is a mixture of Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules. This qualification provides students with two GCSEs at the end of Year 11 with a grade based on the average mark for all of the modules.

As an option, students can choose to study **GCSE Separate Science** in which they will study the same modules as the Combined Science course, but each module is slightly longer and in more depth allowing students to achieve 3 separate GCSEs grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will be placed into separate classes for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

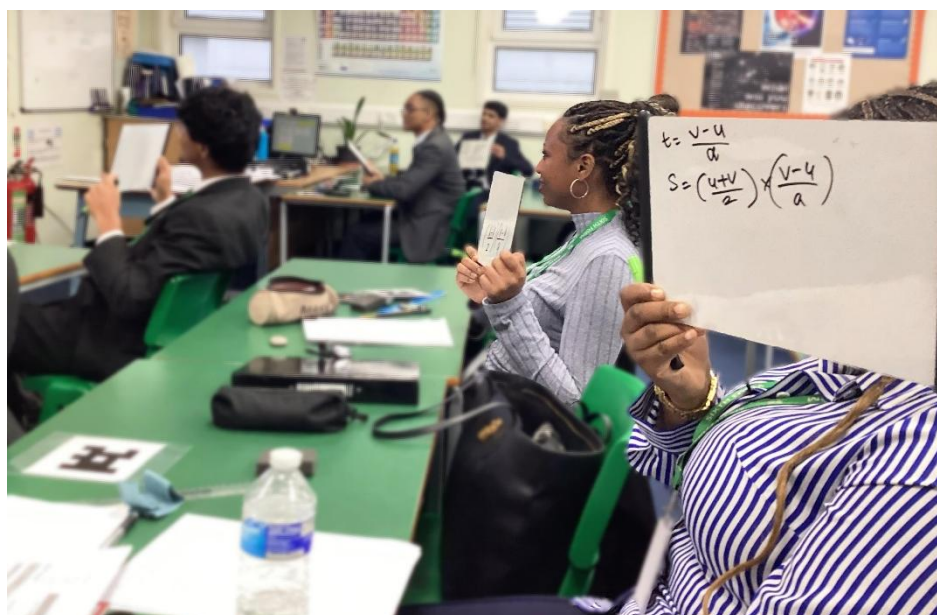
How am I assessed?

At the end of the courses in Year 11 students will be assessed by written examinations which will test their knowledge of the topics that they have learnt, their ability to apply it to new and different situations and their understanding of how scientists work based on the practical work that they have completed. Students will achieve separate GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

How can this help me in the future?

As with combined science, this course helps students to understand the world around them and how living and non-living systems work allowing them to deal with everyday situation that they will encounter in life.

Studying triple science allows students to study every topic in more detail which will deepen their knowledge and provide an excellent grounding for further study of science at A Level or through vocational courses such as BTEC and CTEC.



Sociology (WJEC)

What do I study?

Everyone is part of society. Society has helped shape who you are and how you experience life – but how much do you understand about it? *Have you ever wondered why people commit crime? Why people are no longer getting married? Why the divorce rate is so high? Why do some people play up at school? Why are girls doing so much better than boys in education? Whether society is fair? Do prisons work?* This is where Sociology comes in – because these are all **SOCIAL** issues. The Sociologist sets off to try and understand our human world a little better. This task is often challenging and controversial but to many it is also fascinating and rewarding. **Sociology, then, is the study of people in society.** By learning how society operates you will be learning how the world works; you will be putting your current life in context and preparing yourself for what society may have in store for you. You will gain the knowledge, analytical, evaluative and debating skills to add your voice to the great popular discussions of our time in areas such as the family, education, domestic violence, antisocial behaviour, video games and violence, teenage pregnancy and crime and punishment.

How am I assessed?

Year 10 topics

- What is sociology?
- Understanding social processes
- Education
- Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission
- Families
- Sociological Research Methods

Year 11 topics (with two 90 minute exams at end of year 11)

- Crime and deviance
- Social Differentiation and Stratification
- Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry

How can this help me in the future?

Many students who study GCSE Sociology go on to study **A level Sociology** in the sixth form. It will also help with your study of **Psychology, Law, Media Studies or Politics**. In addition, Sociology is an extremely valued subject for higher education entry and future careers. Sociology students are particularly in demand for 'people centred occupations' and professions that demand an analytical approach based upon weighing up evidence and arguments to reach considered conclusions.

Sociology students have gone on to careers as wide ranging as **media, research, law, police, journalism, teaching, social and welfare work, personnel work, business analysts, civil service and local government policy making, advertising, nursing, medicine and market research**. A recent study discussed that Social Science graduates 'have the best job prospects' So if you want to study an extremely interesting topic, you want to discover what makes you the person you are, and you want to have excellent job prospects in the future, choose GCSE Sociology.

Statistics (Edexcel)

What do I study?

This is a course that consists of both GCSE Higher Statistics and Level 3 Algebra. The aims and objectives of this qualification are:

- the use of statistical techniques in a variety of authentic investigations, using real-world data in contexts such as, but not limited to, populations, climate, sales etc.
- identifying trends through carrying out appropriate calculations and data visualisation techniques
- the application of statistical techniques across the curriculum, in subjects such as the sciences, social sciences, computing, geography, business and economics, and outside the classroom in the world in general
- critically evaluating data, calculations and evaluations that would be commonly encountered in their studies and in everyday life
- understanding how technology has enabled the collection, visualisation and analysis of large quantities of data to inform decision-making processes in public, commercial and academic sectors, including how technology can be used to generate diagrams and visualisations to represent data
- The course covers Statistics in greater depth and breadth placing an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills.

How am I assessed?

Our Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Statistics qualification consists of two examined papers at Higher tier.

Students will interpret statistical information and results in context and reason statistically to draw conclusions. Students will assess the appropriateness of statistical methodologies and the conclusions drawn through the application of the statistical enquiry cycle.

How can this help me in the future?

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data.

It complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers – from weather forecasting to the biological sciences. Statistics is now a compulsory component of A Level Mathematics. GCSE statistics will bridge the gap between GCSE maths and maths A-level. A high grade in GCSE Mathematics is beneficial and in some cases mandatory for many A level choices. This course helps students fulfil their mathematical potential and prepares them for the study of A level Mathematics. Essential for careers in Medicine, Economics, Accounting, Law, Psychology, Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences.

Level 3 Algebra (Edexcel)

Level 3 Algebra is part of Statistics. If you are interested in this qualification you need to select the 'Statistics' option.

What do I study?

The Edexcel Level 3 Algebra course is a level 3 linear qualification for learners who are aspiring to study A-level mathematics in the future. It is well suited to higher achievers in mathematics.

Subject content:

1. Roles of symbols
2. Algebraic manipulation
3. Formulae
4. Simultaneous equations
5. Quadratic equations and roots
6. Inequalities
7. Arithmetic series
8. Coordinate geometry
9. Graphs of functions
10. Graphs of simple loci
11. Distance-time and speed-time graphs
12. Direct and inverse proportion
13. Transformations of functions
14. Area under a curve
15. Surds

How am I assessed?

Level 3 Algebra is linear. The Level 3 award is assessed through a 2-hour examination at the end of the course.

How can this help me in the future?

This qualification fills the gap for high achieving students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth, thus preparing them fully to maximise their potential in further studies at A-level. It offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to GCSE Mathematics.

This qualification places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills. Mathematics is now the most popular A-level choice for students across the country and rightly so! This is because students are aware that high-level problem-solving and the ability to reason mathematically are skills highly sought after by top employers. This course helps students fulfil their mathematical potential and prepares them for the study of A level Mathematics. Essential for careers in Medicine, Economics, Computer Science, Technology, Accounting, Law, Psychology, Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences.