



Wednesfield Academy

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

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Introduction

We know that success in Year 10 and 11 will help you to build the foundations you need to continue your journey towards a fulfilling career in the years ahead. Your studies in Year 10 and 11 at Wednesfield Academy will offer you the opportunity to study a wide range of both academic and vocational courses, providing you with the qualifications you will need to follow your chosen career path.

In order to help you make the best choices, you and your parents /carers need to have high quality information about the choices that are on offer to you. The information in this options booklet will hopefully provide the answers to any questions you may have.

We provide a high level of support for our students and believe that a three way partnership between the students, parents / carers and the academy is key to achieving excellence. Our aim is to give you all the help and guidance you need in the coming weeks and months so that in September 2022 you can start your new courses with confidence.

We will make every effort to ensure that you have your first choices. However sometimes it may not be possible to run courses as advertised due to low-take up. Please note that we need to have your second choices shown on your completed options form.

Please note that exam boards indicated may change.

Please remember that your choices are one part of the decision about what course you will study. Your teachers will also comment on your suitability for each course. Your choices are not guaranteed.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a GCSE and a Vocational/BTEC course?

The grades awarded are 9- to 1 for GCSE and Distinction* to Pass for a vocational/BTEC courses. GCSE courses are normally 100% exam. Although some of these exams are practical exams done under strict supervision (controlled assessment). Written GCSE exams are taken at the end of the course and there are no re-sit options during Year 11.

BTEC/Vocational courses are more assignment based and grades submitted throughout the two-year course and can be improved upon. There is a short examination for all of these courses that can take place in either Year 10 or Year 11, often the pupil can resit this. BTEC grades are roughly equivalent to the following GCSE Grades: - Level 2 Distinction* = Grade 8/9 - Level 2 Distinction = Grade 7 - Level 2 Merit = Grade 5/6 - Level 2 Pass = Grade 4 - Level 1 Distinction = Grade 3 - Level 1 Merit = Grade 2 - Level 1 Pass = Grade 1

Why are all students taking a language?

Learning a language is a skill that pupils will carry with them for life- it is something that many adults wish they had kept up. Languages have always been highly regarded by universities and employers. The UK's lack of language skills costs the economy billions every year. We have chosen to prioritise pupils taking a language at GCSE to keep their future options open and enable them to develop a skill which is highly valued that they will take with them beyond Wednesfield Academy. At Wednesfield Academy, we have been gradually increasing the number of pupils that take a language at GCSE during the last three years. The Department for Education (DfE) has stated that 90% of pupils should study a language at GCSE by 2025.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761031/DfE_EBacc_Leaflet.pdf

Why do all students have to choose to study either Geography or History?

Both of these subjects are classed as facilitating subjects in that they facilitate a wide variety of career pathways. By studying one of these subjects, students are keeping their options open and placing themselves in a stronger position for study beyond 16. Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses.

What are the opportunities for students to study Triple Science as an option subject?

Triple Science allows you to specialise in the three areas of Science and would be useful if you are considering taking a Science at A-Level. Please note that currently there is a pre-requisite of grade 6s in two Sciences to study Sciences at post-16. This is also achievable on the Combined Science route.

Students who wish to study Triple Science will complete a suitability test in the summer term to ensure that their current academic ability in Science will support them to be successful in each of the three separate GCSE Sciences that they will study: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Exam Specification Links

Art & Design	https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/220463-specification-accredited-gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176.pdf
Business	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446939628_BTEC_L1L2_AWD_PA_SPEC.pdf
Childcare	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/child-development/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-child-development-spec.pdf
Citizenship Studies	https://ocr.org.uk/images/82006-specification.pdf
Computer Science	https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf
Creative Media	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/creative-media-production/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-creative-media-production-2022-spec.pdf
Digital IT	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/information-technology/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-digital-information-technology-spec.pdf
Engineering	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/engineering/2017/Specification-and-sample-assessments/Pearson-BTEC-L12-Tech-Award-in-Engineering-Spec.pdf
English Language	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8700-SP-2015.PDF
English Literature	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8702-SP-2015.PDF
French	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/french/specifications/AQA-8658-SP-2016.PDF
Geography	https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/5ofdo23l/gcse-geog-b-spec.pdf
Health & Social Care	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/health-and-social-care/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-health-and-social-care-spec.pdf
History	https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/history-gcse#tab_overview
Mathematics	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf
Music	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/music-practice/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-music-practice-2022-spec.pdf
Performing Arts Dance & Drama	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/60370543-BTEC-Tech-Award-Performing-Arts-2022-spec-PPD1-150721.pdf
Psychology	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Psychology/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/GCSE-Psychology-draft-specification.pdf
Science	Biology: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF Chemistry: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-8462-SP-2016.PDF Physics: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF Combined Science Trilogy https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF
Sociology	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-8192-SP-2017.PDF
Sport	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/sport/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-sport-spec.pdf

GCSE English Language/ English Literature

AQA

Description:

Studying English is essential as you will have opportunities to develop confidence and creativity in both reading and writing through your study of a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries as well as non-fictional texts; you will have the opportunity to study a range of interesting and challenging texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts to help you improve both your critical reading and your imaginative writing skills.

Overall, English will help you to:

- Work independently
- Be creative
- Think critically
- Communicate your ideas with confidence
- Think logically

What will I study?

English Language:

Throughout the two year course, you will undertake preparation for completion of the following units;

Paper 1 - Explorations in creative reading and writing: you will be assessed on your responses to one literature fiction text as well as the completion of a descriptive or narrative piece of writing.

Paper 2 - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives: you will be assessed on your response to two non-fiction texts as well as the completion of a functional writing task.

Non-examination assessment- Spoken Language: although this assessment does not count directly towards your GCSE grade, you will still undertake a variety of speaking and listening activities, including presentations and speeches.

English Literature:

As part of this two year course you will study:

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th century novel: you will be assessed on a whole Shakespeare play and a 19th Century novel.

Paper 2 - Modern texts and poetry: you will be assessed on a whole drama text as well as pre-studied and unseen poetry.

Assessment

The skills and knowledge taught throughout the courses will be assessed at the end of Year 11 and will be 100% exam based.

What can this subject lead to?

English is invaluable for your future no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day. English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life!

GCSE English could help you achieve the following jobs (and many more):

Sports journalist, Lawyer, Film director, Politician, Author, Newsreader, Actor, Architect, Scriptwriter, Teacher.

GCSE Mathematics

Edexcel

Description:

Mathematics is an essential discipline in today's world. It is a powerful tool for understanding the world around us and our perspective of the important issues facing us as individuals, families, businesses, and nations. Maths surrounds us; we see and use maths skills and capabilities every day, from balancing our chequebooks to advertising agencies to doctors; from retailers to builders, lawyers and accountants. Everyone needs some level of specific mathematics knowledge. Most professionals use maths to perform their job better and to get ahead in the world.

What will I study?

The aims and objectives of GCSE Mathematics are to enable you to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Assessment

The assessments will cover the following content:

- 1 Number
- 2 Algebra
- 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- 4 Geometry and measures
- 5 Probability
- 6 Statistics

- Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher (content is defined for each tier).

Throughout the course, you will complete units of work. These units all have mini tests which will create on average working at grade that can move up or down based on performance. This information will give you a good indication of where your main strengths and areas for develop lie.

What can this subject lead to?

Career opportunities are unlimited for mathematics students. You may pursue graduate education, career paths in business, science or technical fields or disciplines such as social services, education and government.

Some of the occupations that mathematics students enter include:

Accountant, Actuary, Computer programmer, Doctor, Engineer, Investment manager, Lawyer, Government research and laboratories, Theoretical mathematician, Mathematician, Numerical analyst, Statistician, Teacher, Market researcher, Systems analyst, Banking, Government, Space/aircraft industry.

GCSE Science

Type of Qualification:

Double Award: 2 GCSEs Combined Science

Triple Award: 3 GCSEs - Biology, Chemistry & Physics

AQA

Description:

There are two routes in which to achieve GCSEs in Science:

1. Double Award - equivalent to two GCSEs - Combined Science.
2. Triple Award - equivalent to three GCSEs - Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The Double Award is a programme of study in which you will attain two separate GCSE Science qualifications made up of all three Biology, Chemistry and Physics disciplines. This provides a firm foundation for progression to our Post-16 Science courses.

The Triple Award is a programme of study in which you will attain three separate GCSEs in Chemistry, Biology and Physics. You will learn more content than the Double Award. This provides in-depth preparation for further study into any area of Post-16 Science. This route is a popular choice for those wanting to study courses such as Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

What will I study?

You will study the following topics:

Biology - 1. Cell biology, 2. Organisation, 3. Infection and response, 4. Bioenergetics, 5. Homeostasis and response, 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution, 7. Ecology.

Chemistry - 8. Atomic structure and the periodic table, 9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, 10. Quantitative chemistry, 11. Chemical changes, 12. Energy changes, 13. The rate and extent of chemical change, 14. Organic chemistry, 15. Chemical analysis, 16. Chemistry of the atmosphere, 17. Using resources.

Physics - 18. Forces, 19. Energy, 20. Waves, 21. Electricity, 22. Magnetism and electromagnetism, 23. Particle model of matter, 24. Atomic structure. (The triple award will learn an additional module - Space Physics).

Assessment

For the double award, you will take six examinations in the summer of Year 11.

For the triple award, you will take six examinations in the summer of Year 11.

What can this subject lead to?

Science enables entry into a wide range of career paths and will offer you a large bank of transferable key skills. Employers, colleges and universities actively encourage and seek people with Science qualifications.

Example career paths include:

Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Nursing, Engineering, Physiotherapy, Environmental Work, Optometry, Pharmaceutical Science, Pathology, Forensic Science, Research Science, Law, Journalism, Beauty Therapy, Health and Safety, Psychology, Electrician, Building Trade, Architecture, Genetics, Zoology, Marine Biology, Geologist, Astrophysics, Epidemiology, Social Sciences, Politics, Fire Service, Robotics and Computer Science.

GCSE Geography

EDUQAS

Description:

Geography is a relevant, hands on subject that helps you to make sense of the world around you. At GCSE level, there are a variety of topics that you will study, including both human and physical geography, that will help you tackle some of the biggest challenges that we are facing today. Geography GCSE will deepen your understanding of geographical processes, the impact of people on the environment, linking places to environments and how they may encourage a nation to develop as well as developing your ability to use a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches. Geographers are also able to demonstrate a range of skills including: statistical skills, ICT skills (including GIS), and graphical skills. Geography enables you to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.

Transferable Skills:

- Highly relevant knowledge - geography students study issues that are extremely relevant to the challenges the world is facing today both environmentally and in society. This equips students with valuable knowledge for future studies.
- Looking at issues differently - geographers uniquely tackle and investigate big issues across a variety of scales and from different perspectives.
- Fieldwork - fieldwork is an enjoyable opportunity to explore new environments, improving the understanding of topics as they come to life. Fieldwork provides you with useful skills in collecting, understanding and later communicating data to different audiences.
- Teamwork - working in teams during fieldwork and in a classroom, environment is useful for developing communication skills allowing greater efficiency through collaboration.
- Map work - using atlases, Ordnance Survey maps, satellite images and other electronic materials such as GIS, students gain useful skills in obtaining, illustrating, analysing and evaluating geographical information.
- Geographical argument - geography students gain strong research and analytical skills helping to produce convincing arguments and to communicate ideas effectively, particularly useful in all other essay-based subjects.
- Use of data - geography students will use data from a range of sources: fieldwork data; GIS material; written and digital sources; visual and graphical sources; and numerical and statistical information.

What will I study?

The course includes the following topics:

- Urbanisation in contrasting global cities
- Urban and rural processes and change in the UK
- A global perspective on development issues
- Shaping the landscape - coasts and coastal management & rivers and river management
- Weather and climate
- Climate change - cause and effect
- How ecosystems function and why they are under threat
- Water resources and management
- Desertification
- Fieldwork enquiry skills

Assessment

COMPONENT 1: INVESTIGATING GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES:

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes - 40% of qualification - 96 marks (plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terms).

COMPONENT 2: PROBLEM SOLVING GEOGRAPHY

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 30% of qualification - 72 marks (plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terms).

COMPONENT 3: APPLIED FIELDWORK ENQUIRY

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 30% of qualification - 72 marks (plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terms)

What can this subject lead to?

As mentioned previously geography develops so many transferrable skills that will be sought out by employers as you would have developed a wide range of skills preparing you for the world of work. Geography is part of the academic group of English Baccalaureate GCSE subjects and the Russell Group of universities has recognised A Level geography as one of their preferred 'facilitating subjects' - supporting an application into a wide range of undergraduate courses. The knowledge and transferable skills that geographers gain from their degree studies are highly relevant to the workplace; Levels of geography graduate unemployment are extremely low at 7.4% (2010).

GCSE History

EDUQAS

Description:

History is the study of the most important and exciting events that have ever occurred but as a history student, you will never experience the events that you study; instead you have to build up a picture from the evidence that has been left. You have to become skilled at asking questions, sometimes awkward questions; you will learn not to take everything at face value. You have to develop empathy and understanding of the actions and achievements of others; you have to be prepared to put your case and argue it well; you have to use evidence to draw conclusions and make judgements. These skills are highly desirable in many different careers and GCSE History is excellent training for any career where you have to use evidence or make decisions, especially where those decisions affect other people. Students who study History are not just interested in their past but their future as History shows you how and why the world came to be the way it is today.

What will I study?

1. Germany in Transition, 1919-1939 (No British depth)
2. The Development of the USA, 1929-2000 (period study)
3. Medicine Through Time (Thematic study)
4. The Elizabethan Age (British depth)

Assessment

Assessment is by examination only.

There are four examination papers.

There are two examination papers of one hour duration each in Component 1, one for each depth study, and two examination papers of 45 minutes and one hour fifteen minutes respectively for the period and thematic studies in Component 2.

The Component 1 papers for the British and non-British Studies in Depth focus extensively on source evaluation and interpretations in history.

The Component 2 papers for the Period and Thematic Studies focus extensively on change over time and longer sweeps of history.

The accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will continue to be assessed by 'SPaG' marks that are added to the tariff of three extended responses in the study in depth and thematic papers.

What can this subject lead to?

Whatever they decide to do after your GCSE History, you are not just limited to "becoming another history teacher" (unless they want to of course!) Nor are they destined to gather dust in a museum or library (again unless they want to!) There are so many careers out there that require the skills that a study of history can bring; law, medicine, business, finance, accountancy, tourism, town planning, politics, journalism, research, army intelligence to name but a few!

If you enjoy history, it can lead you to a great future. Look at Dermott Murnaghan, journalist, David Sainsbury, Chairman of Sainsbury's, Diane Abbott, MP and broadcaster. You can also count the likes of Melvin Bragg, Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop, Monty Python's Michael Palin, Sacha Baron Cohen (AKA Ali G) Louis Theroux, Jonathan Ross, John Prescott, Gordon Brown, Al Murray and Cold Play's Chris Martin among other history students!

GCSE French

AQA

Description:

You will develop your French language skills to your full potential and will be equipped with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. We are passionate about the benefits that learning French can bring and strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and something that you will enjoy and find rewarding.

What will I study?

You will study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

- Topic 1: Me, my family and friends
- Topic 2: Technology in everyday life
- Topic 3: Free-time activities
- Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Topic 2: Social issues
- Topic 3: Global issues
- Topic 4: Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

- Topic 1: My studies
- Topic 2: Life at school/college
- Topic 3: Education post-16
- Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Assessment

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (Grades 4-9)

- Paper 1: Listening - understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

Written exam

25% of GCSE

- Paper 2: Speaking - communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

Non-exam assessment

25% of GCSE

- Paper 3: Reading - understanding and responding to different types of written language.

Written exam

25% of GCSE

- Paper 4: Writing - communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

Written exam

25% of GCSE

What can this subject lead to?

GCSE French can lead onto an A level course in French. A GCSE language can lead to opportunities to travel and find jobs both here in the UK, within the European Union and even globally!

GCSE Art & Design

OCR

Description:

One of the main aims of this course is to help you to improve your creative thought processes and your powers of imagination. Alongside this you will develop your practical skills to enable you to communicate your ideas and express your feelings successfully through your own art and design. You will be expected to:

- Record images in relevant materials
- Investigate the work of artists, designers and crafts people
- Experiment with materials and develop ideas
- Make some individual art work

What will I study?

You will be expected to produce art work in one or more areas including drawing and painting, mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, film and light based media, photography, film, video and animation. You will be introduced to a variety of experiences and a range of materials, processes and techniques.

You will develop your understanding of art and design through experimenting with art materials and techniques, the development of your ideas, and research into the work of artists, designers and crafts people. You will be expected to work independently and make choices about how your work develops and which materials you specialise in.

Assessment

You will produce a portfolio of work based on a centre set theme with is 60% of the course and then an externally set task with makes up the other 40% of the course.

What can this subject lead to?

- A Level Art and Design
- Further Education courses

POSSIBLE DEGREE CHOICES

Fashion and Textiles, Interior Design, Architecture, Illustration, Photography, Art and Design, Crafts, Visual Culture, Media; Glass, Theatre Design, Applied Arts, Graphics, Silver Smithing.

TYPES OF JOBS IN CREATIVE DESIGN

Animator, Art therapist, Arts administrator, Ceramicist, Community arts worker, Exhibition designer, Fashion designer, Fine artist, Furniture designer, Glass blower/designer, Graphic designer, Illustrator, Industrial/product designer, Interior and spatial designer, Jeweller, Makeup artist, Medical illustrator, Museum/gallery exhibitions officer, Photographer, Printmaker, Production designer, theatre/ television/film, Textile designer, Web designer.

GCSE Business

Edexcel

Description:

Studying GCSE Business will give you the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work in the real-world. You will learn about how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, you will learn about planning, finance, marketing and economics, as well as discovering some of the methods and techniques used to analyse an organisation's performance.

Studying GCSE Business will allow you to gain an insight into the demands of a truly modern and evolving business environment – this is a qualification that enables you to develop as a commercially minded and enterprising individual which will help you to succeed in your chosen pathway.

What will I study?

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business

- Topic 1.1: Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Topic 1.2: Spotting a Business Opportunity
- Topic 1.3: Putting a Business Idea into Practice
- Topic 1.4: Making the Business Effective
- Topic 1.5: Understanding the External Influences on Business

Theme 2: Building a Business

- Topic 2.1: Growing the Business
- Topic 2.2: Making Marketing Decisions
- Topic 2.3: Making Operational Decisions
- Topic 2.4: Making Financial Decisions
- Topic 2.5: Making Human Resource Decisions

Assessment

Theme 1 Written Examination (Investigating Small Business)

1 Hour and 45 Minutes, 90 Marks, 50% of GCSE Business Qualification

Section A: 35 Marks, Section B: 30 Marks, Section C: 25 Marks

Theme 2 Written Examination (Building a Business)

1 Hour and 45 Minutes, 90 Marks, 50% of GCSE Business Qualification

Section A: 35 Marks, Section B: 30 Marks, Section C: 25 Marks

Both papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the papers.

What can this subject lead to?

The knowledge and skills gained from GCSE Business support students' entry into employment or other training in specific aspects of business, such as apprenticeships and vocational qualifications which focus on more specialised business areas.

GCSE Business provides a strong foundation for employment, with students progressing, with further training, to a wide range of careers training such as banking, sales, product management and general management.

BTEC Child Care

Pearson

Description:

The BTEC Tech Award in Children's Play, Learning and Development is an interactive course that gives a great insight into the world of work, particularly in relation to the childcare sector. You will be able to apply what you learn to real life and understand your own behaviour and the behaviour of others in more detail.

What will I study?

Component 1: Children's growth and development

Component 2: Learning through play

Component 3: Supporting children to play

Assessment

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified.

Component 3 is externally assessed

What can this subject lead to?

The next step from Level 2 Children's Play Learning and Development is Level 3, which we also offer at the academy. This is a chance to develop and hone the skills that you learn and apply them more widely. Moving on, some students opt to pursue Children's Play Learning and Development at university; others use their skills and enter the world of work directly.

Studying this subject can help you to pursue the following careers:

- Teacher
- Social worker
- Police officer
- Midwife
- Nurse
- Nursery nurse
- Child minder
- Foster carer
- Play worker
- Early years practitioner
- Nanny
- Carer

GCSE Citizenship

OCR

Description:

Citizenship will develop the skills and knowledge to help you better understand what goes on in society today. It will provide you with an understanding of those areas of law, justice, politics and money that affect our everyday lives.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Our Rights and responsibilities and the law

- Rights and responsibilities.
- The law in the UK.
- The legal and justice system in the UK.

Unit 2: Citizenship in action

- Democracy, elections and voting in the UK and beyond.
- National, regional and local governments.
- British Values.
- The economy, finance and money.
- The role of media and free press.
- Citizenship participation in the UK.
- Active Citizenship - A group campaign on a chosen issue.

Unit 3: Our society and the links with the wider world.

- Identities and diversity in UK society.
- The UK and it's relations with the wider world.
- The European Union, the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

Assessment

You will sit three exams in the summer of Year 11.

What can this subject lead to?

Citizenship Studies would be most useful if you are interested in any of the following as careers: Politics, Law Professions, Police, Charity Work, Community Advice, Social / Youth Work, Journalism and Teaching.

GCSE Computer Science

OCR

Description:

The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. You will study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts. Because computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to computer science as well.

Computer Science will enable you to:

- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology upon the individual and to wider society.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

What will I study?

Computer systems

- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, Legal, Cultural and environmental concerns
- Systems architecture

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation.

Assessment

There are two external written exams:

Computer systems - 50% of the final grade

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 50% of the final grade

What can this subject lead to?

It will prepare you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education.

Careers this subject can lead to are:

Database administrator, Games developer, Information systems manager, IT consultant, Multimedia programmer, Systems analyst, Systems developer, Web designer, Web developer

BTEC Digital Information Technology

Pearson

Description:

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 1.46 million people working in digital companies and around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries; almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. The UK has positioned itself to be the 'digital capital of Europe' as it continues to invest billions every year in digital skills and commerce.

What will I study?

1. Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
2. Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
3. Effective Digital Working Practices

Assessment

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified.

Component 3 is externally examined

What can this subject lead to?

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

BTEC Engineering

Pearson/
Edexcel

Description:

Engineering is a growing employment sector that offers many career opportunities. With Brexit, there is government drive to support individuals lifelong training. Engineering is one of two sectors that has the highest numbers of apprenticeships. Employers outside of engineering look for people who can show they have developed their critical thinking and who can plan and organise projects from conception to completion.

What will I study?

There are three components that make up the course:

Component 1 – Exploring engineering sectors and design applications

Component 2 – Investigating and engineering project

Component 3 – Responding to an engineering brief

Assessment

Component 1 – Exploring engineering sectors and design applications – internally assessed

Component 2 – Investigating and engineering project – internally assessed

Component 3 – Responding to an engineering brief – externally assessed

What can this subject lead to?

All areas and careers in engineering require an understanding on manufacturing techniques and new production methods such as CNC manufacture and 3D Printing. Engineers also need to be able interpret engineering drawings and set up quality control measures. This area focuses more on the manufacturing processes and use of CNC machinery.

This course is ideal for if you are considering progression onto an apprenticeship or a Level 3 engineering qualification.

BTEC Health and Social Care

Pearson

Description:

The BTEC Technical Award in Health and Social Care is a really interactive course that gives a great insight into the world of work, particularly in relation to the health and social care sectors. You will be able to apply what you learn to real life and understand your own behaviour and the behaviour of others in more detail.

What will I study?

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

Component 2: Health and Social Care, Services and Values

Component 3: Health and Well-Being

Assessment

You will complete two controlled assessments and one examination.

What can this subject lead to?

The next step from Level 2 Health and Social Care is Level 3, which we also offer in the sixth form. This is a chance to develop and hone the skills you learn and apply them more widely. Moving on, some people opt to pursue Health and Social Care at University; others use their skills and enter the world of work such as:

Teacher, Social worker, Prison officer, Police officer, Midwife, Nurse, Nursery nurse, Child minder, Foster carer, Play worker, Early years practitioner, Nanny, Carer.

BTEC Media

Pearson

Description:

The creative media sector is a dynamic, growing and rewarding sector to work in, with new opportunities arising continually. The UK's creative industries as a whole are now worth over £84 billion per year to the UK economy. Working in the creative media industry involves a wide range of practical processes, skills and techniques - from broadcast media to increasingly interactive products and platforms.

As digital technology continues to evolve, media techniques have become more sophisticated and media products are becoming more advanced. However, what has not changed is that media products still have the power to enthrall, intrigue and affect audiences.

What will I study?

On this course, you will:

- Investigate different media products, such as audio/moving image, publishing and interactive design, considering their style, design, audience, and context.
- Explore creative media production processes and practices by generating ideas, and planning production and post-production processes.
- Develop digital media production skills and techniques.

The components focus on:

- The development of core knowledge and understanding, including the range of different types of media products, production processes and techniques.
- The development and application of skills such as research skills and stylistic and technical skills.
- Reflective practice through the refinement of learners' own media products that allows them to respond to feedback and identify areas for improvement.

Assessment

The three units in this qualification will give you the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the media sector and relevant skills such as research, planning, problem solving and communication.

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified.

Component 3 is an external assessment.

What can this subject lead to?

Upon completion of this course you might progress to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a which will prepare you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the media sector.

BTEC Music Practice

Pearson/
Edexcel

Description:

The music industry is a vibrant, exciting and highly competitive industry that contributed £5.2 billion to the UK economy in 2019 and generated a further £2.7 billion in export revenue. In 2016, live music alone created £3.7 billion in direct and indirect income for the UK. The music industry is constantly evolving and offers many different and exciting new work opportunities. In 2019, the music industry supported more than 190,935 full-time jobs in the UK, 139,352 of which were in the music creators' sector.

What will I study?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will develop key skills, ranging from rehearsing to experimenting with technology, equipment and instruments. You will also develop an understanding of the music industry. Everyone taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas:

- Exploring Music Products and Styles - exploration of the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigation of the key features of different musical styles and genres.
- Music Skills Development - development of two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.
- Responding to a Music Brief - developing and presenting music in response to a given music brief.

Assessment

Students are assessed across 3 components.

Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 3 is externally assessed.

What can this subject lead to?

Once you have completed the qualification, you will have developed valuable knowledge, practical skills and a wider understanding of the music industry. This qualification will allow you to develop your knowledge and skills through practical and creative application in a vocational context, and by responding creatively to a commercial brief. Since you will be developing skills across a number of disciplines – such as music creation, production and performance – you will have a better understanding of whether the music industry is for you and, if so, which part of it you might want to study further. If you decide to go on to further study of music, the best option for you will depend on the grades you have achieved in this and the other qualifications you have taken, and what you enjoy doing. You could progress to further study of this subject.

BTEC Performing Arts: Dance

Pearson

Description:

This course is an amazing opportunity for any students who are passionate about dance and wish to develop their passion into a career in dance or performing arts.

This course is designed to build on students' prior knowledge and help them to progress through an exploration of different dance styles and techniques. Not only will the course help to expand their dance and performance knowledge but it will also help them develop in other areas, such as their creativity, communications skills, confidence and helps build their social- emotional development. All of these skills are transferable to everyday life and will help you to succeed in the future.

What will I study?

The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in Dance such as reproducing repertoire or responding to stimuli.
- Process that underpins effective ways of working in the Dance, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the Dance, including personal management and communication.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.

Assessment

The three components in the qualification give students the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the performing arts industry and specialist skills and techniques. Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified.

Component 3 is externally assessed.

Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation.

What can this subject lead to?

Studying Dance will enable students to make more informed choices for further learning. Students will be able to progress further onto a Level 3 qualification in Performing Arts. This would then prepare students to enter employment, apprenticeships or move onto higher education by studying a degree in the Performing Arts in Dance.

BTEC Performing Arts: Drama

Pearson

Description:

Performing Arts is a form of creative activity that is performed in front of an audience, which includes drama, music, and dance. The performing arts is a great opportunity for you to expand and develop your creativity, communications skills, confidence and helps build social- emotional development. All of these skills are transferable to everyday life and will help you to succeed in the future.

The Performing Arts course is designed to allow you develop your skills in a variety of different roles, such as, actor, director or designer.

What will I study?

The study of this subject will give you the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in Performing Arts such as reproducing repertoire or responding to stimuli.
- Processes that underpins effective ways of working in the Performing Arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the Performing Arts, including personal management and communication.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.

Assessment

The three components in the qualification will give you the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the performing arts industry and specialist skills and techniques.

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified.

Component 3, that provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification.

Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation.

What can this subject lead to?

Studying performing arts at Key Stage 4 will enable you to make more informed choices for further learning. You will be able to progress further to study a Level 3 qualification in Performing Arts. This would prepare you to enter employment, apprenticeships or to progress onto Higher Education.

GCSE Psychology

Edexcel

Description:

Psychology – the science of mind and behaviour – allows students to gain a more thorough understanding of the world around them, the people they interact with and the way the human mind works.

It is a fascinating subject that has a lot of variety and can be a lot of fun.

Students have the chance to carry out their own experiments on friends and family as well as having the opportunity to read and view widely to gain a more thorough understanding of the subject in the real world.

What will I study?

Compulsory topics (first year):

- Human development
- Memory
- Psychological problems
- The brain and neuropsychology
- Social influence

Compulsory topic (first and second year):

- Research methods – how to carry out psychological investigations of your own.

Then a choice of two (selected by your teacher) from:

- Criminal psychology
- The self Perception
- Sleep and dreaming
- Language, thoughts, and communication

Assessment

Two written exam papers, at the end of Year 11

- Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes

55% of the overall qualification

98 marks

Range of questions including: multiple choice, short-open and longer-open responses.

- Paper 2 – 1 hour 20 minutes

45% of the overall qualification

79 marks

Range of questions including: multiple choice, short-open and longer-open responses.

This paper will require the use of a calculator.

What can this subject lead to?

This qualification is perfect preparation for A-Level Psychology.

Many students who study Psychology progress onto a degree at university that uses Psychology, too. Some recent examples include: Psychology, Education Studies, Counselling and Mental Health Nursing, Forensic Psychology, Criminology.

Careers using this subject include: teaching, policing, social work, nursing, midwifery, criminology, prison officers, counsellors, careers advisor, customer service roles, human resources... any job that requires effective communication with other people.

GCSE Sociology

AQA

Description:

GCSE Sociology aims to broaden your mind, helping you to see your world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways.

GCSE Sociology will help you gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, Processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

You will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, you will develop transferable skills including how to:

Investigate facts and make deductions, develop opinions and new ideas on social issues and analyse and better understand the social world

What will I study?

Paper 1 - The sociology of families and education

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

You will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Paper 2 - The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

You will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Assessment

Paper 1

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE
- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Paper 2

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE
- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

What can this subject lead to?

Sociology will provide you with an array of skills which many institutions of further education will seek such as;

- Appreciating the complexity and diversity of social situations.
- Applying sociological theory to society's organisations, including schools and offices.
- Researching, judging and evaluating complex information making reasoned arguments.
- Knowledge and understanding of research methods, analysis and statistical techniques.
- Developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues working collaboratively.
- The ability to understand, scrutinise and re-assess common perceptions of the social world relating sociological knowledge to social, public policy.
- Organising work and meeting deadlines.

Career prospects post university are vast but to mention a few please see below:

- Advice worker
- Community development worker
- Family support worker
- Further education teacher
- International aid/development worker
- Social researcher
- Social worker
- Youth worker
- Community education
- Counselling
- Information management
- Law
- Social work
- Teaching

Description:

BTEC Sport is a vocational course that will develop the knowledge required to pursue a career in sport. You will also develop the skills for a range of sport-related pathways from sports coaching to gym management.

You will develop practical skills in your specialist areas. In addition, you will learn about the other factors that contribute to improving performance. BTEC Sport lessons are enjoyable and productive and delivered by experienced staff in a supportive and nurturing environment. Practical lessons are delivered to teach theoretical concepts and practical skills.

What will I study?

Components:

1. Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity
2. Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance
3. Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- investigating provisions for sport including equipment and facilities to enhance sport
- planning and delivery of sport drills and sessions
- fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology.

Assessment

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified.

Component 3 is externally assessed

What can this subject lead to?

Careers Include:

Community Sports Coach, Sports Development Officer, Elite Sports Coach, Physical Education Teacher, Strength and Conditioning Coach, Human Nutritionist, Personal Trainer, Sports Scientist, Performance Analyst, Adventure Sports Coach, Outdoor Activity Leader, Sports Therapist, Sports Marketing, Facilities Manager, Sport Entrepreneur, Elite Level Performer, Elite Level Officer.

Degrees are vast but can include:

Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Science and Physiology, Applied Sports Science, Sport Management, Sports Therapy, Physical and Sport Education, Physical Education and Youth Sport Coaching.



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