

Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School



Curriculum, Advice and Guidance Booklet

2017

Foreword

Why are GCSE exams important? What's the point of completing them?

Well, one reason is that, for the first time in over 10 years of education, you will sit exams that mean something for you. When you entered primary school, you did not sit exams to get in. When you came to Tauheedul, you did not need exams to be allowed to study here. (Yes, you did exams at the end of primary school - but really that was to judge the quality of your school. After all, you didn't get a SATs certificate, did you?)

However, the exams that you sit at the end of Year 10 or Year 11 do matter - for you. They will decide whether you get to go to study the A Level or BTEC course that you want and, ultimately, whether you enjoy the career of your choice.

So, these GCSE courses and exams are crucial. Not just to determine what you do next, but to decide what you will be doing in another 10 years' time. Doors of opportunity will open or they will close.

It is also important to remember that these will be new, tougher GCSEs - with a new grading system from 9-1 instead of A*-G. There will be more content to learn, harder exams to complete, no coursework to help and more marks needed to pass.

So that you do well in these new GCSE courses, your teachers will work very hard over the next few years to deliver the learning, stimulate your interest in the subjects and give you feedback on your progress. And, your parents will free you up from the chores at home, encourage and praise you when you do well and pray for your success.

However, there are two things that your parents and your teachers cannot do for you. They cannot work hard in lessons for you and they cannot sit the exams for you. Over the next two and a half years, we want you to take personal responsibility for your studies and for your grades, work hard in each and every lesson and put the time in to do homework and revise at home.

To achieve great things, we must be prepared to give up things. We may need to give up social networking for a while, stop going out so frequently and watch a little less T.V. However, a little bit of sacrifice and time now will mean a lot of happiness at the end of the next two and a half years.

Some courses described in this booklet are ones which you will have chosen to study. Others will be subjects that we have told you are compulsory. Regardless of the GCSE, BTEC or AS courses you study over the next two and a half years, a lot of hard work and enthusiasm is needed to succeed.

I pray that the Almighty inspires you to work hard over the next few years, make the necessary sacrifices and strive to do well in the exams. Aameen.

Mubaaruck Ibrahim
Principal and Chief Executive Principal
Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School & Sixth Form College



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Introduction

Over the next three years, there will be a number of courses and subjects that you will complete.

This guidance provides details of each of the courses that you could take. In particular, it gives information on:

- What you will learn on each subject.
- Why the subject is important for everyday life.
- How you will be assessed in the subject.
- What you will need to do to succeed in the subject.
- What you can study after completing a GCSE in the subject.
- What career options there are from this subject.

Each student will complete some of the following subjects during the course of the next three years:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Core or Part of Other Options?</u>
Arabic	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Part of Other Options
Art & Design	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Part of Other Options
Business St.	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Part of Other Options
Citizenship	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Core
English Language	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Core
English Literature	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Core
French	GCSE	Y9	Y10	Part of Other Options
Geography	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Part of Other Options
History	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Part of Other Options
ICT	GCSE	Y9	Y10	Part of Other Options
Computer Science	GCSE	Y9	Y10	Part of Other Options
Mathematics	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Core
P.E.	GCSE	Y11	Y11	Part of Other Options
Religious Studies	GCSE	Y9	Y10	Core
Science: Double Award	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Core – completed by Y9 Sets 2-5
Single Sciences: Biology, Chemistry & Physics	GCSE	Y9	Y11	Core – completed by Y9 Set 1
Urdu	GCSE	Y9	Y10	Part of Other Options

During your time at Tauheedul, there will be choices that you will make with advice from teachers.

GCSE Arabic or French or Urdu?

On entering the school, you began to study either Arabic or French. This will determine which language exam you will sit. In addition to French or Arabic, you will also complete Urdu.



GCSE History or GCSE Geography?

At the end of Year 8, you will have chosen to complete either GCSE History or GCSE Geography.

GCSE ICT or GCSE Computer Science?

At the end of Year 9, you will be able to decide whether to continue with GCSE Computer Science or switch to BTEC ICT, depending on how you perform in your end-of-year exam.

GCSE Double Award Science or GCSE Single Sciences (Triple Award)

Depending on your SATs results at the end of Year 8, you will be studying either a Double Award GCSE in Science or three separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

GCSE Art & Design (Textiles and Graphics) or GCSE Business Studies or GCSE P.E.

In Year 11, each student will complete either a GCSE in Art & Textiles or P.E. or an AS level course in Computing or Religious Studies. Students who are at risk of failing to achieve at least a Grade '5' in English and Maths will receive additional classes in these two key subjects instead.

Whilst most students will complete at least 11 GCSEs, some students will complete fewer GCSEs to maximise their chances of achieving 9-5 with English and Maths. However, no student will complete fewer than 8 GCSEs.

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is an additional award, given by the Government, to any student who achieves the following:

1. Grade 9-5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature
2. Grades 9-5 in GCSE Mathematics
3. Grades 9-5 in GCSE Science (if studying single sciences, get 9-5 in two of the Sciences)
4. Grades 9-5 in GCSE Urdu or French or Arabic (only one required)
5. Grades 9-5 in GCSE History or Geography (only one required).

In order to qualify for the EBacc, you will need to do well in each of these subjects.

The English Baccalaureate is important because it is recognised by Government and employers as a sign that the student has completed a broad range of subjects successfully. Nationally, around 25% of students achieve this award.



New GCSEs and the new Grading System

Over the next few years, new GCSE courses will be introduced by the Government. These GCSEs will be assessed using a new 9-1 grading system.

These new 9-1 grades compare with the 'old' A*-G in the following way:

New GCSE Grading		Old GCSE Grading
9	Grade 9 is a high A*.	
8	Grade 8 is low A* or high A.	A*
7	Grade 7 is a low or mid A.	A
6	Grade 6 is a high B.	B
5	Grade 5 is a low B or high C. This is the minimum grade for a 'good pass'.	C
4	Grade 4 is a low or mid C.	D
3	Grade 3 is a D or high E.	E
2	Grade 2 is a low E or high F.	F, G
1	Grade 1 is a low F or G.	

To achieve a 'good pass' in each GCSE, a student will need to achieve at least a Grade '5'.

To study 'A' Levels, a student will need to achieve at least a Grade '6' in each subject. In some subjects, a Grade '7' will be needed.



'Core Curriculum' GCSE Subjects

English Language



What will I learn on this course?

The aim of the course is to increase your understanding of what you read and, also, to develop your ability to communicate clearly when writing and speaking. During the GCSE course, you will study a variety of British fiction ranging from the classics to more modern texts developing your analytical skills. You will also explore a variety of non-fiction texts helping you to gain versatility in your own writing.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

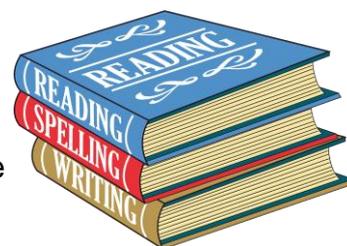
Everything you do in life requires the ability to communicate. An awareness of language is, therefore, one of life's essentials. Every career requires the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. The skills in English are transferable to all aspects of life, both personal and professional. Reading literary texts helps to sharpen your response and develop an awareness of the world and people around you.

How will I be assessed?

Grading will be on a nine point scale (9-1), with 9 being the highest available. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

You will be assessed through two exams:

- The first exam will assess your reading skills in a fictional text. In this exam, your narrative or descriptive writing skills will also be tested.
- The second exam will test your reading skills in non-fiction texts and, in the writing section, you will argue for a viewpoint.
- An individual presentation to assess your spoken language. This will be recorded separately on your GCSE English Language certificate.



What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE English Language, you will need to:

- Have outstanding attendance and punctuality to lessons.
- Read from a wide range of high-quality, challenging fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries in your own time.
- Take ownership of your learning and take heed of feedback from your teacher following each assessment.
- Develop ambitious vocabulary.

What can I do after a GCSE in this course?

Achieving a good standard at GCSE is essential for any course you choose. Employers and further and higher education institutions value good grades in English Language as it demonstrates your ability to communicate effectively.

GCSE English Language will allow you to study English Language and English Literature at A Level which is an increasingly popular choice.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

An English degree is highly regarded by employers. The flexibility of skills English offers results in a range of career options, opening doors in publishing and advertising. Education and legal fields are also popular.



What will I learn on this course?

This course aims to encourage an understanding and appreciation of a wide range of literature. There is a blend of modern and pre-twentieth century prose, poetry and drama. This will give you a chance to respond to literary texts in depth. Studying English Literature teaches you how to analyse complex information and sophisticated ideas and theories. That ability to read, reflect and critique is essential in many kinds of work as is the ability to construct and articulate an argument.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

The ability to read and respond to a range of literature will enhance an appreciation of other perspectives. Literature is enlightening and can open your mind to new experiences and ways of looking at things – even in your daily life.

English Literature teaches you a great deal about life, history and society. It will inspire a love of reading, fire your creativity and help you to be more articulate.

How will I be assessed?

Grading will be on a nine point scale (9-1), with 9 being the highest available. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

You will be assessed through two exams:

- An exam which will test your ability to analyse a 19th-century novel and a Shakespeare play.
- The second exam will assess your response to drama and poetry, including unseen poetry.



What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE English Literature, you will need to:

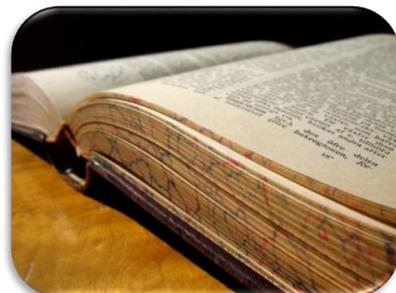
- Have outstanding attendance and punctuality to lessons.
- Read from a wide range of texts in your own time.
- Take ownership of your learning and be prepared to read and work hard on difficult texts.
- Take heed of feedback from your teacher following each assessment.
- Develop ambitious vocabulary.

What can I do after a GCSE in this course?

Gaining a good grade at GCSE will further your chances of studying English Literature at A-Level. It will also give the necessary essay writing and critical thinking skills you will need to enrol for other Humanities-based courses.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

The skills you learn when studying GCSE English Literature are transferable to all areas - an English degree is highly regarded by employers. Journalism, including editorial work, is popular. Teaching is also popular.



What will I learn on this course?

During this course, you will learn about a range of topics from across all three sciences, including genetics and health in Biology, acids and reactions in Chemistry, and radioactivity and static electricity in Physics.

You will also learn practical scientific skills, carrying out many experiments and learning to take accurate results and make good conclusions and evaluations which will be tested during the exams.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

Learning about science will fire your curiosity about the world around you. You will learn about how science works, how it affects everyday life and how you can use your science when you work, rest, shop and play. Learning about science will also help you to understand how our world is in a delicate balance, how our actions affect the world around us and how we can work together to use science to improve lives.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the following way:

- There will be six 1 hour 10 minutes examinations (Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2, Physics 1 and Physics 2) at the end of the course in Year 11.
- These papers will include testing of experiments carried out during the delivery of the course. *There is no controlled assessment component to Science.*
- This GCSE course is completed in Year 11 and you will be awarded two grades (Double Award) after completing the exams.

As it is a Double Award GCSE, you will receive two grades. Grading will be on a nine point scale (9-1), with 9 being the highest available. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Science, you will need to:

- Attend all lessons (because any absence will affect the grade that you achieve).
- Learn the skills of scientific investigation (planning, concluding and evaluating).
- Thoroughly practice carrying out scientific calculations as they now contribute to 30% of the overall grade.
- Take personal responsibility for revising for the exams as all the exams for the double award will all be completed at the end of Year 11.

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

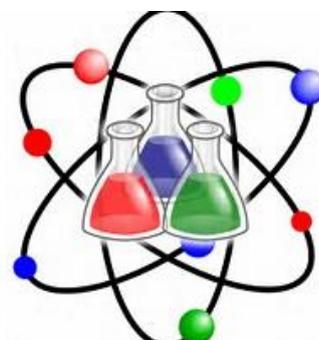
If you get a grade '6-7' or above in this course, you will be able to study A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

If you get grade '5-5', you will be able to study a full-time vocational course in Science at college.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

A very good GCSE grade in Double Award Science in Year 11 will allow you to choose A Levels and a degree that can lead to all sorts of scientific careers such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, audiology, midwifery, forensic Science and many more.

A good grade in Science will also help you to go into careers such as laboratory technician, nursing and childcare.



Science: Separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

What will I learn on this course?

During this course, you will learn about a range of topics from across all three sciences, including genetic modification and body control systems in Biology, quantitative and qualitative analysis in Chemistry, and astronomy and electromagnetism in Physics.

You will also learn practical scientific skills, carrying out many experiments and learning to take accurate results and make good conclusions and evaluations which will be tested during the exams.



Why are GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry & Physics important for everyday life?

Learning about science will help you to understand how our world is in a delicate balance, how our actions affect not only our immediate environments but globally too, and how we can work together to use science to improve lives.

It will allow you to appreciate how things work and the contributions of different scientists to our understanding of the world around us.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the following way:

- There will be six 1 hour 45 minutes examinations (Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2 Physics 1 and Physics 2) at the end of the course in Year 11.
- These papers will include the testing of experiments carried out during the delivery of the course. *There is no controlled assessment component to Science.*

This GCSE course is completed in Year 11 and you will be awarded three separate grades upon completion. These grades will range from '9' (highest) to '1' (lowest) for each of the three GCSEs. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics, you will need to:

- Attend all lessons (because any absence will affect the grade that you achieve).
- Learn the skills of scientific investigation (planning, concluding and evaluating).
- Thoroughly practice carrying out scientific calculations as they now contribute to 30% of the overall grade
- Take personal responsibility for revising for the exams as all the exams for the separate sciences will all be completed at the end of Year 11

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a grade '6' or above in any of the three GCSEs, you will be able to study A Levels in that subject (Biology, Chemistry or Physics).

If you get a grade '5', you will be able to study a full-time vocational course in Science at college.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

Very good GCSE grades (9-6) in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 11 will allow you to choose A Levels and a degree that can lead to all sorts of scientific careers such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, audiology, midwifery, forensic Science and many more.

A good grade in these subjects (Grade 5) will also help you to go into careers such as laboratory technician, nursing and childcare.



What will I learn on this course?

You will cover two components of study over the course of two years, focusing on Islam and Judaism.

- The first component consists of the study of religions, with a detailed exploration of Muslim and Jewish beliefs, teachings and practices.
- The second component focuses on thematic studies, allowing for the exploration of a range of different issues including relationships and families, religion and life, peace and conflict, and crime and punishment. This component also looks at different views in contemporary British society.

You will learn to develop your skills in drawing out and explaining the meaning and religious significance of the key elements of the religions studied.

You will also support, interpret and evaluate a variety of responses, recognising the complexity of issues, weighing up opinions and making reasoned judgments supported by a range of evidence and well-developed arguments.



Why is this course important for everyday life?

Religious Studies is not about making you 'religious', it is about enabling you to think for yourself about religious and moral issues. It is about you, your life and the issues you will face when you leave school and go into the multi-ethnic, multi-faith society which is the UK. This course is vital in:

- Learning about other people's beliefs, the nature of the society you live in and the big issues in life which generate debate.
- Gaining an understanding of what causes prejudice, hatred and violence in our world. Having the opportunity to explore religious and moral beliefs in a safe environment.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by two 1 hour 45 minute exams. The course will be 100% exam based.

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

- To actively participate in classwork and discussions.
- To revise regularly (weekly).
- To prepare thoroughly & perform well in internal assessments.

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

A-Level Religious Studies, Social Sciences, History, English.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

Teaching, social work, journalism, politics, law, charity & development work.



What will I learn on this course?

During this Year 10 course, you will continue to learn to communicate in Urdu. You will become more fluent in speaking, writing, reading and understanding. Your range of vocabulary will increase and your communication skills will improve.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

Learning any modern foreign language is very important and it helps to understand the way of life of different people from different backgrounds, both abroad and those living in your own community.

It will also broaden your knowledge of the world and the people around you. The United Kingdom is a multilingual, multicultural and multi-faith society and the learning of different languages opens up many avenues and job opportunities.

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How will I be assessed?

This is a new GCSE course which will be tested at the end of Year 11.

- You will complete an exam in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening (each exam is worth 25% of the grade).
- At the end of the course, you will get a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.
- This exam will be completed in Year 11 because this is the new GCSE course is being first examined in 2019.

To prepare for the new GCSE exams at the end of Year 11, we will also ask you to complete the 'old' GCSE at the end of Year 10. This includes:

- A Speaking controlled assessment made up of at least two tasks (30% of your grade).
- A Writing controlled assessment made up of at least two tasks (30% of your grade).
- A Listening exam (20% of your grade).
- A Reading exam (20% of your grade).

This 'old' GCSE is graded A*-G.

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Urdu, you will need to:

- Attend all lessons (because new vocabulary and structures are learnt every lesson, any absence will mean a lot of things to catch up on).
- Try to participate as much as possible in class by speaking Urdu and try and work hard on getting the accent right.
- Complete all given homework to the best of your ability. Ask the teacher to explain something again when it is not clear.
- Make sure you have and use an Urdu dictionary frequently.
- Prepare the speaking assessment presentation really well.

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a good overall grade in this course, you will be able to study for an A Level in Urdu.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

A good GCSE grade in Urdu will allow you to study the language further or to combine with other degree subjects. This can then lead to careers in fields such as interpreting, teaching, languages and community services.



What will I learn on this course?

Citizenship is at the heart of everyday debates about the kind of society we are striving to build and our role in the process.

During this GCSE course, you will learn about your rights, roles and responsibilities as a young citizen in Britain and in the world. You will develop in your knowledge and understanding of how different communities and society works. Citizenship education will equip you with the skills you need to participate as a responsible and active citizen of our democracy and of wider society. Citizenship thus ensures your personal, intellectual, spiritual and social development as a young citizen in Britain.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

This course is crucial as it develops your knowledge and understanding of the structures that govern your everyday life. It will make you aware of your moral rights and responsibilities in places such as school, the workplace and the local community. You will also become knowledgeable about politics, law and the media and will be given the opportunity to explore current issues of debate.



How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the following way:

- Paper 1 Section A (Active citizenship) & B (politics & participation).
1 hour 45 mins written exam with 80 marks (50% of GCSE)
- Paper 2 Section A (life in modern Britain) & Section B (Rights and responsibilities).
1 hour 45 mins written exam with 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Citizenship, you will need to:

- Participate actively during discussion and debate.
- Keep up with current affairs and apply this knowledge and understanding to exams.
- Prepare fully for tests and exams.
- Maintain a responsible and proactive approach.

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

You may choose to pursue A-levels in Citizenship, Law, Politics and related subjects. This full course will however be welcomed by any further education option and the knowledge, understanding and skills developed throughout Citizenship will be fundamental in your future progression in education.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

A good GCSE grade in Citizenship provides the backbone and skills necessary for any career in life. It will allow you to choose A Levels and a degree that can lead to careers in law, journalism and teaching. A good qualification in Citizenship also speaks volumes about your character as a responsible, aware and active citizen in society.



Subjects which are part of Other Options

Arabic edexcel 

What will I learn on this course?

During this course, you will develop the four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking to enhance your understanding of the Arabic language. The course will cover many core topics ranging from basic weather, shopping, and conversation to more complex topics such as media, letter writing, and grammar.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

Arabic is the language of the Quran and a very useful language. Everybody regardless of their age has one time or another have thought about learning Arabic. Also, when travelling abroad to the Middle East, this language will help your holiday become just that little bit extra special!

How will I be assessed?

This is a new GCSE course which will be tested at the end of Year 11.

- You will complete an exam in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening (each exam is worth 25% of the grade).
- At the end of the course, you will get a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.
- This exam will be completed in Year 11 because this is the new GCSE course is being first examined in 2019.

The four exams for GCSE Arabic are:

- **Listening** and understanding a number of passages or interactions (23% of your grade).
- **Speaking** about two different themes (27% of your grade).
- **Reading** and Understanding a number of short texts (23% of your grade).
- **Writing** exam consisting of two tasks from a choice of eight (27% of your grade).

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To prepare for the new GCSE exams at the end of Year 11, we will also ask you to complete the 'old' GCSE at the end of Year 10. This 'old' GCSE is graded A*-G.

What will I need to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Arabic, you will need to:

- Ensure you have an Arabic dictionary.
- Take personal responsibility to keep work up to date and to learn key vocabulary.
- Watch Arabic cartoons and programmes.
- Try and communicate with native Arabs on your visits to Saudi Arabia and the Middle East!

What can I do after GCSE's from this course?

A good GCSE grade in Arabic will allow you to study Arabic at A level and even further at University level. It may also provide you with an opportunity to further enhance your knowledge of the Arabic language by spending a year abroad in an Arabic-speaking country.

What career opportunities are there for this course?

Choosing to study the Arabic language allows you to go in to many fields of work such as translation, interpretation, teaching and working for many international companies around the world.



What will I learn on this course?

During this Year 11 course, you will learn about choosing and using a wide range of textiles. You will also learn about a range of tools such as traditional hand crafts and some computer-aided technology. These can include hand embroidery and Graphic Design. You will develop your imaginative powers and the skills to express your ideas, feelings and meanings visually and written. You will also develop an understanding of the language of art and design and the place of art, craft and design in history and in society.



Why is this course important for everyday life?

Learning about Art and Design will help to fire your creativity and

imagination. It will allow you to value artistic expression and understand different perspectives and ways of communicating feelings.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through:

- A Portfolio of work that must include a journal of all of your artwork – this counts towards 60% of your grade.
- A set assignment that is timed and completed under test conditions – this is worth 40% of your grade.

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Art & Design, you will need to:

- Be really interested in Art and good at drawing and design.
- Be able to write about your work, ideas and research.
- Maintain your journal of artwork throughout the year.
- Work really hard to prepare excellent Art coursework.



What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a good grade in GCSE Art & Design, you could go on to take an AS or A level in Art & Design, a Vocational A level in Art & Design or a related subject. If you know the area of art, craft or design you want to specialise in, you could study for a National Certificate or National Diploma in Art & Design.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

A good GCSE grade in Art & Design will allow you to choose A levels and further study that leads to careers in graphics, advertising, marketing, design, fashion design and architecture.



What will I learn on this course?

During this course, you will cover a wide range of topics such as family and friends, school, home, interests and hobbies, healthy living, films and TV, the world of work, holidays, shopping and the environment in French.

You will practice and develop these topics in relation to the four key skills in languages: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

Learning a European language can be very useful. 94% of the planet don't speak English as their mother tongue, 75% do not speak English at all. Learning French will enable you to find out about different cultures. Learning another language will improve your communications skills.

How will I be assessed?

This is a new GCSE course which will be tested at the end of Year 10.

- You will complete an exam in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening (each exam is worth 25% of the grade).
- At the end of the course, you will get a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

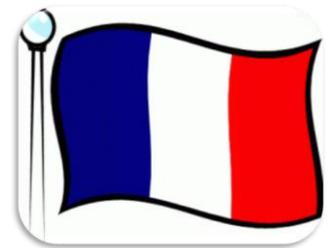
You will be assessed in the following way:

- **Listening** and understanding a number of passages or interactions (25% of your grade).
- **Speaking** about different themes for 10-12minutes. The conversation will include a role-play, a photo card and a general conversation (25% of your grade).
- **Reading** understanding and responding to different types of written language (25% of your grade).
- **Writing** exam consisting of two tasks from a choice of four questions and a translation from English to French (25% of your grade).

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE French, you will need to:

- Try to participate as much as possible in class by speaking French as much as you can and to try and get the accent right.
- Complete all given homework to the best of your ability. Ask the teacher to explain something again when it's not clear.
- Make sure you have a French dictionary.
- Prepare really well for the end-of-unit tests.
- Finally, don't miss out any opportunity to go to France or another French speaking country!



What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a good grade in this course, you will be able to study French at A-level. At university, regardless of the degree you're studying, you will be able to take part in Erasmus, which is an exchange program that will enable you to spend some time in a university in Europe.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

There are a range of career opportunities for you if you study French to a higher level. The majority of employers prefer to recruit people with languages skills.

A good GCSE or A Level grade in French and any degree will enable you to work for an international company anywhere around the world.



What will I learn on this course?

You will study the physical and human aspects of the world. You will learn the extent to which human beings have had an impact on physical changes of the earth. Fieldwork is an essential element of this. Geography will inspire you to become global citizens by exploring your own place in the world, your responsibilities to other people, to the environment and to the sustainability of the planet.



Why is this course important for everyday life?

The study of geography stimulates an interest in and a sense of wonder about our planet. It helps young people make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. It builds on pupils' own experiences to investigate places at all scales, from the personal to the global.

Geographical enquiry encourages questioning, investigation and critical thinking about issues affecting the world and people's lives, now and in the future.

How will I be assessed?

We will be following the AQA specification. There are three examined units:

- Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (Natural hazards, Physical landscapes of the UK & the Living world) 35% of the GCSE (88 marks) in an exam that is 1 hour 30 minutes long.
- Paper 2: Challenges to the Human environment (Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world & the challenge of resources management) 35% of the GCSE (88 marks) in an exam which is 1 hour 30 minutes long.
- Paper 3: Geographical applications (issues analysis and field work) 30% of the GCSE (76 marks) in an exam which is 1 hour long.

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

- To have a keen interest in Geography, in particular physical Geography where Maths and Science play a key role.
- Work really hard to achieve a good level at KS3.

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

You can study AS Level Geography, Geography & supporting subjects like Biology, Sociology and Psychology. Vocational subjects like travel and tourism or health and social care can be studied. (It can be specialized into geology, travel and tourism and environmental studies at University).

What career opportunities are there from this course?

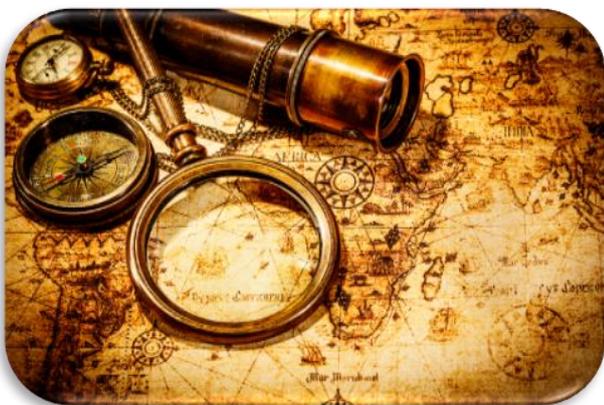
Careers for keen Geography students include Urban planner and community development, Climatologists, Environmental Management, Surveyor/Real Estate Appraisal and teaching.



What will I learn on this course?

We believe in the importance of learning from History. That's why we have chosen a specification that enables students to study different aspects of the past, so they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understand what drives change and how the influence the present.

The specification includes exciting new topics for today's world that will resonate with students, helping them to gain new insights into the world around them. You will learn to make important connections and comparisons between different aspects of the events and themes studied. You will also learn to describe, analyse and evaluate the important causes and consequences of historical events and situations. You will be challenged to assess the significance of individuals, events, developments and ideas in the history studied and assessed on the use of your source analysis skills.



Why is this course important for everyday life?

The study of History stimulates an interest in how far our lives, and world, have been shaped by the past. By studying twentieth century History, it helps young people to make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. It also challenges students to investigate historical questions and issues by reflecting upon the progress made throughout time.

How will I be assessed?

There are 2 examined units:

- Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World: Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship, Conflict and Tension between the East and West, 1945-1972 (50%)
- Paper 2: Shaping the Nation: Britain: Migration, empires and the people c790-present day, Elizabethan Age, c1568-1603 (50%)

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

- To actively participate in class work/discussions
- To revise regularly (weekly) from class notes and any additional research carried out on the topic

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

- A-Level History
- A-Level Sociology
- A-Level Psychology
- A-Level Politics

What career opportunities are there from this course?

Teaching, research, journalism, politics, law, policy making.



What will I learn on this course?

During the GCSE Computer Science course, you will develop an understanding of Computer Science methods in the real world, providing you with a real study of computation and reflection on today's global world.

You will study principles of computer science and application of computational thinking. Following on from more visual programming environments, programming skills will be developed further using high-level textual programming languages.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

Computer Science is used throughout your daily life; in fact life without technology life is unimaginable these days. In Computer Science, you will be able to start thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. This course also allows you to apply mathematical skills to Computer Science and allow you to understand the impact of digital technology to the individual and wider society. As well as understanding the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate you will be analysing problems in computational terms.

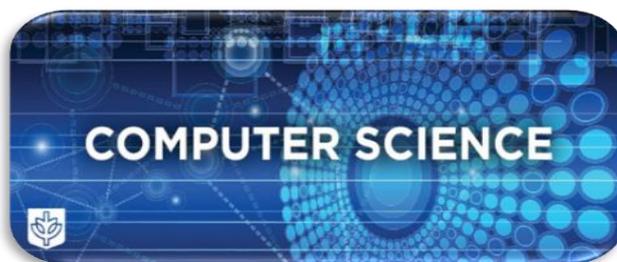
How will I be assessed?

GCSE Computer Science is assessed through written examinations and a project.

You will complete two examination papers (80% of the grade, 40% each) and marked by the exam board in Year 10.

You will also be required to complete a project provided by the exam board during Year 10 (worth 20% of the grade). This will be completed under supervision in class.

This course is completed in Year 10 and will be awarded grades 1- 9.



What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

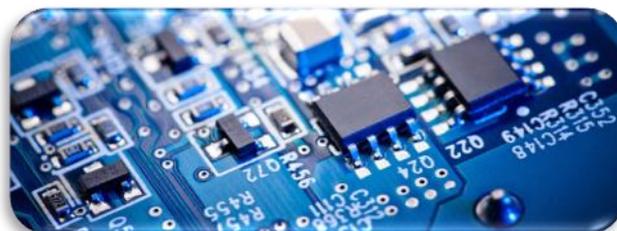
In order to achieve the best possible grade in Computer Science, you will need to:

- Have access to a computer at home - though internet connection is desirable, but not essential.
- Ensure you understand each topic.
- Ensure that you meet project deadlines.
- Work with commitment and have a positive attitude to solve problems.
- Be a good team-worker willing to help others and also learn from them.

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

The rigorous approach of this course will facilitate a smooth transition to the next level of study.

If you achieve a grade 6, you will be able to pursue an A level in Computer Science, Mathematics.



What career opportunities are there from this course?

Computer Science skills and knowledge are useful in whichever direction you choose to embark upon. Possible career choices are: Graphic Design, Web Development, Accountancy, Engineering, Science, Mathematics, Software Engineering and Teaching.



What will I learn on this course?

The BTEC First ICT course is a vocational qualification that builds upon your knowledge of practical skills and understanding of ICT. Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of the systems which are used both at home and at school and will explore how these same technologies are used by business organisations. Learners will use a wide range of applications that are commonly used in the workplace, schools, and in further and higher education. They will learn how to select the most appropriate software to complete tasks to meet specific business requirements in a variety of contexts.

Why is this course important for everyday life?

The BTEC First ICT will equip learners with sound ICT skills for everyday use and provide opportunities to develop in context those desirable, transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis, working with others or communicating technical concepts effectively.

How will I be assessed?

The BTEC First ICT (Award level) is equivalent to 1 GCSE:

- The Online World is an exam worth 25% of the final mark
- Teacher-assessed tasks, which are worth 75% of the final mark.

Students are awarded either a 'Distinction', 'Merit' or 'Pass'.



What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade, you will need to:

- Have access to a computer at home, though internet connection is desirable, but not essential.
- Ensure you meet all coursework deadlines and complete homework each week.
- Work with commitment and have a positive attitude.
- Be a good team-worker willing to help others and also learn from them.

Endeavour to continually review and improve your work.

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

You can continue to make progress towards BTEC First ICT (Diploma level) or you can alternatively pursue vocational courses such as BTEC Level 3 in ICT, Business Studies, CAD Design, Graphic Design etc providing you also achieve a grade 'C' or above in GCSE Maths and English.

What career opportunities are there from this course?

ICT skills and knowledge are useful in whichever direction you choose to embark upon. Possible career choices are: Graphic Design, Web Development, Accountancy, Software Engineering, Computer Science and Teaching.



What will I learn on this course?

This course will develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities, examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance. During the course you will identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity and find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles.



Why is this course important for everyday life?

This course will help you to maintain a keen interest in sport and recreation and will improve your performance levels in a range of sports roles. It allows you to maintain a well-balanced healthy active lifestyle which will enable you to cope with daily stresses and work load. The course also provides leadership training where skills can be utilised in daily tasks.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE PE course is assessed over four components:

COMPONENT 1: Fitness and Body Systems is externally assessed through a written examination paper of one hour and forty five minutes.

This will contribute towards 36% of your final mark.

COMPONENT 2: Health and Performance is externally assessed through a written examination paper of one hour and fifteen minutes.

This will contribute 24% towards your final mark.

Components 1 and 2 written assessment will include multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions.

COMPONENT 3: Practical Performance is internally assessed and consists of completing three activities from a set list of which one must be a team activity, one must be an individual activity and the final can be a free choice from the activity list. This will contribute 30% towards your final mark.

COMPONENT 4: Personal Exercise Programme is internally assessed by producing a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP). The assessment consists of analysing a proposed PEP, carrying out and monitoring the PEP and evaluating the PEP. This will contribute 10% towards your final mark.

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'good pass'.

What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE PE, you will have to:

- Have a keen interest in sport and recreation
- Take part in sport/recreation outside of class time
- Ensure that you meet controlled assessment deadlines.

Work with the utmost commitment and attend all lessons punctually

What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

Provides a route for A Level Physical Education courses. It allows for progression to related vocational qualifications such as BTEC Firsts and Nationals in Sports or Sport and Exercise Sciences.



What career opportunities are there from this course?

This course will develop skills and knowledge that can allow progression into careers such as Sports Science, Sports Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine, Biomechanics etc. This course also allows you to develop transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include training in such areas as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry and civil service.



'Core Curriculum' Non-GCSE Subjects

Physical Education

All students in Years 9 and Year 10 will have at least one hour of physical education timetabled in the week. In addition to this, there will be termly Sports' Days and other programmes relating to sports' leadership that will provide a second hour of physical education on average each week.

Physical education lessons will focus on individual and team skills in a range of sports as well as focusing on improving personal fitness and health.

Tauheedul Baccalaureate Award

The Tauheedul Baccalaureate will award students who attend school well, work hard and show a positive attitude in lessons and take part in volunteering. There are 4 awards for the TBacc that your daughter can achieve at the end of the year (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum). To obtain an award, your daughter will need to meet the minimum scores outlined below:



Your daughter can collect up to 10 points in each of the three categories: attendance, behaviour and community service as outlined below:

Points	ATTENDANCE (%)	BEHAVIOUR (NET)	COMMUNITY SERVICE (HRS)
10	100 (0 days missed)	50+	50+
9	99 (2 days missed)	45-49	45-49
8	98 (4 days missed)	40-44	40-44
7	97 (6 days missed)	35-39	35-39
6	96 (8 days missed)	30-34	30-34
5	95 (10 days missed)	25-29	25-29
4	94 (12 days missed)	20-24	20-24
3	93 (14 days missed)	15-19	15-19
2	92 (16 days missed)	10-14	10-14
1	91 (18 days missed)	5-9	5-9

For more information about the 'Tauheedul Baccalaureate', and suggestions for volunteering activities, please read the section in your daughter's student planner.

Work-Related & Enterprise Skills

Work-related and enterprise skills will be provided through 'Enterprise Week' where students will take on a real-life business scenario in a work-related setting. The learning will be coordinated by enterprise specialists and students will learn about risk-taking, marketing, negotiation, problem-solving and other skills needed in the workplace. Students in Year 12 (in the Sixth Form) will also get the opportunity to complete a week of work experience.

