

M|P|W

GCSE  
Course  
Outlines  
Cambridge

2026/2027



## Dear Student

*You are now entering an amazing time in your academic journey. Namely, you get to choose what to study, which can be both exciting and daunting in equal measure. As an individual, you can decide the direction to take and we are here to help and guide you through this process.*

The subjects you choose now will form the basis of your academic studies at A level and beyond; this booklet will provide detailed information on each individual subject to help you decide. It is important you choose subjects you enjoy and that you give thought to your future studies.

All students studying GCSEs at MPW follow a bespoke programme whether joining us at the end of Year 9, 10, 11 or some other point. Whether you are joining us at the end of Year 9, 10, 11 or at some other point, we can offer a bespoke programme of studies to suit your individual needs.

Why one-year courses? From our experience, in Year 10, taking four or five subjects on a one-year course will give you an exam focus throughout the year and a sense of achievement before entering Year 11. One-year GCSEs are ideal for students who are looking to transfer school at the end of Year 10, having had an introduction to some subjects already. In addition, they also suit those students who are looking to repeat Year 11, either by retaking a whole range of subjects or a few key subjects in which they encountered difficulties.

In this booklet, there is information on the main subjects offered as one-year GCSE courses. We occasionally offer other subjects that are not listed, so please make further enquires if you cannot find what you are looking for. Our examination boards are carefully chosen by experienced Heads of Department to provide, what we feel are the most dynamic and interesting specifications that will maximise your experience and chance of success.

To offer a complete academic experience, we include skills-based sessions designed to help hone your abilities; skills covered include revision techniques, time management, motivation, stress reduction and note taking. These are all key skills which universities and employers like students to possess and are invaluable to your studies across all subjects. To complement all this academic work we offer the statutory PE sessions in a wide variety of sports (including rock climbing, basketball and self-defence) with an emphasis on fun and exercise rather than competition. However, for those interested in football we have weekly sessions and the chance to represent the college. Finally, one of the highlights is the residential trip for GCSE students, which is a great opportunity to bond as a group and have fun.

I hope this has given you a flavour of life at MPW as an academic college with a relaxed social environment and I look forward to welcoming you to MPW in September.

**Mark Leaford**  
*Head of GCSE*

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# ART AND DESIGN

## The course

Art and Design is a form of communication and a means of expressing ideas and feelings. GCSE Art and Design is a creative and practical course. Students are taught how to improve their technical drawing and painting skills as well as how to explore various techniques to develop ideas. They are also encouraged to research a variety of artists in order to inform their work.

GCSE Art and Design is essential for students wishing to pursue Art as an A level course. It is also vital for any students intending to study Architecture or for any number of careers in the creative industries, such as Illustration, Graphic Design or Fashion.

## What skills do I need?

Students must submit 10-20 examples of work to assess their drawing/painting ability. Good technical drawing and painting skills are desirable. A high level of self-motivation and commitment are needed as students will have to spend a considerable amount of time working unsupervised in the Art Studio. Students should also be open-minded and willing to explore a variety of techniques and processes in order to improve their practical artwork.

*“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”*

**Pablo Picasso, artist**

## Exam Board and Specification Codes

WJEC Eduqas GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art) C651QS

## How is the course assessed?

Eduqas offer a number of different options for GCSE Art and Design. At MPW Cambridge students follow the Fine Art option, producing practical and contextual work in the following areas of Fine Art: drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media.

There are two components. Component 1 is coursework which has to be completed by January. It is marked out of 120 and carries 60% weighting. The portfolio of work is selected from work undertaken during the course and must include **more than one project**. Photography is used to support a personal response to an idea, theme or issue. A response to all assessment objectives is required in the portfolio as a whole.

Component 2 is an external assessment set by Eduqas and concludes with a supervised time of 10 hours. It is marked out of 80 and carries 40% weighting. Students respond to their chosen starting point to produce a personal response. Question papers can be issued to students from 1 January in the year of the exam. Students have unlimited preparation time and a 10 hour period of supervised time. A response to all assessment objectives is required. Work presented is marked by the centre and moderated by Eduqas.



# BIOLOGY

## The course

The AQA Biology course enables students to: develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of Biology; develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory and in other learning environments; develop their ability to evaluate claims based on Biology through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

GCSE Biology is well suited to students who wish to study Biology at A level and beyond. A qualification in Biology is ideal for students considering careers in Biomedical Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and any type of fundamental scientific research.

*“Biology is the most powerful technology ever created. DNA is software, protein are hardware, cells are factories.”*

Arvind Gupta, inventor and scientist

## What skills do I need?

You will need a curiosity to learn about the natural world, a desire to gain insight into how science works and of its relevance to everyday lives. Investigative, mathematical and English language skills will all be necessary to achieve highly in this subject.

## How is the course assessed?

There are two written examinations, each accounting for 50% of your marks and each of 1 hour 45 minutes duration. Both papers consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response type questions.

Paper 1 will assess:

Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and Response; and Bioenergetics.

Paper 2 will assess:

Homeostasis and Response; Inheritance, Variation and Evolution; and Ecology.

## Course Books (provided by college)

**AQA GCSE Biology 3rd Edition**

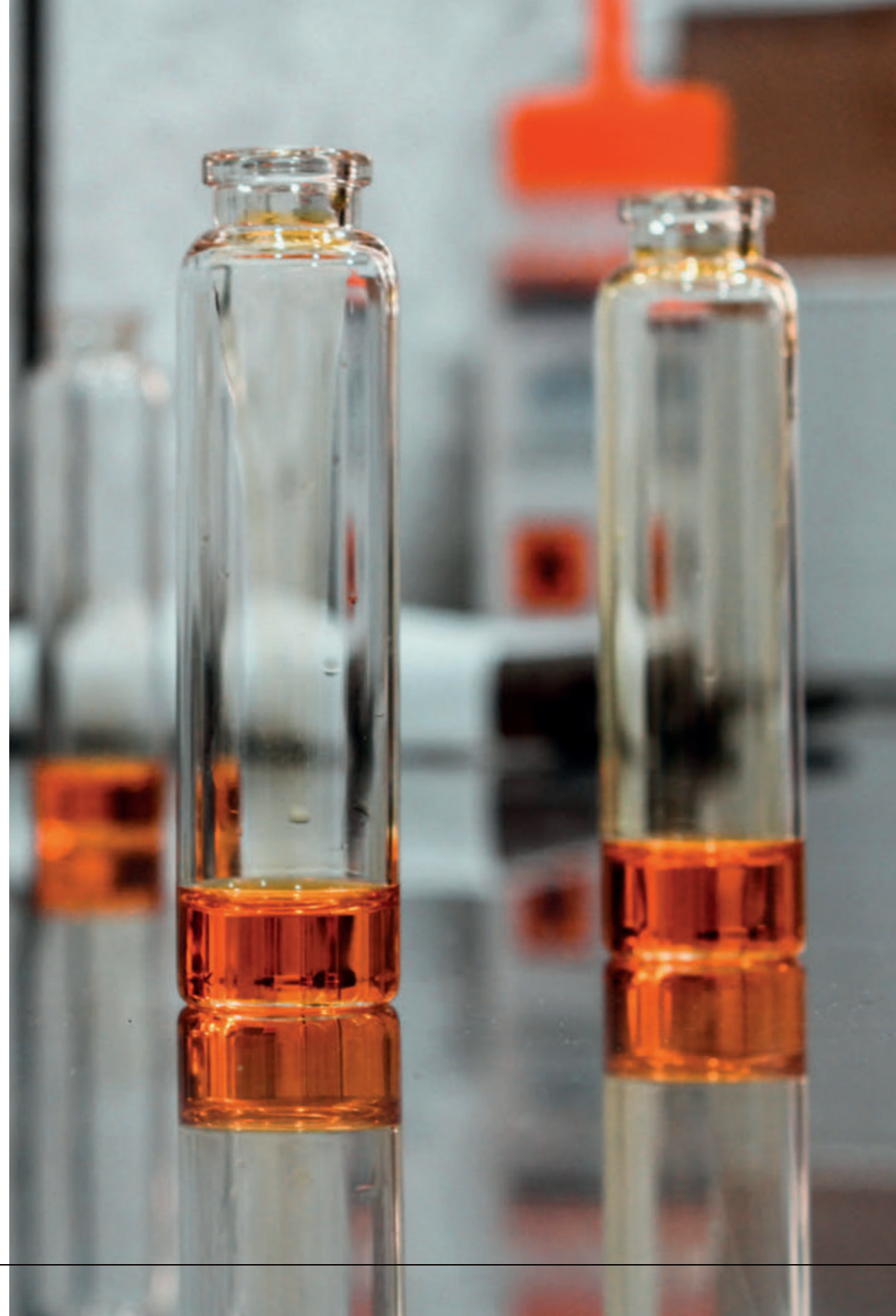
By A. Fullick, A. Coates

Published by OUP, ISBN 9780198359371



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA Biology 8461



# BUSINESS

## The course

We all interact with and are employed by a range of organisations throughout our lives. Some of us may even consider setting a business up, or perhaps leading one in the future.

This subject relates to real-world businesses and economic scenarios. You will develop a more in-depth understanding of how businesses work and what impacts them.

The following reflects many of the main areas covered.

- Business activity: How businesses are set up, their objectives and their stakeholders
- Marketing: understanding consumer wants and needs and satisfying them profitably
- Human Resources: How the people within the business are recruited, organized and motivated
- Finance: Sources of finance, calculating Revenue, costs, profit and loss, Break-even and Cashflow
- Operations: Production, Quality, Location and the Supply Chain
- Influences on businesses: Ethical and Environmental issues, the Economic climate and Globalisation

*“If someone offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes, then learn how to do it later.”*

**Richard Branson**, business magnate

## Course Books (provided by college)

**OCR GCSE (9–1) Business Student Book**  
By Mike Schofield and Alan Williams  
Published by Hodder Education,  
ISBN 9781398356375



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

OCR Business (9-1) – J204

## What skills do I need?

As well as developing an understanding of the key content, you will need to be able to read short case studies and questions, which can also include numeric information and determine the specific issues relating to the business in question, recognizing, understanding and applying specific business terms, theories and concepts.

During the course you will need to develop a better understanding of key skills such as application, analysis and evaluation to solve a range of business problems and make recommendations.

You will also need to understand, apply, analyse and interpret numeric data to support business decisions.

## How is the course assessed?

Some questions will be multiple-choice and some questions will be extended writing to explain your point or your decision.

### Paper 1 (J204/1):

Business Activity, Marketing, and People  
Duration: 90 minutes  
Weight: 50% of the final grade (80 marks)

### Paper 2 (J204/2):

Operations, Finance, and Influences on Business  
Duration: 90 minutes  
Weight: 50% of the final grade (80 marks)



# CHEMISTRY

## The course

The AQA Chemistry course enables students to: develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of Chemistry; develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory and in other learning environments; develop their ability to evaluate claims based on Chemistry through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

GCSE Chemistry is well suited to students who wish to study Chemistry at A level and beyond. A qualification in Chemistry is ideal for students considering careers in Biomedical Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and any type of fundamental scientific research.

“*Chemistry, unlike other sciences, sprang originally from delusions and superstitions, and was at its commencement exactly on a par with magic and astrology.*”

Thomas Thomson, chemist

## What skills do I need?

You will need a curiosity to learn about the natural world, a desire to gain insight into how science works and of its relevance to everyday lives. Investigative, mathematical and English language skills will all be necessary to achieve highly in this subject.

## How is the course assessed?

There are two written examinations, each accounting for 50% of your marks and each of 1 hour 45 minutes duration. Both papers consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response type questions.

Paper 1 will assess:

Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure, and the Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes and Energy Changes.

Paper 2 will assess:

The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Using Resources.

## Course Books (provided by college)

**AQA GCSE Chemistry 3rd Edition**

By L. Ryan, R. Peacock

Published by OUP, ISBN 9780198359388



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA Chemistry 8462



# CHINESE

## The course

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Chinese (Mandarin only) assesses four key language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. It is structured into four externally examined papers, with separate Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 4-9) tiers. The exam covers topics on personal life, school, local area, and future work/culture.

“*Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.*”

Chinese proverb

## What skills do I need?

Edexcel GCSE Chinese (9-1) is suitable for learners with prior knowledge, typically focusing on developing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing across topics like family, hobbies, and school. It is designed for students with varying proficiency levels in Mandarin, offering Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher tiers (grades 4-9). Candidates must take all four components—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—in the same series.

## How is the course assessed?

Assessment Structure:

**Paper 1:** Listening (25%) - Understanding spoken Chinese, including short/long recordings.

**Paper 2:** Speaking (25%) - Conducted by teachers and externally marked, consisting of a role-play, picture description, and conversation.

**Paper 3:** Reading (25%) - Understanding written texts, including translation from Chinese into English.

**Paper 4:** Writing (25%) - Producing written Chinese, including translation from English into Chinese.

## Reading

**Edexcel GCSE Chinese (9-1)  
Student Book New Edition**  
Published by Pearson,  
ISBN 9781292210841

Chinese/English dictionary is not provided but is essential. Please note that dictionaries are not allowed in the exams.



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Chinese (spoken Mandarin only) specification code is 1CN0.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## The course

Computers streamline the management of an organisation. The course will help you understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society. Computers are a much-needed tool for every business, banking, government, entertainment, daily life, industry, education, and administration. In this course you will explore fundamentals of algorithms, programming, fundamentals of data representation, computer systems and cyber security. You will also cover structured query language (SQL) and the ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy.

## What skills do I need?

You will be required to demonstrate the ability to create programs and analyse problems. You need to showcase aptitude for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. You must have the ability to be able to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the full course of study in order to be able to answer a

“*The computer was born to solve problems that did not exist before.*”

**Bill Gates** Founder of Microsoft

range of differing style of exam questions. There are no pre-requisites to this course and no prior knowledge of programming is required to start, just a passion for the subject.

## How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by 2 exams, paper 1 and paper 2. Students also need to satisfy the practical programming requirements. Paper 1 is on computing concepts. This unit covers data representation, computer systems, fundamentals of computer networks, cyber security, relational databases and the ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy. This is a 1 hour and 30 minutes written exam and is worth 50% of the overall GCSE grade. Paper 2 is on Computational thinking and programming skills. This paper focuses on computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code. This is a 1 hour and 30 minutes written exam and it is worth 50% of the overall GCSE Both Paper 1 and 2 contain a mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

## Course Books (provided by college)

### OCR GCSE Computer Science, Second Edition

By George Rouse, Lorne Pearcey,  
Gavin Craddock et al  
Published by Hodder,  
ISBN 9781510484313

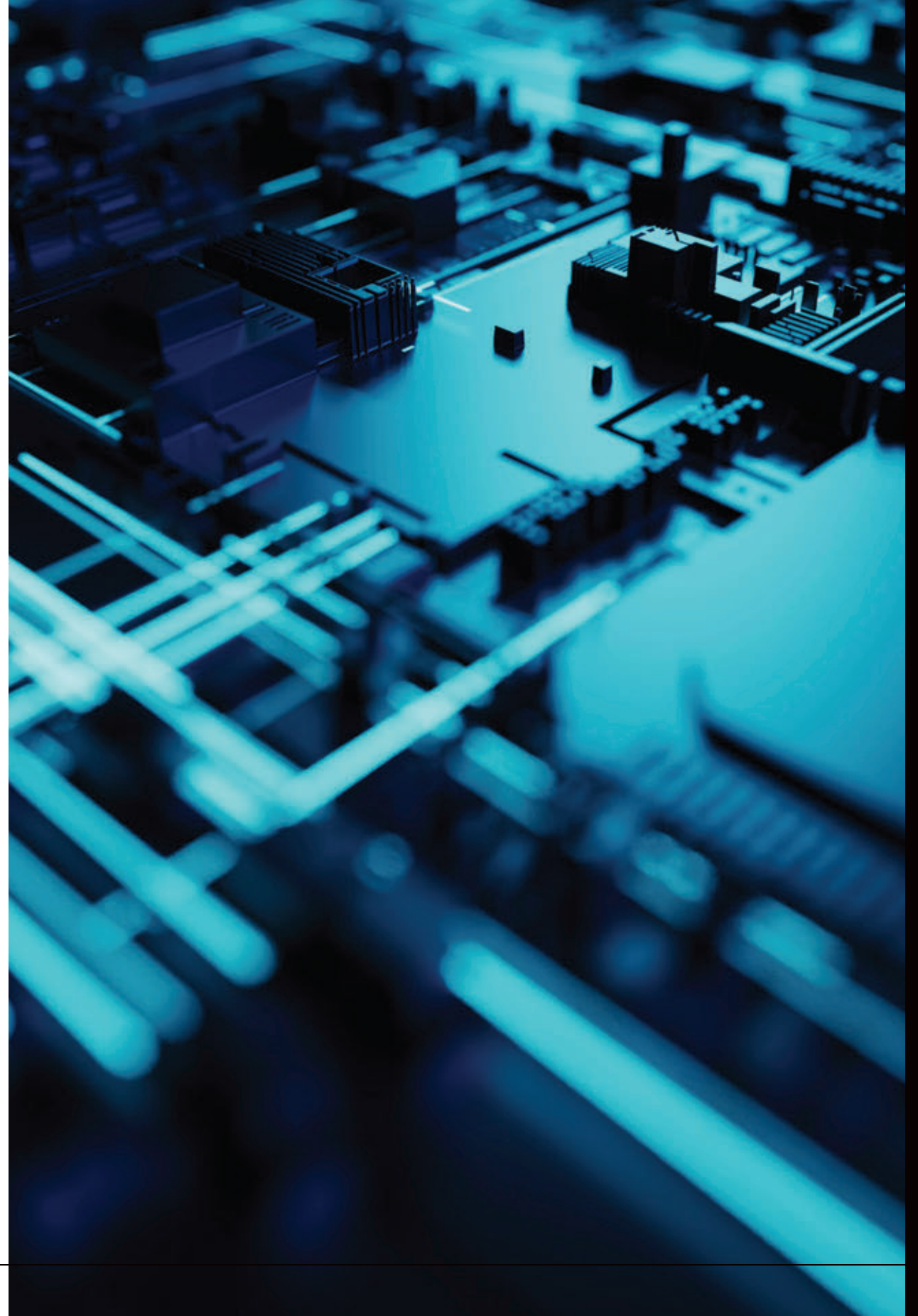
### Learning to Program in Python Crash Course in Coding for Python 3.x Beginners Guide in Programming with Examples and Challenges Course textbook

By PM Heathcote  
Published by PG Online Limited; Illustrated edition  
(23 June 2017), ISBN-13: 978-1910523117



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA 8525B (Python)



# ECONOMICS

## The course

Economics is concerned with the allocation of scarce resources to meet needs and wants, and with the behaviour of consumers, producers and governments. It includes the study of how markets work, and what happens when they fail to allocate resources efficiently; the distribution of incomes and wealth; and national economic objectives and the various policies used by governments to try to achieve them. Economics complements subjects such as Mathematics, History, Geography and Business Studies.

Coverage of the subject material dominates the Autumn and Spring terms; the Summer term focuses on revision and exam technique.

“The main purpose in studying economics is to avoid being fooled by economists.”

Joan Robinson, economist

## What skills do I need?

- Student should develop the knowledge for essential economic terms which are used throughout the course
- They need to develop knowledge on diagram drawing for topics such as supply and demand
- Pupils should have clear communication channels so that they can liaise with the teacher, and be involved in class discussions especially for topics such as Economic growth and Globalisation
- Critical thinking plays a huge part in writing the longer answers and weighing up arguments
- Students should be prepared to work in groups and independently

## How is the course assessed?

### Paper 1 – Introduction to Economics

1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50% weighting

Students will look at economic foundations such as the nature and purpose of economic activity, the factors of production and the importance of making choices. Students will also look at how resources are allocated using a market mechanism.

### Paper 2 – National and International Economics

1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50% weighting

Students are introduced to the wider economy from the perspective of the main economic groups: consumers, producers and government. Students explore the significance of interest rates including their impact on saving, borrowing and spending.

## Course Books (provided by college)

### OCR Economics GCSE

By Chris Bancroft and Clive Riches

Published by Hodder Education,

ISBN 9781471888342



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

OCR GCSE (9-1) J205



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## The course

English is a compulsory subject at GCSE level and there are very good reasons for this. A command of the English Language will not only gain you a GCSE but is now designed to equip you with skills that you need to be successful in life. If you can express yourself confidently, read and understand a wide range of written material and organise and shape your thoughts in writing, you can participate fully in society. A good level of written English is necessary for almost every subject you choose to study and will improve your results overall. English Language is not a 'subject' but a vital life skill in an age where our ability to communicate has never been more important.

*“The ability to read awoke inside of me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive.”*

**Malcolm X,**

minister and human rights activist

## What skills do I need?

You need the capacity to engage with reading a wide variety of texts from the 19th to 21st centuries, including literature, non-fiction, reviews and journalism. An ability to dissect and analyse individual words and phrases and consider texts according to mode, function, style and audience will all be necessary to achieve highly in this subject.

## How is the course assessed?

There are two written examinations, each accounting for 50% of your marks and each of 1 hour 45 minutes duration. Unit 1 consists of reading a variety of texts and answering shorter questions, followed by an extended question in which you will produce your own descriptive or narrative writing.

Unit 2 will consist of reading, and writing about, one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text, followed by your own writing to 'present a viewpoint'.

Each paper will require you to read and evaluate texts critically, make comparisons about the ways in which language is used, summarise information, and then use the knowledge you have gained to inform and improve your own writing.

## Course Books (provided by college)



### GCSE English Language for AQA

#### Progress Plus Student Book

By L. McNab, I. Pilgrim, M. Slee

Published by CUP, ISBN 9781107452978

## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA English Language 8700

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## The course

GCSE English Literature is often studied in addition to GCSE English Language. The literature course is designed to provide exposure to all genres of literature of high quality, ranging from English literary icons including Shakespeare and Dickens to an engaging mixture of classic and contemporary poetry. In reading and writing about literature, students develop highly transferable analytical and technical skills. Far from simply being a 'subject', the study of English Literature draws together and develops broad cultural, historical and linguistic awareness. The course provides an excellent foundation for the study of English Literature at A level.

“But in reading great literature, I become a thousand men and yet remain myself.”

C.S. Lewis, writer

## What skills do I need?

You should hold a passion and enthusiasm for reading a range of literary texts of different styles and genres, have well-developed writing skills, a good level of vocabulary and, most importantly, an analytical mind and ear for how language shapes meaning. Your ability to carry out extra critical reading outside school, expressing opinion and taking an independent standpoint will all be necessary to achieve highly in this subject.

## How is the course assessed?

There are two exams. Exam 1 assesses Shakespeare plays and the 19th-century novel. You will answer one question on each, firstly writing in detail on an extract from the text and then moving on to write about the text as a whole. You will first study Shakespeare's *Tempest* before promptly moving onto a choice of two Dickensian classics (*Great Expectations* or *Christmas Carol*). Exam 1 is 1 hour 45 minutes and accounts for 40% of your Literature GCSE.

Exam 2 assesses your understanding of poetry and of a modern play or novel. You will answer three questions, one essay question on your studied play or novel, one comparative question on poems from the AQA anthology and one question on an unseen poem, going on to compare it with another unseen poem. Exam 2 is 2 hours 15 minutes and accounts for 60% of your Literature GCSE.

## Course Books (provided by college)



### Great Expectations / Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

Published by OUP, ISBN-13: 9780199219766

### An Inspector Calls

By J.B. Priestley

Published by Penguin Classics,

ISBN 9780141185354

### The Tempest

By W. Shakespeare

Published by OUP,

ISBN-13: 9781408133477

### AQA Anthology of Poetry:

**Poems Past and Present**

Available via Exam Board

## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA English Literature 8702



# FRENCH

## The course

French is an interesting and challenging subject that equips students with the skills to communicate confidently in French in a range of everyday situations. The five main themes of the course are the following: identity and culture, local area with holiday and travel, school, future aspirations with study and work, and finally international and global dimension. Students will develop an awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where French is spoken. The course provides an excellent foundation for the study of French at A level.

The six main themes of the course are the following:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

“To have another language  
is to possess a second soul.”

Charlemagne

## Course Books (provided by college)

**Studio – Edexcel GCSE (9-1) French Higher**  
By Clive Bell, Anneli McLachlan & Gill Ramage  
Published by Pearson Education Ltd.,  
ISBN 9781292117836

## Exam Board and Specification Codes

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in French (1FR1)

## What skills do I need?

You need willingness to work hard at your grammar on a regular basis. You will also have to learn and relearn the vocabulary for each topic. The aim is to acquire the sufficient tools to be able to produce spoken or written responses in different contexts.

## How is the course assessed?

There are four exams sat at the end of the course, in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. You are entered for the same tier, Foundation (F) or Higher (H), for all four papers.

**Listening:** (2 tasks) listening comprehension (questions and answers in English), dictation (French into French).

**Speaking:** (3 tasks) reading aloud and answer two questions, role-play, picture task with conversation.

**Reading:** (2 tasks) reading comprehension (questions and answers in English), translation from French to English.

**Writing Foundation:** (4 tasks) picture-based task, formal writing (40-50 words), informal writing (80-90 words), translation (English into French).  
**Writing Higher:** (3 tasks) informal writing (80-90 words), formal writing (130-150 words), translation (English into French).

*French/English dictionary is not provided but is essential. Please note that dictionaries are not allowed in any of the exams.*



# GEOGRAPHY

## The course

Geography at GCSE aims to give you an understanding of the interactions between people and their environments, investigating case studies from the UK and the wider world in social, political and cultural contexts. You will gain an appreciation of your role in society by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes in order to be able to assess the need for a sustainable approach to managing geographical issues. In addition, you will develop a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, maps, and geographical enquiry. Topics of study include tectonics, climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use.

## What skills do I need?

You will be required to develop and demonstrate a range of geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical, numerical, statistical, and literacy skills. You must have the ability to be able to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the full course of study in order to be able to answer a range of differing style exam questions: multiple-choice, short answer, and extended prose.

“*Geography is an earthly subject, but a heavenly science.*”

Edmund Burke, statesman

and philosopher

## Course Books (provided by college)

### GCSE Geography for AQA Student Book

By D. Payne, A. Rae, J. Rutter, H. Young,  
R. Kitchen, E. Rawlings-Smith

Published by CUP, ISBN 9781316604632



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA Geography 8035

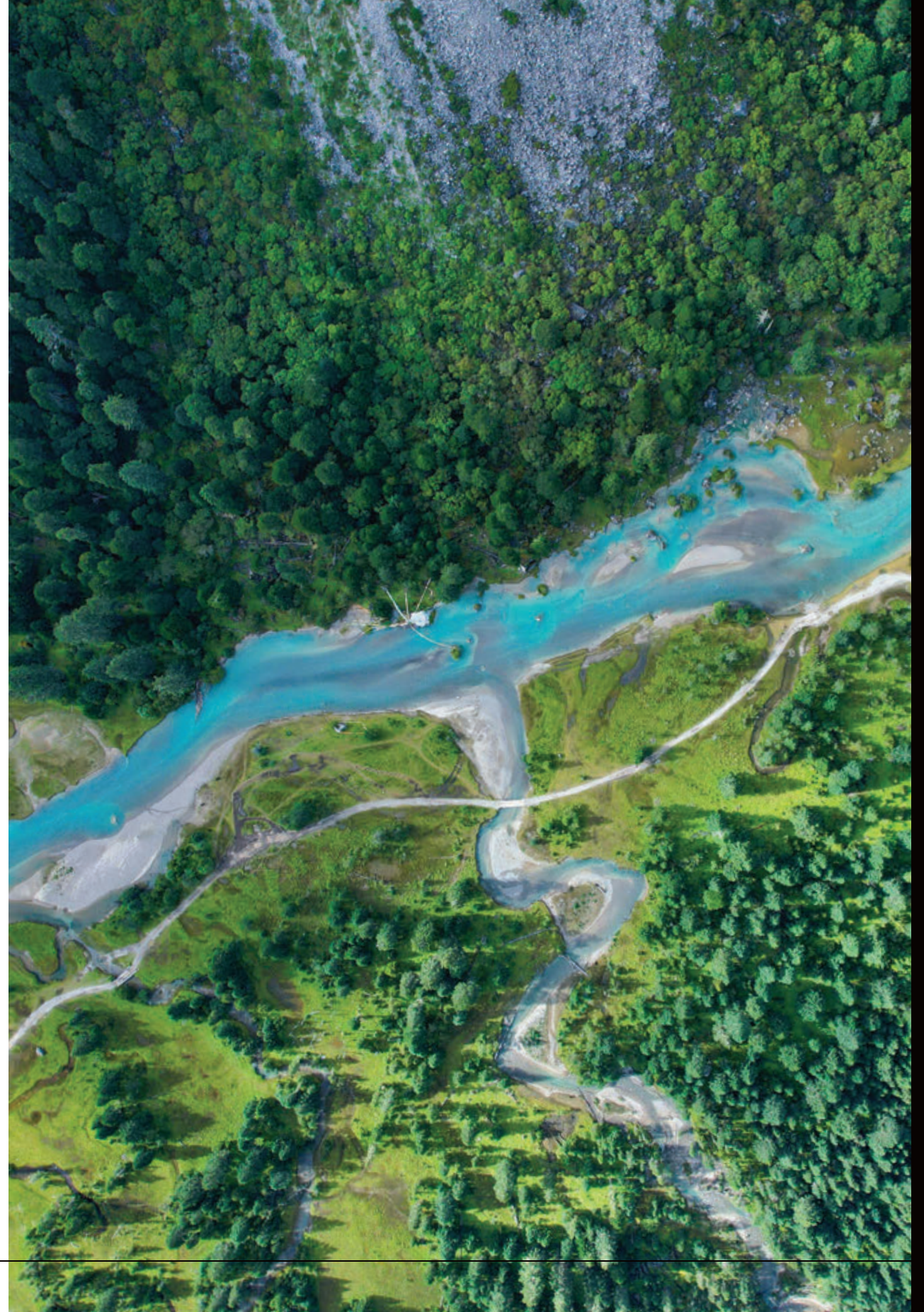
## How is the course assessed?

This course consists of three written exam papers:

**Paper 1:** Living with the physical environment consists of the topics: The challenge of natural hazards; The living world; Physical landscapes in the UK. This course is assessed by a written paper which lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes in duration. This paper is worth 35% of the total marks for this course.

**Paper 2:** Challenges in the human environment comprises the topics: Urban issues and challenges; The changing economic world; The challenge of resource management. This course is assessed by a written paper which lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes in duration. This paper is worth 35% of the total marks for this course.

**Paper 3:** Geographical applications; Issue evaluation; Fieldwork; Geographical skills. Part of the assessment will be based around a pre-release resources booklet, which is made available 12 weeks before the examination. This course is assessed by a written paper which lasts for 1 hour 15 minutes in duration. This paper is worth 30% of the total marks for this course.



# GERMAN

## The course

Besides being fun and having multiple real life implications, the knowledge of a foreign language is ever more valuable in an increasingly connected world. Many employers look for knowledge of at least one other language across a wide range of jobs. Understanding the German language is a first step to understanding the people and culture of the countries where German is spoken.

The six main themes of the course are the following:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

## What skills do I need?

The aim is to acquire the sufficient tools to be able to produce spoken or written responses in different contexts. In order to achieve this goal, you will need an interest in other cultures and a willingness to learn and revise vocabulary regularly for each topic. A logical mind will also help to cope with the grammar.

“A different language is a different vision of life.”

Federico Fellini, filmmaker

## Course Books (provided by college)

### Stimmt! Edexcel GCSE (9-1) German Higher

By Harriette Lanzer, Michael Spencer,  
Carolyn Batstone & Lisa Probert

Published by Pearson Education Ltd.,  
ISBN 9781292118192

*German/English dictionary is not provided but is essential. Please note that dictionaries are not allowed in any of the exams.*



## How is the course assessed?

There are four exams sat at the end of the course, in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. You are entered for the same tier, Foundation (F) or Higher (H), for all four papers.

**Listening:** (2 tasks) listening comprehension (questions and answers in English), dictation (German into German).

**Speaking:** (3 tasks) reading aloud and answer two questions, role-play, picture task with conversation.

**Reading:** (2 tasks) reading comprehension (questions and answers in English), translation from German to English.

**Writing Foundation:** (4 tasks) picture-based task, formal writing (40-50 words), informal writing (80-90 words), translation (English into German).

**Writing Higher:** (3 tasks) informal writing (80-90 words), formal writing (130-150 words), translation (English into German).



# HISTORY

## The course

GCSE History is a course divided into two parts. Paper 1 deals with aspects of the making of the modern world. Paper 2 looks at topics that have helped to shape the nation of Great Britain. Students will cover topics such as the impact of the American West on the development of the United States, the impact and causes of the First World War, the development of Medicine in Britain and the impact of the Norman Conquest on England. The course will require students to provide in depth written answers and the ability to analyse historical sources correctly. GCSE History students will learn to provide balanced and reasoned arguments that are supported with factual evidence. They will look at different historical perspectives and make judgements about them based on their content and provenance. Students will also be encouraged to contribute to class discussions, so that a range of perspectives can be established in the classroom.

“Those who fail to learn from History are doomed to repeat it.”

Winston Churchill

## Course Books (provided by college)

**AQA GCSE History:**  
**Understanding the Modern World**  
By D.Ferriby, D.Martin, B.Walsh, 2016  
(Covers topics in Paper 1)  
ISBN-10: 1471862941

**AQA GCSE History:**  
**Health and the People**  
By A.Wilkinson, 2016  
ISBN-10: 9781471864216

## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA History 8145

## What skills do I need?

Students who choose this course will have an intellectual curiosity in History and the ability to write in depth and detail. It is important that History students are also able to appreciate differing perspectives from their own.

## How is the course assessed?

The course is divided into two parts:

**Paper 1:** Understanding the Modern World - looks at:

- America, 1840-1895: Expansion and consolidation
- Conflict and tension: The First World War, 1894-1918

**Paper 2:** Shaping the Nation - looks at:

- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day
- Norman England, c1066-c1100

The course is examined by two written exam papers. Each paper lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes. Both papers are worth 50% of the total marks for this course.

For students interested in learning beyond GCSE Maths, we also offer an additional free standing qualification in Mathematics called Additional Mathematic from OCR.



**AQA GCSE History:**  
**Norman England, 1066-1100**  
By H.Clarke, 2016  
ISBN-10: 9781471863424



# MATHEMATICS

## The course

Mathematics can be described, at this level, as the formulation and application of both numerical and abstract concepts. The student of Mathematics has to be creative and imaginative, must have a sense of flair and most importantly should be curious about the world around them. Mathematics touches on many areas and requires intellectual flexibility and a methodical approach.

Mathematics has a clear influence on Accountancy, Engineering, Finance, Physics and many other areas. At the same time it is an active field of research in its own right.

The course is divided into three components or assessment objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skill in number and algebra
- Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skill in geometry, trigonometry and vectors
- Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skill in statistics and probability.

## What skills do I need?

You need to be able to make deductions from mathematical information, construct chains of reasoning, present arguments and proofs and interpret and communicate information accurately.

## How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through two papers of equal weighting. Each paper is two hours long and has 100 marks in total. In higher tier the target grades span the range 4-9, while in foundation tier they span the range 1-5. In both papers students may use a calculator.

For students interested in learning beyond GCSE Maths, we also offer an additional free standing qualification in Mathematics called Additional Mathematic from OCR.

*“The pleasure we obtain from music comes from counting, but counting unconsciously. Music is nothing but unconscious arithmetic.”*

**Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibnitz,**  
philosopher and mathematician

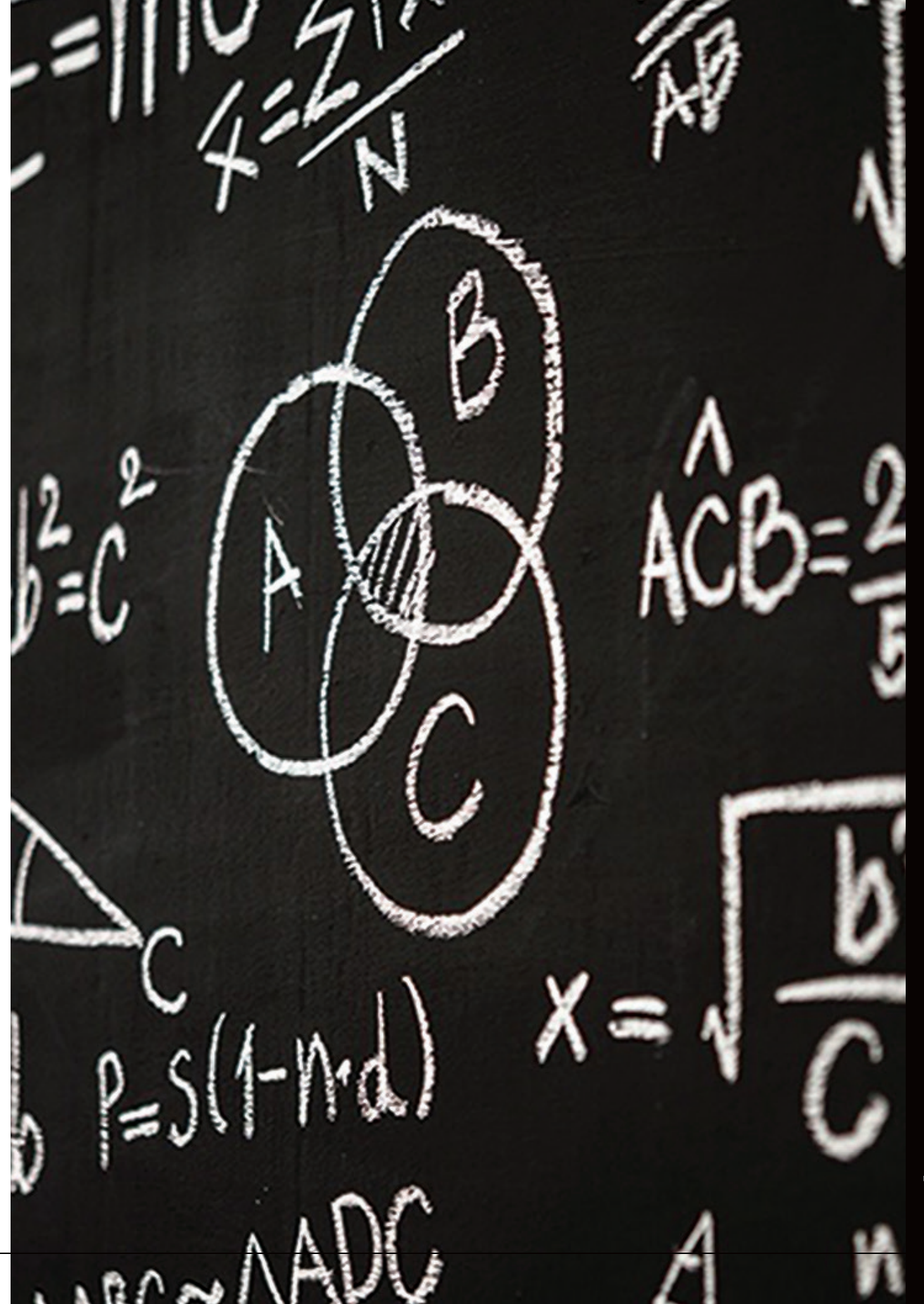
## Course Books (provided by college)

Teacher's choice of one book from these:

**Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) Mathematics A Student Book 1**  
Published by Pearson, ISBN 9780435181444

**Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) Mathematics A Student Book 2**  
Published by Pearson, ISBN 9780435183059

**Edexcel International GCSE Maths Student Book**  
Published by Collins, ISBN 978-0008205874



# PHYSICS

## The course

The AQA Physics course enables students to: develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of Physics; develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory and in other learning environments; develop their ability to evaluate claims based on Physics through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

GCSE Physics is well suited to students who wish to study Physics at A level and beyond. A qualification in Physics is ideal for students considering careers in Engineering, Medical Physics and any type of fundamental scientific research.

*“Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.”*

Stephen Hawking

## What skills do I need?

You will need a curiosity to learn about the natural world and a desire to gain insight into how science works and of its relevance to everyday lives. Investigative, mathematical and English language skills will all be necessary to achieve highly in this subject.

## How is the course assessed?

There are two written examinations, each accounting for 50% of your marks and each of 1 hour 45 minutes duration. Both papers consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response type questions.

**Paper 1 will assess:** Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

**Paper 2 will assess:** Forces; Waves; Magnetism and Electromagnetism; and Space Physics. Questions in Paper 2 may draw on an understanding of energy changes and transfers due to heating, mechanical and electrical work and the concept of energy conservation from Energy and Electricity.

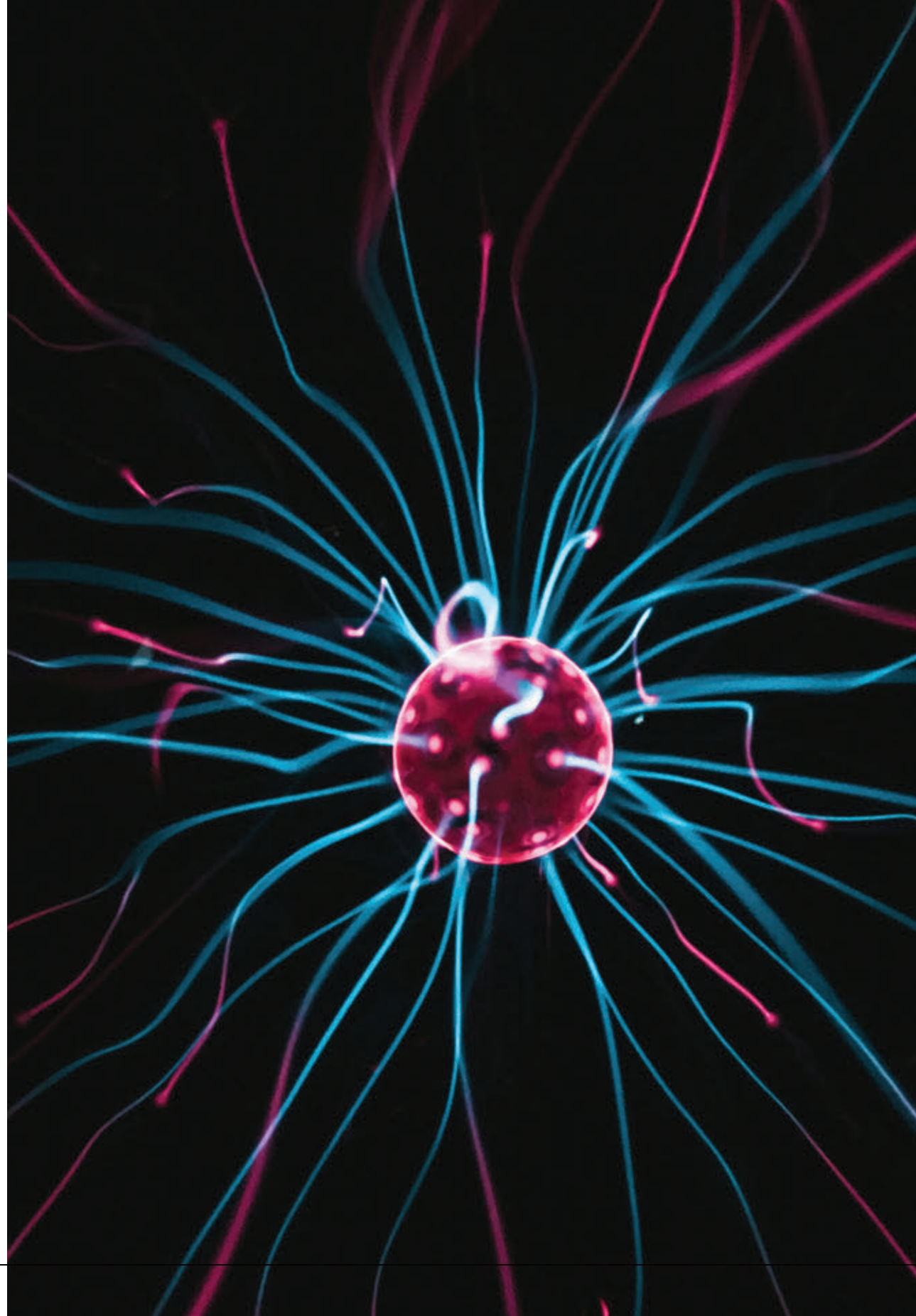
## Course Books (provided by college)

**AQA GCSE Physics 3rd Edition**  
By J. Breithaupt with L. Ryan  
Published by OUP, ISBN 9780198359395



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA Physics 8463



# PSYCHOLOGY

## The course

Psychology is the study of mind, brain and behaviour. This course will appeal to students who enjoy exploring issues with regard to how and why people behave the way they do, and who enjoy planning and carrying out investigations. Prospective students should be aware that Psychology is an interesting option but not an easy one. At GCSE level an introduction to core theories, concepts and research studies is provided, together with an understanding and appreciation of the scientific nature of Psychology, and of the relationship between the subject and its application to contemporary society.

Students receive 3 hours of tuition per week. The subject material is taught across all three terms. The summer term, though, focuses more on revision and examination techniques. Regular timed assignments and homework mean that students consolidate their knowledge and understanding.

“*The postmortem room has become the temple of truth.*”

Donald Calne, neurologist

## Course Books (provided by college)

### AQA Psychology for GCSE: Student Book

By Cara Flanagan (Author), Dave Berry (Author), Mark Jones (Author)

Published by Illuminate Publishing,  
ISBN 9781911208044



## How is the course assessed?

The course is divided into two parts:

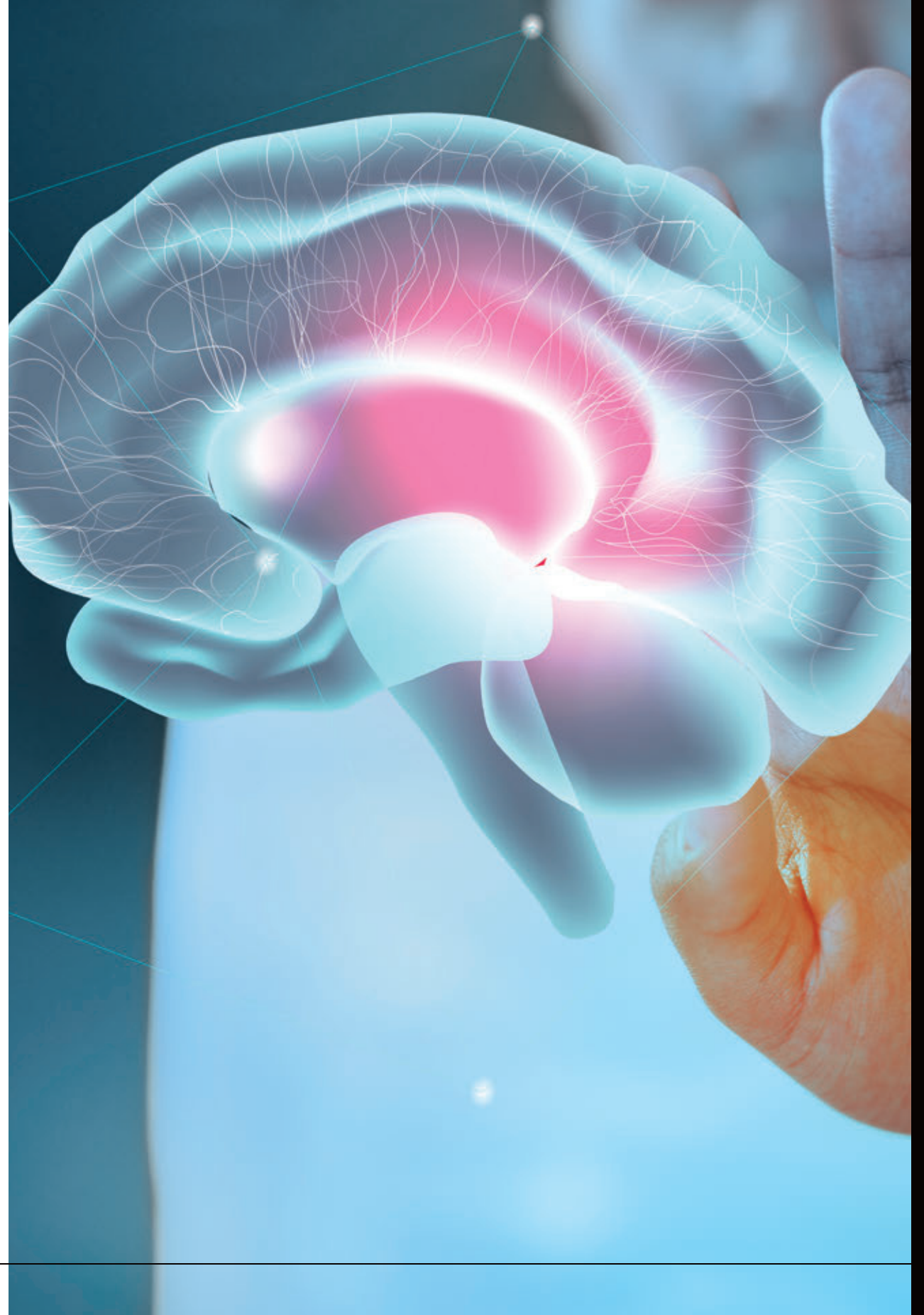
### Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour - looks at:

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research methods

### Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour - looks at:

- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

The course is examined by two written papers. Each paper lasts 1 hour 45 minutes. Both papers are worth 50% of the total marks for this course.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## The course

Religious Studies deals with issues that are relevant to all aspects of life in the 21st century. Students look at the beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions. The course covers relationships and families, equality, gender issues and prejudice and discrimination. Philosophical perspectives on the existence of God are also discussed. The contribution of religion to war and conflicts is explored and whether peace can ever be achieved. We also study the relationship between religions and non-religious beliefs. You do not need to have a particular faith to explore answers to these questions in GCSE Religious Studies. Equally you do not have to be a non-believer. The student of Religious Studies has to have intellectual curiosity and the ability to empathise with and understand the views of others.

The course is divided into two components.

Component one looks at:

Beliefs and teachings and Practices. Students will study two of the following: Buddhism, Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism. (Christianity and Catholic Christianity is a prohibited combination).

Component two looks at:

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies.

Students will study four themes from the following:

A: Relationship and families.

B: Religion and life.

C: The existence of God and revelation.

D: Religion, peace and conflict.

E: Religion, crime and punishment.

F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

## What skills do I need?

You need to be interested in the world around you and keen to discuss thorny issues.

## How is the course assessed?

**Component 1:**

Written paper, 1 hour 45 minutes - 50% weighting.

**Component 2:**

Written paper, 1 hour 45 minutes - 50% weighting.

“Every religion is true one way or another. It is true when understood metaphorically...”

Joseph Campbell, writer

## Course Books (provided by college)

**AQA Religious Studies A Buddhism**

By Kevin James, Nagapriya

ISBN 9780198370321

**AQA Religious Studies A Christianity**

By Marianne Fleming, Peter Smith &

David Worden

ISBN 9780198370338



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA Religious Studies Specification A 8062



# SPANISH

## The course

Spanish is an interesting and challenging subject that equips students with the skills to communicate confidently in Spanish in a range of everyday situations. The five main themes of the course are the following: identity and culture, local area with holiday and travel, school, future aspirations with study and work, and finally international and global dimension. Students will develop an awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. The course provides an excellent foundation for the study of Spanish at A level.

The six main themes of the course are the following:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

“ Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom. ”

Roger Bacon, philosopher

## Course Books (provided by college)

**Viva! Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Spanish Higher**  
By Rachel Hawkes & Christopher Lillington  
Published by Pearson Education Ltd.,  
ISBN 9781292118987

Exam Board and Specification Codes  
Edexcel Spanish 1SP0

## What skills do I need?

The aim is to acquire the sufficient tools to be able to produce spoken or written responses in different contexts. In order to achieve this goal, you will need an interest in other cultures and a willingness to learn and revise vocabulary regularly for each topic. A logical mind will also help to cope with the grammar.

## How is the course assessed?

There are four exams sat at the end of the course, in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. You are entered for the same tier, Foundation (F) or Higher (H), for all four papers.

**Listening:** (2 tasks) listening comprehension (questions and answers in English), dictation (Spanish into Spanish).

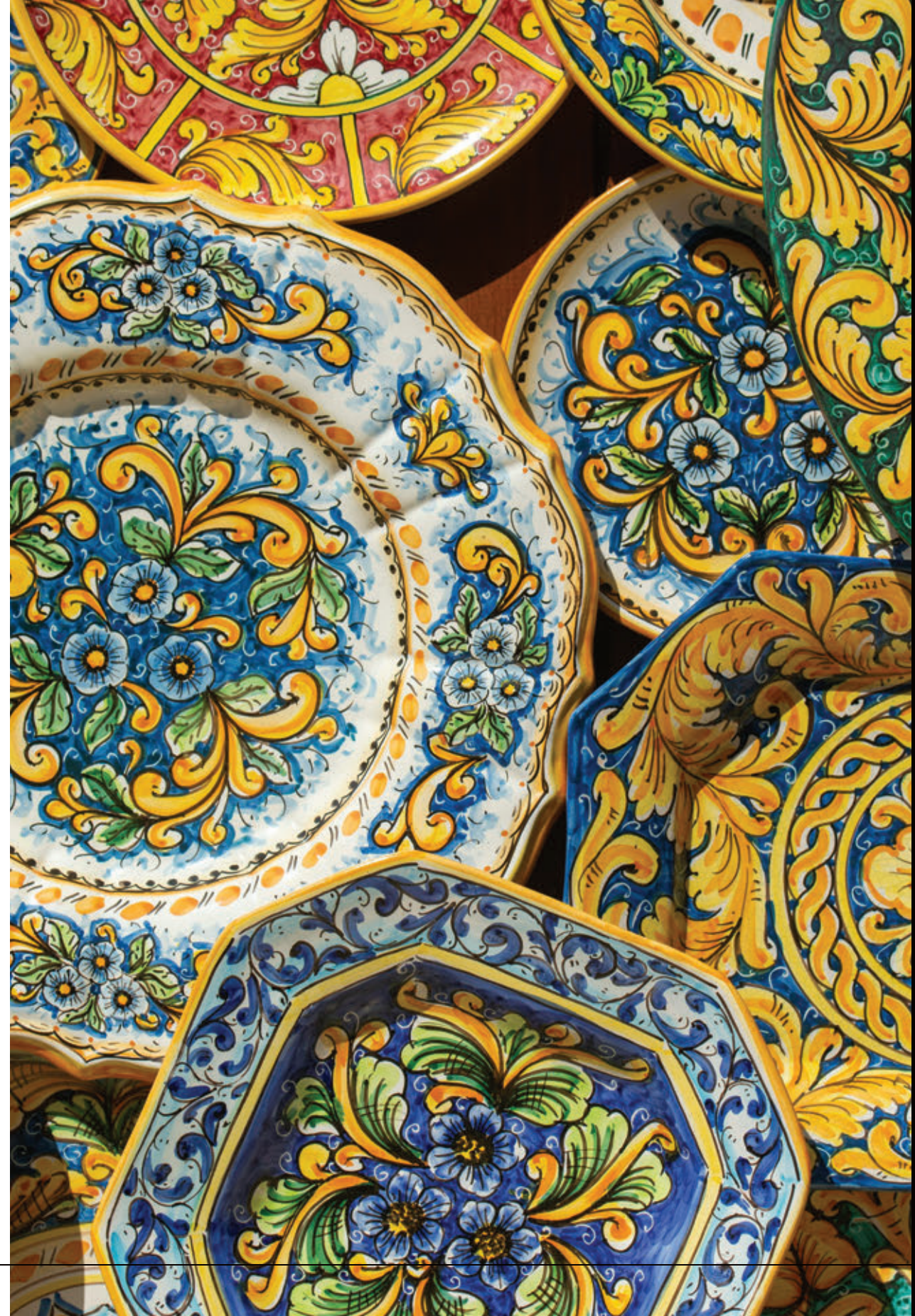
**Speaking:** (3 tasks) reading aloud and answer two questions, role-play, picture task with conversation.

**Reading:** (2 tasks) reading comprehension (questions and answers in English), translation from Spanish to English.

**Writing Foundation:** (4 tasks) picture-based task, formal writing (40-50 words), informal writing (80-90 words), translation (English into Spanish).

**Writing Higher:** (3 tasks) informal writing (80-90 words), formal writing (130-150 words), translation (English into Spanish).

Spanish/English dictionary is not provided but is essential. Please note that dictionaries are not allowed in any of the exams.



# TURKISH

## The course

To prepare for GCSE Edexcel Turkish, study the five core themes: Identity and Culture, Local Area/Holiday/Travel, School, Future Aspirations/Work, and International/Global Dimensions. Focus on vocabulary related to daily life, technology, and travel, alongside practicing verb tenses (past, present, future) and case endings (e.g., -de, -den, -e) for four skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

## What skills do I need?

Candidates should already have a functional level of Turkish to manage the curriculum's grammar, vocabulary, and five core themes.

“*Teachers are the one and only people who save nations.*”

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, marshal

## How is the course assessed?

Assessment structure:

### Paper 1: Listening and Understanding (25%)

- Tests comprehension of spoken Turkish.

### Paper 2: Speaking in Turkish (25%)

- Conducted by teachers in one session, then sent for external marking.
- Includes three tasks:
  - » Role-play (allocated by Pearson).
  - » Picture-based discussion.
  - » Conversation based on two themes (one chosen by the student, one by Pearson).
- 12 minutes preparation time for role-play and picture task.

### Paper 3: Reading and Understanding (25%)

- Tests comprehension of written Turkish, including a translation task.

### Paper 4: Writing in Turkish (25%)

- Tests ability to produce written Turkish, including short, structured, and extended writing tasks.

You are entered for the same tier, Foundation (F) or Higher (H), for all four papers.

## Reading

**Grammar:** Review essential Turkish grammar, including sentence structure, noun cases, and verb conjugations.

**Resources:** Use Study Rocket for notes and Save My Exams for past papers and revision tools.

**Technique:** Utilize active recall and flashcards to memorize vocabulary instead of just reading notes.

A Turkish/English dictionary is not provided but is essential. Please note that dictionaries are not allowed in the exams.



## Exam Board and Specification Codes

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Turkish exam code is 1TU0.



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