



GCSE Course Outlines

London

2023/2024



Dear Student

Making an informed subject selection at GCSE is the first important step along your academic journey. Such an important decision and early interest in your preferred subjects can propel you through to success in your A levels, degree and, ultimately, your career.

We hope this booklet will provide you with a comprehensive overview of each subject offered at MPW. Our examination boards are carefully chosen by the Heads of Department in order to provide the most dynamic and interesting specifications that best develop students' abilities and maximise their chances of success.

The college offers an extensive and varied selection of GCSE subjects. Students entering Year 10 undertake a broad programme of subjects across the curriculum which will help inform final choices for Year 11. In Year 11, all GCSEs are taught as self-contained one-year courses. English Language and Mathematics are of course compulsory alongside, ideally, a science, a humanities subject and a modern language. You may then choose other additional subjects as detailed in this booklet, normally up to eight in total.

Our academic support team provides individual sessions as well as weekly seminars, which are aimed at helping you to hone skills such as organisation, essay structuring and revision techniques.

Weekly RSHE sessions offer the chance to interact with speakers from various charities and other walks of life. These sessions frequently culminate in lively and interesting debates and you are encouraged to contribute to discussions on a diverse range of topical issues.

As well as this, outside of your academic subjects, you will have the opportunity to take part in various enrichment activities including sports such as golf, football, rugby, badminton and tennis, as well as dance. You will also be able to follow the very popular Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

MPW has a long tradition of providing excellent tuition and pastoral care in a warm and friendly environment in which students flourish and succeed. We trust that you will find this guide useful and that we will be welcoming you to MPW in September.

Happy reading!

Sally Powell
Principal

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GCSE ART AND DESIGN

The course

The initial two terms are spent on disciplined painting and drawing projects with the accent on texture, scale and descriptive qualities. Projects include still life, abstract composition and figure drawing. Printmaking and ceramics can also form a final piece in a unit and you will be expected to attempt these media. Work must be documented and researched using sketchbooks and supporting studies. In the Summer term, you will complete your personal portfolio, which is one of the two coursework units on which you'll be assessed. The other is an externally-set assignment which you will have the end of the course.

You will learn a variety of skills. You will learn how to undertake visual research using primary and secondary sources and record observations, experiences and ideas in appropriate ways. You will learn how to develop and realise ideas and outcomes, explore and review possible solutions and modify your work appropriately. You will come to understand and use appropriately and safely a range of materials, equipment, processes and techniques. Finally, you will become familiar with a range of work from past and contemporary practice and from different cultures, so that you are able to demonstrate an understanding of continuity and change in art, craft and design.

“I dream my painting and I paint my dream.”

Vincent van Gogh, artist

Reading

The Story of Art

By E. Gombrich

Published by Phaidon Press, ISBN 978-0714832470



What skills do I need?

Students entering this course should ideally have achieved a general educational level equivalent to National Curriculum Level 3. The course will suit you if you are creative, enthusiastic and imaginative and want to communicate your ideas and opinions through drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, and/or digital art. You should enjoy learning how to use different processes to develop your visual skills, and be willing to experiment and take risks with your ideas.

How is the course assessed?

The coursework is divided into two units. Unit 1 (Personal Portfolio in Art and Design) is the coursework you complete over the course of the year. It is completed and assessed – usually before the end of May – followed by a visit by an external assessor who moderates the marks. The assessment takes the form of a small exhibition in the art department. It amounts to approximately 45 hours of supervised activity and is worth 60% of the marks. For Unit 2 (Externally Set Assignment), an exam is set early in the Summer term. This work is completed by May. It amounts to approximately 30 hours of supervised activity including ten hours of sustained focus and is worth 40% of the total.

Students complete projects using at least two disciplines for the unendorsed syllabus or specialise in one of these disciplines for the endorsed syllabus: (i) ceramics/sculpture; (ii) printmaking; (iii) painting/drawing; (iv) photography; and (v) textiles.



IGCSE BIOLOGY

The course

Biology IGCSE aims to give you knowledge and understanding of biological facts, concepts and principles. You will develop an appreciation of the importance of accurate experimental work using the scientific method. You will learn how to form hypotheses, to design experiments to test them and to report your results properly. You will develop an enjoyment and an interest in the study of living organisms.

The subject is broken down into five sections. Section 1 (The nature and variety of living organisms) will introduce you to the diversity of life by looking at plants, animals, fungi, bacteria, protoctists and viruses and their features. Section 2 (Structures and functions in living organisms) looks at the differences between plant and animal cells. The similarities and differences between diffusion, osmosis and active transport will be explained. Details of the human digestive system will be given, with the functions of the different parts. The experimental evidence showing what a plant needs for photosynthesis will be discussed.

In Section 3 (Reproduction and inheritance) adaptations of wind-pollinated and insect-pollinated flowers will be introduced. The functions of the main parts of the human reproductive systems will be discussed and the hormones involved in the menstrual cycle shown by means of graphs. Patterns of inheritance will be shown via working out genetics problems. In Section 4 (Ecology and the environment), technical terms used in ecology will be defined. The carbon, water and nitrogen cycles will be explained. The effects of humans on the environment will be considered (eg pollution). In Section 5 (Use of biological resources), you will look at how knowledge of biology can be used to increase the production of food for people. Biotechnology such as genetic engineering and cloning will be explained.

What skills do I need?

You need an interest in science and the living world. You need to have good mathematical skills too.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by two written papers. Both papers cover all five sections and include questions about experimental work. Paper 1 lasts two hours and is worth 61.1% of the total marks. Paper 2 lasts 1 hour 15 minutes and is worth 33% of the total marks.

“Reason, observation and experience – the holy trinity of science.”

Robert G. Ingersoll,

American political leader

Reading

**Pearson-Edexcel IGCSE (9-1)
Biology Student Book**
By P. Bradfield & S. Potter.
Published by Pearson Education,
ISBN 978-0435185275

MPW Course Notes
By A. Stockley



Exam Board and Specification Codes
Pearson-Edexcel 4BI1

Head of Department
Ross Cater



IGCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

The course

Business Studies examines the way business run, their strengths, mistakes and reasons for success or failure. Why do nearly 50% of business start-ups fail? How do over 50% survive their first few years? Why do four out of five products fail? These are the sorts of issues we will be looking at. You will be introduced to businesses ranging from a start-up juice bar to Adidas to Apple. You will learn about different forms of business organisations and business functions such as marketing, operations and finance and to appreciate the role of people in business success. You will also gain lifelong skills, including the ability to calculate and interpret business data, communication skills needed to support arguments with reasons and the ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements.

The course is divided into six sections. In Section 1 (Understanding Business Activity) you look at the classification of businesses, business growth and size, business objectives and stakeholder objectives.

In Section 2 (People in Business) you look at how to organise a workforce and motivating workers, recruitment, the selection and training of workers, and internal and external communication. In Section 3 (Marketing) you look at marketing, competition and the customer, market research, the marketing mix and marketing strategy. In Section 4 (Operations management) you look at the production of goods and services, costs, scale of production and break-even analysis, achieving quality production, and location decisions. In Section 5 (Financial Information and Decisions) you look at business finance, cash-flow forecasting, understanding basic income statement and balance sheets. Finally, in Section 6 (External Influences on Business Activity), you look at the impact of government actions on businesses, the growth of emerging markets, the impact of business activity on the environment and ethical issues facing businesses.

What skills do I need?

You do not need any specific knowledge or experience. You need the ability to analyse and make judgements based on evidence, as well as basic numeracy including the ability to calculate percentages and percentage change. You also need to be committed to studying both inside and outside of the classroom to do well as this is an intensive course.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by two written papers. Both papers cover all six sections. Paper 1 consists of four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses. Paper 2 consists of four questions based on a case study, provided as an insert with the paper. Each paper lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 50% of the total marks.

“It’s fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure.”

Bill Gates,

entrepreneur and businessman

Reading

IGCSE Business Studies
4th Edition Paperback

By K. Borrington, P. Stimpson

Published by Cambridge, ISBN 978-1444176582

Useful sources:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/business/,
www.bbc.co.uk, www.bized.co.uk, www.tutor2u.net, www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk



IGCSE CHEMISTRY

The course

Chemistry supplies you with the knowledge and understanding so that you can engage with science-based issues in an informed way. By studying the course, gain greater scientific literacy by using contemporary and relevant contexts of interest such as environmental issues. You will study the patterns and properties of the elements and how these combine to produce useful materials. Throughout the course you will develop practical skills, powers of analysis and the ability to apply chemical concepts to an unfamiliar context. The IGCSE will provide you with an exceptional standard of education which is both modern and relevant. It will also prepare you properly for the study of Chemistry at an advanced level.

GCSE Chemistry is divided into five sections. In Section 1 (Principles of chemistry), you will look at the structure of atoms and compounds, chemical formulae and equations and how to calculate the masses of substances and volumes of gases.

*“By convention sweet
and by convention bitter, by
convention hot, by convention
cold, by convention colour; but
in reality atoms and void.”*

Democritus, philosopher

In Section 2 (Inorganic Chemistry) looks at Transition Metal chemistry and the chemistry of colour. In Section 3 (Inorganic Chemistry) looks at acids, alkalis and salts and chemical reactions: reaction rates and the idea of equilibrium and reversibility. Finally, in Section 4 (Organic Chemistry) looks at the chemistry of carbon. You will look at two different types of organic compounds (alkanes and Alkenes) and ethanol.

What skills do I need?

A scientific background is useful but not essential. You should have inquisitive mind and desire to make discoveries through investigation. You should have the ability to follow a logical sequence of instructions and to be able to recall factual material.

How is the course assessed?

There are two written papers consisting of short structured questions. Both papers cover all five sections. The Unit 1 paper lasts 2 hours and is worth 61.6% of the total marks. The Unit 2 paper lasts 1 hour 15 minutes and is worth 38.9% of the total marks. There is no practical coursework.



Reading

Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry (Student Book)

By J. Clark

Published by Edexcel,
ISBN 978-0435966898

Edexcel International GCSEs in Chemistry Students Book

By G. Hill, R. Wensley

Published by Hodder Education,
ISBN 978-1444179149

Exam Board and Specification Codes

Pearson-Edexcel 4CH1

Head of Department

Rebecca Lindsay



GCSE CHINESE

The course

By learning a foreign language, you give yourself the chance to see the world in a different way. You can explore a new culture and access films, plays and books as they were meant to be seen and read. You will also increase your employability as there is always a demand for people who can speak more than one language across a very wide range of careers. This course focuses primarily on the natural use of language in authentic situations. There are three common topic areas with which you will become familiar.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

What skills do I need?

You need an interest in languages and the culture of another country and its people.

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

Laozi, philosopher

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE assessment is composed of three units. In Unit 1 (Listening), you will be tested on your ability to understand spoken Chinese. The spoken material heard will include a number of questions, which are a combination of multiple-choice, multiple matching, note-taking and gap-fill questions. All three topic areas are assessed. The exam lasts 45 minutes (40 minutes + 5 minutes reading time) and is worth 25% of the marks. In Units 3 and 4 (Reading and Writing in Chinese), you will be tested on your ability to understand written Chinese. The examination consists of a number of short texts, notices or news reports in Chinese which include a range of settings and styles, both formal and informal (for example text messages, advertisements, emails, a translation into English).

The writing part consists of two open-response writing tasks, each linked to a topic area. There is also a question involving translation of four sentences into Chinese. The exams last 1h 15 minutes for the writing and 45 minutes for the reading; they are worth 50% of the marks in total. In Unit 2 (Speaking in Chinese), you must demonstrate the ability to use the Chinese language for different purposes and in different settings. You will be assessed on three speaking activities chosen from the following task types: a picture based free-flowing discussion, a role-play and a discussion on two further topics chosen randomly by the examiner. You will need to talk for 10-12 minutes, plus 10 minutes' preparation time and the unit is worth 25% of the marks.

Reading

Easy Learning Mandarin Chinese Dictionary
Published by Collins, ISBN 978-0008119515

AQA GCSE Chinese Student Book 1
By William Minter and Leah Russell
Published by Dragons Teaching
ISBN-13: 978-0-9957157-0-7



Exam Board and Specification Codes
AQA 8673

Head of Department
Ana Abad Jara



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

The course

In the space of little over fifty years, computers have become an integral part of the modern world. Computer Science enables students to develop an interest in computing and to gain confidence in computational thinking and programming. They develop their understanding of the main principles of problem-solving using computers. Students apply their understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language (Python). They also develop a range of technical skills, as well as the ability to test effectively and to evaluate computing solutions. This qualification will help students appreciate current and emerging computing technologies and the benefits of their use. They learn to recognise the ethical issues and potential risks when using computers. Understanding the principles of Computer Science provides students with the underpinning knowledge required for many other subjects in science and engineering, and the skills learnt can also be used in everyday life.

“There are 10 types of people in the world: those who understand binary, and those who don't.”

What skills do I need?

You should have an interest in computers and programming. You should have good maths skills (no calculators are permitted in the exams) and a logical mind.

How is the course assessed?

There are two exam papers, each worth 50% of the exam.

Paper 1, Principles of Computer Science is written examination which lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and consists of five compulsory questions, each one focused on one of the topic areas. The questions consist of multiple-choice, short-, medium- and extended-open-response, tabular and diagrammatic items.

Paper 2, Application of Computational Thinking is a practical onscreen examination lasting 2 hours. Students answer six compulsory questions onscreen using Python 3. This paper is practical in nature and requires students to design, write, test and refine programs in order to solve problems.



Reading

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Computer Science Revision Guide

By Ann Weidmann, Cynthia Selby

Published by Pearson Education,
ISBN-13 978-1292374000

Exam Board and Specification Codes

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Computer Science (1CP2)

Head of Department

Christine Gavin



GCSE DRAMA

The course

Drama is an immensely exciting subject leading to the understanding of a wide range of play texts; an awareness of the historical forces which shaped them; increased self and group awareness and, finally, creativity, self-confidence, self-discipline and communication. The subject is a perfect complement to English Literature and English Language; it is also an appropriate preparation for the former subject at A level as well as, of course, Theatre Studies. Full advantage is taken of the college's proximity to London theatres, enabling us to take full account of section B of the examined unit. Overall, the course enables students to explore both the theoretical and practical aspects of drama and the theatre arts and that balance is maintained in the teaching itself, week by week, as students move between the practical and academic demands of the course.

“The purpose of playing,
whose end, both at the first
and now, was and is to hold
as 'twere the mirror up to
nature.”

Hamlet, (Act III, scene ii, lines 19 - 22)

Reading

The Crucible
By Arthur Miller



Exam Board and Specification Codes
AQA 8261

Head of Department
Richard Martin

What skills do I need?

You need an interest in performance and performing.

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE content is split into three components. Component 1 (Understanding Drama) is a written examination that lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes and is worth 40% of the final qualification. As well as an analysis and evaluation of a piece of live theatre, students will be given an extract of the set text, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, and expected to answer questions analysing performance and design aspects of the play. Component 2 (Devising Drama) is a chance for students to create an original piece of drama supported by a portfolio of evidence and is worth 40% of the final qualification. Component 3 (Texts in Practice) is another practical element of the qualification worth 20% of the final GCSE that requires students to select a play and to perform two extracts from it for an external examiner.



IGCSE ECONOMICS

The course

Economics will open your eyes and challenge you to think in different ways about the world around you. The Economics IGCSE is designed to offer understanding of the major issues in economics and how these affect us in our daily lives and in the future. You will be taught to think from a micro-economic perspective and learn about the fundamental problem of how best to allocate scarce resources like time and money. Knowledge and understanding of how the laws of supply and demand affect the price of oil, gold, shares, cars and houses will also be provided. You will learn about the dynamics of the government's macro-economic policy and how this affects interest rates, exchange rates, taxation, and unemployment. You will study why the core of macro-economic policy is the control of inflation. You will also learn all about globalisation and the advantages and disadvantages it brings to us and people in developing countries like Brazil and India.

You will look at two broad areas. In "Microeconomics and Business Economics" you will look at topics such as the market system, productivity and the division of labour. In "Macroeconomics and the Global Economy" you will look at topics such as the relationship between macroeconomic objectives and government policies, and globalisation and international trade. The course provides an excellent foundation for the Edexcel A level.

What skills do I need?

In addition to a natural curiosity, an interest in current affairs, and a joy of reading, the key skills for studying economics include: logical thought used in solving problems, observation and inference from data, and presenting ideas in compelling writing and speech. Logical analysis underlies an economist's ability to understand economic phenomena. You also need to be committed to studying both inside and outside of the classroom to do well as this is an intensive course.

How is the course assessed?

There are two papers: Microeconomics and Business Economics (Paper 1) and Macroeconomics and the Global Economy (Paper 2). Each paper has consisting of four compulsory questions that contain a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data response and open-ended questions. Each paper lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 50% of the total marks.

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

Joan Robinson, economist

Reading

IGCSE Economics

By S. Grant

Published by CUP, ISBN 978-1107612334

Useful sources:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy,
BBC Bitesize Economics, www.tutor2u.net,
www.bized.co.uk



IGCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The course

This subject hardly requires an introduction; the ability to express oneself clearly and to understand clearly what others have expressed is so obviously a fundamental requirement in all aspects of our life, and also has an immediate effect on students' capacities in all other subjects where reading and writing are necessary (and there are few subjects where they are not!) The course is designed with the three elements of the final assessment – reading, writing and 'conference' – very much in mind. Stress is laid on students exploring their own interests while at the same time developing their sense of the range of styles available to them.

*“Reading maketh a full man;
conference a ready man; and
writing an exact man.”*

Francis Bacon, Of Studies (1597)

What skills do I need?

You need the capacity to write creatively and discursively, and the ability to read critically and thoughtfully.

How is the course assessed?

There are two written examinations on two papers. Paper 1 (Reading Passages Extended) comprises three passages and short answer questions involving summary skills, vocabulary, literary analysis and adaptation. You have to (i) understand and collate explicit meanings; (ii) understand, explain and collate implicit meanings and attitudes; and (iii) select, analyse and evaluate what is relevant to specific purposes.

Paper 2 (Directed Writing and Composition) is divided into two sections. In Section A (Directed Writing), you read one or more short unseen texts. You then use and develop the information given in another form, eg a letter, a report, a speech or a dialogue. In Section B (Composition), you write one composition from a choice of argumentative, discursive, descriptive and narrative titles. Both papers last 2 hours and are worth 50% each.

Reading



There is no specific text for English Language but the department will provide guidance as to the reading that should take place during the course of the teaching. We recommend as a base point that students should become regular readers of novels and be looking at a quality newspaper daily. Both these activities will augment students' own literary style, increase breadth of vocabulary and build comprehension and summary skills.



GCSE FRENCH

The course

By learning a foreign language, you give yourself the chance to see the world in a different way. You can explore a new culture and access films, plays and books as they were meant to be seen and read. You will also increase your employability as there is always a demand for people who can speak more than one language across a very wide range of careers. In this course, you will develop your knowledge of the French language and culture through studying three different topic areas:

Theme 1: Identity and culture;

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

What skills do I need?

You need an interest in languages and the culture of another country and its people.

“The most intimate temper of a people, its deepest soul, is above all in its language.”

Jules Michelet, historian

Reading

AQA GCSE French Higher

Published by Oxford University Press,
ISBN-13: 9780198365839



Exam Board and Specification Codes
AQA 8658

Head of Department
Ana Abad Jara

How is the course assessed?

The AQA GCSE in French consists of three papers. In Unit 1 (Listening), you will be required to listen to a range of factual and non-factual material in different contexts and in different registers. You will be assessed on your ability to identify and note main points, to deduce the meaning of words from context, to extract specific details, to identify points of view, to show some understanding of unfamiliar language, and to recognize attitudes, emotions and opinions. The paper lasts 45 minutes (40 minutes + 5 minutes reading time) and is worth 25% of the total marks. In Units 3 and 4 (Reading and Writing), you will be tested on your ability to understand and use information from a range of texts. In the first extended writing task you will be required to write about 90 words in French. The response will be assessed for communication, content knowledge and application of language. For the second piece of extended writing, you will select one writing task from a choice of two. You will be expected to write a continuous response of about 150 words and you will be expected to express opinions and to use a variety of structures, including a range of tenses. For the third task you will have to do a translation into French. The papers last 1 hour 15 minutes for the writing and 45 minutes for the reading; they are worth 25% of the total marks each. In Unit 2 (Speaking), you have three tasks. In Section A, you will answer a minimum of 5 questions on a photograph and a conversation with the interviewer about the picture will last for up to 3 minutes. In Section B, you will be required to take part in conversations with the interviewer on a role-play (2 minutes). In part C you will talk about the topics in a general conversation for up to 7 minutes. The total duration of the exam is around 10 minutes and is worth 25% of the total marks.



IGCSE GEOGRAPHY

The course

Geography deals with the description and explanation of landscape features which make up the physical and human environment and, perhaps most challenging of all, examines the interaction between the two. Using varied resources including maps, visual media and GIS, you will have the opportunity to investigate important geographical issues with relevance both to the UK and across the globe. You will develop skills in independent thought, teamwork, enquiry and analysis, as well as an increased awareness of other environments, societies and cultures. You will participate in informed responsible decision making in relation to geographical news that affects themselves and others around them. In addition the examination includes separate fieldwork assessment, which is undertaken by the whole class as part of their learning.

This one-year IGCSE course offers both a challenging and demanding programme which provides students with a good grounding for Geography at A level. The subject also has strong cross-curricular relationships with other subjects including the Sciences, Business Studies, Economics and Citizenship.

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

Edmund Burke, statesman

and philosopher

Reading

Edexcel IGCSE Geography

By M. Witherick, S. Milner

Published by Pearson, ISBN 978-0435016951



Exam Board and Specification Codes
Pearson-Edexcel 4GE0

Head of Department
Duncan Chamberlain

The course consists of two papers, assessing Physical Geography and Human Geography:

Physical Geography

Students study river environments and hazardous environments (Section A), and complete fieldwork on river environments (Section B).

Human Geography

Students study economic activity & energy and urban environments (Section A), and globalisation & migration (Section C). They complete fieldwork on urban environments (Section B).

What skills do I need?

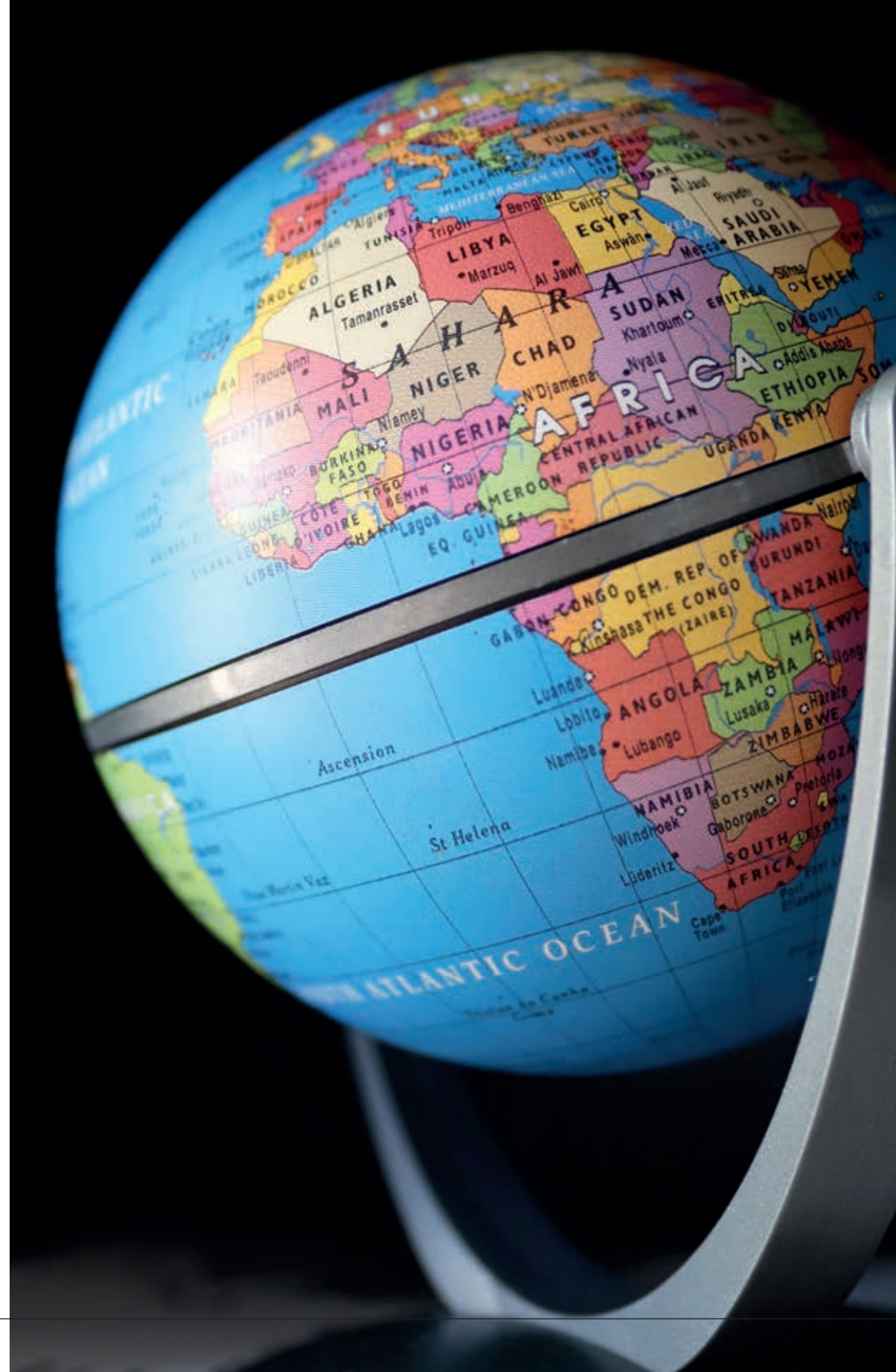
You should have an interest in a broad range of Geographical issues. Skills in analysis of graphs, maps, and statistics will be useful but will be developed throughout the course. Knowledge of data collection and how to conduct research will also be useful.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through two written papers:
Paper 1 (Physical Geography): a 1 hour 10 minute paper worth 40% of the IGCSE.

Paper 2 (Human Geography): a 1 hour 45 minute paper worth 60% of the IGCSE.

The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.



GCSE GERMAN

The course

By learning a foreign language, you give yourself the chance to see the world in a different way. You can explore a new culture and access films, plays and books as they were meant to be seen and read. You will also increase your employability as there is always a demand for people who can speak more than one language across a very wide range of careers. In this course, you will develop your knowledge of the German language and culture through studying three different areas:

Theme 1: Identity and culture;

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

What skills do I need?

You need an interest in languages and the culture of another country and its people.

“I found my smattering of German very useful here; indeed, I don’t know how I should be able to get on without it.”

Jonathan Harker,

character in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*

Reading

AQA GCSE German Higher

By Heather Murphy, David Riddell,
Helen Kent and Alan O’Brien

Published by Oxford University Press, ISBN-13: 9780198365877



How is the course assessed?

The AQA GCSE in German consists of four papers. In Unit 1 (Listening), you will be required to listen to a range of factual and non-factual material in different contexts and in different registers. You will be assessed on your ability to identify and note main points, to deduce the meaning of words from context, to extract specific details, to identify points of view, to show some understanding of unfamiliar language, and to recognize attitudes, emotions and opinions. The paper lasts 45 minutes (40 minutes + 5 minutes reading time) and is worth 25% of the total marks. In Unit 3 and 4 (Reading and Writing), you will be tested on your ability to understand and use information from a range of texts. In the first extended writing task you will be required to write about 90 words in German. The response will be assessed for communication, content knowledge and application of language. For the second piece of extended writing, you will select one writing task from a choice of three. You will be expected to write a continuous response of about 150 words and you will be expected to express opinions and to use a variety of structures, including a range of tenses. For the third task you will have to answer a translation into German. The papers last 1 hour 15 minutes for the writing and 45 minutes for the reading and they are worth 25% of the total marks each paper. In Unit 2 (Speaking), you have three tasks. In Section A, you will describe a photo-card and answer a minimum of 5 questions on it. The conversation with the examiner on the photograph or picture will last for up to 3 minutes. In Section B, you will be required to take part in conversations with the interviewer on a role-play (2 minutes). In Section C you will have a conversation on the topics of the course (5 minutes). The total duration of the exam is around 10-12 minutes and is worth 25% of the total.



IGCSE HISTORY

The course

History is fundamentally the study of the past: of the individuals, societies, cities and other structures that once were, and the causes and explanations of their development and demise. History IGCSE introduces students to a wide range of people and events crucial to the twentieth century. The subject develops the ability to argue effectively and teaches students how to critically evaluate source material. The course examines the tumultuous events of the last century, and the rise of America and the USSR in relation to the decline of Europe.

“Revisionism is a healthy historiographical process, and no one, not even revisionists, should be exempt from it.”

John Lewis Gaddis, historian

What skills do I need?

You need the ability to analyse events and to express ideas in a concise fashion.

How is the course assessed?

There are three written papers. In the Unit 1 paper, you will answer questions on international relations during the years 1919-91 and an American depth study, focusing on 1919-41. The paper lasts 2 hours and is worth 40% of the total marks. In the Unit 2 paper, you will concentrate on the evaluation through sources of a particular topic within the twentieth century. The paper lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 30% of the total marks. In the Unit 4 paper, you will be required to answer one two-part question on America 1919-41. The paper lasts 1 hour and is worth 30% of the total marks.

Reading

IGCSE Modern World History (Student's Book) 2nd Edition

By B. Walsh, M. Scott-Baumann
Published by Hodder Education,
ISBN 978-1444164428

Complete 20th Century History for Cambridge IGCSE® (Paperback 8 Dec 2016)

By John Cantrell (Author), Neil Smith (Author)
Published by OUP Oxford,
ISBN 978-0198399353



Exam Board and Specification Codes
Cambridge 0977

Head of Department
Robert Heggie



IGCSE ITALIAN

The course

By learning a foreign language, you give yourself the chance to see the world in a different way. You can explore a new culture and access films, plays and books as they were meant to be seen and read. You will also increase your employability as there is always a demand for people who can speak more than one language across a very wide range of careers. This course focuses primarily on the natural use of language in authentic situations.

There are five topic areas which you will become familiar. In Everyday activities you will learn how to describe home life and school, food, health and fitness. In Personal and social life you will expand your vocabulary to include self, family and personal relationships, and holidays and special occasions. In The world around us you will study the topics of your home town and local area, the natural and made environment, and people, places and customs. In The world of work you will approach basic issues related to continuing education, careers and employment, and language and communication in the work place. Finally, in The international world you will develop the language need to talk about tourism at home and abroad, life in other countries and communities, and world events and issues.

What skills do I need?

You need an interest in languages and the culture of another country and its people.

*“You may have the universe
if I may have Italy.”*

Giuseppe Verdi, composer

Reading

The Oxford Study Italian Dictionary

Edited by D. Bressan, P. Glennan P

Published by OUP, ISBN 978-0195553109



Exam Board and Specification Codes

Cambridge 7164

Head of Department

Ana Abad Jara

How is the course assessed?

The IGCSE assessment is composed of four units. In Paper 1 (Listening), you will be tested on your ability to understand spoken Italian. The spoken material heard will include both formal (eg telephone messages) and informal speech (eg social interaction). The exam lasts approximately 45 minutes and is worth 25% of the marks.

In Paper 2 (Reading Comprehension), you will be tested on your ability to read and understand written Italian. The examination consists of a number of short texts, notices or news reports in Italian which include a range of settings and styles, both formal and informal (for example text messages, advertisements, emails). The exam lasts 1 hour and is worth 25% of the marks.

In Paper 3 (Speaking in Italian), you must demonstrate the ability to use the Italian language for different purposes and in different settings. You will be assessed on two role plays, followed by a chosen topic presentation, conversation on the topic, and then general conversation. The speaking test lasts approximately 15 minutes is worth 25% of the marks.

In Paper 4 (Writing), you will respond in the target language to three tasks. You must demonstrate the ability to communicate in writing for different purposes, demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the Italian language. You must use a wide variety of idiom, vocabulary, structure and appropriate tenses as you describe, give details, and express simple feelings and opinions in Italian. The exam lasts 1 hour and is worth 25% of the marks.



GCSE LATIN

The course

The study of Latin at GCSE level combines the foundations of the Latin language with elements of the culture, social and political life of Roman civilisation. It is a useful grounding for modern European languages, especially English. It also provides an opportunity to study some of the world's greatest writers, including Virgil, Ovid and Horace, in their original language. All areas of the Latin language are covered, together with literature set texts, including Virgil, Ovid, Pliny, Tacitus and Horace. Background topics include Roman Religion, Britain, The Roman Army, Social Life, the City of Rome, Women and the Roman Empire. The set texts are (i) *Sagae Thessalae* lines 1–96, (*Iuvenis ... obtexi*) and *personae non gratae: Pythius* (Cambridge Latin Anthology); and (ii) Virgil, *Aeneid*, 6.295–316, 384–416, 679–712, 752–759, 788–800 (Oxford Classical Text).

“We think a happy life consists in tranquillity of mind.”

Cicero,

orator, politician and philosopher

What skills do I need?

No particular skills are needed but an interest in the ancient world and an aptitude for languages are helpful.

How is the course assessed?

The exam consists of three components. In Component 1 (Language), you will be tested on your knowledge and understanding of Latin vocabulary and grammar through translation from Latin into English and vice versa. In Component 2 (Prose Literature) and Component 3 (Verse Literature) you will be examined on your understanding of prose and verse pieces, their cultural contexts and your knowledge of the literary effects they employ. Component 1 lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 50% of the GCSE. Components 2 and 3 last 1 hour 30 minutes each and are worth 25% of the marks each.

Reading

Cambridge Latin Anthology

Published by CUP, ISBN 978-0521578776

P. Vergili Maronis: Opera.

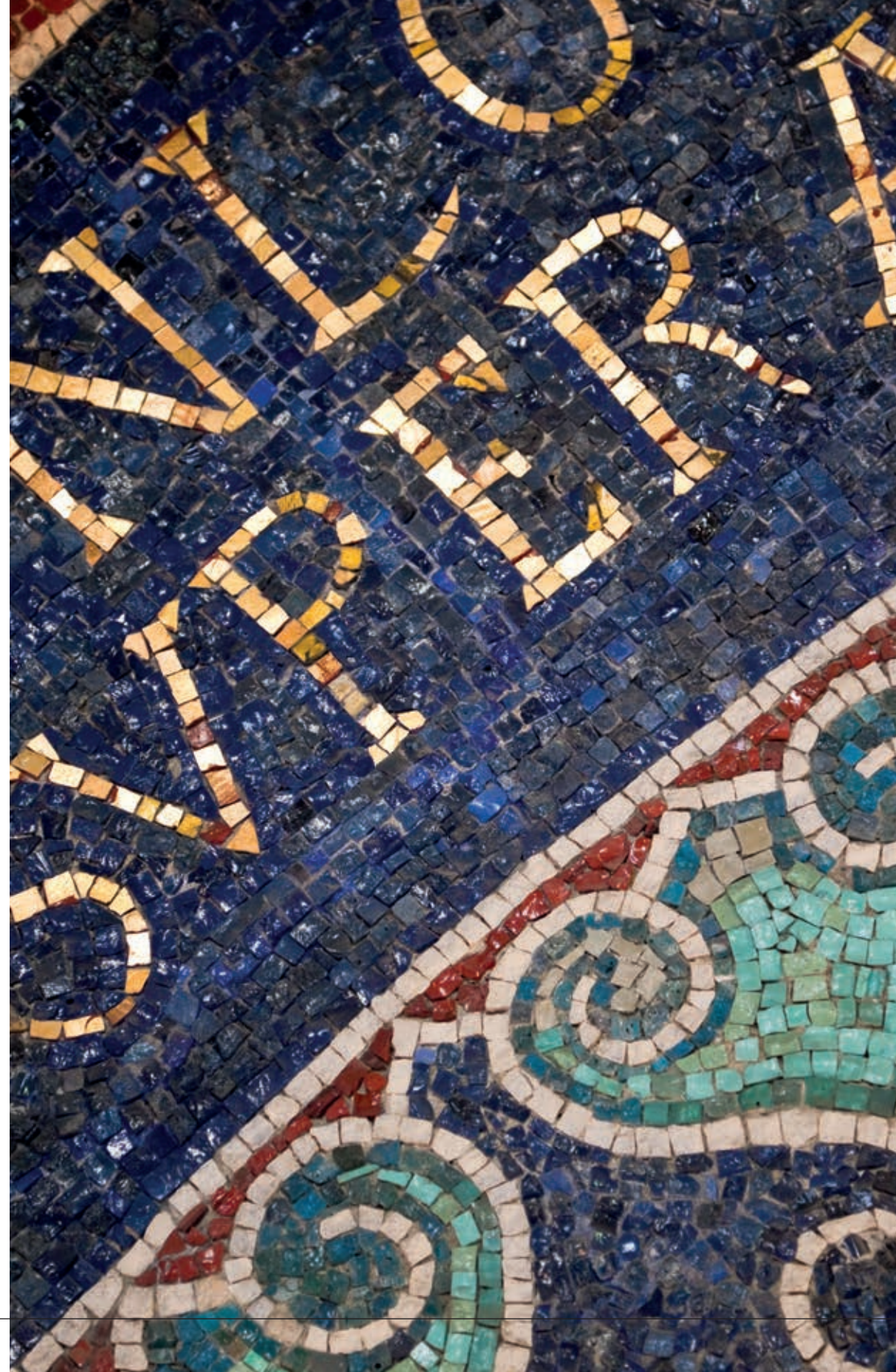
Edited by R. A. B. Mynors.

Published by OUP. ISBN 978-0198146537



Exam Board and Specification Codes
OCR J282

Head of Department
Robert Heggie



IGCSE MATHEMATICS

The course

Maths can best be described, at this level, as the formulation and application of algebraic and numerical methods. This description, however, barely scratches the surface of a subject that is considered in different contexts to be an art, a language and a science.

From a practical point of view, the influence of mathematics in areas such as computing, engineering, finance and physics is plain to see. However, mathematics is also a crucial component of architecture, economics, geography and psychology.

The IGCSE course is academically slightly more rigorous than the GCSE course, and places a greater emphasis on formal algebraic methods. The more focused IGCSE specification is accessible to all students, and it provides an excellent background for those who wish to study Maths post-16.

The course is divided into three components (assessment objectives):

- Number and algebra (55% of total) - this looks at fractions and decimals, ratios, percentages, algebraic manipulation, formulas, linear and quadratic equations and graphs, proportionality, functions, calculus and set theory.
- Shape, space and measures (25% of total) - this looks at bearings and constructions, trigonometry in 2D and 3D, areas and volumes, similarity and vector geometry.
- Handling data (20% of total) - this looks at measures of average, probability and histograms.

What skills do I need?

You need to be good with numbers and abstract reasoning.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by means of two written exam papers. Each paper lasts 2 hours and is worth 50% of the total marks.

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

Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz,
philosopher and mathematician

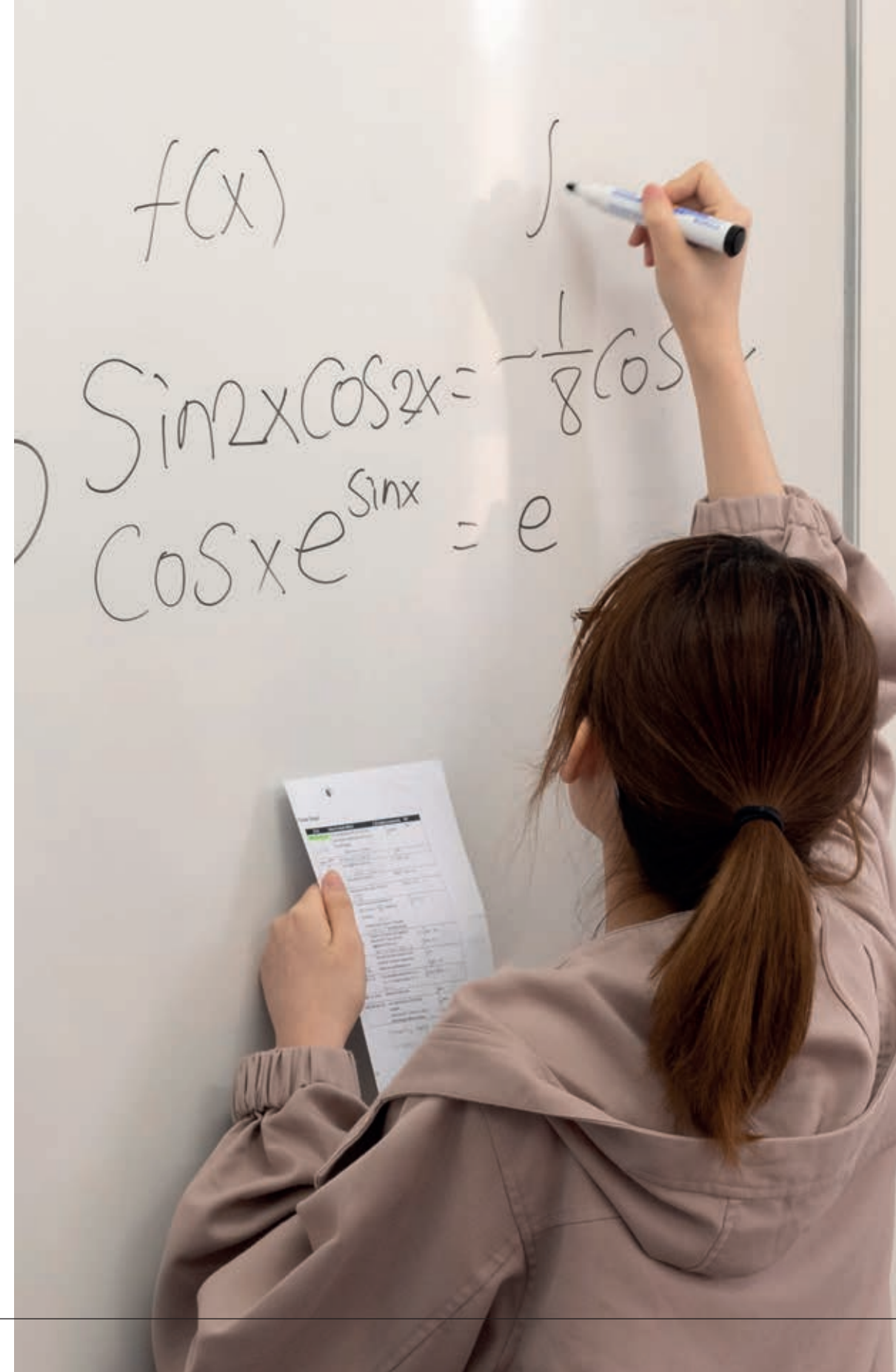
Reading

Complete Mathematics for IGCSE (Extended)
By D. Rayner
Published by OUP, ISBN 978-0199138746



Exam Board and Specification Codes
Pearson-Edexcel 4MA1 (Higher Tier)

Head of Department
Dave Costin



GCSE MUSIC

The course

Music is a subject that embraces a wide variety of musical styles, covering potentially one thousand years of development. GCSE students encounter 'serious' Western music from the seventeenth century to the present day, as well as a range of the 'popular' music of the twentieth century, and also indigenous music from non-Western cultures. Students are expected to have reached a minimum performing standard equivalent to Grade 3 by the end of this course – it will therefore be extremely advantageous if they have already achieved that level in advance. Students generally need to have an active and wide-ranging interest in listening to and studying music, as well as the self-motivation to carry out independent study. Students should note that the coursework for this subject must be completed within just two terms, and the whole course is taught and examined at MPW in just three terms.

What skills do I need?

For Component 1 students need to have had at least two years of study on your chosen instrument (or voice) by the start of the course. Some knowledge of the theory of music will be extremely advantageous.

“Without music, life would be a serious mistake.”

Friedrich Nietzsche, philosopher

How is the course assessed?

There are three components.

Component 1 (Performing music) is a coursework unit. It involves one solo performance (with accompaniment) and one as part of a group chosen from the general repertoire of your instrument or voice. The total performing time must aggregate to more than 4 minutes. It is internally marked and externally moderated, and is worth 30% of the total marks.

Component 2 (Composing music) is also a coursework unit. It involves producing two pieces of music, lasting a minimum of 3 minutes together. One will be composed to a brief set by the examination board; the second will be a free composition. It is internally marked and externally moderated, and is worth 30% of the total marks. Component 3 (Appraising music) is a written examination. Students will study and be examined on eight set works across four areas of study: (i) Instrumental Music (1700-1820); (ii) Vocal Music; (iii) Music for Stage and Screen; and (iv) Fusions. The paper lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 40% of the total marks.

Students should make their own arrangements to have weekly individual instrumental lessons, as MPW is not able to offer such tuition. They should also be regularly involved in some form of group music-making, eg at a Saturday music school or in a band with friends.

It is highly desirable for students to have their own copy of the Sibelius music-processing software ('Sibelius first' version is sufficient) so that they can transfer composition coursework effectively between home and college.

Set texts required for this course

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Music Student Book
By J. Martin, J. Arkell
Published by Pearson, ISBN 978-1292123141

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Anthology of Music
By J. Winterson
Published by Pearson, ISBN 978-1292118383



Exam Board and Specification Codes
Pearson-Edexcel 1MU0

Head of Department
John Cameron



GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

The course

GCSE Photography is a popular and exciting subject. However, be aware that it doesn't just involve taking photographs. You will develop your creativity, imagination and knowledge through sustained projects. You will learn about a variety of photographic media, techniques and processes including hands-on experimentation with traditional and digital media. You will also develop an awareness of critical analyses of artists' work helping to develop their own ideas and intentions using workbooks to demonstrate practical learning and the ability to explore formal elements through personal, individual responses.

You will have access to a fully equipped IT suite, interactive white board and scanning and printing facilities. A fully equipped darkroom is available with several professional quality enlargers, contact printers, developing tanks and chemicals, filtered water supplies and automatic washing facilities.

“If a photographer cares about the people before the lens and is compassionate, much is given. It is the photographer, not the camera, that is the instrument.”

Eve Arnold, photojournalist

We are well situated for the major museums and commercial galleries and there will be visits to galleries and museums and work both in the college and on location.

What skills do I need?

The course will suit you if you are creative, enthusiastic and imaginative and want to communicate your ideas and opinions through different styles and forms of photography. You should enjoy learning how to use different processes to develop your visual skills, and be willing to experiment and take risks with your ideas.

How is the course assessed?

There are two units. Unit 1 is the coursework unit. It consists of three separate units of photographic work, two of which will finally be marked, selected from the general categories of: (i) photojournalism; (ii) fashion; (iii) portraiture; and (iv) illustration and fine art. Each piece of work must be accompanied by relevant preliminary/supporting studies. It is worth 60% of the total marks. In Unit 2 (Controlled Test), you have to respond to a theme question from a selection of seven choices. There is a ten hour total time limit following preliminary/supporting studies which are carried out up to four weeks before the examination. It is worth 40% of the total marks.

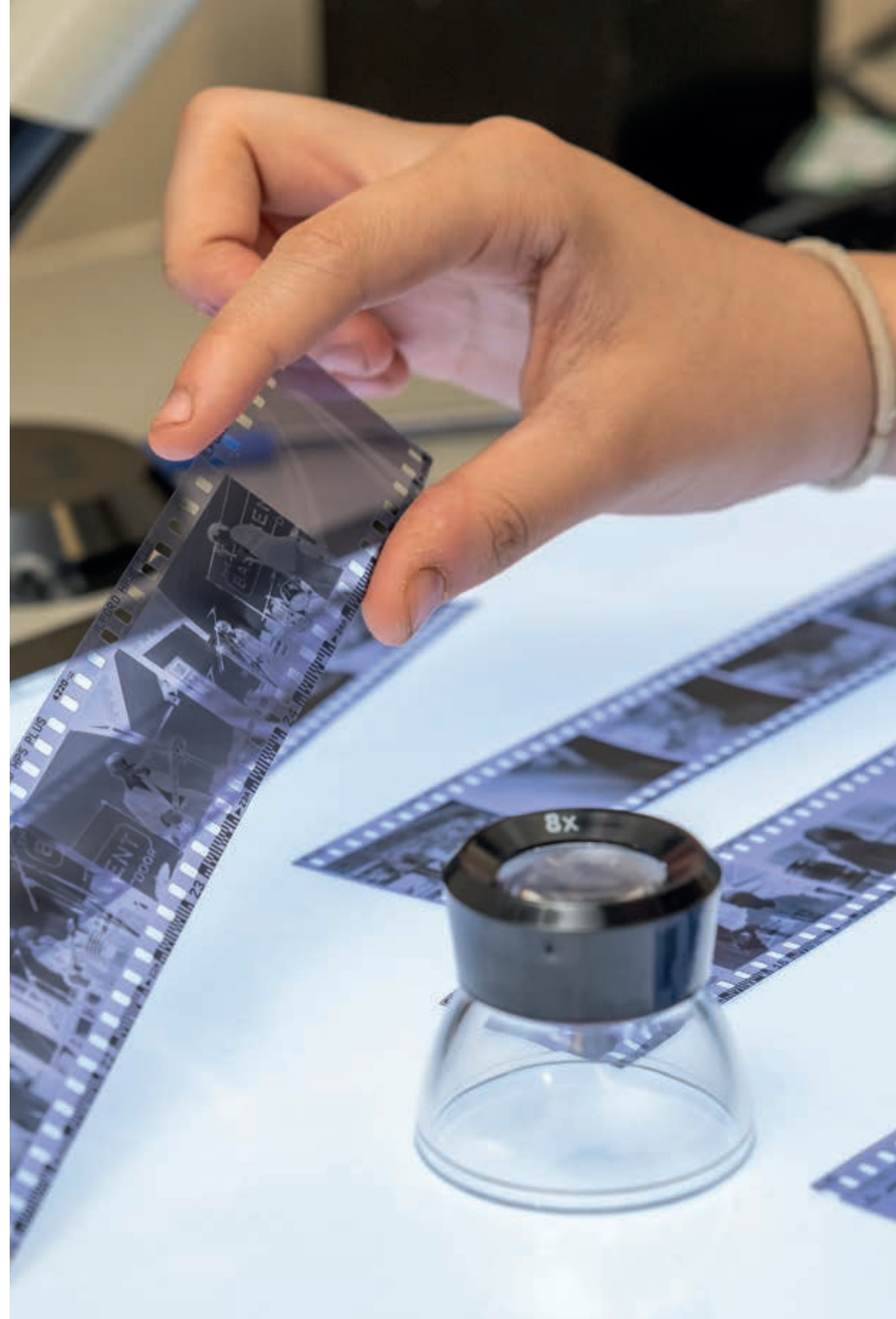
Reading

Photography: A Critical Introduction
By L. Wells
Published by Routledge, ISBN 978-0415460873



Exam Board and Specification Codes
Pearson-Edexcel 1PYO

Head of Department
Greg Ioannou



GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The course

Sport and physical well-being play an increasingly important role in our lives. Knowledge of how the body works and how best to train it so that it can perform at its best is of use to everyone, whether it be so they can help themselves or help others as a trainer. The GCSE provides you with the kind of detailed physiological understanding you need to think about how to improve performance along with how best to construct and evaluate training programmes. It also invites you to consider the sport in the wider context of society by addressing such topics as why some groups participate in organised sports rather than others, the relationship between sport and sponsorship, ethical issues in sports such as the use of performance-enhancing drugs and the positive effects of physical activity on bodily and mental health.

What skills do I need?

You need to be at a good club level in three sports. Out of the three, one must be an individual sport and one must be a team sport. The third sport can be either.

“To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear.”

Buddha

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE is composed of three elements: two written papers and practical element. Paper 1 (The human body and movement in physical activity and sport) assesses four areas of study: (i) applied anatomy and physiology; (ii) movement analysis; (iii) physical training; and (iv) use of data. It is assessed by a written exam of 75 minutes and is worth 30% of the GCSE. Paper 2 (Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport) assesses four further areas of study: (i) sports psychology; (ii) socio-cultural influences; (iii) health, fitness and well-being; and (iv) use of data. It is assessed by a written exam of 75 minutes and is worth 30% of the GCSE. The third and final element is the non-exam assessment (Practical performance in physical activity and sport). This involves practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).

All timetabled PE lessons in college will cover the theoretical elements (Paper 1 and Paper 2) only. This means that the assessed sports must be completed outside of lesson of time with video evidence that the MPW course tutor can assess. Students therefore have responsibility for organising their sporting activities. The college is not responsible for helping them find suitable clubs or teams.

Reading

AQA GCSE (9-1) PE (2nd edition)

By Ross Howitt and Mike Murray

Published by Hodder Education, ISBN-13: 978-1398326521



Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA 8582

Head of Department

Dee Robins



IGCSE PHYSICS

The course

Physics is the study of why and how things work. In physics, the structure and motion of the material world is analysed in terms of fundamental laws, which allow its behaviour to be predicted. In this course students will be exploring many areas of physics, from mechanics to telecommunications, and there will be many opportunities to do practical work. Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussion in order to extend their understanding of the subject. The IGCSE builds a strong foundation for A level study.

The IGCSE course has eight sections. In Section 1 (Forces and motion), you will look at the basic concepts of movement, position, forces, movement, shape and momentum. Section 2 (Electricity) looks at mains electricity, energy and potential difference in circuits, and electric charge. In Section 3 (Waves), you will look at the properties of waves, the electromagnetic spectrum, and light and sound. In Section 4 (Energy resources and energy transfers), you will look at the concepts of energy transfer, work and power, and energy resources and electricity generation.

*“Look deep into nature
and then you will understand
everything better.”*

Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist

Section 5 (Solids, liquids and gases) looks at the concepts of density and pressure, changes of state, and ideal gas molecules. In Section 6 (Magnetism and electromagnetism), you will look at magnetism, electromagnetism, and electromagnetic induction. In Section 7 (Radioactivity and particles), you will look at the basic ideas behind radioactivity, and finally in Section 8 (Astrophysics) you will study stars and galaxies and how they evolve and move as well as looking into the evidence for the Big Bang and the expansion of the Universe.

What skills do I need?

An ideal physicist would need to be very inquisitive about the world and how it works, as well as having an enthusiasm for mathematics and the ability to understand and use precise technical terms. An interest in performing practical work will help you throughout the course, as would being able to understand and produce simplified diagrams of complex ideas.

How is the course assessed?

There are two externally-assessed papers. Each paper covers all topics in the syllabus. Approximately 40% of each paper tests students' knowledge and understanding (eg recalling concepts); 40% of questions test students' application of knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation (eg explaining results in unfamiliar contexts). There is no coursework or practical exam, but 20% of both papers test investigative skills, which are learnt by performing experiments throughout the course. Paper 1 (Unit 1) lasts 2 hours and is worth 61.1% of the total marks. Paper 2 (Unit 2) lasts 1 hour 15 minutes and is worth 38.9% of the total marks.



Reading

**Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) Physics
Student Book**

By B. Arnold, P. Johnson and S Woolley
Published by Pearson, ISBN 978-0-435-18527-5

Exam Board and Specification Codes
Pearson-Edexcel 4PH1

Head of Department
Antonio Torrisi



GCSE PSYCHOLOGY

The course

Psychology is the study of the operation and functioning of the mind/brain, in all its aspects, in relation to our dealings with other human beings and our own selves. It is a subject that is relevant to understanding human behaviour in everyday life. It involves a critical understanding of cultural, social, scientific, and ethical issues. The course is highly structured. Each topic involves key concepts, theories and explanations, research studies and real life application of the research. This new GCSE has also been developed with mental health charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness to provide a course with a focus on mental health which encourages greater awareness of these issues. There is a course textbook designed by the Board to work in conjunction with the course.

You study two units. Unit 01 (Studies and Applications in Psychology 1) looks at Criminal Psychology, Development, Psychological Problems and Research Methods. Unit 02 (Studies and Applications in Psychology 2) looks at Social Influence, Memory, Sleep and Dreaming and Research Methods.

*“The good life is a process,
not a state of being. It is a
direction, not a destination.”*

Carl Rogers

What skills do I need?

You need good literacy skills, an ability to understand scientific concepts and skills in Mathematics.

How is the course assessed?

There are two examination papers- one for each of the units. The papers last 1 hour 30 minutes and are worth 50% of the marks each. A minimum of 20% of the overall marks in both components are for the assessment of Research Methods, and a minimum of 10% of the overall marks are targeted at the assessment of Mathematics related to Research Methods.



Reading

OCR GCSE (9-1) Psychology

By Mark Billingham and
Helen J. Kitching
Published by Hodder Education
ISBN-13: 978-1471899577

My Revision Notes:

OCR GCSE (9-1) Psychology

By Mark Billingham
Published by Hodder Education,
ISBN-13: 978-1510423220

Exam Board and Specification Codes

OCR J203

Head of Department

Konstantinos Foskolos

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The course

GCSE Religious Studies aims to introduce students to the critical and analytical study of religion. The specification is built on the beliefs and practices of the Christian and Islamic traditions. No religious affiliation or belief is necessary to benefit from this academically rigorous course.

The course contains two components: In Component 1 (The Study of Religions), you will study the main religious tradition of Great Britain, Christianity. You will study Christianity and Islam, and their sources of wisdom and authority via sacred texts and teachings. For both Christianity and Islam you will look at beliefs, teachings and practices. This includes the nature of God, the afterlife, worship, pilgrimage and the way that being Christian or Muslim affects believers' lives today.

In Component 2 (Thematic Studies), you will need to show your understanding of religion through the application and teachings of religious beliefs. You will need to be able to make specific reference to sources of wisdom and authority including scripture

and sacred texts. You will also study religious, philosophical and ethical arguments related to issues raised and their impact and influence on the modern world. You must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

You will study four themes from the perspective of Christianity and Islam: Theme A (Relationships and Families) which looks at sexual relationships, marriage and divorce, as well as families and gender equality; Theme B (Religion and Life) which looks at the origins and value of the universe, human life, and environmental ethics; Theme D (Religion, Peace and Conflict) which looks at reasons for war, violent protest and terrorism, religious war and pacifism; Theme E (Religion, Crime and Punishment) which looks at the causes of crime, theories of punishment, forgiveness, and the death penalty.

What skills do I need?

Some previous knowledge will be extremely useful although none is strictly necessary. Students must be prepared to discuss issues intelligently with respect, and it is necessary to have a genuine interest in religious matters. A good standard of literacy is vital.

How is the course assessed?

There are two papers, one for each component. Each paper lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of the GCSE. There is no coursework.

“Theological religion is the source of all imaginable follies and disturbances; it is the parent of fanaticism and civil discord; it is the enemy of mankind.”

Voltaire, philosopher

Reading

AQA Religious Studies A – Islam

By M. Flemming, P. Smith, D. Worden

Published by OUP, ISBN 978-0-19-837034-5

AQA Religious Studies A – Christianity

By M. Flemming, P. Smith, D. Worden

Published by OUP, ISBN 978-0-19-837033-8



Exam Board and Specification Codes

AQA A 8062

Head of Department

Mat Carmody



GCSE RUSSIAN

The course

By learning a foreign language, you give yourself the chance to see the world in a different way. You will also increase your employability as there is always a demand for people who can speak more than one language. Learning Russian is not just learning a foreign language, and will single you out, as it is quite a bit more challenging than other languages usually learnt at school. But it's a great and exciting challenge!

This course focuses primarily on the natural use of language in authentic situations. In Local Area and Holidays, you will cover visitor information, basic weather, local amenities, accommodation, holidays, public transport and directions. In International Dimension, you will look at the environment and social issues. In Identity and Culture, you will look at general interests, leisure activities, family and friends, as well as and lifestyle (healthy eating and exercise). Finally in School and Work, you will look at simple job advertisements, simple job applications and CVs, school and college, and work and work experience.

What skills do I need?

You need an interest in languages and the culture of another country and its people.

“The Iron Curtain may be a thing of the past, but Mother Russia is as mysterious as ever.”

Robert Gottlieb, writer

Reading

Selected Stories

By A. Chekhov

Published by Wordsworth Editions Ltd,
ISBN 978-1853262883



How is the course assessed?

The assessment consists of four units. In Unit 1 (Listening and Understanding in Russian) you will be tested on your ability to understand spoken Russian. The spoken material heard will include both formal and informal speech. The exam lasts 50 minutes (45 minutes + 5 minutes reading time) and is worth 25% of the total marks.

In Unit 2 (Speaking in Russian), you must demonstrate the ability to use Russian for different purposes and in different settings. There are two speaking activities: a role-play, a picture-based discussion related to a chosen theme and a general conversation related to a theme chosen by the examiner. The exam lasts 10-12 minutes and is worth 25% of the total marks.

In Unit 3 (Reading and Understanding in Russian) you will be tested on your ability to understand written Russian. The examination consists of a number of short texts, notices or short news reports in Russian which include a range of settings and styles, both formal and informal (for example text messages, advertisements, emails). There is also a short translation task Russian to English. It lasts 55 minutes and is worth 25% of the total marks.

In Unit 4 (Writing in Russian) you will produce two pieces of Russian writing in response to a choice of 4 questions. The papers reward students for effective communication and knowledge and application of language (as well as accuracy in the second, longer task). You will need to do a short translation English to Russian. The exam lasts 1 hour and 25 minutes and is worth 25% of the total marks.

Exam Board and Specification Codes

Pearson-Edexcel 1RU0

Head of Department

Ana Abad Jara



GCSE SOCIOLOGY

The course

Sociology is the systematic investigation of the behaviour of people in social groups, both large and small, with a focus on the particular but intersecting institutions (such as the family) in which people live their lives. It studies how such institutions operate in the contemporary world and how they have evolved historically (eg how has the family altered and developed in the past century?).

Students must study the following topics: (i) The Sociology of Families; (ii) The Sociology of Education (iii) Crime and Deviance; (iv) Social Stratification; (v) Relevant Areas of Social Theory and Methodology.

“Our whole social environment seems to us to be filled with forces which really exist only in our own minds.”

Emile Durkheim, sociologist

The course offers an introduction to the methodologies of studying society as well as sociological approaches to, and understanding of, the wide range of topics indicated.

What skills do I need?

Although no previous experience of studying sociology is necessary, students should have some interest in, and awareness of social issues affecting people in Britain today. Students need to be able to write clearly and to organise material so as to be able to produce coherent written discussions concerning the topics covered in the course.

How is the course assessed?

The examination consists of two written papers. In Paper 1 you will be examined on Families and Education. In Paper 2 you will be examined on Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification. Within each paper you will be assessed on the relevant areas of Social Theory and Methodology relating to the topics studied. Each paper lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of the GCSE.

Reading

My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology
By Rosie Owens

AQA GCSE 9-1 Sociology All-in-One Complete Revision

AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology, Updated Edition
By David Brown



GCSE SPANISH

The course

By learning a foreign language, you give yourself the chance to see the world in a different way. You can explore a new culture and access films, plays and books as they were meant to be seen and read. You will also increase your employability as there is always a demand for people who can speak more than one language across a very wide range of careers. In this course, you will develop your knowledge of the Spanish language and culture through studying three different areas:

Theme 1: Identity and culture;

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

What skills do I need?

You need an interest in languages and the culture of another country and its people.

“Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better.”

Miguel de Cervantes,

novelist, poet and playwright

How is the course assessed?

The AQA GCSE in Spanish consists of four papers. In Unit 1 (Listening), you will be required to listen to a range of factual and non-factual material in different contexts and in different registers. You will be assessed on your ability to identify and note main points, to deduce the meaning of words from context, to extract specific details, to identify points of view, to show some understanding of unfamiliar language, and to recognize attitudes, emotions and opinions. The paper lasts 45 minutes (40 minutes + 5 minutes reading time) and is worth 25% of the total marks.

In Unit 3 and 4 (Reading and Writing), you will be tested on your ability to understand and use information from a range of texts. In the first extended writing task you will be required to write about 90 words in Spanish. The response will be assessed for communication, content knowledge and application of language. For the second piece of extended writing, you will select one writing task from a choice of three. You will be expected to write a continuous response of about 150 words and you will be expected to express opinions and to use a variety of structures, including a range of tenses. There is also a translation task at the end of the paper. The papers last 1 hour 15 minutes for the writing and 45 minutes for the reading; they are worth 50% of the total marks.

In Unit 2 (Speaking), you have three tasks. In Section A, you will have a discussion about a photo-card (3 minutes). In Section B, you will be required to take part in conversations with the interviewer on a role-play (3 minutes). In part C, you will have a general discussion on two further topics. The total duration of the exam is around 12 minutes and is worth 25% of the total marks.

Reading

AQA GCSE Spanish Higher

By John Halksworth, Viv Halksworth and Richard Martin

Published by Oxford University Press,

ISBN-13: 9780198365853



Exam Board and Specification Codes
AQA 8698

Head of Department
Ana Abad Jara



GCSE TEXTILE DESIGN

The course

GCSE Textiles is an expressive and exciting course. The initial two terms are spent on experimentation and an expressive approach to creating surfaces. Projects include concept analysis, investigation development, drawing skills and surface manipulation. Printmaking and construction techniques can also form a final piece in a unit and you will be expected to attempt these media. Work must be documented and researched using sketchbooks and supporting studies. In the Summer term, you will complete your personal portfolio, which is one of the two coursework units on which you'll be assessed. The other is an externally-set assignment which you will have the end of the course.

You will learn a variety of skills. You will learn how to undertake visual research using primary and secondary sources and record observations, experiences and ideas in appropriate ways. You will learn how to develop and realise ideas and outcomes, explore and review possible solutions and modify your work appropriately.

“I think there is beauty in everything. What ‘normal’ people would perceive as ugly, I can usually see something of beauty in it.”

Alexander McQueen,
fashion designer

You will come to understand and use appropriately and safely a range of materials, equipment, processes and techniques. Finally, you will become familiar with a range of work from past and contemporary practice and from different cultures, so that you are able to demonstrate an understanding of continuity and change in textiles design.

What skills do I need?

Students entering this course should ideally have achieved a general educational level equivalent to National Curriculum Level 3. The course will suit you if you are creative, enthusiastic and imaginative and want to communicate your ideas and opinions via mixed media textile application and design. You should enjoy learning how to use different processes to develop your visual skills, and should be willing to experiment and take risks with your ideas.

How is the course assessed?

The coursework is divided into two units. Unit 1 (Personal Portfolio in Textiles) is the coursework you complete over the course of the year. It is completed and internally assessed – usually before the end of May – followed by a visit by an external assessor who moderates the marks. The assessment takes the form of a small exhibition in the art department. It amounts to approximately 45 hours of supervised activity and is worth 60% of the marks. For Unit 2 (Externally Set Assignment), an exam is set early in the Summer term. This work is completed by May. It amounts to approximately 30 hours of supervised activity including ten hours of sustained focus and is worth 40% of the total.



Reading

5000 Years of Textiles

By J. Harris

Published by BMP, ISBN 978-0714150895

Radical Fashion at the V&A

By C. Wilcox



GCSE THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

The course

GCSE Three-dimensional Design is concerned with the modelling or making of Ceramics and sculptural pieces. Students should engage with appropriate processes, materials and construction techniques, using maquettes, models and working drawings to help take their initial ideas through to realisation. Students will also understand that Three-dimensional Design practitioners may work within a small team environment or work as freelance practitioners.

All knowledge, understanding and skills will be assessed in both components:

1. the use of formal elements and visual communication through a variety of approaches
2. the use of observational skill to record from sources and communicate ideas
3. the elements of three-dimensional design such as light, space, form, scale and proportion
4. the effects and creative potential of combining and manipulating different two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials and media

“I’ve never seen myself as a potter or as part of the crafts movement. I am a conceptual artist masquerading as a craftsman.”

Grayson Perry

5. the use of digital and/or non-digital applications. Drawing and other materials processes. Students of Three-dimensional Design need to demonstrate how a three-dimensional world can be translated into a two-dimensional. It is important to develop drawing skills to express a range of emotions, using different tools, materials and techniques. The formal elements should also be applied, especially those such as texture, colour and light.

What skills do I need?

Students entering this course should ideally have achieved a general educational level equivalent to National Curriculum Level 3. The course will suit you if you are creative, enthusiastic and imaginative and want to communicate your ideas in 3D. You should enjoy learning how to use different processes to develop your visual skills, and be willing to experiment and take risks with your ideas.

How is the course assessed?

The coursework is divided into two units. Unit 1 (Personal Portfolio in Art and Design) is the coursework you complete over the course of the year. It is completed and assessed – usually before the end of May – followed by a visit by an external assessor who moderates the marks. The assessment takes the form of a small exhibition in the art department. It amounts to approximately 45 hours of supervised activity and is worth 60% of the marks. For Unit 2 (Externally Set Assignment), an exam is set early in the Summer term. This work is completed by May. It amounts to approximately 30 hours of supervised activity including ten hours of sustained focus and is worth 40% of the total.





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