



KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

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INTRODUCTION

With great excitement, we introduce our first cohort of Swan students to choosing their GCSE options. The transition from KS3 to KS4 is one with many rites of passage, and none more so than starting down the journey of choosing which subjects each of you will study. Our curriculum is unashamedly challenging and academic at The Swan, but we also value breadth and creativity, so we are delighted to be able to offer a wide range of subjects that meet both of these requirements.

Core Subjects

All students will study the English, Maths and Science to GCSE level, sitting either 5 or 6 GCSEs in these subjects, depending on whether they sit combined (double) or separate (triple) Sciences. We also see foreign languages as core at the Swan, so all students will sit French GCSE (apart from a very small number of students who instead receive extra support with their literacy).

Optional Subjects

All students will choose to study one humanities subject, either History or Geography. This means that all students (bar the few withdrawn from French) will study for, sit, and hopefully achieve, the English Baccalaureate package of qualifications. This will keep doors open for further study and employment for our students, as well as demonstrating how much they have learned academically! Students choose two further 'options subjects'. Due to the academic nature of our other courses, we can be flexible here for students to pursue their interests and passions. There is no 'hierarchy' of subjects and students are encouraged to study what they enjoy and are good at. We hope students are excited to choose out of this wide range of subjects to study at GCSE.

Other

In addition to their academic study, students will also participate in PE Electives and Supervised Study each fortnight, to give them a chance to continue to stay fit, active and healthy, as well as get their homework done at school as far as possible. This booklet contains details about what the GCSE model will be, the process of choosing options, and then a summary of each subject. Use it to start conversation at home and at school about which subjects you will choose. Enjoy!

Mr MacNaughton
Deputy Headteacher

OPTIONS OVERVIEW

CORE SUBJECTS

Maths (eight hours per fortnight)

English Literature & English Language (eight hours per fortnight)

Science Combined (Double) or Separate (Triple) (12 hours per fortnight)

French (six hours per fortnight)

HUMANITIES OPTIONS

History or Geography (six hours per fortnight)

OPTION A & OPTION B

(Six hours per fortnight per choice)

RE

Music

Art

German

PE

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Design & Technology:

Workshop Pathway

Design & Technology: Textiles Pathway

Computer Science

History

Geography

Sociology

Psychology

Drama

Business Studies

Economics

NON EXAMINED

Elective PE (three hours per fortnight)

Supervised Study (three hours per fortnight)

TIMELINE

STEP 1

Options Launch Assembly
Week 10 Cycle 1

STEP 2

Parent Day Options
Presentation Week 12 Cycle 1

STEP 3

Options Tutor time Survey
Week 12 Cycle 1

STEP 4

Options Booklet Issued Week
13 Cycle 1

STEP 5

Options Evening Late
January Cycle 2

STEP 6

Guidance Meeting in tutor
time February Cycle 2

STEP 7

Final Options Choices end of
Cycle 2

KS4 STUDY

What stays the same?

Expectations of hard work and behaviour

Still studying core subjects (Maths, English, Science, French, Humanities)

Uniform and Equipment Expectations

Still take part in Supervised Study

What is different?

Students won't study all subjects

There will be some choice

There will be some new subjects (eg Drama and Sociology)

Homework won't just be self quizzing, sometimes it may be practice questions or essays

Electives and PE are combined. You will have 4 or 5 choices of what to do in PE from a range of options. This will involve team sports, individual sports and alternative options.

SUBJECT GUIDE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Is it compulsory or optional?

Compulsory.

What will lessons be like?

Lessons will be very similar to the lessons you have had in Years 7-9, but will either have a Literature or a Language focus. There will be 5 classes, with 4 slightly smaller classes and 1 very small group for students who need some extra support with their literacy. This group of students will be withdrawn from French and receive extra English tuition instead.

How will it be useful for my future?

Completely essential. English qualifications are required for progress into further education and almost all jobs. Furthermore, developing a love of reading will be beneficial to your life in general, given that reading has been linked to a whole host of health benefits, including living longer!

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

AQA GCSE English Literature (8702)

Paper 1: Shakespeare (Macbeth) and the 19th-century novel (Frankenstein). Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 64 marks, 40% of GCSE.

Paper 2: Modern texts (Never Let Me Go) and poetry (Students will study the 15 poems in the 'Power and Conflict' cluster of the AQA poetry anthology, Poems Past and Present). Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes, 96 marks, 60% of GCSE.

AQA GCSE English Language (8700)

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks, 50% of GCSE.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of GCSE.

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language. Throughout the course students are assessed on their ability to present, respond to questions and feedback and their use of Standard English. This is marked by your teacher.

Any other information I need to know?

Students require their own copy of the correct edition of the set texts, which the school will buy and take payment for via Parent Mail. Those who qualify for or need financial support will receive free copies.

SUBJECT GUIDE: MATHEMATICS

Is it compulsory or optional?

Compulsory. Fortunately everyone gets at least another two years of Maths in their life!

What will lessons be like?

Lessons will be similar to lessons you had in KS3 with the focus on learning, practicing and developing skills in Number, Algebra and Geometry. Many topics we have already covered will be explored in greater detail including Quadratic Equations, Trigonometry and Graphs.

You will also study different areas of Mathematics such as Statistics, Probability and Data.

How will it be useful for my future?

Studying GCSE Maths is absolutely crucial for your future! Learning and studying Mathematics is one of the best ways to strengthen skills you will use every day of your life including logic, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Passing GCSE Maths is also a requirement for almost all careers. Furthermore, Maths compliments a vast array of subjects you may wish to study for A-Level or at University and many courses require a good Maths grade in order for you to study them.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Edexcel GCSE Mathematics (1MA1) - 3 Exam papers sat at the end of Year 11. Each paper is 90 minutes long and worth 80 marks.

Paper 1 - 90 minutes - 80 marks - Non-calculator

Paper 2 - 90 minutes - 80 marks - Calculator

Paper 3 - 90 minutes - 80 marks - Calculator

Each of these papers will make up exactly one third of your total Maths GCSE.

Any other information I need to know?

The course is also split into Higher and Foundation with most students sitting Higher. If you sit the Foundation GCSE, you can achieve a maximum of Grade 5, but some Higher Tier content does not feature in the Foundation exam, making it easier to get some marks.

SUBJECT GUIDE: SCIENCE

Is it compulsory or optional?

Compulsory

What will lessons be like?

Very similar to Year 9. You will have 3 different teachers, one for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There will be 5 classes, with 4 slightly smaller classes and 1 very small group for students who need some extra support.

How will it be useful for my future?

Science is very important for everyone in our society and scientific knowledge is essential for understanding the world around you. Qualifications in science can lead to a vast array of routes for further study or work.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

The majority of students will study 3 separate GCSEs: 1 in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is sometimes known as 'Triple Science' or 'Separate Sciences'. Each GCSE will have 2 exam papers which are equally weighted.

AQA GCSE Biology (8461)

AQA GCSE Chemistry (8462)

AQA GCSE Physics (8463)

A small number of students who require more support will study Combined Science. This qualification is equivalent to 2 GCSEs, so these students will cover less content and therefore have more time for practice. Your science teachers will decide if you are more suited to this course by the end of year 10. There are 6 equally weighted exams for this course, 2 each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy (8464)

Any other information I need to know?

There is no coursework in science but you will carry out a series of Core Practical activities throughout the course which can be asked about in your exams.

SUBJECT GUIDE:

FRENCH

Is it compulsory or optional?

French is compulsory, unless you receive extra literacy support. This will be agreed between parents, students, the Head of MFL, the Head of English and the Deputy Headteacher.

What will lessons be like?

The lessons will be similar to what you have experienced at KS3, but there will be fewer students in your class, to ensure that we can focus on all 4 skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking.

We will use Quizlet to support you with vocabulary learning, and also Kerboodle and the Language Gym for more varied homework tasks.

During the French GCSE course, you will broaden your knowledge of the culture of French-speaking countries, and you will develop your grammar and vocabulary.

How will it be useful for my future?

Studying French will also teach you some very valuable skills that you will be able to put to use in the future: the ability to communicate clearly, being a confident public speaker, thinking on your feet and solving problems.

If you are thinking of continuing your studies after your GCSEs and A levels, both colleges and universities regard a GCSE in Modern Languages very favourably.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

The exam board we use is AQA.

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Each paper is worth 25% of the GCSE grade.

The 4 papers are:

Paper 1: Listening

Section A: questions and answers in English

Section B: questions and answers in French

Paper 2: Speaking

The speaking exam has 3 components: Role play; Describe a photocard; General conversation

Paper 3: Reading

Section A: questions and answers in English

Section B: questions and answers in French

Section C: translation French to English

Paper 4: Writing

2 or 3 writing tasks, depending on tier

Translation from English to French

Any other information I need to know?

In Year 9 lessons, you have already started learning GCSE content. There are 12 units overall, and we cover the first 3 units in Year 9.

SUBJECT GUIDE:

HISTORY

Is it compulsory or optional?

You must study History OR Geography as one of your GCSE options. There is also the option to take both History AND Geography by selecting one as your Option A or B choice.

What will lessons be like?

Lessons will feel very familiar in terms of the routines and activities we will be doing. The focus on fluent historical knowledge as the foundation for great extended writing will also remain.

There will be some changes as we will be following a GCSE specification which sets out what content you will cover. We will also be using GCSE textbooks rather than bespoke booklets.

How will it be useful for my future?

The study of history at The Swan prepares you for every possible future. You will gain a highly respected and flexible qualification for your progression into A-Level and higher education, but also you will gain an understanding of the world as it is.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

We will be studying the AQA History specification and you will study the following options over Year 10 and 11. Each unit has been selected because either it builds on your learning from Year 7 to 9 or, it broadens your knowledge.

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World [written exam, 2 hours, 50% of GCSE]

America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality

Conflict and tension: the First World War, 1894–1918

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation [written exam, 2 hours, 50% of GCSE]

Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day

Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

The exams feature some short questions related to historical sources such as pictures, posters or short pieces of writing and a range of different essay questions similar to the extended writing you have done from Year 7 to 9.

Any other information I need to know?

The course is also split into Higher and Foundation with most students sitting Higher. If you sit the Foundation GCSE, you can achieve a maximum of Grade 5, but some Higher Tier content does not feature in the Foundation exam, making it easier to get some marks.

SUBJECT GUIDE: GEOGRAPHY

Is it compulsory or optional?

You must study History OR Geography as one of your GCSE options. There is also the option to take both History AND Geography by selecting one as your Option A or B choice.

What will lessons be like?

Lessons will be similar to those in Year 7, 8 and 9. Students will build on their knowledge from Key Stage Three and cover new content such as Hot Deserts. There will also be at least two trips during Year 10 and 11 where students will conduct human and physical geography fieldwork investigations.

How will it be useful for my future?

Studying Geography GCSE will provide an opportunity to understand the relationship between physical science and the human world. The course covers relevant and current topics which help students understand the world around them and recognise the social, economic and physical forces that shape our world. Students will gain transferable skills such as field work experience, interpreting data and written communications skills.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Exam board: AQA

There are 3 written papers which form the course:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

Hazards (Natural Hazards, Tectonic Hazards, Weather Hazards, Climate Change)

The Living World (Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests, Hot Deserts)

Physical Landscapes in the UK (Coasts, Rivers)

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

Urban Issues and Challenges

The Changing Economic World

The Challenge of Resource Management

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

A problem-solving task based on a case study taught in lessons.

Questions based on two fieldwork investigations completed in Year 10 and 11.

Any other information I need to know?

The course is also split into Higher and Foundation with most students sitting Higher. If you sit the Foundation GCSE, you can achieve a maximum of Grade 5, but some Higher Tier content does not feature in the Foundation exam, making it easier to get some marks.

SUBJECT GUIDE: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional

What will lessons be like?

Lessons will feel similar to previous years, but the depth and detail studied will be greater. We will be focusing on two religions in particular which will give our focus for Exam 1, these will be Christianity and Buddhism. These will focus on the belief systems themselves, but also how believers will act upon these beliefs and put them into practice.

We will then be studying a number of different topics through the lens of the two religions. The topics will be covered in 4 modules (Family & Relationships, Religion & Life, Peace & Conflict and Crime & Punishment) which are closely linked to your Year 9 lessons.

How will it be useful for my future?

A Religious Studies qualification will assist you with whatever your next step may be, as we'll develop skills to assist you in all aspects of life. The ability to understand a perspective beyond our own will be invaluable in our ever-developing multicultural society.

We'll study religions that have informed and created the world as we know it today. Not just looking at what exists or happens, but why it happens!

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Exam board: AQA Religious Studies

2 exams - 1 hour 45 minutes each. Each is worth 50% of GCSE.

See above for specifics of each section.

Exam 1 - Study of 2 Religions (Beliefs & Practices)

Exam 2 - Thematic Studies

Any other information I need to know?

You don't need to believe to enjoy or succeed at Religious Studies!

SUBJECT GUIDE:

PE

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

The majority of lessons will be theory based (GCSE PE is not just playing sport so please don't pick it if you're not interested in the theory side). There are two modules broken down into subsections:

1. The human body and movement in physical activity and sport- this will look at physiology and anatomy, movement analysis, physical training and use of data.
2. Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport- this will look at sports psychology, socio-cultural influences and health fitness and wellbeing.

There will also be practical lessons to develop skills in different sports which will help towards the practical assessment. During these lessons we will be linking the theory to support learning and understanding of the content learnt in lessons.

How will it be useful for my future?

During the PE course you will gain a greater understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance, understand more about the benefits of sport on health, fitness and wellbeing to help you with those aspects outside of PE and school.

As a sports person it will help you to perform effectively in different sports by developing skills and techniques and selecting tactics and strategies that are specific to those sports. It will also help you to develop the ability to analyse and evaluate performance to help in your own sport but also lay good foundations if coaching is a career path you want to go down.

Through this course we want you to be inspired, motivated and challenged, and enable you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Exam board: AQA

Exams: There are written 2 papers based on the 2 modules mentioned above

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

1 hour 15mins

30% of GCSE

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport

1 hour 15 mins

30% of GCSE

Practical assessment

40% of GCSE

Assessed in 3 different physical activities (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity) with a focus on specific skills and in the full context of the sport. Students will be assessed on their analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Any other information I need to know?

It is highly recommended that you are playing a sport outside of school at a club for the practical element of the course. If not outside school, you need to make sure you are regularly attending a sports club in school. Both are ideal.

IMPORTANT: Please note, this course is heavy on theory looking at the knowledge and understanding behind how we play sport. If you are picking this course based upon the fact that you just want to play sport please think carefully as the majority is theory in classrooms.

SUBJECT GUIDE: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional

What will lessons be like?

An exciting, practical focus on real-life programming, developing skills relevant to the future.

How will it be useful for my future?

Prepare you with the knowledge to pursue this subject further as either A-levels, BTECs or Apprenticeships in Software Development.

We live in a technological age, so this course will set you up for many future career paths.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Exam board to be decided, all boards will have similar content, but if Edexcel:

Two Papers:

Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science

Worth 50%

Written Examination (1 hour 30 minutes)

This paper 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.

Topics:

- Algorithms and Truth Tables
- Pseudocode and Flowcharts
- Binary
- Data representation and storage
- Hardware and Software of computers
- Characteristics of Programming Languages
- Computer Networks
- Emerging Trends in Computer Technologies
- Ethical, Legal and Ownership issues

Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking

Worth 50%

Onscreen Examination (2 hours)

This practical paper requires students to design, write, test and refine programs in order to solve problems. Students will complete this assessment onscreen using their Integrated Development Environment (IDE) of choice.

Students should then answer the questions onscreen using Python 3.

This assessment consists of six compulsory questions.

Topics:

- Algorithms
- Creating Programs
- Decompose and Analyse Problems
- Read, Write, Refine and Evaluate Programs
- Coding in Python 3

Any other information I need to know?

This is a highly logical subject that requires lots of reasoning and problem solving. It is academically demanding. Computer Science has a strong foundation in Mathematics.

SUBJECT GUIDE:

ART & DESIGN

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

You will develop skills in a wide range of media and processes, which you will apply to your own creative ideas based on contextual research of contemporary and historical artists.

How will it be useful for my future?

Art and Design equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a GCSE subject. It will allow students to go on to study in a wide range of creative subjects or access employment in the creative industries.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Edexcel Art and Design

Component 1: Personal Portfolio

120 guided hours

60% of the GCSE

Students create a personal portfolio of work that demonstrates critical and contextual understanding, practical skills in drawing and material processes, the ability to refine ideas through experimenting with media, materials and processes, annotate work using specialist vocabulary to show intention, create a personal response to a theme guided by the teacher.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Extended preparatory period followed by 10 hours

40% of the GCSE

Students must present a portfolio of work in response to an externally set broad-based thematic starting point, set by the exam board. This will culminate in a 10 hour practical piece produced under exam conditions.

Component 1 and Component 2 will be marked internally and moderated by the exam board.

Any other information I need to know?

You will need to have a basic range of art materials to be able to complete the necessary work required outside of class.

SUBJECT GUIDE:

FOOD PREP & NUTRITION

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

You will learn about nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials alongside practical cookery skills.

How will it be useful for my future?

You will develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials alongside practical skills that will allow you to go on to further study, or a career in the food industries.

More importantly it will equip you with essential life skills for the future.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition

Paper 1: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of the GCSE

Testing your theoretical knowledge of:

- Food nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choices
- Food Provenance

NEA (Non-exam assessment)

Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks)

Evidence: Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Assessing your understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks)

Evidence: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

Assessing your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

You will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

NEA will be marked internally and moderated by the exam board.

Any other information I need to know?

You will need to plan and shop for ingredients.

SUBJECT GUIDE:

DT – TEXTILES PATHWAY

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

You will learn how and why products are made, and how to use textiles to design and make products in a real life context.

How will it be useful for my future?

You will become a responsible consumer that understands the environmental and social impact of products. You will have developed the skills to solve problems creatively. It can lead to further education and careers in the design industry.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

AQA Design and Technology

Paper 1

Written exam: 2 hour

100 marks

50% of the GCSE

Testing your knowledge of:

Core technical principles, including: new and emerging technologies; energy generation and storage; developments in new materials; systems approach to designing; mechanical devices; materials and their working properties.

Specialist technical principles, including: selection of materials or components; forces and stresses; ecological and social footprint; sources and origins; using and working with materials; stock forms, types and sizes; scales of production; specialist techniques and processes; surface treatments and finishes.

Designing and making principles, including: investigation, primary and secondary data; environmental, social and economic challenge; the work of others; design strategies; communication of design ideas; prototype development; selection of materials and components; tolerances; material management; specialist tools and equipment; specialist techniques and processes.

NEA (Non-exam assessment)

30 - 35 hours

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Task: A substantial design and make task

Assessment criteria:

Identifying and investigating design possibilities

Producing a design brief and specification

Generating design ideas

Developing design ideas

Realising design ideas

Analysing & evaluating

Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

NEA will be marked internally and moderated by the exam board.

Any other information I need to know?

If you choose this option you cannot also choose Design and Technology: Workshop Pathway.

SUBJECT GUIDE:

DT – WORKSHOP PATHWAY

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

You will learn how and why products are made, and how to use timber and polymers to design and make products in a real life context.

How will it be useful for my future?

You will become a responsible consumer that understands the environmental and social impact of products. You will have developed the skills to solve problems creatively. It can lead to further education and careers in the design industry.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

AQA Design and Technology

Paper 1

Written exam: 2 hour

100 marks

50% of the GCSE

Testing your knowledge of:

Core technical principles, including: new and emerging technologies; energy generation and storage; developments in new materials; systems approach to designing; mechanical devices; materials and their working properties.

Specialist technical principles, including: selection of materials or components; forces and stresses; ecological and social footprint; sources and origins; using and working with materials; stock forms, types and sizes; scales of production; specialist techniques and processes; surface treatments and finishes.

Designing and making principles, including: investigation, primary and secondary data; environmental, social and economic challenge; the work of others; design strategies; communication of design ideas; prototype development; selection of materials and components; tolerances; material management; specialist tools and equipment; specialist techniques and processes.

NEA (Non-exam assessment)

30 - 35 hours

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Task: A substantial design and make task

Assessment criteria:

Identifying and investigating design possibilities

Producing a design brief and specification

Generating design ideas

Developing design ideas

Realising design ideas

Analysing & evaluating

Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

NEA will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Any other information I need to know?

If you choose this option you cannot also choose Design and Technology: Textiles Pathway.

SUBJECT GUIDE:

GERMAN

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

We will have a small group of keen linguists, so we will be able to progress fast.

We will use Quizlet to support you with vocabulary learning, and also Kerboodle and the Language Gym for more varied homework tasks.

How will it be useful for my future?

During the German GCSE course, you will broaden your knowledge of the culture of German-speaking countries, and you will develop your grammar and vocabulary.

Studying German will also teach you some very valuable skills that you will be able to put to use in the future: the ability to communicate clearly, being a confident public speaker, thinking on your feet and solving problems.

Having a second language on top of French will really set you apart.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

The exam board we use is AQA.

GCSE German has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Each paper is worth 25% of the GCSE grade.

The 4 papers are:

Paper 1: Listening

Section A: questions and answers in English

Section B: questions and answers in German

Paper 2: Speaking

The speaking exam has 3 components:

- Role play
- Describe a photocard
- General conversation

Paper 3: Reading

Section A: questions and answers in English

Section B: questions and answers in German

Section C: translation German to English

Paper 4: Writing

2 or 3 writing tasks, depending on tier

Translation from English to German

Any other information I need to know?

This course is not suitable for German native speakers.

SUBJECT GUIDE: MUSIC

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

Lessons will follow a similar format to the current Key Stage 3 lessons. Lessons will include elements of music theory, listening skills, performance of composition, however, the compositions and performances will be worked on over a longer period of time.

Likewise, the genres and pieces studied in the lesson will be returned to throughout the course, meaning that different genres will be studied in greater depth.

How will it be useful for my future?

The Music GCSE provides students with a wide range of skills that are unique to Music, such as composition and performance. This provides students with an opportunity to explore skills they might not be able to access elsewhere. Through composition, students learn some ICT skills, and the performance allows students to develop their confidence in presenting, which is useful for many career routes. Moreover, Music provides students with a fulfilling creative outlet regardless of their chosen career route.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

The exam board we use is Edexcel.

There are three components to the GCSE:

Performance (30% of GCSE)

Composition (30% of GCSE)

Appraisal (40% of GCSE)

You will complete two performances (one solo, and one ensemble/group) and two compositions.

The appraisal component will be based on genres and pieces that will be studied during the two-year GCSE course. This component will result in an exam at the end of Year 11.

Any other information I need to know?

This course is suitable for those that currently take instrumental lessons and those who do not, due to the high level of performance and theory taught at Key Stage 3.

The composition and performance components (worth 60% altogether) will be worked on throughout the course.

SUBJECT GUIDE:

DRAMA

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

All students devise drama. All students explore texts practically and work on two text-based performances. Students can choose to develop as a performer, designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets), performer and designer. Whichever option they choose, students can be sure to gather many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

How will it be useful for my future?

The course aims to encourage an interest in, and understanding of, a range of drama and theatre experiences. It will also increase self and group awareness, develop imagination, communication, creative and social skills.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

AQA 8261

Component 1: Understanding drama Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre Study of one set play from a choice of six Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes (40% of GCSE)
Component 2: Devising drama (practical) Process of creating devised drama Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer) Analysis and evaluation of own work How it's assessed Devising log (60 marks) Devised performance (20 marks) (40% of GCSE) .
Component 3: Texts in practice (practical) Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer) How it's assessed Performance of Extract 1 and Extract 2 (20% of GCSE)

Any other information I need to know?

As this is a new GCSE some of this information may be subject to change (for example the exam board), once we have appointed a Drama teacher.

SUBJECT GUIDE: SOCIOLOGY

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

GCSE Sociology is a brand-new subject area. It is an exciting subject full of modern topics and issues. You will need to learn some foundational skills, knowledge, and a new sociological language to help you know what it means to be a good sociologist. You will be gaining knowledge about the structure of society, how people learn different behaviours and why we act in certain ways with different groups of people. You will be studying how sociologists research different aspects of society and whether that research is reliable, valid and generalisable. You will be studying this research and developing an ability to deepen your understanding of society by focusing on some key areas of social life, including families, education, crime, and different types of groups in society (social stratification).

How will it be useful for my future?

You will develop a range of skills including data analysis, an ability to compare and contrasting theoretical views on a variety of social issues. You will also learn how to write like a sociologist. In studying sociology, you will be thinking about and understanding the world from a very different perspective.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

AQA 8192

How will you be assessed?

100% Examination (2 Exam papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each) Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification Each section of each exam paper includes the following types of questions Multiple choice questions Range of short and extended responses.

Any other information I need to know?

As this is a new GCSE some of this information may be subject to change (for example the exam board), once we have appointed a Sociology teacher.

SUBJECT GUIDE: PSYCHOLOGY

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

Psychology is the study of people, the mind and behaviour. It is a popular subject with students because it has a big impact on all areas of life, such as education, health, the economy, industry and crime. If you are interested in finding out why people behave the way they do or how the brain works then psychology could be for you. There are a fascinating range of topics such as:

- The reliability of our memories
- What factors influence obedience to authority? Would you do anything that an authority figure tells you to do?
- Do watching aggressive acts cause us to act more aggressively ourselves?
- Can chimpanzees learn sign language?
- What happens to our brains when we dream?
- What is going on inside the minds of gambling addicts?

How will it be useful for my future?

Taking a GCSE in Psychology will give you a good grounding in the subject and will help to decide whether you would like to study it further and/or become a professional psychologist. These people may work in research, in the healthcare system (as therapists or clinical psychologists), in business (as occupational psychologists) or in the Prison system (as forensic psychologists). Psychology is also useful in many other careers because it develops a number of transferable skills which are useful in many jobs and professions.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Memory, Perception, Development, Research methods

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour

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

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

Any other information I need to know?

As this is a new GCSE some of this information may be subject to change (for example the exam board), once we have appointed a Psychology teacher.

SUBJECT GUIDE: BUSINESS STUDIES

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

Students will learn about a full range of business issues and topics in this exciting course. Students will become skilled at business decision making, being creative, working with numbers, communicating and working as part of team. Students will have the opportunity to visit businesses such as the Ashmolean, to look at how the business runs and go behind the scenes. This engages students to grasp theoretical issues in a practical environment. The subject is extremely interactive and we use a range of teaching methods that engage our students and allow them to express their ideas in an environment that is conducive to achievement.

How will it be useful for my future?

GCSE Business provides the ideal gateway to study A Level Business and/or A Level Economics. The course could lead to careers in accountancy, law, journalism, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Edexcel 1BS0

Paper 1 – Theme 1: Investigating small business Written exam: 90 minutes, 90 marks. 50% of the total GCSE. Multiple choice, calculation, short-answer and extended-writing questions. There are three sections in the paper. Each section starts with multiple choice questions, moving to short answer questions and ending with extended writing. Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.

Paper 2 – Theme 2: Building a business Written exam: 90 minutes, 90 marks. 50% of the total GCSE. Multiple choice, calculation, short-answer and extended-writing questions. There are three sections in the paper. Each section starts with multiple choice questions, moving to short answer questions and ending with extended writing. Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.

Any other information I need to know?

As this is a new GCSE some of this information may be subject to change (for example the exam board), once we have appointed a Business teacher.

SUBJECT GUIDE: ECONOMICS

Is it compulsory or optional?

Optional.

What will lessons be like?

Economics will help open your mind to the world; helping you to grapple with current affairs and moral issues. You will learn to approach a mixture of written essays, graphs and some mathematical content.

Issues such as market failure, energy, banking, green taxes, poverty and wages will be considered, in the context of live issues such as Brexit, and global markets. A keen interest and knowledge of current events is vital. The course will prepare you for a wide range of further study due to its diversity and flexibility.

How will it be useful for my future?

GCSE Economics provides the ideal gateway to study A Level Economics. The course could lead to careers in accountancy, law, journalism, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry. Slightly more technical and Mathematical than GCSE Business studies this is perfect for students who want to take Economics onto A Level and University.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

AQA Economics 8136

Paper 1: How markets work

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

Questions

Section A: 10 multiple choice questions followed by a range of calculation, short and extended response questions.

Section B: five questions involving a mix of calculations, short and extended responses.

Paper 2: How the economy works

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

Questions

Section A: 10 multiple choice questions followed by a range of calculation, short and extended response questions.

Section B: five questions involving a mix of calculations, short and extended responses.

Any other information I need to know?

As this is a new GCSE some of this information may be subject to change (for example the exam board), once we have appointed an Economics teacher.

ELECTIVE PE

Is it compulsory or optional?

Compulsory.

What will lessons be like?

There will be a wide range of choice within PE with lots of new things to try and engage with.

Expectations will be the same as KS3 PE. Only 3 lessons a fortnight.

How will it be useful for my future?

Going into GCSEs, PE will be crucial in having a time to get out of a classroom and to come and enjoy doing something active to benefit your wellbeing. Not only is it beneficial for your physical health but also your mental health, your academics and learning, a really good time to socialise and get some stress out.

The range of options that will be on offer will help you find some physical activity that you enjoy and carry on with past school and into adulthood with a lifelong love of physical activity and sport.

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

Not examined.

Any other information I need to know?

Not examined.

SUPERVISED STUDY

Is it compulsory or optional?

Compulsory.

What will lessons be like?

Similar to KS3, except you won't just be quizzing, instead you will have more extended homework for each subject.

How will it be useful for my future?

This is a chance for you to complete less homework at home, so you can rest, socialise and explore other interests. It will also help raise your GCSE grades as you will complete more practice!

What are the exams like? (include exam board and specification)

No exams

SPACE FOR NOTES

The background of the page features a repeating pattern of stylized, light gray swans. Each swan is depicted in profile, facing right, with its neck elegantly curved. The swans are distributed across the page, creating a subtle, decorative backdrop for the text.



 The
Swan
School