



Smestow Academy

YEAR 9 PATHWAYS

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OPTIONS PATHWAYS

What are Options Pathways?

Based on our pupil's prior progress in Key stage 3 (Year 7 to 9) they will be selected for one of two Option pathways:

Pathway 1 (EBACC Pathway)

All pupils will study French, History OR Geography and then select two other options. The EBACC is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors. A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides pupils with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

Subjects on offer on the Ebacc Pathway:

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
French	History Geography	Art Business Religious Studies Drama Psychology Textiles	Health & Social Care Business Triple Science Sport IT

Pathway 2

All pupils will decide between History or Geography. Pupils will then pick one subject as a preference and one subject as an insurance.

Subjects on offer on Pathway 2:

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
History Geography	French Health & Social Care Sport IT	Art Business Religious Studies Drama Psychology Textiles	Health & Social Care Business Triple Science Sport IT

GCSE English Language

Course Code: 8700

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

English Language is one of the core compulsory subjects that every student must study at Key Stage 4 and it is a vital part of your well rounded education and an absolutely essential part of your next step towards further and higher education. It will help you to build and develop your reading, writing and verbal communication skills which are vital to ensure your success in this and every subject you study. You will enhance your skills in reading and writing for meaning and purpose and become even better at communicating in the written form. Skills which will help you not only in your everyday life but help you get onto the apprenticeship scheme of your choice or advance to the next level of education at A Level and Level 3 and beyond that at University too.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study a range of Fiction and Non-Fiction writing as well as complete a wide study of different types of writing from narrative and description, to persuasive pieces. You will also complete a Spoken Language Assessment that assesses your skills in preparing and talking to an audience.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment Objectives: The skills you need to demonstrate.

Two exam papers:

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 1 Hr 45 minutes – 50% of your overall grade.

Paper 2 – Writer’s viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 Hr 45 minutes – 50% of your overall grade.

Spoken Language Assessment – you require a Pass to access a Grade in English Language

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

A Levels, BTEC Level 3, further and higher education – often a Key requirement for entry to university at Grade 5.

A Level English Literature, A Level English Language, A Level English Language and Literature. Useful to follow History, Law, Psychology, Sociology – and subjects where being able to read with meaning and write at a high level is important. Careers in Teaching, Law, Librarian, Journalism, Advertising, Media and many more.

GCSE English Literature

Course Code: 8702

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

Like English Language this is one of the Core Subjects you will study at Key Stage 4. It will equip you with great skills on being able to communicate as well as analyse writing from all sorts of eras. It encourages interpretation skills and gives you the opportunity to develop your own viewpoint about what a writer has intended to convey to their readers or audience.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley

An AQA Anthology of Poetry: Power and Conflict

Unseen Poetry

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Two Exams Papers: Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel – 1 Hour 30 minutes. 40% of Final Grade.

Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry – 2 Hours 15 minutes. 60% of Final Grade.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This GCSE opens the doors to further and higher education at A Level and Level 3 and university level. It will help you to secure a place on an apprenticeship scheme too. You could think about any A Level in English, History, Law, Sociology and The Arts. At University level A Level English Literature is seen as a 'facilitating subject' so one that is favoured as an entry subject. You could choose a career in teaching, the Law, the Arts and any career path that needs a good level of communication skills maybe in advertising and the media.

GCSE Mathematics

Edexcel

Course Code: 1MA1

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline that has been developed over centuries, providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems.

Mathematics is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is broadly split into six strands:

Number

Algebra

Geometry and measures

Probability

Statistics

Ratio, proportion and rates of change

There are two tiers of entry and the content is defined for each tier, with a substantial crossover. You will develop and consolidate connections across these mathematical strands. You will build on your learning from Key Stage 3 to further develop fluency, mathematical reasoning and competence in solving increasingly sophisticated problems. You will also apply your mathematical knowledge wherever relevant in other subjects and in financial contexts.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Three exam papers – 1 hour and 30 minutes each.

Paper 1 - non calculator paper

Paper 2 and 3 – calculator papers

The three papers are equally weighted. You will sit exams at either Higher Level (covering grades 4-9) or Foundation Level (covering grades 1-5)

Regular assessment of performance throughout the course will help to identify the correct entry level for each individual student.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification will prepare you for progression to further study of mathematics at A level, and also to the study of Core Mathematics. These Level 3 qualifications will prepare you for a variety of further progression routes.

GCSE Mathematics is a requirement for progression to a wide range of courses at Level 3. You are expected to continue with your study of GCSE Mathematics after the age of 16 if you have not achieved the qualification at Key Stage 4.

The careers available are unlimited and include:

Accountancy, Banking, Investment manager, Financial advisor, Teaching, Engineering, Law, Market research, Data analyst, Statistician, Actuary, Air traffic control, Criminologist, Cyber intelligence, Software development.

GCSE Science

AQA

Course Code: 8464

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

WHY STUDY SCIENCE?

If you take combined Science you will be awarded two GCSEs. Combined Science is made up of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Being successful on this course allows progression to post – 16 courses.

In you study the Triple award you will gain a total of three GCSEs, one in each science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will learn more content than the double award. Studying the individual sciences is excellent preparation for further study at A level.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study the following areas:

Biology: Cells, Organisation, Infection and Response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, Ecology.

Chemistry: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rates of Reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere, Using Resources.

Physics: Forces, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Magnets and Electromagnets, Particle Model of Matter, Atomic Structure. Triple only – Space Physics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All examinations are taken during the summer of Yr 11. There are six exams in total.

Combined Science exams are 1 hour 15 minutes long.

Triple Science exams are 1 hour 45 minutes long.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Science enables entry into a wide variety of career pathways including: Medic, Dentist, Vet, Immunologist, Radiologist, Biomedical Scientist, Sports Coach, Virologist, Epidemiologist, Robotics.

Degrees: Sciences are seen as very desirable qualifications and can often lead to access to non-science degrees. Some of the degrees in science are; Medicine, Physiotherapy, Biochemistry, Applied Biology, Pure Chemistry, Veterinary Science, Genetics, Immunology.

GCSE History

Course Code: 8145
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

Learning about past events and the people who've influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the future. Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you'll learn a range of handy skills that will help you with A-levels and future work. These include:

- excellent communication and writing skills
- how to construct an argument
- research and problem skills
- investigation and problem-solving skills
- analytical and interpretation skills.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

- Conflict and Tension: Interwar Years, 1918-1939
- Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

- Britain: Health and the People c.1000 to present day
- Norman England, c1066-c1100

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World (50%)

- Written examination: 2 hours (split into two papers of 1 hour duration each)

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

- Written examination: 2 hours (split into two papers of 1 hour duration each)

Assessment Objectives: The skills you need to demonstrate

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the periods studied.
- AO2: Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second-order historical concepts.
- AO3: Analyse, evaluate and use sources (contemporary to the period) to make substantiated judgements, in the context of historical events studied.
- AO4: Analyse, evaluate and make sustained judgements about interpretations (including how and why the interpretations may differ) in the context of historical events studies.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

- History can lead to careers in academia, research, the civil service, politics, journalism, consultancy, banking, business, PR, marketing, retail, teaching and accountancy.
- It is also a popular subject for those wishing to go on and study law, sociology and psychology due to the transferable skills it gives you, which can lead to the most varied career paths.
- You could also enjoy a career in heritage, museum work and conservation specific to your area of interest.

GCSE Geography

Course Code: 8035
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. Geography gives you a chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

Geography is very practical, with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Component 1 • Challenges of the physical environment: Natural hazards, the living world and physical landscapes of the UK.

Component 2 • Challenges in the human environment: Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, and the challenge of resource management.

Component 3 • Geographical skills: Issue evaluation and fieldwork

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 • Written examination: 1 hour 30 min., 88 marks including 3 marks for SPAG, 35% of GCSE

Component 2 • Written examination: 1 hour and 30 min., 88 marks including 3 marks for SPAG, 35% of GCSE

Component 3 • Written examination: 1 hour and 15 min., 76 marks including 6 marks for SPAG, 30% of GCSE

Assessment Objectives: The skills you need to demonstrate

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scales (15%).
- AO2: Demonstrate geographical understanding of concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes (25%).
- AO3: Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgements (35%).
- AO4: Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings (25%, including 5% used to respond to fieldwork data and context(s)).

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

- A Geography degree enables you to embark on a career in a range of fields, including those in the education, commerce, industry, transport, tourism and public sectors.
- Future careers could include: town planning, environment consultancy, surveying, tourism, landscaping and conservation.
- You'll also have many transferable skills, attracting employers from the business, law and finance sectors.

GCSE French

Course Code: 1FR0

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

Edexcel

EXAM WEIGHTING: 100% examination

Paper 1 – Speaking (25%)

Paper 2 – Listening (25%)

Paper 3 – Reading (25%)

Paper 4 – Writing (25%)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The GCSE French course consists of four units based on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course covers key themes of:

- Family, friends, relationships and equality
- Mental and physical wellbeing (including food and drink, sports and hobbies)
- Town, the natural world and local environmental issues
- Social media and gaming
- Future plans for work and study
- Holidays

Key Subject Aims: The new specification for 2024 in MFL is designed to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards learning a language. Pupils will develop their ability to communicate independently about subjects that are meaningful and interesting to them, as well as building confidence, broadening their horizons and developing new ways of seeing the world. Pupils should become familiar with the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

ASSESSMENT:

There are 4 exam papers for Modern Foreign Languages as described above, each worth 25% of the final grade. All exams take place at the end of Year 11 and are externally assessed by the exam board. Speaking exams are conducted by pupils' normal teacher. Languages are available at Foundation tier (Grades 1-5) and Higher tier (Grades 4-9).

Assessment tasks include:

All questions on written papers are asked in English.

- Reading aloud in the foreign language, a role play and responding to short questions
- Listening and reading passages in the foreign language and answering questions in English
- Responding to bullet points in English in written form

SUITABILITY:

The course is suitable for pupils who wish to have the ability to communicate and understand a culture other than their own. At Smestow Academy, languages are an important part of our curriculum, designed to give pupils the best opportunities to be successful in the future. Languages form part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and complement other subjects such as Geography, History and Business Studies.

CAREERS/JOBS:

This course supports many careers which require face to face and written communication with international companies. Those wishing to move into careers in business or industry, education and any career which requires study at University level would benefit from studying a foreign language to GCSE.

GCSE Performing Arts (Drama)

Pearson

WHY STUDY DRAMA?

Drama enables pupils to increase their confidence and self-esteem as well as engaging in regular public speaking through rehearsals and performance. Pupils will employ skills of problem-solving and creativity, explore leadership and decision-making and work as part of a team, making them well-rounded and employable people. Practising these skills as part of the course will have a societal effect by sharing ideas and opinions, listening to other's opinions, and discussion to compromise demonstrating the Fundamental British values of mutual respect and tolerance and individual liberty.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts. - 60 Marks.

Pupils will develop and understand the requirements of being an actor or designer looking at different performance scripts and styles. You will study professional practitioners and plays and create your own performances of these as an actor/designer.

Component 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques of the Performer. - 60 Marks.

Pupils will take part in acting and design workshops refining key physical, vocal and performance skills to a final scripted performance as an actor/designer. Pupils will reflect on their use of skills and devise an action plan to build on their skills to become an autonomous and critical thinking performer.

Component 3 - Responding To a Brief - 60 Marks.

Pupils will work as part of a team to create their own devised Drama performance in response to a given brief set by the exam board. This component is an opportunity to highlight their strengths and apply the skills and techniques they have learned across the course in a practical way, reflecting on the creating process, the skills required and the effectiveness of the final product.

ASSESSMENT:

Component 1 and Component 2 are internally assessed, the tasks will be completed through controlled assessment.

Component 3 has both an externally assessed performance piece and set written tasks that are completed as controlled assessments.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects

Apprenticeships in Theatre both Technical and Production based to enter the Performing Arts industry while continuing your education.

Other further education pathways such as BTEC National Diplomas or UAL Extended Diplomas which can be used for entry to higher education in a range of subjects, including higher education level apprenticeships.

Continuing your education at a specialist conservatoire (Drama School)

Auditioning for an agency to represent you as a performer.

There are a vast range of careers within the Theatre Industry such as Actor (screen, stage or voice), Director, Lighting Designer, Sound Technician, Stage Manager, Theatre in Education, Producer or Drama Therapist to name a few.

The skills gained in Drama can also be applied to a range of other careers such as, Teaching, Public Speaking, Presenting and Hospitality as well as many more. The invaluable people skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication and problem solving will benefit pupils whatever their next steps may be.

GCSE Religious Studies

Course Code: 8062

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

You will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling you to develop your own attitudes towards issues.

You will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. Finally, you will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare you for further study.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices –

- Christianity and Sikhism.

Component 2: Thematic studies –

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Study of Religions (50%)

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

Component 2: Thematic Studies (50%)

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 96 marks, plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

Assessment Objectives: The skills you need to demonstrate

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and beliefs including: beliefs, practices and sources of authority, influence on individuals, communities and societies, and similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.
- AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

- Jobs where Religious Studies would be useful include: Advice worker, Archivist, Charity fundraiser, Counsellor, Civil Service administrator, Community development worker, International aid development worker, Mediator, Newspaper journalist, Police officer and Youth worker.
- Religious Studies is a facilitating subject which means it develops skills in a range of areas that are useful to employers such as research, analysis and presentation skills, critical thinking skills and the ability to interpret information, formulate questions and solve problems, as well as writing skills, including the ability to construct a reasoned argument.
- Careers in the following areas are often open to people who have taken Religious Studies: national and local government, including the Civil Service and government agencies, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), schools, colleges and universities (for teaching and research positions), as well as charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations.

GCSE Art & Design

Course Code: J170

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam
60% Controlled Assessment

OCR

WHY STUDY ART?

- Art encourages self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity.
- Creativity can also help with wellbeing and improving health and happiness. Art can be an outlet for releasing the pressures of studying as well as those of everyday life.
- Studying Art can also help to develop critical thinking and the ability to interpret the world around you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

You will produce a portfolio of practical work showing your personal response to a set starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus. The portfolio may be presented in appropriate formats for the specification title you are following and chosen area of study, including sketchbooks, digital presentations, mounted sheets, prototypes, animated work, scale models or illustrated written work. This component is marked out of 120.

Component 2: Externally set task (40%)

You will respond to one of five themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points and stimuli. You will research, plan and develop ideas for your response to the option you have chosen, which you must then realise within the ten-hour supervised time period. This component is marked out of 80.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment Objectives: The skills you need to demonstrate.

- AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

- Careers where a qualification in Art is useful include: animation, interior and spatial designer, jewellery designer, multimedia programmer, museum/gallery curator, special effects technician and VFX artist.
- The study of Art can also lead to careers in art therapy, exhibition design, fine art, graphic design, illustration, printmaking and teaching.
- Employers also value the transferable skills you acquire, including: the ability to develop individual ideas, strong observational, research and analytical skills, creative problem solving, the ability to communicate ideas, visually, orally and in writing, as well as resilience and the ability to learn from criticism and be objective about your work.

BTEC Tech Award in Sport

Course Code: RSP3

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 33.3% Exam

66.6 % Controlled Assessment

Pearson

WHY STUDY SPORT?

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

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

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Components:

1. Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity
 2. Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance
 3. Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity
- The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and skills in the following areas:

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

ASSESSMENT

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified. Component 3 is externally assessed.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

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

Degrees are vast but can include:

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

BTEC Business Enterprise

Course Code: 8182

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Examination

Pearson

WHY STUDY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE?

This qualification is designed for those of you who want an introduction to Business that includes a vocational and hands-on element. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire you about a career in business. The qualification will appeal to those of you who wish to either set up your own business, move into employment or progress onto further study. The business theory and practical skills are combined to create a fun and useful qualification.

The qualification will enable you to develop technical skills, such as market research skills, planning, promotional and financial skills using realistic work scenarios, and personal skills, (such as monitoring own performance, time management and problem solving) through a practical and skills based approach to learning and assessment.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Award will give you the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on the knowledge, understanding and skills required to research, plan, pitch and review an enterprise idea that includes:

- Development of key skills that prove aptitude in planning an enterprise activity, including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, such as the features and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs, and the internal and external factors that can affect the performance of an enterprise.
- Attitudes and ways of working that are considered most important for enterprise, including monitoring and reflecting on performance of an enterprise idea and own use of skills.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Units:

- 1 Exploring Enterprises: An Investigation into two existing local small to medium businesses. Coursework 30%
- 2 Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise: In this unit you will develop and pitch an idea for an SME. Coursework 30%
- 3 Promotion and Finance for Enterprise This unit aims to give you an insight into how businesses spend money before they make profit and the costs they incur. You will look at different promotional methods used by enterprises and factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market. Final Exam 40%

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help you to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector.

Careers you may move on to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects.
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, which prepares you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the business sector.
- A range of technical routes designed to lead to direct employment or apprenticeships.

BTEC Health & Social Care

Course Code: RCD3

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam /
60% Controlled Assessment

Pearson

WHY STUDY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

About 3 million people work in health and social care. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and administrators. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK. Demand for both health and social care is likely to rise, so they will continue to play a key role in UK society and the demand for people to carry out these vital roles will increase. Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study. There are also strong opportunities for post-16 progression in this important sector.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Components:

1 Human Lifespan Development 36 1/2 Internal coursework

2 Health and Social Care Services and Values 36 1/2 Internal coursework

3 Health and Wellbeing 48 1/2 External Synoptic Exam

The three components focus on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices. These are all essential to developing a basis for progression and, therefore, you need to achieve all components in order to achieve the qualification.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to relate to achievement of application of the conceptual underpinning for the sector through realistic tasks and activities.

There is one external assessment, Component 3; it provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2, and enable learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing will require you to apply performances skills and techniques in response to a brief and stimulus developing group performance workshop for a selected audience.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Study of the qualification as part of your Key Stage 4 learning will help you to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that you can make post-16 will depend on your overall level of attainment.

Those of you who generally achieve at Level 2 across your Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Health and Social Care, which prepares you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in aspects of health or social care

GCSE Psychology

Course Code: RCB3

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 25% Exam /
75% Controlled Assessment

AQA

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. It allows you to explore fascinating questions about human nature, including how we think, feel, and behave. By studying psychology, you'll gain insights into yourself and others, understanding the reasons behind behaviours, and developing critical thinking skills that are valuable in many aspects of life.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study a range of topics exploring human behaviour, including:

- Memory: How do we remember and forget information?
- Perception: Why is our brain confused when we see visual illusions?
- Development: How do we grow and change throughout our lives?
- Research methods: Learning how psychologists conduct experiments and studies.
- Social Influence: How can peer pressure affect our behaviour in groups?
- Language: Investigating our communication with one another
- Psychological Problems: Exploring mental health disorders and their treatments.
- Brain and neuropsychology: How does our brain control our behaviour?

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Two exam papers at the end of year 11:

Paper 1 – Cognition and behaviour – 1 Hr 45 minutes – 100 marks – 50% of your overall grade.

Paper 2 – Social context of behaviour – 1 Hr 45 minutes – 100 marks – 50% of your overall grade.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Studying GCSE Psychology opens up a variety of exciting pathways for your future:

- Further Education: Psychology is a popular subject at A-level and beyond, leading to opportunities for higher education in psychology-related fields such as counselling, clinical psychology, or research.
- Careers: Psychology provides valuable skills applicable to a wide range of careers, including human resources, marketing, education, and healthcare. Understanding human behaviour is essential in many professions.
- Personal Development: Psychology equips you with skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and empathy, which are valuable in both personal and professional life.

BTEC Digital Information Technology

Pearson

Course Code: RIT3

Exam/Controlled Assessment: 60% Controlled Assessment
40% Exam

WHY STUDY DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

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

ASSESSMENT:

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified. Component 3 is externally examined

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

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

GCSE Textiles

OCR

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

You will have the opportunity to experiment and build skills in some of the following areas:

- fashion design
- soft furnishings
- garment construction
- embroidery
- digital print design
- hand printing
- stitching
- embellishment.

Projects will include: designing and making clothes, toys, interior decoration and embroidery.

WHY SHOULD I STUDY TEXTILE DESIGN?

Choose this course if you have a keen interest in the subject and want to develop your skills and knowledge further. Careers in the textile industry are increasing within the UK, and there is demand for people with these skills to fill positions in the fashion and interiors design industries. Equally, with growing online sales and marketing, there are many textile artists who are self-employed, working from home, creating a flexible income stream.

ASSESSMENT:

Component 1: NEA Portfolio (60%)

You will produce a portfolio of work developed from a project theme, focussing on exploring, researching and developing skills and techniques.

Component 2: NEA Set-Task (40%) EXAM

You will select one question from a set paper to which you produce a personal response over approx. 3 months. At the end of this time is a 10hour supervised period in which to create a final outcome.

Assessment Objectives:

A01 - Develop Ideas (25%) - Investigations and critical analysis of sources.

A02 - Refine Ideas (25%) - Refine Ideas by experimenting with appropriate materials, techniques & skills.

A03 - Record Ideas (25%) - Record observations and insights through meaningful practical work and written reflection.

A04 - Present a Response (25%) - Realise intentions through a final completed piece.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Many people who study this course may choose to go on to study Textiles-based programs in further and higher education. Potential career options include: advertising, textile technologist, conservator, costume designer, fashion designer, model, fashion influencer, furniture/interior designer, journalism, retail buyer, trend forecasting, visual merchandising, stylist, or textile artist. Many careers in Textiles may be freelance or self-employed allowing for a flexible income stream.



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