

BTEC Health & Social Care

Course Details	BTEC Tech Award Health & Social Care (Pearson) External Exam: May – Year 11 External Assessment weighting - 40% of overall qualification External Assessment Topic – Component 3 - Health and Well Being
Other Assessment	Internally Assessed Tasks taken under controlled conditions set by Pearson: Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development – Year 10 Component 2 – Health & Social Care Services and Values – Year 11
Revision Guidance	Revise BTEC – BTEC First Revision Guide - Pearson Revise BTEC – BTEC First Revision Workbook - Pearson Staff available to speak to students at break times, lunch times and after school Exam Revision after school Year 11
Useful Websites/Text Books	BTEC Tech Award Health & Social Care 2022 - BTEC Tech Awards Pearson qualifications BTEC Tech Award Revision Guide available from - New BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care: Revision Guide (for courses starting in 2022) CGP Books
What can I do?	Ensure your coursework booklet is kept up to date in lessons to support your internally assessed unit assessment.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Make sure all notes are taken in the coursework booklet in lessons and keep these up to date and organised. In Year 11, use of revision guides and use of practice papers to support exam success.

GCSE Art and Design

Course Details	Pearson Edexcel GCSE Art and Design
Exam Details	<p>The exam title (Externally set assignment worth 40% of the GCSE) will be issued in January/February in Year 11, and students have approximately 12 weeks to prepare for the exam. The approach is very similar to coursework and a final piece/s will be produced over two days under exam conditions.</p> <p>These exams are practical exams in the Art rooms where students are given the time (10 hours over 2 days) to create outcomes based on the research, planning and preparation they have completed in the lead up to these timed exams.</p> <p>There will be a full day mock exam in Year 10, and a 2 day mock exam in Year 11, in preparation for the final exam students will sit. Work completed over these sessions will however form part of the 60% coursework unit (Unit 1).</p>
Other Assessments	<p>One unit of coursework (60%) over two sketch books and covering two different titles.</p> <p>Completion of all coursework by hand-in date which is usually in January (date to be confirmed) in Year 11.</p> <p>Students will be expected to come in and put up an exhibition of their work usually in early June for the external moderator to mark.</p>
Subject support	<p>Targeted sessions for catch up and coursework guidance are run on 3 days per week after school in the Art Department. Students are also welcome to work independently in the department after school.</p>
Useful Websites	<p>www.nationalgallery.co.uk</p> <p>www.art2day.co.uk</p> <p>www.studentartguide.com</p> <p>www.tate.org.uk</p>
What can I do?	<p>Help with ideas for projects, aid with research tasks.</p> <p>Maybe visit a gallery or exhibition if possible, or look online if not.</p> <p>Ensure your daughter has all the equipment she needs.</p> <p>A quiet space to do Art work preparation.</p> <p>Encourage her to stay after school for extra Art.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	<p>Keep up to date with all the work that her teacher sets. Be independent in her working practice and use the research of other artists to inform her own ideas. Practice makes progress!</p>
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	<p>She needs to put in the time to ensure that her ideas are well explored and researched. Use her teacher's expertise and do not be afraid to ask for help and advice. Use additional sessions to allow extra time for more sustained work. Take some creative risks, and explore ways of working towards exciting outcomes. Enjoy being creative, and practicing.</p>

GCSE Business Studies

Course Details	AQA GCSE Business Studies (8132) The following units are taught: Year 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business in the Real World• Business Operations• Finance• Marketing Year 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Resources• Influences on Business
Exam Details	All exams take place in the summer of Year 11 Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activities - a written paper (1 hour 45 minutes) 90 marks and worth 50% of the overall qualification Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity - a written paper (1 hour 45 minutes) 90 marks and worth 50% of the overall qualification
Other Assessments	There is no coursework element to the course however students will sit ongoing progress assessments in preparation for the final examinations.
Subject support	Staff operate an open-door policy to provide additional student support as needed. Intervention and revision sessions take place throughout the year leading up to the final examinations.
Revision Guidance	Teams SMHW BBC GCSE Bitesize www.tutor2u.net senecalearning.com
Useful Websites	www.tutor2u.net www.beebusinessbee.co.uk https://www.bizzwizard.co.uk/ https://www.twoteachers.co.uk/
What can I do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regularly log into “Show My Homework” with your parental pin to promote subject related discussion with your daughter.• Testing of key terms• Discuss current affairs from the news with your daughter• Where possible, purchase the GCSE Business revision guide (https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/business/buar44-new-gcse-business-aqa-revision-guide)

What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?

It is important that she regularly reviews her PLC to identify her own strengths and weaknesses to help guide her revision.

She must meet all deadlines set and attempt any task to her best ability.

Attendance and engagement is vital.

Be aware that the subject is essay based with elements of Maths included. Ensuring she makes detailed notes and keeping her notes organised will be crucial.

What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?

Revision starts from day one by consolidating classroom learning at home. She should be creating mind maps, revision cards and engaging with the independent learning activities set via SMHW.

She should be able to identify classroom theory playing out in real world situations by monitoring the news daily.

GCSE Computer Science

Course Details	OCR GCSE Computer Science – J277.
Exam Details	<p>Two written papers, which are a mixture of short and long answer questions, some of which require students to write small sections of program code and algorithms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer systems (01) Written paper (no calculators allowed)• Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (02) Written paper (no calculators allowed) <p>Both papers are 1 hour and 30 minutes and are marked out of 80 marks</p>
Other Assessments	N/A
Revision Guidance	<p>Unit Resources on the VLE: Departments>Computing></p> <p>Unit Resources on MS Teams</p> <p>GCSE Computer Science PLCs</p> <p>Completed presentations</p> <p>Work and homework sheets</p> <p>Theory E-book</p>
Useful Websites	<p>School VLE and MS Teams</p> <p>www.ocr.org.uk/computing</p> <p>www.code.org</p> <p>Sam Learning</p>
What can I do?	<p>Ensure your daughter is completing additional reviews of topics covered every week.</p> <p>Ensure your child is creating revision resources to aid retention and revision</p> <p>Ensure your child is practising programming at least once a week.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	<p>Use and review their PLCs to plan revision carefully.</p> <p>Practice programming regularly.</p> <p>Do as many past paper questions as possible to help improve exam technique.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	<p>For the Written exam:</p> <p>Make sure to attend any extra revision sessions.</p> <p>Make sure you are constantly recapping key terminology.</p> <p>Find real life examples to help remember theory.</p>

GCSE Design and Technology

Course Details	AQA Design and Technology (8552) This includes Fashion Textiles and Product Design strands.
Exam Details	One x 2 hr paper - 50% of GCSE
Other Assessment	Non-exam assessment (NEA) 50% of GCSE This is a substantial design and make task. Contextual challenges are set by AQA in June of the year prior to final examination and students select which context and material area they wish to work with.
Subject support	All Year 11 students can attend the NEA Clinic after school 3:15—4:30pm. All students can make use of the DT building to complete work and folder content after school and staff are available for help at lunchtimes.
Revision Guidance	Year 11 Mock exam during mock exam week. PG Online AQA 9-1 Design and Technology AQA GCSE D&T. GCSE Bitesize and SAM Learning
Useful Websites	www.technologystudent.com www.designmuseum.org www.designweb.co.uk www.tep.org.uk www.design-technology.org School VLE / PLC page
What can I do?	Help with research of topic themes. Help with equipment and materials. Practice key words together. Encourage your daughter to watch design programmes and visit museums and galleries. Support with evaluation and testing of finished products. Students are expected to test their designs with a 3 rd party as part of formal assessments.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Talk to your teacher as soon as needed about anything that will help! Keep up to date with extended deadlines: tackling jobs regularly in smaller chunks works better than rushing at the end.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Be creative, determined and resourceful. Be prepared to use your own time to develop your work. Don't be afraid to ask for help, it's often the students who ask lots of questions who do well in DT.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I do just Textiles or Product Design?

In Year 10 you complete a practice project in both material areas to build your skills and confidence. When you start your non-exam assessment (NEA) at the end of Year 10 you can choose which material area or even a combination to work with for your entire NEA. Students enjoy and are ready to make good choices and follow their strengths by this stage.

How is the exam theory taught?

We teach this alongside the projects so when you are making your garment in Year 10 you do your textiles theory, and the same pattern applies for the product design elements. Wherever possible we include practical activities within the theory teaching. We keep all your theory work safe in a folder for revision before exams.

Do I need to use a computer?

Your NEA is presented using powerpoint and we do use computer-aided design packages and computer manufacturing, depending on student designs and needs. This also means we can include photographs of models and designs to show your work at its best.

GCSE Drama

Course Details	AQA GCSE Drama (8261) <p>The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:</p> <p>Component 1: Understanding Drama – study of a set play and a 1 hour 45 minute written examination in Summer Term of Year 11.</p> <p>Component 2: Devised Practical performance and Devising logbook.</p> <p>Component 3: Practical performance of two extracts from a play</p> <p>Theatre trips are an essential part of GCSE Drama and it is compulsory for students to attend these.</p>
Exam Details	Component 1: Understanding drama <p>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.</p> <p>Exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes, open book (40% of GCSE).</p> <p>Section A: multiple choice</p> <p>Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen</p> <p>Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre</p>
Other Assessment	Component 2: Devising Drama performed in Autumn Term of Year 11 Component 3: Texts in Practice in Spring Term of Year 11
Subject support	Additional weekly rehearsal slots and revision sessions for the written exam.
Revision Guidance	Learning lines for practical examination. Attending additional rehearsals after school, weekends and in school holidays all confirmed via parent letters. Attendance in school is vital for effective rehearsals during lessons.
Useful Websites	Students should access the following links for helpful website and study resources. www.samlearning.com provides useful exercises for developing written techniques and analytical skills. http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects is a useful revision tool http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama The AQA Drama website has sample assessment materials.
What can I do?	Help your daughter to learn any lines. Accompany your daughter to professional productions outside of school to gain experience of live theatre.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Maintain a positive attitude and an inquisitive mind. Be willing to work with others effectively and experiment with different theatrical forms and techniques.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Visit a range of live theatre productions regularly. Conduct wider reading of theatre practitioners and styles, and read professional theatre reviews. Be prepared to take risks and challenge yourself!

Frequently asked questions

What percentage is practical work and what is the written exam for the GCSE?

The students will do two practical assessments – one from a scripted play and one from a theme where they devise their own performance in a group. Both of these assessments together makes 60% of the GCSE grade. The written paper at the end of Year 11 makes up the other 40%.

Do students need to rehearse after school every week?

They do not need to rehearse every week after school, but when it is coming near to their actual assessment they will be rehearsing after school at a time that suits them. Students will need to be prepared for this as it is an essential part of the course.

How much will the theatre trips cost?

As part of their written exam students need to see as much live theatre as possible.

As a department we will take students to see relevant productions locally and in London. We keep the cost as low as possible. We find our students benefit greatly from the opportunity to see live theatre. It not only helps them in their written examination, but also in their practical work.

GCSE English Language

Course Details	AQA GCSE English Language Explorations in Reading and Writing Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives.
Exam Details	Paper 1: Explorations in Reading and Writing 1 hour 45 minutes Section A: Reading (one literature fiction text) 25% 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks) 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks) Section B: Writing (descriptive or narrative writing) 25% 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 1 hour 45 minutes Section A: Reading (one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text) 25% 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks) 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks) Section B: Writing (writing to present a viewpoint) 25% 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) All students examined at the end of Year 11
Other Assessments	Non-Examination Assessment: Spoken Language Presenting Responding to questions and feedback Use of Standard English This is a teacher assessed unit which carries no marks towards a GCSE qualification.
Revision Guidance	CGP Revision Guides
Useful Websites	SAM Learning BBCBitesize.co.uk
What can I do?	Encourage wide reading across non-fiction and fiction texts. Ensure that your daughter makes the most of revision sessions and mock examination experience.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Attend revision sessions; make the most of mock examinations; read widely across fiction and non-fiction to improve your vocabulary and your confidence in responding to unfamiliar reading passages.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Analyse and evaluate the effect of language choices in longer answer questions in Section A of the exams. Plan carefully before writing responses and leave enough time to check work in Section B of the exams.

GCSE English Literature

Course Details	AQA GCSE English Literature Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel Modern texts and Poetry
Exam Details	Paper 1: Shakespeare & the Nineteenth Century Novel 1 hour 45 minutes 64 marks 40% of GCSE closed book Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on a novel they have studied. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from this novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry 2 hour 15 minutes 96 marks 60% of GCSE closed book Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on a modern text they have studied. Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their anthology cluster. Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem. All students examined at the end of Year 11
Revision Guidance	York Notes Revision Guides CGP Revision Guides
Useful Websites	SAM Learning www.BCBCBitesize.co.uk http://www.shmoop.com/ https://www.memrise.com/ http://www.sparknotes.com
What can I do?	Encourage wide reading across non-fiction and fiction texts. Ensure that your daughter makes the most of revision sessions and mock examination experience.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Re-read literature texts during the holidays, memorise a range of quotations, practise planning essay responses, and attend revision sessions.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Analyse and evaluate the effect of form, structure and language and embed short, precise quotations as evidence in essay responses. Draw perceptive and sharply relevant links between social, historical and literary context and the texts studied. Ensure that she knows her literature texts in meticulous detail.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Course Details	<p>To equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating</p> <p>To encourage learners to cook and enable them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life</p>
Exam Details	Written assessment 1 hour 45 minutes - 50% of qualification at the end of year 11
Other Assessment	<p>Two Practical assessments - 50% qualification – beginning of year 11</p> <p>Food investigation assessment - this is a scientific food investigation - 8 hours</p> <p>Food preparation assessment - plan, prepare and cook a three course meal - 12 hours</p>
Revision Guidance	<p>CGP revision book,</p> <p>The text book Eduqas GCSE Food Preparation and nutrition – illuminate publishing or Hodder. Both also have revision books</p> <p>Topics covered: Food commodities, principles of nutrition, Diet and good health, the science of food, where food comes from and Cooking and food preparation.</p>
Useful Websites	<p>www.nutrition.org.uk</p> <p>www.bbcgoodfood.com/content/recipes</p> <p>www.eatwell.gov.uk</p> <p>www.foodafactoflife.org.uk</p> <p>www.5aday.nhs.uk</p>
What can I do?	<p>Ensure your daughter has ingredients for practical lessons which are part of their research for their practical exam.</p> <p>She needs to be well organised for practical lessons and the practical exam, bringing in recipes, apron, time-plan and other notes.</p> <p>Practice dishes at home, so they feel confident when they go into their practical exam.</p> <p>To keep up with coursework, attendance is really important, as it is in controlled assessment time.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Complete coursework to deadlines and keep focused in controlled assessment time, so that you do not waste time and work to your best ability. Do plenty of independent research to get ideas for practical exam. Always practice dishes at home prior to practical exam. Research dishes using high level skills. Catch up on any missed lessons, so there are no gaps in your work.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Use high level cooking and presentation skills in the practical exam, so you can gain high marks. Be organised with class notes and homework and keep to deadlines with coursework. Keep class notes in a ring binder, so that you have them for revision.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between Level 2 Hospitality and Catering and GCSE Food and Nutrition?

Level 2 has a little more coursework, and this carries 60% of the mark. Level 2 is a vocational course, meaning that it is all about the world of work and working in the hospitality sector. The paper is worth 40% of the mark. It is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction.

GCSE is more about food and the science behind food e.g. How do cakes rise? Why did my meringue collapse? What happens to bread when we knead it? It has some coursework also, but the exam paper and coursework are 50% each of the total grade. It is graded 1-9

Do we do more cooking in Level 2?

No it is about the same and students cook each week in Year 10, often cooking the same things. In Year 11 the GCSE students have two Non-exam Assessments to do, so Year 11 is busy with completing this, but both assessments involve some cooking

How do the practical exams differ for each course?

For Level 2, students have to make two dishes in 2½ hours. They are given a scenario and have to prepare their dishes answering the scenario

GCSE students have to make three dishes with accompaniments in 3 hours. They are given a title to research first and create a menu.

What is the difference in the written paper?

The GCSE written paper is 1 hour 45 minutes

The Level 2 written paper is 1 hour 30 minutes

GCSE Geography

Course Details Edexcel B GCSE Geography (9-1)

Enquiry based Geography around topic themes, as well as a decision making paper. Topics and question styles vary throughout the two years.

Exam Details

<p>Paper 1: Global Geographical Issues - 37.5% of GCSE, 94 marks, 90 minutes</p> <p>Topic 1: Hazardous Earth Topic 2: Development dynamics Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world</p>	<p>Paper 2: UK Geographical Issues - 37.5% of GCSE, 94 marks, 90 minutes</p> <p>Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape – including sub-topics, coastal change and conflict, river processes and pressures. Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape Topic 6: Geographical investigations</p>
<p>Paper 3: People and Environmental Issues (Making geographical decisions) – 25% of GCSE, 64 marks, 90 minutes</p> <p>Topic 7: People and the biosphere Topic 8: Forests under threat Topic 9: Consuming energy resources</p>	<p>Other Assessment</p> <p>2 compulsory fieldtrips- Human and Physical. Assessed as part of paper 2. One trip to the coast to study management and one trip to an urban area to study quality of life.</p>

Subject support

The Geography department offers an open door policy where students can talk to staff before or after school. Opportunities for revision sessions in year 11 where appropriate.

Revision Guidance

There are a range of revision resources, including past paper questions available throughout the course. Regular assessment will take place. PLCs guide students throughout the course. Create revision resources as the course goes through. Key word and skill practice is essential.

Useful Websites

The student team- Geography, Edexcel Geography B 9-1, SENECA Learning, Internet Geography Time for Geography, News websites/apps.

What can I do?

Take an interest in student's learning and progress.

Support with additional reading and watching.

Encourage visits to locations that will support geographical learning. Encourage and support them to see new places, watch geographical programmes, museums etc.

Support with revision planning and organisation. Regularly support with homework planning and discussion around topics in lessons.

What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?

She needs to be organised and complete all work to the best of your ability.

Be prepared to be assessed in several ways such as through long answer and data-based questions.

Act on feedback from your teacher. If you don't understand something/need extra help, please ask.

You should keep track of your progress and revise regularly.

Take an interest in their geographical learning and be curious about what happens in the World. Keep questioning the World.

What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?

Strong Geographers are interested and aware of people and places around them. They are interested in current global issues and develop opinions on them.

They look to discover new places and understand them. In their answers they fully explain their points, use detailed examples, show links between facts and decision making.

GCSE History

Course Details	OCR GCSE History B (Schools History Project) (9-1) Thematic study – Migrants to Britain, c.1250 to present British Depth Study – The Norman Conquest, 1065-1087 Period Study – The Making of America, 1789-1900 World Depth Study – Living under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945 History Around Us – Eltham Palace
Exam Details	PAPER 1: Thematic study and British Depth Study (1 hour 45 min, 40%) PAPER 2: History Around Us (1 hour, 20%) PAPER 3: Period Study and World Depth Study (1 hour 45 min, 40%)
Subject support	Students will complete past paper questions throughout the course. Students can speak to the History staff at any break time or after school. Students will be given the opportunity to attend revision sessions in Year 11 where appropriate.
Useful Websites	BBC Bitesize Timelines.tv
What can I do?	Discuss the options carefully with your daughter making sure she picks subjects she enjoys. Organise visits to appropriate museums or sites such as Eltham Palace, the Tower of London, and the Imperial War Museum. Purchase a revision guide when she starts the course.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	She needs to have good literacy skills and enjoy reading. She needs to work hard in every lesson and be ready to contribute to class discussion. She needs to be prepared to do lots of reading and writing in lessons in order to prepare good notes for the future
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	She needs to be organised. She needs to enjoy History and have some interest in the topics we are going to cover. She needs to have an avid interest in History and have an interest in the wider world, in particular in politics. She needs to have excellent literacy skills. She needs to read in her spare time, especially historical literature. She needs to be prepared to challenge herself through completing extension work and looking for ways to extend her learning outside the classroom. Join History Society in school.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do students undertake coursework?

No, their final grade is awarded through exams only at the end of Year 11.

Are students required to write a lot of essays?

Yes. Students are required to answer several essay style questions in each of the papers, therefore some degree of confidence in extended writing is recommended.

Are students required to do a lot of reading?

Yes. We engage with source material and historians' works as well as using textbooks/worksheets, therefore some degree of confidence in reading is recommended.

GCSE Mathematics

Course Details	Edexcel Mathematics (9-1) Students in Mathematics study either towards the Higher or Foundation tier. Students should be aware of what they are aiming towards, but there is always flexibility throughout the GCSE to suit your daughter's needs.
Exam Details	GCSE Maths is assessed by a terminal exam (3 papers) at the end of Year 11: one non-calculator and two calculator exams.
Subject support	The Mathematics department are a supportive department, and students are welcome and encouraged to email their teachers if they need help with any topics, a homework, or just generally need additional support in Mathematics. Whilst it is prioritised for year 11, students are welcome to come to the Mathematics department on a Tuesday afterschool for our drop-in session, "root 2 success".
Revision Guidance	Revision workbooks and guides are available from Pearson; they are readily available online, although we still have a number of foundation workbooks and guides available in L1. Students can use vle.mathswatch.com , as well as the other useful websites indicated below. Past papers, and lots of them!
Useful Websites	http://www.vle.mathswatch.co.uk/ https://corbettmaths.com Maths folder on the "BWSGIRLS - students" team: Maths/KS4/KS4 resources/Revision Questions is the best link for guided revision practice www.mathsgenie.co.uk www.youtube.com – there are loads of useful videos out there if you are stuck!
What can I do?	Ensure the revision books are purchased and used. Make sure your daughter has the correct equipment, such as a black ink pen, pencil, calculator, ruler, compasses and protractor available in every lesson.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Make sure that thorough revision takes place in preparation for all 'in year' topic assessments, as well as future mock exams. Seek help with the topics you find difficult immediately and use the internet resources for independent study. Bring specific problems to lessons so your teacher can help you. Do not leave it until the last minute.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Practice past examination questions on topics as there are covered in lessons. Organise your work so you can refer back to lesson notes easily. Complete past papers so you practice moving from one topic to the next quickly. Look out for the links between topics, learn a concept once and then learn where it can be applied. Always have a go; not getting it right the first time is an important learning curve in Maths. Keep trying and having a go until you do succeed.

GCSE Media Studies

Course Details [Eduqas GCSE Media Studies](#)

Exam Details **Component 1: Exploring the Media**

40% of GCSE / 1hr 30 minute exam

Section A: Exploring Media Language and Representation: This section assesses media language and representation in relation to **two** of the following print media forms: **magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements.**

There are two questions in this section:

- one question assessing media language in relation to one set product (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- one two-part question assessing representation in relation to one set product and one unseen resource in the same media form.

Part (a) is based on media contexts. Part (b) requires comparison through an extended response.

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Product

30% of GCSE / 1hr 30 minute exam

This component assesses all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media in relation to television and music.

Section A: Television

- one question on either media language or representation, which will be based on an extract from one of the set television programme episodes to be viewed in the examination (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- one question on media industries, audiences or media contexts.

Section B: Music (music videos and online media)

- one question on either media language or representation (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- one question on media industries, audiences or media contexts

Other **Component 3: Creating Media Products**

Assessments **Non-exam assessment 30% of qualification**

Coursework based

An individual media production for an intended audience in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC/Eduqas, applying knowledge and understanding of media language and representation.

Revision Guidance There is a 2019 revision [guide](#) for this course (n.b. there may be a more updated version available before the 2026 exam)

Factsheets are available for all students here: [Component 1](#) [Component 2](#)

Useful online resources

[Bullers Wood Media Youtube](#) [Mrs Fisher's Media Studies channel](#) [Media Insider](#)

What can I do?

Know your Set Products inside out.
Take time to keep all notes organised and categorised

What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject? Ensure deadlines are met.
Complete PLCs at various points during the year.
Ensure they understand and can explain all the keywords given in class.
Revise as they go – students have a lot of content to learn, so should revise each area of media as we learn about them in lessons.
If you need support, don't be afraid to ask your media teachers and technician.

What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject? Take comprehensive notes on the Set Products given in class. Read around the topics given in class to ensure an even broader understanding. Have an interest in creating her own media products using various different media platforms. Practise past questions and perfect exam techniques.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Media Studies?

GCSE Media is a highly interactive and engaging course that aims to broaden students' minds. It covers all aspects of media, including language, representations, industries and audiences, giving students both an overall and in-depth understanding of how media represents the world. The course covers a range of theoretical topic areas including music video, online and social and participatory media, radio, magazines, newspapers, television, film marketing and video games. There is a practical element to the course, with a range of new briefs released annually.

GCSE Languages

French, German, Spanish

Course Details

Examination board: AQA

Paper 1: Listening. Both tiers:

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B – questions in target language, to be answered in target language or non-verbally

Paper 2: Speaking. Both tiers:

Role-play

Photo card

General conversation

Paper 3: Reading. Both tiers:

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B – questions in target language, to be answered in target language or non-verbally

Section C – translation from target language into English

Paper 4: Writing.

Foundation Tier

Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo)

Question 2 – short passage

Question 3 – translation from English into target language

Question 4 – structured writing task

Higher Tier

Question 1 – structured writing task

Question 2 – open-ended writing task

Question 3 – translation from English into target language

Exam Details

Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing final exams will take place in May/June of Year 11

Subject support

All staff in the department are available to speak to students before school, at break time, lunchtime and after school.

Revision Guidance

Revision sessions are held closer to the exams at lunchtimes and after school.

Students are encouraged to buy a revision guide to support their learning.

Useful Websites

Students are encouraged to use revision websites such as Linguascope, BBC Bitesize, SAM Learning, languagesonline.org.uk, <http://www.quizlet.com/> and Kerboodle.

What can I do?

Encourage your daughter to revise vocabulary and grammar structures regularly.

What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?

Ensure that all assessed work meets their target grade.

Learn all vocabulary on a regular basis.

What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?

Practice grammar and translation regularly.

Read independently at home in the target language.

Frequently Asked Questions

What topics will I study?

Many of the topics you will cover are based on vocabulary you have seen in Years 7, 8 and 9, such as Holidays, Family and Friends or School. But there are also a few new ones: The Environment, Jobs and Work, Technology.

Who will ask the questions in the oral part of the examination?

Your normal language teacher

How long is the speaking test?

7-9 mins at Foundation Level

10-12 mins at Higher Level

GCSE Music

Course Details	Edexcel (Pearson) GCSE Music (1MU0/03) The subject content for GCSE Music is divided into three components: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance (Solo & Ensemble)• Composition (one free, the other set to a brief)• Listening and Appraising - <i>Areas of study: Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen, Fusions</i>
Exam Details	Listening and Appraising - Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes, 40% of GCSE, Questions - The paper is made up of two sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: Six questions related to six of the eight set works One short melody/rhythm completion exercise One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical element• Section B: Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.
Other Assessment	Controlled Assessments (Internally marked, externally moderated) Performance 30% Two performances: Combined duration of four minutes - Solo and Ensemble Composition 30% Two compositions: Combined duration of three minutes One free composition and one set to a brief, provided by the exam board
Subject support	It is paramount that your daughter has weekly instrumental or singing lessons in order to prepare for her Unit 1 performance exams, which are worth 30% of the final mark. There will be a composers' lab offered after school for those who wish to gain more experience composing and using Sibelius.
Revision Guidance	Listening and Appraising - Students will need to ensure they are entirely familiar with all eight set works and that their theoretical knowledge is of a standard whereby they are able to analyze written music. Also, a competent aural ability will need to be developed in order to be able to appraise music based purely on its sonic components. The vast majority of the questions in the exam rely on a candidate's ability to identify musical features by purely listening. Therefore, the most useful practice is simply listening to music, all the time. Performing - Your daughter, along with their peripatetic instrument or vocal tutor, will keep a log of the progress made in performance. They will be required to practice most days at home to ensure their continued development. Composing - Students will be required to have a working knowledge of Sibelius/Musescore/Soundtrap as this will be the software they will use to notate/record their compositions. They will receive training on this in YR10.
Useful Websites	<u>BBC Bitesize</u> <u>Music theory</u> <u>Edexcel specification</u> <u>Set works</u> <u>Revision podcasts</u>
What can I do?	Ensure your daughter attends her instrumental/vocal lessons and completes all homework assignments. Encourage her to take part in extracurricular music activities, e.g. orchestra and concerts. Ask to hear their compositions and have them explain the various different elements. Also, encourage them to perform their performance repertoire for you and other family members and friends. There is no replacement for practice performance than performing in an open and supportive environment in front of others.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Maintain a positive attitude and an inquisitive mind. Be willing to work hard on theoretical practices as well as the practical elements of the course. Upon starting the course your daughter will be given a Music GCSE Handbook, she should be proactive in her independent learning and complete all sections of the theory catch up material provided. Listen to a wide variety of musical styles and build a familiarity with music from all genres and eras. Feel comfortable experimenting in musical areas that they may have little or no previous knowledge of.

What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?

Use the facilities at school in and out of lessons to gain as much exposure to the compositional element as they can. Spend time researching all music styles to help them understand the elements of those covered by the syllabus from all the areas of study. Habitual and regimented instrumental/vocal practice. Also, participating in external musical activities and ensembles, as well as those which are offered at school (gigs, concerts, youth music programs).

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be a certain grade on my instrument?

The short answer is no, although it is recommended that you are around Grade 4 level by the end of Year 11. You must sing or play an instrument and have lessons with a teacher in or outside of school. Playing an instrument/singing is vital to passing 30% of the course, however, you can still take Music GCSE if you do not currently have instrumental lessons. It is entirely possible for a highly motivated and musically passionate student to start lessons at the beginning of Year 10 and reach a good performance standard by the time of examination in Year 11. I must also stress that voice (singing) counts as an instrument. Therefore, if you can sing you can play an instrument!

What about music theory?

We will teach you all the theory you need to know. If you don't read standard notation that is fine, you will learn. You just need a positive mind-set and you may need to work a little harder at first. But at GCSE the most important skill is your listening.

Do I have to sing or play the piano?

You do not have to be a singer or a pianist, however having a basic understanding of these two instruments from Keystage 3 will help. In a lot of lessons, we use the piano and sing to break down the eight pieces we must learn for the exam.

Why take Music GCSE?

- It is a flexible course to suit your strengths – whether you are a singer, drummer or violinist, whether you are into Stormzy, K Pop or Mozart!
- Appealing areas of study. Yes, we do classical music, but we also study Queen, Star Wars and Wicked!
- The transferable skills you will acquire and develop studying music are invaluable: communication/teamwork; independence/resourcefulness; discipline/reliability; analysis/problem-solving; creativity/synthesis
- Music is an academic subject and colleges/universities look up on it very favourably. It is not an easy pass – it requires hard work and dedication!

GCSE Physical Education

Course Details	AQA GCSE Physical Education (8582) The human body and movement in physical activity and sport Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport Practical performance in physical activity and sport
Exam Details	Pupils will sit two written exams: Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes, 30% of GCSE Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being, use of data - Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes, 30% of GCSE
Other Assessment	Practical Element: 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). For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity). Students will be expected to be participating on a weekly basis in a competitive environment in at least one activity. Video evidence will be required. Coursework: Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. Assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA -40% of GCSE
Subject support	Revision sessions will take place at lunchtimes and on Thursdays after school.
Revision Guidance	Access to The Everlearner online revision too GCSE Simplified revision book available to purchase Suggest buying the AQA text book. PowerPoints and resources on Show My Homework. Past papers, Knowledge organisers and model answers will be available via Teams GSCE PE Smart cards https://www.smartpe.co.uk/aqa-smartcards/
Useful Websites	www.bbc.co.uk/sport GCSE Bitesize www.teachpe.com https://www.theeverlearner.com/
What can I do?	Ensure your daughter has the correct kit on the correct day and knows when the practical elements of the course will take place. Help with learning key words and phrases. Ensure your daughter is up to date with current issues in sport and is aware of the sporting headlines as this can be applied in her answers on the exam.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Attend revision sessions regularly. Access mypeexam.org Keep fitness levels up working on practical sports. Attend extra-curricular clubs regularly to aid practical grade. Use exam past papers to gain exam practice.

What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?

Seek advice from teachers, utilise the department staff.

Be proactive in your approach away from lessons.

Access tasks on Show My Homework and MS Teams.

Be competing on a regular basis and attending extracurricular clubs as a way to develop practical grade.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What percentage is theory/practical?

Theory - 60%

NEA – practical/coursework – 40%

How is the course assessed?

Two written examination papers, both 1 hour and 15 minutes long, marked out of 78.

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

Paper 2 – Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

NEA element - Three sports; one must be a team sport and one must be an individual sport (the third can be either team or individual). Sports must be on the AQA specification!

For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity).

Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity (written coursework)

Will practical be done in school or outside of school?

A combination of these. Some sports will be covered in school but we do expect students and parents to take responsibility for gathering video evidence for sports that will not be covered in school, or if the standard of students' play would be higher in their club environment than the school environment.

Do we as parents need to record sporting activities outside of school?

You will be asked to help gather evidence of your daughter in their chosen sports. Guidance will be provided.

Does my daughter need to participate in sport outside of school?

We strongly recommend that they should be in a club for at least one of their three sporting activities in order to gain the highest possible practical marks.

GCSE Religious Studies

Course Details	EDUQAS GCSE Religious Studies – Route A Religious, philosophy and ethical studies in the modern world Study of Christianity Study of World Faith (Islam)
Exam Details	Pupils will be studying EDUQAS Route A Religious Studies over two lessons per week. This is 100% exam based. There are three exams: The study of Islam (beliefs and practices): 1 hour paper worth 25%. The study of Christianity (beliefs and practices): 1 hour paper worth 25% Religious philosophy and ethical studies in the modern world (relationships, life and death, human rights, good and evil): 2 hour paper worth 50%
Revision Guidance	The student area of the RS&P VLE page contains an array of helpful resources e.g. revision booklets, teacher PowerPoints, assessment materials. Effective revision for RS&P includes learning quotations and revising technical vocabulary. Plenty of timed essay practice is also advisable – it helps you hone your exam technique.
Useful Websites	http://questioningeducation.co.uk/
What can I do?	It is helpful if parents can discuss at home some of the moral and life issues with which pupils engage at school.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Attend all lessons. Complete ALL pieces of homework. Catch up on any work missed.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Complete Optional Learning Activities (OLA) on Show My Homework. Look up passages in the holy texts that we may not have covered in class. Complete extra timed exam questions

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy

Course Details	<p>AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy</p> <p>All GCSE Science courses started in Year 9; in Year 10 students chose to sit Separate Sciences or Combined Science. The majority of students are completing Combined Science. However, both Separate Sciences and Combined Science are two-year courses so students will complete all examinations at the end of Year 11.</p> <p>Decisions about higher and foundation tiers of entry will be taken after mock exams have taken place in Year 11, so it is in the students' best interests to work as hard as they can throughout the course and demonstrate their capability to be entered for higher tier papers.</p> <p>Students will complete a number of required practical's and these will form a part of the examination papers. Therefore, it is important that your daughter is in school to complete these. End of term assessments will take place on a regular basis throughout the year in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.</p>
Exam Details	<p>We are following AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy which is a two-year course. Students are examined in the summer of Year 11.</p> <p>The written examinations are structured as follows:</p> <p>GCSE Combined Science Trilogy</p> <p>Biology, Chemistry and Physics: 2 papers each subject</p> <p>All papers are 1 hour 15 minutes</p>
Revision Guidance	<p>We have revision guides and all-in-one workbooks for Combined Science to buy from the Science Department. We recommend that students buy and use these to support their studies during the two-year course, and to help prepare for tests and assessments. There are also lots of revision resources on the school system such as past paper questions.</p>
Useful Websites	<p>BBC GCSE Bitesize: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science</p> <p>Seneca: https://www.senecalearning.com/</p> <p>S-cool the revision website: www.s-cool.co.uk</p> <p>There are also other useful revision websites online including: https://www.my-gcse-science.com/ and http://freesciencelessons.co.uk/</p> <p>Revision classes may be held prior to the examinations and will be publicised by class teachers preceding the examinations.</p>
What can I do?	<p>Help your daughter to make revision cards with selected information on related topics. Test your daughter: using her exercise book or revision notes to ask questions related to topics. Encourage her to do past paper questions on a regular basis and use a revision guide and workbook.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	<p>Regularly review your work to check your understanding.</p> <p>Start your revision early.</p> <p>Ask your teachers for advice.</p> <p>Practise by doing past paper questions and develop effective revision techniques, not just copying from a revision guide.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	<p>Read around the topics you are studying, for example using revision guides, websites, documentaries and specialist magazines, and making extra notes.</p>

GCSE Separate Sciences

Course Details

AQA Separate Sciences

All GCSE Science courses started in Year 9; in Year 10 students chose to sit Separate Sciences or Combined Science. The majority of students are completing Combined Science. However, both Separate Sciences and Combined Science are two-year courses so students will complete all examinations at the end of Year 11.

Decisions about higher and foundation tiers of entry will be taken after mock exams have taken place in Year 11, so it is in the students' best interests to work as hard as they can throughout the course and demonstrate their capability to be entered for higher tier papers.

Students will complete a number of required practical's and these will form a part of the examination papers. Therefore, it is important that your daughter is in school to complete these. End of term assessments will take place on a regular basis throughout the year in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Exam Details	<p>We are following AQA GCSE Separate Sciences which is a two-year course, students are examined in the summer of Year 11.</p> <p>The written examinations are structured as follows: Biology, Chemistry and Physics: 2 papers each subject All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes</p>
Revision Guidance	<p>We have revision guides and all-in-one workbooks for the Separate Sciences available to buy from the Science Department. We recommend that students buy and use these to support their studies during the two-year course, and to help prepare for tests and assessments. There are also lots of revision resources on the school system such as past paper questions.</p>
Useful Websites	<p>BBC GCSE Bitesize: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science Seneca: https://www.senecalearning.com/ S-cool the revision website: www.s-cool.co.uk There are also other useful revision websites online including: https://www.my-gcse-science.com/ and http://freesciencelessons.co.uk/ Revision classes may be held prior to the examinations and will be publicised by class teachers preceding the examinations.</p>
What can I do?	<p>Help your daughter to make revision cards with selected information on related topics. Test your daughter: using her exercise book or revision notes to ask questions related to topics. Encourage her to do past paper questions on a regular basis and use a revision guide and workbook.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	<p>Regularly review your work to check your understanding. Start your revision early. Ask your teachers for advice. Practise by doing past paper questions and develop effective revision techniques, not just copying from a revision guide.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	<p>Read around the topics you are studying; for example, using revision guides, websites, documentaries and specialist magazines, and making extra notes. Your daughter will benefit from having an enquiring mind and passion for the sciences as students are expected to be able to apply their learning in unfamiliar contexts.</p>

Level 2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award)

Course Details	WJEC vocational award in Hospitality and Catering Level 2
Exam Details and assessment	<p>This qualification is made up of two units. Unit 1, The Hospitality and Catering Industry, is assessed through an exam 1 hour 20 minutes. which is 40% of the mark at the end of Year 11.</p> <p>For Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take approximately 12 hours.</p>
What will you study	<p>Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry</p> <p>Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry. Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health.</p> <p>Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action</p> <p>In this unit learners will gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.</p>
What skills will you develop?	How to prepare and make dishes. Skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes and food safety practices. Menu planning. Importance of nutrition
Revision	Hodder revision book for Level 2 and Text book.
Useful Websites	<p>www.nutrition.org.uk</p> <p>www.bbcgoodfood.com/content/recipes</p> <p>www.eatwell.gov.uk</p> <p>www.foodfactoflife.org.uk</p> <p>www.5aday.nhs.uk</p>
What can I do?	<p>Ensure you have ingredients for practical sessions which happen weekly.</p> <p>You need to be well organised for practical lessons and the practical exam, bringing in recipes, apron, time-plan and other notes.</p> <p>Practice dishes at home, to improve confidence and this will help with confidence in the practical exam.</p> <p>To keep up with coursework, attendance is really important, as it is in controlled assessment time.</p>
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Enjoy cooking and have an interest in preparing food. Complete coursework to deadlines and keep focused in controlled assessment time, so that you do not waste time and work to your best ability. Do plenty of independent research to get ideas for practical exam. Always practice dishes at home prior to practical exam. Research dishes using high level skills. Catch up on any missed lessons, so there are no gaps in your work.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Use high level cooking and presentation skills in the practical exam, so you can gain high marks. Be organised with class notes and homework and keep to deadlines with coursework. Keep class notes in a ring binder, so that you have them for revision.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between Level 2 Hospitality and Catering and GCSE Food and Nutrition?

Level 2 has a little more coursework, and this carries 60% of the mark. Level 2 is a vocational course, meaning that it is all about the world of work and working in the hospitality sector. The paper is worth 40% of the mark. It is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction.

GCSE is more about food and the science behind food e.g. How do cakes rise? Why did my meringue collapse? What happens to bread when we knead it? It has some coursework also, but the exam paper and coursework are 50% each of the total grade. It is graded 1-9

Do we do more cooking in Level 2?

No, it is about the same and students cook each week in Year 10, often cooking the same things. In Year 11 the GCSE students have two Non-exam Assessments to do, so Year 11 is busy with completing this, but both assessments involve some cooking

How do the practical exams differ for each course?

For Level 2, students have to make two dishes in 2½ hours. They are given a scenario and have to prepare their dishes answering the scenario

GCSE students have to make three dishes with accompaniments in 3 hours. They are given a title to research first and create a menu.

What is the difference in the written paper?

The GCSE written paper is 1 hour 45 minutes

The Level 2 written paper is 1 hour 30 minutes