

Year 9

Options Booklet

For KS4

*Nod CCYD yw galluogi ein cymuned i gydweithio a chryfhau ac adlewyrchu
fel unigolion gyda'r hunanhyder i wynebu pob her.*

*CCYD aspires to empower our community to be collaborative, resilient and reflective individuals
who have the self-confidence to embrace challenge.*



Foreword / Information

Dear Year 9,

You are now at the stage where you will need to start making some choices about which subjects you would like to study in year 10 and 11.

There are some subjects which are compulsory such as Maths, English, Science, PE, Welsh and the Skills Challenge.

In addition to these subjects you will also choose subjects that you would like to study as options.

Between November and April I will guide you through the process and help you to make the right decision for you! If you have any questions along the way just ask!

The first step will be our year 9 options information evening in October which we would like you all to attend. We will also have subject assembly talks which will take place each day for a full week in November. You will then select your 'Free choice' of 3 subjects from a list of all of the subjects on offer. This helps us to design our option columns based on the learner choices. You will be choosing your 3 option subjects from the columns in february.

I would encourage you to ask questions about the GCSE and Vocational courses, gather as much information as you can, ask to see some work and make sure that you are clear about what is involved in that subject.

We believe that it is crucial that you are able to make an informed decision and our careers advisor is on hand to offer you advice and support whenever you need it during year 9. This booklet gives information about the courses we offer at CCYD.

We endeavor every year to try to build our option blocks into the best combination to suit all but it is not always possible to be able to meet the needs of every learner. If this is the case, we will always chat to you about other possible options that may suit you so that you know what is available to you. Remember the school is here to support you so if you need any help with your decision making please just ask.

Mrs Justine James – Assistant Headteacher Curriculum



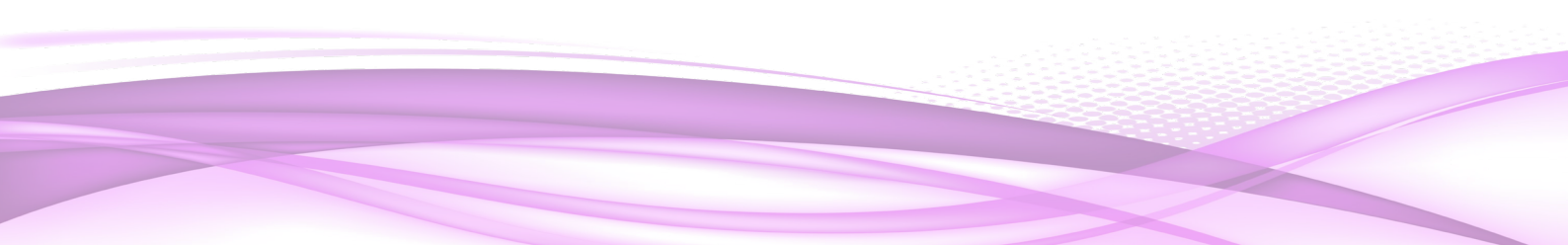
Contacts

Here are some contact details for staff who can assist with your decision making this year:

Justine.james@ccyd.bridgend.cymru
Sara.williams@ccyd.bridgend.cymru
[Contact Careers Wales Website](#)

Assistant Head teacher – Curriculum
Pastoral Leader for Year 9
www.careerswales.gov.wales

Please also speak to your Form Tutor who can also support you in your decision making.



WHY CHOOSE GCSE ART AND DESIGN?

The WJEC GCSE Art and Design qualification will support you to:

- explore the work of artists and designers to help develop your own creative talent
- develop creative skills so that you can plan, devise and design your own work
- gain practical skills, becoming increasingly sophisticated and controlled
- reflect on, evaluate and refine your work
- explore diversity, identity and culture

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE Art and Design qualification is available in the following pathways:

- Art, craft, and design
- Fine art
- Graphic communication
- Textile design
- Three-dimensional design
- Photography

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Portfolio

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment
60% of qualification: 120 marks

This unit is designed to enable you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills within the creative process. You will be encouraged to make personal discoveries and take creative risks through your own investigations. You will be required to produce a portfolio:

- through a sustained project that shows development, refinement, reflection and presentation
- that is internally set, in consultation with your teacher, based on a theme, concept or specific design brief.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment (ESA)

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment
40% of qualification: 80 marks

The ESA contains five overarching 'big ideas'. You must choose one big idea and use given stimuli as a starting point to inform your work.

You will undertake contextual and practical research and supporting studies during a preparatory period. This will inform your response during a 10-hour 'sustained focus' period.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will learn to use a broad range of media, techniques, tools, digital technologies and processes depending on which pathway you choose. You will develop the skills to create artefacts – whether that is painting, fashion design, content creation, photography, or architectural models (to name a few possibilities). You will learn how to develop creative processes and working methods to develop the visual outcomes that you choose.

You will also learn and understand about working independently (with teacher support) to develop your own ideas and to meet deadlines set for your work. Through all of this, you will gain an awareness of sustainability in art and design as well as a deeper understanding of culture and identity through engaging with your emerging work.

CAREERS IN ART AND DESIGN

This qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Art and Design at A-level. It will also provide a satisfying course of study for you if you choose not to progress to study further.

The career possibilities that come through the study of art and design are vast, a few are listed here:

Advertising, Animator, Architect, Art Therapist, Book Designer, Cartoonist, Ceramicist, Cinematographer, Costume Designer, Digital Artist, Exhibition Designer, Furniture Designer, Fashion Designer, Fine Artist, Film researcher, Food Stylist, Graphic Artist, Game Designer, Interior Designer, Illustrator, Jewellery Designer, Knitwear designer, Landscape Architect, Lighting Designer, Make-up artist, Medical Illustrator, Model Maker, Muralist, Product Designer, Photographer, Potter, Puppet Maker, Printmaker, Production Designer, Sculptor, Silversmith, Special Effects Artist, Stained Glass Artist, Tattoo Artist, Teacher, Theatre Designer, TV Director, Textile Designer, Typographer, Urban Designer, Video artist.

FIND OUT MORE -TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!

WHY CHOOSE GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY?



The WJEC GCSE Art and Design (through the medium of Photography) qualification will support you to:

- explore the work of artists and photographers to help develop your own creative talent
- develop creative skills so that you can plan, devise and create your own images and final pieces
- gain practical skills, becoming increasingly sophisticated and controlled
- reflect on, evaluate and refine your work.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE Photography is taught in a creative way, meaning you will build skills and knowledge in Photoshop and photo editing, as well as being encouraged to include other areas of creativity within your skill base if you wish to. You will also be introduced to the darkroom and get an opportunity to develop photographs this way.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Portfolio

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment
60% of qualification: 120 marks

This unit is designed to enable you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills within the creative process. You will be encouraged to make personal discoveries and take creative risks through your own investigations. You will be required to produce a portfolio:

- through a sustained project that shows development, refinement, reflection and presentation
- that is internally set, in consultation with your teacher, based on a theme, concept or specific design brief.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment (ESA)

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment
40% of qualification: 80 marks

The ESA contains five overarching 'big ideas'. You must choose one big idea and use given stimuli as a starting point to inform your work.

You will undertake contextual and practical research and supporting studies during a preparatory period. This will inform your response during a 10-hour 'sustained focus' period.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will learn to use a broad range of media, techniques, tools, digital technologies and processes, including Photoshop. The course will begin by building your skills, before moving onto your own individual projects. In your coursework you will produce two projects based on topics of your choice (guided by your teacher). In your exam you will choose one of the 'big ideas', given to you by the WJEC. You will learn how to develop creative processes and working methods to develop the visual outcomes that you choose.

You will also learn and understand about working independently (with teacher support) to develop your own ideas and to meet deadlines set for your work.

CAREERS IN PHOTOGRAPHY

The career possibilities that come through the study of Photography are vast, a few are listed here:

GCSE Photography can lead to careers such as a freelance photographer (covering weddings, fashion, or events), a photojournalist, a TV/film camera operator, or a drone pilot. It also develops skills for related fields like graphic design, advertising, digital marketing, web design, and as a visual arts technician.

WHY CHOOSE GCSE BUSINESS?



The WJEC GCSE Business qualification will develop your understanding of the activities that make a business successful. You will gain an insight into critical issues facing businesses and ways in which these can be solved. You will undertake research to make reasoned judgements and think critically about businesses in your area.

You will also reflect on business activity in the context of the environment and sustainability. You will study the impact business has on society. You will explore job market trends and understand different business careers and employment opportunities available to you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1 INTRODUCTION TO THE BUSINESS WORLD - in this unit, you will study the fundamentals of business. You will explore the purpose of business activity and the nature of business enterprises, understanding the different types of business ownership and aims. Additionally, you will learn about markets and business sectors, and the importance of the consumer. You will calculate costs and revenue to make business decisions.

Unit 2 KEY BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS - in this unit, you will undertake research on a chosen business in your locality and to use your research findings to produce a report.

Unit 3 BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS - in this unit you will explore the key business functions of finance, marketing, human resources, and production. Additionally, you will study strategies for business growth and understand how businesses are affected by political, legal, and economic external factors.

Unit 4 BUSINESS CREATION - in this unit, you will develop enterprise skills. You will carry out primary and secondary market research to collect information for an entrepreneurial opportunity you have identified. You will produce a report that covers key aspects of your business proposal.

FIND OUT MORE -TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Units 1 and 3 are assessed by written examinations containing both short and extended answers, with some based around business situations.

Unit 2 and 4 are non-examined assessments where you will be given an assignment brief to complete. You will undertake research, analyse the data and provide judgements.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

GCSE Business helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

Literacy Skills - reading, writing, understanding, and engaging with various forms of text and information.

Numeracy Skills - understanding, interpreting, and working with numbers to solve business problems.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving - analysing business information to make decisions or judgments.

Personal Effectiveness Skills - achieving your goals by managing your time, setting targets and learning from your experiences.

Creativity and innovation - thinking creatively, by coming up with solutions to business problems.

GCSE Business will equip you with a range of skills that are not only valuable for studying business further, but which will combine with a variety of subjects.

CAREERS IN BUSINESS

GCSE Business will prepare you for many careers in business and industry. These include in marketing and public relations, law, finance and accounting, human resource management, as well as manufacturing and production.

An understanding of the principles of management is applicable to many roles in both the public and private sector and will be valuable for whatever career path you choose.

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WHY CHOOSE GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE?

If you take a moment to consider a world without computers, you will begin to understand why developing your knowledge of the world of computing has become such a critical success factor in modern life.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

A WJEC GCSE in Computer science will help you to make the most of the power of computers, from understanding how they work, to using programming skills to create your own applications and solutions to problems in the world around you.

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science -

This unit helps you to build your understanding of practical aspects of computing such as hardware, software, systems, networks and communication, whilst developing your ability to plan, manage and deliver computer-based solutions for everyday needs and problems.

Unit 2: Computer Programming -

This unit gives you the opportunity to develop your programming skills, before using them to create a solution to a real-world problem.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science

Assessed by on-screen examination
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
50% of qualification
80 marks

Unit 2: Computer Programming

Assessed by on-screen examination based on a pre-released brief
Duration: 2 hours
50% of qualification
80 marks

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

GCSE Computer Science will help you to:

- Understand and apply principles and concepts of computer science
- Develop your practical programming skills
- Develop skills in computational thinking
- Analyse problems in order to develop and implement strategies to solve them
- Develop your project management skills
- Improve your logical and mathematical thinking skills
- Improve your collaboration and team-working skills
- Understand the social, professional, ethical, environmental and legal dimensions of computer-based systems

CAREERS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computers are everywhere – Whilst there is a huge range of opportunities in the world of computers and programming itself, it is equally true that computers are transforming just about every aspect of life as we know it. Therefore, whether you choose to specialise in computing, or use your computing knowledge to improve your performance in other areas, choosing to improve your computing skills will never be a bad decision.

Examples of Computing careers

- Web development
- Artificial intelligence and LLM development
- Project management
- Social media platforms and Marketing
- Systems planning and analysis
- Games and interactivity systems
- Financial and security systems
- Robotics and the Internet of Things

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WHY CHOOSE GCSE

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY?

Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, you will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

The course will offer you the opportunity to solve real problems by designing and making products or systems.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE Design and Technology qualification is available in the following pathways:

- Engineering Design
- Fashion and Textiles
- Product Design

Each of these pathways is divided into core knowledge and information - which will ensure that you have a broad knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology - as well as content that is specific to your chosen pathway.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 - On screen exam

Assessment Type: Digital examination
30% of qualification: 80 marks

The on-screen exam will require you to demonstrate and apply your knowledge and understanding of the principles, materials, tools and techniques used in Design and Technology. There will be a mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions on both core knowledge and content that is specific to your chosen pathway.

Unit 2 - Design Project: Contextual Challenge

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment
70% of qualification: 100 marks

This unit is designed to give you the opportunity to solve 'real life' problems by designing and making products or systems that respond to your selected target markets' needs, wants and values.

You will be required to identify design opportunities, produce a clear design brief and specification, create innovative solutions, produce quality final prototypes and evaluate their suitability for their intended users' needs.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Studying Design and Technology will enable you to develop a wide range of transferable skills for further education, work and life:

- Creative and innovative thinking
- Use of imagination and experimentation
- Ability to critique and refine your own ideas
- Knowledge and Understanding of all design and technological activity and influences
- Decision making and communication skills
- Develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes

CAREERS IN DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

This qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Design and Technology at A-level which would allow you the opportunity to study a range of courses at university.

There are many careers that come from studying Design and Technology, a few are listed here:

Architecture: architect, technician, structural engineer, interior architect, CAD specialist, surveyor, project manager, naval architect

Fashion: textile designer, fashion designer, textile engineer, dressmaker, jewellery designer, costume designer, silversmith, technologist

Graphic Design: graphic designer, web designer, UI/UX designer, games developer, digital media.

Systems Design: electronic design engineer, mechanical engineer, circuit designer, software architect, software programmer, lighting designer

Product Design: product designer, furniture designer, fashion designer, brand identity design, kitchen designer, ergonomist, industrial designer.

Engineering: mechanical, electrical, structural, civil, aerospace, automotive, renewable energy, mechanic, robotics, material development

Construction: carpenter, joiner, blacksmith, metal fabricator, electrician, plumber, project manager, construction manager, health and safety manager

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WHY CHOOSE GCSE

Drama?

The WJEC GCSE Drama qualification will support you to:

- explore drama created and performed by other people to help develop your own talents
- gain understanding of a range of techniques, forms, styles, genres and contexts
- reflect on, evaluate and refine your work
- explore diversity, identity and culture
- discover and explore your performance and/or design skills

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE Drama qualification will allow you to explore and respond to stimuli, create and reflect on your own work, develop your own creativity and engage with many different styles of theatre.

You will also have the opportunity to build on your understanding of acting, directing, design and technical theatre.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Devising Theatre

Practical non-exam assessment
40% of qualification: 96 marks

One devised piece in response to a chosen stimulus, performed in a group of between two and five actors and up to four designers.

Unit 2 – Performance from a Text

Practical non-exam assessment
30% of qualification: 72 marks

A performance of one extract from a text of your choice. Assessed by a Visiting Examiner and performed in a group of between two and four actors and up to two designers.

Unit 3 – Interpreting Theatre

Assessment Type: On-screen examination (2 hours)
30% of qualification: 72 marks

The exam is broken into two sections: Section A and Section B. Section A will ask questions based on a set text you will have studied in lessons. Section B will ask questions based on an excerpt of a live theatre production from one of four set genres, that you will be able to watch in the exam. The genres are Musical Theatre, Naturalism, Theatre in Education or Physical Theatre.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Exploring: you will have the opportunity to explore, experience and interpret many different styles and genres of theatre linked to different cultures in Wales and the world. You will be able to build on these ideas to create and develop your own theatre when devising and when working from a script.

Responding and reflecting: you will be able to recount, evaluate and refine your work through reflection and feedback from others, to create an exciting, imaginative and successful finished product. You will also be able to evaluate and analyse the work of others to inform your own creativity.

Creating: in Unit 1, you will devise your own original piece of theatre in response to a stimulus and in a style/genre of your choice, within a group of your peers. In Unit 2, you will work from a text of your choosing, also in a style of your choosing.

CAREERS IN DRAMA

This qualification provides an excellent foundation for the study of Drama at A-level. It will also provide a satisfying and worthwhile course of study for you if you choose not to study further.

Importantly, studying Drama will develop many transferable skills including communication, presentation skills, team working, leadership, focus, refinement, creativity and self-confidence. The career options that come from studying Drama are extensive, but here are a few of those options:

Actor, Drama Therapist, Recruitment, Scenic Make-Up Artist, Marketing Executive, Casting Director, Producer, Events Management, Script Writer, Stage Manager, Primary school teacher, University Lecturer, Make up and Prosthetics Technician, Teacher, Community Arts Manager, Playwright, Lighting Designer, Costumer Designer, Workshop Leader, Sound Technician, Studio Supporting Artist, Theatre Agent, Arts Administrator, Theatre Manager, Dramaturg, Theatre/TV Director, Broadcasting Crew, Researcher.

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GCSE ELECTRONICS

Why choose GCSE Electronics?

The study of Electronics will enable you to develop an understanding of electronic components, systems, processes and methods. The contents of your study will help you answer questions about actual circuits and solve practical engineering tasks.

The theory studied will be reinforced by practical investigations, and design and make tasks throughout the course of study.

What will I study?

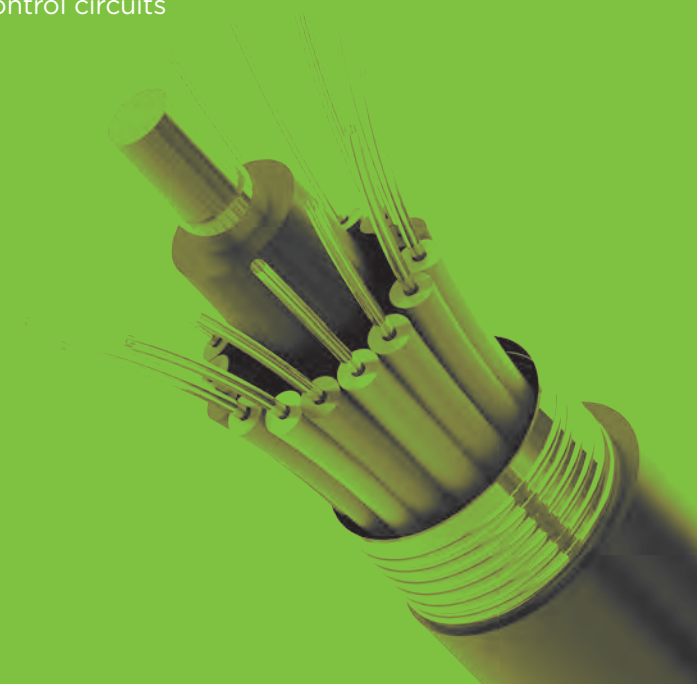
You will study a course with 11 topic areas divided between two components. For each topic you will study the theory and then carrying out practical investigations you put the theory into practice.

The topics you will study in Component 1 are:

1. Electronic systems and sub-systems
2. Circuit concepts
3. Resistive components in circuits
4. Switching circuits
5. Applications of diodes
6. Combinational logic systems

The topics you will study in Component 2 are:

1. Operational amplifiers
2. Timing circuits
3. Sequential systems
4. Interfacing digital to analogue circuits
5. Control circuits



GCSE ELECTRONICS



What skills will I develop?

You will develop the scientific and engineering skills to analyse and design electronic systems for a range of practical situations. You will learn about and work with a wide range of digital and analogue electrical and electronic systems. For instance, you will be involved in:

- designing logic circuits to perform a set task;
- testing amplifier circuits for their suitability;
- programming a microcontroller (a computer on a single chip), and wiring the microcontroller into a circuit to control processes in the real world.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification is assessed in 3 components.

Component 1	Assessed by exam A mix of short answer questions, structured questions and extended writing questions, with some set in a practical context	40% of the final mark
Component 2	Assessed by exam A mix of short answer questions, structured questions and extended writing questions, with some set in a practical context	40% of the final mark
Component 3 Non-exam Assessment	Assessed by an extended system design and realisation task An extended system design and realisation task to assess electronics skills	20% of the final mark

Careers with Electronics

The knowledge and skills you will learn and practice throughout the course will help you to progress to Level 3 courses or apprenticeships in electronics or wider engineering areas, such as engineering,

process control, systems design, manufacturing, robotics/automation and medical services. The transferrable skills developed by studying electronics are actively sought out by employers.

About the VCSE in Engineering

Engineering is a key driver of Wales' economy, supporting industries such as manufacturing, transport, energy, and construction, and creating high-value, skilled employment.

This qualification introduces learners to the sector through practical activities, including technical drawing, understanding materials, planning tasks, and producing components.

Assessments showcase learners' skills and deepen their understanding of the sector, building confidence and proficiency as they prepare for further study, apprenticeships or careers in an essential, innovative industry that shapes everyday life.

Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Engineering qualification is designed to sit alongside GCSEs, offering a hands-on vocational experience that broadens learning for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It suits those interested in practical, skills-based subjects and potential careers in construction, building design, heritage restoration, or trades such as brickwork, plumbing, electrical work, and woodwork, as well as roles in planning, surveying, and site management.

Skillstart Practical Engineering Diploma / Information

Skillstart Practical Engineering Diploma

Overview

What is practical engineering? This is all about metalwork. Practical engineering is about interpreting engineering drawings and carrying out metal fabrication techniques. The diploma is a great foundation for practical and vocational engineering routes.

Course Assessment

- Several pieces of practical coursework in which you will use metal fabrication techniques like folding and spot welding.
- Knowledge-based short tests throughout the course test your understanding of manufacturing, safety, and accuracy.

Course Structure

- Year 10 – several practical outcomes which are assessed and some knowledge questions.
- Year 11 – some larger practical outcomes and knowledge questions.

Is it suitable for University?

This course is more suitable for vocational routes, going on to college to study trades or apprenticeship. If you are aiming at A grades, we recommend you choose BTEC Engineering or Product Design. This course gives you the equivalent of two B grades. You must complete the whole course; therefore, attendance must be good.

Where next?

There are many vocational courses to pursue at Bridgend College, or you could build on your engineering knowledge with BTEC Level 3 engineering in Sixth Form.



French/German/Spanish?

The WJEC GCSEs in French/German/Spanish have been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking in writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course has 4 units. Two are assessed in examinations in the final year of study. The other two units are completed as non-examination assessments in your classroom, also in your final year of study. You will learn useful language that you could use in situations relating to leisure and wellbeing, travel and study or work.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

UNIT 1 – Oracy

Unit 1 is a non-examination assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher. Firstly, you will read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of French/German/Spanish pronunciation. You will then take part in a role play. After this, you will give a short one-minute presentation that you will have prepared in advance and have a short discussion with your teacher about your presentation. Finally, you will take part in a short conversation with your teacher. This unit is worth 30% of the qualification.

UNIT 2 – Reading and Writing

Unit 2 is also a non-examination assessment that you will complete in your classroom. With your classmates, you will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in French/German/Spanish. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in French/German/Spanish about the short story/graphic novel or film script you have studied. This unit is worth 15% of the qualification.

Unit 3 – Listening

Unit 3 is a listening examination worth 20% of the qualification. You will listen a range of speakers in French/German/Spanish and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by for example, answering multiple choice questions or questions in English/Cymraeg.

Unit 4 – Reading and Writing

Unit 4 is a written examination worth 35% of the qualification. For this assessment, you will read texts in French/German/Spanish and answers questions on them in English/Cymraeg. You will also be required to complete a translation into English/Cymraeg. Finally, you will be able to demonstrate your written language skills by writing up to 120 words in French/German/Spanish from a choice of 3 questions.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will learn how to communicate clearly and accurately in speaking in writing.

You will develop your understanding of the language by reading and listening items in French/German/Spanish.

You will learn how to contribute to discussions and conversations.

You will develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where French/German/Spanish is spoken.

You will make connections with your own language.

CAREERS IN FRENCH/GERMAN/SPANISH

A GCSE in French/German/Spanish can open up a world of opportunities to you. There are a wide range of career paths that you could follow with a GCSE in languages, including within the more traditionally linked tourist industry, armed forces, language services such as translation and interpreting, teaching and social services. However, the great advantage of having skills in another language is that they can serve you throughout your life and career; not only useful for travel, making friends and developing a general appreciation and understanding of others' identity and culture, but also potentially useful for ANY chosen career. A qualification in International Languages shows that you are a good communicator, are willing to learn, adapt and step out of your "comfort zone" – highly desirable for any prospective employer. It may also interest you to know that in today's global business world, employees with skills in international languages are known to attract higher salaries! What's not to like?

FIND OUT MORE - TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!

WHY CHOOSE GCSE Geography?

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore the physical properties of the earth's surface and the human societies spread across it.

What can be more important for our future?

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

TITLE/UNIT 1 – Our Physical and Human World.

Here you will study:

- Drainage basin and rivers.
- Changing coastlines
- Migration
- Settlement Change

TITLE/UNIT 3 – Our Dynamic and Diverse World.

- The geography of inequality
- The highs and lows of our weather
- Wild weather
- Continual climate change.
- Managing global challenges.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

EXAM 1 – Unit 1 Our Physical and Human World.

This is worth 30% of the qualification and is a written exam 1 hour 30 mins.

EXAM 2 – Unit 3 Our dynamic and Diverse World.

This is worth 30% of the qualification and is a written exam 1 hour 30 mins.

Non-Examination Assessments (NEA) – There are 2 NEA tasks:

Unit 2 Developing Fieldwork Skills 25% of the qualification.

You will carry out a field work visit based on a topic such as, change over time or environment, and investigate this in a chosen location, writing a fieldwork enquiry that will be submitted to WJEC.

Unit 4 Sustainable Solutions, 15% of the qualification

You will receive a resource booklet on a geographical issue and will also carry out background reading on the issue. You will then write a report based on a real-world issue in a decision- making task, reporting how sustainable the various options are likely to be.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Geography is always in the news. You will develop skills to interpret, analyse and evaluate information to make decisions about issues and problems that affect people and the environment.

An ability to collect, process, analyse and understand qualitative and quantitative data and communicate it to a variety of audiences.

Develop a reasoned argument and communicate it to a variety of audiences.

Teamwork and leadership skills.

Studying geography allows you to develop a range of personal skills for life, including time management, dealing with uncertainty, flexibility, creativity, problem solving and self-confidence.

CAREERS IN GEOGRAPHY

The transferable skills developed by studying geography are actively sought by employers. There is a wealth of jobs that geographers can do spanning almost every sector! Most jobs have an element of geography in them, whether a doctor investigating the spread of disease or an engineer designing products to cope with less demand for plastic.

“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.” Barak Obama.

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WHY CHOOSE GCSE HISTORY?

We all live in a constantly changing and interconnected world. Understanding historical events is crucial for making sense of current happenings. GCSE History assists us in achieving this by examining significant events and figures from the past and their influence on our present.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE History course allows you to explore a wide and diverse selection of topics from various historical periods and societies. Students can examine, analyse, and assess historical figures and events from the extensive array of choices available. These options include:

UNIT 1: An in-depth study on Welsh history

You will study one of six historical topics to undertake an in-depth study that will provide them with an insight into the development of Wales at a specific point in time.

UNIT 2: An in-depth study on European and/or World history

You will study one of six historical topics to undertake an in-depth study that will provide them with an understanding of an issue in European and/or world history.

UNIT 3: A study of a period in world history

You will study one of six historical topics to undertake a breadth study of an extended historical period.

UNIT 4: A changing society

You will undertake a study of themed events within a continuous period of c. 75-100 years of history.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

UNIT 1: Written examination: 1 hour TBC

30% of qualification

UNIT 2: Non-examination assessment (NEA) marked by WJEC

20% of qualification

UNIT 3: Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

30% of qualification

UNIT 4: Non-examination assessment: 4 hours

Marked by centre and moderated by WJEC

20% of qualification

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

GCSE History is the perfect subject to develop a wide range of transferable skills for employment or further study, including:

- Reaching conclusions and making judgements
- Problem solving
- Writing skills
- Research skills
- Independent study skills
- Analytical and evaluative skills
- Making connections

CAREERS IN 'HISTORY'

Employers are always looking for young people who are able to think critically and analytically, both key attributes of the historian. Studying GCSE History can help you take the first steps towards a variety of career paths, including law, journalism, marketing, human resources and management.

GCSE History also serves as a platform for further study at A level and undergraduate level, either in history itself or in a wide range of alternative disciplines.

It can act as the foundation stone for education of all kinds and helps develop academic skills crucial in a range of fields. These include the ability to absorb large quantities of information, sift content, analyse sources and interpretations, shape arguments and reach balanced conclusions.

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About the VCSE in Hospitality and Catering

This qualification provides practical skills and industry knowledge for one of Wales's largest employment sectors within the visitor economy.

With mandatory units on industry roles and food safety, plus a practical option to cook and prepare dishes or run a hospitality event, it blends knowledge with hands-on experience.

It also includes the Level 2 Certificate in Food Safety, Hygiene, and Allergens, boosting employability and meeting industry standards for safe, inclusive catering.

Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Hospitality and Catering qualification, which is designed to sit alongside GCSEs, offers a hands-on vocational experience that broadens learning for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It's ideal for those interested in careers in food service, catering, or event management, and for learners who prefer vocational, real-world tasks over purely academic study. With mandatory units on food safety and industry roles, plus practical options, it suits schools looking to engage learners and prepare them for employment or further study.

About the VCSE in Retail and Customer Service

Retail and customer service are major contributors to the Welsh economy, providing employment and supporting communities.

This qualification supports learners to explore the sector, investigate career pathways and develop knowledge, understanding and skills essential to both customer service and retailing.

Learners explore modern retail developments such as social media marketing, influencer promotion and online shopping, whilst developing essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork and digital competence.

Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Retail and Customer Service is designed to sit alongside GCSEs, offering a hands-on vocational experience that broadens learning for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It offers a structured pathway to understanding the diverse nature of retail and customer service industries and career opportunities the sector offers.

It provides an excellent foundation for further study in retailing, customer service and business, that in turn, supports progression to employment.

GCSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE AND CHILDCARE (SINGLE AND DOUBLE AWARD)

Why choose GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare (Single and Double Award)?

The City & Guilds/WJEC consortium GCSE in Health and Social Care and Childcare is suitable for you if you are aged 14-16 and are interested in learning about the development and care of individuals throughout the life cycle from conception to later adulthood. There are no previous learning requirements for this qualification.

It is suitable if you have achieved a Level 1 qualification or if you have no previous knowledge of the children's care, play, learning and development sectors. It will equip you with knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of individuals throughout the life cycle from conception to later adulthood.

You will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. You will also gain an understanding of the social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs of people who use care and support services, and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs. You will gain an understanding of how service provision in Wales supports the development and well-being of individuals, to be able to make informed decisions now and in later life.

What will I study?

This specification has been designed to include contemporary issues in relation to the provision of an ethical and sustainable health and social care and childcare system in Wales. Active learning and personalisation are promoted by giving you opportunities to investigate care issues and topics of your own choice. The subject content and assessment

requirements are designed to ensure you develop an appropriate breadth and depth of knowledge, understanding and skills in health and social care, and childcare.

What skills will I develop?

By studying Health and Social Care and Childcare, you will be able to:

- develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of health and social care and childcare contexts
- actively engage in the study of health and social care and childcare to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- appreciate a range of perspectives on the impacts of health and social care and childcare services on wider society
- consider how health and social care and childcare practice should be ethical and support a sustainable health and care system
- develop and apply skills relevant to health and social care and childcare, including using and interpreting data
- develop an awareness of career pathways available within the health and social care and childcare sector.

GCSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE AND CHILDCARE (SINGLE AND DOUBLE AWARD)



How will I be assessed?

Single Award		
Unit 1: Human growth, development and well-being will be assessed through a written examination.		
1 hour 30 minutes 40% of Single Award qualification (20% of Double Award qualification)	80 marks - either taken on-screen or as a written paper	- a range of question types - all questions are compulsory
Unit 2: Promoting and maintaining health and well-being will be assessed through non-examination assessment: marked by your teacher, externally moderated by WJEC.		
approximately 25 hours	60% of Single Award qualification (30% of Double Award qualification)	120 marks
Task 1: Service Provision - approximately 10 hours 40% of the marks - a service provision investigation which will assess your knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to health and social care and childcare service provision locally and nationally	Task 2: Health Promotion - approximately 15 hours 60% of the marks - a task which assesses your knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to promoting and maintaining health and well-being.	
Double Award		
Units 1 and 2, plus:		
Unit 3: Health and social care and childcare in the 21st century will be assessed through a written examination.		
1 hour 30 minutes 20% of Double Award qualification 80 marks	- either taken on-screen or as a written paper - a range of question types	all questions are compulsory
Unit 4: Promoting and supporting health and well-being to achieve positive outcomes will be assessed through non-examination assessment: marked by your teacher, externally moderated by WJEC.		
- approximately 25 hours 30% of Double Award qualification 120 marks	An activity to meet a need This task assesses your knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to meaningful activities to meet a specific need of a chosen target group, and which helps to promote self-identity, self-worth, sense of security or resilience.	

Careers with GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare

This specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for you even if you do not progress to further study in this subject. It provides a suitable foundation for the study of Health and Social Care and Childcare at AS or A level, in addition to providing a suitable foundation for a range of Level 2 or Level 3 qualifications within the Health and Social Care and Childcare suite. It will

also help you make informed decisions about a wide range of career pathways. It has been designed to include contemporary issues in relation to the provision of an ethical and sustainable health and social care and childcare system in Wales, and to enable you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities or continuing into related career choices.

Why choose GCSE Media & Film Studies?



Step into the world of media and film!

Do you enjoy movies, streaming, video games, or social media? This course lets you go behind the scenes to discover how these industries really work. You'll explore how films and games tell stories, how social media shapes our lives, and how the media industry in Wales connects to the global stage.

GCSE Digital Media & Film is perfect if you are curious, creative, and love sharing ideas. You'll get the chance to design, film, edit and promote your own media products, while also learning how professionals in Wales and beyond bring their projects to life. Whether you dream of making your own film, working in gaming, becoming a social media content creator, or just want to understand the digital world around you, this course will give you the skills, confidence, and experience to succeed.

GCSE Digital Media & Film will give you the chance to:

- explore films, video games, online news, and social media to see how they grab attention and tell stories.
- build creative and technical skills to plan, design and make your own digital projects.
- learn how media and film industries in Wales and across the world work.
- improve your confidence by reflecting on and improving your own work.
- look at diversity, identity and culture through a wide range of media.

**FIND OUT MORE - TALK TO
MR SIMPSON OR MISS
WELLINGTON!**

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1 – Exploring Key Concepts and Issues

On-screen **exam** (1h 30m) – **30%**

Study Welsh and global films, video games, online news, and social media. Learn about representation, context, narrative, and ethical issues.

Unit 2 – Distribution and Exhibition in Wales

Coursework/portfolio – **30%**

Research how Welsh production companies make and share their work. Create your own ideas for how a new company would distribute and promote their product.

Unit 3 – Creating Digital Media & Film Content

Coursework/assignment – **40%**

Respond to a set brief (film, video game or streaming series).

Plan, produce and edit your own media products using pre-production documents.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Practical skills in using cameras, editing, sound and digital design.
- Creativity by experimenting, planning and making original projects.
- Analysis – understanding how meaning is created through media language.
- Reflection – improving your own work and learning from others.
- Teamwork, organisation and meeting deadlines.

CAREERS IN DIGITAL MEDIA & FILM

This course is a great starting point for:

- A-level Media Studies or Film Studies.
- College or vocational creative courses.
- Careers in film, TV, journalism, marketing, social media, digital design, game design and advertising.



WHY CHOOSE GCSE MUSIC?

The WJEC GCSE Music qualification will support you to:

- develop performance skills
- develop creative skills
- understand musical forms, styles and genres
- appreciate how to communicate musically
- explore music created and performed by others to help develop your own talents
- reflect on, evaluate and refine your work
- explore diversity, identity and culture

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE Music qualification is based on the study and application of the elements of music:

- dynamics
- form and structure
- harmony
- melody and pitch
- performance techniques/articulation
- sonority / timbre
- tempo, rhythm and metre
- texture
- tonality.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 - Performing

Non-exam assessment
32.5% of qualification: 78 marks
Minimum 2 pieces, 4-6 minutes
Solo and/or ensemble

You will select pieces that you wish to perform, individually or as part of an ensemble.

Unit 2 - Composing

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment
32.5% of qualification: 78 marks
2 compositions, 3-6 minutes total

You will compose your own music in a style you choose, one to a set brief and one to your own brief. You will also submit an assessed reflective log.

Unit 3 - Appraising

Assessment Type: Digital exam (1h 30m)
35% of qualification: 84 marks

The exam questions will be based on extracts of music you will be able to listen to, and you will be expected to know and understand the elements of music and how they are used. You will study 2 set works in detail.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Exploring: you will have the opportunity to explore various styles and genres of music linked to different cultures in Wales and the world and understand how they have been created to produce the intended effect. You will be able to use these ideas to create and develop your own music. You could also compose through exploring ideas in improvisation

Responding and reflecting: you will be able to evaluate and refine your work through reflection and feedback from others, to create a successful finished product

Creating: you will create your own original music in a style of your choosing, and a piece to meet a brief specified by WJEC using the techniques you have explored and reflected upon.

CAREERS IN MUSIC

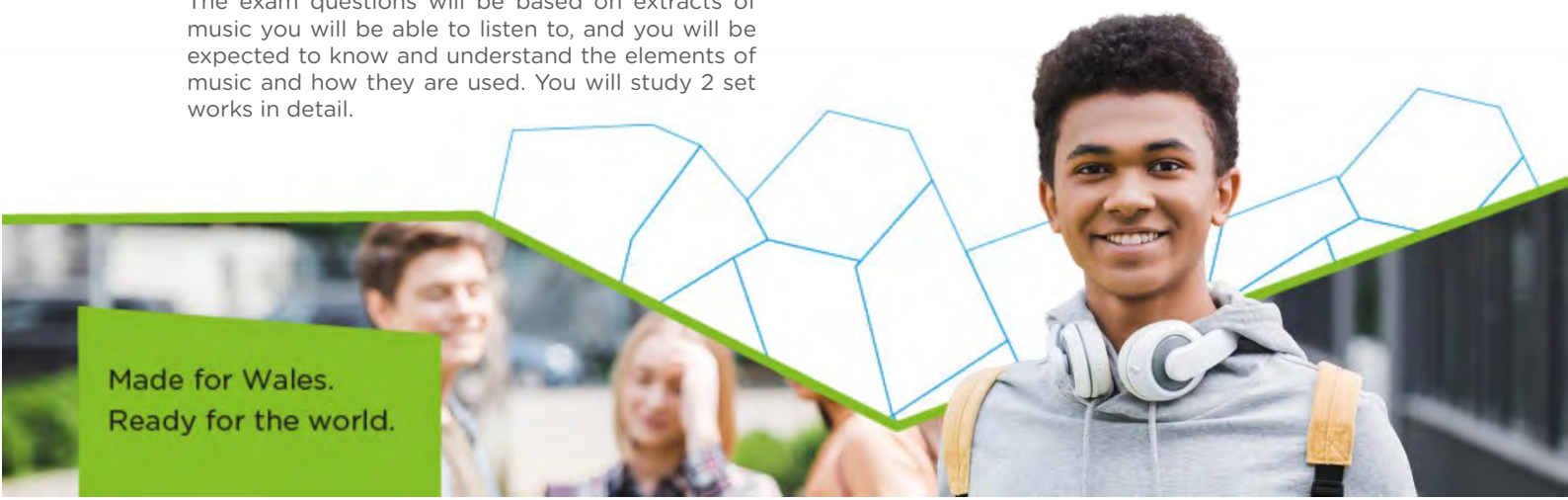
This qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Music at A-level. It will also provide a satisfying and worthwhile course of study for you if you choose not to progress to study further.

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum). When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted Creativity as the most important workplace capability to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed, whatever your ambitions! At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

Importantly, studying music will develop many transferable skills including communication, presentation skills, team working, leadership, focus, refinement, creativity and self-confidence.

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About the VCSE in Performing Arts

The performing arts industry is central to Wales's cultural landscape, offering two pathways - performance and production - across diverse disciplines.

This qualification helps learners understand the sector's scope, job roles, and career opportunities. Through practical activities, they will explore professional and devised work while developing skills in performance, production, or both.

Assessments showcase their abilities and deepen knowledge, building confidence and proficiency as they prepare for further study, apprenticeships, or careers in this vibrant, creative industry.

Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Performing Arts qualification is designed to sit alongside GCSEs, offering a hands-on vocational experience that broadens learning for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It offers a structured pathway to understanding the diverse nature of the performing arts industry and the career opportunities on offer. It suits those interested in creative, skills-based subjects and provides an excellent foundation for further study, that in turn, supports progression to employment.

About the VCSE in Public Services

Public services play a vital role in Welsh society, ensuring health, safety, education, and community well-being.

They form one of the largest employment sectors in Wales, offering opportunities across healthcare (NHS), emergency services, local government, education, and the armed forces.

The sector supports essential infrastructure, promotes social equity, and aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

This qualification provides learners with valuable insight into a field where there is the chance to make a meaningful difference - whether through frontline roles or strategic leadership.

Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Public Services qualification is designed as an engaging vocational alternative or supplement to GCSE qualifications for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It offers a structured pathway to understanding the diverse career opportunities in public services and provides an excellent foundation for further study that in turn would support learners' progression to employment.

About the VCSE in Sport, Leisure and Recreation

Sport, leisure, and recreation play a vital role in Welsh society, promoting health, wellbeing, inclusion, and community engagement while offering diverse career opportunities.

This qualification supports learners to explore the sector, investigate career pathways, understand how initiatives promote participation and wellbeing, and develop practical skills in performance, leadership and coaching.

Learners complete assessments that demonstrate their practical skills and readiness for further learning or work. Through these experiences, they develop a deeper understanding of the sector, building confidence and proficiency as they prepare for further study or careers in sport, leisure and recreation.

Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Sport, Leisure and Recreation qualification is designed to sit alongside GCSEs, offering a hands-on vocational experience that broadens learning for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It suits those interested in understanding how the sector promotes health, wellbeing and community participation, and who want to explore related careers. Learners develop skills in performance, leadership or coaching and complete activities or projects that support progression to further study or employment.

WHY CHOOSE GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH?



The **GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH** will enable you to engage in a practical course, designed to encourage you to be inspired, motivated and challenged by the subject and allow you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways. You will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in sports or physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The specification in Physical Education and Health will enable you to make connections between theory and practice so that you are able to apply your understanding of the factors that underpin health and wellbeing, sports and physical activity and use this knowledge to improve performance.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

UNIT 1: PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

- Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Marked by WJEC
- 40% of qualification
- 80 marks
- Questions requiring objective response, quick-responses, short and extended answers.

UNIT 2: PERFORMANCE AND PERSONAL TRAINING

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed by your teacher and externally moderated by a WJEC visiting moderator

- 60% qualification
- 120 marks

Practical non-examination assessment:

- Perform in one sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Perform in a second sport or physical activity or provide coaching in a sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Plan, implement and evaluate a personal training activity over 8-10 weeks for a sport or physical activity from the approved list.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

By studying Physical Education and Health you will be able to:

- perform effectively in different sports and physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- analyse physical performance and select appropriate strategies and interventions for development and improvement
- think critically and reflectively about your own and others performance
- develop knowledge and understanding of health, wellbeing, sport and physical activity and the links between them
- understand the factors that impact on levels of activity and the relationship with physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing
- understand the socio-cultural influences on participation, and contemporary developments within sport and physical activity.

CAREERS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

This qualification provides an excellent foundation for the study of WJEC AS and A Level Physical Education or WJEC Level 3 Sport. It will also provide a satisfying and worthwhile course of study if you choose not to progress further.

Importantly, studying GCSE Physical Education and Health will develop many transferable skills including communication, performance and presentation skills, teamwork, leadership, focus, refinement and self-confidence.

The career possibilities that come from studying Physical Education and Health are extensive, but a few are listed here:

Fitness Instructor, Personal Trainer, PE Teacher, University Lecturer, Physiotherapist, Sports Massage Therapist, Leisure and Recreation Manager, Sports Business Manager, Sports Administrator, Sports Coach, Sports Development Officer, Sports Journalist, Sports Commentator, Sports Medicine, Professional Sports Performer, Sports Scientist, Sports Nutritionist, Professional Sports Official/ Referee, Event Coordinator.

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About the VCSE in Travel and Tourism

The tourism industry is vital to Wales's economy and cultural identity, connecting people with destinations locally and globally.

This qualification introduces learners to the sector's scope, job roles, and career pathways, alongside key considerations such as legislation, planning, and sustainability.

Through practical activities, learners research destinations, plan trips, and create marketing materials, building confidence and transferable skills as they prepare for further study, apprenticeships, or careers in this dynamic and diverse industry.

Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Travel and Tourism qualification is designed to sit alongside GCSEs, offering a hands-on vocational experience that broadens learning for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It provides a strong foundation of industry knowledge while developing essential skills, preparing learners for further study, apprenticeships, or careers in the sector. Ideal for students seeking real-world experience alongside academic study, it opens pathways into a dynamic and growing industry.

WHY CHOOSE GCSE Religious Studies?

INTRODUCTION

Why study RS? Because it is, and will always be, relevant. The majority of the world's population is religious; GCSE RS helps you to understand some of the beliefs and teachings that these people live their lives by. You will also learn about non-religious attitudes and perspectives as this is increasingly relevant in the modern world. Not a day goes by where there isn't reference to religion or some ethical topic on the news, so take GCSE RS to be better informed about these important matters!

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE Religious Studies comprises four units, two of which are examined by non-exam assessment (NEA).

UNIT 1 – Religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and practices – in this unit, first you will learn the nature of belief (what we mean by belief and why people choose to be religious or non-religious) and then go on to look at a variety of key religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and practices, including beliefs about life and death, identity, belonging, morality and putting belief into action. You will learn this content from a Christian or Catholic perspective, the perspective of one other world religion and from non-religious perspectives.

UNIT 2 – Religion and relationships – Unit 2 is a non-exam assessment (NEA) meaning you will learn about relationships and then conduct an investigation into a topic relating to this, exploring religious and non-religious perspectives.

UNIT 3 – Roles, rights and responsibilities – Unit 3 allows you to explore key religious themes, including stewardship, animal rights, freedom of religious expression, use of personal wealth and the medical ethics topics of abortion and euthanasia. As with Unit 1, you will learn these from a Christian or Catholic perspective and also from the viewpoint of one other world religion, as well as looking at non-religious views.

UNIT 4 – Religion and human rights – Unit 4 is another non-exam assessment. First, you will learn some beliefs, teachings, practices and perspectives relating to human rights and then complete an NEA exploring the work of charities and organisations campaigning for human rights.

FIND OUT MORE -TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 A 75-minute exam, 60 marks, 30% of the qualification

Unit 2 Non-exam assessment, 6 hours, 20% of the qualification

Units 3 A 75-minute exam, 60 marks, 30% of the qualification

Unit 4 Non-exam assessment, 6 hours, 20% of the qualification

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Religious Studies allows you to broaden your understanding of different people and the way they live their lives, developing tolerance and empathy. The academic nature of the subject helps you to develop a range of skills, including:

- Interpretation
- Analysis
- Evaluation
- Critical thinking
- Debate and communication skills
- Reflection of personal views

With the introduction of NEA, you will also have opportunities to investigate and explore issues that are relevant to today's world, developing research and interpersonal skills.

CAREERS IN Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies gives you a solid foundation for studying A Level Religious Studies, which can lead you to various degrees at university:

Theology;

Religious Studies;

Philosophy;

PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

It can also lead to a wide range of careers: lawyer; police officer; teacher; paramedic; chef; business owner; data analyst. The skills gained in GCSE Religious Studies make it perfectly suited to any career requiring critical thinking, debate and good communication skills; most careers require some combination of these!

GCSE BIOLOGY

The GCSE Science Suite

The following pathways are available in the suite:

GCSE Biology / Chemistry / Physics – Learners study for 3 GCSEs in each of the sciences and receive a separate grade in each one.

GCSE Science (Double award) – Learners study all three sciences and receive two GCSE grades.

GCSE Applied Science (Double award) – Learners study all three sciences in a context-led approach and receive two GCSE grades.

GCSE Applied Science (Single award) – Learners study all three sciences in a context-led approach and receive one GCSE grade.

Why choose GCSE Biology?

Biology is the study of life. It will enable you to develop a vast array of skills and acquire knowledge about the natural world and all the living things within it.

Gaining a GCSE in this subject opens up a vast range of opportunities and will allow you to continue to A level in this subject.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Cells, organ systems and ecosystems

This unit is normally completed in Year 10. It comprises of six topics.

- All living things are made of cells which work together to perform a particular function. You will learn how materials are transported into and out of cells.
- Respiration is the process by which energy is provided for organisms to function. The respiratory system provides the oxygen for this process and removes the waste carbon dioxide.
- You will learn about digestion and the digestive system in humans.
- You will look at how the circulatory system works and how cardiovascular disease affects it and can be treated.
- Life on Earth is dependent on photosynthesis. You will study the process of photosynthesis and how plants are adapted for the process
- The last topic looks at ecosystems, how nutrients are cycled and the effect of human impact on the environment.



GCSE BIOLOGY



What will I study?

Unit 2: Variation, Homeostasis and Micro-organisms

This unit is normally covered in Year 11. It comprises of eight topics

- The first topic covers the need for classification and how different organisms are adapted to their environments.
- In order to grow and to reproduce cells must divide. This topic looks at the two ways that cells can divide. It also covers uncontrolled cell division which can result in cancer and the use of stem cells in medicine.
- The third topic looks at the structure of DNA and how it acts as a code for the production of proteins. It goes on to look at the use of genetic profiling in science and how scientists can predict the outcome of a cross between two organisms.
- Evolution is the result of variation between organisms leading to natural selection and survival of the fittest.
- In the fifth topic you will study response and regulation in both plants and animals. This will include the nervous system, the structure and function of the eye and the regulation of temperature and blood sugar.
- The kidney plays a vital role in the regulation of water content within the body. You will also look at the effect of kidney failure and how it can be treated.
- You will look at the techniques used in the culture of micro-organisms.
- You will study the different causes of disease, how diseases can spread and how they can be prevented. You will also look at the body's natural defence mechanisms.

What skills will I develop?

- knowledge and understanding of key areas of biology and its application
- competence and confidence in a variety of practical, and problem-solving skills
- scientific enquiry and modelling skills and understanding in laboratory, and work-related contexts
- understanding of the relationships between data, evidence and explanations
- understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues
- communication, mathematical and technological skills in scientific contexts

How will I be assessed?

There are three units, all of which are marked by WJEC.

Unit 1 is an exam which makes up 45% of the qualification.

This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.

Unit 2 is an exam which makes up 45% of the qualification.

This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.

Unit 3 is a practical assessment which makes up 10% of the qualification.

This assessment is untiered.

Careers with GCSE Biology

GCSE Biology can open up a wealth of career paths. These include jobs within the following fields: Medicine and healthcare, Science and research, Agriculture, Sport and Fitness and Education.

GCSE PHYSICS

The GCSE Science Suite

The following pathways are available in the suite:

GCSE Biology / Chemistry / Physics – Learners study for 3 GCSEs in each of the sciences and receive a separate grade in each one.

GCSE Science (Double award) – Learners study all three sciences and receive two GCSE grades.

GCSE Applied Science (Double award) – Learners study all three sciences in a context-led approach and receive two GCSE grades.

GCSE Applied Science (Single award) – Learners study all three sciences in a context-led approach and receive one GCSE grade.

Why choose GCSE Physics?

GCSE Physics provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Gaining a GCSE in this subject opens up a vast range of opportunities and will allow you to continue to A level in this subject.

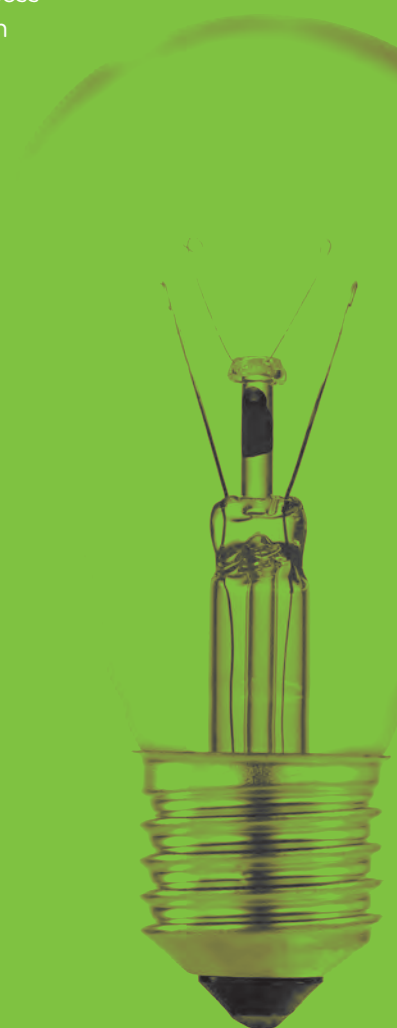
What will I study?

Unit 1: Electricity, energy and waves

This unit is normally completed in Year 10. It comprises of nine topics.

- The first topic involves understanding how electric circuits work.
- You will learn about how electricity is generated, renewable and non-renewable sources of energy and the need for the National Grid.

- The methods by which heat energy is transferred are studied along with considering the efficiency and cost effectiveness of different methods that reduce heat losses from our homes.
- How fuses and other devices protect us when faults develop in circuits in our homes is studied along with the cost effectiveness of using different renewable energy sources.
- The basic properties of waves will be studied.
- You will learn about the process of the total internal reflection of light along with its applications in medicine and communications.
- You will learn about seismic waves and how they can be used to locate the epicentres of earthquakes.
- How a fixed mass of gas behaves under different conditions of pressure, volume and temperature will be studied.
- The last topic looks at magnetic fields and electromagnetism and how generators and transformers work.



GCSE PHYSICS



What will I study?

Unit 2: Forces, space and radioactivity

This unit is normally covered in Year 11. It comprises of nine topics.

- The first topic covers the ideas of distance, speed, velocity and acceleration along with the stopping distances of vehicles.
- Newton's three laws of motion will then be studied.
- You will learn about the relationship between work and energy and how safety features of cars work.
- Further work on motion will be studied so the effects of forces upon objects and the concept of momentum will be considered.
- In the fifth topic you will study stars and planets. This will include the main features of our solar system and the life cycle of stars.
- You will then study the evidence which leads to the concept of an expanding universe and how this links to the Big Bang model.
- You will learn about the structure of the nuclear atom and the nature of alpha, beta and gamma radiation.
- The random nature of radioactive decay and the concept of half-life will also be studied.
- The last topic covers the physics of fission and fusion and the idea that in these processes, some of the mass may be converted into energy.

What skills will I develop?

- knowledge and understanding of key areas of physics and its application
- competence and confidence in a variety of practical, and problem-solving skills
- scientific enquiry and modelling skills and understanding in laboratory, and work-related contexts
- understanding of the relationships between data, evidence and explanations
- understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues
- communication, mathematical and technological skills in scientific contexts

How will I be assessed?

There are three units, all of which are marked by WJEC.

Unit 1 is an exam which makes up 45% of the qualification.

This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.

Unit 2 is an exam which makes up 45% of the qualification.

This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.

Unit 3 is a practical assessment which makes up 10% of the qualification.

This assessment is untiered.

Careers with GCSE Physics

GCSE Physics can open up a wealth of career paths. These include jobs within the following fields: Medicine and healthcare, Science and research, Aerospace and defence, Engineering, Energy and renewable energy, Meteorology and climate change, Telecommunications and Education.

YOUR JOURNEY

TO BECOMING EXAM READY



WELCOME TO GCSE CHEMISTRY



Studying GCSE Chemistry provides the foundations for understanding the material world. The course looks at the basics of atoms and how they combine with one another, how quickly that happens and the energy changes that occur. These are the basis of developments over previous decades in areas such as the production of metals, plastics, medicines and important chemicals and of future advances which will help to address global challenges such as reducing climate change and providing clean water and sufficient food for the ever-increasing population.

PLANNING AHEAD...

Unit 1: Chemical substances, reactions and essential resources

- The nature of substances and chemical reactions
- Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
- Water
- The ever-changing Earth
- Rate of chemical change
- Limestone

Unit 2: Chemical bonding, application of chemical reactions and organic chemistry

- Bonding, structure and properties
- Acids, bases and salts
- Metals and their extraction
- Chemical reactions and energy
- Crude oil, fuels and organic chemistry
- Reversible reactions, industrial processes and important chemicals

GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

TOP TIPS

Try to use the basic ideas you've learnt in science to help you understand more challenging topics. Read about new topics in more than one textbook or website and remember to ask if there's something you don't quite understand.

Make sure you practise writing chemical formulae and equations as often as possible. These skills will always be tested in exams and can get you a good number of marks!

Enjoy the practical work and remember that it can really help you get your head around some difficult ideas. Try to understand exactly what you're doing and why, when you carry out any experiments. You'll find that you remember things better when you've seen them for yourself.

Units 1 and 2 are the theory units and there will be an exam at the end of each. Make sure you learn your work as you go along so that it won't all be down to last-minute revision!

WELLBEING GUIDANCE

Take baby steps.

Remember this is a journey and you will pick skills and knowledge up along the way.

Take regular breaks from studying.

Exercise, meet friends, spend time with family.

Look after yourself.

Make sure you are getting a balanced diet and get enough sleep.

Try to stay positive.

Even if you don't feel like it, a positive attitude will help you.

Remember that everyone's different.

Try not to compare yourself to others.

HOW ARE YOU ASSESSED?

The qualification is split into 7 units, which are all marked by WJEC.

Unit 1	Assessed by exam Foundation tier and higher tier available	45% of the total marks
Unit 2	Assessed by exam Foundation tier and higher tier available	45% of the total marks
Unit 3	Practical assessment carried out in class Untiered	10% of the total marks



WHY CHOOSE GCSE

GCSE SOCIAL STUDIES?

The WJEC GCSE Social Studies qualification will help you understand various social issues in society. You will be able to appreciate that social issues are complex and can be explained from many different perspectives. As societies change, you will understand the causes of these changes and how we as members of society can promote change through social action.

You will also develop an understanding of how to become ethical, informed, and responsible citizens of Wales and the world.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Social Studies qualification consists of four units:

Unit 1 – Society and Social Issues

This unit covers characteristics of society and a variety of social issues. You will become familiar with the diverse nature of society by studying the ideas of identity, rights, and how the various levels of governance in Wales, the UK, and the wider world influence how societies function.

UNIT 2 – Investigating Society and Social Issues

Within this unit you will explore ways of researching society and social issues based on a variety of evidence sources.

UNIT 3 – Social Change in Contemporary Society

This unit explores social change by explaining events that lead to changes, the agents and processes that cause these changes and the consequences of social change. You will examine social movements that have used various methods to deal with various social issues with varying impacts.

UNIT 4 – Planning to effect Social Change

For this unit you will investigate a social issue of your choice and plan an effective, legal and non-violent social action.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Examination Assessment	30%
Short and extended answers reflecting contemporary social issues.	
Unit 2 – NEA	20%
Set and marked by WJEC (tasks with evidence sources based on a selected social issue set by the WJEC).	
Unit 3 – Examination Assessment	30%
Short and extended answers, reflecting social change and social movements.	
Unit 4 – NEA	20%
Set by the WJEC, marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC.	

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

GCSE Social Studies helps to develop a wide range of skills for the future:

- **Literacy Skills** – reading, writing, discussing, understanding, and engaging with various forms of text and information.
- **Numeracy Skills** – understanding, interpreting, and working with relevant data linked to society.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving** – ask meaningful questions; assess the credibility of information and viewpoints whilst resolving contradictory accounts; analyse and justify potential social actions.
- **Creativity and Innovation** – thinking creatively whilst developing an effective social action plan.
- **Planning and Organising** – organising and planning an effective social action, within set time constraints.
- **Personal Effectiveness** – researching appropriate information; making effective judgements on a social issue; working effectively with others whilst planning a social action.
- **Enquiry skills** – select, utilise, and apply techniques relevant to social studies.

GCSE Social Studies will equip you with a range of skills that are not only valuable for studying this subject but will also support you in a variety of other subjects, including Sociology, Psychology, Government and Politics, Law and other Humanities subjects at A Level.

CAREERS IN SOCIAL STUDIES

This qualification will prepare you for a wide range of careers as it provides you with essential knowledge and a valuable and transferable skill set that can make you valuable and attractive to employers.

A selection of careers linked to social studies include: psychologist; social work; urban planning; journalism and broadcasting; police officer; probation officer; teaching; human resource manager; market research analyst; librarian; counselling; banking and finance; law; accountancy; politics; advertising and marketing.

FIND OUT MORE -TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!

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Ready for the world.

