



**Provisional  
Choices 2026**

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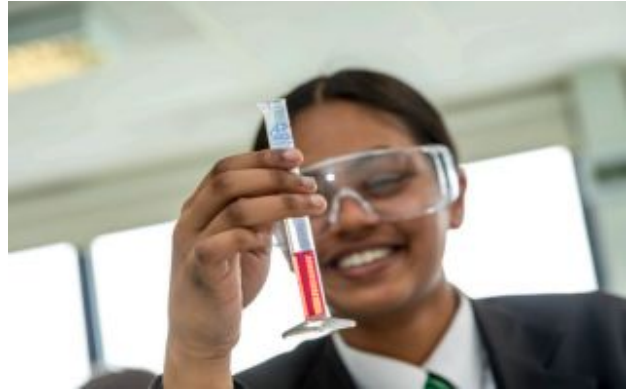
Please note: **IT IS NOT A GUARANTEE THAT ALL COURSES WILL RUN.**  
These are provisional choices and will depend on uptake/staffing.

# Welcome

Dear Parent, Carer and Student,

Welcome to the Choices process for Year 9.

This booklet is intended to give you all the information you will need to help you in making the right choices for your Key Stage 4 learning journey starting in September 2026 – Year 10.



Our philosophy is that all students should be given every opportunity to excel in all aspects of their school life.

Students will be given considerable guidance to ensure that decisions about subject preferences are carefully made.



The curriculum model at KS4 comprises of core and selected subjects.

The core subjects are:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Combined Science: Trilogy

PE

PSHRE

Students will then have further choices depending on their pathway.



The guidance within the Choices process ensures that each student has a balanced curriculum.

Please do contact us if you have any further questions.

Mrs Nicholls  
Head teacher

Mrs Frend  
Deputy Head teacher

Mr Smith  
Deputy Head teacher

# GCSE English Language

Exam board AQA

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

This GCSE course aims to develop the ability of students to extract explicit and implicit meaning from a variety of nonfiction and literary nonfiction texts. Students are asked to support their findings using textual detail and then analyse how and why writers use language and structure to achieve particular effects and influence their readers. Students are then expected to replicate writing for a particular audience and purpose in a similar manner to the authors they have just studied. Students that do not gain a pass at the end of Year 11 will be required to retake the exam as part of their further education.

## Assessment:

100% examination

Paper One – 1 hour and 45 minutes – Explorations in creative reading and writing

Paper Two – 1 hour and 45 minutes – Writer's viewpoints and perspectives

Speaking and Listening assessment - Mandatory.

## Key skills

- Ability to match writing to suit a specific audience and purpose
- Compare writers' ideas and perspectives
- Evaluate texts correctly and support ideas with appropriate textual references
- Use a range of language features and structural devices within writing

## Future directions

As a core subject and one of the most widely recognised GCSE qualifications, English Language is a course that will leave students with a wide range of further educational opportunities at A-level and degree level.

Further career opportunities include:

- Broadcasting

- Journalism
- Teaching
- Law
- Linguistic forensics

## Course Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

# GCSE English Literature

Exam board AQA

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

This GCSE course aims to develop students' critical responses to texts and also encourage and support a life-long love of literature. Students study a broad range of texts, from Shakespeare and Dickens, to poetry and modern texts. The faculty offer numerous theatre trips to support the study of these texts.

## Assessment

100% examination

2 papers

Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes: Shakespeare and 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel

Paper 2 – 2 hours 15 minutes: Modern texts and Poetry

**Texts covered: “Macbeth”, “A Christmas Carol”, “An Inspector Calls” and “Power and Conflict Anthology of Poems”**

## Key skills

- To analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
- Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.
- Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation

## Future directions

As a core subject and one of the most widely recognised GCSE qualifications, English Literature is a course that will leave students with a wide range of further educational opportunities at A-level and degree level.

Further career opportunities include:

- Broadcasting

- Journalism
- Teaching
- Law
- Linguistic forensics

## Course Specification

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

# GCSE Mathematics

Exam board Edexcel

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

GCSE mathematics is a qualification that is desired by most employers and is required for entry to further or higher education, so it is an important subject to study. Students that do not gain a pass at the end of Year 11 will be required to retake the exam as part of their further education. The syllabus consists of key mathematical concepts and skills in: number; algebra; geometry; probability; statistics; ratio, proportion and rates of change. It allows students to develop mathematical independence built on a sound base of conceptual learning and understanding. A high degree of problem solving is developed and presented in authentic contexts.

## Assessment

There is a choice between two levels of entry: Foundation tier for grades 1 to 5 and Higher for grades 4 to 9 (grade 9 being the top level). Class teachers will help with the decision on the level of entry during Year 11. A good pass is grade 5 and above. The course is totally exam based and these will be at the end of the course. There are three written papers, two with a calculator and one non-calculator.

## Key skills

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms

## Future directions

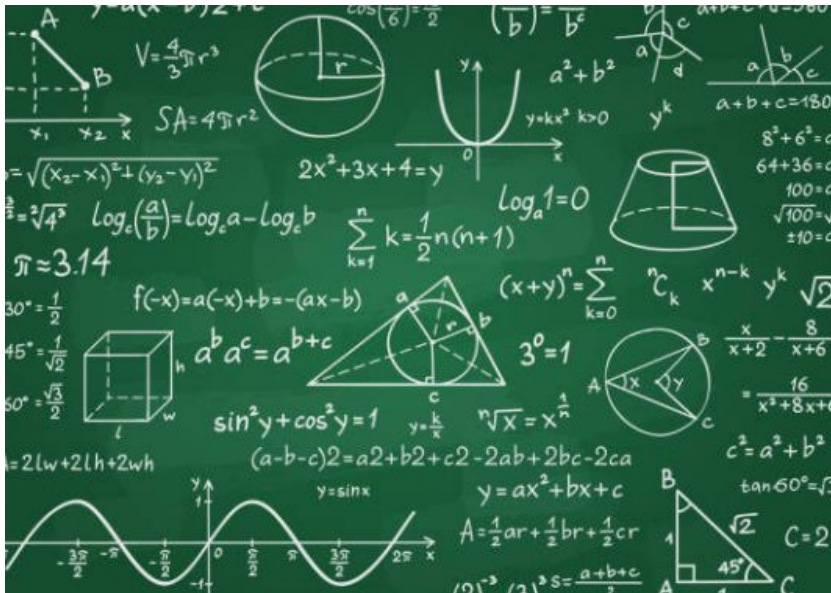
GCSE Mathematics is an important foundation for many courses which may be taken in employment or further education. This qualification provides a route to the study of A level maths.

- Accountancy • Construction
- Banking and General Management
- Engineering

## Course Specification

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/mathematics-2015.htm>

Grading: 9 - 1



<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/p28bar15/green/8d9f2cf8d59a544142d1f4597ac83d58570f4973.pdf>

# GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

Exam board AQA

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

This course is worth two GCSE grades in Science and covers a wide ranging curriculum of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. A challenging and exciting content is combined with specified practicals so that, at the end of Year 11, students will be tested not only on what they can remember, but also on whether they can think and plan scientifically. The Combined Science: Trilogy is suitable for all students, including those planning on moving on to a Science A-level.

## Assessment

All assessments will take place in Year 11. There are six exam papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each paper will assess the knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Each paper will take 1 hour and 15 minutes, will be worth 70 marks and will make up 16.7% of the final GCSE grade. The papers will be made up of a balanced mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. There is no coursework component making up this GCSE..

## Key skills

- Working Scientifically
- Investigating
- Observing
- Testing
- Experimenting
- Communication
- Application of Number
- Working with others
- Problem solving

## Future directions

Those studying science can pursue careers in:

- Medicine • Veterinary Science
- Nursing • Dentistry • Engineering
- Pharmacy • Physiotherapy
- Personal trainer • Technology
- Pathology

## Course Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

# GCSE Separate Science:

Exam board AQA

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

GCSE Triple Science (also known as Separate Sciences) is an option for students who have a strong interest in science and enjoy learning in depth. Instead of studying science as a combined course, students take **three separate GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and Physics**, each with its own qualification and final grade.

The course allows more time to explore scientific ideas in greater detail, helping students to develop a deeper understanding of how the world works — from cells and ecosystems, to chemical reactions and forces in the universe. Lessons include a strong practical element, where students plan experiments, analyse results and develop key scientific skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking and data handling.

All three sciences are examined at the end of the course through written exams, with no coursework. Practical skills are assessed through questions within the exams, based on required practical activities completed during lessons.

Triple Science is particularly suitable for students who:

- Enjoy science and are motivated to work independently
- Are confident with mathematical skills
- May wish to continue studying science subjects at A level or beyond

While Triple Science is more content-heavy than Combined Science, it is a highly respected qualification and provides excellent preparation for further study in science, medicine, engineering and many other careers.

## Assessment

GCSE Triple Science (AQA) is assessed entirely through **written examinations at the end of the course**. Students sit **six exams in total**:

- **Two Biology papers**
- **Two Chemistry papers**
- **Two Physics papers**

Each paper is **1 hour 45 minutes long** and tests a range of knowledge, understanding and skills. Questions include multiple-choice, short-answer and extended response questions, as well as questions that assess mathematical skills and the ability to interpret data.

There is **no coursework**. However, students complete a set of **required practical activities** during lessons across all three sciences. These practicals help students develop essential scientific skills and understanding. Knowledge of these experiments, including how they are carried out and how results are analysed, is assessed through questions in the written exams.

## Course Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/gcse/biology-8461/specification>  
[GCSE Chemistry 8462 | Specification | AQA](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physics/gcse/physics-8463/specification>

# GCSE French

Exam board: Pearson

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

Students of French will learn to speak, listen, read, write and communicate effectively in the target language, as well as develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where French is spoken.

The course is organised into 5 themes which are designed to motivate and engage students. These themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

The authentic situations and stimuli enable students to see language in context and learn about the culture of the target language countries.

## Assessment

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE in French consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Students must complete their speaking assessment in April/May of Year 11 and all other assessments in May/June of Year 11.

## Key skills

- Through this course, pupils will develop transferable skills which will help them face the demands of further education and the workplace. These skills include:-
- Cognitive skills such as problem solving, analysing, critical thinking and creativity
- Communication and interpersonal skills such as active listening, oral communication, written communication
- Adaptability. For example, adapting to different personalities, communication styles and cultures

## Future directions

Being able to speak a foreign language is a string to your bow in any career.

If students were to pursue languages further, possible future careers options would include: translation and interpreting, sales, teaching, advertising, working in travel and tourism, and international development.

# GCSE Spanish

Exam board: Pearson

Grading: 9 - 1

Exam board: Pearson

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

Students of Spanish will learn to speak, listen, read, write and communicate effectively in the target language, as well as develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.

The course is organised into 5 themes which are designed to motivate and engage students. These themes are:-

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

The authentic situations and stimuli enable students to see language in context and learn about the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

## Assessment

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Spanish consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Students must complete their speaking assessment in April/May of Year 11 and all other assessments in May/June of Year 11.

## Key skills

- Through this course, pupils will develop transferable skills which will help them face the demands of further education and the workplace. These skills include:
  - Cognitive skills such as problem solving, analysing, critical thinking and creativity
  - Communication and interpersonal skills such as active listening, oral communication, written communication
  - Relationship-building skills
  - Adaptability, for example, adapting to different personalities, communication styles and cultures

## Future directions

Being able to speak a foreign language is a string to your bow in any career.

If students were to pursue languages further, possible future careers include: translation and interpreting, sales, teaching, advertising, working in travel and tourism and international development

# GCSE Geography

Exam board: AQA

Grading: 9 - 1

## Description

This exciting course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. The course is designed to give pupils a detailed understanding of the world we live in now, how we got here, and consider the possibilities of what the future could hold.

We will study a range of environments including tropical rainforests, deserts, coasts, and rivers. Environmental and sustainability issues such as energy, land use, population growth and their contributions to climate change, and deal with some very real issues facing many people in the world today for example, poverty, disease, war, food and water insecurity and natural disasters. We will learn about these topics and issues through a range of case studies including the United Kingdom, London, Nigeria, Lagos, Haiti, Bangladesh, Brazil, Nepal, and Italy.

The course content has links to Science, English, Math, History and Statistics and would reinforce pupil's understanding of key knowledge and skills across these subjects.

## Assessment

The exam consists of three papers. All three papers will assess pupils' geographical skills as well as their knowledge of the above topics.

- Paper 1 – Physical geography (35%)
- Paper 2 – Human geography (35%)
- Paper 3 – Fieldwork and geographical skills (30%)

As part of the course pupils will also need to attend two days of fieldwork in a human and physical setting so that they can complete paper 3.

## Key skills

- Knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, up to global scale; and of social, political and cultural contexts
- Gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments and how places are changing
- Fieldwork, investigation, questioning and hypothesizing; using maps and researching secondary evidence, including digital sources
- Creatively apply understanding to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues; and develop well-evidenced arguments

## Future directions

- The study of Geography, Geology, Politics and Sociology at A level  
The study of Geography, Geology, Politics, Sociology, environmental science, environmental sustainability, global studies, anthropology and much more at degree level
- Law
  - Accountancy
  - Environmental management
  - Energy consultant
  - Logistics for large companies or the military
  - Conservation
  - Urban planning and sustainability
  - Sustainable transport management
  - Teaching
  - Travel blogger
  - Air stewardess

## Course Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

# GCSE History

Exam board: Pearson

Grading: 9 - 1

## Description

GCSE History at James Hornsby is an adventure into the past. Exploring a range of different people, countries, cultures and turning points throughout history. We start our adventure here in Britain where we seek to learn more about the developments that have taken place in medicine. From Barber Surgeons to the NHS, we will investigate what people believed caused medicine and how they reacted to various illnesses and disease. A hop over the English Channel takes us to the Western Front during World War One where we will dive into the health concerns facing Tommies and how they overcame the various challenges of the most technologically advanced war that the world had ever seen. History is often criticised for being dominated by men - not here at James Hornsby! We end year 10 with an in-depth study into the world of Queen Elizabeth I: the problems she faced as a Virgin Queen, how she navigated Protestant England through challenging years of Spanish and Catholic domination in Europe and came out the other side as one of our greatest ever monarchs.

Next, we explore Germany: how its attempts to build a sparkling new democracy fizzled out and how this was replaced with the most infamous dictatorship in European History. How did Hitler get into power? How did he gain total control? What was it like to live under the rule of the Nazis? These are all questions that we will answer in preparation for your GCSEs. Before the end of our course, we travel across the Atlantic Ocean and delve into the development of the USA as a nation. We will explore the lives of white European settlers, Chinese immigrants, recently freed slaves and how all of these groups disrupted the existence of Plains Indians who had successfully survived for generations as the sole occupants of North America.

## Assessment

All assessment is completed through GCSE examinations at the end of year 11.  
Paper One: Medicine in Britain (c1250-present) and Medicine on the Western Front  
Paper Two: Early Elizabethan England and the American West  
Paper Three: Weimar and Nazi Germany

## Key skills

Students will enhance a range of skills already introduced in their Key Stage Three History lessons.

- Cause and Consequence
- Significance
- Comparison - similarity and difference
- Change and continuity
- Analysis of sources and interpretations

## Future directions

GCSE History is seen by all colleges and sixth forms as a highly academic qualification which prepares students with a range of skills that can then be transferred to a variety of A Levels. These include Law, Politics, Sociology and Ancient Civilisations. The focus on writing and the development of analysis and inference skills will prepare students for jobs in a range of sectors and will give students a real boost as they step into the next phase of their lives.

## Course Specification

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

# GCSE Sociology

Exam board: EDUQAS Grading: 9 - 1

Exam board: EDUQAS

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

Sociology is the study of human society. It draws on a variety of viewpoints in order to understand the social world around us, in an open and critical manner. It concentrates on the way we make society, what it is and how society shapes us. You will relate this to your own experiences of living in Britain. You will also study how societies have changed over time and how it differs across cultures. By studying Sociology, you will develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about how Sociologists study and understand social structures, processes and issues. You are encouraged to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing critical, analytical, and evaluative skills.

## Course Outline

- The Sociological Approach
- Families
- Education
- Crime and Deviance
- Social Stratification
- Sociological Research Methods

## Assessment

There will be two final exams based on two units, each worth 50% of the GCSE. Each exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes.

## Key skills

- Students should be aware that this is a challenging GCSE.
- They will need to have strong literacy skills and be confident at writing essays.
- Students will need to be motivated, independent learners who are committed to hard work both inside the classroom and at home.

## Future directions

GCSE Sociology is not prerequisite for AS or A level Sociology, however, it is an excellent foundation to support this. It would be also be useful if you are considering studying or working in any of the following areas; Anthropology, Politics, Law, Economics, Social Work, Journalism or Global Relations.

## Course Specification

[https://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab_keydocuments)

# GCSE Art & Design - Fine Art

Exam board: AQA

Grading: 9 - 1



## Description

This course promotes learning across a variety of opportunities, using a range of processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to create a varied and exciting portfolio. Students will work in ceramics (clay); print making (monoprinting and linocuts); painting; drawing; photography and 3D studies (clay, modroc and other making techniques). After developing basic skills in each the student may choose to work in fine art or more in an art-based, craft-based or design based format. Students will study and analyse art made by others, develop ideas related to a specific topic and record their findings in a clear way that explains their processes and shows understanding. You must have a keen interest in the history of art and enjoy art making processes.

## Assessment

All the work the student makes during their course is eligible to be included in their final grade. Students will submit a portfolio of the best work they have created, which must show a breadth of study. This must include drawings, analysis and annotation as well as the art work they make. This portfolio is worth 60% of their final grade, the student will select the best of their coursework for this. The externally set assignment is an independent study on a topic provided by the exam board; all research, experiments, developments and planning for it will be marked, along with the final piece which will be created in the 10 hours sustained focus under exam conditions. This is worth the remaining 40% of the mark and completed in April/May.

## Key skills

- A strong interest in art and design
- A flair for creativity and a lively imagination
- Determination to succeed and a desire to broaden your horizons

## Future directions

With a GCSE in Art and Design students can confidently apply for level 3 courses – A-level, BTEC and Apprenticeships in art based subjects. Art can be great preparation for any career that requires fine motor skills, presentation skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking.

## Course Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8202/specification>

# GCSE Photography

Exam board: OCR

Grading: 9 – 1



## Description

Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as: portraiture; location photography; studio photography; experimental imagery; documentary photography or fashion photography.

They will have the opportunity to explore these genres in digital media, making use of the department's cameras, computer suite and Adobe Creative Suite software, including Photoshop. Students will be encouraged to think creatively and develop their own photographs in response to studying the work of others. The course offers a good balance of practical work and theory, with written annotation and analysis an important aspect.

## Assessment

All the work the student create during their course is eligible to be included in their final grade. Students will submit a portfolio of the best work they have created, which must show a breadth of study. This must include planning/storyboards, analysis and annotation as well as the photographs they take. This portfolio is worth 60% of their final grade, the student will select the best of their coursework for this. The externally set assignment is an independent study on a topic provided by the exam board; all research, experiments, developments and planning for it will be marked, along with the final piece which will be created in the 10 hours sustained focus under exam conditions. This is worth the remaining 40% of the mark and takes place between January and April.

## Key skills

- A strong interest in Photography and visual imagery
- A flair for creativity and a lively imagination
- Determination to succeed and a desire to broaden horizons
- It is not compulsory to have own camera but it might help to complete homework more effectively

## Future directions

With a GCSE in Photography students can confidently apply for Level 3 courses – A-level, BTEC and Apprenticeships in photography and lens based subjects. Especially if they are thinking of careers such as: Graphic designer; magazine features editor; medical photographer; freelance photographer; press photographer; film and television camera operator; advertising art director; digital marketer; film/video editor; media planner; school/college teacher; visual merchandiser; web designer. Photography can be great preparation for any career that requires fine motor skills, presentation skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking.

## Course Specification

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/220463-specification-accredited-gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176.pdf>

# WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts (Drama)

Exam board: Eduqas

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



## Description

At James Hornsby we offer WJEC Vocational Award in Performing Arts Drama OR Music Technology Option which develops essential skills for life beyond school preparing students to work in industries including performing arts, media, hospitality and education. This is a stimulating course for those with a real passion for acting. Studying drama requires emotional maturity, and gives a deep understanding of oneself. It not only uses voices and bodies, but also emotions and creativity, and because of this is able to engender a deep sense of self esteem. This vocational course will enable students to gain hands on experience and combine creative and analytical approaches when undertaking their studies. Students will explore three units: Performing, Creating and Performing Arts in Practice. Students will participate in workshops, observe live performances and have the opportunity to benefit from professionals in masterclass events. The James Hornsby School Creative Arts Faculty has a vibrant and busy Performing Arts department with a dedicated, 'black box' drama room and a brand new well-equipped stage in our school theatre.

## Assessment

A level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction will be achieved through the study and completion of tasks relating to the following units

30% Internal Unit 1: Performing

30% Internal Unit 2: Creating

40% External Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice

## Key skills

- employ specific dance and drama vocabulary accurately
- passion for learning about different genres and styles of performance
- confidence when performing with and in front of others
- communicate using your body, gestures and your voice
- review and reflect on different approaches to performing
- commitment to extra-curricular clubs, school concerts, shows and events

## Future directions

This course is practice-based and provides students with the relevant skills and knowledge that employers value, as well as the confidence to progress into a fulfilling, exciting career. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people, the skill of planning which is required in any production, and also the high importance placed on the quality of the end result. WJEC Level ½ Vocational Award could lead on to further study in Drama, Dance, Theatre Studies, Performing Arts and Expressive Arts at Level 3 and above, or other related subjects such as English, Music, Dance, Art and Design.

## Course Specification

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-performing-arts/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-performing-arts/#tab_keydocuments)

# GCSE Dance

Exam board: AQA

Grading: 9-1



## Description

At James Hornsby we offer GCSE Dance which develops both practical technique and theory knowledge. This is a heavy practical course that explores dance styles in contemporary, lyrical, street and modern. Studying dance requires emotional maturity, and gives a deep understanding of oneself. It will allow students to develop key personality characteristics for example confidence and teamwork along with independent and creative skills, while developing a deep sense of self esteem. This GCSE course will allow students to develop their technical, physical and expressive skills in dance along with embedding key terminology into both practical and theory elements. Students will learn professional dance works and also have a chance to choreograph their own dance on a given stimulus. The James Hornsby School Creative Arts Faculty has a vibrant and busy Performing Arts department with a dance studio that is well equipped along with a showcase areas for performances.

## Assessment

60% Practical 40% Theory. These two elements are assessed in the following units:

Choreography and Performance:

Own Choreography - 30% solo or group performance

Performance - 30% Solo set phrase performance, duo/trio performance.

Written paper:

40% Dance appreciation.

## Key skills

- Working together in a group.
- Previous dance experience.
- Passion to develop and do well.
- passion for learning about different genres and styles of performance.
- confidence when performing with and in front of others.
- review and reflect on different approaches to performing.
- commitment to extracurricular clubs, school concerts, shows and events.

## Future directions

This course is both practical and theory based therefore provides students with the relevant skills that employers value, as well as the confidence to progress into a fulfilling, exciting career. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people, the skill of planning which is required in any future job role. Along with being creative, showing team work skills and coming up with ideas are a key part of any chosen career. GCSE dance can lead into further study in Dance, or musical theatre at Level 3 or above, along with other related subjects such as English, Music, Drama, Art and Design.

## Course Specification

[Dance GCSE 8236 Specification](#)

# WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts (Music)

Exam board: Eduqas

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



## Description

At James Hornsby we offer WJEC Vocational Award in Music Technology which develops essential skills for life beyond school preparing students to work in industries including performing arts, media, hospitality and education. This is a stimulating course for those with a real passion for Music. Studying Music Technology requires creativity and maturity to compose and perform through industry standard Music Technology. This vocational course will enable students to gain hands on experience and combine creative and analytical approaches when undertaking their studies. Students will explore three units: Performing, Creating and Performing Arts in Practice. Students will participate in workshops, observe live performances and have the opportunity to benefit from professionals in masterclass events. The James Hornsby School Creative Arts Faculty has a vibrant and busy Music department with a dedicated Music room and a brand new well-equipped stage in our school theatre. Ability to play an instrument is not required as units can be completed fully through the use of music technology.

## Assessment

A level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction will be achieved through the study and completion of tasks relating to the following units

30% Internal Unit 1: Performing

30% Internal Unit 2: Creating

40% External Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice

## Key skills

- employ specific music vocabulary accurately
- passion for learning about different genres and styles of performance
- Effective use of live and recorded sound using elements of music
- review and reflect on different approaches to performing
- commitment to extracurricular clubs, school concerts, shows and events

## Future directions

This course is practice-based and provides students with the relevant skills and knowledge that employers value, as well as the confidence to progress into a fulfilling, exciting career. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people, the skill of planning which is required in any production, and also the high importance placed on the quality of the end result. WJEC Level ½ Vocational Award could lead on to further study in Music Technology, Theatre Studies, Performing Arts and Expressive Arts at Level 3 and above, or other related subjects such as English, Dance, Art and Design.

## Course Specification

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-performing-arts/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-performing-arts/#tab_keydocuments)

# BTEC Tech Award In Creative Media Production

Exam board: Pearson

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



## Description

This course allows you to draw on your knowledge and skills acquired for media studies but through vocational learning. The creative media sector is a dynamic, growing and rewarding sector to work in. With the BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production, you will get the chance to develop valuable skills and techniques in different disciplines, produce a practical response to a digital media brief, and explore potential careers in the industry. As the BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, you can explore the sector while:

- developing technical skills and techniques
- producing a digital media product in response to a brief
- reviewing and reflecting on the process and outcome.

The course has two internally assessed components, and one that's externally assessed.

## Assessment

Component 1: Exploring media products Weighting: 60 marks, internally assessed.

Component 2: Developing digital media production skills Weighting: 60 marks, internally assessed.

Component 3: Create a media product in response to a brief Weighting: 60 marks, externally assessed.

## Key skills

- Analysing texts
- Communicating findings
- Being imaginative and creative

## Future directions

Students can continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.

Students could then get involved with TV; become a director, a producer, a researcher or a really good writer. Or, students may take the technical route, become a lighting technician, an editor or a camera operator. Alternatively, they could get involved with the administration side of TV. Students may take on a role in radio; or become an illustrator/ animator. Journalism maybe a path students decide to take, or get a job in the ever growing platform of the internet, new media and video games designer. Students may become a promoter/event organiser or take on a role within advertising and marketing..

## Course Specification

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/creative-media-production-2022.html>

# OCR Cambridge National Certificate in Child Development

Exam board: OCR

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



## Description

This qualification provides the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that gives a basic introduction to the sector. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. The qualification will enable learners to develop significant transferable knowledge and study skills that will support progression including:

- Area of development
- A child's health and wellbeing
- Nutritional needs of children
- Pre conception health and reproduction
- Antenatal care and preparation for birth
- Postnatal checks and care
- Childhood illnesses and a child safe environment

## Assessment

Students will complete 3 units within this qualification, 2 coursework based units and 1 external exam.

- External exam content: RO57 - Health and well-being for child development (40%)
- Coursework unit : RO58 - Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years (30%)
- Coursework unit: Unit RO59: Understand the development of a child from one to five years (30%).

## Key skills

- Confident with literacy skills
- Communication
- Critical analysis and evaluation
- Decision making and problem solving
- Independence and confidence using skills that are relevant to the childcare sector.

## Future directions

There are many careers that are related to child care. Here are a selection of them.

- Child Care
- Early Years Teaching
- Nursery Nurse
- Childminder
- Nanny
- Learning Assistant

Courses that you can move in to having studied health and social care are:

- Level 3 BTEC Childcare

## Course Specification

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610941-specification-cambridge-nationals-child-development-j809.pdf>

# OCR Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies

Exam board: OCR

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



## Description

Learners have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as participation, sporting values, the benefits of hosting major sporting events, national governing bodies and technology in sport. Learners will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry. Students will also have the opportunity to lead and coach their peers within the practical unit.

## Assessment

Students will complete 3 units within this qualification, 2 coursework based units and 1 external exam.

- External exam content: Contemporary issues in sport
- Practical / coursework unit : Performance and leadership in sports activities
- Coursework unit: Sport and the media

## Key skills

- Confident with literacy and computer skills
- Good sports performer
- Confident in front of groups
- Committed to developing skills outside of lesson time (extra-curricular sport and revision sessions)
- Willing to work hard at all times

## Future directions

Taking Sports Studies as an option can lead to the following careers

- P.E. Teacher
- Physiotherapist
- Sports Coach
- Sports psychologist
- Sports nutritionist
- Sports Scientist

You can also continue into Level 3 BTEC Sport at college.

## Course Specification

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-studies-level-1-2-j829/>

## Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



# WJEC Technical Award in Hospitality & Catering

Exam board: WJEC

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



## Description

The hospitality and catering sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages, and/or accommodation services. This includes restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars. It also includes airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues; businesses where hospitality and catering is not their primary service but is increasingly important to their success. The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. The James Hornsby Technology Faculty is thriving with over 150 students enjoying a broad and balanced catering curriculum. We learn new Catering skills as we cook new dishes every two weeks. This together with appropriate theory allows students to make informed decisions about what to cook for their NEA and the reasons for doing so. During the theory element they will also be learning about the Hospitality and Catering industry. In order to reduce costs the Faculty provides the ingredients for all practicals except their final NEA. There will be a £45 contribution for this course. Strong attendance and positive behaviour will be important factors when selecting students for this course.

## Assessment

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is made up of two mandatory units. Unit 1 exam is worth 40% and Unit 2 NEA is worth 60%.

Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry

Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action

## Key skills

Learners will develop skills in:

- Creating menus to meet a brief
- Selecting ingredients to cook dishes
- Adapting recipes for health
- Evaluating their own work
- Literacy, Numeracy and ICT
- Skills that are essential in the modern workplace, such as planning, research skills, communication, problem solving skills and health and safety
- Budgeting and portion control

## Future directions

Possible career paths could include: The Food Industry, Product Development, Food Scientist, Food Photographer, Marketing, Dietician, Chef, Nursing, Health and Social Care, Teaching, Hospitality.

Possible college/university courses: A-level courses, Level 3 Hospitality and Catering. Related courses in Food Science, Teaching, Food Industry, Hospitality, Health and Social Care.

## Course Specification

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab_keydocuments)

# WJEC Technical award

## Constructing the Built Environment

Exam board: WJEC

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



### Description

The construction industry employs over 3.1 million workers in the UK, 9% of the working population. The skill required are many and varied and can lead to a wide ranging number of career paths. Jobs in the construction industry include, carpentry, plastering, plumbing, tiling, bricklaying, dry stone walling, scaffolding, crane and equipment operators and there are many more. The WJEC level 1 / 2 award in constructing the built environment has been designed to give students and insight into the construction industry. Construction activities take place in many different contexts. Through this qualification, learners will gain the knowledge and understanding to be able to plan how to minimise risk to their own and others health and safety in different contexts. They will be able to interpret technical information to complete a range of tasks. At JHS we aim to work on the following skills, carpentry, painting and decorating and basic electrical work. Students will learn basic skills in all 3 disciplines leading up to final assessments in each of them. Finally, they will use learning from the development of practical skills and health and safety requirements of construction processes to plan straightforward built environment development projects. There will be a £45 contribution for this course. Strong attendance and positive behaviour will be important factors when selecting students for this course.

### Assessment

Unit 1: Safety and security in construction will be externally assessed.

Unit 3: Planning construction projects both of which are internally assessed

### Key skills

- Reading and writing
- Speaking and listening
- Independence
- Creative thinking
- Reflective learning
- Teamwork

### Future directions

Possible progression could include the following college courses

Level 3 qualifications in construction, such as Diplomas in Construction and the Built Environment;

Level 2 qualifications in construction, including specialist areas such as plumbing, bricklaying and carpentry

Apprenticeships in construction. Future career paths  
Numerous jobs in the construction industry including carpentry, painting and decorating, plastering, plumbing, site manager or self employment.

### Course Specification

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/constructing-the-built-environment-level-1-2/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/constructing-the-built-environment-level-1-2/#tab_keydocuments)

# Level 2 Technical Award in Hair & Beauty

Exam board: City & Guilds

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



## Description

Students will first complete a very practical Level 1 course which entails hair styling, temporary colour, manicure, nail art, basic facial, make-up, shampoo and conditioning. Students will move onto Level 2 Technical award which combines an accredited project qualification, practical work experience and critical skills development, brought to life via the TechBac Skillzone, an innovative online learning hub giving learners the opportunity to practice and develop their skills anytime, anywhere. There will be a £45 contribution for this course.

## Assessment

The course allows the student to dive deeper into the different hair and beauty industries and give them more of an understanding of how they can progress into different fields. These different fields can be dermatologist, trichologist, cosmetologist, fashion, media, designer, representative to name a few.

Unit 201 - Exploring the world of hair and beauty; history of the industry and further education.

Unit 202 - Science of hair and beauty; chemistry, anatomy and physiology of the human body.

## Key skills

Independent learning skills

- Literacy
- Applied English
- Mathematics

Science

- Critical evaluation skills
- ICT
- Communication
- Industry related technical knowledge

## Future directions

Further progression to other qualifications in apprenticeships, college or university; leading to careers as a hairdresser, barber, beautician, beauty therapist, spa therapist, cosmetic consultant, masseuse, physiotherapy, make-up artist, trichologist, dermatologist, educator, sales representative or receptionist.

Possible college courses might include:  
Level 2 VTCT Beauty specialist Techniques, Beauty Therapy, Advanced apprenticeships in Barbering Level 3, Hairdressing Level 2, Massage (holistic), Hairdressing Stylist Diploma, Hair Extensions Business Diploma

## Course Specification

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/beauty-and-complementary-therapies/beauty/3038-technical-in-hair-and-beauty#tab=documents>

# BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Exam board: Pearson

Grading: Pass/Merit/Distinction



### Description

BTEC Digital Information Technology covers a wide range of modern digital and media related skills including the design of user interfaces, data management tools and cyber security. This is a vocational qualification. The subject is heavily coursework based with students producing work to a brief and aiming for deadlines throughout the year. An exam for component 3 is taken midway through year 11. Students will learn the importance of developing ideas and meeting client briefs in a modern digital context.

## Assessment

## Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design - COURSEWORK

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data - COURSEWORK

## Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practice – EXAM

## Key skills

- User Interfaces
- Project management skills
- Data management analysis
- Impact of modern technology
- Importance of Cyber Security

## Future directions

Students proceeding with Digital Information Technology may want to consider further study in areas such as media, product design and business studies and other information technology based subjects.

Looking further ahead they may want to follow careers in networking, digital product development, web design and data management.

## Course Specification

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology-2022.coursematerials.html#%2FfilterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>

# Checklist

- ❑ **READ** this booklet several times.
- ❑ **ASK** subject teachers, Mrs Frend, Mrs Nicholls or Miss Goodwin if there is anything you are not sure about or would like more information about.
- ❑ **THINK** about all the subjects open to you.
- ❑ **TALK** about your ideas and choices with parents or guardians.
- ❑ **TALK** about subjects you are choosing with teachers of that subject and Year 10 students of that subject.
- ❑ **PENCIL** in your choices on the draft form and then look at them again a few days later.
- ❑ **CHECK** you are definite about your choices before copying them neatly onto the final form for handing in.
- ❑ **DO NOT** choose a subject simply because your friends are choosing it. Their needs may be totally different from yours and you probably will not be in the same group anyway.
- ❑ **DO NOT** choose a subject simply because you like the teacher as you may have a different teacher next year.
- ❑ **DO NOT** choose a subject simply because it is new or because it sounds glamorous. Check it out carefully.
- ❑ **DO NOT** be late with your Choices Form.

YOU WILL HAVE YOUR 1-1 INTERVIEWS TO DISCUSS YOUR CHOICES WEEK BEGINNING 10th MARCH.  
You will receive your choices form when you have your interview.