



Trinity Catholic High School



Choosing GCSE Options 2023

Compassion – Vocation – Wisdom





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Introduction

from the Headmaster

TO ALL OUR SCHOLARS IN YEAR 9

This booklet is intended to assist Year 9 students and their parents to make very important choices regarding their studies in Year 10 and 11.

This is a crucial time for Year 9 students as they are going to commit themselves to courses which will concern their schooling for the next two years, affect their careers and influence their choice of further education.

The instructions in this booklet are important and I do urge you to take careful heed of the following points:

- a) Pay special heed of the advice given to you by your subject teachers.*
- b) Be sure to ask yourself “do my choices reflect my career aspirations?”*
- c) Are you happy with the subjects you have chosen? Do you feel you would enjoy these courses as well as do well in them?*

Please note: the school has limitations of staff and rooms and this can lead to some changes.

Most importantly, you must remember that once you are committed to a set of courses it is difficult to change. Consequently, read this booklet carefully and I, and my staff, hope that your next two years of study at Trinity will be happy and successful ones.

Finally, “In Christo Florebimus - In Christ we shall flourish:” this booklet is an essential part of our vision, living proof of our motto. You are lovely students, young men and women who are on the verge of great change. You are maturing at every level of your individual personality: physically, psychologically and spiritually. Christ has a special task for you, something unique which, however humble or lofty, can only be achieved by you. You are planting for a harvest which could be years even decades in the future but harvest time will come. We are here to help you along this part of your life-path. You walk with Christ as He walks with you. The decisions you make, the commitment you show, the service you yearn for, will strengthen His vision for our world. In many senses, this is a new beginning for you, so seize the day!

My best regards,

*Dr P.C. Doherty OBE
Headmaster*



Choosing GCSE Options

During the first three years at Trinity, students have followed a broad and balanced curriculum, based on the National Curriculum. Most of the subjects are laid down for schools at this key stage, to ensure a balanced, foundational education, and there is limited scope for individual choice. A large part of the next phase of education at KS4 is also compulsory, though there is also an element of choice. Consequently, throughout the course of Year 9, students are given the chance to select some of the subjects they wish to study for the next two years. This affords the opportunity to personalise learning to reflect interests, strengths, further education and career aspirations.

The choice of KS4 options is one that takes time, thought, deliberation and discussion. The purpose of this information is to help you in making that choice.



Key Considerations

Deciding which subjects to study at GCSE marks an important stage in your educational journey. Students and parents are advised to read this information carefully and think seriously about the option choices available. Your aim in making your option choices should be to put together a well-balanced combination of subjects which you will enjoy, can achieve success in and find useful for a future career.

a) Subject enjoyment

It is often the case that the subjects at which students are most successful are also those which they most enjoy. Building your choices round what you like doing and what you are successful in will make your time in years 10 and 11 more enjoyable. This must be balanced, of course, by a consideration of subjects that may be required for further study and a future career. You should also bear in mind that subject study at GCSE may be very different from that at KS3 and so it is essential that your research of subjects is thorough and you understand what each GCSE entails. Think carefully about the subjects that interest you and why.

b) Suitability in terms of future education/ career progression

To progress onwards to further study and future professions it is necessary to have the right qualifications and at certain grades. For example, students wishing to study A Level Sciences are better equipped by studying the separate sciences. If you have a particular career or further study in mind, ensure that option choices support those ambitions and aspirations. That said, though some jobs and further education requires specific GCSE qualifications most will require a range of good grades that demonstrate hard work and commitment.

c) Course content and assessment

In some practical subjects there are assessments, undertaken throughout year 10 and 11, that count towards the final GCSE/ qualification grade. Different subjects have differing proportions of pre-exam assessment and the nature of these assessments can vary. Students should bear this in mind when making their choices. How you learn is important and needs to be considered. Information about the mix of coursework and final exams should be part of your decision making.

d) Maintaining a broad and balanced range of subjects

Many students in Year 9 will not have a clear idea about intended further study or which career they would like to pursue. This is perfectly natural and indeed many students who feel they know what they wish to do at this stage may well change their minds before deciding on university, further courses or a career. It is therefore important that you maintain a broad and balanced range of KS4 subjects that does not limit, or rule out, choices in the future.

Please don't choose a subject because:

- Your friends have chosen it
- Someone else thinks it will be a good idea
- You like the teacher you have now
- You couldn't think of anything else to do
- You didn't have time to research your options properly

e) Making the Wrong Choice

It is important that you think carefully about your options, as you are undertaking to study the subjects that you have chosen for 2 years. Every year, some students realise that they have chosen courses for the wrong reasons. Whilst we will try our best to accommodate requests for change, during September it can be difficult or impossible to change your choices once courses have started and, in those circumstances, you will need to continue with your choice until the end of Year 11.



What subjects can I study?

You will choose a number of compulsory subjects and three other subjects, although some restrictions apply.

a) The compulsory core curriculum

All students will study the following subjects: GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Science, GCSE Theology and core PE.

Note further:

All students will study CPR (Citizenship, PSHE, and RSE). This programme is integrated across every school year group. All students study for two GCSEs in Science. However, there is choice for students to select Triple Science as one of their options. This means students study for separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Core PE does not lead to a qualification though there is the option to extend the study of PE by choosing GCSE PE within the option blocks.

Students in the top two sets for mathematics will study for an additional GCSE in Statistics.

b) Ebacc Subjects

Students must select at least one of their options from the list of EBacc subjects. Year 9 MFL classes are tiered and students in the higher tiers will continue with GCSE study in French or Spanish.

History	Geography	French	Spanish	Separate Sciences
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The English Baccalaureate is a set of subjects that keeps options open for further study and future careers, equipping students well for future study at university level. This combination of subjects (English, Mathematics, Science, a Humanities subjects and a MFL) is highly recommended. EBacc subjects are considered essential to many degrees equipping students with greater opportunities and opening doors in further training, employment and education. All students should therefore give serious consideration to continuing study in the EBacc subjects.

A small group of students will be selected for extra English/ Mathematics study and an ASDAN qualification instead of studying an EBacc subject. School will consult with parents on this option.

c) Optional Subjects

Students will study a maximum of two subjects from the list of option subjects below.

Art and Design	Business	Computer Science
Construction	Design Technology	Drama
Economics	French	Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography	History	Media Studies
Music	Physical Education	Psychology
Separate Sciences	Spanish	

N.B. The provision of courses depends upon sufficient demand and staff availability. If too few students opt for a particular subject we are not able to run it. It is stressed that opting for a particular subject is not an automatic guarantee, rather an expression of interest, though of course we will do our best to accommodate student choices.



Finally

In making your choices, research is vital and many staff are on hand to support you with important choices about the best combination of subject choices.

- Talk to your form tutor, your Head of Year and the Careers Co-ordinator.
- Your subject teachers are uniquely placed to offer support and information about subject choices, as are Heads of Department.
- Go to the Library/internet/ career websites / Unifrog to find out if your choices are suitable to support future plans and aspirations.
- Your parents/guardians know you best – seek their advice on your subject choices.
- Exam board websites provided very detailed information on GCSE subjects.



Core Subjects

The compulsory core curriculum

All students will study the following subjects:

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Combined Science

GCSE Theology and core PE





GCSE English Language & Literature

Why study GCSE English Language & Literature?

GCSE English Language as a subject affords students opportunities to draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage creatively with those texts, drawing on real and relevant contexts to improve their own understanding and knowledge of the wider world. English Language develops articulate and knowledgeable students who can express viewpoints confidently and concisely. This subject aims to empower students by developing their reading skills and their capacity to think and write critically, which, in turn, allows students to discover their own creative voices, and to form their own views and opinions on issues that are central to our world. Moreover, students develop a profound appreciation of the spoken and written word; they glean the knowledge and acquire the skills necessary to express themselves with confidence in a variety of situations, both in and outside of the classroom.

GCSE English Literature develops students' ability to confidently engage with, and independently interpret, a range of literary texts. In this subject, we aim to nurture and develop a love of language and words. In addition, powerful cultural knowledge is gained through the study of classic and modern literature and, consequently, students gain an understanding of a range of different social and historical contexts. Therefore, studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure and to make links across themes and modern issues.



What will I study in GCSE English Language & Literature?

In English Language, the purpose of the 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing' paper is to expose students to literary fiction texts and inspire them to both analyse those texts and write their own creative pieces by examining how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers. The 'Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives' paper is designed to develop students' insights into how and why non-fiction texts contain particular stances on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. It encourages students to demonstrate their skills by reading two linked sources from different periods of time and genres in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader. The sources for these papers will be drawn from the 19th century, 20th and 21st centuries. The combination selected will always provide students with an opportunity to consider viewpoints and perspectives over time. Also, in English Language, students will participate in a Speaking and Listening Non-Exam Assessment where they plan and deliver a spoken language presentation on a contemporary topic or social issue of their choice, the aim of which, and the aim of English Language and Literature as a whole, is to encourage confidence in public speaking and to help create self-assured individuals who enjoy learning.

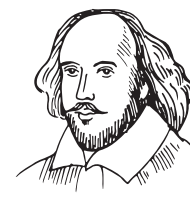
In English Literature, students explore the famous Shakespeare play, Macbeth, J.B Priestley's post-1914 drama An Inspector Calls and Robert Louis Stevenson's novella The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. In addition, students will study poems from the Power and Conflict cluster in the AQA Poetry Anthology: Poems, Past and Present. Furthermore, in preparation for the Unseen Poetry Section of 'Modern Texts and Poetry' paper, students will engage with a wide range of poetry to develop their ability to closely analyse 'unseen' poems and better appreciate the genre. As a result, students will learn how to read a range of texts and produce cogent written responses.



J. Kipling



O. Wilde



W. Shakespeare

What can this course lead onto?

Students that study English at GCSE level will often move onto study this subject at both A Level and at University. Some possible careers that this subject can lead to include: publishing, journalism, teaching, editing, researcher, marketing, law, counselling, advertising and public relations. Indeed, the study of English tends to lend itself to all aspects of life and further education.

English Language Assessment

AQA

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks
(50% worth of total grade)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks
(50% worth of total grade)

English Literature Assessment

AQA

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel
1 hour 45 minutes, 64 marks
(worth 40% of the total grade)

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
2 hours 15 minutes, 96 marks
(worth 60% of the total grade)

GCSE Mathematics



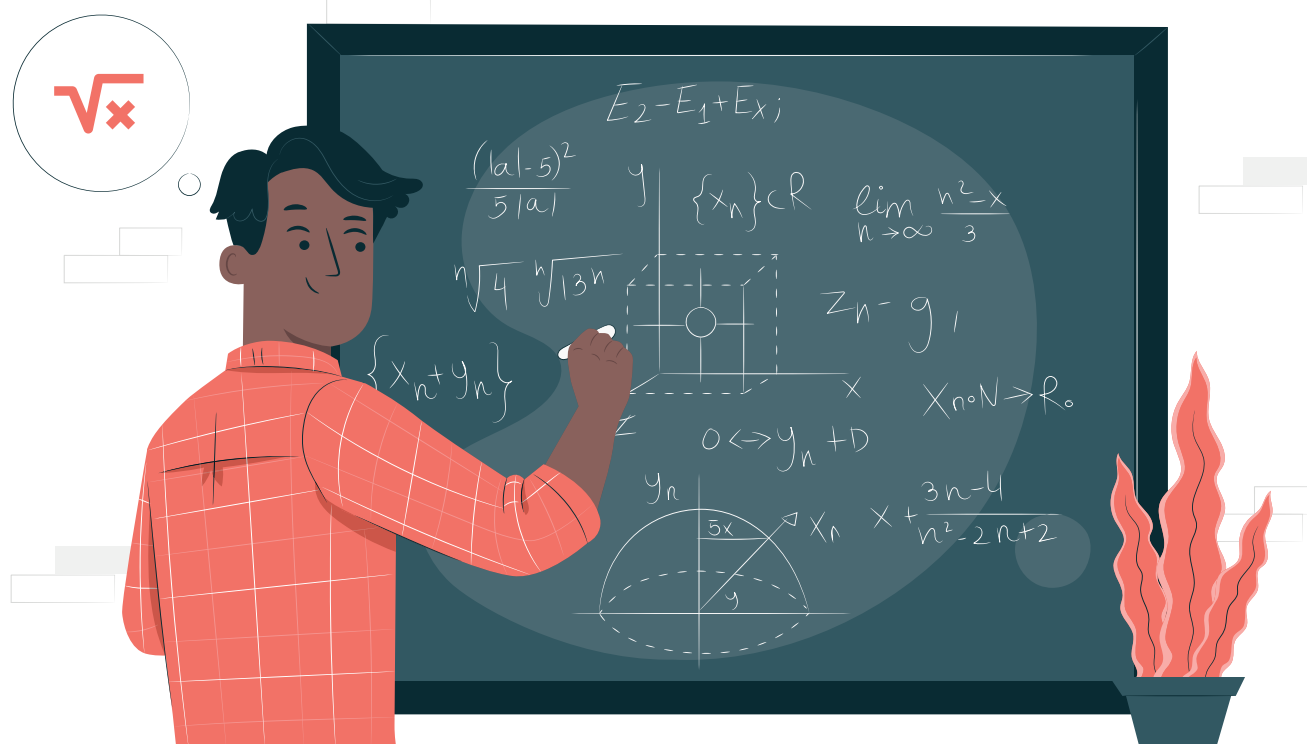
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Why study GCSE Mathematics?

Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline that has been developed over centuries, providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

What will I study in GCSE Mathematics?

The main content areas covered are: number; algebra; ratio, proportion and rates of change; geometry and measures; probability and statistics. In number, you will calculate using a variety of operations including with fractions, decimals and percentages; use standard units of measurements and make estimates. You will learn how to manipulate algebraic expressions; solve equations and inequalities; create and interpret graphs; recognise and generate sequences. Geometry includes the properties of objects (e.g. shapes, lines) and constructions; use of vectors; calculations and measurements including area and perimeter. Statistics includes interpreting and constructing charts, tables and diagrams; interpreting, comparing and analysing data sets; applying statistics to describe a population. You will develop your analytical, research and problem-solving skills, solving problems of increasing complexity in a wide variety of contexts.



What can this course lead onto?

Mathematics is an essential subject for everyone; it supports all further study and all potential careers. Mathematics leads to a wide variety of careers, including many in the fields of accounting, engineering, medicine, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, construction and astrophysics. It supports further study in subjects like physics, chemistry, engineering, computer science, economics, business, engineering, biology and many others. Highly mathematical jobs, those that require studying mathematics at university, are well-respected and very highly paid. Students can go to study A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Mathematics in the Sixth Form.

Assessment

Edexcel

Paper 1 (non-calculator)
33.3% 80 marks

Paper 2 (calculator)
33.3% 80 marks

Paper 3 (calculator)
33.3% 80 marks



GCSE Statistics

Why study GCSE Statistics?

Statistics is the science and, arguably, also the art of learning from data. As a discipline, it is concerned with the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, as well as the effective communication and presentation of results relying on data. Statistics lies at the heart of the type of quantitative reasoning necessary for making important advances in the sciences, such as medicine and genetics, and for making important decisions in business and public policy. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data.



What will I study in GCSE Statistics?

You will identify trends through carrying out appropriate calculations and data visualisation techniques and apply statistical techniques across the curriculum and outside the classroom in the world in general. You will critically evaluate data, calculations and evaluations that would be commonly encountered in everyday life and develop an understanding of how technology has enabled the collection, visualisation and analysis of large quantities of data to inform decision-making processes in public, commercial and academic sectors. You will consider ways that data can be organised, processed and presented, including statistical measures to compare data and apply appropriate mathematical and statistical formulae.



What can this course lead onto?

Statistics can lead to a variety of exciting jobs in medicine, manufacturing, insurance, environmental sciences, pharmaceuticals, finance, social media and many other areas. A strong understanding of statistical concepts is vital for further study in subjects like biology, psychology, business, economics, geography and engineering – as they all make extensive use of statistical data. Students can go on to study A Level Mathematics in the Sixth Form.

Assessment

Edexcel

Paper 1 50%	80 marks
Paper 2 50%	80 marks



GCSE Theology



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Why study GCSE Theology?

Theology is a compulsory subject at Trinity Catholic High School, as it is a continuation of your spiritual and educational journey as a Catholic. Pope St. John Paul II stated that Theology is “the core of the core curriculum”. Through the study of Theology, students have the opportunity to reflect on their own personal beliefs, as well as develop a deeper appreciation of their own spirituality and understanding of the Catholic tradition.

Theology is the ‘Core of the Core’ subject at Trinity and the skillset, knowledge and understanding gained through this subject allow students to appreciate the diverse society in which we live, whilst contributing to the ‘Common Good’.

What will I study in GCSE Theology?

In your study of Theology, you will explore real life issues affecting you and the people around. You will develop your curiosity about the beliefs in the world; be able to examine sacred texts and engage with scholar’s arguments to reach your own reasoned judgements about moral, ethical and religious issues.

The GCSE course is divided into three sections, each with a terminal examination.

Catholic Christianity:

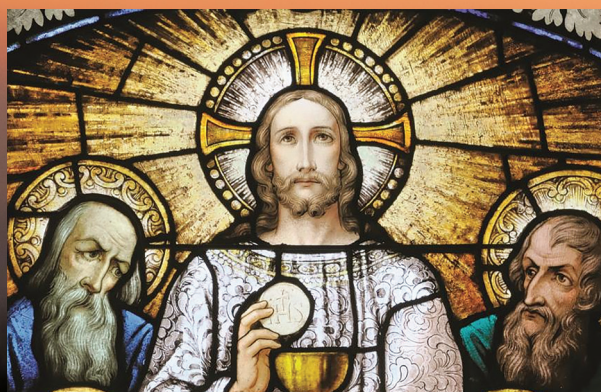
Beliefs and Teachings, Practices, Sources of Wisdom and Authority, Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

Judaism:

Beliefs and Teachings, Practices

Philosophy and Ethics:

Arguments for the Existence of God, Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century



What can this course lead onto?

The future pathway you decide to pursue following your study of Theology is limitless. The skills you harness and hone during the course are viewed as very favourable by higher education institutions and employers. Examples of careers that people have pursued following the study of Theology include medicine, barristers, police, counselling, social work, youth work, teaching and philosophy. Indeed, any career that requires an understanding of people.

Assessment

Edexcel Specification A

Catholic Christianity Paper:

1 hour 45 minute exam 50%

Judaism Paper:

50 minute exam 25%

Philosophy and Ethics Paper:

50 minute exam 25%



GCSE Theology

Core Subjects





GCSE Combined Science

Why study GCSE Combined Science?

GCSE Combined Science is the first step onto a road of science adventure that students actively choose to take into a world where every aspect of life is dependent on scientific advances. From our knowledge of the wider universe right down to the design of a molecule to conquer a virus within a lung cell, science continues to provide the answers. The rate of increase in scientific advances in recent years has been exponential, especially in areas such as biotechnology and engineering, and because of the highly transferrable skills which science incorporates, the rise in demand for scientifically literate women and men throughout the workforce looks set to continue.

What will I study in GCSE Combined Science?

In Combined Science, students study a range of topics in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. In each Science, a variety of practical work is completed, including the required practical investigations that are formally examined in the GCSE examinations.

In Biology students study cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

In Chemistry students study atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

In Physics students study energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism.



What can this course lead onto?

Students can follow in the footsteps of Newton, Darwin and Curie by pursuing a career in the sciences with vast amounts of career opportunities available. Whether it is developing new vaccines or designing new energy efficient infrastructure, Science has opportunities for everyone.

In the field of Biology, you could go onto a career in marine biology, biotechnology, veterinary science or ecology.

In the field of Chemistry, you could go onto a career in chemical engineering, environmental chemistry, food science or forensic science.

In the field of Physics, you could go onto a career in engineering, IT, scientific research and geospace.

Science graduates are in high demand across the workforce. The skills of a scientist are highly transferrable because of their analytical, practical and considered nature and because the conclusions drawn by scientists are underpinned with robust data.

There is a huge demand in the UK workplace for young scientists with a passion for science and careers are exciting and rewarding.



Assessment

AQA Combined Science Trilogy (8464)

Students receive double GCSE awards in Combined Science. The final grade is calculated using the total mark from six papers:

Biology

Paper 1 and Paper 2 (each paper with 16.7% weighting)

Chemistry

Paper 1 and Paper 2 (each paper with 16.7% weighting)

Physics

Paper 1 and Paper 2 (each paper with 16.7% weighting)

Optional Subjects

Students will study a maximum of two subjects from the list of option subjects below.



Art and Design
Business
Computer Science
Construction
Design Technology
Drama
Economics
Food Preparation and Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education
Psychology
Separate Sciences
Spanish





GCSE Art and Design

Why choose GCSE Art and Design ?

GCSE Art and Design is the right subject for you if you enjoy:

- developing your visual skills and engaging with the creative process of art, craft and design
- developing and refining ideas
- visits to galleries, museums, workshops and studios
- experimenting and taking risks with your work, and learning from your experiences

It is really important that you have a passion for the subject and a desire to know more about historical and contemporary art, and how to use art materials and processes to develop and express your own ideas. This course will give you the skills to enjoy, engage with and produce visual arts throughout your life.

What will I study in GCSE Art and Design ?

GCSE Art and Design is a broad and flexible course.

You will develop your visual skills and build a portfolio of work by completing a wide range of activities and in-depth assignments.

Throughout the course, you will:

- develop and explore ideas.
- select and experiment with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- record your ideas, observations and insights.
- present personal and meaningful responses.

The coursework element is covered with three projects on the theme of Decay, Public Sculpture and Identity.



What can this course lead onto?

Through this course, you will develop transferable skills, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking, which will prepare you for further study or the world of work, regardless of the subjects or career you wish to pursue. This is your first step to an exciting career in the creative industries. If you are interested in studying GCSE Art and Design, start finding out more about the subject by:

- visiting the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com/gcseart2016) - there is a lot of useful information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.
- talking to the Head of Art and Design who will be able to describe the course in detail and advise you on what you need to do next.
- finding out what is happening in the world of art by visiting galleries, museums, exhibitions and art shows, or by visiting gallery websites and the art pages on newspaper websites.

Assessment

Edexcel

- Component 1 60% Portfolio of work produced throughout the course
- Component 2 40%

Externally Set Assignment (ESA) - preparatory studies and personal outcome based on a theme set by Edexcel.

GCSE Business



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Why choose GCSE Business ?

Business and related subjects (Finance, Accounting, Management and Economics) are amongst the most popular fields of study at universities worldwide. Studying Business is excellent preparation for those of you who are intending to pursue Business or Management at degree level, or for anyone considering any form of commercial career.

Transferable skills from studying GCSE Business:

- You will gain an understanding of how organisations operate.
- Good decision-making is an invaluable quality.
- You develop your numeracy skills as you study how to use and interpret financial data.
- Studying how organisations adjust to a changing market will teach you how to be adaptable.
- The course helps you to be organised and to plan.
- Problem solving is a significant part of the course.

What will I study in GCSE Business ?

Business in the real world (Year 10)

Students study: the purpose and nature of business, business ownership, setting business aims and objectives, stakeholders, business location, business planning and expanding a business.

Influences on business (Year 10)

Students study: technology, ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate of business, globalisation, legislation and the competitive environment.

Operations (Year 10)

Students study: production processes, the role of procurement, the concept of quality and good customer service.

Human resources (Year 10)

Students study: organisational structures, the recruitment and selection process and staff motivation and training.

Finance (Year 11)

Students study: sources of finance, cash flow, financial terms and calculations and analysing financial performance of a business.

Marketing (Year 11)

This unit looks at identifying and understanding customers, segmentation, the purpose and methods of market research and the elements of the marketing mix (product, price, place and promotion).

What can this course lead onto?

Business provides a useful understanding and preparation for any career within commerce, industry, public service or any professions. It is also possible to progress onto university to take a general Business degree or gain entry into a wide range of related and more specialised areas, such as marketing or digital marketing, human resource management, finance, accountancy and public administration. Business and its derivatives are normally the most applied for degree courses from our school, every year.

Assessment

AQA

Students will sit 2 examination papers each weighting 50% of their final grade.

Each written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity
- Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

Paper 1 and Paper 2 both have the following question structure:

- Section A has multiple choice questions and short answer questions worth 20 marks (22%)
- Section B has one case study/ data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 34 marks (38%)
- Section C has one case study/ data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 36 marks (40%)



GCSE Business

Optional Subjects





GCSE Computer Science

Why choose GCSE Computer Science?

Computer Science is an interesting and rewarding subject that will provide you with unique challenges; it can lead to a wide variety of highly-paid jobs in a booming industry. Computing pervades every aspect of modern life making it highly desirable to develop skills and understanding in this area and its importance is only going to increase in the future. People with a strong computer science background are highly sought after by both academic institutions and employers. Computer Science is a well-respected qualification and one of the EBacc subjects. It is a subject that you should consider no matter what you are thinking of doing in the future as the problem-solving skills you develop will be an asset for all careers.

What will I study in GCSE Computer Science?

The main foci of Computer Science are problem solving and logical thinking. The principle topics covered are: computer programming, algorithms, networks and data communication, representing data, cyber security, databases and computer systems.

You will learn how to design, write, test and refine computer programs. You will develop efficient and robust solutions that solve problems of increasing complexity. You will learn how computers can represent data like numbers, images, text and sound and how this data can be transmitted around the world. You will study the inner operations of computer systems, including how processors work. You will learn about the ever-growing threats to computer systems and the measures that can be put in place to combat these.



What can this course lead onto?

Computer Science will help you develop strong problem solving and logical thinking skills that are valued by employers in all industries. There are also many job opportunities in computing. A GCSE in computer science could lead on to many roles including working as a software developer, systems analyst, network manager, computer engineer, web developer, cyber security consultant, data analyst, teacher, researcher or games developer. After completing GCSE Computer Science, you could go on to study A Level Computer Science or to do a degree in the subject.

Assessment

AQA

Paper 1

Programming and algorithms

- 50% - 90 marks

Paper 2

Data representation, computer systems, cyber security, networks and databases

- 50% - 90 marks

Construction



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Why choose Construction?

This course is aimed at teaching students some of the key skills used in the construction sector, such as carpentry, tiling, decorating and plumbing. During the course, students will complete a range of projects that will allow them to apply their knowledge and practise their skills.

As well as functional skills student will learn about other important aspects of construction, such as planning, building design, health and safety and logistics. This course offers students an ideal opportunity to develop practical knowledge and techniques vital for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the construction industry.

What will I study in Construction?

- How to plan construction projects
- Read and understand building plans
- Identify and hire correct trade's people for the job
- Carpentry
- Decoration
- Tiling
- Electrical wiring
- Plumbing

What can this course lead onto?

- Project manager
- Building manager
- Site supervisor
- Estimator
- Project supervisor
- Foreperson
- Construction worker
- Painter/ decorator
- Carpenter

Assessment

T-Level 1 / 2 Award in Constructing the Built Environment

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

- External examination 40%

Unit 2: Construction the Built Environment

- NEA Practical Skills 60%



Construction

Optional Subjects





GCSE Design Technology

Why choose GCSE Design Technology

GCSE Design and Technology qualifications enable students to develop a broad range of creative and practical skills. It encourages independent learning, decision-making and problem solving skills and is ideal for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the STEM industries. During the course, students will be accessing and learning how to use industry standard CAD and CAM technologies, they will be encouraged to develop their design and communication skills and they will be taught about the many influences on the subject including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

What will I study in GCSE Design Technology?

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy generation and storage
- Developments in new materials
- Mechanical devices
- Materials and their working properties
- Specialist tools and equipment
- Specialist techniques and processes
- Using and working with materials
- Investigation, primary and secondary data
- Environmental, social and economic challenge
- The work of others
- Design strategies
- Communication of design ideas
- Prototype development
- Scales of production



What can this course lead onto?

- Product designer
- Creative/ art director
- Layout artist
- Brand identity designer
- Logo designer
- Illustrator
- Graphic designer
- Technical illustrator
- Photo editing
- photoshop artist
- Multimedia designer
- Games designer
- Web designer

Assessment

AQA Design Technology

Written exam: 2 hours

- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Non-examination assessment (NEA):
30–35 hours approximately

- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

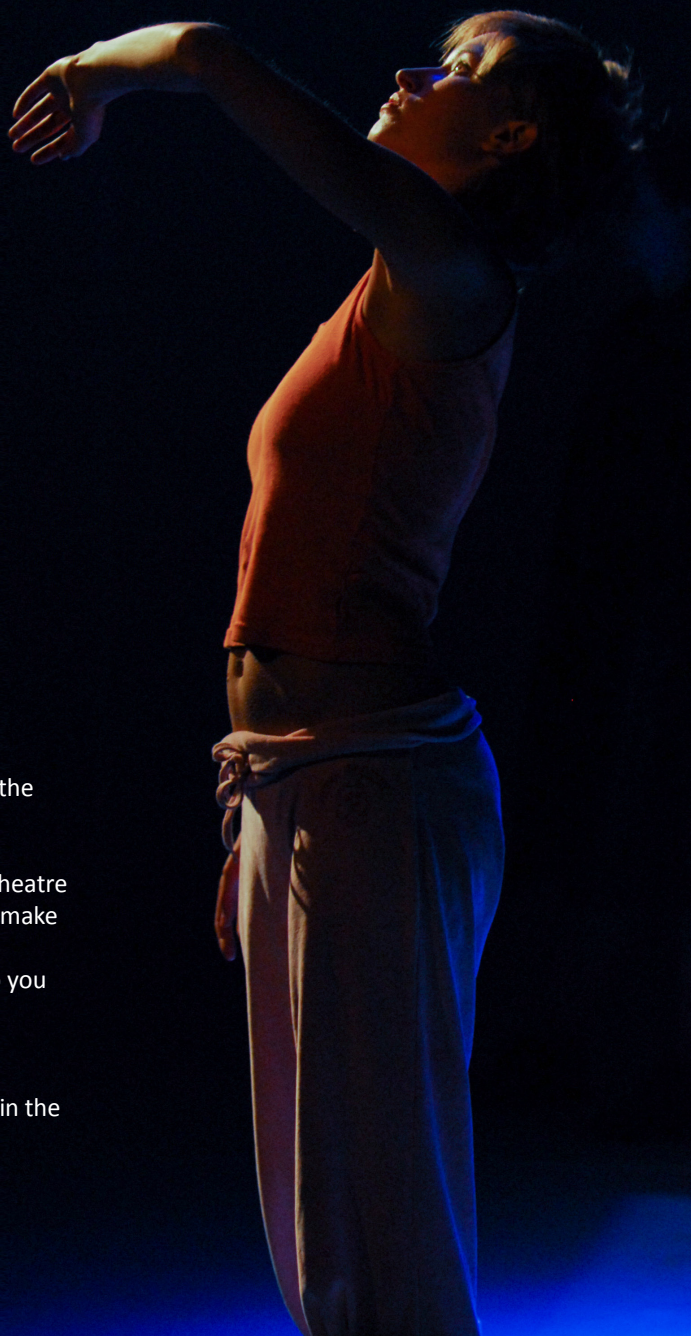
GCSE Drama



Trinity Catholic
High School

Why choose GCSE Drama?

This course is for those students who want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. GCSE Drama provides the opportunity to explore a range of skills involved in creating and performing drama. This includes making original work, as well as exploring plays written by other people, within class and through attending live professional theatre. Even if students do not intend to take their study of theatre further, the course has many transferrable skills that employers look for. Making theatre is a group activity and to be successful will require students to learn how to collaborate effectively as part of a team. This course is an ideal choice for those who want to develop confidence in communication and presentation skills required for a range of professions.



What will I study in GCSE Drama?

- The play: A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney from the perspective of a director, designer and a performer.
- Billy Elliot the Musical.
- The theories and methods adopted by professional theatre companies who devise drama, in order to be able to make your own original piece of theatre.
- The rehearsal techniques of theatre directors to help you build and perform a character from a script.
- A range of different styles and genres of theatre.
- Theatre stages and configurations.
- The roles and responsibilities of each of the jobs within the theatre sector.

What can this course lead onto?

This course is essential for those who wish to pursue a career within the theatre or the wider creative arts, such as television and film production. There is a natural progression to A Level Theatre Studies and English Literature, as well as providing a foundation for progression onto more vocational performing arts courses.

Assessment

AQA GCSE Drama (8261)

1 - Understanding Drama - Written examination	40%
2 - Devising Drama - Non-Examination Assessment	40%
Devising log and the creation and performance of an original play in a group	
3 - Texts in Practice	20%
The performance of two extracts from the same play to a visiting examiner	



GCSE Drama

Optional Subjects





GCSE Economics

Why choose GCSE Economics?

Economics qualifications are highly regarded by universities and employers. Economics graduates are in high demand worldwide and often highly paid. When students understand how markets and economies work, they will develop an economic awareness to benefit them personally and professionally for years to come. There are many opportunities to talk about economic issues today in lessons. Students can develop communication, critical thinking and analytical skills through tasks based on anything from ways to cut the budget deficit, to weighing up the pros and cons of inflation or being part of free-trade agreements.

What will I study in GCSE Economics?

Introduction to economics: Studied in Year 10

Students are introduced to fundamental economic terms and concepts and apply them to explain how markets work in contemporary and historical economic contexts. They study the roles of the main economic agents; how they interact, and the importance of financial markets.

- Economic foundations
- Resource allocation
- How prices are determined
- Production, costs, revenue and profit
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- Market failure
- Students focus on core 'micro' principles of Economics

National and international economics: Studied in Year 11

Students develop their understanding of how governments aim to achieve economic objectives and the effects of economic policies on markets, as well as the importance and impact of international trade.

- Introduction to the national economy
- Government objectives
- How the government manages the economy
- Trade and the global economy
- The role of money and financial markets
- Core 'macro' principles of Economics

What can this course lead onto?

Economics is an extremely useful subject to study, particularly at this moment in time as economic recovery is a pressing and urgent challenge for the next few years. Economics can help prepare students for many different careers, such as financial analysis, accountancy, banking, financial management, business development, government and public sector roles, corporate finance and insurance. This is by no means an exhaustive list. The Institute for Fiscal Studies found that economics is the second most lucrative degree subject after medicine up to ten years after graduation.

Assessment

OCR

Students will sit 2 examination papers each weighing 50% of their final grade.

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes

- Introduction to economics
- National and international economics

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Why choose GCSE

Food Preparation and Nutrition?

This GCSE will enable you:

- To understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- To understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices.
- To understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.
- To demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills.
- To showcase your practical skills to their full potential.
- To build upon the practical skills you already have and learn a wide range of new ones.



What will I study in GCSE

Food Preparation and Nutrition?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course, which focuses on practical cooking skills. The course will ensure students develop an understanding of nutrition, food provenance and working characteristics of food materials.

You will study the following topics:

- Food preparation skills
- Food safety
- Food science
- Food choice
- Food nutrition and health
- Food provenance

You will learn how to:

- Show your knowledge and understanding of nutrition and food preparation.
- Plan, cook and present a variety of dishes, using a range of appropriate skills and techniques.
- Analyse and evaluate different aspects of nutrition, food preparation and cooking including food investigations.



What can this course lead onto?

The food industry continues to be one of the fastest growing industries and therefore the opportunities are vast. This course can lead to a Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition, which the department currently offers at Sixth Form.

Students can go on to careers such as Dietician, Nurse, Chef, Teacher, Agricultural engineering, Personal trainer and Nutritionist. There are also career opportunities in the Hospitality, Tourism, Product Development, Product Testing, Manufacturing Processes and Food Science.

Assessment

AQA

Non-Examination Assessment - 50%

Task 1: Food investigation worth 15% of your overall grade.

Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment worth 35% of your overall grade.

Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

EXAM - 50%

Written exam of 1 hour and 45 minutes worth 50% of overall grade.





GCSE French

Why choose GCSE French?

It is widely accepted that a working knowledge of a foreign language enhances job opportunities and is an asset, which broadens horizons both socially and culturally. Studying GCSE French widens the choice for university courses, with some courses offering a joint degree with a language (e.g. Law with French, Business with French, European Law) and some courses offering the option of studying abroad as part of the course. Languages are highly regarded by universities and employers with both recognising the discipline required to develop these skills as well as the benefits of languages in the workplace. It is therefore, strongly advised that students continue with a foreign language to GCSE.

Studying GCSE French also provides students with a life skill and can build communication, interpersonal, intercultural and public speaking skills. Learning a language develops transferable skills, which can enhance understanding and learning in other subjects. French is not only used in France but is also an official language in other countries in Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean, which gives those who study it great opportunity to travel and work in these areas.

What will I study in GCSE French?

GCSE French encourages students to become competent linguists with a strong knowledge and understanding of grammar, as well as the confidence to communicate successfully. The course focuses on developing the four key skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. We also aim to broaden and deepen understanding of the culture of French-speaking countries.

Throughout the course you will study the following topics:

Theme 1:

Identity and culture

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/ partnership

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life

- Social media
- Mobile technology

Topic 3: Free-time activities

- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/ communities

Theme 2:

Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues

- Charity/ voluntary work
- Healthy/ unhealthy living

Topic 3: Global issues

- The environment
- Poverty/ homelessness

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

Theme 3:

Current and future study and employment

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/ college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

What can this course lead onto?

Students who have studied French are suited to pursue careers in a wide range of areas. Some career paths directly use a language such as teaching, interpreting, translating and travel and tourism. However, these are not the only career options open to those who study French and most employers will look favourably on job applicants with a foreign language. Other industries that welcome a knowledge of languages include sales and marketing, media, journalism, finance, public relations, banking, law and government. The communication skills acquired whilst learning a language are highly sought after by many employers across a variety of sectors.

Assessment

AQA

- Paper 1: Listening 25%
- Paper 2: Speaking 25%
- Paper 3: Reading 25%
- Paper 4: Writing 25%

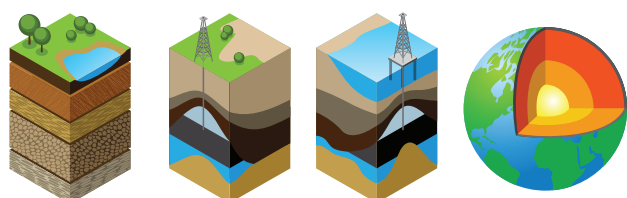
GCSE Geography



Trinity Catholic
High School

Why choose GCSE Geography?

GCSE Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. The course will give you the chance to understand some of the big questions which affect our world, and to develop an appreciation of the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world. There are many ways of learning in Geography, including practical work with fieldwork and map skills, literacy work with the development of written responses and the use of numeracy with geographical analysis and enthusiastic discussion in class. Geography has it all.



What will I study in GCSE Geography?

In physical geography, you will study natural hazards that pose a threat to both humans and environment, ranging from weather hazards to tectonic hazards and tropical storms. Global ecosystems, their characteristics and the need for management of rainforest and tundra landscapes. We will look at the glacial and river processes which have formed our landscape in the UK.

In human geography, we will focus on urban issues and challenges, focusing on London and Lagos, and studying the challenge and opportunities that these dynamic places create. In the changing economic world, we study Nigeria and the UK and the variations in economic development and standards of living between both countries. Finally, resource management and the increasing demand for food, water and energy across the globe.

In Year 10, you will also attend a residential fieldtrip to Surrey and collect data, as a geographer in the field, where you will analyse and come to conclusions on whether the real world does match what your textbook says.

What can this course lead onto?

Studying GCSE Geography will help you better understand the world's people, places and environment from the local to global scales. The skills and knowledge you gain from the subject are relevant to almost all jobs and workplaces. Jobs geographers do include working in these areas: development and global issues, geographical information systems, policy and government, the business world and travel tourism and leisure, so a position as a policy advisor in government, disaster response coordinator, a business development manager, insurance auditor, or a weather producer, and not forgetting teaching, are all possible potential careers.

Assessment

AQA GCSE Geography (8035)

- Paper 1 - Living with the Physical Environment 35%
1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks
- Paper 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment 35%
1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks
- Paper 3 - Geographical Applications 30%
1 hour 15 minutes, 76 marks



GCSE Geography

Optional Subjects





GCSE History

Why choose GCSE History?

GCSE History is a journey into the past that will help you understand how the world you live in was shaped and make you consider society today in a different way. The study of History can lead to a diverse range of study opportunities and careers. Employers and universities regard History qualifications very highly - GCSE History may just be your ticket to a better future...

What will I study in GCSE History?

There are four units of study:

Britain: Health and the People c1000-present day

this unit investigates the history of medicine in Britain over a one-thousand-year period, exploring the various factors that have led to change and developments in medicine and public health.

Elizabethan England c1568-1603

this unit covers the middle and latter part of Elizabeth's reign and focuses on Elizabethan society, Elizabeth's court and parliament and how she deals with threats both at home and abroad.

Germany 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship

this unit covers a period of great change in Germany which sees the end of monarchy, the establishment of democracy under the Weimar Republic and then, finally, the rise of the Nazis.

Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945-1972

this unit covers a tense and turbulent period of the Cold War and explores rising tension between the two world superpowers who emerge from World War 2: USSR and the USA.



What can this course lead onto?

History helps you to develop a range of skills: analysis, critical thinking, communication, creative and presentation, which are all highly valued by employers. Many students who study GCSE History go on to select our A Level course with a view to university study.

History can lead to careers in law, journalism, the performing arts, business, politics, human resources, travel and education.

Assessment

AQA

Paper 1 - 2 hours 50%

- Section A: Germany Democracy and Dictatorship 1890-1945
- Section B: Conflict and Tension between East and West, 1945-1972

Paper 2 - 2 hours 50%

- Section A: Britain, Health and the People c1000 to present
- Section B: Elizabethan England c1568-1603



GCSE Media Studies

Why choose GCSE Media Studies?

The media play a central role in contemporary society and culture. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, viewpoints and messages they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The economic importance of the media is also unquestionable. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and operate as commercial industries on a global scale. The global nature of the contemporary media, coupled with ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media, suggest that their centrality in contemporary life can only increase.



What can this course lead onto?

The possibilities are varied, but some careers associated with the study of media could be: assistant web designer, editorial assistant, junior photographer, assistant game designer, production assistant or games tester, as well as various areas of journalism, marketing and advertising. Options at A Level include: A Level Media, A Level Film and CTEC Digital Media.

Assessment

EDUQAS (WJEC)

Component 1	Exploring the Media	
Exam (1 hour 30 minutes)		40 %
Component 2	Understanding Media Forms and Products	
Exam (1 hour 30 minutes)		30%
Component 3	Creating Media Products	
Non-Examination Assessment		30%

What will I study in GCSE Media Studies?

This qualification is made up of three components:

Component 1: Exploring the Media

This unit is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute examination at the end of the two-year course. This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements. You will also look at media industries and audiences; exploring current issues surrounding the ownership, regulation and audience interaction with a number of different products in the world of film, TV, gaming and newspapers.

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

This unit is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute examination at the end of the two-year course. We will specifically look at the television and music industries, as well as numerous online texts when analysing media language, representations, industries and audiences.

Component 3: Creating Media Products

This is an internally assessed and externally moderated unit where students get to explore their creative side. You will create an individual media production for an intended audience in response to a choice of briefs set by Eduqas (WJEC), applying knowledge and understanding of media language and representation; typically, a music video, opening sequence of a television programme, or various print-based activities using our specialised equipment and software.





GCSE Music

Why choose GCSE Music?

GCSE Music is for students who enjoy making and listening to music, not just for those who are interested in a career in the arts or becoming a professional musician. The subject allows students to further develop practical skills to a higher-level, thus strengthening confidence, creativity and broadening an understanding of musical history and the context of culture and society. Music is a well-respected subject by top universities and is an academically rigorous course which enables students to achieve through their practical talents. Studying music will develop a range of transferrable skills including literacy, critical thinking, analytical and problem solving, leadership and communication.

What will I study in GCSE Music?

Performing skills are taught through practice and performance experiences. Students will perform at least two works of a combined length of four minutes. This includes a solo piece and an ensemble. Within the composition component, students will explore a range of techniques and styles in order to create two compositions during the course. This can be done with the use of computer software, acoustic instruments or the voice. These practical elements enhance student's analytical skills and historical understanding, drawing links from repertoire they may have studied outside the classroom. The listening and appraising exam paper provides an opportunity for students to study eight set works in-depth.

These include works from:

Instrumental Music 1700-1820: Bach and Beethoven

Vocal Works: Purcell and Queen

Music for Stage and Screen: John Williams' Star Wars' theme and the West End musical 'Wicked'

Fusion Music: Afro Celt Sound System and Esperanza Spalding.



What can this course lead onto?

The study of Music can continue to a higher level with A Levels in Music and Music Technology, and BTECs in a range of performing arts and music production. There are a range of opportunities in many different careers in which musicians will thrive, such as performer, composer, music therapist, teacher, administrator, recording engineer, radio manager, promoter, music publishing and journalism. Music graduates are also highly valued in professions where people have to take initiative and solve problems, like finance and banking, law and consultancy.

Assessment

Edexcel

Performing 30%
(non-examination assessment)
Composing 30%
(non-examination assessment)
Listening and Appraising 40%
(formal written exam)



GCSE Physical Education

Why choose GCSE Physical Education?

If you love sport and physical education, you participate in an activity outside of school and you are keen to learn about the theory that underpins this subject then this course is for you.

The theory side of this subject forms the vast majority of the teaching time, so it is vital that you are a committed student in the classroom. Testing occurs almost weekly, so it is important that you have an excellent approach to independent study and revision outside of lessons.

If you play a sport or participate in an activity outside of school then you already have 10% of your coursework grades covered, we will then work with you in core PE lessons to support your assessment in 2 further activities.

What will I study in GCSE Physical Education?

GCSE PE is so exciting and diverse in that it covers the science, psychology and sociology of sport.

Paper 1 is the scientific paper. Topics include the skeleton, muscles, heart and lungs and how participating in sport affects these body systems. Additionally, learning about fitness, fitness testing and how to plan a training programme. Finally, we learn about sports injuries and how we can minimise risks associated with injuries.

Paper 2 is the psychology of sport and the sociocultural influences that affect sport in society today. Topics include engagement patterns in sport, commercialisation of sport, ethical issues including drugs and aggression. The psychology unit covers characteristics of skilful performance, goal setting and mental preparation. The last section includes health and well-being, diet and nutrition.



What can this course lead onto?

You will develop the transferable skills that are in demand by further education, higher education and employers in all sectors of industry, such as confidence, independent thinking, effective decision making and operating effectively as an individual or as part of a team – all skills that will enable you to stand out and effectively promote yourself as you progress through life.

This course prepares you for further study of sports science courses as well as other related subject areas, such as psychology, sociology and biology.

Careers that this course supports include PE teacher, sports psychology, biomechanics of sport, sports nutrition, physiotherapy, medicine and personal trainer.

Assessment

OCR GCSE PE (J587)

Paper 1: 30%

Paper 2: 30%

Written coursework: 10%

Assessment in 3 practical activities: 30%



GCSE Physical Education

Optional Subjects





GCSE Psychology

Why choose GCSE Psychology?

We are often baffled by the behaviours of others. Why politicians avoid the truth, why people betray friendships or start to distance themselves. Or why some experience anxiety or depression whilst others are seemingly immune. Studying GCSE Psychology will give you an insight into how and why human beings make the decisions they do. As a GCSE psychologist, you will study human behaviour and the brain. In order to do this sufficiently, the course has a range of units which provide students with an understanding of how biological, cognitive and environmental factors influence our everyday attitudes and responses.



What will I study in GCSE Psychology?

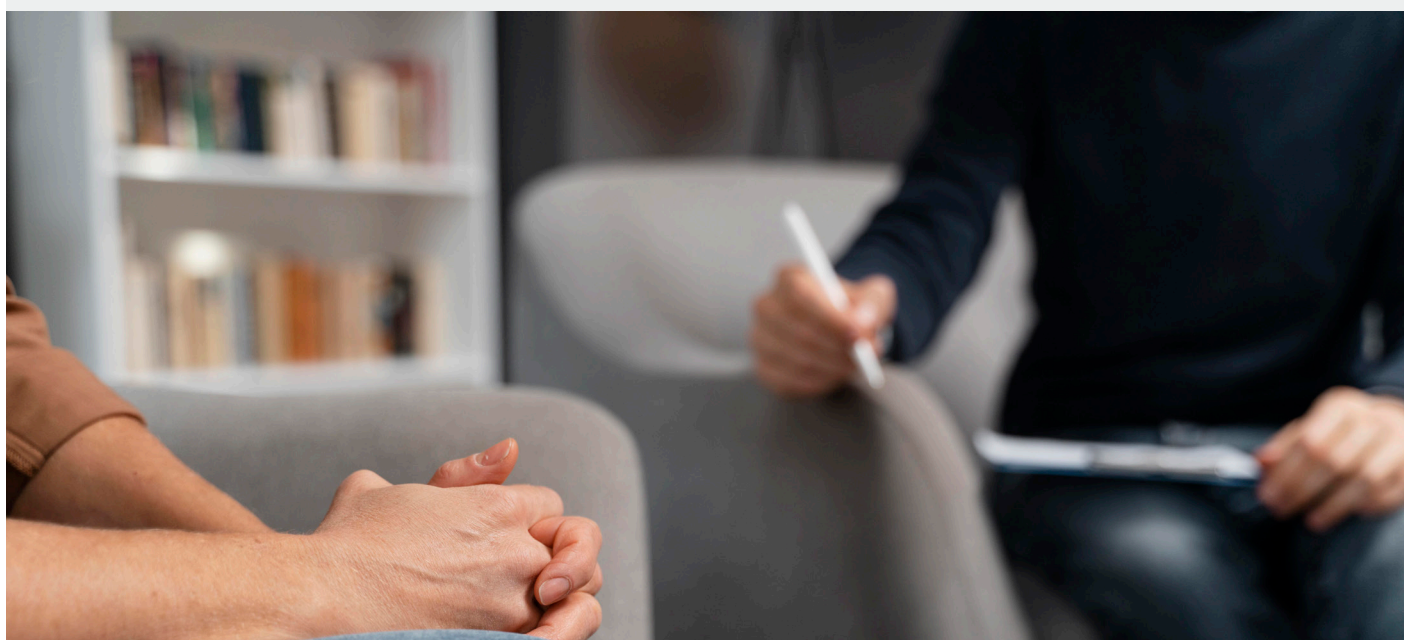
This qualification is made up of two papers:

Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour

This unit is assessed through a 1 hour 45 minute examination at the end of the two-year course. This section assesses the topics of 'memory', 'perception', 'development' and 'research methods' and the exam will be made up of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing tasks.

Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour

This unit is also assessed through a 1 hour 45 minute examination at the end of the two-year course. We will specifically look at 'social influence', 'language, thought and communication', 'brain and neuropsychology' and 'psychological problems'. This exam will also be made up of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing tasks.



What can this course lead onto?

GCSE Psychology will help you to understand human behaviour and what compels people to make the decisions they do. You can then build on this knowledge, leading towards a number of exciting career opportunities, including clinical psychologist, counselling psychologist, educational psychologist, forensic psychologist, further education teacher, health psychologist, high intensity therapist and occupational psychologist, as well as many other potential professions. The expertise that you will possess as a psychologist could assist you in a range of sectors, including mental health, social work, education, business and even sport and fitness. Trinity Catholic High School also offers further pathways into A Level Psychology and A Level Sociology.

Assessment

AQA

Paper 1

Cognition and Behaviour

Exam (1 hour 45 minutes) 50%

Paper 2

Social Context and Behaviour

Exam (1 hour 45 minutes) 50%

GCSE Separate Sciences



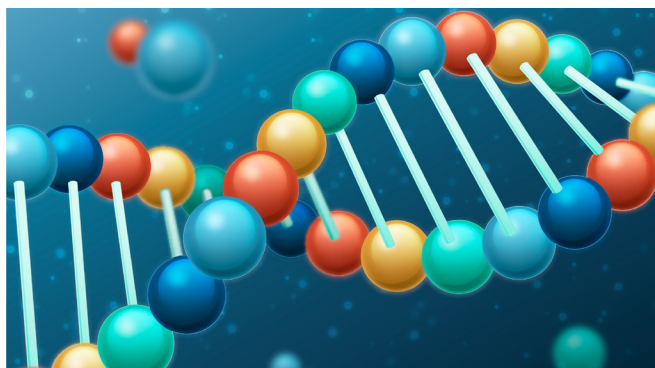
Trinity Catholic
High School

Why choose GCSE Separate Sciences?

The Separate Sciences course consists of an expanded curriculum and a more enhanced suite of practical opportunities that prepares students better for A Level Science and a future career in the sciences.

GCSE Separate Sciences is the first step onto a road of science adventure that students actively choose to take into a world where every aspect of life is dependent on scientific advances. From our knowledge of the wider universe right down to the design of a molecule to conquer a virus within a lung cell, science continues to provide the answers. The rate of increase in scientific advances in recent years has been exponential, especially in areas such as biotechnology and engineering, and because of the highly transferrable skills which science incorporates, the rise in demand for scientifically literate women and men throughout the workforce looks set to continue.

At Trinity, we have a Science teaching team with very many years of experience and a track record of adding value to student attainment grades which is unrivalled. At the last set of public GCSE exams in 2019, our Separate Sciences cohort attained between 70-75% 9-7 grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



What will I study in GCSE Separate Sciences?

In GCSE Biology students study cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology. Unique content for GCSE Separate Biology includes the brain, the eye, protein synthesis and monoclonal antibodies. Extra practical work includes aseptic technique and phototropism in plants.

In GCSE Chemistry students study atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources. Unique content for GCSE Separate Chemistry includes nanoscience, organic chemistry and condensation polymerisation. Extra practical work includes identification of positive ions using flame tests and using titrations to calculate the concentration of unknown substances.

In GCSE Physics students study energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism. Unique content for GCSE Separate Physics includes applications of electromagnetism, black body radiation, space physics, pressure, light, gears and moments. Extra practical work includes work on light and colour.

What can this course lead onto?

Students can follow in the footsteps of Newton, Darwin and Curie by pursuing a career in the sciences with vast amounts of career opportunities available. Whether it is developing new vaccines or designing new energy efficient infrastructure, science has opportunities for everyone.

In the field of Biology, you could go onto a career in marine biology, biotechnology, veterinary science or ecology.

In the field of Chemistry, you could go onto a career in chemical engineering, environmental chemistry, food science or forensic science.

In the field of Physics, you could go onto a career in engineering, IT, scientific research and geospace.

Science graduates are in high demand across the workforce. The skills of a scientist are highly transferrable because of their analytical, practical and considered nature and because the conclusions drawn by scientists are underpinned with robust data.

There is a huge demand in the UK workplace for young scientists with a passion for science and careers are exciting and rewarding.

Assessment

AQA Separate Sciences:

Biology (8461), Chemistry (8462) and Physics (8463)

Students receive GCSE awards in each Science and complete a suite of six papers lasting 105 minutes each (100 marks)

Biology

Paper 1 and Paper 2 (each paper with 50% weighting)

Chemistry

Paper 1 and Paper 2 (each paper with 50% weighting)

Physics

Paper 1 and Paper 2 (each paper with 50% weighting)



GCSE Separate Sciences

Optional Subjects



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GCSE Spanish

Why choose GCSE Spanish?

It is widely accepted that a working knowledge of a foreign language enhances job opportunities and is an asset, which broadens horizons both socially and culturally. Studying GCSE Spanish widens the choice for university courses, with some courses offering a joint degree with a language (e.g. Law with Spanish, Business with Spanish, European Law) and some courses offering the option of studying abroad as part of the course. Languages are highly regarded by universities and employers with both recognising the discipline required to develop these skills as well as the benefits of languages in the workplace. It is therefore, strongly advised that students continue with a foreign language to GCSE.

Studying GCSE Spanish also provides students with a life skill and can build communication, interpersonal, intercultural and public speaking skills. Learning a language develops transferable skills which can enhance understanding and learning in other subjects. Spanish is not only used in Spain but also most of Latin America, which gives those who study it great opportunity to travel and work in these areas.

What will I study in GCSE Spanish?

GCSE Spanish encourages students to become competent linguists with a strong knowledge and understanding of grammar, as well as the confidence to communicate successfully. The course focuses on developing the four key skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. We also aim to broaden and deepen understanding of the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

Throughout the course you will study the following topics:

Theme 1:

Identity and culture

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/ partnership

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life

- Social media
- Mobile technology

Topic 3: Free-time activities

- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/ communities

Theme 2:

Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues

- Charity/ voluntary work
- Healthy/ unhealthy living

Topic 3: Global issues

- The environment
- Poverty/ homelessness

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

Theme 3:

Current and future study and employment

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/ college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

What can this course lead onto?

Students who have studied Spanish are suited to pursue careers in a wide range of areas. Some career paths directly use a language such as teaching, interpreting, translating and travel and tourism. However, these are not the only career options open to those who study Spanish and most employers will look favourably on job applicants with a foreign language. Other industries that welcome a knowledge of languages include sales and marketing, media, journalism, finance, public relations, banking, law and government. The communication skills acquired whilst learning a language are highly sought after by many employers across a variety of sectors.

Assessment

AQA

- Paper 1: Listening 25%
- Paper 2: Speaking 25%
- Paper 3: Reading 25%
- Paper 4: Writing 25%

Beyond the KS4 Curriculum



Trinity Catholic
High School

The curriculum at key stage 4 is broadened further by addressing gaps in opportunity through wider extracurricular opportunities beyond the classroom, developing a curriculum that is flexible, promotes equality of opportunity and is responsiveness to individual needs and aspirations. Such opportunities impact positively on student engagement, their wellbeing and help foster excellent habits of mind and attitudes to learning.

Typically, students develop and discover their interests and talents through wider extra-curricular opportunities including work experience; rock and pop concerts and other musical performances and clubs; computing competitions; mathematical enrichment challenges; theatre performances; gallery visits; fieldtrips; a wide variety of masterclasses from outside speakers; 'top' university trips and talks; gym clubs - e.g. badminton and trampolining; Duke of Edinburgh's Award; sporting activities and a large wealth of other initiatives.

A particular strength in the examination years is the extensive extracurricular study support with revision classes and small group tutorials offered across all subjects. This provision makes a valued contribution to our very high academic standards at KS4. In Year 11, students receive study support in the form of the 'Darius programme'. Darius is a well-established intervention programme that is implemented to raise achievement for those students who are on the borderline for their target grade and could, with a little help and effort, achieve their academic goals.



“Be you our vision oh Lord of our hearts.
Nothing else matters but who you are. You
our best thought both day and night,
waking or sleeping, your presence our light.”





Compassion – Vocation – Wisdom



**Trinity Catholic
High School**

Headmaster: Dr P C Doherty OBE, BA (Hons), DPhil (Oxon), FRSA

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Diocese of Brentwood