



Stephen Perse

— Cambridge —

GCSE Course Information 2025–2027

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Our Learning Wheel Explained



Our learners

Our schools are small enough to ensure that each learner is known. By placing our learners at the centre of our approach, we create an education that allows individuality to flourish.

Developing character

Fostering a secure bedrock of self-esteem and a sure moral compass is essential preparation for a future in a complex world.

Learning segments

We group our subjects together into six curriculum areas. We teach subjects in an integrated way, because the future belongs to those who can think way beyond narrow subject boundaries.

Learning to think

Education is not just about imparting knowledge. It's about teaching young people how to think for themselves: critically, creatively and collaboratively.

Outer circle

We prepare young people to blaze a trail in whatever field they choose. They leave us equipped with a breadth of skills, ready to become responsible global citizens.

Stephen Perse Curriculum Model

Our curriculum for Years 10 and 11 provides the best possible platform for study at a higher level, prior to university entrance, and gives you an enriched and stimulating learning experience.

We group our subjects together into six curriculum areas, teaching subjects in an integrated way as shown within our Learning Wheel. In addition to the subjects leading to (I)GCSE courses, you will take a non-examined core programme in order to add to your portfolio of knowledge, skills and interests. We prepare you to blaze a trail in whatever field you choose, making sure you are equipped with a breadth of skills, ready to become responsible global citizens.

There are three components to the curriculum in Years 10 and 11:

The examined core:

This consists of the subjects that all students must take at GCSE: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science (minimum two GCSE equivalent).

The examined options:

Students then opt for five further subjects from an extensive list. It is possible to upgrade the two GCSE equivalent Combined Science course that is the minimum requirement in the core to separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics by choosing the Triple Science option as one of the five.

Normally, one of the options selected should be a modern language, but there will be some students for whom this is not the right path (for a variety of reasons). If you think you need further advice on this, please discuss this with Frau Freeman (Head of Modern Languages) in the first instance.

The non-examined core:

All students also follow courses and activities that do not lead to GCSE examinations. These are sub-divided into Sports/Games, PSHEE/RSE and Careers and Guidance.



The Examined Core

English Language IGCSE

CAIE 0990 (9-1)

English is an essential part of all schools' core curriculum. It is compulsory at Key Stage 4 and at Stephen Perse Cambridge is taught in an integrated course with IGCSE English Literature. Success in any subject studied in the Sixth Form requires competent written English as well as the analytical skills it fosters.

As a candidate for IGCSE English, you will:

- develop your understanding of the spoken word and your ability to express yourself clearly and logically.
- read and respond to all types of writing
- develop your writing skills.

Course Content

You will read a variety of texts in non-fiction genres, such as newspaper reports, websites, travel reports and biographies. You will look analytically at the language used by writers for their audience and compare different texts, assessing their effectiveness. You will also develop your own awareness of an audience and your own persuasive, creative and descriptive writing skills.

Assessment

Assessment takes place through two examinations. The first tests your responses to unseen non-fiction passages, while the second examination tests your own writing. Each examination is worth 50% of the total mark.



English Literature IGCSE

CAIE 0992 (9-1)

Studying English Literature will encourage you to develop a love of reading. You will have the chance to read and respond to many kinds of literary texts and to express your own critical responses to them in discussion, as well as in your written work.

Course Content

You will study a selection of literary texts from each of the genres of drama, poetry and prose, for example Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* or Chinonyerem Odimba's *Princess & The Hustler*, a selection of poems from the *Songs of Ourselves* Cambridge University Press poetry anthology, , and a novel such as H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds* or Kiran Desai's *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*. You will also study approaches to unseen literary passages through reading a variety of texts during the course.

Assessment

Assessment takes place through three examinations. In the first, you will write one essay on each of two literary texts that you have studied in class (poetry and prose). In the second examination, you will write one essay on a drama text which you have studied. In the third, you will write one essay on an unseen literary text, either a modern poem or an extract from a novel. The first two examinations (on the set texts) are worth 75% of the mark. The examination on the unseen material is worth 25%. There is no coursework component.



Mathematics GCSE

Edexcel 1MA1 (9-1)

Mathematics is an important subject, both for many university courses and for the workplace. It is therefore important to have a firm foundation in the subject. You will be encouraged to develop your numerical, algebraic and spatial skills and to appreciate the use of Mathematics in other fields of learning. The Mathematics course teaches you to think and communicate in a precise, logical and creative way, selecting appropriate mathematical techniques and applying your knowledge when solving problems.

Course Content

You will learn topics relating to number, algebra, geometry and statistics. We will encourage you to think in a flexible way and to recognise relationships in Mathematics, for instance, using ratio and proportion as well as algebraic structures to solve problems. You will be introduced to numerical concepts ranging from exact expressions to approximations, and algebraic applications, such as common functions and their graphs, along with various types of sequence. You will also study geometrical reasoning, including trigonometry and circle theorems, as well as statistical observations and probability theory.

Assessment

You will take three exam papers at the end of Year 11. Each of the papers is one-third of the overall assessment. Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper. Calculators are allowed for papers 2 and 3. There is no coursework.



Sciences

Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied as an important part of the core curriculum. You will be taught for three lessons per fortnight per subject if you opt to continue to study for GCSEs in all three separate sciences (Triple Science). Alternatively, you may choose to take a reduced science course leading to GCSE Combined Sciences which is worth two GCSEs. In this case you will continue to have separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons, totalling three lessons per week. We will be following well-established GCSE Science courses that will provide you with a thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of the three sciences. The work covered will encourage your curiosity and will develop your understanding of the world around you. It will also form an excellent platform for potential further study at Sixth Form level.

Your science lessons will include a wide variety of activities such as student experiments, practical demonstrations, class discussion and debate, and ICT simulations and modelling.

Biology GCSE

Edexcel 1BIO (9-1)

Biology is the study of living things. You will discover how plants and animals function, including the human body, and the requirements for healthy living. You will learn about the role of Biology in society today and its importance in health and environmental contexts.

Course Content

The course in Years 10 and 11 is a continuation of the material studied in Year 9. Topics covered include health and disease, plant structure and function, mammalian physiology and ecosystems and material cycles. The remaining core practicals will also occur during Year 10 and 11.

Chemistry GCSE

Edexcel 1CH0 (9-1)

Chemistry is the study of matter and the materials that make up the world. In this course you will be studying the nature of that matter, from the atom up. You will learn how scientists can make new materials, using the world's resources wisely.

Course Content

The course in Years 10 and 11 is a continuation of the material studied in Year 9. Topics covered include atomic structure, bonding and the periodic table, qualitative and quantitative analysis, organic chemistry and fuels, rates and equilibria. The remaining core practicals will also occur during Year 10 and 11.

Physics GCSE

Edexcel 1PH0 (9-1)

Physics explains how the world around us works. Studying Physics will help you to understand natural phenomena and technological advances, as well as developing your problem-solving skills. It will also put you in a better position to make your own decisions about important issues such as sustainability.

Course Content

The course in Years 10 and 11 is a continuation of the material studied in Year 9. Topics covered include electricity, the particle model, astronomy and electromagnetism. The remaining core practicals will also occur during Year 10 and 11.

Combined Science GCSE

Edexcel 1SC0 (9-1)

(Worth two GCSEs)

This course will contain two-thirds of the material covered in the three separate sciences and will provide two GCSE grades. It will be graded and certificated on a 17-point scale from 9–9 to 1–1 using the total mark across all six exams where 9–9 is the highest grade and grades such as 8-7 are possible. It is suitable for those students who would like to spend less of their curriculum time on science. Although it would be preferable to take triple science if you intend to study science subjects at A Level, GCSE Combined Science would not necessarily preclude this.

Practical work in the sciences

For all the science GCSE subjects, students must complete specified core practicals during the course. You have already done some of these in Year 9, and there will be more to complete in Years 10 and 11.

Assessment in the sciences

Biology, Chemistry and Physics will each be assessed by two written papers with a length of one hour 45 minutes. Combined Science will be assessed by six written papers with a length of one hour 10 minutes. All the exams will be taken at the end of the course.

The Examined Options

Additional Mathematics

OCR 6993 (A-E)

Students will be given the opportunity to study for the Free-Standing Mathematics Qualification (FSMQ) in Additional Mathematics alongside the GCSE in Mathematics. This will be dependent on performance in the GCSE course and will take into account other subjects and interests, too. Students who take the Additional Mathematics course sit both the GCSE and FSMQ assessments at the end of Year 11.

How do you choose to follow Additional Mathematics?

A portion of the Additional Maths content is taught in normal Mathematics lessons, as there is shared content within the GCSE course. Students who would like to follow Additional Maths in full, covering areas such as Calculus, Exponentials and Logarithms, Enumeration and Linear Programming, will be invited to join an extra-curricular session from the start of Year 10, once each week. The Mathematics Department will offer the course to students at the end of Year 9, so this is not a subject that is chosen as part of the main GCSE options process. The course is suitable for those students who are predicted to achieve a grade 8 or 9 in their GCSE Mathematics exams. Decisions about examination entry will not be made until half-way through Year 11. It should be noted that students who are keen to follow Additional Maths will probably have already been attending extension clubs throughout Year 9.

Course Content

You will develop topics from the GCSE course, giving you an introduction to the power and elegance of advanced Mathematics. The topics give you an experience of the directions in which the subject is developed post-GCSE and the opportunity to explore applications of Mathematics relevant to other areas of study.

Assessment for the Qualification

You will take one exam paper at the end of Year 11. Calculators are allowed for this paper

Art and Design GCSE

Edexcel 1FA0 Fine Art (9-1) OR Edexcel 1TE0 Textile Design (9-1)

We offer two Art and Design GCSE options: the Fine Art option OR the Textile Design option. Both come under the broad Art and Design umbrella but enable students to follow different pathways from the start of Year 10.

Course Requirements

A GCSE Art and Design qualification enables students to:

- Actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design in order to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- Develop creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring and making images, artefacts and products.
- Become confident in taking risks and learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques.
- Develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills.
- Develop and refine ideas and proposals, personal outcomes or solutions with increasing independence.
- Acquire and develop technical skills through working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.
- Develop an awareness of the different roles and individual work practices evident in the production of art, craft and design in the creative and cultural industries.

Course Content

Students have four double periods of Art and Design per week with an expected minimum of one hour of homework to accompany this. This is a practical based subject, so lessons involve workshops and students document their development and processes in sketchbooks.

Year 10

Students work through themed projects and are introduced to the techniques and skills at the start of the course which they will continue to develop during the two years. Students learn how to progress through a project developing ideas, researching artists and designers and initiating their own ideas and intentions to explore and experiment with in order to obtain a resolved outcome.

In Fine Art, students focus on the techniques of drawing, printmaking, painting and digital art and in Textile Design students focus on techniques of drawing, silk painting, felt making, weaving, reverse applique, garment construction, machine embroidery and work in areas of textile art, fashion and installation.

Techniques in both areas are not restricted. As students work with increasing independence, they will guide their own experimentation and exploration of techniques.

Recording using drawing and photography is a foundation for all the projects and students learn how this informs and helps develop and visually communicate their own ideas. Technology informs the development of ideas. Photoshop and the Procreate App are taught.

Year 11

Students work through a themed project and are encouraged to build on their strengths and develop personal independent work, supported by regular tutorials and guidance.

There is an Externally Set Assignment whereby the examination board sets a theme in January. Students then have approximately 8 school weeks to work on and prepare for an outcome they will then produce in a 10-hour examination, which takes place at the end of April/ beginning of May, so it is completed before the other GCSE examinations.

The course concludes with a summer exhibition in the VAC when family and friends are invited to celebrate the work completed on this course.

Assessment

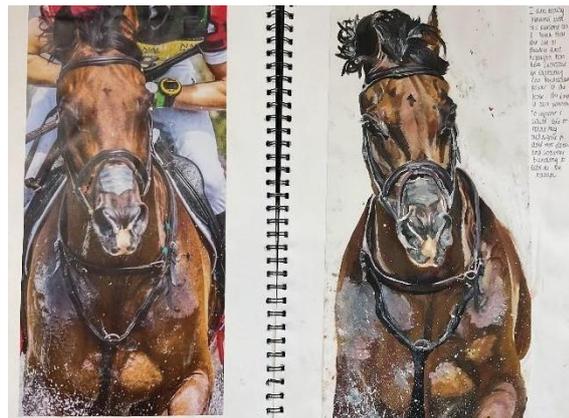
All students must create a portfolio of work which consists of:

Component 1: Personal Portfolio worth 60% Component 2: Externally Set Assignment worth 40%

Further Opportunities

By selecting an enjoyable course designed to promote high levels of visual literacy, students will gain excellent transferable skills in investigation and research, be able to apply a creative approach to problem solving, consider and develop original ideas from initiation to realisation with sustained focus, analyse critically their own work and the work of others, express individual thoughts and choices confidently, take risks, experiment and learn from mistakes, present ideas and complex concepts to an audience and have immense pride in the sense of having created their own unique pieces of work. Students will gain invaluable skills in time management, working to deadlines and collaboration with peers.

Careers related to Britain's creative industries are numerous but some might include: Advertising and Marketing Communications, Architecture, Animation, Fashion and Textiles, Film, Games, Photo Imaging, Publishing, Radio, Television, and Visual FX.



Classical Civilisation GCSE

OCR J199 (9-1)

Classical Civilisation is a Humanities GCSE which builds on the Culture and Context aspects of your studies in Latin. In this course, you will study a wide range of material from both ancient Greece and Rome including artwork, material culture and some of the greatest works of literature ever produced. A Classical Civilisation GCSE is a fascinating and enjoyable look at the ancient world that will sharpen your ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate sources from a range of media and to present your judgements in a clear, concise and logical manner. You do not need to have studied Classical Civilisation or Latin in Year 9 to join this course.

Course Content

Note that there is no language component in Classical Civilisation. All of the works of literature and sources we study have already been translated into English.

Year 10 in Classical Civilisation provides a solid foundation for the two papers in this course: Myth & Religion and War & Warfare. You will be introduced to all of the prescribed sources for this course and develop the fundamental knowledge. This includes:

- Greek and Roman gods, their responsibilities and how they are typically represented in art
- heroes, including their associated myths and role in ancient society
- festivals and religious rituals
- the impact of myths and the use of mythology to portray power
- key aspects of the Spartan, Athenian and Roman military, including the interplay between war, politics and society.

In Year 11 we will build on the knowledge you've gained in Year 10, focusing on consolidation of content, exploring topics in greater depth and developing your writing skills.

Assessment

The GCSE syllabus is equally weighted between Paper 1 Myth and Religion (thematic study) and Paper 2 War and Warfare (literature and culture). There is no coursework.

For both papers, students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the Classical world in a series of short-answer questions and their ability to analyse sources through a smaller number of extended written responses.

Classical Greek GCSE

OCR J292 (9-1)

This course is a two-year accelerated course: no prior knowledge of Greek is required, and by the end of the course you will have GCSE standard language skills and you will have read some original Classical Greek literature.

Course Content

In Year 10 you will work mainly on your knowledge of Classical Greek vocabulary and grammar. Greek is a fascinating language, and - through studying it - you will come across concepts which you may not yet have thought about, and you will practise using codes and information in a logical and accurate way. You will practise translating from Greek into English and from English into Greek, and throughout this year you will improve your understanding of the structures of language. You will work to a programme of regular learning and consolidation tests: the aim is to build a confident and accurate grasp of the language.

In Year 11 you will start to read original Greek texts. These will include an extract from one of Homer's great epic poems: these date from nearly 3000 years ago and are the oldest existing works of Western literature. In addition to this you will read an extract from a prose text; this could be a law court speech or an extract from Ancient History, and through this study you will gain direct access to the remarkable world of Classical Greece.

Assessment

The GCSE syllabus is equally divided between language work and the study of original texts. For the language papers you will be expected to translate from Greek into English and to be able to answer some grammatical questions about the passage you are translating. The literature papers will test your knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the texts you have studied in class. There is no coursework.



Latin GCSE

OCR J282 (9-1)

GCSE Latin is an exciting progression from the work you are doing in Year 9. The GCSE course will help you to sharpen and deepen your understanding of grammatical structures and rules, and it will also give you the opportunity to read extracts from original Latin texts, which are ranked among some of the greatest Western literature ever written.

Course Content

In Year 10, translation work is the main focus, and you will work on increasingly complex Latin sentences and constructions. As you develop your understanding of Latin, you will also improve your understanding of English and of the structures of language in general: you will learn to think about how we build sentences and the options that are available for expressing ideas in different ways. A programme of regular learning and consolidation tests will help you build the confidence and accuracy with which you approach translation work.

In Year 11 you will start to read some original Latin texts: these are likely to include an extract from Virgil's great epic poem - The Aeneid - and you can expect to engage with interesting questions arising from this poem, such as the role of an individual within a society, or how best to handle our emotions. You will improve your ability to identify nuance within a written text and your appreciation of poetic styles. You will study a prose text too - such as extracts from letters written by Pliny.

Assessment

The GCSE syllabus is equally divided between language work and the study of original texts/materials. For the language papers you will be expected to translate from Latin into English and to be able to answer some grammatical questions about the passage you are translating. The literature papers will test your knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the texts you have studied in class. There is no coursework.

Latin as an 11th GCSE

Students who opt to study Classical Greek will also have the option of continuing with Latin as an extra GCSE, delivered via a compressed two-period-a-week course in lunchtime and after-school slots. This course will prepare for the OCR GCSE in Latin at the end of Year 11, but it will make use of the overlap between Greek and Latin in order to cover the ground in half the usual teaching time.

Students who opt for Latin as an add-on will be studying it in addition to the usual maximum of 10 GCSEs: as such, the add-on option is only for those students who are confident that they can manage an increased workload, and whose work in Latin in Year 9 has been strong enough to make it possible for them to manage a fast-paced course in Year 10 and Year 11.

Computer Science GCSE

AQA 8525

Computer Science GCSE is your first step to building the confidence to program tomorrow's apps, and to tackle the ever-evolving world of information technology. You will study the principles and practices of computing, computational thinking and programming. You will write computer code and develop your skills in problem-solving using computers, and will be offered the opportunity to work on extracurricular games development, as well as building cyber-security skills. You will also have the opportunity to apply your understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language, such as Python. However, it is equally important for you to be able to recognise the ethical issues and potential risks when using computers, and these are addressed in the topics of ethics and security. Understanding the principles of computer science also provides you with the underpinning knowledge required for many other subjects in science and engineering, and the skills learnt can also be used in everyday life.

Course Content

- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Programming
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer networks
- Cyber Security
- Relational databases and structured query language (SQL)
- Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy.

Assessment

All candidates take two components:

Paper 1 (50%)

Computational Thinking and Programming Skills: a mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

Paper 2 (50%)

Computing Concepts: a mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.

Extracurricular

There are plenty of opportunities for extracurricular development in Computer Science, from games design (and attending games jams) to competitions like the Oxford Computing Challenge and British Informatics Olympiad, to trips! See below some screenshots of recent Year 10 game development:



3D Design and Design & Technology

We offer two GCSE options in the Design Engineering department: 3D Design and Design & Technology. Both courses allow students opportunities to develop an appreciation of the creative design process through a practical response, using a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, materials, techniques and processes. You will explore critically how designers, artists, craftspeople, architects, engineers and manufacturers from diverse cultures, times and societies have arrived at solutions. You will gain an understanding of the design process and a wide range of making techniques, plus will use this knowledge and these skills when developing new ideas, recording observations and creating practical outcomes.

3D Design GCSE

Edexcel 1TDO (9-1)

Design is a very rewarding and creative process, which leads to varied outcomes from solving specific problems to providing opportunities for self-expression. Designers can produce real or abstract objects, processes, graphics, laws and even ways of communicating. Through design, you can become a critical and informed user of products, an innovator and creative thinker. This course has been designed to encourage you to express original ideas and to develop an adventurous and enquiring mind. You will be inventive with materials and examine the relationship between form and function. You will learn about the circular nature of the design process from concept, formulation and analysis of a brief, research, experimentation to final outcome. There will be interaction with professional designers, local visits, plus a study trip to a major city.

Course Content

You will have four 40-minute periods of 3D Design per week with an expected minimum of one hour of homework to accompany this. On this course you will follow the 3D Design Edexcel (2016) Specification, for which you will produce a Personal Portfolio (worth 60%) in response to given themes. This portfolio will be made up from the two projects followed in Year 10 and the mock exam project created in Year 11.

You will be expected to spend much of your lesson time developing skills in the workshop along with design sessions to extend graphical skills and an understanding of the design process. They will be supported through workshop practical and design studio sessions using a range of modern materials such as wood laminates, alloys, plastics and ceramics and through focused practical tasks.

This will be an opportunity for you to experiment with a range of materials and processes and to start to build a portfolio of work. Through these hands-on exercises, you will be expected to develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of different areas of study, these could include:

- Architectural, Environmental and Interior Design: the relationship between space and human interaction (ergonomics); study of the built environment, aesthetics, function and green issues; modelling using mixed media, such as acrylic, plywood and foam board.
- Product Design: product design ideas, drawing skills, CAD, modelling and making skills in mixed materials, shaping, joining and finishing processes.

For these areas of study, you will be encouraged to research the work of influential architects, artists and environmental, interior and product designers. You will respond creatively to your own design ideas and present your work with a range of techniques and models. A healthy interest in modern media and using the rich selection of books in the library, alongside personal study of your surroundings using photography, are encouraged. Towards the end of Year 10, you will be asked to focus on an area of study and to build on your portfolio of work through into Year 11. During the final two terms, you will work on your Set Examination Task where you will produce a portfolio of work and a final piece.

Assessment

All students must create a portfolio of work which consists of:

- Portfolio (60%): 120 guided working hours from the two-year course, presenting one or more 3D pieces.
- Set task (40%): A 10-hour practical examination and a small portfolio of preparation work.

Examples of recent work



Design and Technology GCSE

AQA 8552 (9-1)

GCSE Design and Technology (D&T) prepares students for a life in our ever-changing technological world, providing opportunities to design and make new products or systems to make positive changes in all aspects of society. Students will learn to be expert problem solvers, gaining a detailed understanding of how materials and processes can be used to create new opportunities in design to make our world a better place to live. You will learn about the circular nature of the design process from concept, formulation and analysis of a brief, research, experimentation to final outcome. There will be interaction with professional designers, local visits, plus a study trip to a major city. In D&T lessons, students learn about designing solutions to improve people's lives, they are able to make better decisions, they understand more about the impact of products on the world. Students will learn all about designing and making products, mainly through practical activities and managing their own projects. D&T is an important subject that connects across many disciplines and can give you:

- greater career opportunities in STEM
- the opportunity to learn practical life skills
- a greater understanding of technology, people and the environment
- a chance to be creative
- problem solving skills
- an understanding of engineering.

Course Content

The course has three main aspects:

1. Core technical principles
2. Specialist technical principles
3. Designing and making principles, in addition
 - at least 15% of the exam will assess maths
 - at least 10% of the exam will assess science

Assessment

- Project work: non-examined assessment (approximately 35 hours) - 50% of the GCSE
- Written exam 2 hour: 50% of the GCSE

Paper 1

- Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

- Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2-5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles.

- Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answers and extended response questions.

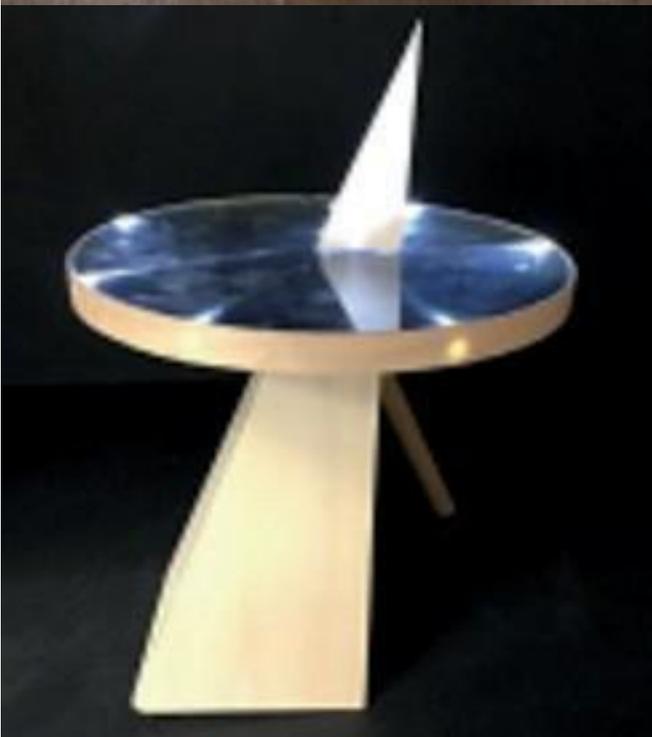
Non-examined assessment (NEA)

Over the course of 30-35 hours of work, students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence, which is marked by the centre and then moderated externally. Students will create projects from a selection of themes or challenges set by the exam board.

Assessment criteria:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

Examples of recent work



Drama GCSE

AQA 8261 (9-1)

The GCSE Drama course is very practical. You will learn to collaborate with others and to communicate your ideas with confidence. You will develop your skills as a performer and a theatre maker and learn how to apply these to create your own original performance work. You will work in small groups to create and perform in a number of different pieces of theatre, both scripted and devised. You will explore how meaning is interpreted and communicated through live theatre and you will learn to analyse and evaluate what makes a successful piece of performance. You will also develop an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different theatre makers in contemporary professional practice, such as designers and directors. You will develop as a creative, effective, independent and reflective student, who is able to make informed choices in process and performance; you will gain confidence in your abilities as a communicator, a performer and a theatre maker.

Course Content

Throughout the course you will take part in practical workshops to develop your skills and to introduce you to different styles of theatre. You will learn to interpret text and collaborate in small groups to develop your own performance work from a script. You will also learn how to successfully devise original theatre inspired by a stimulus. You will study a set text and learn to interpret and write about it from the perspective of performer, director and designer. You will also study at least one professional live theatre performance and develop the skills to analyse and evaluate in writing how particular effects were created for an audience. In the second half of the course, you will perform two assessed pieces of performance work: a piece of devised theatre for which you will keep a written log documenting the creation and development of your ideas and evaluating your contribution to the piece; and two short extracts from a published play. For both of these tasks you will collaborate with a group to develop your ideas into a polished piece of theatre and perform with sound, lighting, props and, where appropriate, set and costumes.

As part of the course, you will be invited to attend a number of live theatre visits in order to further enrich your own performance work. At least one of these trips will be compulsory because it is a course requirement for Drama students to see live theatre.

Assessment

This is a linear course. Component 2 will be completed towards the end of Year 10; Components 1 and 3 will be completed in Year 11.

Component 1: Understanding Drama (40% of GCSE)

At the end of the course, you will sit a 1h45m written exam in which you will answer questions on the set text and the live theatre performance you have studied. You will also answer questions that demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre terms.

Component 2: Devising Drama (40% of GCSE)

You will collaborate as part of a group to create a piece of devised performance. Throughout the devising process you will complete a written log to document the creative process and to evaluate your personal contribution to the piece as a whole. Your teachers will mark your final performance and the accompanying devising log; these marks will be externally moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Texts in practice (20% of GCSE)

You will explore two extracts from a chosen text and you will perform these to a visiting examiner, who will mark your final performance.

Further Opportunities

GCSE Drama will help you to develop a number of highly useful transferable skills that will serve you well, whatever direction your future studies take you. You will spend much of the course working as part of a team, which will help develop your ability to collaborate. You will develop the necessary language skills to communicate your ideas and opinions and you will become much more confident presenting your work and your ideas in front of an audience.



Geography GCSE

AQA 8035 (9-1)

Geography is an academic subject that will enhance your global outlook. It focuses on the major issues affecting the UK and the world today, whether physical geography such as natural hazards, or human geography, such as urban growth. It creates an important link between other subjects, whether Maths, English or Science, by applying many of their elements to the real world. It develops knowledge and understanding and shows you how you can contribute to a future that is both sustainable and inclusive.

This course encourages you to be an inspired and motivated learner with an emphasis on developing essential skills that will enable you to become a reflective, analytical thinker with an enquiring mind. These qualities are highly regarded by both universities and employers because they enable you to be an independent thinker who has skills that transfer across the arts and the sciences.

Course Content

There are three key components which focus on a wide range of examples from around the world and the United Kingdom. You will develop your understanding and knowledge of these areas through discussion, enquiry, research, analysis and fieldwork. This includes a trip to North Norfolk to study coastal management.

Component 1: Living with the physical environment

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK

Component 2: Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

Component 3: Geographical applications

- Issue evaluation (based on one of the six units above)
- Fieldwork

Assessment

- Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes; 35% of the qualification (88 marks)
- Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes; 35% of the qualification (88 marks)
- Paper 3: 1 hour 30 minutes, 30% of the qualification (76 marks)
- There is no coursework (fieldwork is assessed in Paper 3)

The Geography Department organises an optional trip to Iceland during Year 10.



History GCSE

OCR J410 (9-1)

History is a people-centred subject. The study of how people behaved in the past provides an endless source of fascination. GCSE History gives you the opportunity to study from three eras: Medieval (500-1500), Early Modern (1450-1750) and Modern (1700-present day), on three timescales: short (depth), medium (period study) and long (thematic study) and in three geographical contexts; a locality (the historic environment), British, and European/wider world settings. History encourages you to reflect upon the world around you and make links between the problems you see today and the topics you discuss in the classroom. The focus of lessons is firmly on discussion and debate, and even disagreement, encouraging you to form your own opinion on the historical events. GCSE History enables you to develop the skills that will be invaluable in your future, such as the capacity to think independently, overcome thought-provoking intellectual challenges and construct your own viewpoint. It hones your ability to think critically and gives you the personal confidence to challenge existing interpretations.

These skills are very highly regarded by universities and employers and History maintains a strong reputation as a valuable and rigorous qualification. This is a challenging, but highly rewarding course with a real focus upon enabling you to think for yourself.

Course Content

The course covers aspects of the development of the modern world, focusing on the period 1918-1975, including events from the First World War to the Nazi dictatorship, through to the Cold War. The thematic and depth studies explore British history, looking at themes that are just as relevant today as they were in the medieval and early modern periods, albeit sometimes in very different ways. This study in change and continuity will help to ground and expand your understanding of the world that you live in today. The British depth studies, which are linked to thematic options, give you the chance to learn about a fundamental issue in British history – one whose effects are still felt today. The site study (Kenilworth Castle) allows learners to study the historical environment.

The History department is committed to a cross-curricular approach to learning. Visits to the battlefields and cemeteries of Ypres and Somme provide the opportunity to consider first-hand the impact of World War One and to reflect on contrasting approaches to remembrance and commemoration. The department also organises trips to Berlin, so that events studied in the classroom can be considered in their actual context.

Assessment

Component 1

- Period and non-British depth study
- International Relations 1918-1975
+non-British depth: Germany c.1925-55: People and State
- 50% of total GCSE 1 hour 45 minutes written paper

Component 2

- British Thematic study
- War and British Society c.790-2010
- 25% of total GCSE 1 hour written paper

Component 3

- British Depth study and a study of the historic environment
- Personal rule and restoration 1629-1660
+Castles form and function 1000-1750
- 25% of total GCSE 1 hour 15 minutes written paper

Modern Languages

French GCSE Pearson (9-1)

German GCSE, Spanish GCSE AQA (9-1)

Mandarin Chinese GCSE - AQA 8673 (9-1)

Mandarin Chinese as a second language IGCSE - CIE 0523 (A*-G)

Through the study of modern languages, you will understand and appreciate other cultures and peoples. You will enjoy exploring similarities and differences and relating these to your own experience. You will have the chance to think on your feet, using imagination and creativity.

Your skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking will be developed. Studying languages is as important as ever in the modern world and the Stephen Perse Cambridge has a long tradition of success in language learning. If you wish to study languages at university, to use them at work, to travel, having two languages at GCSE is a definite advantage.

The Modern Languages Department offers the opportunity to take two languages to GCSE. In Years 10 and 11 you will consolidate the basic structures of language that you have learned and develop your communication skills, discussing topics such as health, travel, social media, the environment around you and hobbies. The teachers place importance on the teaching of grammar and accuracy, both in speaking and in written work, and on the customs and culture of the countries, comparing them with our own.

Exchanges, study visits and activities are arranged during the course. This experience strengthens your knowledge of the language, increases your confidence in speaking and raises your awareness of the culture. We consider these visits to be a most beneficial and worthwhile experience.

Assessment for GCSE French, German & Spanish

The German and Spanish students follow the GCSE AQA course. French students follow the GCSE Pearson course. All these exams share the same assessing of skills and topics.

The four key skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are assessed at the end of Year 11 and each paper carries 25% of the final mark.

- The listening paper lasts 45 minutes. There are 2 sections. Listening comprehension with questions in English. A dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list.
- The speaking test is conducted by a member of staff and lasts 10-12 minutes. Students complete one role play. They read a short paragraph aloud and there is a short unprepared conversation. There is a photo card discussion followed by an unprepared conversation around 5 minutes.
- The reading paper lasts 1 hour. Students read a number of texts and answer in English. There will be a translation from French/German/Spanish into English.
- The writing paper lasts 1 hour 15 minutes. Students translate several sentences into French/German/Spanish. There are then two written tasks, in varying length.

Assessment for GCSE Mandarin Chinese

The four key skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are assessed and all papers are equally weighted at 25%.

- The listening paper lasts 45 minutes and students listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and short written answer questions in English.
- The reading paper lasts 1 hour. Students read a number of texts and answer questions in English. There is also a short translation from Chinese to English.
- The speaking test is conducted by a member of staff and lasts 12 minutes. Students complete one role play, a photocard description and general conversation. It is recorded and externally marked.
- The writing paper lasts 1 hour 15 minutes and consists of 1 structured writing task (75 characters), an open-ended task (125 characters) and a translation from English to Chinese.

Assessment for IGCSE Mandarin Chinese as a second language

The four key skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are assessed. The listening and speaking skills are 20% each. The reading and writing skills are 60% in total.

- Paper 1 - Reading and Writing: This exam consists of five exercises testing reading and writing skills.
- Paper 2 - Listening: There are four exercises that test listening skills. Candidates listen to recordings of three spoken texts in Mandarin Chinese and complete the comprehension questions.
- Component 3 - Speaking: This component is conducted by a member of staff. Students first give a 2–3 minute presentation on a topic of their own choice, followed by a 4–5 minute discussion on the presentation topic. This is then followed by a 4–5 minute conversation with the examiner on general topics that are different from the presentation topic.

Guten Tag! Bonjour! ¡Buenos Días! 你好 !

Nice French Study Trip 2025



Seville Spanish Trip 2025



German exchange to Munich 2025



Cultural Trip to China October 2025
(bi-annual trip, the next one is scheduled for October 2027)



Music IGCSE

CIE 0978 (9-1)

This IGCSE course builds on the skills and knowledge that you have gained in your individual instrumental or singing lessons and the Key Stage 3 Music curriculum. It has a strong practical and creative emphasis, which can provide a good contrast to your other subject choices. Whether you see Music purely as a hobby, or are considering further study in the Sixth Form, you should find this course very rewarding. Students opting for IGCSE Music will need to continue with individual instrumental or singing lessons throughout the course; they should also have an understanding of basic music theory and be confident reading musical notation.

Course Content

The syllabus focuses on the core musical components of Listening, Performing and Composing. In the Listening course you will explore a wide variety of music as a means of developing your aural perception skills. You will learn about the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras, and explore a range of modern western repertoire and music from around the world through four further areas of study: music and words, music for dance, music for small ensemble and music for stage and screen. For the Performing component, you will play or sing two pieces: the first will be a solo piece and for the second you will perform with others. The two pieces can be on the same instrument, but you may use two if you wish. In your Composing lessons you will be introduced to a variety of approaches so that you develop the ability to write music in a style of your own choice. You will learn about the range and capabilities of different instruments or voices and will be taught to notate your music accurately using computer software. You will submit two pieces for assessment at the end of the course.

Assessment

Your listening skills (40%) are assessed through an examination at the end of the course, in which you will answer questions about recorded extracts of music. Performing (30%) is assessed as coursework, from recordings that have been made either during normal lesson time or in concerts. Composing coursework (30%) is completed in lesson time throughout the course.



Physical Education GCSE

Edexcel 1PE0 (9-1)

The GCSE in Physical Education is an exciting course for those of you who want to take your interest in and enthusiasm for sport and physical activity further. The course will equip you with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values needed to be able to develop and maintain your performance in physical activities. You will also gain an understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and well-being, along with the body systems involved in sport.

Course Content

The course is both theoretical and practical in content and you will be expected to participate in three sporting activities on a regular basis, either at school or in a club outside of school. One of these activities must be a team activity, one must be an individual activity and the third is a free choice from the designated sporting list.

The theory unit focuses on two components:

- Fitness and Body Systems - this includes applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and the use of data
- Health and Performance - this includes health, fitness and wellbeing, sports psychology, socio- cultural influences and the use of data

You are also required to produce a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP). You establish an aim, plan, carry out, monitor then finally evaluate your individual PEP over the course of six weeks.

The practical assessment in your sports requires you to demonstrate your practical skills in isolation and in formal or competitive situations. You must have a good knowledge of the rules, tactics and strategies and be able to perform the skills of these sports to a good level.

This course content is taught through both theory and practical sessions.



Assessment

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems

- Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 36% of the qualification
- The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions.

Component 2: Health and Performance

- Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes, 24% of the qualification
- The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions.

Component 3: Practical Performance

- 30% of the qualification, 105 marks (35 marks per activity)
 1. Skills during individual and team activities
 2. General performance skills
- The assessment consists of students completing three physical activities from a set list. One must be a team activity. One must be an individual activity. The final activity can be a free choice. This is internally marked and externally moderated.

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

- 10% of the qualification (20 marks)
- The assessment consists of producing a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) and requires you to analyse and evaluate your performance. This is internally marked and externally moderated.



Religious Studies GCSE

AQA 8062

RS GCSE is a fascinating course which allows students to explore some of the ultimate questions about the nature and meaning of human existence. The AQA RS course comprises two key components:

The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

In this component, you will develop an in-depth understanding of Christianity and Buddhism.

In your study of Christianity, you will learn about the key beliefs and teachings about the nature of God, creation and the afterlife. You will study the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, as well as different beliefs about the nature and importance of sin and salvation.

When studying Buddhism, you will learn key beliefs and teachings about the three marks of existence, the human personality and human destiny. You learn about the Buddha's life and its significance, as well as the importance of the Four Noble Truths.

Thematic studies

You will explore the philosophical and ethical issues raised in four key areas of study:

Theme	Issues explored
Religion and life	Abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation; the origins and value of the universe; the origins and value of human life
Existence of God	Philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God; the nature of the divine and revelation
Religion, peace and conflict	Religion, violence, terrorism and war; religion and belief in 21st century conflict
Religion, crime and punishment	Religion, crime and the causes of crime; religion and punishment

The course encourages you to reflect on and develop your own beliefs and values. You will learn how to use knowledge and understanding to analyse religious and philosophical questions, as well as how to construct and articulate your own balanced and well-informed arguments. The communication and critical thinking skills learnt will be of value in any area of future study.

Assessment

The course is assessed by two written exams, both 1 hour 45 minutes in length. The first exam assesses component 1, and the second exam assesses component 2. There is no coursework.

The Non-Examined Core

Sport

In Year 10 and Year 11 all students continue with regular weekly lessons of Sport and, in addition to the core team sports they have been playing in their Games lessons so far, can choose from a variety of options, including Zumba, yoga, badminton and spinning.

PSHEE/RSE

In Years 10 and 11, students receive timetabled lessons with dedicated teachers to cover PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) topics.

These lessons cover a number of areas, with the aim of supporting students with all aspects of their wellbeing, both now and in the future. There is a strong focus on mental health and wellbeing, and on recognising and learning how to respond to difficult emotions, including stress, and how to seek help and support.

These lessons also cover much of the statutory Relationships and Sex Education curriculum content that all students in the UK are required to learn about before reaching the end of Year 11. In Years 10 and 11, this includes discussing consent and how it can be communicated, and the role of technology in relationships. Students also learn about recognising healthy relationships, and the characteristics of abusive or coercive relationships. Topics such as contraception, pregnancy and fertility, and sexually transmitted infections are also revisited and further explored. Across all topics, lessons stress the need to recognise and use reputable sources of factual information about issues like sexual health, as well as conveying information about what the law says regarding sexual activity and behaviour in relationships. Underlying all lessons is a consistent message about the importance of respect, communication and trust in all relationship.

Careers and Guidance

Regular timetabled lessons throughout Years 10 and 11 provide tailored information, inspirational speakers and discussions with our Guidance team, enabling students to make fully informed choices for the next stages of academic study, university degrees and the world of work.

Workshops and the Unifrog platform enable students to compile their own portfolio of qualifications, skills and experiences in preparation for advanced study and employment. Taster sessions and small group discussions allow students to gain further insight into how subjects are taught at Sixth Form and help with decision making; they also introduce students to subjects not taught at GCSE such as Psychology, Sociology, Politics, Economics and more.

A work experience programme that includes support for both virtual and in person work experience opportunities starts in the January of Year 10, continuing in Year 11 and into Years 12 and 13 of Sixth Form. This opens up opportunities through a number of platforms and Foundation links. It assists with internship and vacation job applications, career awareness when choosing A levels and degree courses and volunteering, as well as university preparation in the Sixth Form.

You will be helped to consider aspects such as how to choose A level subjects and continue your work with the university platform Unifrog to log activities and competencies. In addition, you will undertake further psychometric testing through Morrisby and use this platform to support your academic choices in light of future career goals.

The Year 11 programme also comprises a mix of talks, small group discussions and workshops. We help you formulate your CV and to make applications for a range of opportunities whilst drawing information from Year 10 and Year 11 together in a 'Launch Me' portfolio that enables you to move on to Sixth Form with clear directions. Teaching and Learning at Sixth Form can be slightly different from GCSE and we aim to ensure you are ready for the next stage of your academic journey.

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