

# Year 9 Options Booklet



## Dear Year 9 Student

Year 9 is an important year for you as it not only marks the end of Key Stage 3, but it is now the time for you to choose your subjects for Key Stage 4. The results of these decisions will take you into Years 10 and 11, Post 16, higher education and employment.

In order to help you in this decision process, a comprehensive programme of guidance has been put in place. This includes taster GCSE lessons, an options evening for parents and students, a one-to-one interview with an experienced member of staff, and, of course, the on-going advice and support from your form tutor.

Education continues to undergo a period of considerable change and reform. In putting together these choices we have worked hard to ensure that our curriculum addresses these changes, but at the same time offers a range of courses to suit the individual needs, interests and abilities of our Year 9 students.

This booklet is intended to give you information about the opportunities available at Bolder Academy. In particular, it provides a one-page guide for each subject, which outlines information on the relevant course and where it might lead to once you leave Bolder Academy.

When choosing your options there are three main points to consider:

- Do you enjoy the subject?
- Do you think you could be successful in this subject?
- Will this subject be useful to you in later life?

If you are unsure about your future career direction it is important to choose a wide range of subjects, so as not to close the door on a further academic course or employment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries. You will receive further information about deadlines for making your GCSE choices in the Spring Term.

I wish you all the best in the next phase of your education.



Adam Bones

Deputy Headteacher



## Option Process: Key Dates

### November 2022

All students in Year 9 receive taster lessons in option subjects during their Being Bold Values Day.

### February 2023

- Students to receive options booklet, outlining subject opportunities available for Year 10 and 11.
- Year Group Assembly outlining options process.

### March 2023

- Year 9 Parent Consultation Session.
- One to one interview with SLT member or experienced member of staff. Students share the options they would like to study.

### 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Student deadline for subject choices for study in Year 10 and 11.



## How should I choose?

### Good reasons for taking a subject

- I have discussed this with my parents and we agree it is a good choice for me.
- I enjoy the subject.
- I am good at it and I know I will work hard at this subject.
- I want to get better at the type of skills used in the subject.
- I have found out all about the subject by talking to my teachers and to students who have studied this - I think it will suit me.
- I have done a lot of investigation into all of the subjects and this is the one that I think I will enjoy the most.
- This subject will help me have a broad and balanced range of courses.

### Bad reasons for taking a subject

- My friends are doing it (you will probably not be in the same group).
- I like the teacher (there is no guarantee that you will have that teacher next year).
- I dislike the teacher (you may have a different teacher in that subject next year).
- It is too much hard work (all subjects are hard work and there is little difference between them).
- It doesn't matter - I just chose any old subject (you will be doing this subject for two years, so it is worth getting it right now).
- It's a new subject, so I want to give it a go and see if I like it.





## How are GCSE subjects graded?

Ofqual

### Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	C
2	
1	
U	U

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**

5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**

4 and above = bottom of C and above

## Raising The Participation Age (RPA)

It is important that you think carefully about the subjects you want to take in Year 10 and 11, so as to help with a smooth transition for future study after year 11. This is because students now need to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday. This could be through:

- Full-time study in a school, college or a training provider
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training
- An Apprenticeship
- Self-employment

As a school we will provide you with secure independent and impartial careers guidance (IAG) for everyone in Years 7-13. This will include details of the full range of post-16 education and training options, including Apprenticeships. Remember, you can talk to your teachers and careers adviser about what guidance is available.

You can find out more information and advice here:

<https://www.parentalguidance.org.uk/>



## What do I do now?

1. Read through this booklet and discuss it with your parents, carers, teachers and tutor before deciding.
2. If you have any questions, ASK. It is better to ask now than make the wrong choice. Either speak to a member of staff, or email:

**work@bolderacademy.co.uk**

3. Make your choices using a blank piece of paper – then leave it a day and come back to it to see if the choices you made still make sense.
4. When you have finally decided on your choices, make sure you complete and return your form ahead of the deadline.

It is very important that this form is returned on time so that the Academy can start to fit everyone's choices into the timetable.

If you want to change your options after handing in the form, then you have to ask your parents/carers to email Mr Bones, who will try his best, but nothing can be guaranteed. No changes will be considered without an email from your parents/carers.

Changes cannot be considered after the May Half Term Break 2023.

The school will try to let you study the options you have chosen, but please remember:

- Not all combinations of subjects are possible
- There is a limit to the numbers in some subjects
- **If too few students select a subject then the course may be cancelled**
- If too many students choose a course, allocation will be by lottery

See links below for more help choosing:

[www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com) **START** is a website which is a great way for students to research career and subject options

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

The National Careers service has advice for young people with exploring careers, courses, job searching and skills assessment

<https://icould.com> **Try** the 'Buzz quiz' which is a short personality test and suggests potential career areas that would suit you



## Optional Subjects

### How choices can be made:

Pick 2 from this list (4 periods per week)	Pick 2 from this list (4 periods per week)
History	Computer Science
Geography	PE
Spanish	Art
French	Design & Technology
PE	Religious Studies
Computer Science	Drama
	Music

Options



Click on the following links to jump to the subject pages:

### **Compulsory Subjects:**

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Combined Science

Triple Science

### **Optional Subjects**

Art and Design – Art Craft and Design

Computer Science

Design and Technology

Drama

French

Geography

History

Music

Physical Education

Spanish

Religious Studies

# Compulsory Subjects



Syllabus: AQA English Language 8700

Please consult: Ms Farmer

## What we aim to do

At Bolder Academy our English curriculum is designed to develop our students into kind, strong, brave young adults where a Bolder future awaits. We aim to provide a carefully planned and academically rigorous curriculum, offering students a robust English education in line with the National Curriculum as well as fostering a love of the subject. Students study a wide range of texts and cover all of the important skills our subject demands in order to prepare them not just for their GCSEs but for communication in the worlds of academia and work.

## What we study

The specification offers the attraction of two equally-balanced papers, relating reading sources to the topic and theme of writing tasks. The reading sources act as stimulus for writing tasks, providing students with a clear route through each paper. Each paper has a distinct identity to better support high quality provision and engaging teaching and learning. Paper 1, Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Paper 2, Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time. Our approach to spoken language (previously speaking and listening) will emphasise the importance of the wider benefits that speaking and listening skills have for students. The endorsed unit will draw on good practice to suggest how engaging formative tasks can lead to a single summative assessment.

## How your work will be assessed

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Section A: Reading • one literature fiction text Section B: Writing • descriptive or narrative writing	• written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 80 marks • 50% of GCSE	Reading (40 marks) (25%)–one single text Writing (40 marks) (25%)
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Section A: Reading • one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text Section B: Writing • writing to present a viewpoint	• written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 80 marks • 50% of GCSE	Reading (40 marks) (25%) Writing (40 marks) (25%)
Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language Assessed	• presenting • responding to questions and feedback • use of Standard English	• teacher set throughout course	• marked by teacher • separate endorsement

## Post 16 Study

GCSE English Language will prepare students for the study of Language and Literature at AS and A-level by developing their skills of analysis and evaluation of literary texts, analysis and study of written and spoken language and adopting linguistic and literary approaches to a wide range of texts. Students will also have the opportunity to develop skills in producing and developing written and spoken language as well as analysing the relationships between different texts and their contexts.

## Possible Careers

Effective communication is vital in the world of work. We hope that the skills embedded here will complement any career but in particular they lend themselves well to the following professions:

Writer, speaker, teacher, journalist, PR, law, social media manager, HR and political careers such as civil service.

A critical appreciation of language develops critical thinking skills that are highly valued amongst most employers.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

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



Syllabus: AQA English Literature 8702

Please consult: Ms Farmer


## What we aim to do

At Bolder Academy our English curriculum is designed to develop our students into kind, strong, brave young adults where a Bolder future awaits. We aim to provide a carefully planned and academically rigorous curriculum, offering students a robust English education in line with the National Curriculum as well as fostering a love of the subject. Students study a wide range of texts and cover all of the important skills our subject demands in order to prepare them not just for their GCSEs but for communication in the worlds of academia and work.

## What we study

Shakespeare – ‘Macbeth’  
 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel – ‘The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’  
 Modern Texts – ‘An Inspector Calls’  
 Poetry – ‘Power and Conflict’  
 Unseen poetry

## How your work will be assessed

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 64 marks • 40% of GCSE	Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.	Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.	
Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry	• written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes • 96 marks • 60% of GCSE	Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.	Section B Poetry: Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.	Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

## Post 16 Study

GCSE English Literature will prepare students for the study of Language and Literature at AS and A-level by developing their skills of analysis and evaluation of literary texts, analysis and study of written language and adopting linguistic and literary approaches to a wide range of texts. Students will also have the opportunity to develop skills in analysing the relationships between different texts and their contexts.

## Possible Careers

Effective communication is vital in the world of work. The subject helps students to understand the world through different perspectives; an important skill for any role. We hope that the skills embedded here will complement any career but in particular they lend themselves well to the following professions:

Writer, speaker, teacher, journalist, PR, law, social media manager, HR and political careers such as civil service.

A critical appreciation of Literature further develops critical thinking skills that are highly valued amongst most employers.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

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

Syllabus: Pearson Edexcel GCSE 9-1 (Mathematics) 1MA1

Please consult: Mrs Palumbo and Mrs Arlow

## What we aim to do

The course aims to build on the skills and knowledge developed in years 7-9, with a focus on developing conceptual understanding and applying skills and knowledge to higher order problem solving.

The main objectives of this GCSE (9-1) Mathematics course are to enable students to: develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems, reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions. They will also be equipped with the skills to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

## What we study

The course will cover the following key areas:

**Number:** Structure and calculation, Fractions, decimals and percentages, measures and accuracy

**Algebra:** Notation, vocabulary and manipulation, equations and inequalities, graphs, problem solving, sequences

**Ratio, proportion and rates of change:** similarity, congruence, direct and inverse proportion

**Geometry and measures:** Properties of shapes, constructions, theorems, trigonometry, area, volume, vectors, using standard units of measure for length, mass, capacity, weight, volume

**Probability:** Calculating probabilities by calculation and the use of relevant diagrammatic representations

**Statistics:** Collect, collate, analyse and make inferences about data using relevant calculations and diagrams

## How your work will be assessed

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher. The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. All three papers must be at the same tier of entry and must be completed in the same assessment series.

Title	Details	Time	Equal Weighting for each paper
Paper1 Non-calculator	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)
Paper 2 Calculator	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)
Paper 3 Calculator	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)

## Post 16 Study

The completion of the Higher Tier GCSE mathematics gives students the best possible starting point for studying A Level mathematics.

It also provides a very solid base for any post-16 education in Science related subjects, such as Geography, Geology or Environmental Sciences and courses comprising of units that require data analysis or mathematical reasoning, such as Psychology, Sociology, Computer Science, Business Studies and Economics.

## Possible Career

Teaching, engineering, accountancy, statistician, data analyst, doctor, scientist, computer programmer, software developer, risk assessment analyst, actuarial scientist, banking, researcher.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

Edexcel website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/>

Careers: [www.mathscareers.org.uk](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk)

For further consolidation, revision and completion of homework and classwork and video tutorials:

<https://www.drfrostmaths.com/>

For completion of GCSE assessments: [www.eedi.com](http://www.eedi.com)

For past exam style papers: [www.maths](http://www.maths) <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/>

For the latest news about mathematics learning and for access to learning resources and past exam papers

<http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/blog/good-maths-websites-websites-pupils-students-parents/>

For video tutorials and topic by topic practise

For <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z38pycw> and <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4/subjects/maths>

Syllabus: AQA Combined Science: Trilogy 8464

Please consult: Miss Taylor-Head of Science ([ntaylor@bolderacademy.co.uk](mailto:ntaylor@bolderacademy.co.uk))  
 Ms Al-Janabi-Head of Chemistry ([yal-janabi@bolderacademy.co.uk](mailto:yal-janabi@bolderacademy.co.uk))  
 Dr Pandya-Head of Physics ([rpandya@bolderacademy.co.uk](mailto:rpandya@bolderacademy.co.uk))  
 Mr Maitra -Head of Biology ([dmaitra@bolderacademy.co.uk](mailto:dmaitra@bolderacademy.co.uk))

## What we aim to do

We aim to generate curious thoughtful and skilful scientists who can hypothesise, analyse, evaluate and link their science knowledge to the real world. We do this through providing students with a thorough grounding in the three disciplines of Science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics and the opportunity to apply their knowledge in a range of practical activities.

## What we study

Students study a range of content across biology, chemistry and physics. A summary of these topics can be seen below.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cell Biology</li> <li>2. Organisation</li> <li>3. Infection and Response</li> <li>4. Bioenergetics</li> <li>5. Homeostasis</li> <li>6. Inheritance and Variation</li> <li>7. Ecology</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Atomic Structure</li> <li>2. Bonding and Properties.</li> <li>3. Quantitative Chemistry</li> <li>4. Chemical Changes</li> <li>5. Energy Changes</li> <li>6. Rate of chemical change</li> <li>7. Organic Chemistry</li> <li>8. Chemical Analysis</li> <li>9. The Atmosphere</li> <li>10. Using Resources</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Energy</li> <li>2. Electricity</li> <li>3. Particle Model of Matter.</li> <li>4. Atomic Structure</li> <li>5. Forces</li> <li>6. Waves</li> <li>7. Electromagnetism</li> </ol>

Throughout this subject, students will also have the opportunity to:

- Develop their scientific thinking.
- Develop experimental skills and strategies.
- Develop their analysis and evaluation.
- Develop their use of scientific vocabulary, quantities, units, symbols and nomenclature.

## How your work will be assessed

Combined Science is a linear qualification and students complete all of their assessments at the end of Year 11. Students will achieve 2 GCSEs demonstrating a combined grade across Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Examples of the past papers and mark schemes can be seen here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/pastpapers>

Students take 6 papers in total: 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics. Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes in length and is 70 marks.

Questions in the written exams are also focussed around the practical activities, which count for 15% of marks, and topics are outlined here:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/AQA-8464-8465-PRACTICALS-HB.PDF>.



## Post 16 Study

The completion of Combined Science GCSEs give students a strong starting point for studying sciences at A & AS Level. Combined science is also a pathway into sixth form courses such as the BTEC Applied Science course.

## Possible Career

Any job with a strong basis in Science will be open to those who study sciences; Medical careers, Veterinary, Radiographer, Psychology, Forensics, Nutritionist, Mechanic, Teacher, Nurse, Laboratory Technician. There are also many transferrable skills learnt from studying science and students with A levels or degrees in science related topics are highly sought after across many professions.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF>



# Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Syllabus: AQA GCSE Biology (8461); AQA GCSE Chemistry (8462) and AQA GCSE Physics (8463)

Please consult: Miss Taylor

## What we aim to do

We aim to generate curious thoughtful and skilful scientists who can hypothesise, analyse, evaluate and link their science knowledge to the real world. We do this through providing students with a thorough grounding in the three disciplines of Science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics and the opportunity to apply their knowledge in a range of practical activities.

## Requirements

Combined Science is compulsory for all students. However, Triple Science differs to Combined Science in that there is additional content to learn and it is more academically challenging.

Therefore, in order to choose the Triple Science pathway, each student must meet the following three criteria:

1. Consistently high grades within their science assessments across KS3.
2. A committed and focussed attitude to science which has been seen consistently by their teachers.
3. A strong aptitude for Maths and English as seen in their NGRT and PTM assessments.

*The Science department will be in contact with individual students and their parents if they meet the criteria outlined above and therefore if Triple Science is a recommended option choice for them.*

## What we study

Students study the same content covered in combined science GCSE along, combined with additional content from a variety of topics across Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### Some examples of additional content include:

**Biology:** Culturing microorganisms, monoclonal antibodies, DNA structure, cloning, the brain, the eye, plant hormones and ecology pyramids and transfers.

**Chemistry:** Further organic chemistry, further quantitative, titrations, corrosion, alloys, the Haber process.

**Physics:** Static electricity, space, nuclear fission and fusion, sound and light waves, loud speakers, microphones, generator effect, transformers, moments and pressure in fluids.



## Key differences between combined and triple science

AQA Combined Science (Trilogy)	AQA Triple Science (Separate sciences)
2 GCSE grades at end of course	3 GCSE grades at end of course.
6 exams (2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics)	6 exams (2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics)
Each exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes.	Each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes.
All exams are 16.7% of final 2 grades.	Each exam is 50% of grade for each subject.
All papers are out of 70 marks.	All exams are out of 100 marks.

## Post 16 Study

The completion of Triple Science GCSEs give students a very strong starting point for studying sciences at A & AS Level and moving into STEM subjects at University.

## Possible Career

Any job with a strong basis in Science will be open to those who study sciences; Medical careers, Veterinary, Radiographer, Psychology, Forensics, Nutritionist, Mechanic, Teacher, Nurse, Laboratory Technician.

There are also many transferrable skills learnt from studying science and students with A levels or degrees in science related topics are highly sought after across many professions.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

Biology: [AQA | Science | GCSE | Biology](#)

Chemistry: [AQA | Science | GCSE | Chemistry](#)

Physics: [AQA | Science | GCSE | Physics](#)

# Option Subjects



# Art and Design – Art Craft and Design

Syllabus: AQA GCSE ART & DESIGN 8201

Please consult: Miss C Handley

## What we aim to do

Students to develop individual powers of creative expression through a wide range of different materials, techniques and processes including paint, print, ceramics, photography, drawing and collage. Students build a portfolio of coursework and keep an on-going sketchbook related to each themed project throughout their GCSE, taking them into the creative field of the Arts.

## What we study

Throughout the course we focus our attention on gaining practical skills using a range of materials. Within the course students develop their analytical skills and understanding of both historical and contemporary artists/ craftspeople and designers. Art & Design is a course in which students are required to respond to a given theme. The skills element is the "traditional" Art area where we use both 2D and 3D materials, such as clay, card, wire, mud, rock, crayons, paint, etc. Students are encouraged to use software packages in IT to develop their own work. Students are required to produce sketchbooks of work for their portfolio during years 10 and 11 that will be assessed. We will be covering 3 units of coursework through the first year. Students are required to produce work that is individual to them and a creative response to the theme/brief. They will receive regular, focused, specific written feedback to aid their progress. There will be opportunities to visit art galleries and other appropriate locations to help inspire and develop their own work.

## How your work will be assessed

Title	Details	%
<b>Coursework</b>	Students' work is assessed throughout the course. They are expected to complete an interesting, creative and varied portfolio of coursework. This includes a sketchbook and final piece of each of the three projects studied.	<b>60%</b>
<b>Exam</b>	Includes preparation time of up to 14 weeks before a 10 hour practical assessment which takes place in the first half of the Summer term. All students will be prepared for this assessment through mock assessments so the process will be familiar by the course end.	<b>40%</b>

## Post 16 Study

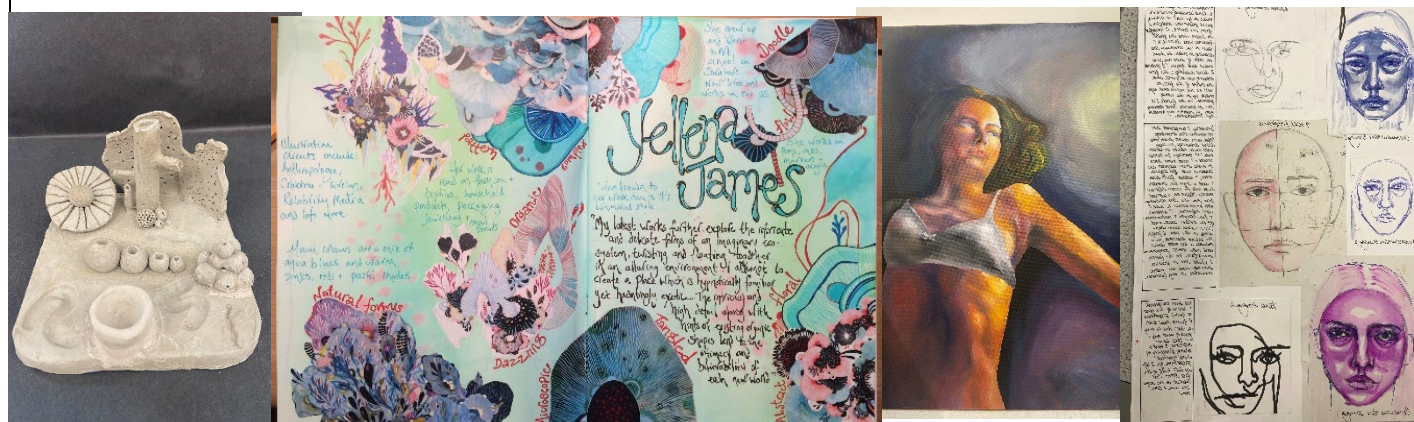
There are many routes you can take such as: A levels, Applied Art and Design, Apprenticeships and College. Art or Photography at A Level; BTEC Art & Design; Foundation in Art & Design; B.A. Degrees in Creative Arts subjects; Creative Arts Apprenticeships.

## Possible Career

Opportunities in the following careers and many more;  
Illustration, Architecture, Animation, Fashion, Textiles, Interior Design, Computer Aided Design, Graphics, Photography, Media, Product Design, Fine Art, Gaming Design and all other visual arts related professions. Product Designer, Advertising, Furniture Design, Environmental Design, Landscape Design, Interior Design, Building Designer, Car Designer, Creative Arts Teacher.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zkjinwty/jobs-that-use-art-and-design/1>





## Computer Science

Syllabus: OCR J277

Please consult: Mr Scurville

### What we aim to do

A modern and fascinating subject, Computer Science helps us to progress from the past and influence our future. After all, the world now depends on computers/technology. Through studying this course, we aim for students to become highly competent and confident digital citizens. We aim to equip students with a strong understanding of how technology can be used to cause, prevent and solve problems that occur in both their personal and professional lives as well as in society.

### What we study

*The below components are covered during this course, several of which have been introduced throughout the KS3 curriculum.*

As part of the course, students will continue to develop practical python programming skills and further enhance logical thinking and problem-solving skills. Critical and analytical thinking, resilience, creativity and teamwork are also developed throughout!

<b>Paper 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systems architecture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memory and Storage</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Networks, Connections and Protocols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network Security</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systems Software</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Impacts of Digital Technology</li> </ul>
<b>Paper 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algorithms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming Fundamentals</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Producing robust programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boolean Logic</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming language and integrated development environments</li> </ul>	

### How your work will be assessed

Title		Details	Time	%
<b>Paper 1</b>	Computer systems	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	50%
<b>Paper 2</b>	Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	50%

### Post 16 Study

A GCSE in computer science provides a strong foundation for further study at A-Level, particularly with the practical programming aspect. The GCSE also equips students with invaluable skills, desirable for a wide range of industries.

Apprenticeships in technology and similar industries will particularly benefit from the technical skills and knowledge gained from the course. Employers will appreciate the personal qualities that this GCSE helps deliver, such as the ability to problem solve; plan and project manage; be strong at decision-making; and demonstrate resilience and teamwork.

### Possible Career

GCSE Computer Science is attractive to employers in a diverse range of career paths, including but not limited to: Network Security, Games Design, Software Engineers, Digital Forensics and Mobile Application development. Inevitably, all careers have some aspect relating to the computer science field.

### Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

# Design and Technology

Syllabus: AQA GCSE Design Technology 8552

Please consult: Mr J Hadley

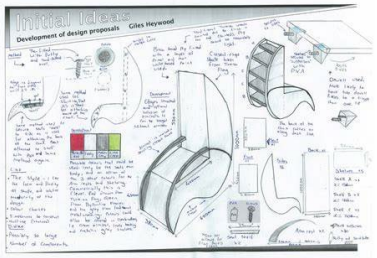
## What we aim to do

Throughout Design Technology all students will focus on theory and practical aspect of the subject. Each student will cover various areas depending on which technology they choose. All areas will include exam based questions and practical skilled activities. Materials used in this subject range from wood, metal, plastic and card.

## What we study

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

## How your work will be assessed

Exam Paper 1	Non-exam assessment (NEA)	How it's assessed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core technical principles</li> <li>Specialist technical principles</li> <li>Designing and making</li> </ul> <p>At least 15% of the exam will assess maths</p> <p>At least 10% of the exam will assess science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written exam: 2 hours</li> <li>100 marks</li> <li>50% of GCSE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core technical principles</li> <li>Specialist technical principles</li> <li>Designing and making principles</li> <li>30–35 hours approx</li> <li>100 marks</li> <li>50% of GCSE</li> <li>Substantial design and make task</li> <li>Identifying and investigating design possibilities</li> <li>Producing a design brief and specification</li> <li>Generating design ideas</li> <li>Developing design ideas</li> <li>Realising design ideas</li> <li>Analysing &amp; evaluating</li> </ul>	<p>Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence</li> <li>Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA</li> </ul> 

## Post 16 Study

There are many routes you can take with Resistant Materials Technology such as: A levels, Applied art and design, apprenticeships and college.

## Possible Career

Resistant Materials Technology can open up opportunities in the following careers and many more; Product Designer, Advertising, Architecture, Furniture Design, Environmental Design, Landscape Design Interior Design, Building Designer, Car Designer, Technology Teacher

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zn7h8xs/jobs-that-use-design-and-technology/1>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/specifications/AQA-8552-SP-2017.PDF>



Syllabus: Pearson EDEXCEL GCSE (9-1) Drama 1DR0

Please consult: Ms K Haynes

## What we aim to do

We aim to give our students a well-rounded view of Drama and Theatre. The course includes many opportunities to act with scripts, devise original work, and explore various themes and issues through drama. We also experiment with various design elements, such as lighting, costume and sound. Students will learn how to analyse and evaluate both their own work and the work of other theatre makers. In addition, we organise a number of theatre trips, which all students are expected to attend.



## What we study

We will study a play text which we will practically explore to consider how we would perform the characters within the play. In addition, we will study how to create an original piece of work from a stimulus in our devising component, explore the work of different practitioners and study various performance styles. Students may specialise in performing, set, costume, lighting and/or sound design. Students will also consider how to respond to live theatre productions and develop analysis and evaluation skills.

A good grasp of how to apply various vocal and physical skills in performance is essential, as well as the ability to work well as part of a team with good concentration, commitment, initiative, imagination, motivation, problem solving and creativity. Students should also have a keen interest on how theatre works as well as a strong written ability in English. It is a requirement that students attend all theatre trips organised over the two years to ensure they are fully prepared to tackle the Response to Live Theatre Production question in the written exam for Component 3.

## How your work will be assessed

Title	Details	Time	%
<b>Component 1:</b> Devising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus</li> <li>Performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance.</li> <li>Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance in the form of a portfolio.</li> <li>Performer or designer routes available.</li> </ul>	Up to 30 minutes (depending on group size)	40%
<b>Component 2:</b> Performance from Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.</li> <li>Centre choice of performance text.</li> <li>Performer or designer routes available.</li> </ul>	Up to 20 minutes (dependent on group size)	20%
<b>Component 3:</b> Theatre Makers in Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text from a choice of performance texts.</li> <li>Live theatre evaluation – free choice of production.</li> </ul>	Written Examination of 1 hour 45 minutes	40%

## Post 16 Study

Drama school, A-Levels, BTEC, diplomas and degrees in a range of performing arts, literary-based or technical fields.

## Possible Career

Careers in theatre, television and film, including set design, costume, sound, lighting design and operation and acting. It is also an asset in any area that requires teamwork, collaboration, creativity, public speaking, and/or problem solving skills such as management, business, law, youth work, nursing, teaching, journalism, childcare, tourism, fashion, marketing and arts administration.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

[Edexcel GCSE Drama \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/drama/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/drama/)

Syllabus: AQA GCSE French 8658

Please consult: Miss Atkinson

## What we aim to do

At GCSE we shall continue to take a mastery approach in order to reach a high level of fluency, passion and confidence in French. You will understand and appreciate different Francophone countries, cultures, people and communities - and as you do so, understand your role as global citizens. In Key Stage 4 you will use your foreign language more independently, building your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar to use a wider, more complex range of language.

## What we study

### Theme 1: Identity and culture

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends  
Topic 2: Technology in everyday life  
Topic 3: Free-time activities  
Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

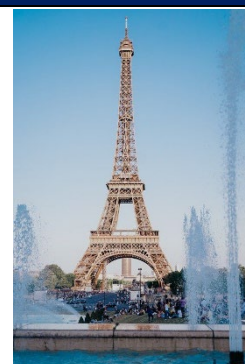
### Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues  
Topic 3: Global issues  
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



## How your work will be assessed

All examinations will be assessed by AQA at the end of Year 11. Students will take all four papers either at Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grades 4-9).

Title	Details	Time	%
Paper 1: Listening	Students will understand and respond to different types of spoken language.	Foundation Tier: 35 minutes Higher Tier: 45 minutes (Including 5 minutes' reading time)	25%
Paper 2: Speaking	Students will communicate and interact effectively in speech. The format of the test will consist of three parts: Role-play, Photo card and General conversation	Foundation Tier: 7-9 minutes (+ 12 minutes' supervised preparation.)  Higher Tier 10-12 minutes (+ 12 minutes' supervised preparation.)	25%
Paper 3: Reading	Students will understand and respond to different types of written language.	Foundation Tier: 45 minutes Higher Tier: 1 hour	25%
Paper 4: Writing	Students will communicate effectively in writing.	Foundation Tier: 1 hour Higher Tier: 1 hour 15 minutes	25%

## Post 16 Study

Foreign language skills are increasingly valued in the world of work and are highly regarded by higher education institutions. In fact, many universities now expect a modern language GCSE from their applicants as part of the EBacc. GCSEs in MFL are usually followed by AS and A level courses although more sixth forms and colleges are now also offering the International Baccalaureate. A Modern Foreign Language also opens up possibilities of joint-honours degrees in, e.g. International Law and French or International Relations with Spanish. Equally, a language can be combined with History, Music, Science, English and many other subjects.

## Possible Career

Translation and Interpreting, Law, Politics, Teaching, Journalism.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>



**Syllabus:** AQA Geography GCSE 8035

**Please consult:** Ms Shutkever

## What we aim to do

At Bolder Academy the Geography curriculum is designed to develop our students into kind, strong, brave young adults where a Bolder future awaits. We aim to develop in students a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people, and an understanding of the physical and human processes that shape our world and the interactions between these. Our hope is that students will gain knowledge of both local, national and global issues and this will result in them becoming engaged global citizens.

## What we study

**Living with the physical environment** - As part of the physical component of the AQA course students will study topics such as natural hazards, the physical landscapes of the UK, and the living world.

**Challenges in the human environment** - As part of the human component of the course students will delve into topics such as urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, and the challenge of resource management.

Finally, throughout the two years' students will focus on a number of geographical skills that will enable them to evaluate geographic issues. For the Paper 3 component, students will have to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained throughout the duration of the course to a number of geographic sources to evaluate a current geographical issue. They will also complete fieldwork offsite.



## How your work will be assessed

Title	Details	Time	%%
Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	35%
Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	35%
Paper 3 – Geographical applications	Written Exam	1 hours 15 minutes	30%

## Post 16 Study

This course provides an excellent foundation for candidates wishing to study A-Level Geography. It also provides students with a broad skills base and an excellent academic grounding for a wide range of future study paths across the wider curriculum.

## Possible Careers

Geography provides a strong background for a range of interesting and diverse careers including: Geographical Research, Surveying, Cartography, Environmental Consultancy, Teaching, Town Planning, Meteorology, Glaciology, Weather Forecasting, Consultancy, Reporting, Environmental Engineering. Government Analysts, and Policy Makers.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

Careers: [www.rgs.org/ourwork/schools](http://www.rgs.org/ourwork/schools)

Syllabus: OCR History GCSE B J411

Please consult: Mr Jones

## What we aim to do

We aim to challenge and inspire students' thinking and understanding of history to create global citizens who are able to make independent judgements about the past, present and future. We hope to ensure students leave year 11 with a clear chronological understanding of aspects of global history, who are able to consider and evaluate change and continuity, identify the causes of different events, scrutinise evidence and determine events from our past which resonate with modern Britons.

## What we study

- Viking Expansion. c.750-c.1050  
Life, travel, trade and warfare in the Viking age.
- The Norman Conquest. 1065-1087  
1066, the Battle of Hastings and the Norman transformation of England.
- Migrants to Britain. c.1250-present  
Migration into the UK through the ages, Empire and Britain's place in the world.
- Living under Nazi rule. 1933-1945  
*A warning from history:* the experience of Germany people in Nazi Germany before and after WWII.
- History around us: Osterley Park, past and present  
How local history has shaped our community – a local landmark through time.



Skills which we will develop in history at GCSE:  
 Understanding how change and continuity have ebbed and flowed over time.  
 Being clear on how short-term and long-term causes blend together and cause major events.  
 Being able to decide which events are more, or less significant than others in history.  
 Making inferences from evidence left behind from history (sources).  
 The ability to create, and sustain an argument through your writing.

## How your work will be assessed

Title	Details	Time	%
Paper 1 Migrants to Britain & the Norman Conquest	Written Exam	1 hour 45 minutes	40%
Paper 2 History around us	Written Exam	1 hour	20%
Paper 3 Viking Expansion & Living under Nazi rule	Written Exam	1 hour 45 minutes	40%

## Post 16 Study

This course will allow you to practise skills needed to study History at A-level and provides an excellent foundation for aspiring historians!

## Possible Career

Law, Politics, Teaching, Journalism, Business/Business Consultancy, T.V. Research.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/history-b-schools-history-project-j411-from-2016/assessment/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYFJlVdSpd-N69KU02oo7g>  
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/history/gcse/ocrshp>

Syllabus: Music Eduqas GCSE

Please consult: Mr Williams

## What we aim to do

GCSE Music **does not** require prior knowledge of how to read music or instrumental tuition e.g. 1-1 piano or group guitar lessons in or outside of school. Instead, pupils develop these skills through their study of the 3 assessment components: performance, composition and appraisal. GCSE music provides pupils with the freedom to explore the instrument(s) of their choice, the styles of music they choose to compose in and the songs / pieces they choose to perform, whilst also offering a study of key musical concepts, cultures and composers. Using our network which includes record labels, management companies, streaming services, events and theatre companies and orchestras, we aim to provide pupils with real industry experience opportunities.

## What we study

60% of students' work at GCSE is coursework based. This takes the form of performance and composition, the details for which are below.

The final 40% of students' GCSE is 1 written paper containing questions based on listening examples.

Across the GCSE, students will look at these Areas of Study:

AoS 1: Musical Forms and Devices

AoS 2: Music for Ensemble

AoS 3: Film Music

AoS 4: Popular Music



Whilst looking at each Area of Study, pupils will practise playing and writing music in each of these styles, as well as answering listening questions about them.

## How your work will be assessed

Component	%	Details
1	Performing	30
		1X Solo Performance (free choice of piece) 1X Ensemble / Group Performance (free choice of piece)  Assessed by teacher, externally moderated by exam board
2	Composing	30
		1X Open Composition (free choice of style) 1X Composition to a brief (free choice out of brief options available)  Assessed by teacher, externally moderated by exam board
3	Appraising	40
		Formal examination, featuring 8 questions. There are 2 questions for each area of study (above). The questions focus on listening to music set by the exam board. There are 2 set works which will be studied in detail.

## Post 16 Study

A Level Music -A Level Music Technology

University Degrees Studying: Music Journalism (Music & English), Music Therapy (Music & Psychology), Music Business, Music Production, Song-Writing, Musical Theatre (Music & Drama), Music Education, Forensic Musicology (Music & Law), Live Sound Design, History of Music, Events

## Possible Career

Performance specialism: Original Musician, Cover Musician, Session Player, Orchestral Musician, Pit Musician

Composition specialism: Songwriter, Lyricist, Arranger, Conductor, Library musician, DJ

Technology specialism: Live Sound Engineer, Instrument Technician, Producer, Studio Engineer, Crew

Business specialism: Music Lawyer, Events, PR, Marketing, Booking Agent, Talent Scout, Manager

Humanities specialism: Music Therapist, Music Teacher, Instrument or Theory Tutor

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://www.careersinmusic.com/>

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse>

Syllabus: Pearson Edexcel (9-1) in PE 1PE0

Please consult: Miss Quinnell

## What we aim to do

We aim to develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport in a holistic and global setting and use this knowledge and understanding to improve performance.

We aim to understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport.

We aim to perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas.

We aim to develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.

We aim to understand the contribution that physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and wellbeing.

We aim to understand the key socio-cultural influences that can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

## What we study

Component 1- Fitness and Body Systems – applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data

Component 2 - Health and Performance – Health, fitness and wellbeing, sport psychology, socio-cultural influences and use of data.

Component 3- practical performance – skills during individual and team activities and general performance skills

Component 4 -Personal Exercise Programme – aim and planning analysis, carrying out and monitoring the PEP and evaluating the PEP making future recommendations.

## How your work will be assessed

Both component 1 and 2 assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions. Students must answer all questions.

Component 1	Fitness and body systems	90 marks	1 hour and 45 minutes written exam	36%
Component 2	Health and performance	70 marks	1 hour and 15 minutes written exam	24%
Component 3	Practical	105 marks	35 marks per activity. Three separate activities from a set list, one must be a team activity, one individual and one free choice.	30%
Component 4	PEP	20 marks	1500 written word document assessed internally and externally	10%

## Post 16 Study

The Edexcel GCSE and A Level specifications were planned together. This ensures a sensible progression of content from GCSE to A Level and similar approaches to assessment, so that students will have a coherent and diverse experience of physical education if they take both GCSE and A level.

## Possible Career

Sports scientist, PE teacher, Physiotherapist, Professional sportsperson, Sports coach/consultant, Sports policy at local or national level, fitness instructor, personal trainer

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

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



Syllabus: AQA GCSE (9-1) in Spanish 8698

Please consult: Miss Cubo Moreno

## What we aim to do

At GCSE we shall continue to take a mastery approach in order to reach a high level of fluency, passion and confidence in Spanish. You will understand and appreciate different Spanish-speaking countries, cultures, people and communities - and as you do so, understand your role as global citizens. In Key Stage 4 you will use your foreign language more independently, building your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar to use a wider, more complex range of language.

## What we study

### Theme 1: Identity and culture

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends  
Topic 2: Technology in everyday life  
Topic 3: Free-time activities  
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  
Topic 3: Global issues  
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



## How your work will be assessed.

All examinations will be assessed by AQA at the end of Year 11. Students will take all four papers either at Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grades 4-9).

Title	Details	Time	%
Paper 1: Listening	Students will understand and respond to different types of spoken language.	Foundation Tier: 35 minutes Higher Tier: 45 minutes (Including 5 minutes' reading time)	25%
Paper 2: Speaking	Students will communicate and interact effectively in speech. The format of the test will consist of three parts: Role-play, Photo card and General conversation	Foundation Tier: 7-9 minutes (+ 12 minutes' supervised preparation.) Higher Tier 10-12 minutes (+ 12 minutes' supervised preparation.)	25%
Paper 3: Reading	Students will understand and respond to different types of written language.	Foundation Tier: 45 minutes Higher Tier: 1 hour	25%
Paper 4: Writing	Students will communicate effectively in writing.	Foundation Tier: 1 hour Higher Tier: 1 hour 15 minutes	25%

## Post 16 Study

Foreign language skills are increasingly valued in the world of work and are highly regarded by higher education institutions. In fact, many universities now expect a modern language GCSE from their applicants as part of the EBacc. GCSEs in MFL are usually followed by AS and A level courses although more sixth forms and colleges are now also offering the International Baccalaureate. A Modern Foreign Language also opens up possibilities of joint-honours degrees in, e.g. International Law and French or International Relations with Spanish. Equally, a language can be combined with History, Music, Science, English and many other subjects.

## Possible Career

Translation and Interpreting, Law, Politics, Teaching, Journalism.

## Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>

## Religious Studies

Syllabus: AQA Religious Studies A 8062

Please consult:

### What we aim to do

Religious Studies allows students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the world of religion, as well as encouraging them to think deeply about their own opinions on faith. An understanding of religion helps students to understand the world around us, as religion is a major force in contemporary politics, societies and cultures, just as it has been throughout history. The Religious Studies course will encourage students to explore a range of ethical issues, encouraging them to question, discuss and debate their views as well as those of different belief systems. The course will develop students' skills of research, empathy, debating, and their ability to make balanced judgements. Students will also acquire a cultural understanding and awareness of the prominent issues of today.

### What we study

**Component 1:** The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

Including:

- Christianity
  - Key beliefs
  - Jesus Christ and salvation
  - Worship and festivals
  - The role of the church in the local and worldwide community
- Islam
  - Key beliefs
  - Worship and practices
  - Authority
  - Worship, duties and festivals.



**Component 2:** Thematic Studies

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies

- Religion and Life
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Religion, human rights and social justice.



### How your work will be assessed

Title	Details	Format	Time	%
Paper 1	The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices	Written Exam	1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Paper 2	Thematic studies	Written Exam	1 hour 45 minutes	50%

### Post 16 Study

Completing the Religious Studies GCSE provides a great base for the study of Religious Studies & Philosophy at A-Level. Also the topics and skills taught complement other subjects such as Sociology, History and Politics.

### Possible Career

Public relations, Journalism, Publishing, Law, Marketing, Social Work, Nursing and Teaching.

### Dig Deeper: Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>



**For any questions please email  
Adam Bones Deputy Head Teacher  
[work@bolderacademy.co.uk](mailto:work@bolderacademy.co.uk)**