ONE-YEAR GCSE/PRE-IB

SUBJECT OPTIONS 2026 - 27

TAUNTON SCHOOL

#FINDYOUREXCEPTIONAL

CONTENTS

3 Welcome to Taunton School
4 Pastoral care
5 PSHEE
6 Educational Process
7 Futures
9 Subject overview
10 Biology
11 Chemistry
13 Physics
15 IGCSE Mathematics
16 Further Maths
17 Business Studies IGCSE
18 Economics IGCSE
19 Psychology
20 English
22 Geography
24 History
25 Art
27 Media
29 Computer Science
31 Design and Technology
33 Making good choices

WELCOME FROM CAMILLA BRYDEN

INTRODUCTION

The details contained within this document provide you with information to help you decide on the right GCSE/IGCSE options for you.

Before selecting your GCSEs/IGCSEs, make sure you read through the whole document carefully.

Note that GCSEs and IGCSEs are equivalent in value.

Your decision may be based on many different things, for example:

- How good you are at a particular subject
- How much you enjoy a particular subject
- Wether you want to do A-Levels, the International Baccalaureate (IB), BTEC or the Pre Foundation/International Foundation Years
- What subjects you would like to study for sixth form
- What subjects your next school offers for sixth form (if known)
- What subject(s) you would like to study at University
- What future job you would like to have

If you are thinking about taking the IB next year, you must include a first and second language, mathematics, a science subject, a humanities subject, and an arts subject or another subject from one of the other groups.

If you are really not sure what subjects to take, you must speak to someone such as your parents, guardian, tutor, or relevant subject teacher.

You may wish to discuss things with your friends at TSI, but you should never choose a GCSE/IGCSE subject just because your friends are doing so.

You will also need to consider how many GCSEs/IGCSEs you take. Students who are highly motivated and have very high levels of English can take up to 7 GCSEs/IGCSEs within one year at TSI, whilst students with lower levels of English will be offered up to 5 GCSEs/IGCSEs.

The important thing to remember is to try not to take on too much. The GCSE/IGCSE programme requires a great deal of hard work and commitment and it would be better to do fewer GCSEs/IGCSEs well than to achieve average results in lots of GCSEs/IGCSEs.

Camilla Bryden, Head of Taunton School International

PASTORAL CARE

The wellbeing of your child is at the heart of everything that the school endeavours to achieve. Our aim is to know every child and, to facilitate this, we also aim to forge close relationships with every parent.

The pastoral system is closely aligned with the co-curricular world: we want our students to find things outside the curriculum which they love, which engages them and grows their sense of self and the breadth of their character. To this end the school ensures there is a wide and engaging Horizons programme for all students every day. Our current Horizons Programme can be found on our website.

The pastoral life of the school is organised via a house system. Your child's house is led by a Housemaster or a Housemistress who oversees a team of tutors who each look after a year group within that house. We work to limit tutor group sizes to a maximum of 12 which ensures that the tutor can get to know each tutee very well and this relationship extends to you as parents and guardians. Working in concert helps foster your child's growth and development, enabling them to feel comfortable both in themselves and as part of a new and wider family. We are proud of all aspects of our community, but most notably we value the friendly and respectful atmosphere that cherishes every person. It is this, above all else, that makes Taunton School incredibly special, and we hope that you, as parents, feel very much a part of this.

Your child will see their tutor most days and they will see their Housemaster or Housemistress every day. The house will become their 'home from home' and we aim to ensure that the house mirrors family life with older 'brothers' and 'sisters' looking out for, and leading, younger students as buddies, peer mentors, or more informally as good role models. Each house is a microcosm of the wider school, imbued with the core values of humility and kindness that underpin all our work. All year groups are represented in each house, and this engenders a sense of togetherness, identity and belonging. Most importantly, the house system offers the secure platform that enables all to embrace the various challenges of school life. Indeed, inspired by tutors, housemasters and housemistresses, students are encouraged to take on new challenges, to embrace failure, to support others and aspire to lead.

PSHEE

All students participate in one hour of PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) each week. The PSHEE programme is designed to support the personal development of students, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary to thrive as individuals, family members, and active citizens within diverse cultures and communities.

PSHEE includes the statutory elements of Relationships and Sex Education and lessons are delivered through a range of engaging methods, including teacher-led presentations, debates, role play, along with collaborative research and discussion. The PSHEE curriculum places a strong emphasis on students' Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) development, encouraging deeper reflection and the development of critical thinking skills to support their long-term success and wellbeing.

EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

Our aim is to enable all students to achieve to the best of their ability, irrespective of any specific difficulties. We encourage students to reflect on their strengths and identify practical strategies to overcome any barriers to learning as they work towards becoming independent learners. The team consists of several specialist EP teachers and access arrangement assessors. Through a robust process of monitoring and evaluation, EP staff provide relevant help to ensure all students fulfil their potential.

Wherever possible, support takes the form of short-term intervention, but some students benefit from longer term support. One of the major roles that EP staff play is in ensuring students are guided through the options process, enabling them to find a pathway which leads to increased self-esteem and, ultimately, positive outcomes.

CARRINGTON LIBRARY

We are delighted with our new Carrington Library which adds a modern, light, and airy aspect to our historic building. The library gives the students a place to study along with access to a vast variety of books to aid their learning and to enjoy in their free time. GCSE students are actively encouraged to engage with the wide variety of resources on offer in the library with specialised research skills support provided by our librarian.

FUTURES

Overseeing careers and post school advice, the Futures Department is here to support all students, whether it is supplying guidance and advice about which GCSEs to choose or helping students navigate higher education and the many career paths available to them.

We work with students to lead them through the application processes for their chosen post-18 pathway, using online platforms such as Unifrog. The Futures Department offers a bespoke service tailored to the unique educational and career needs of our students, whilst recognising and playing to their strengths and interests.

By using Unifrog with each student, is offered the opportunity to take objective online quizzes, helping them to identify their strengths, interests, skills, and personalities. This in turn can help them recognise which GCSE and sixth form subjects suit them best and help to develop their academic goals.

The Futures Department also supports students in recognising their talents, addressing areas for development, and setting goals, whilst building their profile of transferable skills to ensure a seamless transition to their post-18 pathway.

In short, the Futures Department helps students challenge their vision of the world of work, introducing them to the evolving landscape of jobs in the future.

SUBJECTS OVERVIEW

PAGE 10

SCIENCES

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

PAGE 29

TECHNOLOGY

Computer Studies
Design and Technology

PAGE 25

CREATIVE ARTS

Fine Art
Media Studies

PAGE 15

MATHS

Maths
Further Maths

PAGE 17

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Business Studies
Economics
Psychology

PAGE 20

ENGLISH

English First Language
English Second Language

PAGE 22

HUMANITIES

Geography
History

BIOLOGY

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Cell Biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and Response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and Response
6. Inheritance, Variation and Evolution
7. Ecology

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Exam Paper 1

What's assessed?
Topics 1-4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

How it's assessed?
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, Foundation and Higher Tier, 100 marks, 50 % of GCSE

Questions
Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Exam Paper 2

What's assessed?
Topics 5-7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

How it's assessed?
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, Foundation and Higher Tier, 100 marks, 50 % of GCSE

Questions
Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Practical Endorsement- Students must successfully complete the 10 required experiments, as a minimum, during the course.

Both papers also assess Scientific Skills.

PREVIOUS STUDY

- Some knowledge of the subject is useful but not essential.
- Good English skills and aiming for an Academic IELTS of 6 or above.
- Calculations, data analysis and interpretation are required, so students need good maths skills.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Good combined with any other Science, Psychology, ICT and Geography.
- Essential with Chemistry if you wish to study Medicine.
- Required for A Level and IB Biology, useful for Chemistry, Psychology and Geography/Geology.
- Leads to many scientific, industrial and medical careers.

SUMMER READING LIST

All About Biology, Robert Winston (ISBN 9780241243695)

Evolution Revolution, Robert Winston (ISBN 1405337192)

The Body: A Guide for Occupants, Bill Bryson (ISBN 0552779903)

Essential Skills for GCSE Biology, Dan Foulder (ISBN 1510460004)

Essential Maths Skills for GCSE Science – Study and Practice, CGP Books (ISBN 9781782947042)

GCSE Biology for AQA (grade 9-1) The Revision Guide, CGP Books (ISBN 9781782945567)

CHEMISTRY

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Principles of Chemistry

- States of matter, elements, compounds and mixtures
- Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
- Chemical formulae, equations and calculations
- Bonding and structure
- Electrolysis

2. Inorganic Chemistry

- Group 1 and Group 7
- Gases in the atmosphere
- Reactivity series and the extraction and uses of metals
- Acids, bases and salts
- Chemical tests

3. Physical Chemistry

- Energetics
- Rates of reaction
- Reversible reactions and equilibria

4. Organic Chemistry

- Crude oil
- Alkanes, alkenes and alcohols, carboxylic acids and esters
- Synthetic polymers

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Practical Assessment

Specific experiments and practical procedures completed during the course. Practical work is not included in the grade awarded but knowledge and understanding of the procedures will be assessed during the written examinations

Exams

Paper 1:
May/June: 1 hour 45 mins (100 marks) assessing half the syllabus. 50% of total assessment. Foundation and Higher Tier available.

Paper 2:
May/June: 1 hour 45 mins (100 marks) assessing half the syllabus. 50% of total assessment. Foundation and Higher Tier available.

PHYSICS

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Energy

- Forms and transfer of energy; work, power and efficiency
- Temperature, heat and heat energy transfer

2. Force and Motion

- Measuring and representing motion
- Forces and effects, Density and pressure
- Non-linear motion, motion of planets, moons and comets
- Space exploration

3. Electricity and magnetism

- Measuring electricity and controlling circuits
- Generating mains electricity, safe use and supply; electromagnetism
- Fossil fuels and alternative energy sources

4. Waves

- Sound
- Light, mirrors and lenses
- Electromagnetic spectrum; uses and risks

4. Radioactivity

- Structure of the atom and radioactive particles
- Medical and industrial uses, safety and risks

4. Astrophysics

- Lifecycle of a star, formation of a solar system
- Big bang theory, red shift

PREVIOUS STUDY

- Some knowledge of subject useful but not essential.
- Reasonable English skills needed.
- Some calculations and data interpretation so basic maths skills needed.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Good combined with any other Science GCSEs, ICT and Geography.
- Needed for A Level Chemistry, useful with Biology/Environmental Science and Geography/Geology. Essential if you wish to study Medicine.
- Leads to many careers e.g. Medical Technology, Pharmacy, Medicine, Manufacturing and Product Research, Food Technology, Chemical Engineering.

SUMMER READING LIST

Essential Maths Skills for GCSE Ssience (For the grade 1-9 Course) – Study and Practice Book, CGP Books

Key Stage Three Chemistry – Higher Level – Study and Question Book CGP Books

ONLINE RESOURCES

BBC Bitesize: Chemistry Key Stage Three

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Practical Assessment

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Exams

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Paper 2:
May/June: 1 hour 45 mins (100 marks) assessing half the syllabus. 50% of total assessment. Foundation and Higher Tier available.

PREVIOUS STUDY

- Some knowledge of subject useful but not essential
- Reasonable English skills
- Some calculations so need basic Maths skills

OTHER INFORMATION

- Good combined with any other Science IGCSEs, ICT, Design Technology and Geography
- Needed for A Level Physics, useful with Maths and other Sciences
- Leads to many careers, e.g. Engineering, Medical Technology and Architecture

SUMMER READING LIST

Essential Skills for Physics Roy White (ISBN 978-1-5104-6002-7)

The Physics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained, Jim Al Kalili (ISBN 978-1-4654-9102-2)

CGP Essential Maths Skills for Secondary Science, CGP books SMR41 (ISBN 978-1-84762-469-7)

A Storm in a Teacup – The Physics of Everyday Life, Helen Cserski (ISBN 978-1-393-35547-5)

IGCSE MATHEMATICS

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Number (~20%)
Integers, Fractions, Decimals, Powers and Roots, Sets, Percentages, Ratio and Proportion, Degree of Accuracy, Standard Form, Applying Number.

2. Algebra (~35%)
Use of Symbols, Algebraic Manipulation, Expressions and Formulae, Linear Equations, Proportion, Simultaneous Linear Equations, Quadratic Expressions, Inequalities, Sequences, Functions, Graphs, Calculus.

3. Shape and Space (~30%)
Angles and Triangles, Polygons, Symmetry, Measures, Construction, Circle Properties, Geometrical Reasoning, Trigonometry, Pythagoras, Mensuration, Similarity, Vectors, Transformations.

4. Handling Data (~15%)
Graphical Representation of Data, Statistical Measures, Probability.

Within each section is also particular emphasis on problem solving (~30%) and mathematical reasoning (~20%).

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Assessments

- There are 5 internally marked assessments throughout the year.
- There is no coursework.
- All one-year TSI students must take IGCSE Maths.

Exams

Paper 1:
May/June: two-hour paper, calculators are allowed.
Most students take the Higher Tier paper (Grades 9 to 4).
Some may take the Foundation paper (Grades 5 to 1) if deemed more appropriate.

Paper 2:
May/June: two-hour paper, calculators are allowed.
Most students take the Higher Tier paper (Grades 9 to 4).
Some may take the Foundation paper (Grades 5 to 1) if deemed more appropriate.

PREVIOUS STUDY

It is presumed that all students will have studied Mathematics for up to ten years and that many of the topics will have already been taught.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Level of English is not as important as in some subjects but students with very low levels of English may find it hard to get the higher grades (7-9) in the final exam.
- If you are thinking about taking maths at A-Level, you probably need to get at least a 7 or 8 at IGCSE to be accepted. IB with Standard Level Maths requires a minimum grade 6, IB with Higher Level Maths requires a grade 9.
- If you are very good at Mathematics you may be invited to consider taking Additional Mathematics as well which is taught in weekly sessions outside of normal lesson times. This qualification is a higher standard of Maths than IGCSE but not as high as A Level.

SUMMER READING LIST

Help your kids with Maths Ages 10-16 (Key Stages 3-4): A Unique Step by Step Visual Guide, Revision and Reference, Carol Vorderman

Edexcel International GCSE(9-1) Mathematics Student Book 3rd Edition, Alan Kind, Alan Smith, Sophie Goldie

FURTHER MATHS

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)
4. Calculus
5. Matrix Transformations
6. Geometry

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Exam Paper 1

- Two examination papers
- Paper 1: 1 hr 45 minutes
- Paper 2: 1 hr 45 minutes
- One calculator and one non calculator

Exam Paper 2

- Two examination papers
- Paper 1: 1 hr 45 minutes
- Paper 2: 1 hr 45 minutes
- One calculator and one non calculator

PREVIOUS STUDY

A good standard of Mathematics is required and the course is designed for you if you will comfortably achieve Grade 8 or 9 at GCSE.

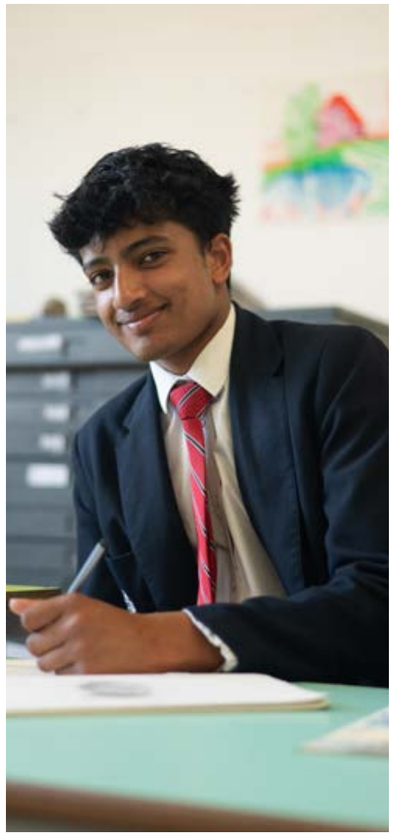
OTHER INFORMATION

- This course is excellent preparation if you are planning on taking A Level Mathematics or IB in the future. It provides a good bridge between GCSE and higher level Maths.
- Further maths will be run as an afternoon club once a week for an hour in the Spring term. Exam is optional.

SUMMER READING LIST

AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics: Exam Practice, Val Hanrahan and Andrew Ginty

Introduction to Mathematical Thinking: Algebra and Number Systems, Will Gilbert and Scott Vanstone



BUSINESS IGCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Business Activity and Influences on Business
2. People in Business
3. Business Finance
4. Marketing
5. Business Operations

Exam Board and Specification - Edexcel

Assessments

Assessment Paper 1: Investigating Small Business

- 9 to 1 grading scale, with 9 being the top level
- This paper will draw on all topics
- The question scenarios are based on a small business (up to 49 employees)
- 4 compulsory questions - each worth 20 marks
- 90 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of qualification

Assessment Paper 2: Investigating Large Businesses

- 9 to 1 grading scale, with 9 being the top level
- This paper will draw on all topics
- The question scenarios are based on a large business (more than 250 employees)
- 4 compulsory questions - each worth 20 marks
- 90 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of qualification

PREVIOUS STUDY

No previous study required.

OTHER INFORMATION

- You must have good level of English (at least intermediate level) or be willing to work hard to improve your standard of English, to do well in Business Studies.
- Although not necessary, taking Business IGCSE will be useful if you want to study this subject at a higher level
- Approximately 15% of the course involves numeracy.

SUMMER READING LIST

Edexcel IGCSE Business, Rob Jones

GCSE Business Edexcel Revision Guide, CGP

Grade 9-1 GCSE Business Edexcel Revision Question Cards, CGP

ONLINE RESOURCES

Quizlet

Seneca Learning - Create an account, add the Edexcel IGCSE Course, read and answer the questions.

BBC

www.ft.com

Reuters

Aljazeera

www.rt.com

Foxbusiness

Bangkokpost

Scmp

Lemonde

Spiegel

ECONOMICS IGCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

1. The Market System

- Demand and supply
- The role of the market in solving the economic problem
- The labour market

2. Business Economics

- Production
- Competition
- Public and private sectors

3. Government and the Economy

- Macroeconomic objectives
- Policies
- Relationship between objectives and policies

4. The Global Economy

- Globalisation
- International trade
- Exchange rates

Exam Board and Specification - Edexcel

Assessments

Terminal Assessment Paper

- Terminal assessment of this course is through two written papers.
- Each paper is 1 hr 30 minutes long and examined in June.
- Each examination paper consists of four compulsory questions.

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment will be undertaken in several ways:

- Computer marked tests. To give clear quantifiable analysis.
- Weekly assessment of Keywords (feedback given as a printed definitive answer).
- Ongoing assessment of your answers to the questions from the student book. Plus, peer marking where appropriate
- Mock exams marked by the teacher (some group marking possible)

PREVIOUS STUDY

No previous knowledge is required although it is essential for you to have a genuine interest in this subject and only students with high levels of English will be allowed to take this subject.

OTHER INFORMATION

- If you have lower levels of English should choose Business Studies instead of Economics
- You will not be allowed to choose Economics and Business Studies Economics Summer reading list

SUMMER READING LIST

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) Economics Student Book, Jones

A Little History of Economics (Little Histories) Paperback – Illustrated, 15 May 2018, Niall Kishtainy

PSYCHOLOGY GCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Cognition & Behaviour

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research Method

2. Social Context & Behaviour

- Social influence
- Language, Thought & Communication
- Brain & Neuropsychology
- Psychological Problems

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Exam 1

- 1 hour and 45 minute exam on Cognition & Behaviour
- 50% of the final grade

Exam 2

- 1 hour and 45 minute exam on Social Context & Behaviour
- 50% of the final grade

PREVIOUS STUDY

No previous knowledge of Psychology is needed.

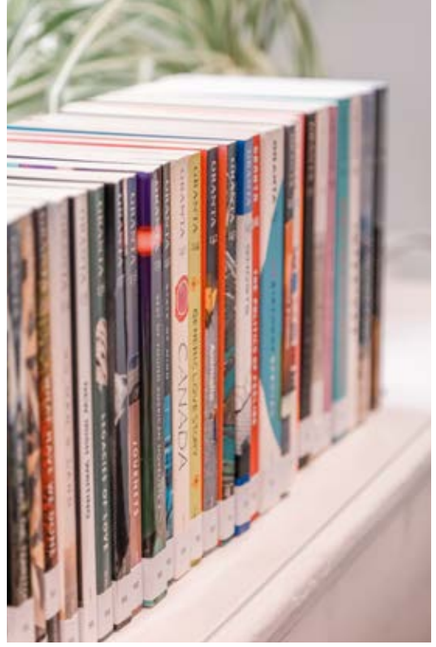
OTHER INFORMATION

- Good level of English is essential
- Knowledge of basic mathematical calculations needed
- Good subject to combine with either Sciences or Humanities
- Leads to greater awareness of human nature and behaviour
- GCSE Psychology useful, but not essential, for A level Psychology

SUMMER READING LIST

AQA GCSE 9-1 Psychology All-in-One Complete Revision and Practice: Ideal for home learning, 2021 assessments and 2022 exams (Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision) Paperback, Collins GCSE

My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) Psychology, Paperback, Susan Firth



ENGLISH IGCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

English Second Language

The focus of English teaching at TSI is the **Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English as a Second Language (4XES2)**. You will focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, grammar and vocabulary. It is 100% exam based.

English First Language

Those of you with a higher level of English may take the **Cambridge IGCSE in English as a First Language (0990)** in one year which is also 100% exam based. It also provides the option of a speaking component.

PREVIOUS STUDY

You will have the minimum requirement for entry into TSI which is A2 (CEFR level)

OTHER INFORMATION

- English is a core subject at TSI.
- Good study skills are essential, such as: recording vocabulary, keeping good class notes, doing extra reading and listening.
- If you are a non-native speaker, but high enough to be in the 1st language English groups, you will automatically be entered into the 2nd language English exam as well.
- Some 2nd Language English students will also take EAL classes (English as an Additional Language) to support their GCSE studies. There is no exam for EAL.

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH SUMMER READING LIST

You are encouraged to read any books in English of a C1 level or higher. Pick anything that you think you will enjoy, fiction or non-fiction. With fiction, try to observe how the writer uses description, builds the story and characters and introduces dialogue.

Also, try reading articles to practise your reading at linguapress.

Exam Board and Specification - Edexcel

Assessments

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English as a Second Language

- IGCSE English as a 2nd language: Early May to early June. The examination is in four parts:
- Paper 1 Reading
- Paper 2 Listening
- Paper 3 Writing
- Paper 4 Speaking (tested from March to April

Cambridge IGCSE in English as a First Language (0990)

- IGCSE English as a 1st language: Throughout May. The examination is in two parts:
- Paper 1 - Reading
- Paper 2 - Directed writing and composition
- Optional Speaking and Listening (tested late April)

ENGLISH SECOND LANGUAGE SUMMER READING LIST

You are encouraged to read any books in English of a A2 level or higher. Pick anything that you think you will enjoy, fiction or non-fiction. Also, you could read articles which focus on specific vocabulary areas from the environment, media, equality, education, entertainment, travel and work. Find articles to practise your reading at linguapress.

It is also advised to make good use of a grammar practice book such as English Grammar in Use Intermediate by Raymond Murphy and a vocabulary practice book such as English Vocabulary in Use Upper-Intermediate by McCarthy & O'Dell.

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

We will study the AQA GCSE (8035) syllabus as it highlights the importance of geography for understanding the world and in stimulating an interest in various places. It is hoped that studying this course will inspire you to become a global citizen by exploring your place in the world, your values and responsibilities to other people and to the environment. You will also learn to appreciate the differences and similarities between people, places and cultures, leading to an improved understanding of societies and economies. You will also learn to use a wide variety of maps and graphs.

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35% of the assessment)

- The challenge of natural hazards (Tectonic hazards, weather hazards and climate change)
- The living world (Ecosystems – rainforests and hot deserts)
- Physical landscapes in the UK (Coastal landscapes and river landscapes)

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35% of the assessment)

- Urban issues and challenges (The urban world, urban change in the UK, and sustainable urban development)
- The Changing economic world (The development gap, Nigera, the changing UK economy)
- The challenge of resource management (Resources in the UK and Energy management)
- Questions will be a mix of short, structured responses and the opportunity for extended writing.

Paper 3: Geographical application and skills (30% of the assessment)

Section A – Issue evaluation

- Structured questions based on pre-released resources.

Section B – Fieldwork

- Structured questions relating to the fieldwork carried out over the course

PREVIOUS STUDY

- Some knowledge of the subject is useful but not essential
- Good English skills – there is much new vocabulary to learn and a lot of written work.
- Some maths skills - you will be required to draw and interpret graphs.
- An interest in current world events/issues

OTHER INFORMATION

- This course will help you to gain communication skills, technological skills such as ICT and Geographical Information Systems (GIS), interpersonal skills through debate and discussion, Literacy, Numeracy and problem-solving skills and cartographical skills.
- Good combined with any Science GCSEs, Business Studies; geography goes well with any other subject.
- Very useful if you want to study 'A' Level or IB Geography, although some schools will take students who have not done the GCSE first.
- It is helpful for many careers if you have a broader understanding of our world and people's place in it. For example: research, planning and policy jobs in government, working overseas for Foreign Affairs and the UN, resource management, GIS, tourism – the list is endless.

SUMMER READING LIST

GCSE Geography AQA Student Book (Oxford Press), Simon Ross

GCSE AQA Geography For the Grade 9-1 Course, CGP Revision Guides

ONLINE RESOURCES

Seneca Learning Platform - Create an account.

HISTORY IGCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Paper 1

- Development of dictatorship: Germany 1918-1945
- A world divided: Superpower Relations 1943-1972

2. Paper 2 - Section 1

- The USA 1917-1941

3. Paper 2 - Section 2

- Changes in Medicine, c1848-c1948

Exam Board and Specification - Edexcel

Assessments

Paper 1

- Paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long
- Examinations in May/June
- Each question counts for 25% of the total marks

Paper 2

- Paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long
- Examinations in May/June
- Each question counts for 25% of the total marks

PREVIOUS STUDY

- Some knowledge of the subject is useful but not essential
- Reasonable English skills - there is a lot of new vocabulary to learn
- The ability to acquire, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding, use historical sources critically and draw conclusions are key to success in this subject

OTHER INFORMATION

- The final examination involves answering questions in reasonably good written English. Students must therefore make good progress in their English lessons throughout the year if they are to succeed in History.
- History IGCSE goes well with other Humanities subjects such as Geography and Business Studies.
- Taking History IGCSE will be useful if you want to study this subject at a higher level and also shows strong use and understanding of English.
- It is helpful for many careers if you have a broader understanding of the current world and its recent history.
- You will not be allowed to choose Economics and Business Studies Economics Summer reading list

SUMMER READING LIST

KS3 History Revision Guide: Prepare for Secondary School (Collins KS3 Revision) Paperback, Collins

KS3 History Twentieth Century World (Knowing History) Paperback, Robert Selth

ART GCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

Coursework Project
(60% of the final GCSE grade)

The coursework theme is about structures in the natural and man-made world. In this project, students will need to:

- Research, write about and work in the style of different artists to give them inspiration for their own ideas. Show that they understand the cultural background behind different artworks and artists.
- Experiment with lots of different materials and processes like drawing, painting, collage and digital media. Write what is good about their work and what could be improved as they progress.
- Record form observation by drawing and photographing objects in front of them. Write about and draw out ideas for their own artworks. Make their ideas link to their research.
- Make a final artwork(s), which brings together their best ideas, drawings, photographs and experiments.

Externally Set Assignment
(40% of the final GCSE grade)

The exam board will set students a theme, for which they will produce a body of development work,

Including research, observational studies and experimental works. Students will then bring together their best ideas and produce one final artwork within a ten-hour period (two, five-hour sessions with breaks) in controlled exam conditions.

Exam Board and Specification - Edexcel

Assessments

Coursework Project

- One to two coursework projects including a ten hour mock exam - 60 % of marks.

Externally Set Assignment

- One externally set assignment (ten hour exam) - 40 % of Marks.

PREVIOUS STUDY

Some experience of drawing and painting is preferred. The large amount of coursework required for success in this course is very demanding. Students must be strongly committed from start to finish. Enthusiasm, a willingness to go out of their comfort zone and a love for art and design is essential. For higher grades, students will need to attend extra art classes outside of the normal lessons.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Leads to many careers, e.g. Animation artist, Graphic Design, Architect, Publishing, and Photographer.
- There is a compulsory Art Trip during the academic year.
- Please refer to online student shared area where all last year's paintings are available for viewing.

SUMMER READING LIST

During the summer, before the course starts, I strongly recommend students make a sketchbook of observational drawings to help develop their skills.

The Annotated Mona Lisa, Third Edition, 3: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to the Present, Carol Strickland

MEDIA STUDIES GCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

1. Paper 1 (35% of the assessment)

Section A will focus on Media Language and Media Representations. Questions in this section can test any two of the following forms:

- magazines
- advertising and marketing
- newspapers
- Online social media
- Video games

Section B will focus on Media Industries and Media Audiences. Questions in this section can test any two of the following forms:

- radio
- music video
- newspapers
- Online social media
- Video games
- film (industries only).

2. Paper 2 (35% of the assessment)

Section A will be based on a screening from an extract of one of the television Close Study Products and can test any area of the theoretical framework.

Section B will be based on either newspapers, online social media or video games and can test any area of the framework.

3. Coursework (30% of the assessment)

A choice of one of 5 annually changing briefs, set by AQA. Marked by the teacher and moderated by the examination board.

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Paper 1

- 1hr30 written exam,
- 35% of the assessment

Paper 2

- 1hr30 written exam,
- 35% of the assessment

Coursework

- 30% of the assessment
- A choice of one of 5 annually changing briefs, set by AQA. Marked by the teacher and moderated by the examination board.
- 35% of the assessment

PREVIOUS STUDY

- Some knowledge of the subject is useful but not essential.
- Good English skills – there is much new vocabulary to learn and a lot of written work (essays).
- An interest in current world events/issues.
- An open and creative mind is also a big advantage.

SUMMER READING LIST

AQA GCSE Media Studies: Student Book Revised Edition, Slater et al. (Illuminate Publishing)

ONLINE RESOURCES

Seneca Learning Platform - Create an account

OTHER INFORMATION

- Media Studies is one of the most exciting subjects available to you as it has so much variety and because it is current and relevant to you. It reflects the world you live in and by studying this subject you are helping to make sense of the world you inhabit.
- It will help you to gain communication skills, practical and technological skills such recording, editing and desktop publishing, interpersonal skills through debate and discussion, critical thinking and decision-making skills, as well as planning and evaluative skills.
- Good combined with any English, Business Studies, ICT, Travel and Tourism - in fact, Media Studies goes well with most other subjects – you just need to enjoy it.
- Very useful if you want to study 'A' Level or IB Media Studies, although not always necessary.
- It is helpful for many careers if you have a broader understanding of the media: journalism, film and television work, research, planning and policy jobs in government, advertising, marketing, teaching – the list is endless.

COMPUTER SCIENCE IGCSE CIE

COURSE INFORMATION

Section 1: Theory of computer science

- Binary systems
- Hexadecimal
- Data storage
- Data transmission
- Security aspects
- Internet principles of operation
- Hardware and software
- Logic gates
- Computer architecture and the fetch-execute cycle
- Input devices
- Output devices
- Memory, storage devices and media
- Operating systems
- High- and low-level languages and their translators
- Security
- Ethics

Section 2: Practical problem-solving and programming

- Algorithm design and problem-solving
- Problem-solving and design
- Pseudocode and flowcharts
- Programming
- Programming concepts
- Data structures; arrays
- Databases

The aims are to develop:

- computational thinking, which is thinking about what can be computed and how
- understanding of the main principles of solving problems by using computers
- understanding that every computer system is made up of sub-systems, which in turn consist of further sub-systems
- understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communications and people skills necessary to apply understanding to solve computer-based problems using a high-level programming language.

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Paper 1: Theory

- 1hr 45 minutes
- 50%, 80 marks
- Short-answer and structured questions
- Questions will be based on section 1 of the subject content
- All questions are compulsory
- No calculators are permitted
- Externally assessed

Paper 2: Problem-solving and Programming

- 1hr 45 minutes
- 50%, 80 marks
- Short-answer and structured questions
- Questions will be based on section 2 of the subject content
- All questions are compulsory
- 20 marks are from questions set on the pre-release material
- No calculators are permitted
- Externally assessed

OTHER INFORMATION

You should have a good mathematical knowledge.

SUMMER READING LIST

Cambridge IGCSE® and O Level Computer Science Programming Book for Python (Cambridge International IGCSE) Paperback – 2 Feb. 2017, Roffey

Cambridge IGCSE® Computer Science Course book (Cambridge International IGCSE) Paperback – 12 Nov. 2015, Lawrey

SUMMER READING LIST

Learn the basics of Python computer code by following these 8 short lessons.

Use this BBC website to understand the basics of computer science

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PRODUCT DESIGN IGCSE

COURSE INFORMATION

Product Design encourages students to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials such as card, plastics, electronics, timber-based materials, and ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Candidates will learn about material properties and the processes used to manufacture products from these materials. They will also develop skills using drawing software and various drawing equipment.

Exam Board and Specification - AQA

Assessments

Paper 1: Product Design

- 1 hour 15 minutes
- 25% (50 marks)
- Questions will be based on the Common content: Product Design
- Answer one question
- Written/drawing paper
- Externally assessed

The knowledge and skills needed for success in this exam are taught and learnt through the completion of component 2.

Component 2: Project

- 50% (100 marks)
- School-based assessment
- Internally assessed and externally moderated

A single design and make activity. This is where you will manufacture a single product showing research, investigation, design ideas and development in a PowerPoint (ICT) portfolio. Students will use Computer Aided Design (2D Design software) to visualise their ideas and concepts.

Paper 3: Resistant Materials

- 1 hour
- 25% (50 marks)
- Questions will be based on the specialist option:
- Resistant Materials content and the Common content: Product Design
- Section A: answer all questions Section
- Section B: answer one question
- Written paper
- Externally assessed

Theoretical knowledge gained through class run activities, preps and theory lessons. Students will learn the uses of materials and processes of manufacturing. Students will also gain knowledge in sustainability.

OTHER INFORMATION

- To do this course, students must have their own, fully functioning laptop which uses Windows operating system. This will allow them to access the necessary design software used in this subject.
- A good level of English and some basic ability to draw in three dimensions is essential for success. All components require a considerable amount of written work including technical vocabulary.
- The large amount of coursework required for success in this course is very demanding and students will need to start producing GCSE coursework from their very first lesson. Students must use their prep and free time to ensure their lengthy coursework project is always up to date and completed to a high standard by the end of the spring term.

SUMMER READING LIST

During the summer before the course starts, I strongly recommend students use a pencil and paper to practice drawing different products in three dimensions. There are many tutorials covering this subject on YouTube.

Cambridge IGCSE (TM) Design & Technology Student's Book, (Collins Cambridge IGCSE (TM) by Justin Harris Note: Read Section 3.

MAKING GOOD CHOICES

When making your choices think about:

- WHAT INTERESTS ME?
- WHAT AM I GOOD AT?
- WHAT WILL MAKE ME HAPPY?
- AM I KEEPING MY OPTIONS OPEN?

EXCEPTIONAL
TOGETHER

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