



GCSE Options Booklet
Fitzharrys School
2021

March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The options process marks an important stage in a child's education; a decision that helps to move them towards a successful and happy future. At Fitzharrys School we aim to support all students in this process to select subjects that will provide them with enjoyment, challenge, and success.

This booklet contains information about the process, including timelines and deadlines, along with a summary of each core and options subject. We hope that it provides all of the information you need but our curriculum and pastoral teams are on hand to provide advice and support throughout the process.

Wishing you good luck with the options process!

Kind regards,

Alicia Corley

Deputy Head of School

The Key Stage 4 options timeline



What are my choices?

All students will take the core subjects:

- English Literature and Language
- Maths
- Science (either triple or combined)*
- Core Physical Education
- FitzFocus+ - including PSHCE and Religious Studies

In addition to the core subjects, students will pick up four options subjects.

We encourage Fitzharrys students to study a modern foreign language and either History or Geography as two of these options subjects. By studying a language and humanity, in addition to the core subjects of maths, English and science, students will achieve their EBacc (English Baccalaureate). The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

We will support students in choosing alternative pathways where appropriate. We will tailor our offer to each individual student, and we will make vocational and other suitable courses available where needed.

*Please be aware that decisions regarding your child's entry to combined or triple science will be made by the school. We will inform you of this choice during the options process.

Subjects

Students will be asked to select four subjects from the list of options, plus 2 reserve subjects. Information about each course is set out in this booklet. EBacc subjects are in **bold**.

Compulsory Subjects	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Mathematics GCSE Science (Triple or Combined) Core PE Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education Religious Studies
Option Subjects (select four, plus two reserves)	GCSE History GCSE Geography GCSE Spanish GCSE French GCSE Art and Design GCSE Business Studies GCSE Computer Science GCSE Design and Technology GCSE Food and Nutrition BTEC Music Practice GCSE Physical Education BTEC Performing Arts GCSE Sociology

What do different qualification types mean and how will they be assessed?

Most GCSE courses are entirely assessed through written examinations at the very end of the course. The others all include a majority component of examination assessment, but also include some 'controlled assessment'. For some GCSE subjects, you will sit different exam papers depending on your level of achievement in that subject. These different papers are called "tiers". In other subjects every student sits the same exam.

BTEC courses are designed to give students a more vocational education in the subject – so that they can explore the subject in a context that it is more applied and includes learning about how it is applied and utilised in the world of employment. We are offering BTEC Tech awards in music practice, performing arts (acting) and sports, activity, and fitness. These all involve significantly less external examination but are fully recognised qualifications alongside traditional GCSE.

All GCSE courses are now graded on a scale of 9-1. The new grade 5 is described as a 'good pass' and a grade 4 as the equivalent to an old C grade.

BTEC courses are graded differently. The table shows their fully recognised GCSE equivalent scores.

BTEC grade	GCSE (9-1) scale equivalent
Level 2 Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 Distinction	7
Level 2 Merit	5.5
Level 2 Pass	4
Level 1 Distinction	3
Level 1 Merit	2
Level 1 Pass	1.25

Controlled assessment / Non-examined assessment (NEA)

This is the name for tasks completed and assessed before the final exams (the equivalent of coursework). Students undertake tasks which are completed under various levels of supervision. Their performance is normally assessed by the teacher, and the marking level moderated by the examining board. This sort of 'in course' assessment suits some students, helping to spread the assessment load more evenly through the course. Controlled assessments reinforce for all students the importance of working hard from the very start of their courses. It can contribute up to 50% of some GCSE courses, but more in BTEC courses. Please read the subject pages for details.

Core Subjects

English Language

What will I learn in this subject?

In this compulsory subject, you will learn how writers craft their texts – both fiction and non-fiction – to influence their readers. You will do this through the reading of, and exploration of, a wide range of texts from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and through creative and non-fiction writing of your own. Throughout the course, which is integrated with the teaching of English Literature, you will develop your knowledge and skills in critical thinking, analytical writing, evaluation, debate, comparison, creative writing, opinion writing, vocabulary, grammatical and linguistic convention. Above all, you will think deeply about communication: how to do it effectively, and how the texts you read and watch have been crafted to influence you.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (50%):

- Reading analysis of one fiction text
- Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2 (50%):

- Reading analysis of two non-fiction texts
- Writing to present a viewpoint

In both papers, you will receive marks for:

- your ability to interpret information and ideas from texts
- your ability to analyse the language, structure and form used by a writer to create effects
- your ability to compare writers' ideas and perspectives, across texts
- your ability to communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively
- the accuracy and effectiveness of your written communication

There is also a separate certificate for Spoken Language, which is assessed through a short speaking exam.

Where could this subject take me?

Success in English Language, as in English Literature, is an advantage when you apply for any future course or employment opportunity. Specialist careers include those in the fields of journalism, law, media, publishing, recruitment and HR and marketing and advertising.

What equipment would I need?

To participate fully in English Language lessons, you will need:

- a pen
- several highlighters of different colours

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Miss Catherine Hartley

GCSE specification: AQA (8700)

English Literature

What will I learn in this subject?

In this subject, which is taught concurrently with English Language, you will experience a range of literary texts – novels, drama and poetry – and will know them in depth. Your lessons will focus on your development as a critical reader and writer, and you will acquire cultural, contextual and technical knowledge alongside the skill of responding analytically to literature. This course will equip you to read widely and with pleasure, and is a fantastic gateway to English Literature at A Level.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (40%):

- *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- Nineteenth century novel

Paper 2 (60%):

- *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding
- Power and Conflict Poetry
- Unseen Poetry

In both papers, you will receive marks for:

- your ability to articulate, and provide evidence for, interpretations of texts
- your ability to analyse the language, structure and form used by a writer to create effects
- your understanding of the relationship between a text and its context
- your written communication.

Where could this subject take me?

Success in English Literature, as in English Language, is an advantage when you apply for any future course or employment opportunity. Specialist careers include those in the fields of journalism, law, media, publishing, recruitment and HR and marketing and advertising.

What equipment would I need?

To participate fully in English Language lessons, you will need:

- a pen
- several highlighters of different colours
- copies of your set texts

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Miss Catherine Hartley

GCSE specification: AQA (8702)

Mathematics

What will I learn in this subject?

The course is designed to develop the skills you learnt in Key Stage 3 alongside learning new skills that will enable you to become successful not only in Mathematics but also in your other subjects.

Throughout your 3 years of Maths at Fitzharrys you will study a range of Maths that will help you develop a firm foundation for appropriate further study. The content of your Maths GCSE is detailed in your Blue Book – the revision guide that you have been creating each lesson since the beginning of year 9.

Mathematics at GCSE looks at 3 main skills:

- Mathematical fluency - can you recall knowledge?)
- Mathematical reasoning - can you say why something mathematical has happened?
- Problem solving - break a problem down into bits to find a solution.

You will become confident in your use of mathematics and develop the confidence to use mathematics to tackle problems in the workplace and everyday life.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam counts for one third of your overall mark. The first paper is done without a calculator.

During the course you and your teacher will decide which tier of examination is best for you. There are 2 tiers: Foundation and Higher. Higher Tier covers grades 9,8,7,6,5,4,3, whilst Foundation tier covers grades 5,4,3,2,1.

Where could this subject take me?

A grade 4 or 5 in maths will be seen by many employers and course providers as a minimum requirement and numerous careers such as science and engineering need specific advanced mathematical skills. In addition, there are many more jobs where you will need to be numerate to quite a high standard. Success in maths GCSE will help you progress with your future career regardless of the area of work or study.

What equipment would I need?

We recommend CASIO scientific calculators. These are available in most supermarkets to purchase or online here:

- [CASIO GCSE calculator](#)
- [If you are considering A-Level Maths this calculator is preferable as it has some extra statistical functions](#)

You will also need a Protractor and a Pair of Compasses along side your standard school equipment.



Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Miss A Twyford
GCSE specification: AQA 8300

Combined Science

What will I learn in this subject?

Science is a core subject so all students take Science GCSE. Combined science leads to a qualification that is worth two GCSEs. Students learn about all three of the traditional science subjects - Biology, Chemistry and Physics – hence the name “Combined Science: Trilogy”.

Biology Topics:

1. Cell & organisation
2. Disease & bioenergetics
3. Biological responses
4. Genetics & reproduction
5. Ecology

Chemistry Topics:

1. Atoms, bonding & moles
2. Chemical reactions & energy changes
3. Rates, equilibrium & organic chemistry
4. Analysis & the Earth's resources

Physics Topics:

1. Energy & energy resources
2. Particles at work
3. Forces in action
4. Waves, electromagnetism & space

In addition to practicals that your teacher chooses to give you as part of your learning there are required practicals in each subject throughout the courses that you must complete.

How will I be assessed?

There will be two exams for each of the GCSE subjects studied and these are each 1 hour and 15 minutes long. There is no controlled assessment / coursework but the required practicals will help you build up your skills and are tested extensively within the exams. The results of the 6 exams will be added together to provide your overall two GCSE grades.

Where could this subject take me?

Science qualifications are vital for many careers. All medically based careers require Science. Other careers vary from engineering through to hairdressing. There are many opportunities in the local area to work in scientific industries and businesses. This course provides an excellent foundation for both further study and training.

What equipment would I need?

Normal stationary (pens, pencil, ruler, rubber) and a calculator.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mrs Forder

GCSE specification: AQA Combined Science: Trilogy

Triple Science

What will I learn in this subject?

Science is a core subject so all students must take Science at GCSE level. Those students who have shown that they are able to learn the concepts at a greater pace and in more depth will complete the triple science course and be awarded three GCSEs.

Biology Topics:

1. Cell & organisation
2. Disease & bioenergetics
3. Biological responses
4. Genetics & reproduction
5. Ecology

Chemistry Topics:

1. Atoms, bonding & moles
2. Chemical reactions & energy changes
3. Rates, equilibrium & organic chemistry
4. Analysis & the Earth's resources

Physics Topics:

1. Energy & energy resources
2. Particles at work
3. Forces in action
4. Waves, electromagnetism & space

In addition to practicals that your teacher chooses to give you as part of your learning there are required practicals in each subject (28 in total) throughout the courses that you must complete.

How will I be assessed?

These are linear qualifications which means that all exams are at the end of the course in Year 11. There will be two exams for each of the GCSE subjects studied and these are each 1 hour and 45 minutes long. There is no controlled assessment / coursework but the required practicals will help you build up your skills and are tested extensively within the exams.

Where could this subject take me?

Science qualifications are vital for many careers. All medically based careers require Science. Other careers vary from engineering through to hairdressing. There are many opportunities in the local area to work in scientific industries and businesses. This course provides an excellent foundation for both further study and training.

What equipment would I need?

Normal stationary (pens, pencil, ruler, rubber) and a calculator.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mrs Forder

GCSE specification: AQA GCSE Biology, AQA GCSE Chemistry, AQA GCSE Physics.

Options Subjects

Art, Craft and Design

What will I learn in this subject?

- You will develop your practical skills in art and design, investigate the work of artists and refine your own ideas through experimentation with a range of different media.
- You will develop skills in a range of media including drawing, painting, print making, ceramics and mixed media.
- You will research, analyse and respond to the work of Artists throughout the course, this research is a fundamental element of the course and a common homework task.
- You will learn that art has the power to convey a message and will be encouraged to find your own voice; sharing and developing your own ideas and independence in response to the work of others.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE course consists of two assessed units:

- **1. Coursework portfolio:** This is 60% of your final grade. It consists of a portfolio of work in a range of media where you respond to a set themes exploring different artists and techniques.
- **2. Externally set assignment (exam):** This is 40% of your final grade. The theme for the exam is set by the exam board. You will develop a portfolio of work in response to the theme (similar to the coursework). The exam runs from February – April/May of year 11. At the end of the exam period you will sit a timed test to produce an outcome for the project; it takes place over two days (10 hours) in the art rooms.

You will build a coursework portfolio throughout year 10 and 11 demonstrating evidence and understanding of the four assessment objectives: the focus of the work we do is portraiture. You will receive both written and verbal feedback intended to guide you in making informed decisions to best meet the needs of the course. All work set, both at home and in class, will be assessed as part of your portfolio to determine your GCSE grade.

Where could this subject take me?

Art will help develop many transferrable skills which can help in any career. You could go on to take A Levels, college courses and university. You may go onto careers in creative sector such as: art or design, film making, animation, graphics, ceramics, illustration, theatre design, advertising, fashion, textiles, interior design, architecture, marketing, publishing.

What equipment would I need?

We supply “art kits” at cost price from our suppliers, this is considerably cheaper than purchasing from shops. The kit contains all the core equipment you will need. In previous years the kit has cost £10 and contains pencils, brushes, watercolour paints, scissors, pen, sharpener, rubber, colouring pencils and a folder. Students will be provided with an order form at the start of the course containing up to date prices.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mr Lee

GCSE specification: Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Art and Design (1AD0)

Business Studies

What will I learn in this subject?

Business studies is not just a subject where you find out what businesses do, here at Fitzharrys we aim to teach you much more than that. It's a subject which prepares you for life after school and fits in with anything you choose to do later in your future. Whether you want to become a hairdresser, a builder, a vet, a solicitor or sell cars, you will need to know the basics of how businesses operate, how to work with people, how to write a CV or job application and how to be successful at an interview, what interest rates are and how they will affect you and businesses.

How will I be assessed?

This specification requires candidates to take two written papers in year 11 both of equal weighting. You will be set termly progress checks as well as regular homework and assessment tasks.

Where could this subject take me?

The study of business studies is excellent training for any career. Whether you're a budding Entrepreneur or work in a business for someone else, this subject will provide you with a sound foundation of knowledge, understanding and relevant skills to make you successful and give you the confidence you need. Students who study this subject go on to work in fields such as event management, research and development, marketing, finance, procurement, teaching, accountancy and law.

What equipment would I need?

Writing materials, revision guide or copy of the textbook, a vocabulary book and a calculator

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mrs T Jarvis (tjarvis@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk)

GCSE specification: Edexcel IBSO 9-1

Computer Science

What will I learn in this subject?

Over the course you will cover the following:

- **Computational thinking:** this is the process of thinking through a complex problem, taking the time to understand what the problem is and then develop potential solutions for evaluation. These are then presented in a way that a computer, a human, or both, can understand.
- **Theoretical content:** here you will understand the fundamentals of data representation and computer networks. You will learn about the computer systems that you will create and use and also delve into the world of cyber security and ethical legal and environmental impacts of digital technology.
- **Aspects of software development:** understand how to implement and test a design to make sure it works effectively. Learn how to complete an overall evaluation to help refine the end product.

How will I be assessed?

You will have two written exams.

Paper 1: Computational thinking and programming skills

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

Paper 2: Computing concepts

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.

Where could this subject take me?

Computer Science provides you with a clear progression from GCSE to AS and A-levels, University degrees, Technical Awards, apprenticeships, or the workplace.

You will have a range of jobs to choose from such as software development, AI engineering, CAD designer, Cyber security analyst, Games developer, Clothes designer, Music data analyst, Day trader, Web content editor

What equipment would I need?

No specialist equipment is needed but your own laptop or personal computer will be beneficial.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mrs A Okeke

GCSE specification: AQA Computer Science 8525

Design and Technology

What will I learn in this subject?

Design and Technology is about designing and making functional and decorative products in using a range of materials including papers and boards, timber, metal-based materials, polymers, textile-based materials, and electronic and mechanical systems. You will learn a range of new skills and techniques to successfully work with these materials, to produce quality products and prototypes. You will need to consider who will use your product, how and where it will be used and take these factors into consideration in your designing. The manufacture of products in quantity will also play a key role in the course.

How will I be assessed?

Exam assessment (Paper 1) – 2 hours 100 marks (50% of GCSE)

Core technical principles / specialist technical principles / designing & making principles

- Section A: Core technical principles (20 marks) multiple choice & short answer questions assess broad technical knowledge & understanding.
- Section B: Specialist technical principles (30 marks) several short answer questions (2–5 marks) & one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles.
- Section C: Designing & making principles (50 marks) Short & extended response questions, including a 12mark design question.

Non-examination assessment – 30-35 hours 100 marks (50% of GCSE)

Practical application of core technical principles / specialist technical principles / designing & making principles. Students will produce a substantial design and make task which will be assessed across five strands - investigating, designing, making, analysing and evaluating.

Where could this subject take me?

Remember employers want people who are good communicators, and you will need to be this if you are to do well in design and technology! If you are thinking of a career in interior design, furniture design, engineering, advertising or architecture, 3D modelling and working with Computer Aided Designing software then this will provide you with a good basis for further study.

What equipment would I need?

An A3 portfolio case (available from school), pens, pencils, colouring pencils, rubber, 30cm ruler, black fine liner, access to a digital camera for research etc...

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mr McCook

GCSE specification: [GCSE Design and Technology Specification Specification for first teaching in 2017 \(aqa.org.uk\)](https://www.aqa.org.uk)

French

What will I learn in this subject?

The syllabus covers three contexts:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

How will I be assessed?

Papers are set at 2 levels: Foundation and Higher

Paper 1 – Listening – 25%

Paper 2 – Speaking – 25% (conducted by teacher)

Paper 3 – Reading – 25%

Paper 4 – Writing – 25%

Where could this subject take me?

Languages can open many doors in the world of work.

Knowledge of a foreign language is not just another GCSE grade – it is a concrete and demonstrable life skill, like being able to drive a car or touch-type, and it is a skill highly valued by employers.

Today there is a global market for jobs. It is not necessary to be completely fluent in a foreign language to be an asset to any potential employer. Knowing how to meet and greet people from other countries and cultures is a valued skill.

The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is limitless – from Accountancy with Russian to Theatre Studies with Italian.

What equipment would I need?

A French-English dictionary is very useful and you can also purchase a revision guide at a reduced cost through the school.

You will have access to the textbook with Kerboodle.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mrs M Philbin

GCSE specification:
AQA GCSE FRENCH

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

Food Preparation and Nutrition

What will I learn in this subject?

Technical skills -demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment

The science of cooking -develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food and the effect of cooking on food.

Nutrition and Health - understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health diet and health choices, sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks

Food Production and Framing - understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and the future of farming.

Food Safety - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, food spoilage, and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food

Food choices -understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes, sensory qualities of food and factors effecting food choice.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a terminal exam (1 3/4 hours) which is worth 50% of the marks. The remaining 50% of the marks are based on two internal assessments, both in year 11. The first is a 'Food Investigation Task (15%)', understanding the characteristics, function and chemical properties of food. The other is a 'Food Preparation and Cooking Assessment' (35%) where pupils will plan, prepare, cook and present a selection of dishes to meet a particular requirement.

Where could this subject take me?

This is a GCSE with links to Sport, Biology and Geography. You could go on to take A Levels, college courses and university. You may go onto careers in: The catering and hospitality industry, nutrition, sport, health, food science, product development, even farming...

What equipment would I need?

Pens, pencils, rubber, 30cm ruler etc, Camera,
Ingredients for cooking once every two weeks.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mrs Randall

GCSE specification: *Eduqas* Level 1/Level 2 *GCSE* (9-1) in *Food Preparation and Nutrition*
[GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition | Eduqas](#)

Geography

What will I learn in this subject?

Geography is split into two main areas: physical and human geography.

The physical topics cover:

- **Global hazards** – extreme weather events and plate tectonics
- **Distinctive landscapes** – What the UK's landscapes and what forms them?
- **Sustaining ecosystems** - tropical rainforests and polar environments
- **Changing climate** – what evidence is there for it existing, and potential human causes?

The human topics cover:

- **Urban futures** – where do people live and what challenges do they face?
- **Dynamic development** – why are some nations and poor and why can't they change this?
- **UK in the 21st century** – our economy, people and global influence
- **Resource reliance** – can we supply and feed 8 billion people?

Fieldwork

Everyone will carry out two separate days of fieldwork investigation to collect data to enable you to answer aspects from the human and physical exam papers. **There isn't any coursework.** The fieldwork skills are tested as part of papers 1 and 2.



How will I be assessed?

The course is split into 3 papers:

- The physical topics account for 35% of the GCSE in paper 1
- The human topics also account for 35% of the GCSE in paper 2
- A third paper, worth 30% of the GCSE, is called the decision making exercise. In this exam students are given several resources to interpret and use the skills developed within lessons to make a decision on a real world event. The topic area is chosen randomly from the topics above.

Where could this subject take me?

Geography is an academic subject and so it opens many doors, as it provides excellent training for most careers. This is because it involves communicating ideas and developing skills. It encourages you to write and express yourself clearly, develop specific skills such as map reading, interpreting satellite images, analysis, presenting ideas & debates.

What jobs available if you study Geography?

Students who study geography can go on to seek a career in journalism, advertising, volcanology, environmental work, aid agencies (OXFAM, UNICEF, etc.), meteorology, oceanography, town planning, the military, tourism & travel, coastal engineering... the possibilities are endless. Geography opens doors!

What equipment would I need?

Basic equipment required for the course includes colouring pencils, a pencil and ruler and a calculator. You could also have your own set square, protractor and set of compasses for graphs and charts. Access to an atlas at home is also useful, but not expected.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Sophie Chadwick (schadwick@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk)

GCSE specification: OCR B J384 (Geography for enquiring minds)

History

What will I learn in this subject?

The course is designed to allow you to study history in at least two different ways - in outline and in depth. Over the course you will be trained to describe, analyse, argue and interpret various events in history in preparation for your examinations. You will use a variety of different resources to enhance your learning, with frequent visits to the library and IT suites. You will go on at least one history visit.

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment

Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present *and* Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.

The module allows us to investigate how key features in the development of crime and punishment were linked with the key features of society in Britain.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 *and* The American West, c1835–c1895.

This module will look at what England was like under the rule of the Elizabeth I, focusing on power, religion and society. The module then moves onto the period study of the American West. This section looks at how relations between Native Americans and settlers developed, and how the society and geography of the region changed over time.

Paper 3: Modern depth study

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39.

This module looks at how Germany coped after the First World under its new democratic direction of the Weimar Republic. This will lead onto the key reasons why Hitler came to power in 1933 and how he established his dictatorship. The module will also look at what life was like for the people of Germany under the Nazi regime.

How will I be assessed?

You will study all units over the course of two years – an in-depth study, a development study, a thematic study. You will sit three written examinations before completing the course. The units are worth the following- Paper 1- 30%, Paper 2- 40% and Paper 3- 30% of the full GCSE.

Where could this subject take me?

History is an excellent training for any career which involves communicating ideas to other people. It trains you to write and explain yourself clearly and persuasively. Historical skills are of particular value to those seeking a **career in law, administration, journalism, teaching, advertising or media**. Moreover, history will give you an insight into the world in which we live today.

What equipment would I need?

Just the basics- pens, pencils, etc. And access to the internet will come in very handy.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact: Mrs S Chadwick or Mr A Nobbs

Schadwick@fitharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Anobbs@fitharrys.oxon.sch.uk

GCSE specification: Edexcel History (9-1) 2016

Music Practice

What will I learn in this subject?

The course is set up to teach you how to be an effective musician in today's music making world. The music industry is always changing, and musicians must learn how to be adaptable to change to ever changing work environments.

You will learn about different music styles and genres, you will learn about industry practices, you will learn and develop your personal and professional skills; but most of all you will develop your skills as a musician.

You do not need to read Western Classical music notation to be able to access the course.

You do not need to play a Western Classical instrument to be able to access the course. What you do need to do is to be ready to learn and develop as a musician.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete and be assessed in 3 Components:

1. Component 1- Exploring Music Products and styles: This is internally assessed and verified by the exam board. It is made up of a portfolio of different recordings and two logbooks
2. Component 2- Music Skills Development: This is internally assessed and verified by the exam board. It is made up of a portfolio of different recordings and two logbooks
3. Component 3- Responding to a Commercial Music Brief: This is the exam. You are given a set list of 10 pieces of music and 4 different styles- you have to choose which piece of music to work on to create a version that is in a different style or genre. You create a music product and complete an exam paper which is externally assessed by the exam board.

Where could this subject take me?

The Music industry contributed £5.2 billion to the UK economy in 2018 (Music by Numbers report, 2019). It is a huge sector for employment and jobs. The skills you learn on the course will enable you to access other create jobs involving other creative avenues.

Most importantly, you will have a greater understanding of Music that will contribute to a lifelong understanding and enjoyment of Music.

What equipment would I need?

All the equipment needed will be providing on the course. A key piece of technology used on the course is an app called 'Soundtrap.' All pupils on the course are signed up for a subscription; this will enable them to be able to compose, create and record music from wherever they may be by using an app on their mobile phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. Music is a technology subject, and in learning to be musicians for tomorrow, pupils learn to be flexible and adaptable to the demands of a contemporary career.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mr Adam

BTEC specification: BTEC Music Practice - [Music Practice | Pearson qualifications](#)

Physical Education

What will I learn in this subject?

Theoretical aspects of sport and physical activity (70%) Classroom based 3/5 lessons.

1. Anatomy and Physiology
2. Anaerobic and Aerobic exercise
3. Movement analysis.
4. Physical Training
5. Sport psychology
6. Socio-cultural influences
7. Commercialism and ethical issues in sport
8. Health and Fitness

Practical Performance in sport and activity (30%) Practical 2/5 lessons

How will I be assessed?

There are two theory exams that assess your theory knowledge. These exams are 75 minutes each. One is based on 'Physiology' theory and the other is based on the sports psychology and cultural issues that you will study.

There are also practical exams which we prepare you for during the course. You will be assessed in your 'top' three activities. They must include a team activity as well as an individual one. Note that a 'team' activity could be Badminton doubles as opposed to singles.

Where could this subject take me?

GCSE PE could lead on to further study at Level 3 (A Level or BTEC Level 3). There is also a long list of possible future pathways where having PE GCSE would be advantageous ; Armed services, Sports Journalism, Sports broadcasting, Health promotion, Sports coaching, Outdoor pursuits, Teaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Sports Medicine, Fitness instructing, Community Sports projects, Sports Centre management, Police, Physiology, Firefighting, Personal Training, Travel and Tourism, Professional Sport, Sports Administration.

What equipment would I need?

Full PE kit when required.

Kit that suits the activity – for example, for Netball, proper and complete PE kit including training shoes.

For theory work all the normal classroom requirements.

Note - It is strongly recommended that students stay committed to outside clubs as their experience and expertise can be assessed within an outside organisation. For example, swimming, golf, martial arts and the like can be assessed practically even though not taught in school.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mr Haycocks

GCSE specification: AQA Physical Education

Performing Arts

What will I learn in this subject?

You will learn the techniques of performing arts as well as being taught important and transferable skills for life. This includes effective ways of working in the Performing Arts industry, such as the development of your creative ideas, rehearsal techniques and opportunities for performance. You will also focus on developing your roles and responsibilities as an actor and improve on your personal communication, your creative response, and your teamwork skills.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a combination of internally assessed coursework assignments, both written and practical as well as in an externally examined unit in Year 11. The exam component will ask you to research, develop and perform an original play linked to a brief set by the exam board. In addition to the rehearsal and performance of your devised piece, you will also sit three controlled assessment tasks linked to the assignment.

The two internally assessed components- Component One and Component Two are taught and assessed at Fitzharrys in Year 10. The results are then Internally Verified by another Performing Arts teacher at another school.

Component Three is the external unit assessed by the exam board and the preparation and delivery of this unit takes place during Year 11. There are opportunities throughout the year to improve grades achieved in Components One and Two.

Where could this subject take me?

Once you complete your Level Two qualification in Performing Arts, you could consider progressing on to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry into Higher Education in a range of subjects.
- The study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Performing Arts which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in Performing Arts or Production Arts areas.
- The study of Performing Arts post-16 through the study of a technical certificate. This could ultimately lead to employment in the performing arts sector.

What equipment would I need?

Performing Arts asks that you bring yourselves to each lesson, ready for practical work in the Drama Studio. You will also need to have a memory stick to work on your coursework, as you will write your Drama Logbook both at home as part of your personal study and during class time. You will need to make sure that you look after any scripts that you are given and can bring them to class for each rehearsal.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Ms M Lancaster, In Charge of Drama. Level Two Tech Award.

BTEC specification: [Performing Arts | Pearson qualifications](#)

Spanish

What will I learn in this subject?

The syllabus covers three contexts:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

How will I be assessed?

Papers are set at 2 levels: Foundation and Higher

Paper 1 – Listening – 25%

Paper 2 – Speaking – 25% (conducted by teacher)

Paper 3 – Reading – 25%

Paper 4 – Writing – 25%

Where could this subject take me?

Languages can open many doors in the world of work.

Knowledge of a foreign language is not just another GCSE grade – it is a concrete and demonstrable life skill, like being able to drive a car or touch-type, and it is a skill highly valued by employers.

Today there is a global market for jobs. It is not necessary to be completely fluent in a foreign language to be an asset to any potential employer. Knowing how to meet and greet people from other countries and cultures is a valued skill.

The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is limitless – from Accountancy with Russian to Theatre Studies with Italian.

What equipment would I need?

A Spanish-English dictionary is very useful and you can also purchase a revision guide at a reduced cost through the school.

You will have access to the textbook with Kerboodle.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mrs M Philbin

GCSE specification:

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