



GCSE

*Curriculum
& Options*



“

This is a period in which students begin to think deeply about their own identity, their values, their place in the world, and the directions in which life might take them. We have a truly stimulating learning environment and community of enquiry for them.”

Matt Williams

Welcome

Key Stage 4 is the phase of secondary education that leads to the set of GCSE examinations taken at the age of 16.

As they enter Year 10, students are ready to engage with ideas, knowledge and research in a way that deepens their understanding of the complexities and wonders of our world.

At the same time, they continue to develop the attributes of curiosity, collaboration, community, creativity and commitment that will be essential for life in a rapidly changing and increasingly interconnected global society. Whilst continuing to study a broad range of subjects, they make choices to suit their individual skills, interests and talents.

This is a period in which students begin to think deeply about their own identity, their values, their place in the world, and the directions in which life might take them. Our secondary school is going from strength to strength. With the help of an extraordinarily talented team of staff and a wonderful group of students, we have built a truly stimulating learning environment and community of enquiry.

When choosing GCSE options students should choose subjects that they enjoy and that allow them to continue on to their career of choice. Students should also keep one eye on the A Levels that they may want to study as some require the GCSE course to be completed first.

We offer an academically rigorous programme, first class teachers and the environment that allows students to progress and develop whilst being coached and encouraged to be the best they can be.

I look forward to meeting you either face to face or at a virtual event soon. Please feel free to email or call our admissions team, we would be happy to help and answer any questions you may have.

Matt Williams
Head



Taking the next step

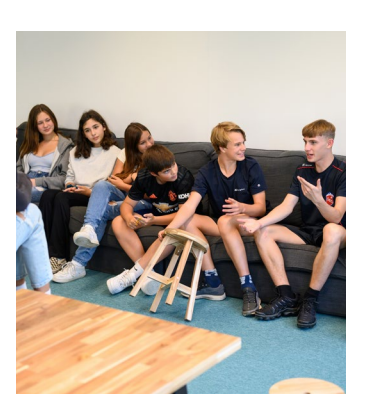
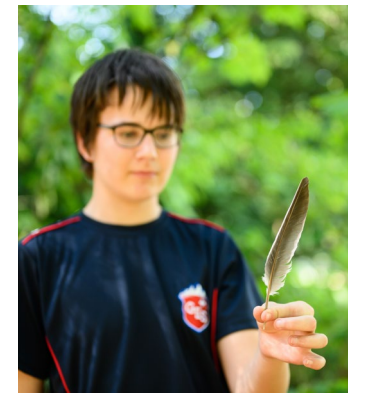
At GES, Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) is an important and challenging phase of our students' education. With this transition, they take a big step towards adulthood.

The qualifications awaiting them at the end of Year 11 are a key part of their development, and achieving them will challenge them in a variety of different and interesting ways.

KS4 requires students to step up and to demonstrate their determination, intelligence and resilience. GCSEs and IGCSEs are designed to play a large part in shaping future educational and career opportunities: they pave the way to our GES A Level Diploma programme at Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13).

Students at GES work hard, take responsibility for their own learning and are organised. Not only do we encourage our students to focus on their studies, but we also show them ways to maintain a healthy balance in their lives by finding time to exercise, pursue interests and sleep. We believe that achieving this life/work balance is a key life skill and essential to a successful and happy future.

Catherine Peart
Deputy Head



Introduction

The General Certificate of Secondary Education, or GCSE, is a set of externally assessed exams sat by all secondary school students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, usually at the age of 16. Each GCSE qualification is in a particular subject, and stands alone, but a suite of such qualifications is widely accepted around the world as the record of achievement at the age of 16.

There is not a fixed number of examinations that have to be taken, but in order to show evidence of a broad and balanced education, students generally sit a minimum of English, maths, science, history or geography, an ancient or modern foreign language, and one other subject. There are five examination boards that offer GCSE qualifications, four of which are available in England.

The IGCSE is an international version of the same qualification: the level of challenge and grading system are the same, but the content in subjects such as history and geography has a rather more global perspective.

Between 2015 and 2018, all GCSEs underwent a significant programme of modernisation and reform, and IGCSEs are following suit. GCSEs are now graded on a 9 – 1 scale, include more challenging content, and most subjects have moved away from coursework. Assessment is now generally carried out via examinations at the end of Year 11.

Studies for GCSE generally take place over two or three years, starting in Year 9 or Year 10.

Many international schools offer just the IGCSE examinations – and often through a single examination board.

At GES, we have allowed Heads of Department the flexibility to select the GCSE or IGCSE course that they feel is most interesting, stimulating and relevant to our context.

Why do we study GCSEs at GES?

Our GCSE programme encourages focused study of a rigorous academic curriculum. Targeting success in examinations at the end of Year 11 allows you to develop your independent study skills, take responsibility for your education, develop maturity and self-motivation, improve time management and learn how to manage pressure and deadlines.

These are key skills that will help you to excel not only in the courses that you will take at KS5 (post-16), but also at university and in the world of work.

Which subjects are studied at GES?

A combination of IGCSEs and GCSEs in nine subjects, all taught by specialist teachers.

The seven examined subjects that all students will take are: English Language, English Literature, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Science.

Science may either be taken as Biology, Chemistry and Physics ‘Double Award’ (equivalent to two GCSEs) or ‘Triple Science’, which allows a student to gain three separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

This broad base of core subjects ensures a holistic and rounded education, keeping doors open and preparing our students for any future path that they may choose.

In addition, one subject is chosen from each of the two groups below:

Option Group 1

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Physical Education

Option Group 2

- Drama
- German / Spanish
- Music

Physical Education and Sport, and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education) are also mandatory elements of the GES core curriculum. Although unexamined, these courses are fundamental parts of a rounded education.

How do I make the option choices?

Try to choose option subjects that you are genuinely interested in and will enjoy. Find out as much as you can about the subject before making your choice – you are about to dedicate two years to studying it. Talk to your teachers, parents and other people who know you well for guidance, and do not be afraid to ask questions if you are not sure.

How are they assessed?

GCSEs and IGCSEs are assessed either by examination, or by a combination of examinations and coursework (assignments completed during the course of study but not under exam conditions). Detailed information is included in the following section on individual subjects.

How are they graded?

Students are awarded a grade in each subject on a scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade and 1 being the lowest.

This system has been introduced recently; for reference, these grades compare with the former grade structure (A*-G) as indicated in the table below.

The dotted line on the table indicates that we consider grades 4 and above as a satisfactory level of achievement.

Additionally, most UK universities require at least a grade 5 in English and Mathematics. Of course, this is just a minimum requirement; pupils aiming for entry to the most prestigious and competitive universities around the world often achieve grades 8 or 9 in all of their subjects.

OLD GRADES	NEW GRADES
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
C	5
D	4
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U



GCSE

Subjects



Art & Design

"Creative people are curious, flexible, persistent and independent, with a tremendous spirit of adventure and a love of play."

Henri Matisse

Why study Art & Design?

GCSE Art and Design encourages you to explore and develop your skills across a range of disciplines – including but not limited to painting, drawing, printmaking and textile design – and work continuously throughout the two-year programme to complete a comprehensive portfolio of work.

This will demonstrate your understanding of the creative process and your ability in a variety of techniques. By studying the work of artists, designers and craftspeople, you will deepen your understanding of visual expression and communication and find inspiration for your own work.

Assessment

Coursework

Over two years, you will develop a portfolio of work for assessment, guided by selected themes used to explore a range of media and techniques as well as a personal project. This will account for 60% of the overall grade.

Externally set assignment

The examination board provides a selection of titles from which you will choose one as your starting point. With approximately two months to prepare, you will create preparatory sheets to use as guidance during an exam period of focused study (ten hours over two days).

During this time you will produce a final piece for submission, along with the preparatory sheets, for final assessment. This will account for 40% of the overall grade.

Skills for the future

The core competencies developed through the study of this course – curiosity, persistence, discipline, collaboration and creativity – are essential skills for any career, and if you can arrange, present and communicate material in a way that is clear and aesthetically pleasing, you may have an advantage.

This subject is also important for applying to study a wide range of art-related courses from fine art painting, architecture and sculpture to graphic design, illustration, theatre/film/television costume and set design, web and software design, industrial design and photography. It is also useful in the fields of art history, museum and gallery conservation and curation, to name but a few!

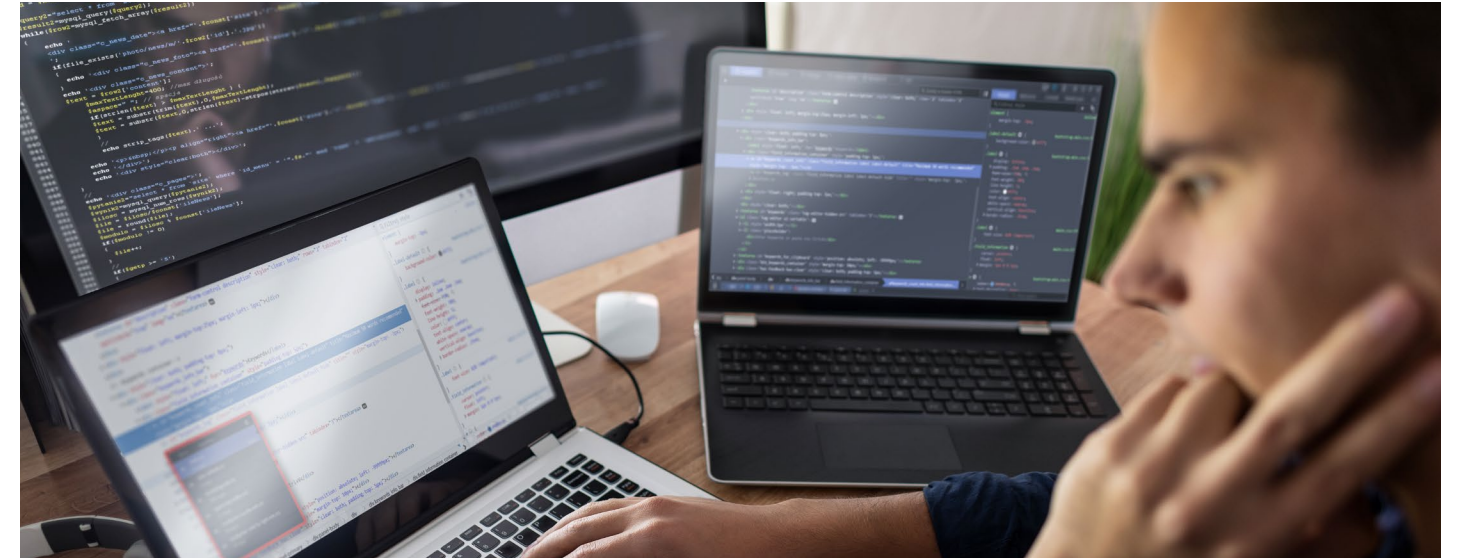
Finally Art and Design feeds the soul. The freedom to experiment and work with your hands awakens your imagination and offers an escape into peaceful work flow.

GCSE Art & Design
(Optional)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8201



Coursework: **60%**
Examination: **40%**



Computer Science

"Computer science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescope."

Edsger Dijkstra

Why study Computer Science?

This course will introduce you to the core principles of computer science and develop your problemsolving and computational thinking skills.

Building on knowledge of visual programming languages (such as Scratch) you will study widely used textual programming languages such as Python, Java and HTML as well as emerging trends in computing technologies and their impact on individuals, society and the environment.

You will also learn about systems, networks, the Internet and web technology, as well as the ethical, legal and ownership issues related to the development of new technologies.

You will learn to apply computational thinking in context, for example, spotting and executing data journalism stories, using pattern recognition to identify gender balance in movies, and even using data abstraction to compare tweets from celebrities.

Assessment

Assessment is in the form of two examinations and a programming project, which does not count towards your final grade but must be completed to fulfil the requirements of the qualification.

Paper 1: Computational thinking and programming skills
(2 hours): 50%

Paper 2: Computing concepts
(1 hour 45 minutes): 50%

Skills for the future

Knowledge and understanding of how technology works will be invaluable to you whatever path you choose next, and the technical and problem-solving skills you gain are highly transferable to other subjects (such as mathematics, science and engineering) as well as to a number of careers.

In addition, should you wish to continue studying computer science, the rigorous approach to the subject at GCSE level will enable you to transition smoothly to the next level.

GCSE Computer Science
(Optional)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8525



Coursework: **0%**
Examination: **100%**



Drama

"From the start it has been theatre's business to entertain people. It needs no other passport than fun."

Bertolt Brecht

Why study Drama and Theatre?

This highly flexible course is divided into three components, enabling you to choose to develop either as a performer or as a designer (of set, lighting, costume or puppets) – or as both performer and designer. The course builds in the opportunity for students to follow their preferred path in the world of theatre.

Assessment

Written examination: Understanding Drama
1 hour and 45 minutes (40%)

This paper tests your knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre are developed and performed by testing your understanding and knowledge of a set play and your ability to analyse and evaluate live theatre and the work of others.

Practical and coursework portfolio: Devising Drama
(40%)

In this practical assessment component, you will be assessed on three key areas:

1. Your ability to create and develop ideas for communicating meaning in theatrical performance;
2. Your application of theatrical skills in realising artistic intentions in live performance;

3. Your ability to analyse and evaluate your own work.

Texts in practice: Practical (20%)

You will be assessed on your ability to interpret texts, create and communicate meaning, and apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance through two tasks:

1. Study and present a key extract (monologue, duologue or group performance);
2. Study and present a second key extract (monologue, duologue or group performance) from the same play.

Skills for the future

Drama develops teamwork, decision-making, communication and presentation skills, as well as helping to build confidence – all of which are invaluable and highly relevant both to future study and the world of work.

GCSE Drama
(Optional)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8261



Coursework: **60%**
Examination: **40%**



English Language

"Language is power, life and the instrument of culture, the instrument of domination and liberation."

Angela Carter

Why study English Language?

You will continue to develop the essential skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. By reading a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th– 21st centuries, as well as other types of writing such as reviews and journalism, you will learn to understand, analyse and evaluate texts in order to identify bias, themes, genre and perspective.

Examination

You will sit two examinations:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (1 hour and 45 minutes)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (1 hour and 45 minutes)

There is also an unexamined component on Spoken Language that focuses on public speaking and listening skills.

Skills for the future

A qualification in English Language demonstrates that you have the key skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening – fundamental skills for any future studies or profession. English can literally take you anywhere!

GCSE English Language
(Compulsory)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8700



Coursework: **0%**
Examination: **100%**



English Literature

Why study English Literature?

In this course, you will read some seminal texts of the canon of English Literature including Shakespeare's Macbeth, Orwell's Animal Farm, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and a fantastic Power and Conflict poetry anthology. You will examine some key global themes and analyse many aspects of life, society and the human condition. Our critical reading will be focused on plot, character, theme, genre and structure. You will also enrich your understanding of the text by exploring the writer's social, historical and cultural context.

You will learn to distinguish between what is stated explicitly and what is implied, and the impact and effect of this, as well as studying the writer's craft – evaluating choices with regards to language, form and structure using linguistic and literary terminology – and comparing and contrasting different texts.

Finally, you will develop your ability to produce formal, academic and well-structured writing for a range of purposes, such as to argue, evaluate and analyse, using detailed textual references.

Assessment

You will sit two examinations:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (1 hour and 45 minutes): 40%

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (2 hours and 15 minutes): 60%

Skills for the future

You will develop your ability to analyse critically and communicate clearly – both vital skills for your future studies and a wide range of careers. Moreover, by studying texts about all aspects of life, society and the human condition, you will develop empathy for a range of different perspectives, become more aware of your context, and hopefully better navigate your way through life.

"Once you allow yourself to identify with the people in a story, then you might begin to see yourself in that story even if on the surface it's far removed from your situation. This is one great thing literature can do - it can make us identify with situations and people far away."

Chinua Achebe

GCSE English Literature (Compulsory) Exam board: AQA Syllabus: 8702



Coursework: 0% Examination: 100% (40% + 60%)



French

"Le premier instrument du génie d'un peuple, c'est sa langue."

Stendhal

Why study French?

The French courses at GES are suited to all learners: whether you are consolidating your knowledge and building your confidence, or if you are already a fluent speaker, we ensure we meet your individual needs and offer the support and challenge you need to make maximum progress.

You will focus on becoming an independent, self-reflective linguist and will develop your communication, written, translation and comprehension skills.

All students will sit the internationally recognised GCSE qualification with the option of an early exam entry, where appropriate, at the end of Key Stage 3. However, exam preparation is only a part of the course. You will also study literature at a level suited to your learning, develop your research skills, and explore the richness and breadth of the Francophone world and cultures in depth. We embed French learning throughout our school life and you will be encouraged to use French outside of the classroom, making the most of life in the Francophone world!

French being an official language of Switzerland and given our local and international context (international organisations), we are able to regularly propose field trips and residential visits.

Assessment

You will sit four equally weighted examinations:

Listening (45 minutes): Students respond to a range of listening activities in English and French.

Speaking (10–12 minutes plus preparation time): Students complete a role-play, a response to a photograph and have a conversation related to the GCSE topics.

Reading (1 hour): Students respond to a range of written texts and complete a translation from French into English.

Writing (1 hour and 15 minutes): Students complete two writing tasks and a translation from English into French.

Skills for the future

Linguists are very sought after because they have such a breadth of skills. In addition to linguistic knowledge, you will become equipped to think critically, solve problems, make decisions, take risks, be flexible and think creatively. Linguists appreciate diversity and have a keen awareness of social responsibility. You will also have an enhanced understanding of your own language and become a great communicator, equipped for life in a globalised world.

GCSE French (Compulsory) Exam board: AQA Syllabus: 8658



Coursework: 0% Examination: 100%



German

“Die Grenzen meiner Sprache bedeuten die Grenzen meiner Welt.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein

Why study German?

As the most spoken of the official languages in Switzerland, knowledge of German is a vital asset. German is the second most commonly used scientific language in the world and it is the language with the most native speakers in the European Union. It opens up a world of opportunities for you.

GCSE German is an invaluable way to develop your German skills and will enable you to become an active, independent and resilient learner. During the course you will develop a deep understanding of key grammar, a wide vocabulary and the ability to manipulate the language for your own use. We place great importance on connecting with the German-speaking world and delving into its rich culture.

The course complements the French course perfectly as the skills gained and exam techniques align. You will learn to speak spontaneously, translate, write accurately and at length and access challenging audio and written texts. All this will be taught through current topics, such as technology, sport, education, social media and social and global issues, thus equipping students for a future of multilingual living.

Assessment

You will sit four equally weighted examinations:

Listening (45 minutes):

Students respond to a range of listening activities in English and German.

Speaking (10–12 minutes plus preparation time):

Students complete a role-play, a response to a photograph and have a conversation related to the GCSE topics.

Reading (1 hour):

Students respond to a range of written texts and complete a translation from German into English.

Writing (1 hour and 15 minutes):

Students complete two writing tasks and a translation from English into German.

Skills for the future

With the increasingly global nature of our world, there has never been a more important time to become a linguist – and the more languages the better!

You will develop invaluable skills for life, including communication, improved memory, multi-tasking, perceptivity, problem-solving and creativity. These will not only make you an invaluable asset to any workplace, but also enrich your life experiences by travelling and connecting with other cultures and people and accessing incredible world literature and philosophy.

Not only is knowledge of German compulsory for entry into many Swiss universities but it also enables you to thrive in a wide range of stimulating and important professional and cultural opportunities, including within our local context of many of the world’s most important international organisations.

GCSE German
(Optional)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8668



Coursework:
0%

Examination:
100%



Geography

Why study Geography?

Geography at IGCSE level involves learning about the world and your place within it, as well as current environmental and humanitarian challenges. You will expand your understanding of geographical processes and of the impact of change and complex people–environment interaction, topics that are at the heart of determining our planet’s future.

You will also develop your competence in using a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches, becoming well-practised in forming and supporting your opinions with evidence and case studies and making decisions based on your findings.

Assessment

You will sit two examinations (there is no coursework component):

Paper 1: Physical Geography

(1 hour and 10 minutes): 40%

Paper 2: Human Geography

(1 hour and 45 minutes): 60%

The papers will contain a variety of question types including multiple-choice, short and extended answer questions, graphical and data questions, and fieldwork questions.

Skills for the future

The skills you develop in Geography are transferable to just about any and every other subject: literacy (communication and teamwork); technical skills (research and analysis); and numeracy. Geographers are known for their ability to apply theories to real-world places, people and environments and are therefore highly sought after in a number of professions.

“The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.”

Barack Obama


IGCSE Geography
(Compulsory)

Exam board: Edexcel
Syllabus: 4GE1



Coursework:
0%

Examination:
100%



History

"Nescire autem quid ante quam natus sis acciderit, id est semper esse puerum."
(To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to always remain a child.)
Cicero

Why study History?

This course has been designed specifically for international schools, with content that examines diverse periods in history and events of global significance. You will focus on the twentieth century and the major ideas, events, conflicts and trends that have shaped the world we live in today.

You will develop the skills, methods and conceptual understanding used by historians in their arguments: the interplay of change and continuity; the complexity of causation and human motivation; the relationship between evidence and interpretation; and the provisional nature of the significance accorded to different people, events and developments.

Assessment

You will sit two examinations (there is no coursework component):

Paper 1: Depth Studies
(1 hour and 30 minutes): 50%

Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies
(1 hour and 30 minutes): 50%

Skills for the future

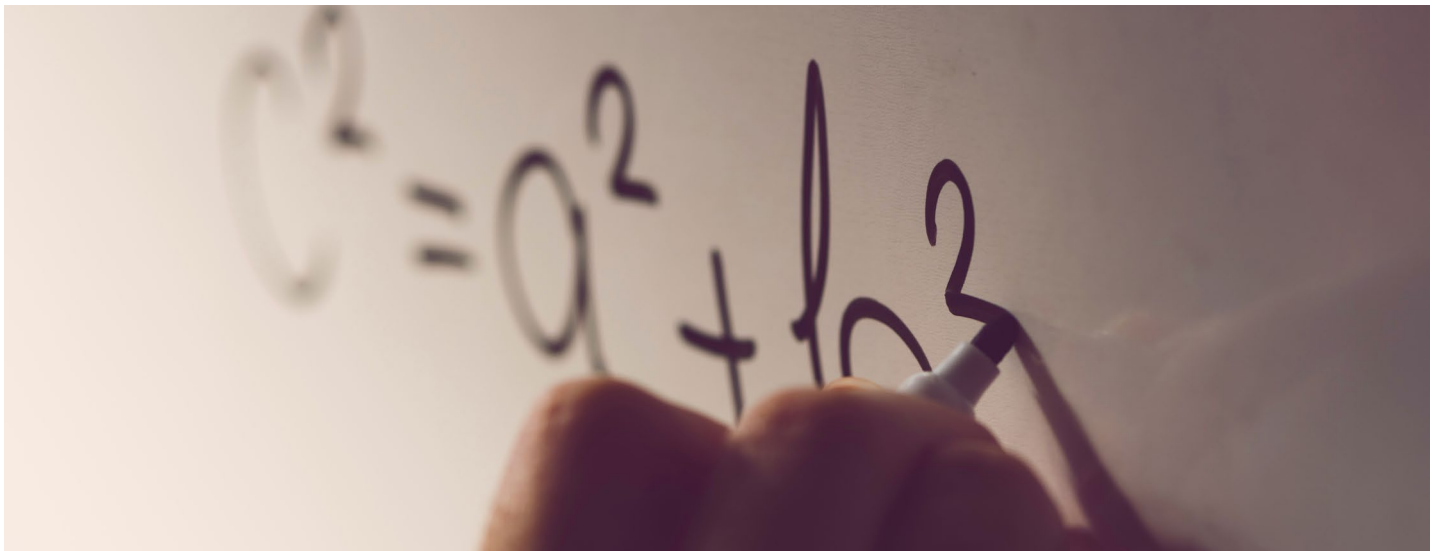
The disciplinary skills of a historian can lead anywhere: the ability to analyse critically and communicate are invaluable in a wide range of subjects and careers. Moreover, studying history encourages us to ask and answer important questions about our increasingly complex world.

IGCSE History
(Compulsory)

Exam board: Edexcel
Syllabus: 4HI1



Coursework: 0%
Examination: 100%



Mathematics

"I rarely go to any place where there is no mathematics."
Paul Erdős

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is not a discrete set of facts but a vast interrelated web of ideas and strategies, which build on top of each other to enable you to solve increasingly complex problems as your understanding of the subject grows.

You will already have a good idea of what GCSE maths will consist of because you have learned to work with number, algebra, geometry and statistics.

At GCSE level, you will spend less time working solely on number, and more time making links between algebra and geometry. For example, you will learn to use graphs to solve quadratic equations, use algebra to find the base radius of a cone and learn to think of trigonometric ratios as functions.

Assessment

You will sit three exams, each lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, which will enable you to demonstrate the wide range of mathematical skills you have developed over the past ten or more years.

Skills for the future

Mathematicians are key individuals in a wide variety of roles in today's world because of their ability to spot patterns, think abstractly and to generalise concepts.

GCSE Mathematics
(Compulsory)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8300



Coursework: 0%
Examination: 100%



Music

"To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable."

Aaron Copland

Why study Music?

The GCSE Music course covers three areas – appraising, performing, and composing – and gives the opportunity to explore and create music in a wide range of styles.

This course builds on the topics and skills learnt at Key Stage 3, and will encourage you to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music. You will develop an understanding of the place of music in different contexts, and how music is used as a form of expression.

Assessment

Appraising – written examination
(1 hour and 45 minutes): 40%

This listening paper assesses your understanding of the elements of music, musical contexts, and musical language. You will study set pieces, which fall into four areas of study:

- Instrumental Music (1700-1820)
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

You will also be assessed on how you can apply your knowledge to unfamiliar pieces of music.

Performing – practical examination: 30%

Your performing skills will be assessed in the following ways:

- A solo performance lasting at least one minute
- An ensemble performance lasting at least one minute

You will perform for a total of four minutes, and can perform as many different pieces as you like.

Composing – coursework: 30%

Your composing skills will be assessed in two coursework projects:

- A composition to a set brief, which will last at least one minute
- A free composition, which will last at least one minute

Your compositions will be assessed on how you respond to a brief, develop your musical ideas, and use different compositional techniques.

Skills for the future

Music is a valued subject for many further study options and employers, as it develops a wide range of skills used in the wider world. Your ability to be creative, think critically, and solve problems will be developed through all aspects of the course. You also collaborate and communicate effectively within a team, and the coursework components will encourage you to manage your time effectively and work independently, as well as becoming more confident in front of an audience.

GCSE Music
(Optional)

Exam board: Edexcel
Syllabus: 1MU0



Coursework:

60%

(30% performing,
30% composing)

Examination:

40%



Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education (PSHCE)

Why study PSHCE?

This programme will support you in fulfilling your academic potential and staying safe and healthy, both physically and mentally. It aims to prepare you for life and work beyond the classroom.

You will develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will help you to respond when faced with critical opportunities and challenges, both now and in the future.

This course follows the guidance of the British PSHE Association and is built around three core themes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships and
- Living in the Wider World.

You will also explore options for further study and careers in more detail, as well as engaging in work experience.

Assessment

There is no formal examination for this course but rather ongoing internal assessment.

Skills for the future

You will develop the skills that will help you ensure that your future will be safe, healthy and happy.

PSHCE
(Compulsory)

Exam board: Not examined
Syllabus: N/A

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

Aristotle



Physical Education

"Sport teaches you character, it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose - it teaches you about life."

Billie Jean King

Why Physical Education (GCSE) ?

GCSE Physical Education is suitable for any student who has an interest in sport and physical activity. It provides students with the knowledge and understanding of how to further develop their passion for leading a healthy and active lifestyle.

Students will learn about anatomy and physiology, how to improve sporting performance, and sports psychology. This course is encouraged for keen students who look forward to their PE lessons and are considering a sports-related career or an A Level/higher education course.

Assessment

You will be assessed on two written components and one practical component.

Exam 1 – 30% – The human body and movement in physical activity and sport.

Exam 2 – 30% – Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

Practical component – 40% – Practical performance in physical activity and sport.

Skills for the future

Studying Physical Education as a GCSE option will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance as well as the professional sporting world. Being home to the International Olympic Committee and many international sports federations, we are in a perfect environment for this course.

Not only will you have the chance to perform in different sports disciplines, you will also develop wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of Physical activity and sport. The combination of the physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting combination for students.

It is also an ideal subject to accompany the study of scientific subjects, since the learning theory covers key areas of human physiological systems (e.g. anatomy and energy systems).

- PE teacher
- Sports scientist
- Physiotherapist
- Professional athlete
- Sports coaching and officiating
- Sports journalist
- Sports marketing and media
- Diet and fitness instructor
- Personal trainer
- Health and wellbeing professional
- Sports/recreational events management
- Outdoor Activities specialist

Physical Education
(Optional)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8582



Coursework:

0%

Examination:

100%

(60% + 40%)



PE and Sport

Why PE and Sport ?

Physical education and sport are key components of our curriculum. We have a "sport for all" philosophy and exercise is appreciated and celebrated as part of our daily routine.

Throughout Key Stage 4, you will have a weekly PE lesson of 1 hour and 30 minutes, with the option of several one-hour sports sessions after school, all led by a specialist teacher.

Unique to the school is a specialised, but optional, Sports Leaders programme as well, which will teach areas around sports such as refereeing, coaching, sports marketing & event management and sport journalism.

You will participate in a broad range of sports, including invasion, net and wall, striking, and fielding games, as well as gymnastics and athletics.

Assessment

You will be assessed continuously throughout the course on areas such as your developing physical and mental capacity, your ability to replicate accurately, your performance in the various sports, your ability to make and apply decisions, and your choices about a healthy and active lifestyle.

There is no examination or formal assessment.

Skills for the future

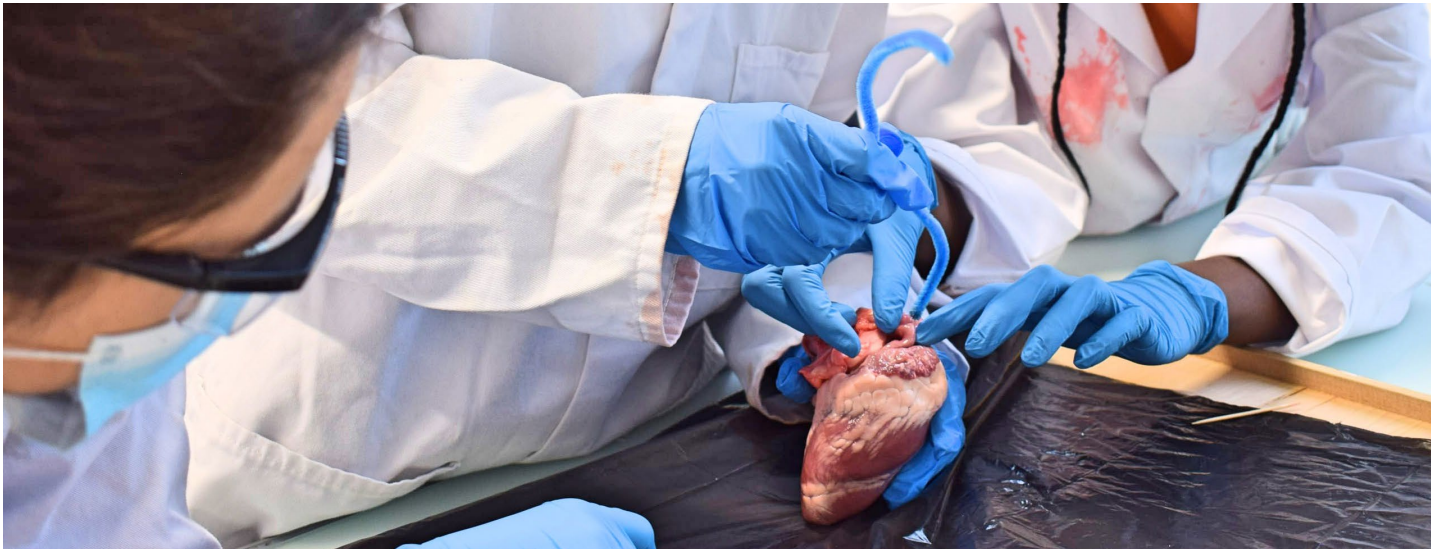
Enjoying a broad and balanced range of physical activities is essential for a healthy and active life and helps equip you with the ability to show initiative and develop teamwork and leadership skills. The ability to reflect on your own performance and the performance of others is another skill that will be useful in many aspects of your future studies and work.

PE and Sport
(Compulsory)

Exam board: Not examined
Syllabus: N/A

"Lack of activity destroys the good condition of every human being, while movement and methodical physical exercises save it and preserve it."

Plato



Science (Double Award)

“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.”

Albert Einstein

Why study Science?

Scientific understanding is at the heart of human development and is vital to the world’s future prosperity. You will study the three core scientific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics to achieve a ‘double GCSE’ award (two grades).

It will help you appreciate the complexity and diversity of the natural world through a knowledge and understanding of the methods, processes and uses of physical, earth and life science.

This course is deliberately hands-on and rooted in the belief that curiosity about the natural world, insight into how science works and an appreciation of its relevance to everyday living is what motivates you to learn.

You will use an enquiry-based approach and tackle 16 core practical experiments that will further your understanding of the value of observation, research, modelling and scientific method for investigating real-life questions.

Assessment

You will sit six papers in total (each 1 hour and 15 minutes and representing 16.7% of the GCSE double award):

- 2 x Biology
- 2 x Chemistry
- 2 x Physics

Skills for the future

The theoretical and conceptual parts of the Science course will enable you to develop skills in researching, interpreting data, classifying, analysing and above all critical thinking.

Furthermore, practical science will nurture skills such as observing and making informed inferences from what you observe, precision in measuring, predicting and hypothesising, reflecting, questioning and communicating.

The Double Award will enable you to progress directly to A Levels in any of the three science disciplines, providing a gateway to the multitude of university courses and opportunities in physical, environmental and life sciences.



Science (Triple Award)

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

Aristotle

What is ‘Triple Science’?

While all students at GES study the three scientific disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, we offer a choice of qualification depending upon the desired depth and challenge of learning.

Studying Triple Science results in students gaining three separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Who might benefit from ‘Triple Science’?

The Triple Science route attracts students with a personal passion for science and who may be considering studying science at A Level, university or perhaps pursuing a future career in science. Students considering careers in these professions are advised to take the Triple Science option:

- Medicine
- Engineering
- Pharmaceuticals
- Data analysis
- Patent law
- Research science
- Nutrition

Studying separate Sciences at GCSE allows students to unpick how the world around them works and consider how advances in Science have led to some incredible breakthroughs. The implications and impact on our world of scientific advances will also be

studied. Triple Science is an exciting, challenging and stimulating course, combining cutting-edge scientific theory and advanced laboratory practicals

Assessment

For each subject , you will sit two papers (six papers in total) and each counts for 50% of the respective GCSE grade. You can find more details in the subject specifications via the QR codes below.

How is the Triple Science course different?

The separate science GCSE courses involve the study of extra topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as studying those from Combined Science in greater depth. Additional content included:

- The use of Antibodies in Medicine
- Sustainable Food Production
- Nanoscience
- The science of Polymers
- Space Science
- The behaviour of Infrared Radiation

To enable students to make an informed decision in selecting the Combined or Triple science option, all students follow a common science curriculum throughout Year 10, keeping both options open.

In Year 11, students selecting the Triple Science option will receive an additional 2 hours of specialist teaching each week.

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (Double Award)
(Compulsory choice of either Double or Triple Science)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8464



Coursework: 0%
Examination: 100%

GCSE Triple Science
(Compulsory choice of either Double or Triple Science)

Biology
AQA 8461



Chemistry
AQA 8462



Physics
AQA 8463



Coursework: 0%
Examination: 100%



Spanish

“El lenguaje nos ayuda a capturar el mundo, y cuanto menos lenguaje tengamos, menos mundo capturamos.”

Fernando Lázaro Carreter

Why study Spanish?

Spanish opens the door to exploring 21 countries and territories across the world and the fascinating history and diverse cultures that accompany them. With over 400 million native speakers, plus an additional 60 million who speak Spanish as a second language, you will always be in good company with a GCSE in Spanish.

GCSE Spanish will enable you to become an active, independent and resilient language learner, who enjoys and values the importance of languages in our global society.

We focus on empowering competent language learners, who have a real understanding of key grammar, a wide vocabulary and the ability to manipulate the language for their own uses.

You will explore the rich cultures of our languages in great depth and we place great importance on connecting with the Spanish-speaking world. The course complements the French course perfectly as the skills gained and exam techniques align. You will learn to speak spontaneously, translate, write accurately and at length and access challenging audio and written texts.

All this will be taught through current and relevant topics, such as technology, sport, education, social media and social and global issues. This results in pupils equipped for a future of multilingual living.

Assessment

You will sit four equally weighted examinations:

- **Listening** (45 minutes): Students respond to a range of listening activities in English and Spanish.
- **Speaking** (10–12 minutes plus preparation time): Students complete a role-play, a response to a photograph and have a conversation related to the GCSE topics.
- **Reading** (1 hour): Students respond to a range of written texts and complete a translation from Spanish into English.
- **Writing** (1 hour and 15 minutes): Students complete two writing tasks and a translation from English into Spanish.

Skills for the future

In an increasingly global world, there has never been a more important time to become a linguist – and the more languages the better! You will develop invaluable skills for life, including communication, improved memory, multi-tasking, perceptivity, problem-solving and creativity. These will not only make you an invaluable asset to any workplace, but you will also be able to enrich your life with opportunities for global travel and connecting with other cultures and people.

GCSE Spanish
(Optional)

Exam board: AQA
Syllabus: 8698



Coursework:
0%

Examination:
100%

Notes

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