



# Key Stage 4 Options Information 2025

## Contents

Introduction .....	3
Core Curriculum.....	4
Options Curriculum .....	5
Student Advice - Do .....	7
Student Advice – Don’t.....	7
Next Steps for Parents .....	7
Important information to consider: .....	7
Art and Design (AQA - GCSE) .....	8
Art and Design Practice (BTEC – EDEXCEL) .....	10
Dance (GCSE - OCR).....	12
Design and Technology (GCSE - Eduqas) .....	14
Digital Information Technology (BTEC – EDEXCEL).....	16
Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE - Eduqas).....	17
French (GCSE - AQA).....	19
Further Mathematics (GCSE – AQA) .....	20
GCSE Geography (AQA).....	22
History (GCSE - AQA) .....	24
Health and Social Care (BTEC – EDEXCEL).....	25
Music Practice (BTEC – EDEXCEL).....	27

Performing Arts (BTEC – EDEXCEL) .....	28
Physical Education (GCSE - OCR) .....	30
Religious Studies (GCSE- AQA) .....	32

## Introduction

Making your options choices is an exciting and important time.

You should give great thought and consideration to choosing your options and this booklet is designed to help you through this process.

This booklet contains the information you will need when making your Option choices.

Option choices should be made in discussion with your parents and your teachers.

Below are the key dates for your consideration:

<b>Week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Assembly dedicated to careers and option choices.
<b>Sessions during May/June</b>	Tutors will begin options discussion with students
<b>21st May</b>	Options website goes live
<b>22nd May</b>	Options subject evening - 4pm-6pm
<b>22nd May</b>	Release date of the options form. This will be an electronic form emailed directly to the student's school email address.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Deadline for submission of the options form.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Confirmation of options

## Core Curriculum

All students will study a core compulsory curriculum with exams at the end of Year 11:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (worth 2 or 3 GCSEs)\*

Students will also study the following compulsory subjects that do not have an examination

- Physical Education
- PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, and Citizenship Education) and Religious Studies\*\*

\*The majority of the students will complete a combined science course which will result in two GCSE qualifications. A select number of students who have shown aptitude for science in their studies will be selected to complete the trilogy science qualifications where they will sit three separate qualifications that result in three GCSE's. The decision on which pathway students will take rests with the science department.

\*\*It is a legal requirement for schools to deliver a form of religious education throughout key stage 4. The compulsory Religious Studies course will mirror a GCSE qualification, but students will have only one lesson on their timetable. If a student is doing particularly well in their compulsory studies by the end of year 10 then there will be an option for students to sit this is an extra GCSE in year 11. This will be at the discretion of the RE department.

## Options Curriculum

Students will be allocated options pathways. The decision of which pathway a student will be on will be informed based on their progress data during key stage 3. Each pathway is designed to support students to make good decisions about their options choices.

The pathways are below:

Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 3
<p>Must choose either History or Geography.</p> <p>Recommended for French and/or Further Mathematics.</p> <p>Able to choose a full suite of History, Geography and French.</p> <p>Likely to be chosen to complete Separate Science by the science department.</p>	<p>Must choose either History or Geography.</p> <p>Recommended for French.</p> <p>Cannot choose Further Mathematics.</p> <p>Able to choose two from History, Geography and French.</p>	<p>Must choose History or Geography.</p> <p>French, RE and Further Mathematics will not be an option for students on this pathway.</p>
<p><b>Criteria for Pathway 1</b></p> <p>Working at age related expectation or above in all subjects.</p> <p>Mastering achieved consistently in many subjects including French from Year 7 to Year 9.</p>	<p><b>Criteria for Pathway 2</b></p> <p>Working at age-related expectation in most subjects.</p>	<p><b>Criteria for Pathway 3</b></p> <p>Working below age-related expectation in most subjects.</p>

In total students will choose **three** options. Most students will study at least one subject from the academic core. It will be possible to choose all three of these subjects if on the correct pathway.

- Geography
- History
- French

***Specific subject guidance:***

French	It is recommended that students who choose French should be at least be working at age related expectation.
Separate Science	The decision on whether a pupil sits combined science (2 science GCSEs) or separate science (3 science GCSEs) will not be made during the options process. This decision will be made by the science department based on the progress and prior attainment data. Students selected for separate sciences (3 Science GCSEs) will be placed in a different class group.
Further Maths	It is requirement for pupils who have been working at mastery in maths. Students who have not been consistently been working at mastery will not be able to select this option.

### Student Advice - Do

- Consider whether your choices are flexible for a variety of routes post 16.
- Think about progression into a Sixth Form or college where a range of A level and vocational courses are available.
- Think about why you like or dislike subjects. Try not to consider the teacher who teaches each subject – these can change.
- Think about which subjects you enjoy and why and find out about the new subjects on offer.

### Student Advice – Don't

- Choose a subject just because you like the teacher. You may not have them next year.
- Choose a subject because you think it is easy. All subjects will be demanding.
- Choose a subject because your friend is doing it. You may have different career plans and may end up in different groups.

### Next Steps for Parents

- Read the detailed information on the Year 9 Options homepage.
- Read all the most recent reports published.
- Complete the Options choice form with your child by 6<sup>th</sup> June.

### Important information to consider:

- **The reserve subject may be used in the event that we are unable to offer your chosen combination of subjects.**
- We cannot guarantee that you will get exactly what you ask for.
- This will depend on the demand for each subject and staffing limits.
- The final decision on options sits with the school although we will always seek to act in consultation with students and parents.

## Art and Design (AQA - GCSE)

### What Students Will Study:

This creative and inspiring course allows students to explore a wide range of artistic disciplines and develop their own personal style. Students can choose from six titles:

1. Art, Craft and Design
2. Fine Art
3. Graphic Communication
4. Textile Design
5. Three-Dimensional Design
6. Photography

The course is made up of two components:

- **Component 1: Portfolio (60%)**  
A collection of work developed over the course, including a sustained project and additional pieces showing experimentation and skill development.
- **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)**  
Students choose a starting point from an AQA paper and develop a personal response, culminating in a 10-hour supervised session to complete their final piece.

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course is ideal for students considering careers in:

- Fine art, illustration, or animation
- Architecture or interior design
- Fashion or textile design
- Photography or film
- Graphic design or advertising
- Product or industrial design

It also supports progression to A-level Art and Design or vocational creative courses.

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- **Portfolio (Component 1):** Internally assessed and externally moderated



- **Externally Set Assignment (Component 2):** Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised work
- Students are assessed on four objectives: developing ideas, refining work, recording observations, and presenting a personal response

**What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:**

This course is perfect for students who:

- Enjoy being creative and expressing themselves visually
- Are curious about artists, designers, and the creative industries
- Like working independently and developing personal ideas
- Want to build a strong portfolio for future study or creative careers

## Art and Design Practice (BTEC – EDEXCEL)

### What Students Will Study:

This exciting and practical course introduces students to the world of art and design through hands-on creative projects. Students will explore a wide range of materials, techniques, and processes while developing their own ideas and creative voice.

The course is made up of two components:

- **Component 1: Creative Practice in Art and Design (60%)**  
Students investigate the work of artists and designers, experiment with materials and techniques, and develop their own creative ideas and outcomes. This is assessed through a Pearson-set assignment marked by the school and moderated by Pearson.
- **Component 2: Responding to a Brief (40%)**  
Students respond to a real-world creative brief, developing and presenting a portfolio and final piece. This is externally set and marked by Pearson.

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course supports progression into:

- Creative industries such as fashion, photography, product design, architecture, and graphic design
- Further study at Level 3 (e.g. BTEC Nationals, A Levels in Art and Design)
- Apprenticeships in creative or design-related fields

It also builds transferable skills such as creativity, problem-solving, communication, and project management.

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- **Component 1 (Internal Assessment):**  
20 hours of supervised work, marked by teachers and moderated by Pearson.
- **Component 2 (External Assessment):**  
20 hours of supervised work in response to a brief, marked by Pearson.

Students are graded from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction\*.

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy being creative and working with their hands
- Are interested in exploring different art and design disciplines

- Prefer coursework and practical projects over written exams
- Want to develop a portfolio for future study or creative careers

## Dance (GCSE - OCR)

### What Students Will Study:

GCSE Dance is a creative and expressive course that develops students' skills in performance, choreography, and appreciation of dance. It encourages both practical and theoretical exploration of dance as an art form.

The course is structured into two components:

- **Component 1: Performance and Choreography (60%)**
  - Performance: Students perform two set phrases as a solo and a duet/trio performance.
  - Choreography: Students create a solo or group dance in response to a stimulus set by OCR.
- **Component 2: Dance Appreciation (40%)**
  - A written exam (1 hour 30 minutes) covering:
    - Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performance skills
    - Critical appreciation of professional dance works
    - Evaluation of own performance and choreography

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course supports progression into:

- A Levels in Dance or Performing Arts
- BTEC Nationals in Performing Arts or Production Arts
- Careers in dance performance, choreography, teaching, fitness, or arts administration

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- 60% Non-exam assessment (performance and choreography)
- 40% Written exam
- Graded 1–9

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy performing and creating dance

- Are interested in the arts and physical expression
- Want to develop confidence, creativity, and teamwork
- Are considering a future in dance, performance, or creative industries

## Design and Technology (GCSE - Eduqas)

### What Students Will Study:

This creative and practical course allows students to explore how real-world products are designed and made. It combines technical knowledge with hands-on designing and making, preparing students to become confident problem-solvers and innovative thinkers.

The course is split into two components:

- **Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century (50%)**

A 2-hour written exam covering:

- Technical principles (materials, electronics, mechanics, smart materials)
- Designing and making principles
- Wider issues such as sustainability, ethics, and emerging technologies

- **Component 2: Design and Make Task (50%)**

A non-exam assessment (NEA) where students:

- Respond to a contextual challenge set by the exam board
- Design, develop, and make a prototype
- Document their design process and evaluate their outcomes

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course supports progression into:

- A Levels in Product Design, Engineering, or Art & Design
- BTEC Nationals in Engineering or Construction
- Careers in architecture, product design, engineering, interior design, or manufacturing

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- 50% written exam
- 50% NEA (design and make project)
- Graded 1–9

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy designing, problem-solving, and making things

- Are interested in how products are developed and manufactured
- Want to develop practical and creative skills
- Are considering a future in design, engineering, or technology-related fields

## Digital Information Technology (BTEC – EDEXCEL)

### **What Students Will Study:**

The BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology introduces students to the modern digital world and the skills needed to thrive in it. Students will explore how user interfaces are designed and developed, learning how to plan and manage digital projects effectively. They will also study how data is collected, interpreted, and presented to support decision-making in real-world scenarios. A key focus is on understanding how digital systems are used in organisations and the wider implications of their use, including cyber security, ethical considerations, and digital working practices. Through practical assignments and real-life contexts, students will develop valuable skills in project planning, interface design, data analysis, and digital communication. This course is ideal for students who enjoy solving problems, working with technology, and applying their learning to real-world situations.

### **What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:**

This qualification supports progression into careers such as IT support, data analysis, software development, cyber security, and digital project management. It also prepares students for further study in IT and digital technology.

### **How Students Will Be Assessed:**

Assessment is through three components. Two are internally assessed via Pearson-set assignments: one on user interface design and project planning, and the other on data collection and interpretation. These are marked by teachers and moderated externally. The third component is an externally assessed exam on digital working practices, including cyber security and legal/ethical issues. This synoptic exam is taken at the end of the course and accounts for 40% of the final grade.

### **What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:**

This course is ideal for students who are curious about how technology works and how it can be used to solve problems. It suits those who enjoy practical work, thinking creatively, and applying digital tools in real-world contexts.



## Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE - Eduqas)

### What Students Will Study:

This creative and practical course equips students with the knowledge, understanding, and skills to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition, and healthy eating. It combines theoretical learning with hands-on food preparation.

The course is divided into two components:

- **Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition (50%)**

A written exam (1 hour 45 minutes) covering:

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

- **Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action (50%)**

Non-exam assessment (NEA) consisting of:

- **Assessment 1 (15%):** A scientific food investigation
- **Assessment 2 (35%):** Planning, preparing, cooking, and presenting a menu of three dishes in a 3-hour practical session

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course supports progression into:

- A Levels in Food Science and Nutrition
- Hospitality and Catering courses
- Careers in dietetics, food science, nutrition, catering, or hospitality

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- 50% written exam
- 50% NEA (practical and investigative tasks)
- Graded 1–9

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy cooking and experimenting with food
- Are interested in health, nutrition, and food science
- Want to develop practical skills and scientific understanding
- Are considering a future in food, health, or hospitality industry

## French (GCSE - AQA)

### What Students Will Study:

GCSE French offers students the opportunity to develop their ability to communicate confidently and effectively in French. The course is built around three engaging themes: **People and Lifestyle**, **Popular Culture**, and **Communication and the World Around Us**. Students will explore topics such as identity and relationships, healthy living, education and work, festivals, travel, media, and the environment. They will also gain insight into the culture of French-speaking countries and communities. The course focuses on developing four key skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will learn to understand spoken and written French, express themselves clearly in speech and writing, and use a wide range of vocabulary and grammar accurately. The course also includes translation tasks and dictation to strengthen language precision.

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

French is a valuable asset in careers such as international business, tourism, translation, diplomacy, journalism, and teaching. It also supports further study in languages and humanities.

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

Assessment is through four equally weighted exams at the end of the course:

- **Listening:** Understanding spoken French and completing a dictation task.
- **Speaking:** Includes a role-play, reading aloud with a short conversation, and a photo-based discussion.
- **Reading:** Comprehension of written texts and translation from French into English.
- **Writing:** Includes structured writing tasks and translation from English into French.

Each paper is worth 25% of the final grade. Students must take all four exams at the same tier (Foundation or Higher).

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who enjoy learning about other cultures, have an interest in communication, and are keen to develop practical language skills. It suits those who are curious, detail-oriented, and enjoy creative expression.

## Further Mathematics (GCSE – AQA)

### What Students Will Study:

Students taking the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics will delve deeper into higher-order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning. This course is designed to stretch and challenge high-achieving students, preparing them for further studies at Level 3. The content builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and covers six main areas:

#### 1. Number

- Knowledge and use of numbers, including fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, proportion, and order of operations.
- Manipulation of surds and rationalizing the denominator.

#### 2. Algebra

- Basic processes of algebra, functions, composite functions, and inverse functions.
- Expanding brackets, factorizing, manipulation of rational expressions, and use of the factor theorem.
- Solving linear and quadratic equations, simultaneous equations, and inequalities.
- Algebraic proof and sequences.

#### 3. Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)

- Understanding and using the definition of a gradient, the relationship between gradients of parallel and perpendicular lines, and the equation of a straight line.
- Coordinate geometry of circles and the equation of a tangent at a point on a circle.

#### 4. Calculus

- Differentiation, including the gradient function, the equation of a tangent and normal at any point on a curve, and using calculus to find maxima and minima points on a curve.

#### 5. Matrix Transformations

- Multiplication of matrices, the identity matrix, and transformations of the unit square in the x-y plane.

## **6. Geometry**

- Knowledge of perimeter, area, surface area, and volume of various shapes.
- Understanding and constructing geometrical proofs, trigonometry in triangles, and the use of Pythagoras' theorem.
- Sketching and using graphs of trigonometric functions and solving simple trigonometric equations.

### **What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:**

This qualification is ideal for students who are aiming to pursue careers in fields that require strong mathematical skills, such as engineering, physics, computer science, economics, and finance. It also provides a solid foundation for further studies in mathematics and related subjects at A-Level and beyond.

### **How Students Will Be Assessed:**

Students will be assessed through two written exams, each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes and accounting for 50% of the final grade. The exams will include a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. One paper will be non-calculator, and the other will allow the use of a calculator.

### **What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:**

This qualification is suitable for high-achieving students who have a strong interest in mathematics and are looking for an additional challenge beyond the standard GCSE Mathematics. It is ideal for those who enjoy problem-solving, logical reasoning, and exploring advanced mathematical concepts. Students who are considering further studies in mathematics or related fields will find this course particularly beneficial.

## GCSE Geography (AQA)

### What Students Will Study:

This engaging and thought-provoking course helps students understand the world around them—how landscapes are formed, how people interact with their environment, and how global challenges are shaping our future. Students will explore a wide range of topics across physical and human geography, using real-world case studies and fieldwork to bring learning to life.

The course is divided into three components:

- **Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35%)**  
Topics include natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, and extreme weather), ecosystems (rainforests and deserts), and physical landscapes in the UK (rivers and coasts).
- **Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35%)**  
Students study urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, and resource management (including food, water, and energy).
- **Paper 3: Geographical Applications (30%)**  
This includes an issue evaluation based on a pre-release resource booklet and fieldwork skills developed through two fieldwork investigations.

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

Geography is a highly respected and versatile subject that supports progression into careers such as:

- Urban planning, environmental consultancy, and sustainability
- Travel and tourism, logistics, and international development
- Journalism, law, politics, and education
- Further study at A Level and university in Geography or related fields

It also builds valuable transferable skills such as data analysis, critical thinking, teamwork, and communication.

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- **Paper 1 (Physical Geography):** 1 hour 30 minutes written exam
  - **Paper 2 (Human Geography):** 1 hour 30 minutes written exam
  - **Paper 3 (Geographical Applications):** 1 hour 15 minutes written exam
- All papers are externally assessed and taken at the end of Year 11. Students are graded from 1 to 9.

**What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:**

This course is ideal for students who:

- Are curious about the world and how it works
- Enjoy learning through case studies, maps, and fieldwork
- Like a balance of written work, data interpretation, and problem-solving
- Want to develop skills that are useful in a wide range of careers

## History (GCSE - AQA)

### What Students Will Study:

This course explores key events, people, and developments that have shaped Britain and the wider world. Students will study history across three eras (Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern), three timescales (short, medium, and long term), and three geographical contexts (local, British, and international).

The course is divided into two papers:

- **Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World (50%)**
  - **Period Study:** America, 1840–1895: Expansion and Consolidation (The American West)
  - **Wider World Depth Study:** Conflict and Tension in Asia 1950-1975 (Korean War and Vietnam War)
- **Paper 2: Shaping the Nation (50%)**
  - **Thematic Study:** Britain: Health and the People, c1000 to the Present Day
  - **British Depth Study with Historic Environment:** Norman England, c1066–c1100

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course supports progression into:

- A Levels in History, Politics, Sociology, or Law
- Careers in journalism, law, education, heritage, civil service, or research

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- Two written exams (each 2 hours)
- Each paper is worth 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation, and grammar)
- No coursework or controlled assessment

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy learning about the past and how it shapes the present
- Are curious, analytical, and enjoy debating and writing
- Want to develop skills in critical thinking, research, and communication



## Health and Social Care (BTEC – EDEXCEL)

### What Students Will Study:

This course introduces students to the health and social care sector, helping them understand how people grow and develop, the services available to support them, and how to promote health and wellbeing. It is ideal for students who are interested in working with people and making a difference in their lives.

The course is divided into three components:

- **Component 1: Human Lifespan Development**  
Students explore how individuals grow and develop across life stages and how life events and factors such as health, relationships, and environment affect development.
- **Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values**  
Students learn about the different health and social care services available and the skills, attributes, and values needed to provide effective care.
- **Component 3: Health and Wellbeing** (*Externally assessed*)  
Students assess an individual's health and wellbeing and create a health improvement plan using a person-centred approach.

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course supports progression into:

- Health and social care professions (e.g. nursing, social work, midwifery, care work)
- Further study at Level 3 (e.g. BTEC Nationals, A Levels)
- Apprenticeships in health, care, or early years settings

It also builds transferable skills such as empathy, communication, and problem-solving—valuable in any career.

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- **60% internal assessment** (Components 1 & 2):  
Marked by teachers and moderated by Pearson.
- **40% external assessment** (Component 3):  
A written exam set and marked by Pearson.

Each component is graded from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction\*, with an overall qualification grade awarded.

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy learning through real-life scenarios and case studies
- Are interested in health, wellbeing, and supporting others
- Prefer coursework and practical tasks over traditional exams
- Want to explore careers in the caring professions

## Music Practice (BTEC – EDEXCEL)

### **What Students Will Study:**

Students taking the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice will explore various aspects of the music industry. They will study different musical styles and the techniques used to create music products. This includes understanding musical elements, technology, and other resources used in the creation, production, and performance of music. Students will also develop their musical skills and techniques through practical tasks, focusing on areas such as music performance, creating original music, and music production. Additionally, they will learn how to respond to a music brief, developing and presenting music in response to given scenarios. This qualification emphasizes practical skills and knowledge, preparing students for real-world applications in the music industry.

### **What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:**

This qualification opens doors to various careers in the music industry, including roles such as musician, music producer, sound engineer, and composer. It also provides a strong foundation for further studies in music and related fields.

### **How Students Will Be Assessed:**

Students will be assessed through a combination of internal and external assessments. Internal assessments include assignments set by Pearson, which are marked by the center and moderated externally. These assignments will cover practical tasks and projects related to exploring music products and styles, and developing music skills. The external assessment is a synoptic task that evaluates students' ability to respond to a music brief, taken under supervised conditions. This task accounts for 40% of the total qualification grade.

### **What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:**

This qualification is ideal for students who are passionate about music and enjoy creating, performing, and producing music. It suits those who are creative, dedicated, and keen to develop practical skills and knowledge that can be applied in real-world contexts. Students who are interested in pursuing a career in the music industry will find this course particularly engaging and rewarding.

## Performing Arts (BTEC – EDEXCEL)

### What Students Will Study:

This course offers a practical and engaging introduction to the performing arts industry. Students will explore a variety of performance styles and roles, developing both creative and technical skills. The course is divided into three components:

- **Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts**  
Students investigate how professional performances are created, exploring different styles such as acting, dance, and musical theatre.
- **Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts**  
Students develop their own performance or design skills through workshops and rehearsals, working with existing repertoire.
- **Component 3: Responding to a Brief** (*Externally assessed*)  
Students work in groups to create and perform a piece in response to a set brief, applying their skills in a real-world scenario.

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course supports progression into:

- Performing arts careers (e.g. actor, dancer, designer, director)
- Creative industries (e.g. film, TV, theatre, events)
- Further study at Level 3 (e.g. BTEC Nationals, A Levels)
- Apprenticeships in the arts or media sectors

It also builds transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, and time management—valuable in any career.

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- **60% internal assessment** (Components 1 & 2):  
Marked by teachers and moderated by Pearson.
- **40% external assessment** (Component 3):  
A practical task set and marked by Pearson.

Each component is graded from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction\*, with an overall qualification grade awarded.

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy performing or working behind the scenes

- Are creative, collaborative, and enthusiastic
- Want to explore the performing arts industry

Prefer coursework and practical assessment over written exams

## Physical Education (GCSE - OCR)

### What Students Will Study:

This engaging and practical course combines physical performance with academic study. Students will explore how the body works in sport, the psychology behind performance, and the social and cultural factors that influence participation in physical activity.

The course is structured into four components:

- **Component 1: Physical Factors Affecting Performance (30%)**  
Topics include anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, and physical training.
- **Component 2: Socio-cultural Issues and Sports Psychology (30%)**  
Covers topics such as sports psychology, health and well-being, and the impact of media and sponsorship on sport.
- **Component 3: Practical Performance (30%)**  
Students are assessed in three sports (one team, one individual, and one other), demonstrating skills and tactics in competitive situations.
- **Component 4: Analysis and Evaluation of Performance (10%)**  
A written task where students analyse and evaluate their own or a peer's performance and create an action plan for improvement.

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

This course supports progression into:

- A Levels in PE, Biology, Psychology or Sociology
- BTEC Sport or other vocational qualifications
- Careers in sports coaching, physiotherapy, teaching, fitness training, or sports science

### How Students Will Be Assessed:

- Two written exams (each 1 hour, 30% each)
- Non-exam assessment (NEA) for practical performance and performance analysis (40% total)
- Graded 9–1

### What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy physical activity and sport
- Are interested in how the body and mind influence performance
- Want to develop both practical and analytical skills
- Are considering a future in sport, health, or fitness industries

## Religious Studies (GCSE- AQA)

### What Students Will Study:

This course offers an in-depth exploration of two of the world's major religions: **Christianity** and **Islam**. Students will examine the core beliefs, teachings, and practices of each faith, including:

- **Christianity:** The nature of God, the Trinity, Jesus' life and role in salvation, forms of worship, sacraments, festivals, and the role of the Church in the community.
- **Islam:** The six articles of faith (Sunni) and five roots of Usul ad-Din (Shi'a), the nature of God, prophethood, holy books, angels, and practices such as prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, and festivals.

In addition, students will explore **four contemporary ethical and philosophical themes**, such as:

- Relationships and families
- Religion and life
- Religion, peace and conflict (Core RE- short course)
- Religion, human rights and social justice
- The existence of God and revelation

These themes are studied through the lens of Christianity, allowing students to compare and contrast religious and secular perspectives on modern issues within the faith.

### What Careers This Qualification Will Lead To:

Religious Studies develops critical thinking, empathy, and ethical reasoning—skills valued in careers such as:

- Law
- Education
- Journalism
- Social work
- Politics
- International relations
- Community and youth work

### How Students Will Be Assessed:



- **Two written exams**, each 1 hour 45 minutes.
- Each paper is worth 50% of the final grade.
- Questions include short responses and extended essays.
- Marks are awarded for **spelling, punctuation, and grammar** in longer answers.

**What Sort of Students the Qualification Would Be Suitable For:**

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy discussing big questions about life, morality, and belief
- Are interested in understanding different cultures and worldviews
- Like forming and expressing their own opinions
- Want to explore how religion influences society and individuals