2027-2028

Hamstead Hall Academy

Year 9 KS4 Options Information Booklet





"Success for all through hard work and harmony"

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HOW THE OPTIONS PROCESS WORKS

During the first three years at Hamstead Hall Academy all students follow the same wide range of courses. In Years 10 & 11 subjects are studied in far greater detail and therefore, there would simply not be enough time to take all the courses available. Consequently, your child will have to make some important choices guided by us.

All students will, for over half their timetable, study the following compulsory subjects. These include: **Mathematics, English, Science, Physical Education, Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Religious Education.**

Each student, under guidance, will also be given the opportunity to choose from a range of subjects for further study. This will provide a broader learning experience for individual success at the end of Key Stage 4.

All students in Year 9 have been receiving Information, Advice and Guidance to support them to make their choices for Key Stage 4 and have been encouraged to discuss their preferences with their parents / carers.

Any student who is currently studying in resource base lessons will follow a bespoke pathway which is personalised to individual learning needs. Within the option blocks, resource base students will study subjects and qualifications bespoke to their needs. Our Head of Resource Base and SENCO will provide further advice and guidance on a one-to-one basis.

HOW THE OPTIONS PROCESS WORKS

English and Maths

Research has shown that students have greater opportunity for success in the workplace if they have good levels of literacy and numeracy. To that end, the government is keen for as many students as possible to reach a standard of a grade 4 or higher in English and Maths. Students who do not achieve a 4 or higher in English and Maths by the end of year 11 are required to continue to study these subjects beyond the age of 16. We fully endorse this as we recognise that literacy and numeracy are essential life skills and will help to improve attainment for the students in all subjects. To support this and to help the students achieve their best grades in English and Maths, the students will all have extra time allocated to English and Maths during years 10 and 11.

Additional Information

There will also be courses and opportunities beyond 3.25pm and parents / carers should be aware that there may be opportunities for your child to study additional subjects and revision sessions beyond the school day such as Panjabi.

All choices will involve consultation between you and your child. This booklet has been carefully produced so that it will answer any queries you may have about courses, choices and examinations.

A deliberate attempt has been made to make the booklet attractive and to be brief and concise in subject detail. During the process, all students will have had the opportunity to discuss their subject choices with form tutors and subject staff.

All students' preferences are subject to agreement with Mr Mortimer (CEO), Mrs Tranter (Headteacher), Mr Bonner (Assistant Headteacher), Mr Holder (Assistant Headteacher), Ms Lynch and Mr Care (Progress Leader and Pastoral Leader for Year 9), Year 9 Form Tutors and all subject staff.

If you require further details or clarification then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Bonner, Assistant Headteacher

Top Tips for Choosing Your Options

☑ 1. Understand the Core Requirements

- All students must take **English**, **Maths**, and **Science** (usually combined or triple).
- Schools often require a **humanities subject** (History or Geography) and sometimes a **language**.
- Check your school's specific rules—some have compulsory subjects beyond the national core.

☑ 2. Think About Future Pathways

- Consider what you might want to do after GCSEs:
  - **A-Levels**: Some subjects (e.g., Physics, Chemistry) require specific GCSEs.
  - **Vocational courses or apprenticeships**: Practical subjects may help.
- If unsure, keep options broad—avoid narrowing choices too early.

☑ 3. Balance Interests and Strengths

- Choose subjects you **enjoy** and are **good at**—you'll spend two years studying them.
- If you dislike a subject now, it's unlikely to become enjoyable later.

☑ 4. Research Subject Content

- Ask teachers what the course involves—GCSE content can differ from KS3.
- Look at assessment methods: **exam-heavy** vs. **coursework-based** subjects.

☑ 5. Consider Workload and Style

- Practical subjects (Art, Design & Technology) often require **extra time for projects**.
- Academic subjects may involve **more revision and writing**.

☑ 6. Avoid Peer Pressure

- Don't pick a subject just because friends are doing it.
- Your choices should reflect **your goals and interests**, not someone else's.

☑ 7. Ask for Advice

- Speak to:
  - **Teachers** (for strengths and suitability)
  - **Careers advisors** (for future pathways)
  - **Older students** (for real experiences)

☑ 8. Keep an Eye on Future Career Options

- Some of your choices at Key Stage 4 will help support your future career.

☑ 9. Think Long-Term Skills

- Subjects like Computing, Business, or a language can be useful for careers.
- Creative subjects (Art, Drama, Music) build transferable skills too.

☑ 10. Don't Panic

- GCSE choices matter, but they **don't lock you into one career forever**.
- Many pathways remain open even if you change your mind later.

GCSE ENGLISH
at Hamstead Hall Academy

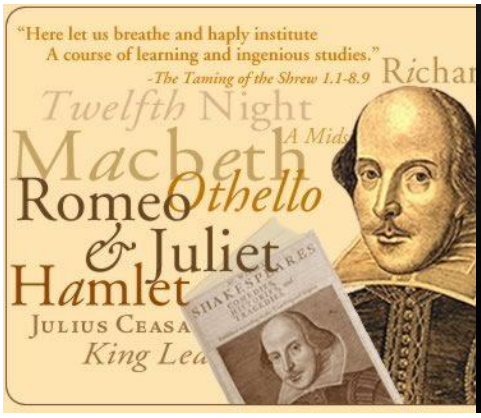
GCSE English is a compulsory subject in which different courses are available to students.

There are two GCSE courses available in English. Pupils will study both English Language and English Literature as separate courses (2 GCSEs). There is also a Step Up Silver and Gold qualification available. This provides pupils of different abilities with the opportunity to attain an English qualification.

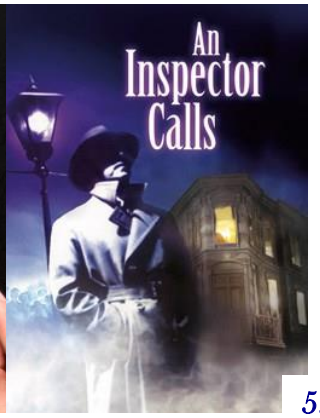
- <u>GCSE English Language:</u>
  100% Exam – Assesses pupils' reading and writing.
  Paper one – Explorations in Creative reading and writing
  Paper two – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

- <u>GCSE English Literature:</u>
  100% Exam - Assesses pupils' responses to a range of literature
  Paper one – Shakespeare and 19th century novel
  Paper two – Poetry and a modern text

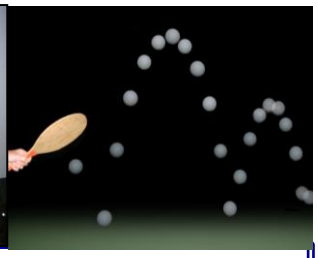
- Step Up to English Level Silver and Gold (Entry Level Certificate):
  100% Controlled Assessment – Reading and Writing









GCSE MATHEMATICS
at Hamstead Hall Academy
Empower your thinking

This course is designed to develop students' skills in:

- Problem solving
- Analytical thinking
- Flexible thinking
- Logical reasoning

Past students have gone on to study at:

- University of Birmingham
- Aston University
- Birmingham City University
- Warwick University
- University of Liverpool
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Nottingham Trent University

Entry Level Qualifications:

Entry Level Edexcel Functional Skills Assessments will be available to pupils in sets 7 and the Resource Base throughout Key Stage 4. Pupils who achieve the required level in these assessments will achieve a certificate at the appropriate level.

An interesting and enjoyable compulsory course that is designed to develop thinking skills and problem solving.

GCSE Mathematics

Course Content

It is the aim of the Mathematics department that every student be given the opportunity to be assessed for positive achievement at every level of ability. To this end students will be assessed within a range of attainment so that they can show what they know, understand and can do.

Students will take the following course with Edexcel:

GCSE Edexcel Mathematics A – IMA1 (2-tier Linear GCSE)

GCSE specification IMA1 consists of three papers, one non-calculator and two calculator, all taken at the end of the course in year 11. Each paper will assess students' ability to recall, select and apply their knowledge of mathematics and to interpret, analyse and solve problems. There is no coursework.

The content of the GCSE Mathematics specifications has been grouped into the topic areas of Number, Algebra, Geometry, Measures, Statistics and Probability.

Statistics GCSE Year 10 - 11

Course Content

- Collection of data
- Processing and representing data
- Summarising data
- Scatter diagrams and correlation
- Time series
- Probability
- Index numbers
- Probability distributions

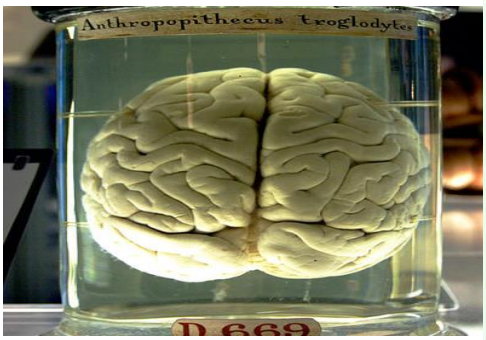
The assessment consists of two papers, each with a duration of 1 hour 30 minutes. The examination takes place in the Summer along with the other GCSE other. The exam is graded using the 9 – 1 grading system.

There is no coursework. Candidates are permitted to use a scientific and or graphical calculator (the latter is provided by the school) for both exam papers.

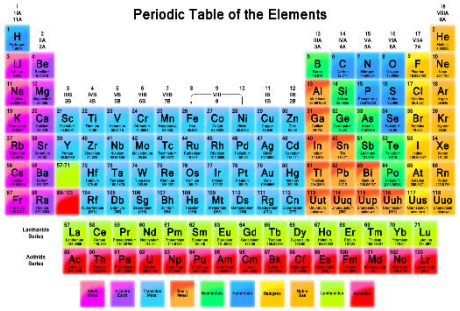
For further information please contact **Mrs Leihal, Head of Mathematics**

Mathematics provides a huge range of employment pathways following A levels and graduation. Analytical and quantitative skills are sought in a wide range of careers, these can vary from: **Finance, Statistics, Engineering, Computing, Teaching, Accountancy, Industry, Public**

GCSE SCIENCE
at Hamstead Hall Academy







The course is designed to:

- Develop personal, learning and thinking skills.
- Develop an understanding of science based issues in the world.
- Develop skills in communication, mathematics and the use of technology in scientific contexts.
- Develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the method, evidence and conclusions

Future Pathways/Careers

Science opens up many opportunities including:

Clinical psychologist, sports scientist, engineer, forensic scientist, medicine, dentistry, music technology, animal healthcare, finance, photography, art restoration to name but a few!

The Courses

- In Year 9 you will have covered some "Core Science" knowledge that will support you in your GCSEs including disciplinary knowledge (Science skills).
- So now you are ready to make one of two choices, Combined Science which gives two GCSE grades or Separate Science which gives three GCSE grades.
- All students must do at least the Combined Science and the higher achievers (sets 1 & 2) will be invited by their Science teachers to choose the 3rd Science in the option block.
- There is no coursework!
- There are 8 practical activities for each GCSE grade gained. So Trilogy Combined Science requires 16 practical activities to be completed and Separate Science requires 24.
- You will be assessed by internal exams each term to monitor your progress.
- The external exams which give your final grades are at the end of year 11 only.
- There are 6 exams (2 per subject) for the Combined Science each lasting 1hr 15 minutes.
- There are 6 exams (2 per subject) for the Triple Science each lasting 1hr 45 minutes.

GCSE ART & DESIGN (AQA)







Please contact the Art & Design Department for further information

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Enthusiastic and dedicated pupils who strive to achieve excellence in everything they do.
- Pupils should have a strong interest in this subject and be prepared to produce in depth research, experiment with materials and techniques, develop their practical skills and present their ideas in a creative manner.

THE COURSE:

- Pupils produce coursework (a portfolio) throughout Years 10 and 11, which contributes 60% of their overall grade. There is also a final examination in Year 11, which makes up the other 40% of marks.
- The portfolio of work must demonstrate their ability to respond to a stimulus, develop ideas and experiment with a broad range of processes, techniques and materials.
- Throughout the course, pupils will be given the opportunity to work in a wide variety of art media including paint, print, textiles and clay. Photography and drawing are also essential skills that pupils will develop over the duration of the course.

THE ART DEPARTMENT:

We are a very popular choice at GCSE as the course enables pupils to develop their individual aptitudes and interests, which encourages confidence and fosters a sense of achievement. Our teaching rooms have recently been refurbished and we offer extra-curricular sessions to all of our pupils in order for them to complete work or further develop their skills.

Our GCSE results are well above the National Average as we are a department dedicated to helping each and every pupil maximise their potential. Teaching staff are proficient in many different specialisms including Fine Art, Textiles, Ceramics and Illustration. We are therefore able to offer flexible courses to meet the needs of individual pupils.

USES OF GCSE ART & DESIGN:

Art Teacher, Architect, Art Therapist, Art Historian, Fashion Designer, Florist, Jeweller, Theatre Designer, Costume Designer, Interior Designer, Animator, Make-up Artist, Photographer, etc.

GCSE BUSINESS (EDEXCEL/PEARSON)

Business is one of the most popular options chosen at GCSE by Hamstead Hall students. A high majority of these students continue studying the course at A-level and beyond.

If you enjoy:

- Communicating and explaining your ideas
- Thinking creatively and making decisions
- Working with numbers to solve business problems
- Learning about the world of business through real and relevant local and international brands then the GCSE Business course is the right subject for you.

What do I need to know?

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied business prior to taking this course. You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more.

Scheme of Assessment:

This course is worth **ONE** GCSE.

There are only TWO exams and NO controlled assessment/coursework unit.

Progression:

Our GCSE (9-1) in Business has been designed to support progression to our new A-level.



The variety of teaching and learning approaches we use in to enrich the learning experience:

- Case Studies
- Guest Speakers
- Student Presentations
- Group Work

40% of our sixth form students go on to study a Business related degree at university

	Content overview	Assessment overview
Theme 1 Investigating small business	Enterprise and entrepreneurship Spotting a business opportunity Putting a business idea into practice Making the business effective Understanding external influences on business	Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of the qualification 90 marks
Theme 2 Building a business	Growing the business Making marketing decisions Making product decisions Making financial decisions Making human resource decisions	Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of the qualification 90 marks

"I really enjoyed the course. I have decided to study Business at A-level!"

"Business is a great subject and I find it inspiring"

Business-related courses top the list of the UK's most popular degrees. The British Business Schools enjoy an International profile thanks to their long and rich tradition in educating exceptional future business professionals.

Studying-in-uk.org

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE (9-1) (OCR)

Innovate. Logical. Creative.

GCSE Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science

Brief Content Description / Summary:

COMPONENT 1 - COMPUTER SYSTEMS

- Study how processors work.
- Investigate computer memory and storage.
- Explore modern network layouts and how they function.
- Build skills in the ever important realm of cyber security.
- Investigate how types of software are used within computer systems.
- Stretch wider comprehension of how computers and computing affect ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues.

COMPONENT 2 - COMPUTATIONAL THINKING, ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING

- Study fundamental algorithms in computer science.
- Build a firm foundation in programming techniques.
- Produce programs through diagrams.
- Thoroughly test programs and make them resistant to misuse.
- Explore Boolean algebra (AND, OR, NOT).
- Understand how we store data within computers in binary form.

A PROGRAMMING PROJECT

- Use new-found programming skills on an independent coding project by solving a real-world problem.
- Students will spend 20 classroom hours engaging with the Programming Project.

Assessment Structure:

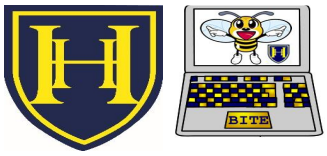
This course is worth the equivalent to **ONE** GCSE.

Unit 1 (J277): Computer Systems
Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 50% of total GCSE, 80 marks.

Unit 2 (J277): Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 50% of total GCSE, 80 marks.

Practical Programming Project.
All students must be given the opportunity to undertake a programming project or tasks during their course of study.

Supports progression into the sixth form, to study A-levels and BTEC Level 3



This course builds on the content, knowledge and skills developed during Key Stage 3.

The variety of teaching and learning approaches we use in to enrich the learning experience.

National Curriculum:

A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world.

What will a student gain from this course?

- Valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace.
- A deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions.
- Ability to write down solutions to problems for other people to understand.
- A good grounding in mainstream computing theory and understanding.

BTEC LEVEL 1/2 DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TECH AWARD (EDEXCEL)

Inspiring. Creative. Contemporary.

Information Technology is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying project planning, data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

Brief Content Description / Summary:

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques-
Learners will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface based on a scenario given by the exam board.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
Learners will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices
Learners will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.



This course builds on the content, knowledge and skills developed during Key Stage 3.

The variety of teaching and learning approaches we use in to enrich the learning experience.

Student Comments:

"This course is interesting, challenging"

"My favourite subject. It's really enjoyable"

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology				
Component number	**Component title**	**GLH**	**Level**	**How assessed**
1	Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques	36	1/2	Internal
2	Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	36	1/2	Internal
3	Effective Digital Working Practices	48	1/2	External Synoptic

Assessment Structure:
This course is worth the equivalent to **ONE** GCSE.

Unit 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principle and Project Planning Techniques
This unit is assessed internally by the centre and externally verified by Pearson.

Unit 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
This unit is assessed internally by the centre and externally verified by Pearson.

Unit 3: Effective Digital Working Practice
This unit is an examination which will take place in Year 11

This qualification gives leaners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the digital sector, and specialist skills and techniques such as project planning, developing an interface and manipulating and interpreting data







GCSE DRAMA (Eduqas)

If you want a GCSE that's practical, inspiring, and packed with transferable skills, choose Drama. It's your stage—take it.

The Eduqas GCSE Drama qualification is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Learners will also attend live theatre performance allowing them to become informed and thoughtful audience members. By taking part in all these activities, learners will develop a range of essential life skills which will help them succeed in any career they choose.

Drama is more than performance—it's preparation for success. Employers want confident communicators, creative thinkers, and team players, and Drama develops all these skills. You'll learn to present ideas clearly, solve problems under pressure, and collaborate effectively—abilities valued in every career.
Expect exciting opportunities: compulsory theatre visits, professional workshops, and chances to perform in school productions and assemblies.
Drama students often lead extra-curricular activities, building leadership and organisational skills.

Eduqas GCSE Drama

The subject content for Drama is divided into three components.

Component 1: Devising Theatre

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a set stimulus set.

Component 2: Performing from a text

- Learners will study and perform extracts from a published play.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre

- Learners will study a set text practically and prepare to answer questions on this during a written exam in the summer.
- Students will watch a piece of live theatre and answer a question on this during their written exam.

Eduqas GCSE in Drama offers a broad and coherent course of study which enables learners to:
• apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama • explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created • develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances • work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas • develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective learners able to make informed choices in process and performance • contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance • reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others • develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice • adopt safe working practices.
The Eduqas GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Additionally it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

Assessment

Components 1 is assessed by non-exam internal assessment, and component 2 & 3 is assessed by an examination.







BTEC DRAMA (EDEXCEL)

The course is designed to prepare students in:

- Performance
- Collaboration
- Evaluation
- Creativity

This course explores Drama through a creative, practical and imaginative approach helping students develop self and group awareness, confidence and social skills. Acting skills and analysing drama and live theatre are the main course elements.

Additional Info:

Theatre visits are a compulsory element of the course and students will be required to make a contribution towards the cost of tickets. There will also be an opportunity to watch visiting Theatre in Education companies and to participate in workshops run by members of the profession.

There are a range of performance opportunities within the department including concerts, assemblies and the school production.

Drama students also often become involved in helping to deliver extra-curricular activities to students lower down the school.

Drama also teaches skills invaluable in a competitive job market, giving students the ability to work collaboratively in teams and present themselves and their ideas effectively in a range of contexts.

Edexcel BTEC Drama

The subject content for Drama is divided into three components.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

- Learners will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining the work of performing arts professionals and the processes used to create performance.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

- Learners will develop their performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting as performers.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

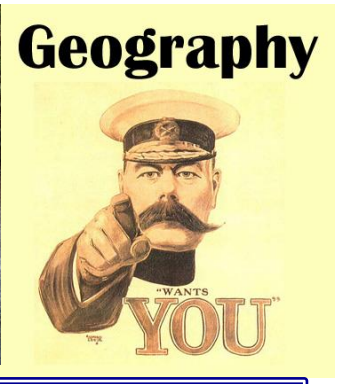
- Learners will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as a performer in response to a brief and stimulus.

BTEC Drama gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas:

- development of key skills that prove their aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire and responding to stimuli
- processes that underpin effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance
- attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.







GCSE GEOGRAPHY (AQA)

Geography is part of our everyday lives, so come and discover the world around you.
The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare you for those changes.

Why choose geography?

We believe that you should take Geography because it helps you:

- **To** understand the environment at local and global scales,
- **To** know your world through fieldwork,
- **To** make decisions that balance environmental and developmental concerns,
- **To** develop a wide range of skills such as presenting arguments or map skills,
- **To** use computers and other technology,
- **For** analysis / presentation,
- **To** understand other cultures throughout the world.

GCSE Geography

Geography is one of the humanities subjects that count towards the English Baccalaureate.

Course Content

1. Living with a Physical Environment

A study of the new and updated Geography key themes including Natural Hazards, Rivers & Coasts, and Ecosystems. 1 ½ hr examination at the end of year 11 35%.

2. Challenges in the Human Environment

A study of the new and updated Geography key themes including Urban issues and Challenges, The Changing Economic World and The Challenge of Resource Management. 1 ½ hr examination at the end of year 11 35%.

3. Geographical Application

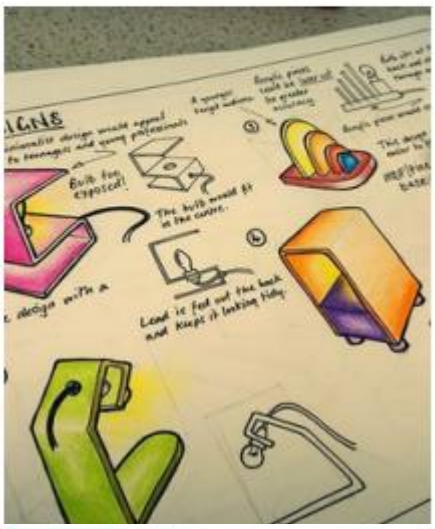
This section requires pupils to undertake two contrasting fieldwork trips. It also requires students to use their learning from the themes studied to analyse a geographical issue, to consider solutions and justify their choices using pre-released materials. 1hr 15 minutes examination 30%.

For further information please contact **Miss Newton Head of Geography**

'Choose your future. Choose Geography'. Not all Geography students become Geography teachers or weather presenters on the television. Geography has the best graduate employment rate in the country and this is because it will provide you with many skills. More employers are looking to employ geographers because the subject fosters **transferable skills;** an asset in the **world of employment** today. Many jobs need people who can organise information and who can make decisions in order to solve problems. You will learn how to justify these decisions, and to recognise how they will affect different people. You will learn how to minimise the damage caused by your

GCSE 3D Design (OCR)









ABOUT THE COURSE:

In 3D Design, you can work with a variety of materials such as wood, metal, and plastics, as well as digital tools for computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM).

These materials allow you to prototype, model, and create functional and aesthetic products, giving you the flexibility to bring your creative visions to life.

3D Design is a coursework-based subject, which means there is no final written exam. However, to stay on track and complete your portfolio successfully, you will need to complete a couple of tasks each week and keep up to date with your coursework.

The course is made up of two components: a Portfolio (60%) which is done throughout year 10/year 11, and an Externally set task (40%), which is 10 hours long with weeks preparation time beforehand.

WHAT WILL YOU BE STUDYING?

Over the two-year 3D Design course, we complete three major projects:

- **Jewellery Design – inspired by natural forms**
- **Mock Exam Project – inspired by architecture**
- **Final Exam Project**

WHERE CAN 3D TAKE YOU IN THE FUTURE?

A 3D Design GCSE develops skills in digital modelling, problem-solving and technical drawing, opening doors to careers in product design, architecture, engineering, animation and game design.





BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The course is designed to prepare students in:

- Communication
- Empathy
- Understanding
- Health and Safety
- Organisation
- Team work

Past students have gone on to study at:

- Birmingham University
- University of Birmingham
- Wolverhampton University

Additional Info:

You will be recommended to the Hamstead Hall Inclusion Team to work alongside children with disability, special educational needs, children with communication and social difficulties. Also local primary schools.

Future Pathways:

Consultant, nurse, midwife, occupational therapist, social worker, care worker.

A vocational course that develops your ability to develop skills in understanding growth and development, care services, communication, promoting independence and health and wellbeing within the health and social care industry.

Edexcel BTEC Tech Award Level 1 & 2 in Health and Social Care

Course Content

The course breakdown is as follows;

Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development (PSA – 30%)

Component 2 – Health and Social Care Services and Values (PSA – 30%)

Component 3 – Health and Wellbeing (External assessment – 40%)

In order for student's to fulfill the criteria of the course they must achieve 120 Guided Learning Hours (GLH). This will be achieved through completing two Pearson Set Assignments (PSA's) throughout the course and one external exam at the end of year 11.

The BTEC course provides a solid foundation for progression to health and social care related courses, BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care and a career in health care professionals.

The course is aimed at pupils who want to follow a career within health and social care and to develop their practical skills. The course also enables pupils to gain understanding of how the health industry works and how careers can be developed within the health industry.

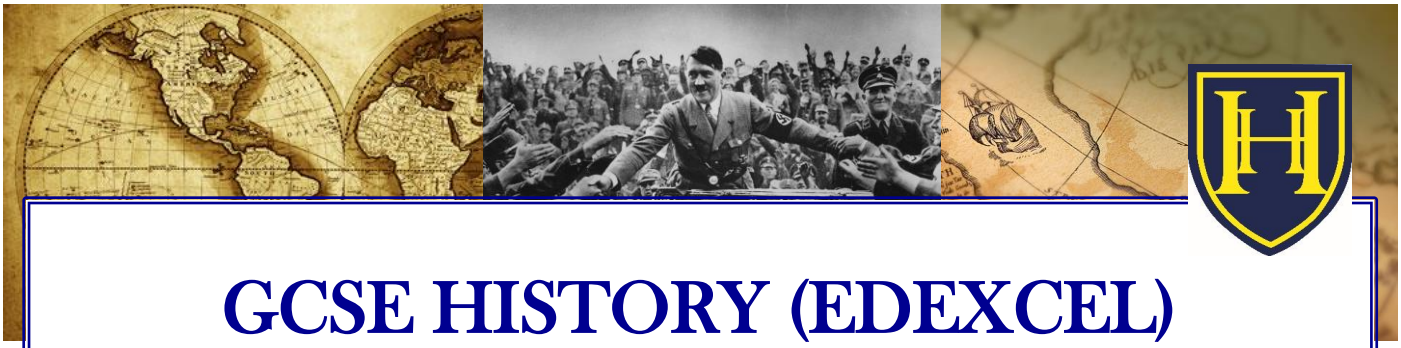
Students will work with local schools' to develop skills in communication and gaining insight into the whole person and all their needs and rights as an individual.

Pupils will have the opportunity to visit primary schools and Special Educational primary and secondary schools.

The BTEC Tech Award Level 1 & 2 has an equivalent value of one GCSE

For further information please contact:

Mrs Sheridan – Curriculum Leader for Health and Social Care.



GCSE HISTORY (EDEXCEL)

"We are not makers of history; we are made of history" - MLK

What is in the course?

Edexcel History covers 4 topics, covering a period study, a thematic study, a wider world depth study and a British depth study.

Paper 1: Medicine Through Time
This unit covers the progression of medicine from 1250 – 2000.
We also study the advances in medicine during WW1.
52 Marks (incl. 4 marks for SPaG)
30% of total GCSE
1 hour 15 minute exam.

Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England & The American West
These units cover both Elizabeth I's remarkable rule over 16th c. England and the American 'Wild West' in the 1800s. Looking at the relations between Native Americans and white settlers.
64 Marks
40% of total GCSE
1 hour 45 minute exam.

Paper 3: Weimar & Nazi Germany
This unit covers the highs & lows of the new Weimar Republic, as well as Hitler's rise to power & life in Nazi Germany.
52 Marks (incl. 4 marks for SPaG)
30% of total GCSE
1 hour 20 minute exam.

Who can do the Course?

The course is for everyone.
There are no tiers in History exams - meaning everyone does the same exam.

If you want to know more:

Ask the Head of History, Mr McKenzie

Speak to your teacher.

Ask a History student in Year 10 or 11.

The study of History will develop your skills of:

- Excellent communication & writing skills
- How to construct an argument
- Research skills & interpretation skills
- Investigation & problem-solving skills
- How to think critically & analytically

Past students have gone on to study at:

- Oxford University
- Reading University
- Exeter University
- Birmingham University

Extra-Curricular:

Theatre trip to the Trial of Adolf Hitler

Possible trip to the Battlefields in France or a trip to Germany

Revision Conference

In History you will develop transferable skills which are useful and needed in adult life and for a wide variety of careers, such as:
The Law, Medicine, Business, Archaeology, Marketing, Computing, Banking & Accounting, Administration, Journalism, Teaching, Politics.

GCSE OPTION SUBJECT

French

Le français, c'est la clé du monde.

GCSE FRENCH (AQA)

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying GCSE French is an excellent choice for you!

Course Content

- You will be assessed in all four skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, each worth 25% of the final grade.
- The exams are tiered: Foundation gives access to grades 1–5 and Higher to grades 4–9.

Topics

- People and lifestyle: identity and relationships, healthy living, education and work,
- Popular culture: free time, customs and festivals, celebrity culture.

Communication and the world around us: travel and tourism, media and technology, the environment and where people live.

WHY LEARN FRENCH?

French is spoken by over 300 million people across five continents, from France, Belgium and Switzerland to Canada and many African countries. It is an official language of the UN, the EU, the Olympic Games and the Red Cross.

A STRONGER BRAIN

- Improves memory and concentration.
- Makes you a better problem-solver.
- Deepens your understanding of English.
- Helps you think more flexibly and creatively.



BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

- Builds confidence in communicating and listening.
- Helps you appreciate other cultures and viewpoints.
- Makes it easier to make friends abroad.
- Makes you more open-minded and adaptable.



TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Each cohort will have the chance to get a priority spot on our trip to Paris.
- During the trip you will get to use what you have done in class in real life situations.
- You will also discover Paris and the famous amusement park Astérix.



FRENCH AND YOUR FUTURE CAREER

- Employers value language skills and few people in the UK have them, so French makes your CV stand out.
- Pathways include Business, Law, Government, Engineering, Tourism, Media, Marketing, Teaching, Translation and more!



THE EXAMS

Each exam is worth 25%. Times shown are Foundation / Higher.

Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
35 / 45 min	*7–9 / 10–12 min + 15 min prep*	*45 min / 1 hr*	*1 hr 10 / 1 hr 15*
Questions in English plus a short dictation.	A role-play, reading aloud and a photo card.	Questions plus a translation into English.	Writing tasks plus a translation into French.

GCSE OPTION SUBJECT

Latin

Non scholae sed vitae discimus.

GCSE LATIN (EDUQAS)

Latin remains a highly respected subject. A GCSE in Latin shows university admissions tutors a high level of intellectual ability, whatever degree course you wish to study. Although not compulsory, Latin is highly desirable for those interested in studying Law and Medicine.

COURSE CONTENT

The GCSE in Latin is made up of three components. There are no tiers: everyone sits the same papers, graded 9–1.

Component 1: Language (50%)

We build on what we have learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9. The passages get longer and more challenging, but the stories get more exciting! There is a set vocabulary list, and you will find you already know lots of the words!

COMPONENT 2: LITERATURE AND SOURCES (30%)

This is what we have been working towards: reading real Roman authors! You will be guided all the way, and the exam is open book, with a clean copy of the texts and a vocabulary list.

Themes for exams in 2027–2029: Heroes and Villains, or Come Dine with Me!



WHAT LATIN CAN OFFER YOU

- An understanding of the ancient world.
- Reading some of the world's most famous authors.
- A richer English vocabulary.
- The foundation of most European languages, including English.
- Sharper critical and analytical skills, useful at university and in a wide range of jobs.



"It's usually private schools who have the opportunity to learn Latin. I feel very fortunate to be able to do so. We learn not just about the language but about civilisation too."

– a Year 10 student at HHA

COMPONENT 3: ROMAN CIVILISATION (20%)

The other really exciting part of the GCSE: learning how the Romans lived! Through sources and texts in English, we explore one topic in depth. You will already have met some of it in Years 7–9.

Topics for exams in 2027–2029: Slavery in the Roman World, or Roman Festivals and Worship.



LATIN AND YOUR FUTURE

- Universities and employers know Latin students think logically and pay attention to detail.
- Much of the vocabulary of law, medicine and science comes from Latin.
- Pathways include Law, Medicine, Science, History, Archaeology, Languages, Teaching, Politics, Journalism and more!



THE EXAMS

All three exams are taken at the end of Year 11.

Language
1 hr 30 min · 50%
Questions on and translation of a Latin story, plus English-to-Latin sentences or grammar questions.

Literature and Sources
1 hr 15 min · 30%
Questions on the Latin texts and Roman sources you have studied. Open book.

Roman Civilisation
1 hr · 20%
Questions on your Roman civilisation topic, studied in English.

YOU CAN ONLY STUDY LATIN GCSE IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING IT IN YEAR 9.

For further information please speak to your Languages teacher.



BTEC TECH AWARD IN MUSIC (EDEXCEL)

The course is designed to prepare students in the art of:

Performance

Composing

Recording

Music Technology

Music Industry Business

Past students have gone on to study at:

Birmingham University

Birmingham City University

Birmingham Conservatoire

We also offer a full instrumental teaching service for the following instruments;

Vocals, Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Cornet, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Drum Kit, Guitar, Bass Guitar, and Dhol Drum Kit.

Release Your Talents

A fantastic vocational course that develops musical talent and creativity whilst providing students with a professional approach to the music industry.

The course breakdown is as follows:

Component 1 – Exploring Music Products and Styles (30%)

Component 2 – Music Skills Development (30%)

Component 3 – Responding to a Commercial Music Brief (40%)

The BTEC course provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including A-Level Music Technology, BTEC Level 3 Music and a career in music professions.

Students will have the opportunity to perform at a number of school concerts as well as external events, often working with professional musicians in a range of high-profile venues around the city.

The course is aimed at pupils who want to follow an in-depth music course concentrating on live performance and creating music using technology. The course also enables pupils to gain an understanding of how the music industry works, and how careers can be developed within the music industry.

Students will work to develop skills in studio recording and sequencing using the most up to date industry standard equipment including high-end PCs running Cubase 12 and a range of high-quality VST instruments for pupils to create their work.

In addition, pupils will take part in live performances on their primary instrument, as well as taking part in music workshops to develop their performance skills. Pupils also gain experience in live sound engineering. The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice has an equivalent value of one GCSE.

For further information please contact Mr. Taylor, Head of Music

Music provides a huge range of employment pathways following A levels and graduation; these can vary from:
Performer, Songwriter, Composer for TV/Film, Music Producer, Recording Engineer, Music Journalism, A&R, Agent, Sound Engineer, Promotion, Teaching, Session Musician, Manager, Music Therapist, Radio DJ, Publisher






BTEC SPORT (EDEXCEL)

The course is designed to prepare students in the art of:

Performance

Understanding health and fitness

Becoming a Leader

Training for Fitness

Dance Industry

Students can progress on to:

BTEC Level 3 Sport Outdoor adventure

'A' Levels

Sports Industry

Pupils studying the BTEC course are encouraged to do after school extra-curricular clubs. Some of these are free and some require a small fee. To obtain the higher grades, pupils should think about joining a sports team outside school to improve their overall technique and understanding

Reach your Potential

A fantastic vocational course to develop sporting talent and creativity whilst providing students with a good professional approach to the sporting industry

Edexcel BTEC tech in sport:

The course breakdown is as follows:

Component 1: preparing participants for sport
Component 2: Taking part and improving others performance
Component 3: Developing fitness to improve others performance

Students are assessed by achieving a level 1 or level 2 pass, merit or distinction through the completion of the components displayed above. The BTEC course provides a solid foundation for progression to sport related courses, including A-Level Physical Education, BTEC Level 3 Sport and a career in sporting world. Students will have the opportunity to perform at a number of school sport meetings.

The course is aimed at pupils who have a keen interest in sport and want to follow an in depth sport course concentrating on performing and understanding how the body and mind function. The course also enables pupils to gain understanding of how the sport industry works, the human body and how careers can be developed within the sporting industry.

Students will work independently and collaboratively with class mates to deepen understanding of different sports topics. You will participate in a number of sporting workshops to develop areas that will prepare you for live performances and analysis or performances by both yourself and others. Throughout your course, you will learn to appreciate aesthetic qualities, review your own and others work, set targets and track your own progress.

Pupils will have the opportunity to perform in a variety of sport competitions.

This BTEC tech Award has an equivalent value to one 'GCSE'.
For further information please contact **Mr J Sims,** Head of PE



The sporting industry provides a huge range of employment pathways following both level 2 & 3 courses and these can vary from:
Performer, Sports Manager, Director for TV/Film, Producer, Coach, Media, Agent, Trainer, Promotion, Teaching, Entertainer, Manager, Publisher, Physiotherapist, Sports retail





GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (EDEXCEL)

The course is designed to prepare students in:

Performance/ Obs & Analysis/ Decision Making/ Leadership/ Coaching/ Organising/ Managing/ Officiating/ Creativity.

Past students have gone on to study at Universities in:

- Birmingham
- Loughborough
- Leeds
- Liverpool
- Worcester
- Bath
- Sheffield

Additional Info:
Pupils studying GCSE PE and BTEC sport will also have the opportunity to do the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards.

FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER

A fantastic course designed for students to be inspired, challenged and highly rewarded for performance, creativity, analysis and decision making skills whilst engaging in a range of physical activities.

There are four components within the GCSE PE course and the content is outlined below:

COMPONENT 1: Fitness & Body Systems

- Written examination: 1hr 45 Mins
- 36% of qualification
- Topic 1: Applied Anatomy & Physiology
- Topic 2: Movement Analysis
- Topic 3: Physical Training
- Topic 4: Use of Data

COMPONENT 2: Health & Performance

- Written examination: 1hr 15 Mins
- 24% of qualification
- Topic 1: Health, Fitness & Well-being
- Topic 2: Sport Psychology
- Topic 3: Socio-cultural influences
- Topic 4: Use of Data

COMPONENT 3: Practical Performance

- Non-examined assessment: internally marked and eternally moderated.
- 30% of qualification
- 105 Marks (35 marks per activity) Assessed in 3 Practical Activities
- One team activity
- One individual activity
- + One free choice from the activity list published by Edexcel. Your skills in isolation will be assessed along with your skills in a competitive formal situation.

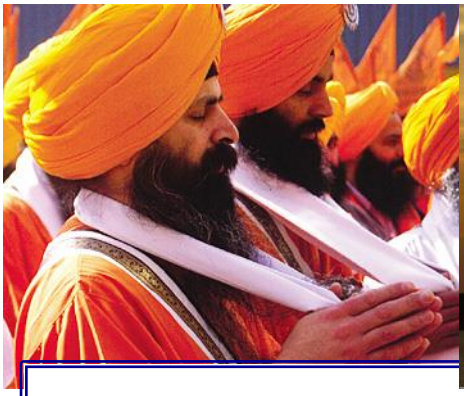
COMPONENT 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

- Internally assessed, Externally moderated
- 20 Marks , 10% of qualification Aim & planning analysis Carrying out & monitoring PEP Evaluation of the PEP

For further information please contact Mr J Sims – Head of PE

FUTURE PATHWAYS / CAREERS

Professional Athlete, Journalist, Commentator, Sports Analyst, Physiotherapist, PE Teacher, Sports Coach / Leader, Referee / Umpire, Sport and Exercise Scientist, Sports Centre Manager, Personal Trainer, Lifeguard, Gym Instructor, Sports Psychologist, Sports Medicine.





GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (AQA)

The exams are the same style as the RE exams in KS3.

There is no controlled assessment/ coursework.
The two exams are at the end of year 11.

The benefits of picking RE are:

- Academic and personal challenge.
- Learn skills for higher education.
- Learn to balance an argument.
- Learn to give reasons for your opinion.
- Become able to understand people in a multicultural society.

There is one exam for the four units studied in year 10:

1) Christian Beliefs
2) Christian Practices
3) Sikh Beliefs
4) Sikh Practices

There is one exam for the four units studied in year 11:

1. Religion, crime and punishment
2. Religion, peace and conflict
3. Relationships and families
4. Religion, human rights and social justice

For each exam 50% is knowledge and understanding and 50% is evaluation.

Past students have gone on to study at:

- Oxford University
- Birmingham University
- Birmingham City University
- University of Wolverhampton
- Leeds University
- University of Chester
- Coventry University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Staffordshire University
- University of Hertfordshire

Studying RE not only equips you with the skills needed to attain an excellent grade at GCSE it also readies you for further academic study both at A Level and at University as it teaches key skills in essay writing.
RE also provides a solid grounding in ethics, which is highly useful in the following professions:

Accountancy, Banking, Business, Journalism, Law (domestic and international), Local government, Medicine, Police, Politics, Retail management, Teaching, Travel and Tourism.

GCSE Media Studies (OCR)

Course Overview

G.C.S.E Media Studies is an engaging and contemporary subject, that helps us understand how the media influences and shapes our everyday lives. This G.C.S.E will allow learners to study the media in an academic context and apply the knowledge and understanding gained in the process of creating their own media production.

The Theoretical Framework

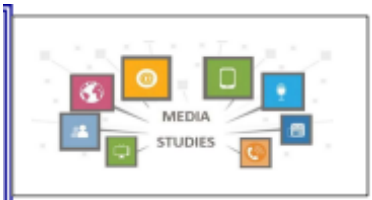
Learners will develop and apply their understanding of the media through both analysing and producing media products. You will have an opportunity to consider how representations of social groups like gender are constructed using media language, for example through camera work. You will also study how media industries target and reach specific audiences. In addition to this, there are a range of media set texts that you will have a chance to study closely.

Media Forms Studied:

• Television • Film • Radio • Newspapers • Magazines • Advertising and marketing • Online, social and participatory media • Video games • Music video

What are the benefits of studying G.C.S.E. Media Studies?

- Studying the media enables students to develop a wider understanding and appreciation of the media and the contemporary world we live in
- Students will have the opportunities to use a range of software to develop their ICT skills when creating their media products
- Learners who study Media studies may go on to pursue a career in media creation, digital marketing, public relations or journalism
- Some students may go on to study A level Media Studies also offered at Hamstead Hall Academy.



This course builds on the content, knowledge and skills developed in KS3 English.

"The media's the most powerful entity on earth" Malcolm X

"In America, the president reigns for four years, and journalism governs forever and ever" Oscar Wilde

At Hamstead Hall Academy we also offer the opportunity to study A level Media Studies Post 16. However, students do not need to have studied Media at G.C.S.E to study it at A level.

Assessment Structure:

This course equivalent to **ONE** GCSE. **70% Exam 30% Coursework**

Paper 1: Television and Promoting Media Exam 35% 70 marks (1hour 45 mins)

Paper 2: Music and News 35% 70 marks (1 hour 15 mins)

Creating Media Non-exam assessment (NEA) 30% 30 marks

GCSE Textiles (OCR)









ABOUT THE COURSE:

In Textiles, you will explore garment design and learn to use sewing machines, follow patterns and construct textile products. You will experiment with decorative techniques such as batik, embroidery, appliqué, fabric dyeing and creating embellishments to bring your designs to life.

Textiles is a coursework-based subject, with no written exam. You will need to complete regular tasks each week to keep on top of your coursework.

The course is made up of two components: a Portfolio (60%), completed throughout Year 10 and Year 11, and an Externally Set Task (40%), which includes preparation time followed by a 10-hour practical exam.

WHAT WILL YOU BE STUDYING?

Over the two-year Textiles course, we complete three major projects:

- **Skills Building Project** – Developing a range of practical skills.
- **Natural Forms – Inspired Garment Design** – Exploring natural forms and transforming them into an original garment
- **Final Exam Project**

WHERE CAN TEXTILES TAKE YOU IN THE FUTURE?

A Textiles GCSE develops skills in garment design, sewing, fabric manipulation and decorative techniques, opening doors to careers in fashion design, costume design, textiles, and fashion marketing.

GCSE Sociology (AQA)

Explore the way society works — and your place within it!

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of people, social behaviour, and the world we live in. It helps you understand how families, education, media, and crime shape our lives — and how you can make a difference in society.

Course Overview

You'll explore fascinating topics such as:
-The Family: How families have changed and their role in society
-Education: Why some groups do better in school than others
-Crime & Deviance: Why people commit crime and how society responds
-Social Stratification: Inequality, power and social class
-Sociological Research Methods: How sociologists study society



Assessment (AQA GCSE Sociology)

You will sit two written exams at the end of Year 11:
Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime & Deviance and Social Stratification
· Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes
· Each worth 50% of your final grade
· There is no coursework

Progression to A Level Sociology

Continue your sociological journey at A Level! You'll study the same big ideas in more depth — including beliefs in society, global development, and theory.
Sociology combines well with subjects such as Psychology, Politics, History, and English.

Possible Careers in Sociology

Sociology opens doors to a wide range of careers: · Criminologist or Police Officer · Teacher or Lecturer · Social Policy Adviser or Politician · Social Worker or Youth Worker · Journalist or Researcher · Human Resources or Marketing Specialist

Why Choose Sociology?

Understand how society really works Develop analysis, evaluation, and critical thinking skills See social issues from multiple perspectives Prepare for diverse future studies and careers.