



Scarborough College

GCSEs at Scarborough College

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GCSEs at Scarborough College



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At Scarborough College all pupils have the opportunity to study for ten GCSE qualifications: six compulsory core subjects and four option subjects. The programme has been designed to ensure that pupils have a strong foundation for post-16 study, gain the qualifications that are valued by employers and universities, and make their first steps towards independence as learners and young people.

Following advice from subject leads and form tutors, pupils choose their four option subjects from the wide range of twelve courses we offer at GCSE. From Art to Physical Education, from Business to Spanish, you can see the breadth of option choices available in this document.

As an independent boarding school which offers the IB in our sixth form, we promote international-mindedness and recognise the value of language learning in the modern world. All pupils are expected to choose at least one modern foreign language as one of their option subjects.

Core Subjects

The Core Subjects, as listed below, are compulsory and must be studied by all students. The only exception is the sciences - some students may opt to take a Dual Science award rather than individual subjects. ESL is the alternative to English Language for non-native speakers.

- English Language (Pearson Edexcel)
- English Literature (Pearson Edexcel)
- ESL
- Maths (Edexcel)
- Biology (AQA)
- Chemistry (AQA)
- Physics (AQA)

English Language

Exam board and specification code:
Pearson Edexcel 4EA 1



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What will I study?

Using a wide range of both classic and contemporary fiction and non-fiction texts respectively, you will develop your ability to read, understand and analyse how writers use language to communicate their ideas and influence readers to think and feel in certain ways.

You will also be given plenty of opportunities to develop a variety of different writing styles: critical, imaginative and transactional.

How will I be assessed?

One written examination, worth 60% of your final grade, which you will take at the end of the course and two coursework assignments, worth 40%, that you will produce over the course of Years 10 and 11.

Paper 1

Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing (2 hours 15 minutes)

Section A: Reading requires you to answer a mixture of short and long answer questions related to one non-fiction text from Part 1 of the Pearson Edexcel, IGCSE, English A Anthology and one previously unseen extract.

Section B: Transactional Writing requires you to respond to one written task, from a choice of two, by producing a piece of writing of a certain genre (e.g. article, speech or letter) for a targeted audience, to achieve a specific purpose.

Part 1 Anthology Passages

- From The Danger of a Single Story - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- From A Passage to Africa - George Alagiah
- From The Explorer's Daughter - Kari Herbert
- Explorers, or boys messing about? - Steven Morris
- From 127 Hours Between a Rock and a Hard Place - Aron Ralston
- Young and Dyslexic - Benjamin Zephaniah
- From A Game of Polo with Headless Goat - Emma Levine
- From Beyond the Sky and Earth - Jamie Zeppa
- From H is for Hawk - Helen MacDonald
- From Chinese Cinderella - Adeline Yen Mah
- Coursework Assignments – Poetry and Prose Fiction and Imaginative Writing

Assignment A: Critical Response requires you to write a critical analysis of three texts from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel, IGCSE, English A Anthology.

Assignment B: Imaginative Writing requires you to produce a piece of creative writing in response to virtually any stimulus.

Part 2 Anthology Passages

- Disabled - Wilfred Owen
- 'Out, Out' - Robert Frost
- An Unknown Girl - Moniza Alvi
- The Bright Lights of Sarajevo - Tony Harrison
- Still I Rise - Maya Angelou
- The Story of an Hour - Kate Chopin
- The Necklace - Guy de Maupassant
- Significant Cigarettes (The Road Home) - Rose Tremain
- Whistle and I'll Come to You (The Woman in Black) - Susan Hill
- Night - Alice Munro

What are the progression opportunities?

A basic entry requirement for most post-16 courses is a pass in GCSE English Language. You need this qualification in order to progress to the next stage in your education. The course also gives you the skills you need to read, understand and question texts in other subjects and in the world beyond school.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr. Iannone, Deputy Head (Teaching & Learning) and Head of English or speak to your English teacher.

English Literature

Exam board and specification code:
Pearson Edexcel 4ET1



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What will I study?

The course will include the study of three literary works, covering both drama and prose. In addition, an anthology of 16 poems will be taught. You will develop your ability to read, understand and analyse how writers communicate their ideas and influence readers to think and feel in certain ways. You will have ample opportunity to hone your critical analysis of literature.

How will I be assessed?

One written examination, worth 60% of your final grade, which you will take at the end of the course and two coursework assignments, worth 40%, that you will produce over the course of Years 10 and 11.

Paper 1 - Poetry and Modern Prose (2 hours)

Section A: Unseen Poem requires you to read and write a critical essay on a previously unseen poem, produced for you in the exam.

Section B: Anthology Poetry requires you to write a comparative critical essay on two poems you have studied from Part 3 of the Pearson Edexcel, IGCSE, English A Anthology.

Section C: Modern Prose requires you to write a critical essay on a prose work you will have studied in class.

Coursework Assignments

- Modern Drama and Literary Heritage

Assignment A: Modern Drama requires you to write a critical essay on a modern play you will have studied in class.

Assignment B: Literary Heritage requires you to write a critical essay on a classic novel or play you will have studied in class.

Part 3 Anthology Poems

- If - Rudyard Kipling
- Prayer Before Birth - Louis MacNiece
- Blessing - Imtiaz Dharker
- Search For My Tongue - Sujata Bhatt
- Half-past Two - U A Fanthorpe
- Piano - D H Lawrence
- Hide and Seek - Vernon Scannell
- Sonnet 116 - William Shakespeare
- La Belle Dame sans Merci - John Keats
- Poem at Thirty-Nine - Alice Walker
- War Photographer - Carol Ann Duffy
- The Tyger - William Blake
- My Last Duchess - Robert Browning
- Half-caste - John Agard
- Do not go gentle into that good night - Dylan Thomas
- Remember - Christina Rossetti

What are the progression opportunities?

The English Literature course is highly regarded and provides a sound foundation for the future study of any literature course at either IB or A Level. It helps you to develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, analysis, empathy and the ability to infer meaning from texts.

Having a qualification in English Literature is important for those who want to pursue careers in publishing, advertising, marketing, the law, journalism, the media, teaching, writing, the theatre, psychology and any other career in which you deal with people.

The course also gives you the skills you need to read, understand and question texts in other subjects and in the world beyond school.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr. Iannone, Deputy Head (Teaching & Learning) and Head of English or speak to your English teacher.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Exam board and specification code:
Pearson Edexcel 4XES2 (2026 Specification)



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What will I study?

ESL is the core alternative to English Language for non-native speakers, mapped to the CEFR B2/C1 levels. The course is designed to move students beyond basic communication towards academic fluency. You will focus on the new 2026 core vocabulary and grammar lists, mastering complex structures such as the passive voice, conditionals, and reported speech.

You will study:

- Reading:** Techniques for skimming for gist and scanning for specific details across diverse text types.
- Writing:** Adapting your register for informal emails, semi-formal reports, and articles.
- Listening:** Developing the ability to identify “distractors” and follow complex arguments.
- Speaking:** Engaging in role-plays, describing visual stimuli, and debating global issues such as the environment and the media.

How will I be assessed?

The 4XES2 specification is a linear qualification where all four units contribute equally (25% each) to your final grade:

- Unit 1:** **Reading (4WES1):** A 1-hour paper testing your ability to understand six texts of increasing difficulty.
- Unit 2:** **Listening (4WES2):** A 45-minute assessment involving multiple-choice questions, note-taking, and sentence completion.
- Unit 3:** **Writing (4WES3):** A 1-hour 15-minute paper requiring an informal email, a semi-formal report/article, and a summary task using your own words.
- Unit 4:** **Speaking (4WES4):** A 12-minute examination (plus preparation time) consisting of a role-play, a picture-based discussion, and a talk on a prepared global issue.

What are the progression opportunities?

Success in ESL provides the essential linguistic toolkit required for the IB Diploma, where a language is a compulsory requirement.

By focusing on sophisticated adjectives and complex tenses, this course ensures you are prepared for the academic rigours of the Sixth Form and beyond. It is a qualification highly respected by universities as proof of your ability to function at a high level in an English-speaking academic environment.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr. Joe Zammit, Head of EAL.

Mathematics

Exam board and specification code:
Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics 4Ma1



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What will I study?

Mathematics at IGCSE gives a broad overview of mathematical skills that are required for general life and further study.

The course is divided into four areas: Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics. The course is built upon the knowledge and skills acquired in years 7 to 9. The IGCSE is available at both Higher tier and Foundation tier. Your tier of entry will be decided toward the end of the first year of study.

How will I be assessed?

There is no coursework in mathematics so grades are allocated by two examination papers at the end of year 11.

Both papers in this course allow you to use a calculator.

What are the progression opportunities?

Mathematics at IGCSE is designed to give you the skills that both support your learning in other subjects and prepare you for further study in a broad range of disciplines.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr Ashley Kelly, Head of Mathematics or your Teacher of Maths.

Biology

Exam board and specification code:
AQA 8461



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What will I study?

Biology is the study of all life on Earth. The GCSE course comprises seven topics which look at living organisms from a variety of perspectives. These are:

- **Cell Biology:** Focuses on the structure and function of cells, microscopy, cell division (mitosis and meiosis), and transport in cells.
- **Organisation:** Covers human digestive, circulatory, and respiratory systems, as well as plant tissues and transport systems.
- **Infection and response:** Deals with communicable diseases, human defence systems, vaccination, antibiotics, plant diseases, and monoclonal antibodies (Higher Tier only).
- **Bioenergetics:** Explores photosynthesis and respiration, including aerobic and anaerobic processes, and the link between exercise and metabolism.
- **Homeostasis and response:** Focuses on the nervous and hormonal control systems in humans, with specific topics on blood glucose, water, and temperature control, as well as reproduction and contraception.
- **Inheritance, variation and evolution:** Includes sexual and asexual reproduction, DNA, genes, genetic inheritance, evolution by natural selection, and genetic engineering.
- **Ecology:** Covers organisms and their environment, biodiversity, ecosystems, and the impact of human activities on the environment.

How will I be assessed

Two exam papers which are both 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

- Paper 1: Topics 1-4
- Paper 2: Topics 5-7

You will complete ten 'required practicals' in the lab. The practical skills you develop when undertaking these 'required practicals', and other lab based investigations, are assessed in some of the questions on the exam papers.

What are the progression opportunities?

The AQA GCSE course provides a sound platform for post-16 study. A science subject is compulsory for the IB Diploma and a significant number of students opt to study IB Biology at either Standard or Higher Level each year. The course also provides ideal preparation for the IB Sport, exercise and health science subject option at IB.

Biology is an important subject for those who aim to pursue a career in medicine or an allied profession. It is also a highly relevant subject for a wide range of careers including forensic science, environmental science, sport science and biochemical research.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr Joe Davies, Head of Biology, or your Teacher of Biology.

Chemistry

Exam board and specification code:
AQA 8462



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What will I study?

GCSE Chemistry is a challenging but ultimately rewarding course that develops your scientific skills and knowledge. There are ten topics in the syllabus with the majority of them building upon the work that you have done in Years 7 to 9.

- **Atomic structure and the periodic table:** This topic covers the basics of atoms, elements, compounds, mixtures, and the development of the periodic table, including the behaviour of metals and non-metals.
- **Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter:** You'll learn about ionic, covalent, and metallic bonding, states of matter, and how these relate to the properties of different substances, including nanoscience.
- **Quantitative chemistry:** This section involves calculations related to chemistry, including the conservation of mass, relative atomic and formula masses, moles, concentration, and percentage yield.
- **Chemical changes:** You'll study chemical reactivity, the extraction of metals, reactions of acids with bases and carbonates, electrolysis, and the preparation of salts.
- **Energy changes:** This topic focuses on exothermic and endothermic reactions, reaction profiles, and calculations involving bond energies, as well as cells and fuel cells.
- **The rate and extent of chemical change:** You'll learn about the factors affecting reaction rates, reversible reactions, dynamic equilibrium, and the effect of changes in conditions on equilibrium.
- **Organic chemistry:** This topic covers carbon compounds, including homologous series (alkanes, alkenes, alcohols, carboxylic acids), polymers, crude oil, fractional distillation, and combustion.
- **Chemical analysis:** You'll explore methods to test for the purity of substances and identify ions and gases using appropriate chemical tests.
- **Chemistry of the atmosphere:** This section focuses on the composition of the atmosphere, greenhouse gases, climate change, and air pollution.
- **Using resources:** This topic covers life cycle assessment, the reduction of waste, recycling, and the sustainability of using natural resources.

How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers which are both 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

- Paper 1: Topics 1 - 5
- Paper 2: Topics 6 - 10

You will complete eight 'required practicals' in the lab.

The practical skills you will develop when undertaking these 'required practicals', and other lab based investigations, are assessed in some of the questions on the examination papers.

What are the progression opportunities?

The AQA GCSE course provides a sound platform for post-16 study. A science subject is compulsory for the IB Diploma with a good number of students opting to study IB Chemistry at either Standard or Higher Level each year.

Chemistry is an essential subject for those who aim to pursue a career in medicine or veterinary science as well as many other careers, both in and out of the lab.

There are countless interesting and rewarding science-based jobs available, in research, outdoors or in other industries you might not even have considered.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Dr Kehrlí or Miss Thompson, Joint Head of Chemistry,
or your Teacher of Chemistry.

Physics

Exam board and specification code:
AQA 8463



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What will I study?

Physics is the study of matter, and its movement through space and time. You will study everything from subatomic particles at the very smallest scale to galaxies and the structure of the universe at the largest.

The course covers eight broad topics, each of which looks at a different aspect of physics:

- **Energy and Energy Resources:** You will study energy stores and systems, exploring how energy is transferred and conserved. You will also learn about energy changes and efficiency, as well as national and global energy resources.
- **Electricity:** You will learn about current, potential difference, and resistance, and how these relate in electrical circuits. You will compare series and parallel circuits, and study mains electricity, the National Grid, and electrical safety. You will also be introduced to static electricity and its effects.
- **Particle Model of Matter:** You will examine density and changes of state, as well as internal energy, specific heat capacity, and latent heat. You will also explore gas pressure and how it is affected by temperature and volume.
- **Atomic Structure:** You will study atomic models, isotopes, and nuclear equations. You will then look at radioactivity, half-life, and real-world applications. You will also learn about nuclear fission and fusion.
- **Forces:** You will investigate different types of forces, including scalar and vector quantities. You will study motion, work, and energy transfer, as well as elasticity, moments, and atmospheric pressure. You will also learn about Newton's Laws of motion, stopping distances, and momentum.
- **Waves:** You will learn about wave properties, reflection, and refraction. You will study sound waves and seismic waves, as well as the electromagnetic spectrum. You will also explore black body radiation.
- **Magnetism and Electromagnetism:** You will be introduced to magnetic fields and forces, and you will learn about electromagnets, the motor effect, and the generator effect. You will also study transformers and how they are linked to the National Grid.
- **Space Physics:** You will study planetary orbits and artificial satellites. You will also investigate the role of gravity in maintaining orbits.

How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers which are both 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

- Paper 1: Topics 1-4
- Paper 2: Topics 5-8

You will complete ten 'required practicals' in the lab. The practical skills you develop when undertaking these 'required practicals', and other lab based investigations, are assessed in some of the questions on the examination papers.

What are the progression opportunities?

The AQA GCSE course provides a sound platform for post-16 study. A science subject is compulsory for the IB Diploma and a number of students opt to study IB Physics at either Standard or Higher Level each year.

Physics is the basis of many other sciences, and is particularly important for those who wish to go on to study any form of engineering. It is also a highly relevant subject for a range of careers including those in the energy resource industry and financial sector.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr White, Head of Physics, or your Teacher of Physics.

Dual Science

GCSE Combined Science – Dual Award (Trilogy)
AQA 8464



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What will I study?

GCSE Combined Science – Dual Award (also known as Combined Science: Trilogy) is a linear, externally assessed science course that covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics across a broad range of topics. Over the two-year GCSE programme, pupils will build scientific knowledge and understanding through discrete units in each of the three sciences. The course emphasises conceptual understanding, scientific investigation, practical skills and the application of mathematics in science contexts.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment consists of six written examination papers, with the following structure:

- Biology Paper 1 & Paper 2
- Chemistry Paper 1 & Paper 2
- Physics Paper 1 & Paper 2

Each paper lasts 75 minutes and is worth 70 marks. The overall qualification is graded as a double-award, meaning pupils are awarded two GCSE grades on completion of the course. The final grade profile represents the aggregated performance across all six papers.

Biology – What will I study?

You will explore key biological concepts such as:

- Cell structure, organisation and function
- Systems and homeostasis in humans
- Genetics, inheritance and evolution
- Ecology and the environment

Throughout the course you will develop practical skills through designated experiments and investigations.

Chemistry – What will I study?

You will study core chemical principles, including:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding and properties of matter
- Chemical changes and energy
- Organic chemistry and the chemistry of the atmosphere

Students will also carry out practical work to support understanding of chemical processes.

Physics – What will I study?

You will cover fundamental physics topics such as:

- Energy, electricity and particle theory
- Forces and motion
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

Practical work and investigations support the development of key scientific skills.

How will my work be assessed?

Progress is checked regularly through classwork, end-of-topic assessments and mock examinations. All final assessment is exam based with no coursework.

Practical skills are assessed through written examination questions that draw on required practical activities completed during the course.

Progression & Opportunities

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy provides a solid foundation for further study, including further education qualifications in Biology, Chemistry, Physics or other science-related subjects. It also supports careers and further education in scientific, technical and healthcare fields.



Option Subjects

You can choose four subjects from the list below. At least one of your subjects must be a modern foreign language. You can choose to study more than one language if you wish (see subjects marked with an *).

Option Subjects

- Art
- Business Studies
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- French*
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish*

Art

Exam board and specification code:
OCR Art & Design (Fine Art) J171



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What will I study?

You will be following a traditional taught course learning about line, form, tone and colour.

You will work from direct first hand observation, developing both an understanding of the analytical process and greater confidence in handling a range of media. You will learn the value of looking at artists' work from the past and integrating your observations into your own practice. You will be encouraged to think both sequentially and tangentially, and your final responses to the projects covered, will illustrate the best of your discoveries.

How will I be assessed?

There are two components:

Coursework Portfolio (Controlled Assessment) 60%

This is a personal portfolio where you develop your own ideas and responses to a given starting point, brief, or stimulus.

You will explore and record ideas in annotated sketchbooks, experimenting with materials and techniques.

You will be led through your coursework project in the initial stages, then given more artistic freedom as the project progresses. The coursework starts in the September of Y10 and finishes at the Christmas of Y11.

Examination (Set Task) 40%

You will be given a selection of five themes, of which you will choose one as your exam unit. The paper is given to you shortly after Christmas in Y11.

You then have a term to use your experience to help you prepare for a ten hour exam. The exam will be split into four separate sessions and will take place shortly after Easter.

What are the progression opportunities?

The OCR GCSE course provides a sound platform for further study in Fine Art, either on the IB Diploma or at a local College of Art. Most students who pursue a career in an art-related field will have used their portfolio to access a foundation course before they attend university.

Expertise in art is applicable to a wide range of future careers, including some you may never have considered: Movie Set Designer, Costume Designer, Game Designer, Graphic Designer, Photographer, Graphic Novelist, Pet Rock Painter, T-Shirt Designer, Soft Toy Maker, Illustrator and many more.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr Sutcliffe, Head of Art.

Business Studies

Exam board and specification code:
Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business



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What will I study?

One of the key reasons why this subject is so popular at GCSE is that the themes and topics that you will study come directly from everyday life. The best way to think about the course is to imagine that you are going to set up your own business.

First, you will need an idea. Then, you will need to take this idea to potential customers. You will need to produce a business plan to take to a bank or other investors. You will then need to decide the type of business you wish to form, where you will locate yourself and how many employees you will need.

Next, you will need to look at production methods and calculate your accounts to see how efficiently your business is running. Finally, you will need to research the help and advice the government gives to start-up businesses.

How will I be assessed?

Theme 1: Investigating small business

- Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- 50% of the qualification
- 90 marks

Theme 2: Building a business

- Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- 50% of the qualification
- 90 marks

What are the progression opportunities?

Business Studies at GCSE is perfect for those who wish to study IB Business and Management and Economics. It is a natural progression. Business also connects well with languages and psychology and, due to its flexibility, is very popular on combined courses at university.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Dr Ricci, Head of Business Studies.

Design & Technology

Exam board and specification code:
AQA 8552 Design and Technology GCSE (9-1)



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What will I study?

GCSE Design and Technology is a unique subject that requires and promotes the combined use of your academic, technological and practical skills through a wide range of different media. The course requires you to draw on your knowledge from other subjects as we explore a range of topics that influence design and manufacture in the current world.

There are three sections to the course:

Section A- Core Technical Principles.

New and emerging technologies, energy generation and storage, developments in new materials, systems approach to designing, mechanical devices, materials and their working properties.

Section B- Specialist Technical Principles.

Selection of materials or components, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, scales of production, specialist techniques, surface treatments and finishes.

Section C- Designing and Making Principles.

Investigation, primary and secondary data, environmental, social and economic challenge, the work of others, design strategies, communication of design ideas, prototype development, selection of materials and components, tolerances, material management, specialist tools and equipment, specialist techniques and processes.

How will I be assessed?

Theory - 2 hour written exam (50%)

- Section A Core Technical Principles (Multiple choice. 20 marks)
- Section B Specialist Technical Principles (30 marks)
- Section C Designing and Making Principles (50 marks)

Non-Exam Assessment (50%)

- Approximately 30-35 hours of work.
- Answering a challenge set by the exam board, you will manufacture a working prototype and produce an accompanying portfolio.
- Portfolio should be approximately 20 pages of A3 paper, or the digital equivalent.

What are the progression opportunities?

GCSE Design and Technology opens doors to further study in the following careers:

- Architecture
- Engineering
- Product Design
- Graphic Design
- Medical Product Design
- Property Development
- Interior Design
- Film and Set Design.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Miss Speake, Head of Design & Technology.

Drama

Exam board and specification code:
Edexcel 1DR0



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What will I study?

Component 1 - Devising

Students create an original devised piece of drama based on a stimulus (e.g. a text, image, or theme) to:

- **Create and develop:** Work in groups to develop an idea from the stimulus, using various theatrical techniques.
- **Perform or design:** Perform the devised piece or create and present a design (set, lighting, sound, costume) for it.
- **Portfolio:** Create a portfolio of evidence documenting the entire devising process, including initial ideas and the final performance analysis.

Component 2 - Performance from Text

Students select a play and perform two different key extracts from it, either as a group, solo, or duo.

- **Extracts:** Choose and perform (or design) two contrasting extracts from the same play.
- **Skills application:** Apply theatrical skills to realize artistic intentions in a live performance.

Component 3 - Theatre Makers in Practice

A written exam focusing on the practical study of a complete play from a set list of texts.

- **Play study:** Practically study one complete play from the set list, exploring performance from the viewpoints of a performer, director, and designer.
- **Live theatre evaluation:** Evaluate a live theatre performance as an informed audience member, using subject-specific terminology.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: 40%

- Devising Drama. Coursework. Marked by your teacher. Moderated by Edexcel.

Component 2: 20%

- Performance from Text. Practical Exam. Marked by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: 40%

- Theatre Makers in Practice. Written Exam. Marked externally.

What are the progression opportunities?

GCSE Drama is not just for those seeking a career in the Arts industry, it is an outstanding subject to have for any career. Employers, universities and colleges like drama students because their skills are transferable.

Students who take drama can communicate well, are self-confident, work effectively in a team, think on their feet and adapt their practice to suit the changing environment. GCSE Drama fully prepares you for the study of IB Theatre and offers a further pathway to BA Hons in Theatre Education, Community Theatre, Costume & Lighting Design, Stage Management and Performance Arts, Theatre, Dance or Music.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Ms Galway, Head of Drama.

French

Exam board and specification code:
AQA 8658



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What will I study?

This stimulating and enjoyable course will develop your ability to understand and use both spoken and written French, teaching practical communication skills and developing your awareness of your own culture and the cultures of French-speaking countries.

You will study three themes:

- People and Lifestyle
- Popular Culture
- Communication and the World Around Us

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening Exam (25%)

- Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.
- You will answer questions in English.

Paper 2: Speaking Exam (25%)

- Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

Paper 3: Reading Exam (25%)

- Understanding and responding to different types of written language.
- You will answer questions in English.

Paper 4: Writing Exam (25%)

- Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

What are the progression opportunities?

French is a global language with more than 220 million speakers across the five continents, making it a valuable language for the job market, for travel and for careers in business. It is worth remembering that 90% of the world's population live in a country where English is not the native tongue and 74% of employers are looking for candidates with language skills.

Language knowledge is relevant to a number of degree courses, including Business, Finance, Law, Sales and Marketing, Engineering, Tourism, Leisure, Public Sector, International Institutions, Teaching (Primary and Secondary), Translating, Interpreting and the Media.

A language GCSE is compulsory for progression to the IB Diploma and a number of students opt to study IB French at either Ab Initio, Standard or Higher Level each year.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mrs Marshall, Head of Modern Foreign Languages,
or talk to a Teacher of French.

Geography

Exam board and specification code:
Cambridge IGCSE 0976



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What will I study?

This is a globally recognised qualification that offers a balanced study of both physical and human geography through engaging and contemporary topics. The syllabus is designed to develop pupils' geographical understanding, practical skills and ability to analyse real-world issues. Learners consider key opportunities and challenges in a changing world, and explore how geographical knowledge can be used to understand and manage environmental, social and economic processes.

The IGCSE Geography syllabus is organised into ten topics, each designed to build knowledge of the physical and human world. Topics include:

- Physical Geography
- Changing river environments
- Changing coastal environments
- Changing ecosystems
- Tectonic hazards
- Climate change
- Human Geography
- Changing populations
- Changing towns and cities
- Development
- Changing economies
- Resource provision

Climate education is woven into the syllabus to shape knowledge, understanding and skills that enable learners to make a positive impact in a changing world.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Physical Geography (36%)

Structured questions with short answer and extended response items. Some items are based on source material.

Paper 2: Human Geography (36%)

Structured questions with short answer and extended response items. Some items are based on source material.

Paper 4: Geographical Investigations (28%)

Two compulsory questions containing short answer and extended response items. Some items are based on source material.

What are the progression opportunities?

The course provides an excellent foundation for the study of Geography at IB level.

The very nature of Geography and the great breadth of the subject means it combines well with several other subjects at sixth form and degree level. Geography studied at school and beyond is highly sought after by employers as it shows you have had a broad education and developed useful and transferable skills.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr Shaun Bayes, Head of Geography.

History

Exam board and specification code:
Edexcel International GCSE in History (4HI1)



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College

What will I study?

A range of varied and interesting twentieth century topics that will help you learn how today's world has been shaped. This will deepen your understanding of life around you and current affairs. You will study four main units:

Germany: development of a dictatorship

You will focus on the rise of Hitler and life in Nazi Germany before and during World War Two. This unit will build on what you have studied in year 9.

The Cold War: superpower relations

During this unit you will learn how the Cold War started and various crises, such as the Vietnam War and the Cuban missile crisis.

The USA: 1918-1941

This unit starts with the "Roaring Twenties" in the USA before moving onto the causes and reactions to the Great Depression.

China: conflict, crisis and change - 1900 to 1989

In year 10 you will be able to choose the final topic from a list of several options. China is what the current year 11 have chosen to study.

How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers both 90 minutes in length. You will answer a mixture of source-based and essay style questions.

What are the progression opportunities?

History qualifications are highly regarded by businesses and universities because you develop skills in communication, research, independent thinking, problem solving, and analysis.

When you move on to sixth form, the skills you learn will help you in all humanities subjects and lay the foundation for IB History or Global Politics if you choose to go down that route. History is beneficial for a variety of careers including law, politics, education, journalism, investment banking and archaeology.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Miss Cooke, Head of History.

Music

Exam board and specification code:
Eduqas C660QS



Scarborough
College

What will I study?

There are three sections to GCSE Music: Performing, Composing and Appraising.

- **Performing:** You can perform music of your own choice, on any instrument or voice. You will choose two or more performances for submission. Your whole submission should last between 4 - 6 minutes. One of your performances must be an ensemble performance (i.e. performed with other people).
- **Composing:** You will develop your skills in composing music. You will submit two compositions for the final exam, one of which will be composed to a brief set by the exam board in September of year 11. You will be required to complete a composing log, explaining how you went about composing your pieces.
- **Appraising:** You will learn about music from a variety of different times, places and styles. In the final examination, extracts are played, and you will answer questions about what you hear.

60% of this qualification is based around coursework, so you will be supported as you self-direct your chosen area of study and work on individual projects.

How will I be assessed?

Performing (30%)

Completed under controlled conditions (coursework).
Marked by your teacher and moderated by an examiner.

Composing (30%)

Completed under controlled conditions (coursework).
Marked by your teacher and moderated by an examiner.

Appraising: (40%)

Written paper based on extracts of music played during the examination. Marked by an examiner.

What are the progression opportunities?

Direct opportunities might include Music at IB, A Level or BTEC Level 3. GCSE Music is also useful for continued study of Drama and Performing Arts.

However, the benefits of Music at GCSE are not just music related, but linked to the many transferable skills that are developed by studying the subject. These include communication skills, emotional intelligence, problem solving and ability to self-regulate. Music is a subject that is well-regarded by universities and employers.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr Garfitt, Director of Music or Mrs Leeson,
Head of Academic Music.

Physical Education

Exam board and specification code:
AQA 8582



Scarborough
College

What will I study?

If you are passionate about sport, enjoy participating in a range of activities, and are interested in how sports performance can be improved, then GCSE PE is the course for you.

You will study seven key areas:

- **Applied anatomy and physiology:** Covers the structure and function of the musculoskeletal, cardio-respiratory, and muscular systems, along with the effects of exercise.
- **Movement analysis:** Explores lever systems, planes, and axes of movement.
- **Physical training:** Focuses on health and fitness components, training principles, injury prevention, and program design.
- **Use of data:** Involves understanding and presenting both qualitative and quantitative data related to performance.
- **Sports psychology:** Includes topics such as skill classification, goal setting (SMART targets), information processing, feedback, and mental preparation for performance.
- **Socio-cultural influences:** Examines engagement patterns in sport, commercialisation, and ethical issues like drugs and technology.
- **Health, fitness and wellbeing:** Covers physical, emotional, and social health, the effects of a sedentary lifestyle, diet, and nutrition.

If you choose this GCSE, you must commit to improving your practical scores in your own time; it is expected that you will regularly attend sports clubs and play for the College teams.

It is also expected that you will work on your practical scores in core PE and Games lessons but, more importantly, outside of school.

It is recommended that you only choose GCSE PE if you play for, or belong to, at least one sports club outside school.

How will I be assessed?

Theory (60%)

Two written papers, both 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. You will answer a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions.

Practical (30%)

Your practical performance will be assessed in three different physical activities in the role of a player/performer: one team activity, one individual activity, and a third in either a team or as an individual.

Coursework (10%)

You will produce a written piece of coursework which provides an opportunity for you to analyse and evaluate your own performance in order to bring about improvement in one of your sports.

What are the progression opportunities?

GCSE PE is an excellent foundation for IB Sports, Exercise and Health Science. It is also extremely useful for careers in the following areas:

- Sport Science
- Professional Sport
- Sports Coaching
- Physiotherapy
- Sports and Business
- Sports and Events Management

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mr Thurgood, Head of Academic P.E.

Religious Studies

Exam board and specification code:
AQA 8062



Scarborough
College

What will I study?

The aim of the course is to help you develop your critical thinking skills, your ability to reflect and your ability to formulate arguments. You will explore current world issues, develop your own opinions and develop your understanding of the opinions of others.

You will study two world religions:

- Beliefs and teachings of Christianity and Judaism.
- Religious practice within Christianity and Judaism.

You will study four ethical themes:

- Religion and Life
(abortion, the environment, animal rights, euthanasia).
- Relationship and the Family
(marriage, sexuality, divorce, gender equality).
- Human Rights and Social Justice
(prejudice, poverty, inequality).
- Peace and Conflict
(terrorism, causes of war, pacifism).

You do not need to have any religious beliefs to study this course.

How will I be assessed?

Two exam papers of 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

- **Paper 1:** Christianity and Islam
- **Paper 2:** Thematic Ethics paper

What are the progression opportunities?

This is a valuable GCSE for anyone who is interested in people or current affairs. It is relevant for anyone who is considering a career in law, medicine, police or social work.

The course is also a useful foundation for future studies as it equips you with the ability to write balanced analytical essays.

Who can I contact if I need more information

Ms Katy Johnson, Head of Philosophy & Ethics.

Spanish

Exam board and specification code:
AQA 8698



Scarborough
College

What will I study?

This stimulating and enjoyable course will develop your ability to understand and use both spoken and written Spanish, teaching practical communication skills and developing your awareness of your own culture and the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

You will study three themes:

- People and Lifestyle
- Popular Culture
- Communication and the World Around Us

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening Exam (25%)

- Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.
- You will answer questions in English.

Paper 2: Speaking Exam (25%)

- Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

Paper 3: Reading Exam (25%)

- Understanding and responding to different types of written language.
- You will answer questions in English.

Paper 4: Writing Exam (25%)

- Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

What are the progression opportunities?

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world with more than 400 million native speakers. With an ever-increasing presence in the global market, Spanish is becoming a business necessity with more and more workplaces in the UK and abroad recruiting Spanish speakers.

It is worth remembering that 90% of the world's population live in a country where English is not the native tongue and 74% of employers are looking for candidates with language skills.

Language knowledge is relevant to a number of degree courses, including Business, Finance, Law, Sales and Marketing, Engineering, Tourism, Leisure, Public Sector, International Institutions, Teaching (Primary and Secondary), Translating, Interpreting and the Media.

A language is compulsory for the IB Diploma and a number of students opt to study IB Spanish at either Ab Initio, Standard or Higher Level each year.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Mrs Marshall, Head of Modern Foreign Languages,
or talk to your Teacher of Spanish.