



Ysgol  
Morgan Llwyd

# 2024 GCSE OPTIONS

## **INTRODUCTION**

**The purpose of this guide is to share information with year 9 pupils and their parents regarding 2024 GCSE options.**

**Every pupil will study the core subjects; Welsh, English, Mathematics, Science and the Welsh Baccalaureate and they will also choose 3 options.**

**This booklet provides information about these options. It is part of a programme of events organised by the school to help year 9 with their option choices.**

**Einir Lois Jones**

**Deputy Head**

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## Core: English Language

### Introduction

The staff in the English Department at Ysgol Morgan Llwyd will encourage you to become sensitive readers, fluent writers and confident communicators.

English is the primary language of communication in the U.K. and employers say that good communication skills is one of the most valuable qualities they look for in the people who work for them. Essentially, in many situations when you need to persuade, inform or connect with someone, good English is your best friend!

### Course outline

Pupils will have two years to complete the untiered WJEC English Language course. Candidates should be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. The specification builds upon, and develops the subject content that is taught in Key Stage 3. The two external examinations will be sat in the summer of year 11 with the final qualification ranging from A\*- G.

### Assessment

#### Unit 1: Oracy (20%) Internally Assessed

- Individual Presentation (10%)
- Group Discussion (10%)

#### Unit 2: Reading & Writing (40%) Externally Assessed

- Section A Reading (20%)
- Section B Writing (20%)

#### Unit 3: Reading & Writing (40%) Externally Assessed

- Section A Reading (20%)
- Section B Writing (20%)

### Homework and independent work

Pupils will be expected to complete all class exercises and homework tasks to the best of their ability.

Homework can be:

- Independent research tasks
- Extension of work covered in class
- Learning homeworks that aid memory skills
- Reading/Writing tasks

### Skills

Pupils will develop their ability to use English as active and informed citizens and be able to speak, listen, read and write fluently, appropriately, effectively and critically.

### Career paths

Many employers expect people to have English GCSEs and without this, it can be hard to get your foot in the door. Whatever career you are considering, being able to write a good cover letter and CV which is free from mistakes could be the key to getting you that all important interview.



## Core: English Literature

### Introduction

Do you want to broaden your horizons? Do you want to learn about, and to understand people who are different from you? Do you want to meet characters you can identify with? Studying English Literature encourages us to be sensitive to the whole range of human experiences.

*'The books transported her into new worlds and introduced her to amazing people who lived exciting lives...She travelled all over the world while sitting in her little room in an English village.'* 'Matilda' - (Roald Dahl)

### Course Outline

Pupils will have two years to cover the tiered GCSE course. The specification builds upon, and develops the subject content that is taught in Key Stage 3. There are two internally assessed assignments and two externally assessed examinations. Unit 1 examination will be sat in the summer term of Year 10 and Unit 2 examination will be sat in Year 11. Assessment for these examination is tiered, i.e. externally assessed units are targeted at the grade ranges of A\*-D (Higher Tier) and C-G (Foundation Tier).

### Assessment

#### Unit1: Externally Assessed (35%)

- Different Culture Prose (21%)
- Contemporary Unseen Poetry (14%)

#### Unit 2: Externally Assessed (40%)

- Drama (20%)
- Prose (20%)

#### Unit3: Internally Assessed (25%)

- Shakespeare Essay (12.5%)
- Comparative Poetry Essay (12.5%)

### Homework and independent work

Pupils will be expected to complete all class exercises and homework tasks to the best of their ability. Homework can be:

- Independent research tasks
- Extension of work covered in class
- Learning homeworks that aid memory skills
- Reading/Writing tasks

### Skills

Studying Literature helps to sharpen your analytical skills. If you can read a text and find themes and connections with other texts, theories and historical events, you show you can handle complex ideas. You will develop your planning and research skills as well as gaining knowledge of history, culture, philosophy and human behaviour.

### Career paths

English Literature is a good option if you are looking for a job that involves communication, writing and/or literary knowledge. For example, journalism, administration, publishing, teaching or law.



## Core: Mathematics

### Introduction

Mathematics is essential in order to understand the world around us. The ability to apply mathematical procedures in order to solve everyday problems is a very useful skill, and lends itself to many common situations, for instance budgeting, calculating sizes or amounts, reading and interpreting data. Being able to discover patterns and to come to rational conclusions are cross-curricular skills which support a number of subjects on the curriculum. The subject also nurtures the skill of being able to think abstractly and there are various opportunities to demonstrate a deep understanding of concepts.

### Course Outline

Pupils study for two G.C.S.E. Qualifications; Mathematics and Mathematics Numeracy. The courses are available at 3 levels, which are the foundation, intermediate and higher tiers. Each pupil will sit the examinations appropriate for their ability in the subject, giving everyone an opportunity to succeed at their level. There are a total of 4 G.C.S.E. papers; calculator and non calculator papers for both Mathematics and Mathematics Numeracy. The course syllabus is taught in years 9, 10 and 11.

Mathematics: The mathematics qualification demonstrates a pupil's ability to use and apply mathematical procedures, often in abstract situations.

Mathematics Numeracy. The mathematics numeracy qualification demonstrates a pupil's ability to apply mathematical procedures in order to solve everyday, less abstract problems.

### Assessment

Pupils are assessed fortnightly on recent classwork. There are 4 internal examinations in year 11 in order to prepare for the summer external Mathematics and Numeracy examinations.

### Homework and Independent Work

Pupils receive homework fortnightly.

They are expected to read over their work consistently, and raise any difficulties or misconceptions with their teachers.

### Skills

Reading and comprehending information / data, numerical reasoning, problem solving, numeracy, communication, information technology

### Career Paths

There are mathematical applications in the vast majority of jobs and vocations.



## Core: Science (Double Award)

### Introduction

Science is key in understanding the world around us. Biology is the study of living things, how they survive, interdepend and evolve. Chemistry is the study of materials, their properties, structure and reactions. Physics is the study of phenomena that we cannot see such as energy and forces and how they govern our daily lives. As well as understanding the world around us, you will develop scientific skills through practical work. These skills can help you assess the validity of information and data, evaluate them and draw conclusions based on the information or data held. In a world full of information and 'fake news', these skills are essential, even if you are not progressing into a scientific career.

### Course Outline

You will follow a WJEC GCSE Science (Double Award) course.

The specification is divided into the three subjects with 2 units in each subject; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

3 units are taught in year 10 and 3 units are taught in year 11.

Standard practical work is included in all units and external practical exams.

This course has 2 tiers: Higher Tier A\*-E, Foundation Tier C-G.

The units can be varied (e.g. pupils can sit a Biology higher tier paper and a Chemistry foundation tier paper.)

### Assessment

Year 10 — 3 units are assessed through a written exam in June (45%).

Year 11— The remaining 3 units are assessed through a written exam in May (45%).

The practical exam (Spring term of year 11) is worth 10%.

### Homework and Independent Work

Each pupil has 3 teachers who set homework every 3 weeks. On average, pupils will have one piece of homework a week.

Pupils are expected to read over their classwork following lessons and raise any concerns or difficulties with the appropriate teacher.

### Skills

Communicating information; clear and concise communication skills using technological language. Planning skills, making accurate and precise measurements, reporting back, drawing conclusions and the ability to evaluate information.

### Career Paths

Engineering, electrician, doctor, veterinary surgeon, nurse, midwife, childcare, environmental work, working with animals, construction, catering, hairdressing.



## Core: Welsh Language

### Introduction

Two languages, twice the skills! As research shows, being able to speak and write in both Welsh and English can give you an important advantage – whether you're looking for a job or wanting to further your career.

Laws in Wales mean that public services must treat Welsh and English on an equal basis. This has meant a rise in demand for people who can communicate well in both languages.

### Course outline

Exam Board: WJEC.

#### Language GCSE:

- One tier
- 2 oral exams - one individual and one group exam
- 2 written exams – 2 hours each

### Assessment

#### Language GCSE:

- Oral presentation at the end of year 10 (15%);
- Responding and interacting group oral exam at the beginning of year 11 (15%);
- 2 written exams at the end of year 11 - both 35% each

### Homework and independent work

- Homework will be set regularly
- Work should be revised regularly
- Websites such as 'bitesize' should be used
- Apps such as 'ap cywirdeb' can be used

### Skills

Working with others, bilingualism, problem solving, communication; literary appreciation; expressing feelings both verbally and in writing;

### Career Paths

Translator; marketing; solicitor; education; health sector; private sector; media; researcher; language initiatives; librarian; University lecturer; teacher; archivist; museum work; journalist; editor





## Core: Welsh Literature

### Introduction

Two languages, twice the skills! You will learn about the literature, culture, politics, history and sociology of Wales. The course will broaden your horizons, and your knowledge of Wales will be advantageous as you apply for jobs in Wales today. Literary appreciation skills are also transferable and broaden your horizons to the world outside Wales, to Europe and beyond.

### Course outline

Exam Board: WJEC.

**Literature GCSE:** Higher Tier or Foundation Tier:

- A number of poems are studied on various themes including War, Youth, Wales and Nature;
- A novel study;
- An oral exam discussing a previously studied film;

### Assessment

- 2 pieces of coursework (25%); One in year 10 and one in year 11
- A poetry exam (January - Year 11) (25%)
- An oral exam discussing a film (April - Year 11) (25%)
- A novel exam at the end of the year 11 (25%)

### Homework and Revision Policy

- Homework will be set regularly
- Work should be revised regularly
- Websites such as 'bitesize' should be used
- Apps such as 'Fesul Gair' can be used

### Skills

Working with others, bilingualism, problem solving, communication; literary appreciation; expressing feelings both verbally and in writing.

### Career Paths

Translator; marketing; solicitor; education; health sector; private sector; media; researcher; language initiatives; librarian; University lecturer; teacher; archivist; museum work; journalist; editor.



## Why choose ..... Art and Design

### Introduction

A busy and exciting course that gives learners the chance to work on a specific brief as well as providing the opportunity to develop personal skills and interests. Pupils will work with a variety of media and technics, for example drawing, textiles, painting, graphics, printing to name but a few. The course promotes student-led learning that develops an independent, creative and innovative learner.

"I enjoy experimenting with a variety of techniques and media, it's nice to be able to work on different things." (Year 11 pupil)

### Course Outline

This WJEC course start with a foundation period that allows student to develop skills already acquired and learn new skills and techniques. This will lead to the coursework unit where students will work on a given theme. The tasks will ensure that every aspect of the assessment objectives are met. The final unit will be the exam where each student will choose one of the themes on the exam paper and produce work on A2 sheets.

### Assessment

- Portfolio—work on sheets and in sketch-book. January year 10—January year 11. (60%)
- Exam— January year 11. Students will have 12-14 weeks to prepare and produce the final work in a 10 hour exam. (40%)

### Homework and Independent study

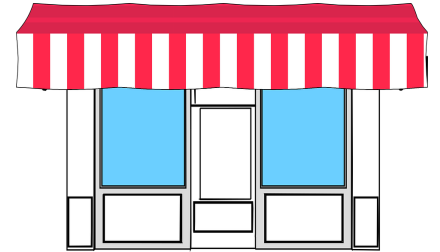
- Homework will be set regularly.
- Pupils are expected to conduct independent work without prompting.
- Students can attend work sessions during lunch time and after school.

### Skills

The course requires and promotes several generic and transferable skills such as the ability to work independently, problem solving, communication, analysing artwork and expressing their own feelings and empathy.

### Career opportunities

Advertising; marketing; design; fashion; architecture; hair styling; media; film; teaching; photography; curator; set design; graphic designer; artist; cartoonist.



## Why choose ..... Business Retail

### Introduction

Do you have an interest in Business and retail? This WJEC Level 1/2 Business Retail course introduces learners to one of the most important employment sectors in the UK, exploring various aspects of retail business and investigating a range of retailers from large chains and department stores through to independent and virtual stores.

This course is more practical than the theory-based Business Studies GCSE and allows students to show their understanding through coursework assignments as well as a written exam. Many of the tasks have the characteristics of real work in retail businesses.

### Course Outline

There are 4 mandatory units in the course; 1. Customer experience, 2. Retail business, 3. Retail Operations and 4. promotion for retail business.

There are 2 optional units; 1. stock control in retail business and 2. selling retail products.

### Assessment

- Unit 2—75 min exam
- Unit 4—6 hour timed, supervised assessment. (externally set).
- The other 3 units are internal assessments based on model assignments.

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set regularly.
- Pupils are expected to conduct independent research towards their assignments.

### Skills

The course requires and promotes several generic and transferable skills such as the ability to work independently, problem solving, working as part of a team, communication and digital literacy.

### Career opportunities

Successful completion of the qualification could lead to learners starting a career in a junior role, such as sales assistant, stock control assistant, administrative assistant, or an apprenticeship. Alternatively, if they have studied retail business and related subjects at a higher level, learners would be able to seek a more senior or specialist role including merchandiser, buyer, visual merchandiser or trainee manager.



## Why choose ..... Business Studies

### Introduction

This GCSE introduces learners to the business world, empowering them to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals. The focus of the course is to introduce and nurture an enthusiasm for studying business in a range of contexts. Learners will appreciate how businesses operate in a dynamic and competitive environment and develop an understanding of the interdependent nature of business functions from a local to a global perspective.

### Course Outline

There are two main units to the course, both assess content from six topic areas, so learners will be required to draw together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the subject content in each assessment. The 6 topics are: Business activity, influences on business, business Operations, Finance, marketing and human resources.

### Assessment

- Both units are assessed through a written exam at the end of year 11. There is no coursework in this course.
- At least 10% of the overall marks available for the qualification will be awarded for mathematical skills.

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set regularly.
- Pupils are expected to conduct their own independent research to further their understanding of the work.

### Skills

Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, enabling them to use business information critically, to develop arguments, to make justified decisions and to prepare them for further study and career pathways.

### Career opportunities

As well as encouraging budding entrepreneurs, Business studies could lead to a career in areas such as accountancy, advertising, banking, financial services, general management., HR/personnel, public relations, retail management.



## Why choose ..... Construction

### Introduction

The construction industry employs over 3 million people in the UK and offers a diverse range of employment opportunities. This is a practical course with plenty of opportunities to work in the workshop as well as learning in the classroom. Every pupil will aim to complete the level 2 course (A\*-C) but if needed, they can also work on level 1 (D-G).

### Course Outline

The Level 1 / 2 Awards in Construction and Built Environment have been designed around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning. This mirrors many work-related activities in the construction industry and allows learning to take place in a range of contexts.

### Assessment

Unit 1—Safety and security in construction (external exam)

Unit 2—Practical construction skills (internal assessment)

Unit 3—Planning construction projects (internal assessment)

### Homework and Independent study

Homework will be set every 2 weeks.

### Skills

- Practical skills (joinery, electric, brick-laying, plumbing)
- IT
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Problem solving

### Career opportunities

Careers are available in all phases of the construction process including initial ideas and designs, building and the ongoing planning and maintenance of structures. The course could prove useful to any students wishing to pursue a career in any craft or managerial role within the Construction industry.



## Why choose..... Drama

### Introduction

Do you like to see theatrical performances? Do you love to perform or want to develop an understanding of the technical aspects of theatre? Would you like to develop the confidence and skills that will benefit you in the future?

You will have the opportunity to create your own performances and perform scripts published by professional playwrights. During the duration of the course you will also see your favourite professional and brand new productions.

### Course Outline

The course has a combination of practical and theory work. It has three Units - Unit 1, Devised Theatre (40%) Unit 2, Performing Theatre (20%) Unit 3, Interpreting Theatre (40%). There will be an opportunity for pupils to develop their performance or planning skills by working on various projects. Pupils have to attend the theatre and see live performances. The theory work is taught in a practical manner with emphasis on the work of the actor, director and designer.

### Assessment

There are no exams in year 10.

Unit 1 (40%) is assessed before Christmas in year 11 (Internal Assessment). You will perform a script (Unit 2 - 20%, External assessment) around March and then sit a written exam (Unit 3 - 40%) during the Summer.

### Revision and Homework

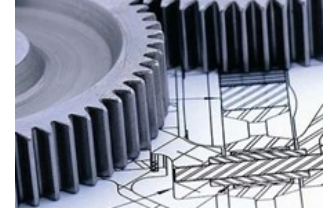
- Pupils must be prepared to attend lunchtime/after school rehearsals when appropriate.
- You will need to attend trips to see live theatre performances.

### Skills

Communication and presentation skills; Confidence; Speech; Teamwork; Discipline; Creativity; Imagination; Improvisation; Problem solving; Concentration.

### Career Paths

Actor; Publisher; Sales Assistant; Drama Therapist; Floor/Stage Manager; Holiday Representative; Theatre Manager; TV Presenter; Art Director; Broadcast Researcher; Solicitor; Arts Administrator; Drama Teacher; Children's Entertainer; Director; Scriptwriter; Childcare Assistant .



## Why Choose ..... Engineering

### Introduction

Engineering is a motivating force in the UK economy, accounting for 21.4% (£1.2 trillion) of the UK's £5.7 trillion turnover in 2018. However, there is a significant shortage of properly skilled workers in the engineering sector. The WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Engineering is designed to help learners who want to learn about this vocational sector and its career or further study potential.

### Course Outline

This is a vocational WJEC course that encourages pupils' practical skills as well as educating them about the industry. The course is awarded at pass, merit and distinction levels.

The units will include: 1. Manufacture of engineered products. 2. Design engineered products. 3. Solving engineering problems.

### Assessment

- Unit 1—Controlled assessment. 20 hours. 40% of the qualification.
- Unit 2—Controlled assessment. 10 hours. 20% of the qualification.
- Unit 3—Written exam. 90 minutes. 40% of the qualification

### Revision and Homework

- Homework will be set regularly
- Pupils will be expected to conduct independent research for their assignments

### Skills

The skills required for learning and those developed within the course are; ability to solve problems; investigative skills; design and numeracy.

### Career Paths

The course provides a foundation for anyone interested in a career in the Engineering industry.



## Why Choose ..... Fashion & Textiles

### Introduction

This WJEC GCSE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making fashion and textiles products. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, learners will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors. Pupils will have the opportunity to create a variety of fashion and home items and accessories and to further extend their sewing skills to create their own selected item in year 11.

### Course Outline

Unit 1 (Theory and exam)

Each learner will study four areas of content: 1. Core knowledge and understanding 2. In-depth knowledge and understanding for fashion and textiles 3. Core skills 4. In-depth skills for fashion and textiles.

Unit 2 (Timed controlled assessment)

Researching, designing and creating a fashion or textile item.

### Assessment

- Linear course
- Internal assessments: A project in year 11 equivalent to 50% of the final grade.
- External exam in year 11 equivalent to 50% of the final grade.

### Revision and Homework

- Homework will be set weekly.
- Pupils are expected to do their own independent study for their assessments.
- Pupils are expected to attend additional sessions at lunchtime or after school.

### Skills

Understanding design and technology practice takes place within contexts; identifying and understanding user needs; writing a design brief and specifications; investigating challenges; developing ideas; using design strategies; communicating design ideas; developing a prototype; making decisions.

### Career Paths

Quality technician, hat weaver, fashion designer, interior designer, textile designer, personal/home accessories designer, pattern designer for fashion, sewing engineer, textile/fashion buyer, costume designer, image consultant.





## Why choose ..... French

### Introduction

GCSE French. Studying beyond words. 'If we spoke a different language, we would perceive a somewhat different world' - Ludwig Wittgenstein. Do you wish to broaden your horizons? To become a truly global citizen? To be capable of sharing, exchanging and discussing ideas and viewpoints with citizens of other countries, both fluently and confidently? Do you wish to discover a reason to travel which will possibly lead you to study further abroad in French speaking countries? The French GCSE course, through the detailed study of the following three topics: Identity and Culture; Wales and the World; Employment and Study; will assist you in developing a wide understanding of how life really is in a French speaking country today. More than just the study of a language in order to be able to converse fluently, it will prepare and inspire you to follow careers in interesting and exciting domains, such as: working for a global company; importing and exporting goods and services; entrepreneurship; tourism, the Air Force/ The Navy; leading International Projects in various fields – the possibilities are endless. The transferable skills to be learnt through languages will open doors to a world without limits. This opportunity is yours: How about it?

### Course Outline

There are 4 parts to the course; speaking, listening, reading and writing.

### Assessment

- Unit 1—oral test, 3 tasks (25%)
- Unit 2—written exam (25%)
- Unit 3—written exam (25%)
- Unit 4—written exam (25%)

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set regularly.
- It is imperative that MFL students practise the language outside the classroom, with specific emphasis on learning vocabulary and practise language patterns.

### Skills

The course provides opportunities to develop candidates' Key/Essential Skills, particularly confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity.

### Career opportunities

The ability to communicate in a MFL is a very desirable asset in many fields, especially so in industries working on an international level.



## Why choose ..... Geography

### Introduction

WJEC GCSE Geography provides opportunities for learners to understand more about the world, the challenges it faces and their place within it. Following this GCSE course will deepen understanding of geographical processes, illuminate the impact of change and of complex people-environment interactions, and highlight the dynamic links and interrelationships between places and environments at different scales.

### Course Outline

There are 3 units to the course:

Unit 1—Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

Unit 2—Environment and development issues

Unit 3—Fieldwork enquiry

### Assessment

- Unit 1 and Unit 2 will be assessed in two 90 minute exams at the end of year 11. Both count for 40% of the final grade.
- Unit 3 is a non-examination assessment set by WJEC in November year 11. It will be based on fieldwork completed in two locations in the summer of year 10.

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set regularly.
- Pupils are expected to conduct their own independent research to further their understanding of the work.

### Skills

Mathematical, cartographic, mapping and statistical skills are embedded in the qualification to develop learners' competence in using a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches.

### Career opportunities

Studying Geography can lead to several careers, from Geologist to drone pilot, countryside planning to Cartographer.



## Why choose ... Health and Social Care, and Childcare

### Introduction

The WJEC GCSE in Health and Social Care, and Child Care, equips learners with knowledge, understanding and skills about the development of individuals, and how to care for them throughout the life cycle, from conception to old age. Learners will develop their understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. They will also gain an understanding of the social, physical, emotional and cultural needs of people who use care and support services, and recognize that everyone has their own unique abilities and needs. **This is a single award course but some pupils will have the opportunity to work towards the double award, leading to 2 GCSEs.**

### Course Outline

External Assessment:

2 90 minute external exam on topics relating to human growth, development and well-being. One exam will be taken in year 10 and one in year 11. Both are worth 20% each.

Internal Assessments:

2 units of coursework on a topic that involves promoting and maintaining health and well-being. One completed in year 10 and one in year 11. Both worth 30% each.

### Assessment

- Internal assessments: 2 projects, one in year 10 and one in Year 11 equivalent to 60% of the final grade.
- External exams: one in year 10 and one in year 11 equivalent to 40% of the final grade.

### Revision and Homework

- Homework will be set weekly.
- Pupils are expected to do their own independent study for their assessments.

### Skills

By studying Health and Social Care, and Childcare learners will be able to develop and apply skills relevant to health and social care, and childcare including using and interpreting data, develop an awareness of career pathways available within the health and social care, and childcare sector.

### Career Paths

Childcare, Specialist nurse: Children/Mental care/Learning difficulties/health visitor, Social Carer, Teacher, Nanny, Health care assistant, Social worker, Nursery nurse.



## Why choose..... History

### Introduction

Are you interested in investigating major historical events of the past and their influence on today's politics, culture, and economics? History gives us the opportunity to learn from past mistakes, and it also gives a balanced opinion and view of the world. By asking the questions 'Why?' and 'How?', you will see the bigger picture; the wrong decisions made; the unnecessary wars, the dangerous policies, and the people involved. You will also have the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in many interesting and exciting careers.

### Course Outline

The GCSE course offers the opportunity to study significant events from the history of Wales, Britain and the world.

In year 10 we will study US History: A Nation of Contrasts, 1910-29.

A controlled assessment will be completed during Year 10.

### Assessment

- 3 written exams; one in year 10 and two in year 11. Unit 1 and 2 are worth 25% of the course and unit 3 30%.
- 1 non-examination assessment completed in year 10 (20%)

### Homework and Revision Policy

- Ample opportunities for pupils to do their own independent study on the topics being studied.
- Pupils will be expected to complete homework regularly.

### Skills

Communication and literacy skills; research skills; analysing evidence skills; thinking skills; interpretation skills.

### Career Paths

Professional Historian / University Lecturer, History Teacher, Archivist, Museum Work, Archaeologist, Journalist, Fast Stream Civil Servant, Diplomatic Service Officer, Information Scientist, Librarian, Editor, Barrister, Solicitor.



## Why choose ..... Hospitality and Catering

### Introduction

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. This provides learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Pupils will cook at least once every fortnight with a clear focus on standard, presentation and style in preparation for the internal assessments. Pupils will prepare an array of sweet and savoury dishes.

### Course Outline

This vocational WJEC course is designed to promote practical catering skills as well as providing an insight into the hospitality and catering industry. The course is awarded at pass, merit and distinction. The course is made up of two mandatory units: 1. The Hospitality and Catering Industry. 2. Hospitality and Catering in Action.

### Assessment

- Internal assessment: Coursework—60% of the final grade. (Including a 3 hour practical exam)
- External Exam: 80 minute exam (year 11) on the hospitality and catering industry, 40% of final grade.

### Homework and Independent study

- Every pupil must bring required ingredients to the weekly practical lesson.
- Homework will be set weekly.
- Pupils are expected to conduct independent research towards their assignments.

### Skills

The course requires and promotes several generic and transferable skills such as the ability to work independently, problem solving, working as part of a team as well as culinary skills.

### Career opportunities

According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with the majority of new roles falling within the 18-24 age group.



## Why choose ..... ICT—Digital Technology

### Introduction

The WJEC GCSE qualification in Digital Technology is a broad-based qualification that allows learners to build on the digital skills, knowledge and understanding that is used both in their school and everyday lives.

The qualification will allow learners to develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems at use in our connected and globalised society.

### Course Outline

There are 3 mandatory units in the course:

Unit 1— The digital world—systems, value and perspectives on digital technology

Unit 2—Digital practices—interrogating spreadsheet data and data-informed digital procedures

Unit 3—Communicating in the digital world - social media and online marketing

### Assessment

- Unit 1—on-screen exam (40%)
- Unit 2—non-exam assessment (40%)
- Unit 3—non-exam assessment (20%)

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set occasionally.
- Pupils are expected to conduct independent research towards their assignments.

### Skills

The course provides opportunities to develop candidates' Key/Essential Skills, particularly those in problem solving, use of IT and communication. They will also have opportunities to develop their skills in application of number, working with others and improving own learning and performance.

### Career opportunities

Some pupils may go on to follow a higher education course or career in Information and Communication Technology or an associated area. Those with other interests and aspirations can also benefit from the many transferable skills inherent in the study of Information and Communication Technology.



## Why choose ..... Media

### Introduction

Are you interested in the media? Have you ever thought how TV programmes, films, magazines, computer games etc are produced, or have you dreamed of producing your own work? In this course you will study a variety of examples to learn these things and develop an understanding that will allow you to produce your own work.

### Course Outline

Unit (exam):

**Section A:** Representation—advertising, video games and newspapers

**Section B:** Music

Unit 2: (exam):

**Section A:** Wales on television

**Section B:** Contemporary Hollywood film

Unit 3 (coursework):

A media production, e.g. Website, magazine, video clip.

### Assessment

- Unit 1—written exam, year 11, 90 min. (30%)
- Unit 2—written exam, year 11, 90 min. (30%)
- Non-exam assessment. Year 10 (40%).

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set regularly.
- Pupils are expected to conduct a variety of tasks, e.g watch TV programmes; listen to radio shows; tasks based on classwork.

### Skills

The course requires and promotes several generic and transferable skills such as literacy, digital literacy, communication, writing for specific audiences, analytical skills.

### Career opportunities

Journalist, graphic designer, camera person, audio work, producer, director, editor, games designer, advertising and marketing.



## Why choose ..... Music

### Introduction

An interesting course, full of variety. GCSE Music will concentrate on performing, composing and appraising music, giving pupils the opportunity to study various modern and classical works as well as working on their own preferred style of music.

### Course Outline

- There are 4 areas of learning in this WJEC course; musical forms and devices, music for ensemble, film music and popular music. These areas form the base of the course but pupils are also encouraged to follow their own interests in their performing and composing.
- Assessment is divided into 3 parts; performing exam, composition coursework and a written exam.

### Assessment

- Unit 1—Performing. (30%). A minimum of 2 pieces, at least one in an ensemble. Programme notes are required for one piece (5%).
- Unit 2—Composing (35%). 2 compositions; 1 in response to a brief set by the WJEC.
- Unit 3—written exam (30%), 1 hour. 2 questions on each area of learning.

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set regularly.
- Pupils are expected to work on their performing and composing in their free time.

### Skills

The course gives pupil the chance to develop their performing skills, both individually and as part of a group, it also places emphasis on pupils ability to evaluate and improve their own performance.

### Career opportunities

There are several career opportunities in the music industry be it as an artist, producer, musician, composer and many more. It also develops attributes desired in many lines of employment such as the ability to perform in public, critical thinking, analysing and improving one's own performance.





## Why choose ..... Physical Education

### Introduction

Through studying GCSE Physical Education learners will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop their performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. Learners will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.

### Course Outline

There are two main units to the course. The 1st unit—Introduction to physical education— concentrates on theory-based work whilst the second unit—the active participant in physical education— concentrates on the more practical element of the subject and will entail performing individually and as part of a team. One activity will be a major activity which will have a personal fitness programme linked to the activity.

### Assessment

- Unit 1—Introduction to physical education—will be assessed in a 2 hour written exam at the end of year 11. (50%)
- Unit 2—the active participant in physical education—will be assessed in a practical exam, one individual sport, one team sport and one other. (50%)

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set regularly.
- Pupils are expected to conduct their own independent research to further their understanding of the work.

### Skills

The course gives pupils the opportunity to develop practical health and fitness skills as well as good teamwork and communication skills.

### Career opportunities

As well as developing awareness of the importance of fitness, health and wellbeing in everyday life, further studies could lead to a career in the sports or leisure industry.



## Why choose ..... Product Design

### Introduction

Are you interested in a career in Product Design? Do you enjoy designing and creating products? As a result of the ever changing developments in technology, this subject changes daily. 20% of Wrexham residents work in the manufacturing industry, the highest percentage in the UK. In following this course, pupils will be able to take confident and successful part in a world that is increasingly technological.

### Course Outline

This WJEC course gives pupils the opportunity to design and make products out of wood, metal, plastic and card. The course includes elements of resistant material, engineering, electronics and graphic design. It also offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems.

### Assessment

- Unit 1—(50%) - Written exam—Technology in the 21st century. (2 hours)
- Unit 2 -(50%) - Coursework—Design and Make task (35 hours)

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set every 2 weeks.
- Pupils are expected to work on their coursework in their free time.

### Skills

- Practical skills
- IT
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Problem solving

### Career opportunities

Careers are available in several fields including manufacturing, architecture, graphic design, digital design and engineering.



## Why choose ..... Public Services

### Introduction

Are you interested in working in the public services? For instance in the police force, the fire service, the army or in the medical world. This course will lay the foundation for a career of this nature by looking at some of the most important principles of the public services. The course will focus in particular on effective teamwork, the different kinds of services and how they operate successfully within our community.

### Course Outline

This is a Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 course. It gives pupils the opportunity to gain knowledge of the skills required to work in the Public Services Sector. Pupils must complete 4 units of work; the first unit looks at the work and purpose of the Public Services and then another 3 units will be selected to suit the ability and interests of the class, these could include Work Skills and Employment in the Public Services.

At the end of the course, pupils will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction.

### Assessment

Unit 1 will be assessed in an external exam. This exam can be taken in year 10 or 11 and resitted. This exam must be passed to gain the full Level 2 qualification.

The other 3 units will be assessed through a series of classwork assignments.

### Homework and Independent study

- Pupils are expected to work consistently on their assignments
- Only a few homework tasks will be set in this subject, but every effort should be made to keep on top of the assignments.
- Pupils must revise thoroughly for the Unit 1 exam.

### Skills

The focus of the course is on developing teamwork skills; how to communicate effectively, work with others and demonstrate good leadership skills where necessary. Completing the assignments will also improve literacy and IT skills.

### Career opportunities

The course is particularly suitable for those considering a career in the public services, be it in the police force, the armed forces, the fire service or ambulance service.



## Why choose ..... Religious Studies

### Introduction

Are you interested in investigating ultimate questions such as *What is the purpose of life?* "Would you like to study topics that explain the diversity of life and religion in the modern world? Would you like to improve your philosophical thinking skills and ability to think creatively? Religious Studies helps to develop your communication skills, learn how to clearly express your views and increase your self-confidence. You will also have the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in many interesting and exciting careers.

### Course Outline

**Unit 1— Religion and Philosophical Themes Part A: Core beliefs, teachings and practices — Christianity —** *God, Jesus, Mortality and the Church. Judaism— The Concept of God, Sacred Places, Worshipping Practices such as Uniform and Food Laws. Part B— Philosophical Themes—Theme 1: Life and Death - The world; The origin and value of human life; Beliefs about death and the afterlife. Theme 2: Good and Evil— Crime and Punishment; Forgiveness; Good, Evil and Suffering.*

**Unit 2— Religion and Ethical Themes—Part A: Core beliefs, teachings and practices— Christianity —** *The Bible; Life and Death; Life's Journey; Special Places. Judaism — Sacred Texts; The Covenant; Jewish Identity e.g. Symbols. Part B— Theme 1: Issues of Relationships - Relationships; Sexual Relationships; Issues of Equality: Gender Prejudice and Discrimination. Theme 2: Human Rights— Human Rights and Social Justice; Prejudice and Discrimination; Issues of Wealth and Poverty.*

### Assessment

**Unit 1** (Year 10)— Written Exam—2 hours—50%

**Unit 2** (Year 11)— Written Exam—2 hours—50%

### Homework and Independent Study

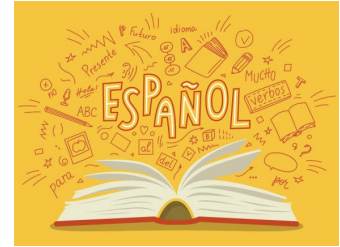
Homework will be set regularly, and pupils are expected to read and do their own independent study as well as revising regularly.

### Skills

The course will help develop communication skills, both orally and in writing. It also provides the opportunity to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

### Career Paths

Teaching and Lecturing, Civil Service, Human Resources, Journalist, Law, Social Services, The Police, Medicine, Minister, Chaplain, Historian, Charity Work.



## Why choose ..... Spanish

### Introduction

This GCSE is based on a conviction that learners studying a modern foreign language will develop their desire and ability to communicate with and understand speakers of Spanish in a variety of contexts and for a variety of purposes. The course supports the aim that the study of a modern foreign language will broaden horizons, develop cultural knowledge and understanding and foster transferable skills such as confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity. The course also aims to provide learners with a solid foundation on which to prepare them for future language study.

### Course Outline

There are 4 parts to the course; speaking, listening, reading and writing.

### Assessment

- Unit 1—oral test, 3 tasks (25%)
- Unit 2—written exam (25%)
- Unit 3—written exam (25%)
- Unit 4—written exam (25%)

### Homework and Independent study

- Homework will be set regularly.
- It is imperative that MFL students practise the language outside the classroom, with specific emphasis on learning vocabulary and practise language patterns.

### Skills

The course provides opportunities to develop candidates' Key/Essential Skills, particularly confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity.

### Career opportunities

The ability to communicate in a MFL is a very desirable asset in many fields, especially so in industries working on an international level.



## Why choose..... Triple Science

### Introduction

Science is a key subject for understanding the world around us. Biology is the study of living things, how they survive, interdependency and evolution. Chemistry is the study of materials, their properties, structure and reactions. Physics is a study of phenomena that cannot be seen such as energy and forces and how they control our daily lives. As well as understanding the world around you, you would also develop scientific skills through practical work. These skills will help assess the validity of information and data, evaluate and draw conclusions. Triple Science builds upon the contents of the Double Award course and provides a more solid (but not essential) foundation for advanced science courses such as A Level.

### Course Outline

Pupils will study 3 WJEC GCSE; Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each one containing 2 units. 3 units are taught in year 10, 3 in year 11. Practical work is part of each unit as well as a practical external exam.

### Assessment

1 unit is assessed in a written exam in June Year 10 (45%)

The second unit is assessed in a written exam in May / June year 11 (45%)

A practical exam will take place in Spring year 11 and is worth 10% of the final grade.

### Homework and revision

Teachers will set homework every 2 weeks in each subject.

We also expect pupils to read over the work and conduct their own independent study following the lessons and raise any concern with the relevant teacher.

### Skills

The ability to communicate information clearly and concisely using the correct technical language.

Planning skills, careful measuring, reporting and forming a conclusion. Ability to evaluate information.

### Career Opportunities

Engineering, electrician, medicine, vet, nurse, midwife, environmental work, working with animals, construction, catering.