

SENIOR SCHOOL

GCSE Options 2023-2024

















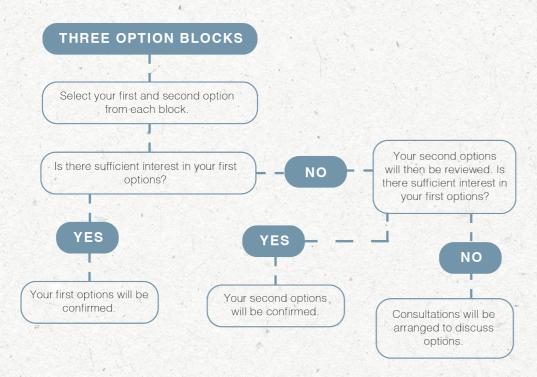
GCSE OPTIONS AT BOUNDARY OAK SCHOOL

Deciding your GCSE options is an exciting time. Inside this booklet, you will find information about the curriculum offered in Years 10 and 11 to help you make decisions concerning the subjects for these years.

Your GCSE subjects will be the stepping stones into further education so it's important to be logical and thoughtful in your approach. The subjects should excite and challenge you, and support your strengths. Opting for a balanced selection of subjects keeps further education options as wide as possible, allowing you enough flexibility for several career alternatives.

At Boundary Oak School, you are fortunate to have a wide breadth of advice and guidance available. You will have the opportunity to hear from your subject teachers about the courses on offer in class, and those subjects that may be new to you, in assemblies and at Options Evening. Please take every opportunity offered to ask all the questions you have about a particular course.

Following feedback from our parents, pupils, and listening to advice from our professional bodies and local college providers the process is as follows:



Once you have embarked on your subjects at the beginning of Year 10, it is expected that you will complete these so it's important you feel self-assured in your capabilities when choosing your preferred options.

MODULAR OPTIONS AT BOUNDARY OAK SCHOOL

Pearson's BTECs and OCR Nationals qualifications are recognised internationally by governments and employers. These qualifications are modular and designed to enhance the curriculum and prepare learners for the ever-changing world of work. Through a learner-centred approach, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied to project-based assessments, pupils can achieve a Level 2 qualification allowing them to progress to study at Level 3 and above or to enter the workplace. By focusing on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required, these qualifications provide a career ready education. We are currently reviewing modular options in a number of subject areas.

QUALIFICATION & UNIT CONTENT

Modular qualifications are designed in collaboration with employers and subject experts, and encompass applied learning that brings together knowledge, and understanding with practical and technical skills. This applied learning is achieved through learners performing vocational tasks that encourage the development of appropriate vocational behaviours and transferable skills, including, communication, teamwork and research and analysis.

WHAT DO THESE QUALIFICATIONS COVER?

Mandatory content ensures that all learners are following a coherent programme of study, acquiring knowledge, understanding and skills that will be worthwhile, and will also provide a basis for further study and/or employment. Additionally, learners take optional units to support their progression towards the qualification.

ASSESSMENT

The assessments are wide-ranging with different styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. Assessment is largely internal, coursework based, with some mandatory units assessed using examination board 'Set Assignments.'

TOP TIPS

The best advice we can give you when making your preferred option choices is that:

- You are logical and thoughtful in your approach
- Make sure to gather all the information you need from subject teachers and don't be afraid to ask questions
- Think about your own strengths, interests and past successes.
- Look forward to where you are aspiring and reflect honestly as to where you are now

In doing so, your decisions will be informed, rational and subsequently your GCSE programme will be a positive and fun experience.



PROGRAMME OF STUDY

You will follow a two-year programme of study in Years 10 and 11 towards GCSE or IGCSE examinations. All pupils follow a course in all the core subjects (leading to five GCSEs or six with triple science). These are complemented by three optional subjects. This means most pupils will take between seven and nine GCSEs.



The CORE subjects are: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Double Science (leading to Triple Science for some).



In addition, other compulsory elements include: PE and Games, ICT, PSHE and Careers guidance.

THE OPTIONAL SUBJECTS ARE:

Food Preparation & Nutrition Art & Design Music

Business Studies French

Citizenship Geography

Computer Science German

Design & Technology History

ICT Drama

Physical Education

(Examined)

Photography

Psychology

Spanish

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Autumn Term:

- Options Evening
- 1-2-1 meetings are available upon request
- "First and second" options form return

Spring Term:

- 1-2-1 meetings are available upon request
- Final options form released, April 2024

GCSEs IN NUMBERS

The following statistics are taken from our three year rolling average and last year's results.

percent of pupils achieve grade 7 or higher across all subjects.

100%

percent pass rate in 11 GCSE subjects in 2022.

2.0

In 2023, nearly 10% of pupils had an average value-added score above +2, adding over two grades on average to each subject.





English Language o

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study English?

English is a compulsory subject, which means everyone must study it at GCSE level. The main reason for this is that English is essential in today's world. No matter which future pathway you take, there will be an expectation that you are a confident and competent user of the language.

Course Overview

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

The aims and objectives of GCSE English Language are to enable pupils to:

- Read a wide range of texts fluently and with good understanding.
- Read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing.
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately.
- Use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately.
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.

Assessment Details

Component 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Weighting
Written examination	50%
1 hour, 45 minutes	
80 marks	
Externally assessed	
Content overview	
Fiction texts and descriptive writing	
Assessment overview	
Reading (40 marks) - one single text One short form question (1x 4 marks) Two longer form questions (2x 8 marks) One extended question (1x 20 marks)	
Writing (40 marks) • One extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy).	

Component 2: Writers' viewpoints and

Perspectives	
Written examination	50%
1 hour 45 minutes	
80 marks	
Externally assessed	
Content overview	
Non fiction texts, literary non fiction texts and writing to present a viewpoint.	
Assessment overview	
Reading (40 marks) - two linked texts One short form question (1x 4 marks) Two longer form questions (1x 8, 1x 12 marks) One extended question (1x 16 marks)	
Writing (40 marks) • One extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy).	

Weighting



English Literature o

Exam Board: Edexcel, IGCSE

Course Overview

Pupils will study a wide range of texts:

- Modern prose (such as Of Mice and Men or To Kill A Mockingbird).
- Poetry (taken from an anthology which ranges from William Blake to Carol Ann Duffy).
- Modern drama (such as An Inspector Calls or The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time).
- Literary heritage text (such as *Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth* or *Pride and Prejudice*).

The aims and objectives of English Literature are to enable pupils to:

- Read a wide range of classic and modern literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading.
- Read in depth, critically and evaluate, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas.
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage.
- Write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English.
- Acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including grammatical terminology, and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

Assessment Details

Paper 1: Poetry and Prose	Weighting
Written examination	60%
2 hours	
90 marks	
Externally assessed	
Content overview	
Modern ProsePoetry	
Assessment overview	
 Section A - Analysis on unseen poetry. Section B - Anthology poetry: comparing two poems. Section C - A choice of 2 essay questions on the modern prose text. 	

Paper 2: Modern drama and Literary Heritage	Weighting
Coursework	40%
60 marks	
Internally assessed	
Content overview	
Modern drama Literacy heritage text	
Assessment overview	
One essay on Modern Drama text	

One essay on Literary Heritage text

Mathematics o

Exam Board: Edexcel, IGCSE

Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline that has been developed over centuries. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. A high quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

Course Overview

GCSE Mathematics covers a wide range of basic mathematical knowledge and skills, grouped into four areas: Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics.

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to use skills, reason mathematically and solve abstract problems. While studying mathematics you will be expected to use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems.

The IGCSE course will focus on:

- Tiers of entry that allow pupils to be entered for the appropriate level.
- Questions designed to be accessible to Pupils of all abilities within that tier.
- Papers that are balanced for topics and difficulty.
- Standards that are equivalent to Edexcel's UK GCSE in Mathematics a solid basis for Pupils wishing to progress to Edexcel AS and A Level, or equivalent qualifications.

Foundation Tier (5-1)

Written paper: 2 x 2 hour examinations

Each paper is 50% of the qualification

100 marks

Content overview

The foundation tier requires Pupils to demonstrate application and understanding of the following:

- Number.
- Use numerical skills in a purely mathematical way and in real-life situations.
- Algebra.
- Use letters as equivalent to numbers and as variables.
- Understand the distinction between expressions, equations and formulae.
- Use algebra to set up and solve problems.
- · Demonstrate manipulative skills.
- Construct and use graphs.
- · Geometry.
- Use properties of angles.
- Understand a range of transformations.
- Work within the metric system.
- Understand ideas of space and shape.
- Use ruler, compasses and protractor appropriately.
- Statistics.
- Understand basic ideas of statistical averages.
- Use a range of statistical techniques.
- Use basic ideas of probability.

Higher Tier (9-4)

Written paper: 2 x 2 hour examinations

Each paper is 50% of the qualification

100 marks

Content overview

At higher level, each paper will assess the full range of targeted grades at Higher Tier (9–4) however questions will assume knowledge from the Foundation Tier subject content. Each paper will have approximately 40% of the marks distributed evenly over grades 4 and 5 and approximately 60% of the marks distributed evenly over grades 6, 7, 8 and 9. Topics that appear in the higher tier include:

- Surds.
- Set notation.
- Standard form.
- Calculations involving bounds.
- Solving quadratics equations.
- · Rearranging formulae.
- · Using direct and inverse proportion.
- Simultaneous equations.
- Function notation.
- Transformation of graphs.
- Calculus.
- Circle theorems.
- Pvthagoras theorem.
- Trigonometry.
- Vectors.
- Histograms.
- Cumulative frequency graphs.
- Tree diagrams for probability.



The final assessment is made up of two calculator papers:

- 1F and 2F at Foundation level
- 3H and 4H at Higher level

To achieve a grade 8, 5 or 2, candidates need to be confident at the following:

Grade 8

- Perform procedures accurately.
- Interpret and communicate complex information accurately.
- Make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions.
- Construct substantial chains of reasoning, including convincing arguments and formal proofs.
- Generate efficient strategies to solve complex mathematical and nonmathematical problems by translating them into a series of mathematical processes.
- Make and use connections, which may not be immediately obvious, between different parts of mathematics
- Interpret results in the context of the given problem.
- Critically evaluate methods, arguments, results and the assumptions made.

Grade 5

- Perform routine single and multi-step procedures effectively by recalling, applying and interpreting notation, terminology, definitions and formulae.
- Interpret and communicate information effectively.
- Make deductions, inferences and draw conclusions.
- Construct chains of reasoning.
- Generate strategies to solve mathematical and non-mathematical problems by translating them into mathematical processes.
- Interpret results in the context of the given problem.
- Evaluate methods and results.

Grade 2

- Recall and use notation, terminology, facts and definitions; perform routine procedures, including some multi-step procedures.
- Interpret and communicate basic information; make deductions and use reasoning to obtain results.
- Solve problems by translating simple mathematical and non-mathematical problems into mathematical processes.
- Provide basic evaluation of methods or results
- Interpret results in the context of the given problem.
- There will be approximately 40% of questions targeted at grades 5 and 4, across the foundation and higher papers to aid standardisation and comparability of award between tiers.

A formulae sheet will be included in all examinations and a calculator may be used however pupils will need to show how they obtained their answers.

As a department we will assess each individual child's needs and following discussions between the teacher and parent we will decide the best tier to sit.

Science: Combined Science Trilogy o

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Combined Science?

Combined science is the best option for pupils who have a general interest in science as it is a two-GCSE sized qualification covering the three science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Pupils will study all the same topic areas as described in the scientific disciplines above, however not in as much detail as Triple Science, giving a broad understanding of the three sciences.

Course Overview

For the combined science award pupils will cover and be examined across the following topics:

Biology - 10% of marks are maths skills.

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry - 20% of marks are maths skills.

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics - 30% of marks are maths skills.

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

Please also read the 'Why study?' For Biology, Chemistry and Physics under Science: Triple Award as this content also applies to pupils choosing to study double science.

Assessment Details

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas, using multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

Biology

2x Written examinations: 1 hour 15 minutes, 70 marks

Paper 1 - Biology topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Paper 2 - Biology topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry

2x Written examinations: 1 hour 15 minutes, 70 marks

Paper 1 - Chemistry topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

Paper 2 - Chemistry topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Physics

x2 Written examinations: 1 hour 15 minutes, 70 marks

Paper 1 - Physics topics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Paper 2 - Physics topics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

Science: Triple Award •

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Triple Science?

Taking sciences separately at GCSE level will enable you to cover more content and therefore be better prepared if you want to take science A-levels. If you are thinking about science-based degrees at university and careers thereafter it is definitely worth considering taking separate science GCSEs. Most top universities prefer applicants for science subjects to have taken the triple award option at GCSE. For double science you will work towards gaining two GCSE's broadly covering all three disciplines, in the triple award you will have an increased focus and separate GCSE examinations for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Suitability for following three separate Sciences or following combined science is determined by performance at the end of Year 9.

Course Overview

You will study all three sciences from the separate disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Why Study Biology?

Biology – the science that looks at the world around us and at all living things.

Biology is exciting, fascinating and helps us understand how the most interesting organism in the world works – ourselves.

Course Overview

Studying Biology will give you an increased understanding of environmental issues, of health and disease and of the human condition. We will extend the work to cover material outside the syllabus into areas such as dissection, genetics and advanced microbiology in line with the interests of the group.

Subject content:

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Assessment Details - 10% of marks are maths skills.

There are two papers. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas, using multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

Biology Paper 1

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Assessment overview

Topics 1–4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology Paper 2

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Assessment overview

Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry GCSE will take you further into this interesting and rewarding subject. This means more experiments; more skills to learn and more opportunity to look at the way the substances and materials used and abused in our modern day society are created and destroyed.

Course Overview

You will be taking the knowledge and skills you learn and applying them to new situations involved in 'living in the material world'. We will extend the work to cover areas outside the syllabus such as chemical synthesis where Students try their hand at creation of their own chemical compounds.

Subject content:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Assessment Details - 20% of marks are maths skills

There are two papers. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas, using multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

Chemistry Paper 1

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Assessment overview

Topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

Chemistry Paper 2

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Assessment overview

Topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.



Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Physics?

In Physics you will be looking at an extensive range of topics in order to gain an understanding of the world around you.

Course Overview

The topics take you from the behaviour of electrons in a conductor to an understanding of the formation of stars and the evolution of our Universe. There will be ample opportunity to work on experiments that illustrate the concepts.

This course should enable you to make informed contributions about the issues of the day.

Subject content:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space physics only)

Assessment Details - 30% of marks are maths skills.

There are two papers. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas, using multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

Physics Paper 1

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Assessment overview

Topics 1-4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Physics Paper 2

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Assessment overview

Topics 5-8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics.

Questions in paper 2 may draw on an understanding of energy changes and transfers due to heating, mechanical and electrical work and the concept of energy conservation from Energy and Electricity.

Art & Design: Art, Craft & Design

Exam Board: Edexcel, GCSE

Why Study Art?

You will have the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in art and design. You will develop your ideas and expand your creative thinking, develop independent learning skills allowing you to apply your thinking in a practical and realistic way.

This course will suit you if you:

- Like to use different materials and processes to develop your visual skills.
- Are creative, enthusiastic and imaginative.
- Are willing to experiment and to take risks when you are trying out your ideas.
- Are able to work independently and like to visit art galleries and museums to make your work more informed and interesting.
- Like communicating your ideas, opinions and addressing issues.

Course Overview

Pupils will be required to work in at least one of the disciplines of painting, drawing, printmaking and/or sculpture.

Fine art may be defined as work which is produced as an outcome of the pupils' personal experience, rather than that which is created exclusively for a practical function, or that which is the outcome of a tightly prescribed brief. It is a means by which ideas are explored, communicated and, through visual information and enquiry, translated into art outcomes.

Work produced for this endorsement will demonstrate the use of formal elements and creative skills, and give visual form to individual thoughts, feelings, observations and ideas. Pupils will show evidence of trying to extend their own and others' ways of seeing the world. They will use the visual language of the subject sensitively and thoughtfully to support their intentions.

Assessment Detail

Overview

Coursework Portfolio

60%

Assessment overview

The portfolio will consist of a sustained project. It is made up of more than one piece of art work and a candidate must demonstrate to the examiner his/her 'working process' (via sketches, notes, studies etc.) as well as the final product or products.

In addition they must evaluate their art and make informed connections with the work of professional artists and designers, from the past or present.

Overviev

Examination Portfolio: the final piece to be completed within 10 hours

40%

Assessment overview

The exam topic (a broad based thematic starting point set by the examining board) is given to the candidate three months prior to the actual exam in order that preliminary studies can be carried out. During that exam, there is no written exam paper, instead the candidate will have 10 hours to produce a final piece, with reference to their preparatory studies, in response to the exam topic.





Exam Board: Edexcel, IGCSE

Why Study Business Studies?

Throughout your business studies lessons, you'll develop a broad knowledge of business operations as well as gaining targeted skills in your specific field, such as customers, markets, finance, operations, strategy, business policy, communications and IT.

Course Overview

Business studies will enable pupils to:

- Develop an interest in, and enjoyment of, business subjects that will be sustained in later life.
- Use relevant terminology, concepts and methods effectively and recognise the strengths and limitations of the ideas used.
- Develop and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to current issues in a wide range of appropriate international and UK contexts.
- Use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish between facts and opinion and evaluate.
- Use qualitative and quantitative data, to help build arguments and make informed judgements.
- Appreciate the range of different stakeholder perspectives in relation to business activities.
- Have an understanding of the dynamics of business activity and the related considerations of ethics and sustainability in business.

Assessment Detail

Paper 1: Investigating Small Businesses

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

50% of the qualification

80 marks

Content overview

This paper will draw on topics taken from the whole of the subject content. The question scenarios are based on a small business - up to 49 employees.

Assessment overview

Examination of 1 hour 30 minutes, consisting of four compulsory questions, each worth 20 marks making a total of 80 in Paper 1. The sub-questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data response, and open-ended questions.

Calculators may be used in the examination.

Paper 2: Investigating Large Businesses

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

50% of the qualification

80 marks

Content overview

This paper will draw on topics taken from the whole of the subject content. The question scenarios are based on a small business - up to 250 employees.

Assessment overview

Examination of 1 hour 30 minutes, consisting of four compulsory questions, each worth 20 marks making a total of 80 in Paper 2. The sub-questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data response, and open-ended questions.

Calculators may be used in the examination.

	Assessment objectives	Weight
Knowledge	Recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of business terms, concepts and issues.	28%
Application	Apply knowledge and understanding using appropriate business terms, concepts, theories and calculations effectively in specific contexts.	39%
Analysis	Select, organise and interpret business information from sources to investigate and analyse issues.	23%
Evaluation	Evaluate business information to make reasoned judgements and draw conclusions.	12%

Citizenship

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Citizenship?

Citizenship is an engaging and relevant subject that widens pupils' knowledge of contemporary issues. It encourages them to reflect on what makes them a 'global citizen', and how their learning will develop their skills and knowledge within their local and national communities.

Course Overview

Through the content studied and assessment, pupils will engage in responding to issues and take part in the community project, which allows them to 'engage' with global society. This will enable them to take greater ownership and responsibility of the community activity to demonstrate active citizenship – improving others' societies as well as their own.

Key components:

- Global outlook: pupils will develop an understanding of key changes affecting societies across the world, enabling them to have a global outlook and understand diverse points of view. For pupils who are internationally mobile, or wish to study and work in fields that require a global outlook, this qualification will support them to become global citizens.
- Practical project: pupils will be required to undertake a practical community action project to enable them to apply citizenship knowledge, understanding and skills in real life.
- Transferable skills: the content is organised around key themes: Politics and Governance, Economic Development and the Environment, Culture and Community, and Technology.

Assessment Detail

Paper 1	Weighting
Written examination	50%
1 Hour 45 minutes	
80 marks	
Content overview	
The paper consists of two sections: Section A: active citizenship questions on the citizenship action of others and questions on the students taking citizenship action investigation (40 marks) Section B: politics and participation question (40 marks) Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, source-based questions, extended answer	

Paper 2	Weighting
Written examination	50%
1 Hour 45 minutes	
80 marks	
Content overview	
Content overview	
The paper consists of two sections: Section A: life in modern Britain questions (40 marks) Section B: rights and responsibilities questions (40 marks)	
Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, source-based questions, extended answer	



Computer Science

Exam Board: Cambridge, IGCSE

Why Study Computer Science?

Computing is a field where it is almost impossible to predict what will happen next, however by studying it pupils are given a strong grounding in the principles of programming and an understanding of how computers work in 'the real world'.

Pupils considering GCSE computer science should be aware that some elements of the course require strong mathematical reasoning. Our experience show that this option is best suited to pupils targeting at least grade 6 or above in mathematics.

Course Overview

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable pupils to:

- Computational thinking skills
- An understanding of the main principles of solving problems using computers
- The skills necessary to solve computerbased problems using a high-level programming language.
- An understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate
- An understanding of the internet as a means of communication and its associated risks
- An understanding of the development and use of automated and emerging technologies.

Paper 1: Computer Systems	Weighting
Written examination, non-calculator	50%
1 Hour 45 minutes	
75 marks	
Externally assessed	
Content overview	
The paper consists of: Short-answer and structured questions Questions will be based on Topics 1-6	

of the subject content.

Logic	vveignling
Written examination, non-calculator	50%
1 Hour 45 minutes	
75 marks	
Externally assessed	
Content overview	
The paper consists of: Short-answer and structured questions plus a scenario-based question Questions will be based on Topics 7-10 of the subject content.	

Design & Technology

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Design & Technology?

This course gives pupils the opportunity to study one material area of design and technology alongside the core elements of the subject.

The course covers all aspects of the National Curriculum for Design and Technology. You will learn about a range of materials, manufacturing processes, techniques and new technologies and be able to use them appropriately.

Pupils considering Design & Technology need to be aware that at least 25% of the exam paper will assess maths and science, so confidence in these subjects is recommended.

Course Overview

You will be designing and making products in wood, metal and plastic as well as developing an understanding of materials and processes used in the other areas of technology. You also will have the opportunity to use CAD and CAM techniques and learn about a variety of workshop techniques and practices.

The 3 key areas of study are:

- Core technical principals
- Specialist technical principals
- Designing and making principles.

Assessment Details

The course consists of a piece of controlled assessment and one exam which are weighted 50% and 50%.

The controlled assessment comprises of a research, design and evaluation portfolio. The context will be issued each year by the exam board. The exam consists of a range of question styles which are based around technical and theory elements. Year 10 will build practical skills and theoretical

knowledge in preparation for the completion of the controlled assessment and the exam in year 11.

All three areas are assessed through the Non-exam assessment (coursework) and the written exam.

Unit 1: Non-Exam assessment (NEA) - Coursework

50% of the qualification

100 marks

Unit 2: Written exam

Written examination: 2 Hours

50% of the qualification

Externally assessed

- Based on the 3 key study areas
- Consists of multiple choice and short answer questions examining the core technical principals.
- Consists of longer response questions that assess the specialist technical principals.
- Consists of questions that assess the designing and making process.

Unit 2: Written exam

The syllabus comprises of seven units:

- Unit 1 New and emerging technologies
- Unit 2 Energy, materials, systems and devices
- Unit 3 Materials and their working properties
- Unit 4 Common specialist technical principles
- Unit 5 Specialist material areas materials specific
- Unit 6 Designing principles
- Unit 7 Making principles

Drama



Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Drama?

Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course that reflects the practical and analytical nature of the subject which provides students the opportunity to:

- Advance their imagination, creative, cognitive and social skills.
- Further, stimulate their interest and understanding of Drama as a creative art form.
- Explore the social and cultural influence Drama can have.
- Develop self-confidence, communication skills and an awareness of the needs of others.

Course Overview

Through the course, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of:

- A wide range of different styles, genres and key practitioners of Drama.
- The ways in which performers communicate meaning to an audience.
- A range of theatre conventions and Drama terminology.
- Roles & processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre.
- How plays are constructed and realised.
- How to create, interpret and communicate a character/role.
- Drama within its social, cultural, and historical contexts, and establish how this might impact on a performance.

There will be opportunity for students to go on various theatre trips. There is also an expectation that students will attend extra rehearsals when preparing for performance assessments.

Assessment Details

Component 1: Weighting Written examination: 1 Hour 45 minutes 40% Content overview

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre.
 Practical exploration and study of one
- complete performance text.

 Practical exploration and study of one
- complete performance text.

Assessment overview

Section A: Theatre roles and terminology.

- Multiple choice questions (4 marks).

 Section B: Study of a set play (clean playtext can be brought into the exam).
- Four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen (44 marks)

Section C: Live Theatre production.

 One question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks).

Component 2: Devising Drama

Weighting

Content overview

- Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus.
- Performance of devised drama or design realisation for this performance.
- Analysis and evaluation of own devising process and performance.

Assessment overview

There are two parts to the assessment:

- 1. A devising log covering:
- Response to stimulus (20 marks)
- Development and collaboration (20 marks)
- Analysis and evaluation (20 marks)
- 2. A devised performance/ design Realisation (20 marks)

Component 3: Texts in practice

Weighting 20%

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as a
- performer or a designer)

 Centre choice of performance text.

Assessment overview

Content overview

- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner
- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks)
- Performance of Extract 2 (20 marks)

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Food and Nutrition?

- Food education provides a life skill to enable pupils to cook healthy, balanced meals for themselves and their family.
- Enjoyable, creative and practical.
- Teaches valuable transferable skills including research, development, evaluation and realisation of ideas as well as planning, team work, problem solving and communication.
- It reinforces cross curricular links with Science and Mathematics.
- Further education providers look for pupil's top 6 GCSEs (including Maths and English) regardless of the subject choice. Choosing a Food qualification carries equal waiting to more traditional subjects.
- Industry trips to gain a deeper insight into food preparation and nutrition.
- The food industry is one of the biggest employers in the UK. There is a real shortage of qualified food scientists, food technologists and new product developers within the food industry.
- It can lead to careers such as sports nutritionist, dietician, medical nutritionist, physiotherapy.

Pupils who excel in this course are interested in both the practical side of learning a range of high level skills and the theory behind food; safety, science, choice and provenance. The course requires pupils to write two reports in Year 11, worth 50% of the assessment. Both reports require students to meet deadlines, use organisational skills, analyse results and evaluate. The course complements; science, physical education and geography.

Course Overview

The course is divided into 5 main areas of study.

- 1. Food, nutrition and health
- 2. Food science
- 3. Food safety
- 4. Food choice
- 5. Food provenance

Assessment Detail

Examination 1 - Theory, Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Written examination

1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

Assessment overview

Written examination consisting of multi-choice questions, short answer questions and structured questions.1 hour 45 minutes

Examination 2 - Non examination assessment

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.

NEA 1: 10 hours - 15% of total GCSE

NEA 2: 20 hours - 35% of total GCSE

Assessment overview

NEA 1: The Food Investigation Assessment

A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. A report of approximately 1500 words will be produced

NEA 2: The Food Preparation Assessment

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

A report will be produced of no more than 20 sides of A4

These assessments will be based on a choice of tasks released by AQA in Year 11





Geography

Exam Board: Edexcel, IGCSE

Why Study Geography?

We live in the world, are part of world events and are affected by environmental, geological and socio- economic events. Studying geography is vital so that pupils can understand what is happening around them and so that they can recognise the part that they play in living sustainably.

Geographers are vital members of society, providing key analytical skills along with the ability to bring together diverse ideas and communicate conclusions clearly. As a result, Geographers are well suited to a broad range of careers. Most jobs require research, problem- solving and communication; therefore, Geographers are highly employable.

Course Overview

The International GCSE has four sections. Sections A, B and D contain optional topics and Section C draws on the practical geographical enquiry skills that underpin the study of Sections A and B.

Section A – The Natural Environment Complete two of the three topics:

- River environments.
- Coastal environments.
- Hazardous environments.

Section B – People and their Environments Complete two of the three topics:

- Economic activity and energy.
- Ecosystems and rural environments.
- Urban environments.

Section C – Practical Geographical Enquiry The development of practical geographical enquiry skills related to the investigation of each selected topic from Sections A and B.

Fieldwork and enquiry skills should include:

 Pre-fieldwork planning - designing a fieldwork investigation, as per the qualification content.

- Primary field skills undertaking a field investigation; the need for sampling, data collection and recording techniques.
- Presentation, analysis, conclusions and evaluation skills.

Section D – Global Issues Complete one of the three topics:

- Fragile environments.
- Globalisation and migration.
- Development and human welfare.

Assessment Details

Component	Weighting
Examination paper	100%
3 hours	
180 marks	
Assessment overview	
The single tier of entry will contain a variety	

The single tier of entry will contain a variety of question types, such as multiple choice questions, short and extended answer questions, graphical and data questions and practical enquiry questions.

- The paper will be a question and answer booklet and candidates have to answer:
- Two questions from a choice of three in Section A.
- Two questions from a choice of three in Section B.
- Two questions; one question from a choice of two related to Topics 1 to 3 and one question from a choice of two related to Topics 4 to 6 in Section C one question from a choice of three in Section D.
- Each question in Sections A, B and C is worth 25 marks; each question in Section D is worth 30 marks.

History

Exam Board: Edexcel, IGCSE

Why Study History?

History should be studied due to a passion for learning about events and people in the past. However, it also teaches valuable transferable skills, meaning that those with History at A Level and Degree level are highly regarded by employers. Many pupils who study History at A Level go on to study research-based degrees, including History, Politics, Economics, Law and Journalism, which all require the candidate to formulate an argument, essay or speech using wideranging evidence. History is also highly regarded in Science and many pupils go on to study Medicine.

Course Overview

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable pupils to:

- Develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in history; and of the wide diversity of human experience.
- Engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers.
- Develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context.
- Develop an awareness that different people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them.
- Organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions.

Assessment Details

Paper 1: Depth Studies

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

50% of the qualification

Pupils must study at least two depth studies from the

- The French Revolution, c1780–99
- Development of a nation: unification of Italy, 1848–70
- Germany: development of dictatorship, 1918–45
- Colonial rule and the nationalist challenge in India,
- Dictatorship and conflict in the USSR, 1924–53
- A world divided: superpower relations. 1943–72
- A divided union: civil rights in the USA, 1945–74
- South Africa: from union to the end of apartheid, 1948-

Assessment overview

Pupils are assessed through an examination based on their selected depth studies. Pupils answer two questions, one on each of the depth studies they have studied.

Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

50% of the qualification

Content overview

Pupils must study at least one depth study from the following.

- The origins and course of the First World War. 1905–18
- Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905–24
- The USA 1918–41
- The Vietnam Conflict, 1945–75
- East Germany, 1958–90

Pupils must study one breadth study from the following.

- America: from new nation to divided union, 1783–1877 • Changes in medicine, c1848-c1948
- Japan in transformation, 1853–1945
- China: conflict, crisis and change, 1900–89
- The changing role of international organisations: the league and the UN, 1919-c2011
- The changing nature of warfare and international conflict.
- The Middle East: conflict, crisis and change, 1919–2012

Assessment overview

Pupils are assessed through an examination based on their selected depth studies. Pupils answer two questions, one on each of the depth studies they have studied.





Exam Board: Edexcel, IGCSE

Why Study ICT (Information and Communication Technology)?

ICT develops important skills in pupils, such as data handling, which are transferable and useful for a wide range of jobs. In an increasingly digital world, it provides pupils with every opportunity to learn skills that will enable them to thrive.

Course Overview

The course has been designed to meet pupil needs in the following ways:

- Developing confident and competent ICT users - this qualification provides pupils with the opportunity of operating confidently in today's digital world. It is a useful, practical qualification which will provide the skills needed in further education and work.
- Providing pupils with relevant and transferable skills - pupils will learn about topics ranging from digital devices and connectivity, safe and responsible practice and understand the impact of internet on the way that organisations do business. They will also be encouraged to practice using software applications effectively.

Assessment Detail

Paper 1: Written paper

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

50% of the qualification

100 marks

Content overview

Pupils must study all of the following topics:

- Topic 1: Digital Devices
- Topic 2: Connectivity
- Topic 3: Operating Online
- Topic 4: Online Goods and Services

Assessment overview

- Written paper lasting one hour, 30 minutes.
- · Externally assessed.
- The examination is comprised of a mixture of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Paper 2: Practical paper

Practical examination: 3 hour

50% of the qualification

100 marks

Content overview

Pupils must study both of the following topics:

- Topic 5: Applying ICT
- Topic 6: Software Skills

Assessment overview

- Pupils will be assessed through a practical three hour examination.
- The examination window takes place during one week during May or June.
- The examination comprises of one practical assignment from a choice of two.

Modern Languages

We recommend pupils choose at least one modern foreign language but some pupils may well want to take two where the options allows. At Boundary Oak, we offer French, German and Spanish at GCSE.

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why study a language?

In our ever more globalised world, the knowledge of a second language is becoming increasingly important; there is a high demand for able linguists and a Modern Language GCSE will certainly make you stand out from the crowd. The twoyear course will offer you the opportunity to improve your language skills to your full potential whilst improving your performance across other academic subjects. In addition, you will develop a wide range of transferrable skills, ranging from empathy and teamwork to creative problem-solving. self-confidence and perseverance. As an important part of the English Baccalaureate, studying a language to GCSE level will also keep your options open for future study; the Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities. Although a language GCSE is regarded as a challenging option, requiring a regular commitment to the learning of vocabulary and grammatical structures, the rewards that come with this are varied and plentiful. Where will a GCSE in French. German or Spanish take you?

Course Overview

The specification in French, German and Spanish covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers.

Passages in the Listening and Reading assessments will be set in the context of the target language countries and communities. In the Speaking and Writing assessments, students will be able to respond according to their own interests and experiences.

The texts and tasks set for the assessments will be based on a prescribed vocabulary list and prescribed grammatical concepts.

Theme 1: people and lifestyle

- Identity and relationships with others
- Healthy living and lifestyle
- Education and work

Theme 2: popular culture

- Free-time activities
- Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Celebrity culture

Theme 3: communication and the world around us

- Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

Assessment Detail

Each language has a Foundation Tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4 – 9). Pupils must take all four question papers at the same tier. The qualification is linear and all question papers must therefore be taken in the same series at the end of the course.

Component	Weighting
Paper 1: Listening	25%
Foundation tier: 35 minutes, 40 marks (scaled to 50)	
Higher tier: 45 minutes approximately, 50 marks	
Paper 2: Speaking	25%
Foundation tier: 7 – 9 minutes + preparation time, 50 marks	
Higher tier: 10 – 12 minutes + preparation time, 50 marks	
Paper 3: Reading	25%
Foundation tier: 45 minutes, 50 marks	
Higher tier: 1 hour, 50 marks	
Paper 4: Writing	25%
Foundation tier: 1 hour 10 minutes, 50 marks	
Higher tier: 1 hour 15 minutes, 50 marks	

Music

Why Study Music?

In the first instance, take GCSE music if you enjoy making music and would like to know more about music and your instrument. In terms of the bigger picture, employers like to see a subject like music on a CV. Such a qualification proves that an individual:

- Is imaginative/creative;
- Has a good level of self-discipline and tenacity;
- Is motivated to work alone and/or with others;
- Can problem solve; and is able to perform under pressure.

This subject requires pupils to be able to play an instrument and/or sing. There is a strong weighting on performance (30% of the GCSE) and pupils need to be willing to perform both as soloists and in a group. Final coursework is not recorded in front of an audience, but playing and/or singing competency is required.

Course Overview

Topics to be study are broad and wideranging The Concerto through time Rhythms of the world, film music and conventions of pop (including music theatre). Pupils will:

- Learn how to read and write music for their instrument/voice. For some, this will be the basics; for others, advanced skills will be taught – such as score reading, analysis and notation software.
- Develop their instrumental and/or singing skills. (Advanced students will learn how to develop their own distinctive interpretations of music. Noninstrumentalists will be taught new skills at an instrument of their choice).
- Play with others in an ensemble context; and learn how to use Music Technology; this will be a key resource and will be used as a tool for research and musical composition.
- You do not have to be an experienced



instrumentalist to take GCSE music. All that is required is a love of music and a willingness to learn and develop new skills.

Assessment Details

Component 1: Integrated Portfolio

30% of the qualification

60 marks

Content overview

- Performance on the learner's chosen instrument.
- Composition to a brief set by the learner

Component 2: Practical component

30% of the qualification

60 marks

Content overview

- Ensemble performance
- Composition to an OCR

Component 3: Listening and Appraising

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

40% of the qualification

80 marks

Content overview

 Aural recognition and context unheard/unfamiliar music from within the Areas of Study 2,3,4 &5.

Assessment Overview

The total length of performance required in component 1 or 2 and 3 or 4 combined is a minimum of four minutes with at least one minute as part of an ensemble. Learners can perform several short pieces for either or both components.

Areas of Study:

- 1 My Music
- 2 The Concerto Through Time
- 3 Rhythms of the World
- 4 Film Music
- 5 Conventions of Pop

Photography

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why Study Photography?

Photography will develop your ability to see the world in a different light and from a different angle; identifying the unusual in the mundane; developing your technical and creative skills through personal investigation; delving into the work and ethos of other photographers, artists and designers to enhance your creative growth. Examples of photography are all around us in our everyday lives; from advertising, fashion magazines, album covers, posters, newspaper reports etc. If you enjoy taking and looking at photographs, then this course is for you.

Course Overview

Photography is a very immediate and accessible way of communicating your ideas and views of the world around you to others. GCSE Photography allows students opportunities to explore and gain skills in both traditional and cutting-edge photo-graphic techniques.

- Exploring the notion of 'painting with light'
- Understanding of viewpoint, composition, depth of field, aperture and shutter speed relationships
- Ability to analyse the work of others and understand their concepts
- Digital manipulation skills
- Use of Photoshop software
- Ability to select and use appropriate forms of digital presentation
- Become proficient in the use of DSLR cameras and studio lighting

You will explore the theme 'Identity' through photography and historical research. Identity of place and personal identity are the main areas of study, inspiring exciting student led investigations and cutting-edge ideas. Students will be asked to complete photoshoots that explore the given theme and these could be still life, life, portrait, motion capture, time lapse, landscape, macro etc. Explorations are then refined and developed

into personal outcomes. The course will extend opportunities for students considering a career in the Visual Arts and complements the GCSE Art course; specifically leading to A Level Photography and A level media.

 Career openings include fine art photographer, photojournalist, fashion photographer, advertising, studio photographer, forensic photographer, archivist, graphic designer, film maker and media.

Assessment Details

Component 1: Coursework

60% of the qualification

Content overview

This component allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s).

Component 2: Examination

40% of the qualification

The final piece to completed within 10 hours

Content overview

The exam topic (a broad-based thematic starting point set by the examining board) is given to the candidate three months prior to the actual exam in order that preliminary studies can be carried out. During the exam, there is no written exam paper, instead the candidate will have 10 hours to produce a final piece, with reference to their preparatory studies, in response to the exam topic.

Physical Education (Examined)

Exam Board: AQA, GCSE

Why Study Physical Education?

GCSE PE allows the opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing learners with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. This helps learners to develop an appreciation of the necessity for sound understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.

PE offers the opportunity to develop resilience, team work and healthy habits for life as well as improving skills and techniques. It provides a grounding for studying Science - based subjects in the future such as A-level Biology, Sports Science, Psychology or Physics.

This AQA course requires a pupil to be able to offer three sporting activities, at least one they play competitively outside of school. The 60% "Theory of Physical Education" mirrors much what is taught in Human Biology and Physics with a study of sport and society as well as contemporary issues. Your analytical skills used in History and English are also transferable. The course is primarily delivered in the classroom with opportunities to relate the theory to practical sessions and fitness testing/ training programmes.

Course Overview

Candidates will study

- The human body and movement in physical activity and sport
- Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

As well as undertake three different activities in the role of a player only. One must be a team sport and one must be an individual sport.

As part of the practical assessment, pupils will also be required to analyse and evaluate through written coursework. The written coursework will require pupils to analyse and evaluate a performance in one of their chosen sports, address two strengths and weaknesses and provide an action plan to improve upon weaknesses.

Assessment Detail

For each of their three activities, pupils will

be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10

marks per activity) and in full context (15 marks

per activity). Pupils will be assessed on their

analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks)

of performance to bring about improvement in

Internally assessed by teachers & moderated

by AQA



Exam Board: AQA, GCSE



This engaging and effective qualification introduces students to the fundamentals of psychology, developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills.

Course Overview

Cognition and behaviour

Memory

- Processes of memory
- Structures of memory
- Memory as an active process

Perception

- Sensation and perception
- Visual cues and constancies
- Influence of nature and nurture
- Visual illusions
- Factors affecting perception

Development

- Early brain development
- Piaget's theory, intelligence and education
- The effects of learning on development

Research methods and Data handling

Social context and behaviour

Social influence

- Conformity
- Obedience
- Pro social behaviour
- Crowd and collective behaviour

Language, thought and communication

- The possible relationship between language and thought and the effect of our view of the world
- Differences between human and animal communication
- Non-verbal communication and explanations of non-verbal behaviour

Brain and neuropsychology

- Structure and function of the nervous system
- Neuron structure and function
- Structure and function of the brain
- An introduction to neuropsychology

Psychological problems

- Introduction to mental health
- How the incidence of significant mental health problems changes over time

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- Effects of significant mental health problems on individuals and society
- Characteristics of clinical depression
- Theories of depression and intervention therapies
- Characteristics of addiction
- Theories of addiction and intervention therapies

Assessment Details

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of the qualification

100 marks

Content overview

- The paper consists of four sections.
- Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing for each section.

Assessment overview

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics:

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research Methods

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of the qualification

100 marks

Content overview

- The paper consists of four sections.
- Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing for each section.

Assessment overview

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics:

- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems



Stronger Together