

2026-27

# GCSE AND BTEC OPTIONS BOOKLET

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Guiding **Stars** to  
**Bright Futures**

# WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear parents,

At Star International School, Al Twar, we are proud to deliver the National Curriculum for England, providing every student with a broad and balanced education that prepares them for the academic challenge and depth of GCSE and A-Level study. Throughout Primary and into Years 7, 8, and 9, we build firm foundations of knowledge, understanding, and skills that enable each learner to thrive as they move into the next phase of their educational journey.

In Year 9, students begin to make important choices about the subjects they will study in Years 10 and 11. Alongside the core curriculum, students are able to select optional subjects that reflect their interests, strengths, and future aspirations. These subjects are all formally examined at the end of Year 11. As part of this transition, lessons become more specialised and rigorous, homework expectations increase, and students are encouraged to take greater ownership of their learning.

Our pastoral programme continues to play a vital role throughout this stage. Students receive guidance and support from their form tutors and Key Stage Leaders, while also being encouraged to engage actively in extra-curricular opportunities that nurture confidence, leadership, and personal growth.

Choosing GCSE and/or BTEC subjects is an exciting milestone, and we are committed to ensuring that every student and parent feels fully supported throughout the options process. In the coming weeks you will have opportunities to explore the different subjects on offer and speak with staff to help make informed decisions.

If you have any questions or would like further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

**Mrs. Lisa Passante**

Principal



# WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to write to you as the new Head of Secondary at Star International School, Al Twar. It is a privilege to join this community, and I am incredibly excited to support your children at such an important stage in their educational journey.

At Star, we are committed to developing not only academically successful students, but well-rounded, kind, and compassionate individuals who are prepared to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

As students move through Year 9, they begin the process of selecting their GCSE and/or BTEC subjects. This is a significant milestone and an exciting opportunity for students to reflect on their strengths, interests, and future aspirations. Our aim is to provide a curriculum pathway that is both ambitious and personalised, ensuring a strong academic foundation while allowing students to pursue subjects that inspire and motivate them.

This next phase brings increased academic challenge, alongside a growing expectation for independence and ownership of learning. Students will be supported to develop strong study habits, organisational skills, and the resilience needed to succeed at Key Stage 4 and beyond. Alongside academic progress, we place equal importance on social and emotional development, ensuring that students continue to grow in confidence, character, and self-belief.

Our pastoral provision plays a vital role in this journey, supporting students holistically while also encouraging them to engage in leadership opportunities, enrichment activities, and wider school life. We believe that education extends beyond the classroom, and we are proud to develop students who contribute positively to their community.

Over the coming weeks, you will receive detailed information about the options process, including subject pathways and opportunities to speak with staff. We are committed to ensuring that every student and parent feels fully supported in making informed, thoughtful decisions.

This marks an important step in your child's journey towards a future filled with possibilities, and we are proud to guide and support them every step of the way.

If you have any questions or would like further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

**Ms. Beth Golds**

Head of Secondary



# GCSE

## GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

### What are GCSE Subjects?

GCSEs are qualifications typically taken by students in Years 10 and 11 (ages 14-16). They mark an important stage in education, helping students build a foundation for future studies, training, or employment.

GCSEs are designed to assess knowledge, understanding, and skills in a range of subjects. Most students take a combination of core and optional subjects, which allows them to tailor their learning to their interests and future aspirations.

### Structure of GCSEs

**Core subjects:** These include English Language, Mathematics, and Science (Double Award or Separate Sciences). These are mandatory to ensure students gain essential skills.

**Optional subjects:** Students can choose from a variety of courses, such as History, Geography, Art, Computing, and DT among others. Schools offer different combinations, so students should review their options carefully.

### Grading System

GCSEs are graded on a scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. This system replaced the previous A\*-G grades. A grade 4 is considered a standard pass, and a grade 5 is a strong pass.

### Assessment

GCSEs are assessed through:

**Examinations:** The majority of GCSE courses are assessed through written exams taken at the end of the two-year course. Some of our subjects are modular with exams at two points in the year.

**Coursework/Practical Assessments:** Some subjects, such as Art or Design and Technology, include coursework or practical components.

### Why are GCSEs important?

GCSEs are a stepping stone to further education and career opportunities. They are often required for:

- Admission to sixth form, college, or apprenticeships.
- Progression to A-levels, vocational courses, or other post-16 qualifications.
- Meeting entry requirements for future employment or university study.

GCSEs are an opportunity for students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and prepare for the next stage of their education journey.



# BTEC LEVEL 2

## QUALIFICATIONS

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### What is a BTEC?

BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) qualifications are work-related courses designed to provide hands-on, practical learning alongside theoretical knowledge. They focus on skills and knowledge that prepare students for further education, training, or a specific career path.

BTECs are an excellent choice for students who thrive in coursework-based learning or have a clear interest in a vocational area. These qualifications are highly valued by employers, colleges, and universities.

### Key Features of BTECs

**Practical Learning:** BTECs combine classroom study with practical, real-world applications. Students learn through tasks, projects, and assignments based on industry standards.

**Range of Subjects:** BTECs available at Star International School, Al Twar include IT, Sport and Business.

**Assessment:** BTECs are primarily assessed through coursework and projects, with some courses including exams or timed assessments. This continuous assessment can suit students who prefer not to rely solely on final exams.

### Levels of Study

At Key Stage 4, students typically study BTEC Level 2 qualifications, equivalent to IGCSEs:

**BTEC Level 2:** We offer two qualifications at Level 2:

The 'Award' which requires 120 GLH (Guided Learning Hours), and is equivalent to 1 IGCSE.

The 'Certificate' which requires 240 GLH, and is equivalent to 2 IGCSEs.

(The 'Certificate' will take up two of the option blocks available.)

For post-16 education, students can progress to higher levels, including:

**BTEC Level 3:** Equivalent to A-levels, providing routes to university, higher apprenticeships, or work.



# BTEC LEVEL 2

## QUALIFICATIONS

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### Grading

BTEC qualifications are graded as:

Level 2: Distinction\* (D\*), Distinction (D), Merit (M), or Pass (P).

### Why Choose a BTEC?

BTECs are ideal for students who:

- Enjoy practical and applied learning
- Want to develop skills for a specific career or industry
- Prefer coursework and continuous assessment over exams
- Aspire to combine their studies with practical experience

### Pathways After BTECs

BTECs can lead to:

- Further education, such as BTEC Level 3 or A-levels
- Apprenticeships or training programmes
- Entry into the workplace or progression to university

BTECs provide a unique opportunity to combine academic learning with real-world experience, setting students up for success in their next steps.



# ADVICE TO STUDENTS

## When selecting their subjects

- A balance of subjects is preferred by colleges/universities in most countries, and by employers
- A balance also allows you to have a wide choice of careers. The core curriculum in conjunction with the options generally gives you this balance
- It is generally best to opt for the subjects that you enjoy. If you enjoy them you will work harder
- Take your time in deciding. Talk to parents. Talk to your form tutor. Talk to your teachers.

## Do not choose a subject simply because:

- A friend is doing it
- You like a teacher, as you may not get him/her
- You do not like it, but think it is needed for a career that appeals

## Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

For some GCSE subjects, 10% of the marks for each written paper are allocated to spelling, punctuation and grammar according to the following criteria:

- Threshold performance: students spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with reasonable accuracy; they use a limited range of specialist terms appropriately.
- Intermediate performance: students spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with reasonable accuracy; they use a wide range of specialist terms with purpose.
- High performance: students spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with almost faultless accuracy, using a range of grammatical constructions; they also use a wide range of specialist terms with purpose and precision.

## Research, Revision and Independent Study

During Years 10 and 11, students are expected to take increasing responsibility for their own learning. At times, they may not have a timetabled lesson, but this time is provided for independent study, research, or revision to support their GCSE and BTEC courses. Developing strong study habits and using this time productively is essential for success. Students are encouraged to plan their work carefully, review their class notes, and use available resources to strengthen their understanding and prepare for assessments.



# SELECTING OPTIONS

**At Star, Al Twar students can choose three additional subjects alongside the core compulsory subjects. This means that students can achieve a minimum of 7 GCSEs.**

## **Compulsory subjects:**

English Language  
Maths  
Double Award Science (Worth 2 GCSEs)

Arabic A or B – not examined  
Islamic Studies (for Muslim students) – not examined  
Social Studies – not examined  
Moral Education - not examined  
Core PE – not examined

## **Optional subjects:**

Arabic Language  
Art and Design  
Biology  
BTEC Business  
BTEC IT  
BTEC Sport  
Business  
Chemistry  
Computer Science  
Design and Technology

Economics  
English Literature  
French  
Geography  
History  
Human Biology  
ICT  
Physical Education  
Physics  
Psychology

## **Subject combinations that are not permitted:**

ICT and Computer Science  
Business BTEC with GCSE Business

## **Further guidance and recommendations:**

Separate Sciences and Economics - choices are subject to a review of academic performance and ability.

Art and DT are recommended for students wishing to pursue a future pathway in architecture or design.



# Choosing Your GCSE Subjects and Understanding the Option Blocks

As students move into Key Stage 4, they will begin making important decisions about the subjects they would like to study for GCSE and equivalent qualifications. These choices help shape future pathways for Post-16 study, including A Levels, BTEC qualifications, and future career options.

## How the Option Blocks Work

Students will be asked to choose one subject and one reserve subject from each option block.

- First Choice: This is the subject the student would most like to study.
- Second Choice (Reserve): This is a backup option in case the first-choice subject cannot run due to timetabling, class sizes, or staffing requirements.

It is important that students give careful thought to both choices, as reserve subjects may need to be allocated.

## Choosing the Right Subjects

When selecting GCSE options, students should think carefully about:

- Subjects they enjoy and are interested in
- Subjects in which they are currently performing well
- Subjects that may support their future career aspirations
- Keeping a broad and balanced range of subjects to maintain flexibility for Post-16 pathways

At this stage, it is often beneficial to choose a variety of subjects rather than narrowing options too early.

# Choosing Your GCSE Subjects and Understanding the Option Blocks

A wider range of qualifications can provide more opportunities when selecting A Levels, BTEC courses, or university and career pathways later on.

## **BTEC Business and Business ICT Options**

For students interested in BTEC Business and/or Business ICT, there are two qualification pathways available:

### **BTEC Award**

- Equivalent to one GCSE
- Takes up one option block

### **BTEC Certificate**

- Equivalent to two GCSEs
- Takes up two option blocks

The Certificate requires significantly more taught hours and therefore occupies two option choices.

Students may choose only one subject as a Certificate qualification.

For example:

- A student may take BTEC Business Certificate (2 option blocks)
- Or Business ICT Certificate (2 option blocks)

...but they cannot take both as Certificate qualifications.

Students should consider carefully whether they would prefer the broader depth of the Certificate or the flexibility of keeping additional GCSE option choices available.

Making thoughtful choices now will help ensure students are well prepared for success in Years 10 and 11, and for the exciting opportunities that follow beyond GCSEs.



# Option Blocks

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
BTEC Business		
	BTEC ICT	
Economics	Business	Computer Science
Triple Science	ICT	Geography
Human Biology	BTEC Sport	Art and Design
History	Physical Education	English Literature
Design and Technology	Psychology	Arabic
	French	

Click here to select your options:

**[Options for 2026-27](#)**



# ARABIC A

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Journalist International  
Financier International  
Banker Lawyer  
Government  
Representative

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Arabic course will deepen students' linguistic skills developed in Key Stage 3 such as analytical reading and the ability to compare literary texts. It also requires the capability to write extended essays that use a wide range of vocabulary, grammar, and spelling rules.

## COURSE CONTENT

This Arabic qualification develops more general analysis and communication skills, such as synthesis, inference and the ability to write long passages using complex structures and different grammar rules effectively.

Both papers will use a selection of different topics areas including: Youth matters, education, media, culture, sport and leisure, travel and tourism, business, work and employment, environment, health and technology.

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 1: Reading, Summary and Grammar

- Written examination: 2hrs and 15mins
- 75 marks (60% of the overall grade)

### Paper 2: Writing

- Written examination: 1hr and 30 mins
- 50 marks (40% of the overall grade)

**Link to Exam Specification: [Arabic A](#)**



# ART AND DESIGN

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Fine Artist  
Curator  
Arts Writer  
Interior Design & Architecture  
Games Designer  
Art Consultant  
Illustrator  
Animator

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Art and Design encourages students to actively engage in the creative process and develop as independent learners, critical thinkers, and reflective practitioners. Students explore and refine ideas through practical experimentation, investigation, and personal response across a chosen specialist area.

The course enables learners to develop creative, imaginative, and intuitive capabilities while building technical skills through a broad range of media, materials, techniques, and processes. Students are encouraged to take creative risks, analyse their own work and the work of others, and understand art and design in both historical and contemporary contexts.

The qualification supports progression to A Level Art and Design and other creative pathways by building strong foundations in artistic practice, visual communication, and independent project development. It is a linear qualification, with all components completed at the end of the course.

## COURSE CONTENT

Students work within one endorsed title throughout both components of the course. The five available specialisms are:

### 1. Fine Art

- Drawing
- Painting
- Sculpture
- Mixed Media
- Printmaking
- Lens-/light-based media

### 2. Graphic Communication

- Advertising
- Illustration
- Typography
- Interactive design (web, app, game)
- Packaging
- Signage
- Design for print



# ART AND DESIGN

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Fine Artist  
Curator  
Arts Writer  
Interior Design &  
Architecture  
Games Designer  
Art Consultant  
Illustrator  
Animator

## COURSE CONTENT

### 3. Photography

- Documentary photography
- Studio photography
- Location photography
- Experimental imagery
- Moving image (film, video, animation)
- Photojournalism

### 4. Textile Design

- Fashion design
- Printed fabrics
- Constructed textiles
- Digital textiles
- Soft furnishings
- Stitched and embellished textiles

### 5. Three-dimensional Design

- Product design
- Architectural design
- Interior design
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Jewellery and body adornment

Students must remain within the same endorsed title for both assessed components in order to be awarded the qualification.

## ASSESSMENT

The qualification consists of two equally weighted components, both externally marked.

### Component 1: Personal Portfolio (50%)

Students produce a personal portfolio of work based on centre-devised themes, projects, or tasks. This allows students to:

- develop and explore ideas
- research primary and contextual sources
- experiment with media, materials, techniques, and processes
- present a personal response to a chosen theme



# ART AND DESIGN

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Fine Artist  
Curator  
Arts Writer  
Interior Design & Architecture  
Games Designer  
Art Consultant  
Illustrator  
Animator

## ASSESSMENT

Students must submit:

- three sheets of supporting studies (maximum A2 each)
- one sheet of final outcome(s) (maximum A2)

This component is internally set and externally marked. Total marks: 72.

### Component 2: Externally-set Assignment (50%)

Students respond to a broad-based thematic starting point set by Pearson. The paper is released on 2nd January each year and students complete preparatory studies before a final:

- 10-hour sustained focus period under examination conditions

This may take place over a maximum of four sessions across three consecutive weeks. Students must also submit:

- three sheets of supporting studies (maximum A2 each)
- one sheet of final outcome(s) (maximum A2)

Total marks: 72.

### Assessment Objectives

All work is assessed equally across four Assessment Objectives:

- AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources
- AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

Each Assessment Objective carries 25% of the total qualification.

**[Link to Exam Specification: Art and Design Specification](#)**



# BIOLOGY

Course: IGCSE (Modular)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Doctor  
Nurse  
Pharmacist  
Dentist  
Biomedical Scientist  
Microbiologist  
Ecologist  
Biotechnologist  
Physiotherapist

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Biology (Modular) provides students with a deep understanding of the natural world through the study of life processes, organisms, and their interactions with the environment. It develops scientific knowledge, experimental skills, and analytical thinking, enabling students to apply their learning in new and varied contexts.

This course is particularly suited to students who show a strong interest and aptitude in science. It builds on the foundations laid in Key Stage 3 and prepares learners for progression to International AS or A Level Biology, or equivalent post-16 science pathways.

Students taking this course will study two modular units, which can be assessed in separate examination series (June and November). Together, these lead to the award of one International GCSE in Biology.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course is structured around six main topics, providing a balance of theoretical knowledge and practical application:

### The Nature and Variety of Living Organisms

- Characteristics of living organisms
- Variety of living organisms, including plants, animals, fungi, protists, bacteria, and viruses

### Structure and Functions in Living Organisms: Part 1

- Levels of organisation, cell structure, and biological molecules
- Movement of substances, nutrition, respiration, and gas exchange

### Structure and Functions in Living Organisms: Part 2

- Transport systems, excretion, and coordination and response in plants and humans

### Reproduction and Inheritance

- Reproduction in plants and humans
- Inheritance, genetic variation, DNA, and evolution

### Ecology and the Environment

- The organism in the environment, feeding relationships, ecosystems, and human influences on the environment

### Use of Biological Resources

- Food production, selective breeding, genetic modification, and cloning



# BIOLOGY

Course: IGCSE (Modular)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Doctor  
Nurse  
Pharmacist  
Dentist  
Biomedical Scientist  
Microbiologist  
Ecologist  
Biotechnologist  
Physiotherapist

## COURSE CONTENT

Throughout the course, students will also complete suggested practical investigations to develop experimental and analytical skills. These are assessed through written examinations rather than coursework.

## ASSESSMENT

Students will sit two written examinations, each equally weighted at 50% of the total qualification. Both papers are untiered and suitable for all ability levels.

### Paper 1: Biology Unit 1 (4WBI1/1B)

- Duration: 1 hour 40 minutes
- Marks: 90
- Weighting: 50% of total International GCSE
- Content:
  - The nature and variety of living organisms; structure and functions in living organisms (Part 1)
- Question Types: Multiple choice, short-answer, calculation, and extended open-response questions

### Paper 2: Biology Unit 2 (4WBI2/1B)

- Duration: 1 hour 40 minutes
- Marks: 90
- Weighting: 50% of total International GCSE
- Content:
  - Structure and functions in living organisms (Part 2); reproduction and inheritance; ecology and the environment; use of biological resources
- Question Types: Multiple choice, short-answer, calculation, and extended open-response questions

A calculator may be used for both papers.

[Link to Exam Specification: Biology](#)



# BTEC BUSINESS

**Level 2 Award (120 GLH)**

**Equivalent to 1 IGCSE**

**Course: BTEC Business**

**Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Digital Marketing Specialist

Entrepreneur / Business Owner

Human Resources (HR) Officer

Sales & Business Development Executive

Project Manager

Retail & Operations Manager

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Award in Business provides students with a practical introduction to the world of business through applied learning. It enables learners to develop knowledge and understanding of how businesses operate, how organisations are structured, and how financial planning supports business success.

This qualification is designed for students who want an introduction to the business sector and for whom studying business would complement a broader programme of study. It develops key transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, research, and analytical thinking, all of which are highly valued by employers and support progression into further study.

Students explore real business scenarios and apply their learning through project-based assignments and practical investigations. The course supports progression to further study at Level 3/pre-tertiary education, including Pearson BTEC International Level 3 qualifications and International A Levels.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one International GCSE and consists of four units, with three mandatory units assessed through Pearson Set Assignments. Mandatory content makes up 75% of the qualification.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course is structured around four units, combining core business understanding with one optional specialist unit.

### Mandatory Units

#### 1. Business Purposes

- Purpose of business organisations
- Types of business ownership
- Business size, scale, and classification
- External factors affecting business environments

#### 2. Business Organisations

- Business activities, aims, and objectives
- Functional areas within businesses
- How departments interact to support success
- Links between business functions and organisational goals



# BTEC BUSINESS

**Level 2 Award (120 GLH)**

**Equivalent to 1 IGCSE**

**Course: BTEC Business**

**Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Digital Marketing  
Specialist

Entrepreneur /  
Business Owner

Human Resources (HR)  
Officer

Sales & Business  
Development Executive

Project Manager

Retail & Operations  
Manager

## COURSE CONTENT

### 3. Financial Forecasting for Business

- Business costs, revenue, and profit
- Break-even analysis
- Cash flow forecasting
- Financial planning and management

### Optional Units (students complete one)

Examples include:

- The Marketing Plan
- People in Organisations
- Communication in Business Contexts
- Working in Teams
- Managing Personal Finances
- Social Enterprise
- The Importance of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

This structure allows students to gain a broad understanding of business while also exploring an area of individual interest.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is entirely coursework-based and internally assessed, with some units using Pearson Set Assignments (PSAs). There are no final written examinations.

### Pearson Set Assignment Units

The three mandatory units are assessed using assignments set by Pearson and marked by teachers. These ensure consistency across all centres and assess students' ability to apply their learning in realistic business contexts.

- Unit 1: Business Purposes
- Unit 2: Business Organisations
- Unit 3: Financial Forecasting for Business

### Internal Assessment

The optional unit is internally assessed by the school using Pearson-  
authorised assignment briefs. Assessment methods may include:

- Research reports
- Case studies
- Presentations
- Projects



# BTEC BUSINESS

**Level 2 Award (120 GLH)**

**Equivalent to 1 IGCSE**

**Course: BTEC Business**

**Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Digital Marketing  
Specialist

Entrepreneur /  
Business Owner

Human Resources (HR)  
Officer

Sales & Business  
Development Executive

Project Manager

Retail & Operations  
Manager

## ASSESSMENT

- Practical business scenarios

## Grading

Units are graded as:

- Pass (P)
- Merit (M)
- Distinction (D)
- Unclassified (U)

The overall qualification is graded from Pass to Distinction\*.

**[Link to Exam Specification: Business Award](#)**



# BTEC BUSINESS

**Level 2 Certificate (240 GLH)**

**Equivalent to 2 IGCSEs**

**Course: BTEC Business**

**Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Digital Marketing Specialist

Entrepreneur / Business Owner

Human Resources (HR) Officer

Sales & Business Development Executive

Project Manager

Retail & Operations Manager

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Certificate in Business provides students with a broader and more in-depth understanding of the business industry through practical, applied learning. It is designed for students who are interested in business alongside other areas of study and who may wish to progress to a wide range of Level 3/pre-tertiary courses, not necessarily only in business-related subjects.

This qualification helps learners understand how businesses operate, how organisations make decisions, how financial planning supports growth, and how marketing influences success. Students also develop transferable employability skills such as communication, collaboration, research, presentation, and independent learning.

The qualification is designed to be taken as part of a wider programme of study alongside other BTEC Level 2 qualifications or International GCSEs. It is equivalent in size to two International GCSEs and offers strong progression routes into further education and vocational study.

Students complete a minimum of six units, including four mandatory units assessed through Pearson Set Assignments. Mandatory content makes up 50% of the qualification.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course includes four mandatory units and at least three optional units chosen from a wider selection.

### Mandatory Units

#### 1. Business Purposes

- Purpose and ownership of businesses
- Business environments and external influences
- Size, scale, and classification of organisations

#### 2. Business Organisations

- Business aims and objectives
- Business activities and operations
- Functional areas and organisational structure

#### 3. Financial Forecasting for Business

- Revenue, costs, and profit
- Break-even analysis
- Cash flow forecasting and financial planning



# BTEC BUSINESS

Level 2 Certificate (240 GLH)

Equivalent to 2 IGCSEs

Course: BTEC Business

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Digital Marketing Specialist

Entrepreneur / Business Owner

Human Resources (HR) Officer

Sales & Business Development Executive

Project Manager

Retail & Operations Manager

## COURSE CONTENT

### 4. The Marketing Plan

- Role of marketing in business
- Market research and target markets
- Marketing mix and promotional strategies
- Developing effective marketing plans

### Optional Units (students complete at least three)

Examples include:

- People in Organisations
- Customer Relations in Business
- Business Online
- Consumer Rights
- Business Ethics
- Bookkeeping for Business
- Working in Teams
- Managing Personal Finances
- Enterprise in the Workplace
- Social Enterprise

This allows students to combine core business knowledge with specialist interests and practical application.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is fully coursework-based and internally assessed, with mandatory units assessed through Pearson Set Assignments. There are no final written examinations.

### Pearson Set Assignment Units

The four mandatory units are assessed using assignments set by Pearson and marked by teachers. These assignments are designed to assess students' ability to apply business knowledge to realistic workplace situations.

- Unit 1: Business Purposes
- Unit 2: Business Organisations
- Unit 3: Financial Forecasting for Business
- Unit 4: The Marketing Plan



# BTEC BUSINESS

**Level 2 Certificate (240 GLH)**

**Equivalent to 2 IGCSEs**

**Course: BTEC Business**

**Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Digital Marketing  
Specialist

Entrepreneur /  
Business Owner

Human Resources (HR)  
Officer

Sales & Business  
Development Executive

Project Manager

Retail & Operations  
Manager

## ASSESSMENT

### Internal Assessment

Optional units are assessed internally using assignment briefs and practical vocational tasks. Assessment methods may include:

- Reports and investigations
- Case studies
- Presentations
- Projects
- Practical business scenarios

### Grading

Units are graded as:

- Pass (P)
- Merit (M)
- Distinction (D)
- Unclassified (U)

The overall qualification is graded from PP to DD.

**Link to Exam Specification: [Business Certificate](#)**



# BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Level 2 Award (120 GLH)      Equivalent to 1 IGCSE**

**Course:** BTEC Information Technology

**Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Software Developer

Cybersecurity Analyst

Web & App Developer

Data Analyst

Network & IT Support  
Specialist

Artificial Intelligence  
(AI) & Cloud Technology  
Specialist

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Award in Information Technology provides students with a practical introduction to the IT sector through applied learning. It helps learners develop an understanding of how technology supports organisations, improves communication, and enhances business operations in a modern digital world.

This qualification is designed for students who want an introduction to Information Technology and for whom studying IT would complement a broader programme of study. It develops key transferable skills such as problem-solving, communication, research, planning, and digital literacy, all of which are highly valued by employers and support progression into further study.

Students explore real-world IT scenarios and apply their learning through practical assignments and project-based tasks. The course supports progression to further study at Level 3/pre-tertiary education, including Pearson BTEC International Level 3 qualifications and other post-16 pathways.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one International GCSE and consists of two units, with one mandatory unit assessed through a Pearson Set Assignment. Mandatory content makes up 50% of the qualification.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course is structured around two units, combining core IT understanding with one optional specialist unit.

### Mandatory Units

#### 1. Using IT to Support Information and Communication in Organisations

- How IT supports business functions and organisational needs
- The value of data and IT systems in organisations
- Internal and external stakeholders and their communication needs
- Planning and producing an information campaign using digital tools and platforms



# BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Level 2 Award (120 GLH)      Equivalent to 1 IGCSE**

**Course:** BTEC Information Technology  
**Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel

## COURSE CONTENT

### Optional Units (students complete one)

Examples include:

- Data and Spreadsheet Modelling
- Setting up a Technology System
- Introduction to Computer Networking
- Introduction to Programming
- Introduction to Digital Graphics and Animation
- Introduction to Website Development
- Introduction to App Development
- Introduction to Games Design
- Introduction to Database Systems

This structure allows students to gain a broad understanding of IT while also exploring an area of personal interest or specialism.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is entirely coursework-based and internally assessed, with some units using Pearson Set Assignments (PSAs). There are no final written examinations.

### Pearson Set Assignment Unit

The mandatory unit is assessed using an assignment set by Pearson and marked by teachers. This ensures consistency across all centres and assesses students' ability to apply their learning in realistic IT contexts.

- **Unit 1: Using IT to Support Information and Communication in Organisations**

### Internal Assessment

The optional unit is internally assessed by the school using Pearson-authorized assignment briefs. Assessment methods may include:

- Research reports
- Case studies
- Presentations
- Practical projects
- Digital product creation
- Realistic IT problem-solving scenarios



## FUTURE CAREER

Software Developer

Cybersecurity Analyst

Web & App Developer

Data Analyst

Network & IT Support  
Specialist

Artificial Intelligence  
(AI) & Cloud Technology  
Specialist



# BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Level 2 Award (120 GLH)      Equivalent to 1 IGCSE**

**Course:** BTEC Information Technology

**Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Software Developer

Cybersecurity Analyst

Web & App Developer

Data Analyst

Network & IT Support

Specialist

Artificial Intelligence

(AI) & Cloud Technology

Specialist

## ASSESSMENT

### Grading

Units are graded as:

- Pass (P)
- Merit (M)
- Distinction (D)
- Unclassified (U)

The overall qualification is graded from Pass to Distinction\*.

**[Link to Exam Specification: Information Technology Award](#)**



# BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Level 2 Certificate (240 GLH)      Equivalent to 2 IGCSEs**

**Course:** BTEC Information Technology

**Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Software Developer  
Cybersecurity Analyst  
Web & App Developer  
Data Analyst  
  
Network & IT Support  
Specialist  
  
Artificial Intelligence  
(AI) & Cloud Technology  
Specialist

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology provides students with a broader and more in-depth understanding of the IT industry through practical, applied learning. It is designed for students who are interested in technology alongside other areas of study and who may wish to progress to a wide range of Level 3/pre-tertiary courses, not necessarily only in IT-related subjects.

This qualification helps learners understand how technology supports organisations, how data is used to improve decision-making, and how digital systems, networking, programming, and communication tools contribute to business success. Students also develop transferable employability skills such as collaboration, research, presentation, digital problem-solving, and independent learning.

The qualification is designed to be taken as part of a wider programme of study alongside other BTEC Level 2 qualifications or International GCSEs. It is equivalent in size to two International GCSEs and offers strong progression routes into further education and vocational study.

Students complete four units, including one mandatory unit assessed through a Pearson Set Assignment. Mandatory content makes up 25% of the qualification.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course includes one mandatory unit and at least three optional units chosen from a wider selection.

### Mandatory Units

#### 1. Using IT to Support Information and Communication in Organisations

- Purpose of IT systems in organisations
- Business functions and stakeholder communication
- Information campaigns and digital communication methods
- Data use and IT support for organisational success

### Optional Units (students complete at least three)

Examples include:

- Data and Spreadsheet Modelling
- Setting up a Technology System



# BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Level 2 Certificate (240 GLH)      Equivalent to 2 IGCSEs**

**Course:** BTEC Information Technology

**Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Software Developer

Cybersecurity Analyst

Web & App Developer

Data Analyst

Network & IT Support  
Specialist

Artificial Intelligence  
(AI) & Cloud Technology  
Specialist

## COURSE CONTENT

- Introduction to Computer Networking
- Introduction to Programming
- Introduction to Digital Graphics and Animation
- Introduction to Website Development
- Introduction to App Development
- Introduction to Games Design
- Introduction to Database Systems

This allows students to combine core IT knowledge with specialist interests and practical application.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is fully coursework-based and internally assessed, with mandatory units assessed through Pearson Set Assignments. There are no final written examinations.

### Pearson Set Assignment Unit

The mandatory unit is assessed using an assignment set by Pearson and marked by teachers. This assignment is designed to assess students' ability to apply IT knowledge to realistic workplace situations.

- **Unit 1: Using IT to Support Information and Communication in Organisations**

### Internal Assessment

Optional units are assessed internally using assignment briefs and practical vocational tasks. Assessment methods may include:

- Reports and investigations
- Case studies
- Presentations
- Practical IT projects
- Digital solutions and problem-solving tasks



# BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Level 2 Certificate (240 GLH)      Equivalent to 2 IGCSEs**

**Course:** BTEC Information Technology

**Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Software Developer

Cybersecurity Analyst

Web & App Developer

Data Analyst

Network & IT Support

Specialist

Artificial Intelligence

(AI) & Cloud Technology

Specialist

## ASSESSMENT

### Grading

Units are graded as:

- Pass (P)
- Merit (M)
- Distinction (D)
- Unclassified (U)

The overall qualification is graded from PP to DD.

**[Link to Exam Specification: Information Technology Certificate](#)**



# BTEC SPORT

Course: **BTEC** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Athlete  
Sports Coach  
Physiologist Sports  
Therapist  
Personal Trainer  
Nutritionist  
Sports Psychologist  
Sports Analyst Sports  
Management

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This qualification is designed to support learners who want an introduction to the sector through applied learning and for whom an element of sport would be complementary. The qualification supports progression to further study at Level 3/pre-tertiary education as part of a programme of study that includes BTEC International Level 3 qualifications and/or International A levels. This Level 2 Award is equivalent to 1 GCSE.

## COURSE CONTENT

Three units, of which one is mandatory and assessed by a Pearson Set Assignment. Mandatory content (75%).

1. Principles of Fitness and Fitness Testing
2. Practical Sport
3. Anatomy and Physiology for Sport

## ASSESSMENT

All units in the sector are internally assessed and subject to external standards verification. For units where there is no Pearson Set Assignment, the centre selects the most appropriate assessment styles according to the learning set out in the unit. This ensures that learners are assessed using a variety of styles to help them develop a broad range of transferable skills. Learners could be given opportunities to:

- write up the findings of their own research
- use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations
- carry out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes
- demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate processes, etc.

**Link to Exam Specification: [BTEC Sport](#)**



# BUSINESS

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Oxford AQA



## FUTURE CAREER

Banker  
Events Manager  
Marketing Executive  
Finance Analyst  
Accountant Business  
Reporter

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Oxford AQA International GCSE Business specification teaches learners real-world business planning and operations skills using international case studies and terminology to ensure it is relevant and motivating. The specification is an ideal vehicle to make studying business enjoyable and provide the right level of challenge for students who want to study and excel in business at GCSE and beyond.

The 'business planning' unit is designed to motivate students by giving them applicable real-world business skills, as well as providing excellent preparation for A-level.

It uses the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) terms and features globally relevant content, for example exchange rates, to secure engagement and help students to reach their potential.

Exams are accessible for international students. For example, they include appropriate reading time, multiple choice questions and themed papers which showcase internationally recognised brands, such as Toyota, to aid revision.

## COURSE CONTENT

OxfordAQA International GCSE Business covers the following topics:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 1:

Influences of Operations and Human Resources on Business Activity:

- Business in the real world; Influences on business; Business operations; Human resources

Written exam: 2 hours – 90 marks, worth 50% of final GCSE



# BUSINESS

Course: IGCSE

Exam Board: Oxford AQA



## FUTURE CAREER

Banker

Events Manager

Marketing Executive

Finance Analyst

Accountant Business

Reporter

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 2

Influences of Marketing and Finance on Business Activity:

- Business in the real world; Influences on business; Marketing; Finance

Written exam: 2 hours – 90 marks, worth 50% of final GCSE

**[Link to Exam Specification: Business](#)**

# CHEMISTRY

Course: IGCSE (Modular)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Medicine and Dentistry  
Pharmacy  
Biochemistry  
Chemical Engineering  
Environmental Science  
Food Science  
Forensic Science  
Materials Science  
Teaching  
Research

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Chemistry (Modular) gives students a comprehensive understanding of the substances that make up our world and how they interact. The course explores key chemical principles, experimental techniques, and their real-world applications, helping students develop curiosity, critical thinking, and analytical skills that form a foundation for further scientific study.

This modular qualification is designed for learners who show a strong interest and aptitude for science and wish to deepen their understanding beyond the Combined Science course. It builds on Key Stage 3 foundations and prepares students for International AS and A Level Chemistry or equivalent post-16 pathways.

The modular structure allows flexibility in assessment, as the two units can be sat in separate series (June or November), with opportunities for resits before the overall qualification is awarded.

## COURSE CONTENT

The International GCSE Chemistry (Modular) is divided into eight key topics, studied across two units, combining theoretical understanding with embedded experimental investigations.

### Unit 1 – Chemistry 1 (4WCH1/1C)

Topics:

- **Principles of Chemistry:** Part 1 – states of matter, atomic structure, elements and compounds, the periodic table, and chemical formulae and equations.
- **Inorganic Chemistry:** Part 1 – reactivity series, extraction and uses of metals, acids and alkalis, and salt preparations.
- **Physical Chemistry:** Part 1 – energetics and exothermic/endothermic reactions.
- **Organic Chemistry:** Part 1 – introduction to hydrocarbons, crude oil, alkanes, and alkenes.



# CHEMISTRY

Course: IGCSE (Modular)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Medicine and Dentistry

Pharmacy

Biochemistry

Chemical Engineering

Environmental Science

Food Science

Forensic Science

Materials Science

Teaching

Research

## COURSE CONTENT

### Unit 2 – Chemistry 2 (4WCH2/1C)

Topics:

- **Principles of Chemistry:** Part 2 – ionic, covalent and metallic bonding; electrolysis.
- **Inorganic Chemistry:** Part 2 – Group 1 and Group 7 elements, gases in the atmosphere, and chemical tests.
- **Physical Chemistry:** Part 2 – rates of reaction, reversible reactions and equilibria.
- **Organic Chemistry:** Part 2 – alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters, and polymers (addition and condensation).

## ASSESSMENT

### Unit 1 – Chemistry 1 (4WCH1/1C)

- Written examination: 1 hour 40 minutes
- 90 marks (50% of total qualification)
- Question types: Multiple choice, short-answer, calculations, and extended open-response.
- A calculator may be used.

### Unit 2 – Chemistry 2 (4WCH2/1C)

- Written examination: 1 hour 40 minutes
- 90 marks (50% of total qualification)
- Question types: Multiple choice, short-answer, calculations, and extended open-response.
- A calculator may be used



# CHEMISTRY

Course: IGCSE (Modular)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Medicine and Dentistry  
Pharmacy  
Biochemistry  
Chemical Engineering  
Environmental Science  
Food Science  
Forensic Science  
Materials Science  
Teaching  
Research

## PRACTICAL SKILLS

Practical and investigative skills are developed throughout the course through a range of suggested experiments (e.g. chromatography, electrolysis, titration, energetics). These skills are assessed indirectly through written exam questions requiring interpretation of data, planning, and evaluation of methods

[Link to Exam Specification: Chemistry.](#)



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

IT Consultant  
Cyber Security  
Consultant Information  
Systems Manager  
Database  
Administrator Games  
Developer

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This qualification provides students with the opportunity to operate confidently in today's digital world, enabling students to apply computational thinking in context, across both written and practical examinations. Students will be encouraged repeatedly to design, implement and test programs that provide solutions to problems. They will apply their skills to produce robust programs and this will help them to progress to further/higher education where practical knowledge and experience will be required.

## COURSE CONTENT

This IGCSE extends students' knowledge and understanding by broadening and deepening skills. For example, students will develop the ability to:

- apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical problem-solving experience. This will include designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science

Students will study six topic areas: Paper 1

<b>Programming</b>	Topic 1: Problem solving
	Topic 2: Programming
<b>Written</b>	Topic 3: Data
	Topic 4: Computers
	Topic 5: Communication and the internet
	Topic 6: The bigger picture

## ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed through two externally-assessed papers, one of which is a practical assessment carried out on a computer system using a programming language of choice.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

IT Consultant  
Cyber Security  
Consultant Information  
Systems Manager  
Database  
Administrator Games  
Developer

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 1

#### Principles of Computer Science:

Written paper consisting of multiple-choice, short open-response, open-response and extended open-response answer questions.

2 hours (written examination)

This paper is worth 80 marks and 50% of the final IGCSE grade

### Paper 2

#### Application of Computational Thinking:

Assessment is through a 3-hour practical and written examination. The task-based questions will be carried out using a computer system under supervision. All other questions requiring a written response will be answered in the paper.

This paper is worth 80 marks and 50% of the final IGCSE grade.

**Link to Exam Specification: [Computer Science](#)**



# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Course: **GCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Product Designer  
Architect  
Carpenter  
Repair Technician  
Fashion Designer  
Electronic Engineer  
Engineer  
Designer Manufacturer

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The study of design and technology seeks to prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. It helps students to be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

## COURSE CONTENT

Students will acquire subject knowledge in design and technology that builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make, with confidence, prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities. Students learn how to take design risks, helping them to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens. They should develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. Through the critique of the outcomes of design and technology activity, both historic and present day, students should develop an understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world and understand that high-quality design and technology is important to the creativity, culture, sustainability, wealth and wellbeing of the nation and the global community.

## ASSESSMENT

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Design and Technology consists of one externally-examined paper and one non-examined assessment component.

### Component 1

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



# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Course: **GCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Product Designer  
Architect  
Carpenter  
Repair Technician  
Fashion Designer  
Electronic Engineer  
Engineer  
Designer Manufacturer

## ASSESSMENT

### Component 2

Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by us a year before certification. The task will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

- Non-examined assessment
- 50% of the qualification
- 100 marks

### Part 1: Identifying and outlining possibilities for design

Identification and investigation of a design possibility, investigation of client/end user needs, wants and values, research and production of a specification.

### Part 2: Designing a prototype

Design ideas, development of design idea, final design solution, review of development and final design and communication of design ideas.

### Part 3: Making a final prototype

Design, manufacture and realisation of a final prototype, including tools and equipment and quality and accuracy.

### Part 4: Evaluating own design and prototype

Testing and evaluation

**Link to Exam Specification: [Design and Technology](#)**



# DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE

Course: IGCSE (Modular) Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Dentist  
Biochemist  
Veterinarian  
Ecologist  
Chemical Engineer  
Pharmaceutical  
Researcher  
Forensic Scientist  
Astronaut  
AI in medicine

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Science (Double Award) (Modular) is designed for students who wish to gain a broad and balanced understanding of the three sciences — Biology, Chemistry, and Physics — while achieving two International GCSE qualifications.

This course provides a comprehensive foundation in scientific principles and processes, developing students' skills in observation, analysis, and evaluation. It builds on Key Stage 3 science learning and prepares students for a range of post-16 science pathways, including International A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics, as well as vocational science routes.

The modular structure enables flexibility in assessment, with units that can be taken in different series (June and November), allowing students to demonstrate steady progress across the course.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course combines selected topics from each of the three separate sciences, ensuring a balanced and coherent curriculum across all disciplines.

### Biology Content

- The nature and variety of living organisms
- Structure and functions in living organisms
- Reproduction and inheritance
- Ecology and the environment
- Use of biological resources

### Chemistry Content

- Principles of chemistry
- Inorganic chemistry
- Physical chemistry
- Organic chemistry

### Physics Content

- Forces and motion
- Electricity
- Waves
- Energy resources and energy transfer
- Solids, liquids and gases
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Radioactivity and particles



# DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE

Course: IGCSE (Modular) Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Dentist  
Biochemist  
Veterinarian  
Ecologist  
Chemical Engineer  
Pharmaceutical  
Researcher  
Forensic Scientist  
Astronaut  
AI in medicine

## COURSE CONTENT

Throughout the course, students also develop experimental and investigative skills through practical activities designed to reinforce theoretical concepts and scientific methods. These are assessed through written questions rather than practical coursework.

## ASSESSMENT

Students will sit three written papers — one for each science discipline. All papers are untiered and assess knowledge, understanding, application, and analytical skills.

### Paper 1: Biology 1 (4WSD1/1B)

- Duration: 1 hour 10 minutes
- Marks: 60
- Weighting: 33.3% of total qualification
- Content: The nature and variety of living organisms, structure and functions in living organisms, reproduction and inheritance, ecology, and the use of biological resources

### Paper 2: Chemistry 1 (4WSD1/1C)

- Duration: 1 hour 10 minutes
- Marks: 60
- Weighting: 33.3% of total qualification
- Content: Principles of chemistry, inorganic chemistry, physical chemistry, and organic chemistry

### Paper 3: Physics 1 (4WSD1/1P)

- Duration: 1 hour 10 minutes
- Marks: 60
- Weighting: 33.3% of total qualification
- Content: Forces and motion, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism, radioactivity, and thermal physics



# DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE

Course: IGCSE (Modular)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Dentist

Biochemist

Veterinarian

Ecologist

Chemical Engineer

Pharmaceutical  
Researcher

Forensic Scientist

Astronaut

AI in medicine

## ASSESSMENT

### Question Format:

All papers include multiple-choice, short-answer, calculation, and extended-response questions. Calculators may be used for all papers.

Link to Exam Specification: [Double Award Science](#)



# ECONOMICS

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Economist  
Financial  
Risk Analyst  
Data Analyst Financial  
Planner Accountant  
Investment Analyst  
Policy Advisor  
Foreign Affairs  
Diplomat

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This qualification engages students in exploring key economic theories and concepts within a global context. Students investigate how economies function and analyse real-world economic issues, applying their knowledge to case studies. This course develops critical thinking, data analysis, and problem-solving skills. It also provides a solid understanding of the impact of economic decisions on individuals, businesses, and governments.

## COURSE CONTENT

Students will explore real-world economic issues and consider perspectives on how individuals, businesses, and governments interact within the economy. They will engage with primary and secondary data sources, analyse economic trends, and propose solutions to problems. This course builds on foundational knowledge of basic economic principles such as scarcity, supply and demand, and government intervention, while strengthening numeracy skills through data interpretation.

Units studied consist of:

Unit 1.1: The Market System  
Unit 1.2: Business Economics  
Unit 2.1: Government and the Economy  
Unit 2.2: The Global Economy

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 1

#### Microeconomics and Business Economics:

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks, and 50% of the International GCSE.



# ECONOMICS

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Economist

Financial

Risk Analyst

Data Analyst Financial

Planner Accountant

Investment Analyst

Policy Advisor

Foreign Affairs

Diplomat

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 2

#### Macroeconomics and the Global Economy:

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks, and 50% of the International GCSE.

Each paper consists of four compulsory questions, including multiple-choice, short-answer, data response, and open-ended questions.

**[Link to Exam Specification: Economics](#)**



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Oxford AQA



## FUTURE CAREER

Digital Copywriter

Editor

Journalist

Social Media Manager

Publisher

Content Manager

Language Researcher

Public Relations  
Manager

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This qualification enables students to develop specific skills in inference, exploration, language analysis and deduction, alongside the more general skills of selection, synthesis and organisation.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Literary non-fiction and composition

#### Section A

The passages for the reading section on Paper 1 will be literary non-fiction eg autobiography, biography, letters, memoir and travel/adventure writing.

#### Section B

The writing section will consist of three tasks from which students choose one: descriptive/imaginative/argumentative or discursive.

### Source-based reading and directed writing

#### Section A

The reading texts for Paper 2 will relate to modern world themes and issues. Some of the texts may be brief or solely visual. Texts may be fiction or non-fiction.

#### Section B

The focus of the writing task will be writing for audience and purpose, which could be both multiple and diverse. The most successful responses will demonstrate the students' ability to respond to this demand.

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 1

#### Literary Non-Fiction and Composition:

Section A – Literary Non-Fiction

Section B – Composition

Students answer all questions from Section A and one question from Section B

2 hours

80 marks

60% of GCSE



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Course: IGCSE

Exam Board: Oxford AQA



## FUTURE CAREER

Digital Copywriter

Editor

Journalist

Social Media Manager

Publisher

Content Manager

Language Researcher

Public Relations  
Manager

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 2

#### Source-based Reading and Directed Writing:

Section A – Reading

Section B – Writing

Students answer all questions from Section A and one question from Section B

2 hours

80 marks

40% of GCSE

**Link to Exam Specification: [English Language](#)**



# ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Oxford AQA



## FUTURE CAREER

Author  
Editor  
Freelance Writer  
Journalist  
Marketing Specialist  
Literary Agent  
Speech Writer  
Film and Theatre Critic  
Communications  
Director

## COURSE OVERVIEW

Oxford AQA International GCSE English Literature provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. This qualification offers students the opportunity to read a wide range of literature fluently, critically and with good understanding, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas in detail and appreciate the depth and power of literary texts. Studying International GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and be a strong preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Prose and Drama

#### Prose fiction

Students will study one novel from the list of set texts. Students should study the whole text.

- Oxford AQA Exams Short Stories Anthology

#### 3.1.2 Drama

Students will study one play from the list of set texts. Students should study the whole text.

- J B Priestley: An Inspector Calls

### Poetry and unseen texts

#### Poetry

Students will study the Oxford AQA Exams Poetry Anthology People and Places. The 20 poems in this anthology are thematically linked in a variety of ways, allowing students to study a range of connected and linked ideas and themes from poets and poetry from different times and contexts.



# ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Oxford AQA**



## FUTURE CAREER

Author  
Editor  
Freelance Writer  
Journalist  
Marketing Specialist  
Literary Agent  
Speech Writer  
Film and Theatre Critic  
Communications Director

## COURSE CONTENT

### Unseen poetry

In preparing for the unseen poetry section of the examination students should experience a wide range of poetry in order to develop their ability to closely analyse poems. They should be able to analyse and compare key features such as their content, theme, structure and use of language.

### Unseen prose

In preparing for the unseen prose section of the examination students should experience a wide range of prose texts in order to develop their ability to closely analyse the variety of ways writers create meanings and influence the reader.

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 1 – Prose and Drama:

Section A – Prose Fiction

Section B – Drama

- Students answer one question from each section
- Closed-book exam
- 1 hour 30 minutes
- 60 marks
- 40% of GCSE

### Paper 2 – Poetry and Unseen Texts:

Section A – Poetry

Section B – Unseen Poetry

Section C – Unseen Prose

- Students answer one question from each section
- Open-book exam
- 2 hours 15 minutes
- 90 marks
- 60% of GCSE

**Link to Exam Specification: [English Literature](#)**



# FRENCH

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

International relations

Translation

Tourism

Diplomacy

Education

Global communications

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in French is designed for students who wish to develop their ability to communicate confidently and effectively in French while gaining insight into the culture and way of life of French-speaking communities.

The course focuses on developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through engaging and authentic contexts, allowing students to express their ideas on a wide range of topics related to everyday life, study, and the world around them.

Students learn to use French both formally and informally, to describe experiences, express opinions, and communicate for practical purposes. The course provides an excellent foundation for further study of the language at A Level or for use in higher education and future careers requiring strong communication and intercultural skills.

## COURSE CONTENT

Students study five broad topic areas, which are explored across the three skills-based papers (Listening, Reading & Writing, and Speaking):

### A. Home and Abroad

- Life in towns and the countryside
- Holidays, travel, and directions
- Everyday life, customs, and communities

### B. Education and Employment

- School life, rules, and routines
- Work experience, careers, volunteering, and future plans

### C. Personal Life and Relationships

- House and home, daily routines, relationships, and childhood

### D. The World Around Us

- Environment, weather, travel, transport, media, and technology

### E. Social Activities, Fitness and Health

- Hobbies, sports, special occasions, and healthy living

Throughout the course, students develop their use of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, enabling them to understand and produce both spoken and written French accurately and creatively.



# FRENCH

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

International relations  
Translation  
Tourism  
Diplomacy  
Education  
Global communications

## ASSESSMENT

The qualification consists of three externally assessed papers. All papers must be taken at the end of the course.

### Paper 1: Listening

- Duration: 30 minutes + 5 minutes reading time
- Marks: 40
- Weighting: 25% of the qualification
- Content: Understanding spoken French across all five topic areas
- Format: Multiple-choice, matching, note-taking, and gap-fill questions

### Paper 2: Reading and Writing

- Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Marks: 80 (40 for Reading, 40 for Writing)
- Weighting: 50% of the qualification
- Content: Reading and responding to authentic French texts; writing short and extended responses on familiar topics
- Format: Multiple-choice, short-answer, open-response, and grammar-based tasks

### Paper 3: Speaking

- Duration: 8–10 minutes
- Marks: 40
- Weighting: 25% of the qualification
- Content: Picture-based discussion and two conversations on different topics
- Assessment: Internally conducted and externally marked

**Link to Exam Specification: [French](#)**



# GEOGRAPHY

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Engineer  
Geologist  
Lawyer  
Town Planner  
Journalist  
Documentary Creator  
Architect  
Developer

## COURSE OVERVIEW

Students will develop the knowledge and skills learned during Key Stage 3. These include locational knowledge of the world, comparative skills between contrasting places, knowledge of how Physical and Human Geography influence our world, and geographical skills of interpreting maps, photographs and fieldwork data.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Physical Geography

Topic 1: River environments – features of the global hydrological cycle (including drainage basins), the physical processes that give rise to distinct river landforms and detailed case studies of river management in a developed and a developing or emerging country.

Topic 2: Coastal environments – the processes that give rise to characteristic coastal landforms, threats facing coastal ecosystems and detailed case studies of coastal management in a developed and a developing or emerging country.

Topic 3: Hazardous environments – the characteristics and distribution of different types of natural hazard, the measurement and impacts of hazards and detailed case studies of the management of an earthquake in a developed and a developing or emerging country.

### Human Geography

Topic 4: Economic activity and energy – variations in economic activity over time and spatially, the relationship between population and resources and detailed case studies of energy resource management in a developed and a developing or emerging country.

Topic 5: Rural environments – distribution, characteristics and human activities taking place in rural environments, the changes in contrasting rural environments and detailed case studies of rural environments in a developed and a developing or emerging country.

Topic 6: Urban environments – trends, characteristics and problems associated with urban environments, the challenges facing contrasting urban environments and detailed case studies of urban environments in a developed and a developing or emerging country.



# GEOGRAPHY

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Engineer

Geologist

Lawyer

Town Planner Journalist

Documentary Creator

Architect Developer

## ASSESSMENT

**Component 1:** Physical Geography - 40% of the qualification  
Written examination: 1 hour and 10 minutes

**Component 2:** Human Geography – 60% of the qualification  
Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Exams consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, data response, and open ended questions.

**Link to Exam Specification: [Geography](#)**



# HISTORY

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Historian  
Archaeologist  
Journalist  
Politician  
Lawyer  
Archivist  
Political Scientist

## COURSE OVERVIEW

In IGCSE History, students will:

- gain knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of historical periods
- develop skills to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations in the context of historical events studied
- develop skills to explain, analyse and make judgements about historical events and periods studied, using second-order historical concepts.
- learn how to use a range of source material to comprehend, interpret and cross-reference sources

## COURSE CONTENT

### Paper 1: Depth Studies

Students must study at least two depth studies:

1. Germany: Development of Dictatorship, 1918–45
2. A Divided Union: Civil Rights in the USA, 1945–74

### Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies

Students must study one historical investigation:

1. The Origins and Course of the First World War, 1905–18

Students must study one breadth study in change:

1. Changes in Medicine, c1848–c1948

## ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 (3 Questions): 50% of the qualification

Written exam: 1 hour and 30 mins

Paper 2 (3 Questions): 50% of the qualification

Written exam: 1 hour and 30 mins

**Link to Exam Specification: [History](#)**



# HUMAN BIOLOGY

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Future Career

Biomedical Scientist

Clinical Biochemist

Microbiologist

Genetic Technologist

Haematologist

Pharmacologist

Pathologist

Epidemiologist

Public Health Analyst

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Human Biology provides students with a detailed understanding of the structure and functioning of the human body. It is ideal for those with a keen interest in how biological systems support life, interact, and respond to change.

The course explores the science of human health, physiology, and disease, helping students to develop scientific knowledge, practical skills, and analytical thinking. It is particularly suited to students who wish to pursue future studies in Biology, Medicine, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Health Sciences, or related disciplines.

The qualification develops understanding of biological processes through theoretical study and practical investigation. Ethical and moral considerations surrounding experimentation on humans are also explored. The course builds on the foundations of Key Stage 3 Science and offers a solid platform for International A Level or equivalent pathways.

## COURSE CONTENT

Students study twelve main topics throughout the course, each exploring the human body from molecular to systemic levels:

- **Cells and Tissues** – Cell structure, DNA, mitosis, stem cells, and organisation of cells into tissues and organs.
- **Biological Molecules** – Structure and function of carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, enzymes, and vitamins.
- **Movement of Substances** – Diffusion, osmosis, and active transport.
- **Bones, Muscles and Joints** – Skeletal structure, types of joints, muscle function, and bone health.
- **Coordination** – The nervous system, hormones, the brain, the eye and ear, and the effects of drugs.
- **Nutrition and Energy** – Balanced diet, digestion, enzymes, and the relationship between diet and health.
- **Respiration** – Aerobic and anaerobic respiration and the role of ATP in energy transfer.
- **Gas Exchange** – Lung structure, ventilation, breathing rate, and the effects of exercise and smoking.
- **Internal Transport** – Blood composition, circulation, the heart, and cardiovascular health.



# HUMAN BIOLOGY

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Future Career  
Biomedical Scientist  
Clinical Biochemist  
Microbiologist  
Genetic Technologist  
Haematologist  
Pharmacologist  
Pathologist  
Epidemiologist  
Public Health Analyst

## COURSE CONTENT

- **Homeostatic Mechanisms** – Temperature regulation, kidney function, osmoregulation, and blood glucose control.
- **Reproduction and Heredity** – Reproductive systems, hormones, inheritance, genetic variation, and genetic disorders.
- **Disease** – Pathogens, transmission, immunity, vaccines, antibiotics, and public health.

Practical investigations are embedded within the course, developing students' experimental and data analysis skills. These are assessed through written examination rather than coursework.

## ASSESSMENT

Students sit two externally assessed written papers at the end of the course. Each paper is untiered and accessible to the full range of student ability.

### Paper 1: Human Biology 1 (4HB1/01)

- Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Marks: 90
- Weighting: 50% of total qualification
- Content: All 12 topics (Cells and tissues through Disease)
- Question types: Multiple-choice, structured short-answer, calculation, and extended-response questions
- Calculator permitted

### Paper 2: Human Biology 2 (4HB1/02)

- Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Marks: 90
- Weighting: 50% of total qualification
- Content: All 12 topics (assessed through different contexts)
- Question types: Multiple-choice, short-answer, calculation, comprehension, and extended open-response questions
- Calculator permitted

**Link to Exam Specification: [Human Biology](#)**



# ICT

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



### FUTURE CAREER

Software Developer  
Systems Analyst  
Business Analyst  
IT Support Analyst  
Network Engineer  
IT Consultant  
Sales Representative

### COURSE OVERVIEW

This qualification provides students with the opportunity of operating confidently in today's digital world. It is a useful, practical qualification which will provide skills needed in further education and work. Students 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 be also be encouraged to practice using software applications effectively.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Paper 1: Written Paper

Students must study all of the following topics:

Topic 1: Digital Devices

Topic 2: Connectivity

Topic 3: Operating Online

Topic 4: Online Goods and Services.

Students will:

- gain knowledge and understanding of Information and Communication Technology
- develop skills to apply knowledge and understanding to produce ICT-based solutions
- develop skills of analysis and evaluation, making reasoned judgements and presenting conclusions.

#### Paper 2: Practical Paper

Students must study both of the following topics:

Topic 5: Applying Information and Communication Technology

Topic 6: Software Skills

Students will:

- gain knowledge and understanding of Information and Communication Technology
- develop skills to apply the knowledge and understanding they acquire in all topics (1–6) to produce ICT-based solutions
- develop skills of analysis and evaluation, making reasoned judgements and presenting conclusions.



# ICT

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



### FUTURE CAREER

Software Developer  
Systems Analyst  
Business Analyst  
IT Support Analyst  
Network Engineer  
IT Consultant  
Sales Representative

### ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: 50% of the qualification

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 mins

The examination comprises a mixture of multiple-choice, short- and long-answer questions.

Paper 2: 50% of the qualification

Practical paper: 3 hour practical examination

There are two sections in the paper - both required.

There is no optional element to the practical examination.

**Link to Exam Specification: [ICT](#)**



# MATHEMATICS

Course: IGCSE Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Accountant

Data Analyst

Data Scientist

Investment Analyst

Research Scientist

Software Engineer

Statistician

Animation

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The IGCSE in Mathematics qualification enables students to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques
- acquire a foundation of mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas
- enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident in using mathematics to solve problems
- appreciate the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

## COURSE CONTENT

The IGCSE in Mathematics (Specification A) requires students 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.

Students should be able to demonstrate problem-solving skills by translating problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts into a process or a series of mathematical processes.



# MATHEMATICS

Course: **IGCSE** Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**



## FUTURE CAREER

Accountant  
Data Analyst  
Data Scientist  
Investment Analyst  
Research Scientist  
Software Engineer  
Statistician  
Animation

## COURSE CONTENT

Students should be able to demonstrate mathematical reasoning skills by:

making deductions and drawing conclusions from mathematical information

- constructing chains of reasoning
- presenting arguments and proofs
- interpreting and communicating information accurately.

## ASSESSMENT

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher (content is defined for each tier). Each student is permitted to take two written examination papers in either the Foundation tier or the Higher tier. The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total mark across all two papers where 9 is the highest grade.

Foundation tier: students can achieve grades 1 to 5.

Higher tier: students can achieve grades 4 to 9 (grade 3 allowed).

Paper 1: 50% of the Qualification/100 marks/2 hours

Paper 2: 50% of the Qualification/100 marks/2 hours

**Link to Exam Specification: [Mathematics](#)**



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course: GCSE

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Sports Coach  
Physiotherapist  
Personal Trainer  
PE Teacher  
Sports Psychologist  
Sports Therapist  
Nutritionist  
Exercise Physiologist

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) in Physical Education provides students with a broad and balanced understanding of physical performance, health, fitness, and sport science. It combines theoretical study with practical performance, allowing students to develop both academic knowledge and physical competence across a range of sports and activities.

The course helps students understand how the body works during exercise, how physical and psychological factors affect performance, and how social and cultural influences shape participation in sport. Students also develop practical skills by performing in physical activities and analysing their own performance through a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP).

This qualification is particularly suited to students who enjoy sport and physical activity and who want to understand the science behind performance and wellbeing. It supports progression to A Level Physical Education, BTEC Sport, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Coaching, and other health-related pathways.

The course consists of two written examination papers and two non-examined assessment components, creating a strong balance between theory and practical application.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course is structured around four components, combining theory, practical performance, and personal fitness planning.

### 1. Fitness and Body Systems

This component focuses on how the body functions during physical activity and how training improves performance.

- **Applied anatomy and physiology**
  - Musculo-skeletal system
  - Cardio-respiratory system
  - Aerobic and anaerobic exercise
  - Short- and long-term effects of exercise



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course: GCSE

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Sports Coach  
Physiotherapist  
Personal Trainer  
PE Teacher  
Sports Psychologist  
Sports Therapist  
Nutritionist  
Exercise Physiologist

## COURSE CONTENT

- **Movement analysis**
  - Lever systems
  - Planes and axes of movement
  - Mechanical advantage in sport
- **Physical training**
  - Components of fitness
  - Principles of training (FITT, overload, specificity, reversibility)
  - Training methods and injury prevention
  - Warm up and cool down
  - Performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs)
- **Use of data**
  - Collecting, presenting, interpreting, and analysing performance data

## 2. Health and Performance

This component focuses on health, wellbeing, and the wider influences on sport participation and performance.

- **Health, fitness and wellbeing**
  - Physical, emotional, and social health
  - Lifestyle choices and sedentary lifestyles
  - Diet, nutrition, hydration, and energy balance
- **Sport psychology**
  - Skill classification
  - Goal setting and SMART targets
  - Guidance and feedback
  - Mental preparation for performance
- **Socio-cultural influences**
  - Participation patterns in sport
  - Commercialisation and media in sport
  - Ethics, sportsmanship, gamesmanship, and deviance
- **Use of data**
  - Analysis and evaluation of data linked to health and sport participation



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course: GCSE

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

## COURSE CONTENT

### 3. Practical Performance

Students complete three practical activities from an approved list.

- One team activity
- One individual activity
- One activity of free choice (team or individual)

Students are assessed on:

- Skills and techniques in isolation
- Performance in competitive/formal situations
- Decision making and tactical awareness
- Physical and psychological performance attributes

### 4. Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

Students design, carry out, monitor, and evaluate a six- to eight-week personal exercise programme linked to improving performance in a chosen activity.

This includes:

- Aim setting and planning
- Training methods and monitoring progress
- Evaluation of effectiveness and improvements made

## ASSESSMENT

Students complete two written examinations and two non-examined assessments.

### Paper 1: Fitness and Body Systems

Component Code: 1PE0/01

- Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Marks: 80
- Weighting: 36% of the qualification
- Content:
  - Applied anatomy and physiology; movement analysis; physical training; use of data
- Question Types:
  - Multiple choice, short-answer, long-answer, and one extended writing question



## FUTURE CAREER

Sports Coach

Physiotherapist

Personal Trainer

PE Teacher

Sports Psychologist

Sports Therapist

Nutritionist

Exercise Physiologist



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course: GCSE

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Sports Coach  
Physiotherapist  
Personal Trainer  
PE Teacher  
Sports Psychologist  
Sports Therapist  
Nutritionist  
Exercise Physiologist

## ASSESSMENT

### Paper 2: Health and Performance

Component Code: 1PE0/02

- Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Marks: 60
- Weighting: 24% of the qualification
- Content:
  - Health, fitness and wellbeing; sport psychology; socio-cultural influences; use of data
- Question Types:
  - Multiple choice, short-answer, long-answer, and one extended writing question

### Component 3: Practical Performance

Component Code: 1PE0/03

- Assessment Type: Non-examined assessment
- Weighting: 30% of the qualification
- Marks: 105 (35 marks per activity)

Students complete three physical activities, assessed by teachers and externally moderated by Pearson.

### Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

Component Code: 1PE0/04

- Assessment Type: Non-examined assessment
- Weighting: 10% of the qualification
- Marks: 20

Students produce and evaluate a Personal Exercise Programme based on improving performance in a chosen activity.

**Link to Exam Specification: [Physical Education](#)**



# PHYSICS

Course: IGCSE (Modular) Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Architecture

Astrophysicist

Engineering

Science and  
Research

Robotics Specialist

Renewable Energy  
Specialist

Meteorologist

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Physics (Modular) provides a rigorous and engaging introduction to the fundamental principles of physics and their applications in everyday life. It is ideal for students with a strong curiosity about how and why things work — from the motion of planets to the behaviour of particles.

The course encourages students to explore and model physical phenomena, develop analytical and mathematical reasoning skills, and apply scientific principles to real-world problems. It builds on Key Stage 3 science learning and provides a solid foundation for progression to A Level Physics, Engineering, or related disciplines.

Practical and experimental understanding is developed throughout the course, allowing students to appreciate the methods, precision, and investigative nature of physics, while preparing them for further academic study or technical careers

## COURSE CONTENT

The International GCSE in Physics is divided into nine key topics, studied progressively across the course:

- **Forces and Motion** – Motion, forces, momentum, Hooke's law, Newton's laws, and moments.
- **Electricity** – Circuits, current, resistance, voltage, power, and electrical safety.
- **Energy Resources and Energy Transfers** – Work, energy, power, conservation, efficiency, and renewable/non-renewable sources.
- **Solids, Liquids and Gases (Part 1)** – Density, pressure, and changes of state.
- **Waves** – Wave properties, reflection, refraction, sound, and the electromagnetic spectrum.
- **Solids, Liquids and Gases (Part 2)** – The behaviour of gases and relationships between pressure, volume, and temperature.
- **Magnetism and Electromagnetism** – Magnetic fields, electromagnetism, electric motors, and transformers.



# PHYSICS

Course: IGCSE (Modular)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel



## FUTURE CAREER

Architecture

Astrophysicist

Engineering

Science and  
Research

Robotics Specialist

Renewable Energy  
Specialist

Meteorologist

## COURSE CONTENT

- **Radioactivity and Particles** – Atomic structure, types of radiation, fission, fusion, and nuclear energy.
- **Astrophysics** – Motion in the universe, stellar evolution, and the Big Bang theory.

Practical investigations are embedded throughout the course to strengthen experimental, analytical, and data-handling skills, which are assessed through written examination rather than coursework

## ASSESSMENT

Students will complete two written papers, both equally weighted and untiered.

### Paper 1: Physics Unit 1 (4WPH1/1P)

- Duration: 1 hour 40 minutes
- Marks: 90
- Weighting: 50% of the qualification
- Content: Forces and motion, electricity, energy resources and transfers, solids, liquids and gases (Part 1)
- Question types: Multiple-choice, short-answer, calculations, and extended open-response questions
- Calculator permitted

### Paper 2: Physics Unit 2 (4WPH2/1P)

- Duration: 1 hour 40 minutes
- Marks: 90
- Weighting: 50% of the qualification
- Content: Waves, solids, liquids and gases (Part 2), magnetism and electromagnetism, radioactivity and particles, astrophysics
- Question types: Multiple-choice, short-answer, calculations, and extended open-response questions
- Calculator permitted

[Link to Exam Specification: Physics](#)



# PSYCHOLOGY

Course: **GCSE**

Exam Board: **AQA**



## FUTURE CAREER

Clinical Psychologist  
Educational Psychologist  
Counsellor or Therapist  
Forensic Psychologist  
Human Resources Specialist  
Marketing and Consumer Behaviour Analyst  
Sports Psychologist  
Social Worker

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The AQA GCSE Psychology course introduces students to the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes. Students explore how people think, learn, remember, communicate, and interact with others, while also examining how the brain functions and how psychological problems can affect individuals and society.

The course develops critical thinking, analytical skills, and the ability to evaluate evidence and research. Students learn how psychologists investigate behaviour through scientific research methods and practical investigations, enabling them to interpret data, analyse theories, and apply psychological understanding to real-life situations.

This course is particularly suited to students who are curious about human behaviour, enjoy discussion and debate, and are interested in topics such as memory, mental health, social influence, and brain function. It provides a strong foundation for further study in Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care, or other humanities and social science subjects at post-16 level.

The qualification is linear, meaning students sit all examinations at the end of the course.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into two main areas: Cognition and Behaviour and Social Context and Behaviour.

### 1. Cognition and Behaviour

This area focuses on how people think, learn, remember, and perceive the world around them.

#### Memory

- Processes of memory: encoding, storage, and retrieval
- Types and structures of memory
- The multi-store model of memory
- Factors affecting memory and eyewitness testimony

#### Perception

- Sensation and perception
- Visual cues and depth perception
- Visual illusions
- Theories of perception, including Gibson and Gregory



# PSYCHOLOGY

Course: **GCSE**

Exam Board: **AQA**

## COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into two main areas: Cognition and Behaviour and Social Context and Behaviour.



### FUTURE CAREER

Clinical Psychologist  
Educational Psychologist  
Counsellor or Therapist  
Forensic Psychologist  
Human Resources Specialist  
Marketing and Consumer Behaviour Analyst  
Sports Psychologist  
Social Worker

### 1. Cognition and Behaviour

This area focuses on how people think, learn, remember, and perceive the world around them.

#### Development

- Early brain development
- Piaget's theory of cognitive development
- Nature versus nurture
- Mindset theory and learning styles

#### Research Methods

- Experimental design and hypothesis testing
- Sampling methods and data collection
- Ethical considerations in psychological research
- Data handling, interpretation, and statistical skills

### 2. Social Context and Behaviour

This area explores how behaviour is influenced by social, cultural, and biological factors. Topics include:

#### Social Influence

- Conformity and obedience
- Prosocial behaviour and bystander intervention
- Crowd and collective behaviour
- Key studies including Asch, Milgram, and Piliavin

#### Language, Thought and Communication

- The relationship between language and thought
- Human and animal communication
- Non-verbal communication and body language
- Cultural influences on communication

#### Brain and Neuropsychology

- Structure and function of the nervous system
- Neurons and synaptic transmission
- Brain structure and localisation of function
- Brain scanning techniques and neurological damage



# PSYCHOLOGY

Course: **GCSE**

Exam Board: **AQA**



## FUTURE CAREER

Clinical Psychologist  
Educational Psychologist  
Counsellor or Therapist  
Forensic Psychologist  
Human Resources Specialist  
Marketing and Consumer Behaviour Analyst  
Sports Psychologist  
Social Worker

## COURSE CONTENT

### Psychological Problems

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Depression and addiction
- Biological and psychological explanations of disorders
- Therapies and treatments including CBT and self-management programmes.

Throughout the course, students are expected to apply research methods and mathematical skills across all topic areas. Practical research activities help students develop investigation, analysis, and evaluation skills.

## ASSESSMENT

Students sit two written examinations at the end of the course. Each paper is worth 50% of the total GCSE.

### Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour

- Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Marks: 100
- Weighting: 50% of GCSE
- Content:
  - Memory; Perception; Development; Research Methods
- Question Types:
  - Multiple choice, short-answer, data response, and extended writing questions

### Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour

- Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Marks: 100
- Weighting: 50% of GCSE
- Content:
  - Social Influence; Language, Thought and Communication; Brain and Neuropsychology; Psychological Problems
- Question Types:
  - Multiple choice, short-answer, data response, and extended writing questions



# PSYCHOLOGY

Course: **GCSE**

Exam Board: **AQA**

## ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed on their ability to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological theories and concepts
- Apply psychological knowledge to real-life situations
- Analyse and evaluate psychological research and evidence

**Link to Exam Specification: [GCSE Psychology](#)**



## FUTURE CAREER

Clinical Psychologist  
Educational Psychologist  
Counsellor or Therapist  
Forensic Psychologist  
Human Resources Specialist  
Marketing and Consumer Behaviour Analyst  
Sports Psychologist  
Social Worker



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