



GCSE COURSES
2023-2025

This handbook aims to help students and parents make informed decisions about the course of study best suited to each individual student. At Godolphin we believe that each student should follow a broadly based, coherent and balanced curriculum. It is important that in the decisions that are made, each student is advised, supported and encouraged to achieve their best whilst retaining the maximum flexibility with regard to future curriculum and career choices.

We are all aware of the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities that will confront our students in adult life. We work in partnership with parents in preparing students for the future and in achieving the high aims and aspirations we have for them.

It is in this spirit that we present the booklet. It aims to direct students' attention to the future and to assist them in selecting the combination of courses that is most appropriate. Subject teachers are readily available to offer explanation and advice.

The GCSE Examination

Courses of study leading to GCSE – the General Certificate of Secondary Education, or IGCSE (the International General Certificate of Secondary Education) - cover a two-year period. They encourage the development of practical and analytical skills, better understanding and the application of knowledge.

In general, assessment is through:

- Written examination papers at the end of the course. In some subjects there may be some use of differentiated grade papers at different levels or tiers of assessment. These are explained within each subject section.
- Non-examined assessment, where students complete an assignment or piece of coursework in controlled conditions with limited help and guidance from their teachers.

The Programme of Study for GCSE

Very few Third Year students know precisely what they will want to do at 16, 18 or 21. Thus it is important to sustain a balanced study programme, which gives each individual a sound, broad based education to 16, and ensures that the widest possible opportunities are available later on. With this in mind the main GCSE programme at Godolphin includes a compulsory core programme.

These core subjects are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science: either Double Award Science (DAS), which gives two IGCSE awards across all three Sciences, or Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three Separate Science awards. Some students may study a single combined science IGCSE – this is a decision taken during the Fourth Year based on progress with the course. Science teachers will place your child in either the DAS or Separate Science groups, based on their extensive knowledge of the syllabus and after carefully considering which pathway will stand your child in the best position to achieve a good grade. A very good grade at DAS will not preclude your child from studying a science at A-level, although those studying separate Science will have a greater depth of knowledge to draw upon as a foundation for A-level study. Furthermore, Science at A-level, and indeed Maths, are considerably more advanced than they are at GCSE and so it is important to consult your child’s teachers about suitability for these subjects in particular as GCSE grades are not always a useful indicator.

Most students then choose three 'option' subjects. This can include one or two Modern Languages and in the interests of sustaining as broad an education as possible, one of these could be a humanities subject – Classical Civilisation, Geography, History or Religious Studies – and another a creative or practical subject - Art & Design, Product Design, Food Technology, Drama or Music. For those keen on STEM, we offer Statistics and Computer Science. In addition, all students have PE and follow a programme of Personal, Health, Social, Citizenship & Economic Education (PHSCEE). GCSE Ancient Greek may then be taken as an optional “extra” in session time.

For the most academically able students it may be suitable to study an additional GCSE within the timetable. This would mean that a student would miss Future Skills lessons detailed below, and carry a workload that may impact wider co-curricular and curricular participation and success. There will be an opportunity to enquire about that facility on the Options form.

Future Skills:

Academic qualifications, such as GCSEs are currently vital for the transition from school, to work, to higher education, and beyond. However these are just the building blocks that enable success later in life. The mortar that holds those blocks together, and enables the building of full, varied, and successful lives are much wider skills. These wider skills are the difference between a fixed career path and the ability to adapt to whatever a young person chooses to invest their passion in, and with whatever the world throws at them.

The Godolphin future skills programme intends to provide time and space for development of those skills through a variety of methods. More importantly it will allow students to recognise and evidence those skills so that they can approach new situations with confidence and flexibility.

The Future Skills programme will:


- Provide broader opportunities to experience, develop, evidence and communicate valuable skills.
- Offer opportunity to work independently on curriculum work and wider projects.
- Allow for further accredited courses where appropriate.
- Ensure that students develop their own skills and strengths that they can evidence with concrete examples.

How GCSE options are made

For Godolphin students the main process for choosing a GCSE course runs through the Spring Term. The new school timetable is constructed during the Spring and Summer Terms, and the GCSE programmes are then finally agreed. The process falls into these phases.

- Opportunities to discuss option subjects with Heads of Department and broader teaching staff.
- Tutors will support and advise students in making their choices.
- Students will submit their options form by 8 February.
- The new bespoke timetable will be built around the options selected.

We understand that this process may raise many questions, and most can be fielded by subject teachers, Heads of department as detailed below, or tutors. If you do have any further queries, please do get in touch via email hillmanc@godolphin.org.



Dr Chris Hillman
Academic Deputy

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Art, Craft and Design

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus [AQA Art, Craft and Design; Code 8201/C 8201/X](#)

Assessment	One Coursework unit containing three separate projects	60%
	One Externally Set Assignment unit comprising one project	
	Based on an external examination paper	40%

The Externally Set Assignment takes place in January of the Fifth Year. Candidates receive the question paper in advance and have approximately eight weeks to prepare before a set assignment period of ten hours spread over two days. Coursework must be complete by the time the Externally Set Assignment takes place.

Course Structure

The course demands that students work in both two and three dimensions from a variety of materials within the Art Craft and Design area. We offer Painting and Drawing, Three-Dimensional Design (Ceramics Sculpture) and Textiles (printed, hand-painted, constructed, etc), although students can also work in mixed media, collage, simple printmaking techniques and, provided a girl has some background knowledge and the ability to work on her own, digital photography. Drawing is the common link to all of the above, but students do not have to be 'good at drawing' in order to do well on the course.

In the Fourth Year, all students will work in the areas of painting and drawing, three-dimensional design and textiles. They will continue to build on their work in three areas of study in the Fifth Year. The Externally Set Assignment unit of work can be produced in the area of their choice.

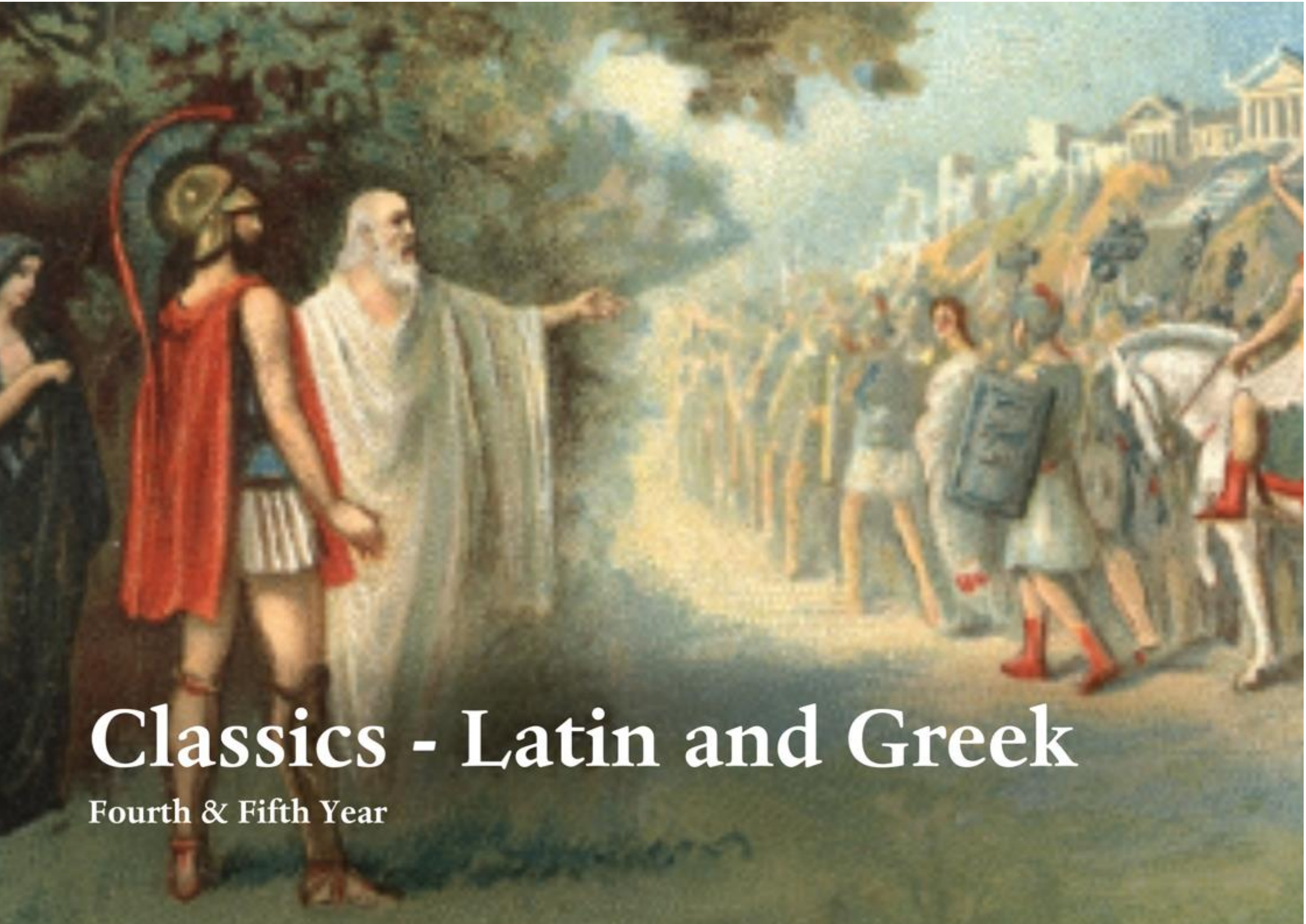
Students will make three organised visits to art galleries/museums during the first year of the course plus a workshop led by an external artist. In addition to this it is expected that each student will develop her work by making additional museum and gallery visits to boost her studies in her own time

Links with Other Subjects Obviously the technical skills and creative ability fostered by this course can have influence in other, but not necessarily all, subjects; for example, the ability to describe ideas accurately through drawing (Biology, History, Geography, etc); the ability to present work in a clear and thoughtful manner (all subjects).

A-Level In general terms, it is necessary to do this course at GCSE in order to go on to A-level, although exceptions can be made provided students are dedicated and hardworking.

This course is suitable for students who think, however vaguely, that they might like a career in such areas as Fashion and Textiles, Product Design, Architecture, Industrial Design, Advertising, TV and Film Making, as well as the Fine Arts.

Nick Eggleton, Head of Art



Classics - Latin and Greek

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus [OCR Latin J282](#), and [Classical Greek, J292](#).

Students can take Latin, Greek, or both for GCSE. Assessment is by one 90 minute Language exam, and two one hour Literature exams.

Why study Latin or Greek? Is there any point in learning a ‘dead’ language? With all the exciting and different subjects on offer, why would anyone want to spend time on Latin (let alone Greek)? Aren’t Classical subjects the most boring, useless, and out-of-date ones anyone could choose?

Everyone is of course entitled to their own opinion; but a subject that helps students learn how to cut through all the waffle and get to the heart of an argument, and then to express their own views in clear, succinct, accurate language is hardly useless or out-of-date, and those are skills which will undoubtedly develop while studying the GCSE course.

We study Latin and Greek not to use them as a means of communication for our own ideas (although, among countless examples, J K Rowling and C S Lewis both read Classics, and rely heavily on classical ideas throughout their stories – Centaurs, Sea-Monsters, Giants, three headed dogs, creatures that turn you to stone, the heroes themselves – all these are classical), but primarily to read what has already been written in them by some of the greatest western poets, thinkers, philosophers and scientists. And in so doing we are in excellent company: for hundreds of years our ancestors have been doing exactly the same, copying, adapting, and being inspired and tantalised by the Greeks and Romans. That means, when students study Latin or Greek, they not only engage with the ideas and insights of the Romans and Greeks themselves, but they understand better the people who came after them. In learning about the Classical world they are learning where our political systems, our legal institutions, our cultural mores, our artistic ideas – not to mention the language we speak – come from.

What does the course involve? Two main things: language and literature. Students will also spend some time learning about Greek and Roman civilisation and culture.

Grammar is systematically introduced and logical in structure. It is a tool to use when decoding ancient ideas rather than as a form of medieval torture. And the literature is amazing: reading something written in the ancient world for someone alive at the time, not watered down or filtered but exactly as it was, is a real thrill – a kind of linguistic time-travelling.

What goes well with Classical subjects? Anything; both Latin and Greek complement arts subjects that include History, Art, English, Religious Studies, etc., but their logical structure makes them appealing (and useful) to scientists, too.

Primrose Campbell, Head of Classics



Classical Civilisation

Fourth & Fifth Year

Why study Classical Civilisation? If students are interested in the people who lived in the ancient world, by taking Classical Civilisation GCSE they will explore the ideas which shaped our culture; not only its art, architecture and literature, but also its political institutions and philosophy. You will also be able to study ancient literature in English. A novelist once wrote “the past is a foreign country, they do things differently there”. There will be many times when we will feel similar to the ancient Greeks and Romans: we probably share their hopes and anxieties; at others, utterly different - dormice for lunch anyone?

What does the course involve? There are two topics each examined by a 90 minute written paper, which asks for a mixture of short and long answers. There is one thematic study, looking at myth and religion through literary and visual/material sources, and one paper involving an in-depth study of culture and related literature.

Students will start by studying one of the oldest surviving texts in Greek literature: Homer’s great epic of Odysseus’ struggle to get home from the Trojan War. They might wonder what relevance these stories about sorcerers and sea creatures might have for us today. But the challenges that faced Odysseus and his men 3000 years ago, help us explore ideas about freedom and one’s control over the future, the value of happiness, the justification for war: the same moral dilemmas that we all have to grapple with today. The story is gripping, beautifully told and has more cliff hangers than a soap opera; which is why it is still a great read! This study of Homer’s epic goes hand in hand with a look at the culture of ancient Mycenae, examining particular sites, their archaeology and the valuable role they play in the understanding of the age. The Mycenaean Age is also rich in sculpture, frescos and jewellery, as well as the famous tombs and their accompanying treasure, meaning that learners can study a wide range of fascinating materials.

The exploration of religion and mythology in the ancient Greek and Roman world will surely prove to be engaging and appealing. We will study myths regarding the role of the gods and heroes in the founding of Athens and Rome and the importance of Heracles to both the Greek and Roman world. These are well known stories which students will enjoy studying in increased depth. Myth as a symbol of power will also be explored, as will ever popular myths about the underworld – Sisyphus, Tantalus and Orpheus, to name just a few. We will also look at the role of religion in the everyday lives of Ancient Greeks and Romans. The study of temples, sacrifice, festivals, death and beliefs in the afterlife will give a broad overview of religion in the ancient world, and provides opportunity for the study of a wide variety of material remains, including remarkable temples and works of art.

What goes well with Classical Civilisation? Anything! So much of what we do today reflects our classical past that the subject will enhance anything students choose to study. The skills they will learn are transferable too. Reading for pleasure, analysing texts and art, writing essays and making connections across time and subjects will prepare students for deeper study at A-level.

Primrose Campbell, Head of Classics

Computer Science

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus [EdExcel GCSE Computer Science 1CP2](#)

Overview: Computers are widely used in all aspects of technology, cyber, business, industry, government, education, leisure and the home. Whatever your career plans, the wide skillset that comes along with computer science is essential to all of us:

- Problem solving
- Analytical thinking
- Teamwork
- Creativity
- Organisational skills

The GCSE Computer Science course will give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and the ability to program. It is a practical and creative subject that involves invention and excitement to solve real-world problems.

Assessment and Content:

- Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science – Written theory exam (50%)

The theory covers a wide range of topics, giving a solid understanding of how computers work. As well as interpreting algorithms, students will learn how to manipulate binary data – the language of the computer. The components and functionality of computers are studied, including their use in networking. Students will also consider the ethical and legal issues of using computer systems in day-to-day life, with explorations of artificial intelligence and moral dilemmas.

- Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking – On-screen programming exam (50%)

This exam provides a variety of skeleton programs as starting points, which you complete and adapt using your knowledge of Python (with a substantial Python reference guide supplied in the exam to help you). It is predominantly a ‘fill in the gaps’ format. You will not need to memorise Python as this exam is designed to replicate the real-world programming environment as closely as possible, meaning that reference material is available.

The Programming Language Subset (PLS) given to students in the exam tells them how to program everything – it is not a memory test!

How will this course help my future education and career?

This course provides excellent preparation for further study in any discipline. Due to the broad skillset it presents, students can confidently pursue any career path with this GCSE. Computer Science gives you the perfect foundations to continue its study at university. It is also ideal preparation for students hoping to apply for degree level apprenticeships at companies such as GCHQ, JP Morgan, Dyson, IBM, Jaguar, Deloitte and so on. There is an ever-expanding demand for professionals who are qualified in this area, and the valuable thinking and programming skills that you will develop on the course are extremely attractive in the modern workplace.

Johanna Watkins, KS4 Lead for Computer Science



Drama

Fourth & Fifth Year

This GCSE course gives students the opportunity to explore the subject from a range of perspectives by devising their own, original work; by bringing to life the work of a playwright; as theatre reviewers, developing their own thoughts on what makes drama and theatre successful; and as creative artists building and bringing a character to life through exploration and rehearsal. Students can choose to be assessed as either a performer or as a designer in the non-exam components. This means that students have the choice to complete the course as a performer, as designer or through a combination of both roles.

The qualification is made up of three components. There are two non-exam assessments (60% of the overall qualification) and one exam assessment (40% of the overall qualification). Theory and practical work are integrated throughout the course and all texts and examinations are explored and prepared for using a mix academic and physical techniques.

Component 1: Devising Drama (60 marks) – Students will create a devised performance in groups. They will be able to select a starting point from a range of stimuli provided by the exam board. They can choose to work as a performer or designer in this component. All performances will be supported by a portfolio which is evidence of the student’s devising process and can be made up of a combination of writing, images, observation notes and artefacts.

Component 2: Text Performance (60 marks) – Students will study a text chosen by the centre, and will take part in two performances of two extracts from the text. They can work as a performer or designer in this component. Students are required to produce an accompanying concept document which outlines their intentions for the performance.

Component 3: Written Examination (80 marks):

Section A (50 marks) – Students will be asked about preparing and performing a text. They will draw on the experience of studying a whole text during the course from a list set by the exam board.

Section B (30 marks) – This section asks the students to review a performance they have seen on their course. They will be primarily assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate but will also be marked on their accurate use of subject specific terminology.

There are four assessment objectives which underpin the marking and assessment of this course:

AO1: Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance

AO2: Apply theatrical skills to realize artistic intentions in live performance

AO3: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed

AO4: Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others

Rebecca Houston, Head of Drama



English Language & Literature (Core)

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus: [CIE IGCSE \(9-1\) English First Language 0990](#)

The CIE IGCSE (9-1) English First Language 0990 specification is designed to help young people explore communication, culture and creativity, to develop independent and critical thinking skills, and to engage with the richness of our language. Students are encouraged to read widely, both for pleasure and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used, and are given the opportunity to experiment with their own writing in a range of contexts and styles. It also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) First Language English allows students to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- learn how to use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

The programme helps to advance the reading and writing skills students need for their next steps in education or employment by encouraging them to read critically and use the knowledge they gain from wider reading to inform and improve their own writing. The course also improves students' awareness of how writing is crafted for different purposes, audiences and forms, and encourages them to think carefully about this when planning their own writing.

There are two, 2-hour exams which assess both reading comprehension and directed and creative writing. There is an optional component to assess speaking and listening skills - presenting a topic of their choice and responding to questions - for an assessment which is endorsed separately.

Syllabus: [AQA English Literature 8702](#)

The AQA GCSE English Literature 8702 specification is designed to encourage students to engage critically with and explore a variety of texts. The current text choices are: *An Inspector Calls*, *Macbeth*, *Jekyll and Hyde/A Christmas Carol*, a range of poetry on the theme of relationships and an unseen poem. Examined through two, 2-hour exams – Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel and Modern Texts and Poetry - the course develops analytical skills, understanding of texts in their contexts and the use of sophisticated, accurate Standard English in essay writing.

There are two, 2-hour exams examining the following assessment objectives:

- AO1:** Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
- AO2:** Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
- AO3:** Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.
- AO4:** Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

The course will be supported by opportunities to engage in relevant activities beyond the classroom including workshops and visits to the theatre.

Cristina George, Head of English

A top-down view of a dark grey or black rectangular tray containing 16 small, round, golden-brown appetizers. Each appetizer is topped with a dollop of white cream, a slice of red tomato, and a fresh green basil leaf. The appetizers are arranged in a grid pattern, with four rows and four columns. The text "Food Preparation & Nutrition" is overlaid in white serif font across the bottom half of the image.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus [AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition](#)

Why Study Food Preparation and Nutrition? This new GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills. It ensures students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. It supports and links well with Science subjects in addition to the knowledge and practical skills acquired being important life skills.

Course Content: Food preparation skills are integrated into 5 core topics:

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

The range of food and ingredients studied reflect the recommended guidelines for a healthy diet, based on the main food commodity groups. These food groups include:

- Bread, cereals, flour, oats, rice, potatoes and pasta
- Fruit and vegetables
- Milk, cheese and yoghurt
- Meat, fish, soya, eggs, beans, nuts and seeds
- Butter, margarine, oil and sugar

The majority of the course is delivered through preparation and making activities.

Assessment: Written Examination: 1 hour 45 mins. 100 Marks – 50% of GCSE

The written paper examines students' theoretical knowledge of food and nutrition.

Non Examination Assessment: 50% of GCSE

This consists of one food investigation report and one food preparation assessment;

- Food Investigation 15%. Students write a report on their understanding of the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food.
- Food Preparation Assessment 35%. Students plan, prepare, cook and present a 3 course menu within 3 hours.

The skills developed over the two years will prove useful for those students wishing to take Leith's Diploma in Godolphin Sixth.

Greg Clarke, Head of Food Preparation and Nutrition



Geography

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus [Edexcel Geography 'A' - \(1GA0\)](#)

This specification takes a thematic approach, enabling students to explore the people-environment challenges we face in the UK.

GCSE Geography allows students to develop:

- an understanding of the processes which affect physical and human environments
- an understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale
- the ability to use and understand geographical data and information
- an understanding of how communities around the world are affected and constrained by different environments.

Assessment and Content

Paper 1 : The Physical Environment - 1 hour and 30 minutes (37.5%)

- The Changing Landscapes of the UK, which includes coasts and rivers.
- Weather Hazards and Climate Change, including tropical storms and drought.
- Ecosystems, biodiversity and management, with a study of tropical rainforests and temperate deciduous forests.

Paper 2 : The Human Environment - 1 hour and 30 minutes (37.5%)

- Changing Cities, including studies of a UK city (Cardiff) and a city in the emerging world (Sao Paulo).
- Global Development, with a focus on India as an emerging country.
- Resource management, with a focus on energy.

Paper 3 : Geographical Investigations - Fieldwork and UK Challenges - 1 hour and 30 minutes (25%)

- **Fieldwork:** One physical and one human investigation.
- **UK Challenges:** Students use geographical skills to investigate a contemporary challenge drawn from one or more of the key themes: Resource consumption and environment stability; Settlement, population and economics; Climate Change.

Compulsory Residential Field Trip: Fieldwork is a vital component of Geography. The specification requires students to undertake at least two single day field work visits. We spend two days in South Wales during the summer term of the Fourth Year, staying overnight at the Margam Field Studies centre. Saturday is a human geography day based in the Valleys and the city of Cardiff and Sunday is a river study day on the River Ogmore. Skills gained during the fieldwork sessions and the investigative work covered during the year will be examined in Paper 3. (Please budget for an approximate cost of £250 for this trip.)

Sarah Collishaw, Head of Geography



History

Fourth & Fifth Year

History is an enjoyable yet academically rigorous subject which stretches and challenges but also enhances your knowledge of the world and gives greater understanding of your place in it. It also teaches invaluable transferrable skills such as research, analysis, interpretation and evaluation.

Syllabus

We will be following the Edexcel International GCSE (IGCSE) course. You can find more information on this course at: [Edexcel International GCSE History \(2017\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

You will sit **two** papers at the end of your Fifth Year. In each paper, you will answer questions about **two** broad topics that we have studied, so you will study a total of four broad topics altogether.

Paper 1: Depth Studies

Our broad topics for Paper 1 are:

- 3: Germany: development of dictatorship, 1918-1945 (4 and 5)
- 7: A Divided Union: Civil Rights in the United States, 1945-1974 (5)

This paper is worth **50%** of your overall mark (60 marks) and will last **90** minutes in total. There will be three questions for each of the two depth studies:

- a) Analyse a secondary source for the impression given by the author
- b) Explain two effects (consequences) of a historical event or development
- c) Write a short essay from a choice of two, making a judgement relating to causes/effects/significance

Philip Jones, Head of History

Paper 2: Historical Investigation and Breadth Studies

Our topics for Paper 2 are:

- A2: Russia and the Soviet Union 1905-24 (Historical Investigation, U5)
- B2: Changes in Medicine, c.1848-1948 (Breadth Study in change, L5)

This paper is worth **50%** of your overall mark (60 marks) and will last **90** minutes in total.

For the **Historical Investigation** there will be three questions:

- a) Describe two features of an aspect of the topic
- b) Explain how far one source supports the evidence of another (compare two sources)
- c) Use two primary sources, a secondary source, and your own knowledge to explain how far you agree with an interpretation

For the **Breadth Study**, you will be asked to:

- a) Explain two ways in which an aspect of medicine was similar/different between two dates
- b) Explain two causes of change in an aspect of medicine
- c) Explain how far something changed between two dates or how far wars were responsible for change.

Syllabus [Edexcel's International GCSE syllabus A \(4MA1\)](#)

Assessment Two terminal two hour examinations, both with calculators

There are two levels of entry - Higher Tier and Foundation Tier a decision upon which level of entry is made is usually taken after the mock examination in Fifth Year on a student-by-student basis.

Higher Tier enables students to gain grades 9 - 4

Foundation Tier enables students to gain grades 5 - 1

A good result at IGCSE is a very valuable commodity, but Mathematics at Godolphin is also seen as an enjoyable and rewarding subject in its own right.

In the Fourth and Fifth Years, the focus of studies by necessity turns to the external examinations. The breadth of the syllabus allows considerable scope and develops problem-solving skills and strategies. The syllabus is taught in five lessons a fortnight and students are placed in divisions according to their ability and put in the group which we believe will enable them to gain the best possible grade.

Syllabus Content

The course explores in depth, number, algebra, geometry and statistics. These studies build upon the foundations established during the first three years at Godolphin.

The IGCSE enables the students to explore additional valuable topics such as Set Theory, Functions and Calculus.

As in the first three years, appropriate use of ICT is encouraged but traditional/non calculator methods are also still valued, as is the development of mathematical reasoning, and independent learning.

Preparation for A-level

By far the majority of Division 1 (and quite a number from lower divisions) go on to study Mathematics in Godolphin Sixth, with a handful of students also choosing to opt for an additional A-level in Further Mathematics. With this in mind, Division 1 students extend their mathematical knowledge through further topics, leading to the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics.

Geoff Smith, Head of Mathematics

A full-page background image of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. The tower is the central focus, standing tall against a clear, bright blue sky. The base of the tower is partially obscured by a large, well-manicured green lawn. To the left, there is a dense line of lush green trees. In the foreground, a few people can be seen walking on a path. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

Modern Languages

French & Spanish (Option)

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus [AQA GCSE French 8658/Spanish 8698](#)

General Objectives:

Skills The purpose of the examination is to assess the candidate's ability:

- to understand and respond to the spoken language;
- to read, understand and respond to different types of written language;
- to communicate and interact effectively in the spoken language;
- to communicate effectively in the written language.

Candidates will be assessed in all the above skill areas.

There are two levels of entry - Higher Tier and Foundation Tier a decision upon which level of entry is made is usually taken on a student-by-student basis and is not final until the after the mock examinations in the Fifth Year.

Higher Tier enables students to gain grades 9 – 4

Foundation Tier enables students to gain grades 5 - 1

Context The language and tasks expected of candidates will be those which may be needed by a person:

- visiting a French or Spanish-speaking country as a tourist or on an exchange or extended visit;
- meeting, assisting or acting as host to a French or Spanish-speaking person visiting this country;
- establishing and maintaining contact with French and Spanish-speaking countries;
- wishing to explore their own interest through the medium of French or Spanish.

Emphasis throughout will be on practical communication.

Students can choose to pursue 1 modern language to GCSE level which may be French or Spanish; students may also take BOTH French and Spanish if they so wish

The ability to communicate in a foreign language is an important practical, social and business asset and, in the context of Europe, a formal qualification in at least one European language is required by an increasing number of companies and employers. In addition, some universities insist on a modern language GCSE as part of their requirement. We strongly recommend students who are getting on successfully with modern languages to take at least one language to GCSE level. Since most people learn French at school, it is a valuable asset to be able to offer a qualification in a second foreign language, and Spanish can be of great use in many future careers. It is much easier to gain this qualification when one is still at school rather than attempting to resume the language later at evening classes. As well as equipping students with the basic skills, the GCSE course offers them enjoyment, a sense of achievement and intellectual stimulation, and provides the foundation for a future general language course or A-level course.

Nathalie Monediere, Head of Modern Languages



Music

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus

[Edexcel Music](#)

Assessment:

Composing 30%

Composing is the part of the course which many candidates approach with trepidation and then end up enjoying most of all.

Students will write music throughout the course, but at the end of it you will submit two compositions. They are given a free choice as to the style of the music, but one of them will be written to a brief set by the exam board.

Performing 30%

One of the great advantages of this course is that students are given part of the GCSE for work that they would have been doing in any case. GCSE performance is different though, because it is the ability to play with real feeling which is important.

Students will be performing throughout the course but at the end of it, they will perform one solo piece and one ensemble piece.

Listening 40%

By studying music in depth, students learn to understand some of the magic that composers use in putting music together. This helps their own compositions as well as their own performances.

They will sit one written examination lasting one hour and 45 minutes, which will test their ability to listen to a number of pieces of music carefully and to respond to music that is played. Some of these extracts will be familiar and some will test their general musical knowledge

Music is an exciting and varied course that allows students to exploit their musical talents to the full. It allows students to find out what they most enjoy about music and then use that knowledge to discover more.

The course is suitable for students who are enthusiastic about music. They need to be able to play a musical instrument or sing and should be at about Grade 5 standard by the end of the course. They must also be able to read music.

William Ings, Director of Music



Physical Education

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus [Pearson Edexcel](#)

Studying a GCSE in Physical Education will open students' eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. GCSE PE will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Students will also gain an understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and wellbeing.

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

- develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge and understanding to improve performance
- understand how the physiological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques, and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- understand the contribution that physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and wellbeing

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Physical Education consists of two externally-examined papers and two non-examined assessment components.

Component 1 and 2: Fitness and Body Systems and Health and Performance

Worth 60% of the qualification, this component assesses students' knowledge and understanding of the factors underpinning physical activity and sport performance. Students will develop their theoretical knowledge and understanding of applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical performance, social-cultural influences, sports psychology and the contribution that physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and wellbeing. Students will learn how these can impact on their own performance, so that they can use this knowledge to analyse and evaluate performance and devise informed strategies for improving/optimising their own practical performance.

Component 3 and 4: Practical Performance and Personalised Exercise Plan

Component 3 and 4, worth 40% of the qualification, tests students' skills in a range of practical performances. Students will be required to perform in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer. They will be required to demonstrate their skills in isolation/unopposed situations and demonstrate their skills in a formal/competitive situation while under pressure. They will take part in planning analysis, carrying out and monitoring a fitness programme with a written evaluation of the PEP.

Why choose GCSE Physical Education?

GCSE Physical Education is not just an excellent base for the A-level in Physical Education, it can take you much further. For those interested by the why of the human race or fascinated by the human mind, why not carry on to Sociology or Psychology? It is also an excellent additional qualification for this undertaking the sciences with the intention to move through into physiotherapy or medicine. Beyond A-level, the study of Physical Education can lead on to university degrees in sports science, sports management, healthcare or exercise and health. Physical Education can also complement further study in biology, physics, nutrition, teacher training and many more. The transferable skills you learn through your study of Physical Education, such as decision making and independent thinking are also useful in any career path you choose to take.

Sarah Pokai, Acting Director of Sport.

DEVELOPMENT



Slightly textured near
glossy finish near

Split lines
Break product up.

Bakes the product up to

Raised Surface
Round front of hair dryer.

looks more aesthetically pleasing

Equal air drawn in through back grill

more air can be drawn in as grill folds round the back

Angle is different to allow fingers to be positioned in between comfortably.

groove for handle to fold into. look more compact with this.

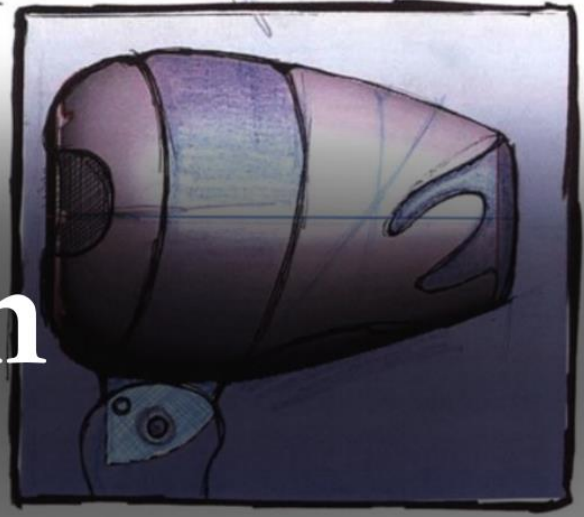
Angles of grips are NOT at ergonomically sound angle

45° Angle correct comfortable position to be ergonomically sound.

Bolt would be covered up. I will use...

Product Design

Fourth & Fifth Year



Front grill made from aluminium-plastic dip coated in thermosetting plastic

front grill will protect internal



Syllabus [AQA Design and Technology](#)

This qualification has been re-designed to be more relevant to designing and making in the 21st Century. Students learn about emerging technologies, materials and processes and study a combination of materials from: Timbers, polymers, metals, electronics, papers & boards and fabrics.

It places greater emphasis on designing iteratively through experimenting with ideas. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

How it is assessed:

Written exam: 2 hours (100 marks) 50% of GCSE

- Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)
A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.
- Section B – Specialist technical principles* (30 marks)
Several short answer questions (2–5 marks), and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of specialist material areas.
- Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)
A mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12 mark design question.

Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx. (100 marks) 50% of GCSE

- A substantial design and make task, completed as a controlled assessment 'project' that includes: Investigating, Designing, Making, Analysing and Evaluating

**This GCSE course teaches content from a combination of five material areas, but our students will focus on timbers and polymers for their specialist technical content.*

Suzie McNulty, Head of Design & Technology



Religious Studies

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus: [Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Route A](#)

Assessment: There are three exams

The majority of the course involves an in-depth study of themes in Philosophy and Ethics. There is also the opportunity to compare and contrast two world religions: Islam and Christianity.

Paper 1: Religious, Philosophical & Ethical Studies in the Modern World (50% of GCSE)

Philosophy of Religion

1. *The Problem of Evil:* How the existence of different types of evil makes some people question the existence and/or nature of God.
2. *The Compatibility of Science and Religion:* How science and religion might give both opposing and compatible answers to questions about the origins of human life.
3. *The Afterlife:* The arguments, both religious and non-religious, for different forms of life after death and the validity of each of these arguments.

Ethics

1. *The Right to Life:* Religious and non-religious views on the sanctity and quality of life and how these influence attitudes to abortion, euthanasia and the treatment of animals.
2. *Relationships:* A study of attitudes and personal lifestyles in relation to sexual relationships and family life.
3. *Social Responsibility:* The importance of social justice and how this influences attitudes to human rights, equality, prejudice and discrimination as well as issues around wealth and poverty.
4. *Ethical behaviour:* Views on justice and forgiveness and how these influence attitudes to crime and punishment, including capital punishment.

Paper 2 (25% of GCSE)

A study of Christianity's key beliefs and practices.

Paper 3 (25% of GCSE)

A study of Islam's key beliefs and practices.

What skills would I develop?

Numerous skills are fostered:

- the ability to think critically, analyse rational arguments and express reasoned opinions.
- knowledge, understanding and tolerance of religious beliefs and practice
- the ability to research independently
- confidence in discussions

Are there any special requirements for doing this course?

No. Anyone who has an open mind, who is interested and prepared to think about life, ethical issues and religion and develop their own ideas, is welcome to study GCSE Religious Studies.

Trips: A residential trip to Andalusia in southern Spain to support the teaching of Islam through studying the golden age of Islam and the era of toleration between the monotheistic religions.

Dr Rachel Lidgett, Head of Religious Studies



Science (Core)

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus: IGCSE Edexcel: [Double Award](#) & Separate Sciences ([Chemistry](#), [Biology](#) and [Physics](#))

Our students will either follow a balanced Double Award course (**which still teaches all 3 Sciences**) or an enhanced Separate Sciences programme.

Please note that even though the Separate Science course has extra content compared with the Double Award sciences, either route is a perfectly good foundation for science A-level courses. However, it is worth remembering that Double Award Science is taken by divisions that find the Sciences more challenging and so whilst the content may allow A-level study, checking with your child's teacher about her suitability for an A-level is very wise when A-level options are made.

Double Award Science

This course offers the opportunity to continue all elements of science: Chemistry, Physics and Biology. The qualification counts as two IGCSEs and a student is awarded two grades.

The course content is very similar to that of the three separate sciences, since the core content of each separate subject makes up the syllabus for Double Award Science. Students are taught by three specialist teachers. There is a terminal examination in each of the three Sciences.

The following table gives a breakdown of the content:

Biology:

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

Chemistry:

- Principles of chemistry
- Chemistry of the elements
- Organic chemistry
- Physical chemistry
- Chemistry in society

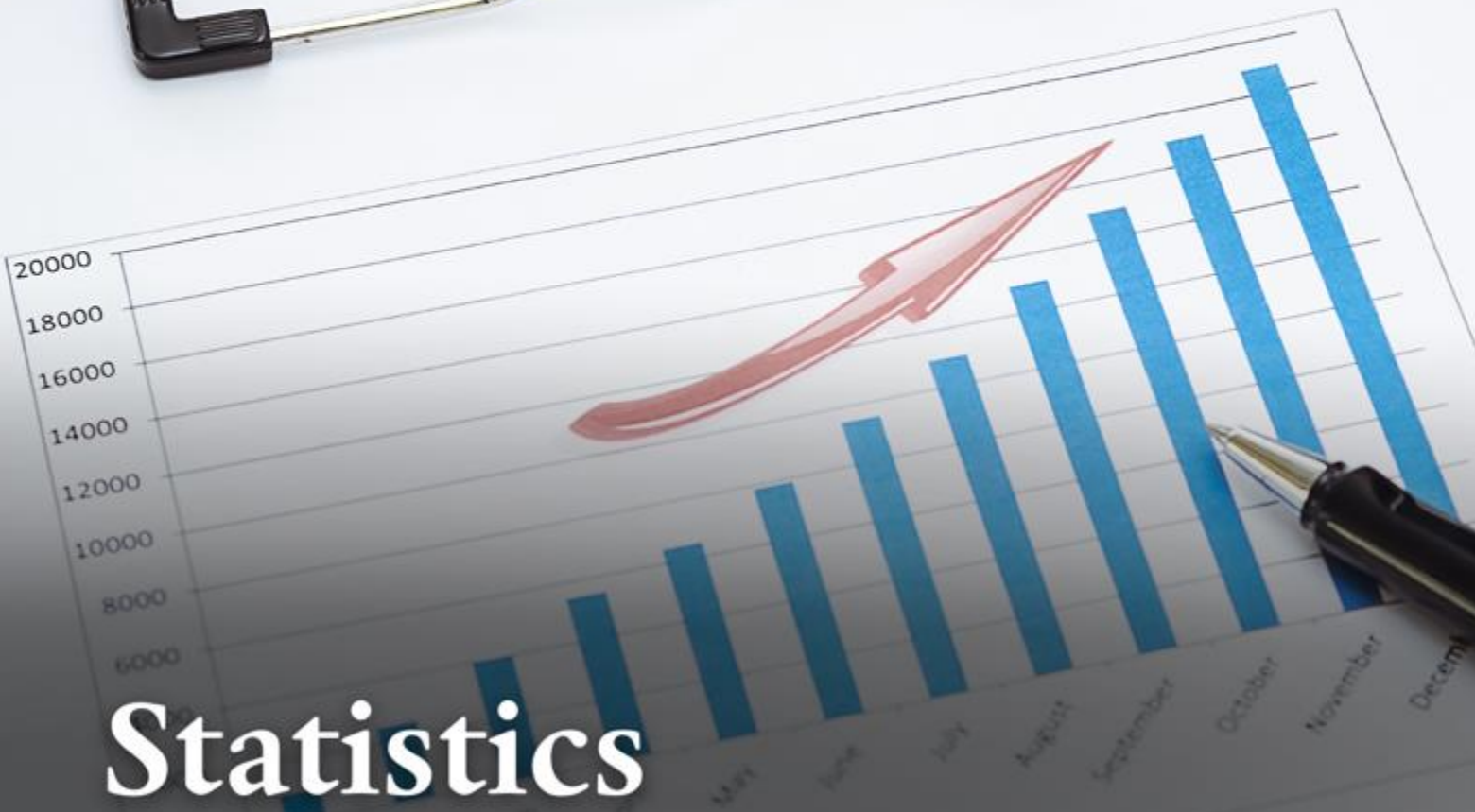
Physics:

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

Separate Sciences

Some students will be entered for the three Separate Science IGCSE examinations. The individual sciences contain additional sections which Double Award students would not cover. Due to the extra syllabus material, these students will be taught at an accelerated pace in the usual timetable allocation. For this reason, it is the Science Faculty who choose who this course is suitable for. The course contains more difficult syllabus material and requires the student to take an extra three examinations. The eventual qualifications would be three IGCSEs, one in each of the Sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Dr Clinton Thrower, Head of Science



Statistics

Fourth & Fifth Year

Syllabus [Edexcel GCSE \(1ST0\) Higher Level](#)

Assessment Two written paper lasting one and a half hours, each with equal weighting. There is no controlled assessment.

The syllabus complements the Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics, emphasising the theoretical, practical and applied nature of the subject. It is suitable for cross-curricular studies and activities, it provides a background for the study of statistics beyond GCSE level, supporting a wide range of A-level subjects including Biology, Psychology, Geography and Economics.

Syllabus Content - taught with a view to the Statistical Enquiry Cycle

Planning and data collection - defining a hypothesis, deciding what data to collect, and developing strategies for processing the data.

Processing, representing and analysing data - understanding how technology can be used, generating the diagrams and comparing the data

Reasoning, interpreting and discussing results in the context of the problem - reaching conclusions in relation to the hypotheses, making predictions and discussing the reliability of the results.

Probability including the Binomial and Normal distributions.

Geoff Smith, Head of Mathematics



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Although correct at the time of going to the press, this booklet may be superseded as part of our commitment to continuing improvement.