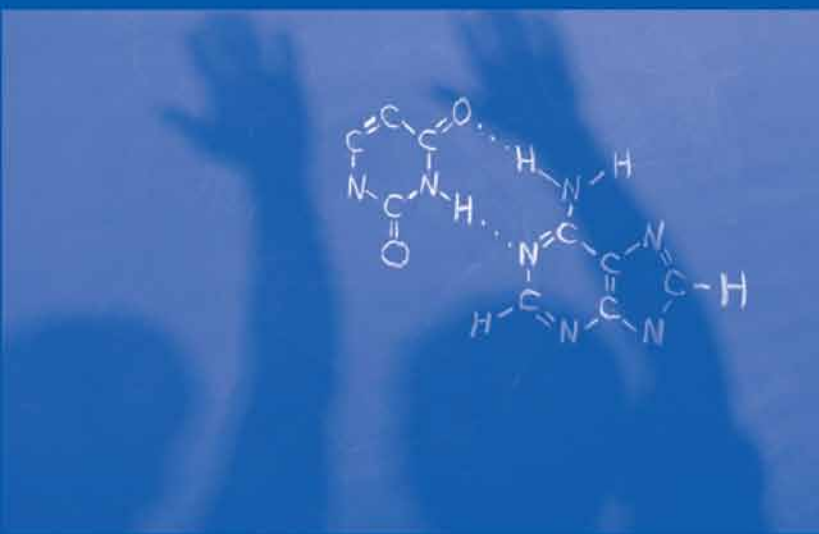


GCSE Courses 2011-2013



Woodbridge School

Woodbridge School

GCSE options 2011-13

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Woodbridge School GCSE options 2011-13

INTRODUCTION

To pupils in Year 9 and their parents

In the near future we will be asking Year 9 pupils for an idea of what they would like to study through to GCSE. Year 9, in all schools, is very much buffet education: pupils have a helping of everything. It is in Years 10 to 11 that they will face the real meat of GCSEs.

In making these choices, I hope very much that you and your sons and daughters will talk at length with subject teachers, the director of studies and, of course, with tutors and housemasters or housemistresses. There are many criteria on which the final decision is made:

- Does a subject have to be studied at GCSE if a pupil wishes to take it for AS/A2?
- Looking at the range of subjects chosen, what are the implications for total work load?
- Does the choice give a suite of subjects balanced between technological, scientific, linguistic subject areas and the humanities? (The blocking system helps to ensure this.)

In the two years to GCSE it is crucial to recognise the importance of a balance of other interests - music, sport, drama, dance, CCF, Duke of Edinburgh Scheme etc. All these provide physical exercise, challenges and build the confidence needed for a 15 or 16 year old. A full commitment in these areas is arguably a key contribution to academic progress.

All candidates will take English language and literature, and mathematics. Pupils can then opt to take three sciences (biology, chemistry and physics) as separate GCSEs plus four other options, or science and additional science plus five other options.

At least one of the options must be a modern language. The study of modern languages after Year 9 is no longer compulsory in maintained schools and hence the opportunity to continue with two languages (or at least one) will ensure that pupils will be increasingly attractive to future employers. This is especially true of German, the second language of the EU. Fewer and fewer pupils nationally study this language, which makes those who do so increasingly employable.

Who should take separate sciences and who should take science and additional science? Pupils have a free choice, but should be aware of the statistical evidence of the last five years that higher ability candidates are more likely to achieve A* and A grades in separate sciences and middle ability pupils more liable to score highly in science and additional science. Dr Wharam, the Director of Teaching and Learning, can expand on this and advise individuals.

At the same time, those candidates who are able, are strongly encouraged to continue with Latin which can form the basis of further study in many other languages, and is enjoying a renaissance in many schools.

Very occasionally, in discussion with tutors and the director of studies, pupils might opt to take one fewer GCSE subject.

I hope you will find the booklet useful. Each head of department has set out a brief summary of the course (given the information available at the time of writing), the examination structure and the likely demands on a pupil. I would stress, however, that the GCSE years should be a time of enjoyment and that the balance between academic work and other interests is crucial in this. If you have any questions at all please do contact the head of department, your son's or daughter's tutor, housemaster or housemistress or Mr Bruce, the Director of Studies.

We certainly do not want pupils or parents to worry unnecessarily about these options; if anyone is unsure of the course to take, do ask.

Stephen Cole
Headmaster

ENGLISH & ENGLISH LITERATURE CORE SUBJECTS

Examining Board

Edexcel	IGCSE English Language A (4EAO)
Edexcel	IGCSE English Literature (4ETO)

Course Content

In Year 10 you will focus on the Literature IGCSE, in particular the two set texts *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck as they are linked thematically. You will also begin to look at media analysis through Section A of the Edexcel Anthology. You are also likely to practise the kind of responses suitable for Written Coursework before the end of the year. In June you will do practice questions on the two set texts as a kind of mock IGCSE Literature examination.

In Year 11 you will study the poetry in Section C for the Literature IGCSE, and Section B of the Anthology for the analytical Written Coursework. You will also prepare your own piece for Written Coursework, and be assessed for the Speaking and Listening Coursework assignments. There will be further media analysis, and a revision period for the set Literature texts. There will be a mock Language Examination at the end of the Michaelmas Term. There will be some emphasis on the accuracy of your written English during the two years as this is formally assessed at IGCSE.

Assessment

English Language Specification A

Paper 1: 2 hours 15 minutes (70%)

- A response to an unseen media piece
- A response to a passage from Section A of the Edexcel Anthology
- A piece of writing to inform / explain / describe

Paper 3: Written Coursework (20%)

- An analytical response based on Section B of the Edexcel Anthology
- A piece of writing to explore / imagine / entertain or to argue / persuade / advise

Paper 4: Speaking and Listening Coursework (10%)

- An individual talk
- A group speaking and listening task

English Literature

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes (70%)

- A response to the drama *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller
- A response to the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Paper 2: 45 minutes (30%)

- A response to poetry from Section C of the Edexcel Anthology or to one unseen poem on the examination paper

How will I be taught?

The study of English is the study of all kinds of ideas and views and how they are expressed in language, so you will spend a lot of your time with different kinds of text, exploring their meanings and their attempts to move or manipulate you. Then you will present your own analysis, your own views, or your own attempts to move or manipulate your audience.

First and foremost you will develop your analytical skills in reading and writing. You will practise how to explore the language of a text, and tease out its possible meanings. Your teacher will show you how to structure an argument, how to build paragraphs out of ideas, how to integrate and examine evidence, a process you should find exciting and empowering. And your teacher will also encourage you to make your prose as accurate and precise as possible. You will be given time to think for yourself, and it is vital that you take the opportunity to do so. The more independent you become, the more you will enjoy the course and flourish.

You will also have lots of chances to discuss ideas and issues in pairs and groups in class, whether they arise from a literature or a media text. You will also give and listen to talks, and take part in more formal group discussions. Therefore it is equally important that you work on the formality of your spoken English over the two years. Think about the importance of this skill in future life.

Opportunities for field work and trips

On occasion the department organizes trips to see a play that you study in class, should the production be of sufficient quality.

What skills will I develop?

By the end of the course you should be a confident and effective user of formal Standard English both in writing and speaking, and able to tailor your language to different purposes and audiences. More importantly, you should have developed into a more confident and effective thinker and speaker, someone alive to the ways in which language helps to shape the world we live in. The skills involved transfer to every subject and every walk of life, and even into retirement – where you might finally get the time to read widely and deeply!

Where can IGCSE in English lead?

IGCSE English is an essential subject, so you have to study it. However, if you enjoy the Literature IGCSE then you should consider joining us for A level English Literature in the sixth form. This A level can lead to a degree in English Literature or English Studies of various kinds, but it is also viewed highly by good universities looking for 'rounded' candidates in all kinds of fields of study.

P M Lawrence
Head of English

MATHEMATICS

Core Subject

Examining Board

Edexcel

IGCSE Mathematics (Specification A) 4MA0

Course Content

The IGCSE supplements GCSE Mathematics (number, algebra, shape and space, handling data, and probability) with additional advanced topics such as calculus, functions and set theory which give a very good introduction to AS and A-level Mathematics. The course also provides an excellent foundation for those who will need to use mathematics in other subjects in the Sixth Form and beyond.

Assessment

You will almost certainly take the higher tier papers each of which lasts 2 hours, although the opportunity exists to sit the foundation tier papers, each of which lasts 1 hour 30 minutes (for which the maximum grade possible is a C).

All papers are taken at the end of the course in Year 11. There is no controlled assessment in mathematics.

How will I be taught?

The study of mathematics combines practicality with abstraction. Logic lies at its heart, and this capacity to analyse practical situations in an abstract way is central to mathematics at this level. You will be taught using a range of formal and informal methods, through demonstration as well as collaborative work. Successful problem-solving depends not only on having the requisite techniques at one's finger-tips but also having the courage to try alternative approaches and the determination to see them through. You will be taught to see beyond the single-stage problems that lie at the heart of much of the mathematics covered pre-GCSE, hence the need for both independent and shared endeavour.

At its most sophisticated, the course will show you how many apparently disparate topics are inextricably interconnected as you use your problem-solving skills to tackle multi-stage challenges. You will have the opportunity to test your prowess in various National Mathematics competitions during the year.

Opportunities for Field Work and Trips

You will be offered the chance to attend the hugely popular annual Mathematics Inspiration day of lectures held at Cambridge University, as well as other lectures

recommended to us from time to time. In addition, the School competes in the National Mathematics Team challenge, and our mathematicians and computer scientists have a particularly impressive record in the National Cipher Challenge.

What skills will I develop?

Mathematics is the archetypal problem-solving subject; it hones skills in logical thinking, abstraction, visualisation, structuring, precision, estimation and approximation, tenacity and perseverance. The best mathematics is often described as beautiful or elegant; you will have plenty of opportunities to see why as you construct your own beautiful proofs or solutions.

Where can IGCSE or GCSE Mathematics lead?

At a practical level, mathematics GCSE or IGCSE at grade C or better is a requirement for most degree courses and is of course a crucial stepping stone to A level mathematics (which is itself an expected qualification for many degree courses). Mathematics is also regarded by employers as a key qualification for many jobs, and increasingly tests of mathematics or logic are included in the interview and selection process. However, mathematics itself will be seen as a core requirement for entry into engineering and computing, most sciences, and much of the world of business, economics, insurance and finance.

R A Rabjohn
Head of Examination Mathematics

SCIENCES

Core Subjects

Examining Boards

AQA

Draft specifications as of Jan 2011:

Biology	http://store.aqa.org.uk/sciencelab/AQA-BIOL-W-SP.PDF
Chemistry	http://store.aqa.org.uk/sciencelab/AQA-CHEM-W-SP.PDF
Physics	http://store.aqa.org.uk/sciencelab/AQA-PHYS-W-SP.PDF
Science A	http://store.aqa.org.uk/sciencelab/AQA-SCIA-W-SP.PDF
Additional Science	http://store.aqa.org.uk/sciencelab/AQA-ADDSCI-W-SP.PDF

You will study biology, chemistry and physics for two years at GCSE, building on the foundations built in Years 7, 8 and 9. You may opt for the sciences in two ways:

1. As a double science GCSE. This will lead to two GCSEs in science and is taught in 8 periods per week.
2. Three separate science GCSEs. This will lead to three GCSEs, (biology, chemistry and physics) and is taught in 12 periods per week.

For initial advice on which science course to choose, please refer to the Headmaster's preface to this booklet.

If you choose separate sciences, you will cover the same National Curriculum demands but will have additional areas of study which will complement and extend your knowledge in the three subject areas. Practical assessment will follow the same scheme, whichever route is taken.

Science and Additional Science (2 GCSEs)

In Year 10, you will cover the specification 'Science A' and be examined on this specification in the Year 10 summer examination session.

In Year 11 you will cover the specification 'Additional Science' and be examined on this specification in the Year 11 summer examination session. The difference between these two options is primarily the breadth of content of each course rather than its depth. Those taking the double science course cover fully the National Curriculum demands for Science which prepares pupils for A-Level study if they achieve grades CC or above.

Year 10 Science

AQA Science A

You will be taught by subject specialists in the three disciplines.

The course is based on the National GCSE Criteria for Science and includes: How Science Works - the Procedural Content. The thinking behind the doing, fundamental ideas, observation as a stimulus to investigation, designing an investigation, making measurements, presenting data, using data to draw conclusions, social aspects of scientific evidence, and limitations of scientific evidence.

Biology 1

- Keeping our bodies healthy
- How the human body responds to internal fluctuations and to changes in the external environment
- How plants respond to changes in their external conditions
- The use and abuse of medical and recreational drugs
- How animals and plants are interdependent and how they are adapted to their environments
- How energy and biomass change at different stages in a food chain
- The waste materials that plants and animals produce
- Why individuals of the same species are different from each other
- The new methods we have for producing plants and animals with the characteristics we prefer

Chemistry 1

- The fundamental ideas in chemistry
- Rocks as a provider of building materials
- Metals and their uses.
- Getting fuels from crude oil
- Getting useful substances from oil
- Plant oils and their uses
- Changes in the Earth and its atmosphere

Physics 1

- The transfer of energy that occurs as a result of heating and the factors affecting the rate at which that energy is transferred
- How energy can be used efficiently
- How and why electrical devices are useful
- Methods we use to generate electricity
- How we use waves for communication and how waves provide evidence that the universe is expanding

Examination and Assessment

The following four elements are each worth 25% of the final mark:

- Biology 1, Chemistry 1, Physics 1: each has a one hour written examination to be taken in the summer term of Year 10

- A centre-assessed practical unit comprising an investigative skills assignment as supervised practical work, followed by an externally set test on similar experiments.

Year 11 AQA Additional Science

You will be taught by subject specialists in the three disciplines.

The course is based on the National GCSE Criteria for Science and includes:

How Science Works – the Procedural Content (as year 10)

Biology 2

- The building blocks that make up animals and plants
- How dissolved substances get in and out of cells
- Why organisms need specialised organ systems
- How plants obtain the food they need to live and grow
- The relationships within and between communities of organisms, and their interaction with the environment
- Proteins and what they do
- How organisms make use of the energy from respiration
- Simple inheritance in plants and animals
- How organisms have changed over time

Chemistry 2

- Sub-atomic particles and the structure of substances
- How structure influences the properties and uses of substances
- How knowledge of atomic structure can help us to analyse substances and calculate the yield of reactions
- Controlling the rates of chemical reactions
- Energy and chemical reactions
- Using ions in solutions
- Making different kinds of salts

Physics 2

- Forces and their effects
- What happens to kinetic energy when things speed up or slow down?
- Currents in electrical circuits
- Using mains electricity safely and the power of electrical appliances
- What happens when radioactive substances decay? The uses and dangers of radioactive emissions
- Nuclear fission and nuclear fusion

Examination and Assessment

- Biology 2, Chemistry 2, Physics 2: a one hour written examination to be taken in the summer term of Year 11
- A centre-assessed practical unit comprising an investigative skills assignment as supervised practical work, followed by an externally set test on similar experiments.

SEPARATE SCIENCES

In Years 10 and 11 pupils following the separate science courses will cover the Science/ Additional Science material listed above. In addition they will cover the material listed below in each individual science.

PHYSICS

- How physics can be applied in medicine
- Using physics to make things work
- How physics keeps things moving

S E Cottrell
Head of Science and Physics

CHEMISTRY

- The periodic table and its development
- The water we drink
- The energy involved in chemical reactions
- Identifying and analysing substances
- The production of ammonia
- The properties and uses of alcohols, carboxylic acids and esters

A Hillman
Head of Chemistry

BIOLOGY

- More detail about how dissolved materials get in and out of animals and plants
- How materials are transported around an organism
- How our bodies keep internal conditions as constant as possible
- How humans can affect the environment

L V Rickard
Head of Biology

Examination and assessment for EACH separate science

The following four elements are each worth 25% of the final mark.

- A one-hour written examination to be taken in the summer term of Year 10
- A one-hour written examination to be taken in the spring term of Year 11
- A one-hour written examination to be taken in the summer term of Year 11
- A centre-assessed practical unit comprising an investigative skills assignment as supervised practical work, followed by an externally set test on similar experiments.

S E Cottrell
Head of Science and Physics

MODERN LANGUAGES

French, German, Spanish

Core Subjects

Examining Boards

AQA

French, German, Spanish

The Modern Languages Department currently prepares pupils for the AQA specifications in GCSE French, German or Spanish, hence the GCSE specifications in the three languages are identical. You should choose the language with which you feel most comfortable, in terms of its sounds, grammar, perceived future use and culture. You must choose one language but should also seriously consider the opportunities and competitive edge that two languages will undoubtedly give you.

There is no evidence at Woodbridge that results in a language which has been studied for a shorter length of time are in any way inferior to those in the language which has been learnt over a longer period. The second foreign language is more quickly assimilated because of the skills acquired in the first foreign language.

Course Content

The topics you will study are:

- Home, the local area and the environment
- School, future plans & careers
- Health, and relationships with family & friends
- Free time, the media and holidays

Assessment

In all three languages, four skills are examined: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Listening and reading are worth 40% of the final examination and are examined in the summer of Year 11. Writing and speaking are more heavily weighted (60% of the final mark) and constitute controlled assessment. The written component is conducted internally but assessed externally whereas the speaking element is both conducted and assessed in house. Exact timings will vary according to the specific language, but on average two controlled assessments in speaking and writing will be done in Year 10, and one more of each done in Year 11. Only two tasks need to be submitted for each skill, hence by choosing the best from three, the potential for achieving a top grade is maximised.

How will I be taught?

The key word at GCSE is authenticity; you will use language needed for real situations which you will encounter in the country under study, either on an exchange visit or beyond school. Practice in all four skills using topic specific material will hence be at the

heart of every good language lesson, and in Year 11 there will also be an opportunity to converse with a native speaker on a weekly basis. Lessons are varied and enjoyable, using a wide variety of resources and materials, with increasing emphasis on examination techniques as the course progresses.

Opportunities for Field Work and Trips

You will be encouraged to participate in a language exchange to Pamplona, Clermont-Ferrand or Würzburg. The advantages of such exchanges are obvious, but the one most worthy of mention is the opportunity to experience everyday life with a partner at home and in school. An intrinsic part of any language learning process, an exchange can only improve your confidence and language competence.

What skills will I develop?

Before GCSE, syllabuses did not cope with practical situations, and the emphasis was on talking about the language and its grammatical intricacies. Although grammar is still the backbone to any language learning, the focus has now shifted to using the language to understand and communicate ideas, opinions and needs. Many of the skills you will therefore develop when learning a modern language should stand you in good stead in the outside world, communicating, listening and understanding others being the prime ones.

Where can GCSE Modern Languages lead?

Linguists are highly valued in the working world, and having a language will open many doors. Opportunities to study abroad as part of your degree course are ten-fold, and career opportunities are diverse, ranging from the legal and diplomatic worlds to journalism and interpreting. Scientists, financial gurus and doctors are also all known to benefit from having a language, if not two, hence by continuing with languages, the world really will be your oyster.

L R Chandler
Head of Modern Languages

HISTORY

Examining Board

AQA

Modern World History Specification B 4047

Course Content

Unit 1 40451: 20th Century International Relations

Comprising three parts:

- The Origins of the Cold War 1945-1955
- Crises of the Cold War 1955-1970
- Failure of détente and the collapse of communism 1970-1991

Unit 2 40452: 20th Century Depth Studies

Comprising three parts:

- Weimar Germany, 1919-1929
- Hitler's Germany, 1929-1939
- The USA and Vietnam: Failure Abroad and at Home, 1964-1975

Unit 3 4053: Historical Enquiry

- The British People at War

Assessment

Unit 1 40451: 20th Century International Relations

Examination: January, Year 11

1 hour 45 minutes

37.5% of the total marks for GCSE

Unit 2 40452: 20th Century Depth Studies

Examination: June, Year 11

1 hour 45 minutes

37.5% of the total marks for GCSE

Unit 3 4053: Historical Enquiry

Controlled Assessment: January-March, Year 11

25% of the total marks for GCSE

Two part 2000 word assignment written in controlled conditions using notes that you have made in class and at home in preparation.

How will I be taught?

Lively discussion is at the heart of every good history lesson. You will debate concepts and ideas, perform skills-based exercises, undertake knowledge-based research

(sometimes teacher centred, sometimes independently), examine a wide range of sources, create a variety of study materials and practice examination techniques.

What skills will I develop?

Many of the skills you develop in history will equip you well for the outside world. You will learn to make judgements and form arguments, structure these arguments clearly, decisively and logically, differentiate between factors, make inferences, understand why people share ideas in a particular way, evaluate the value of evidence by identifying strengths and weaknesses of newspapers, speeches, letters, diaries, newsreel, posters etc. These skills will be developed both orally and through writing.

Where can GCSE History lead?

Historians are well respected in the job market. They pursue a very wide range of careers including becoming lawyers, detectives, politicians, civil servants, diplomats and journalists; they work in marketing, in the media, in finance and become business managers of all descriptions.

To see a more detailed outline of the course go to www.aqa.org.uk and follow the links to GCSE History Specification B.

Please do feel free to ask any of the department staff if you would like further information about history at GCSE level.

N E Smith
Head of History

GEOGRAPHY

Examining Board

AQA

Geography A specification

Course Content

The great joy of Geography is its relevance. It is the world in which you live; issues that will have an impact on your life and developments which you will be part of; you need to know more about the challenges and opportunities of the 'global village'.

- Discover how people are affected by different environments, both locally and in other parts of the world
- Find out how different landscapes were formed
- Question how and why change happens. How can people cope with it?

The units covered in recent years have been:

Water on the Land

The Restless Earth

Challenge of Weather and Climate

Population Change

The Development Gap

Tourism

Assessment

There are two examination papers, one on the physical topics and one on the human. Each examination lasts 1 hour 30 minutes. Examinations will be taken at the end of Year 10 and 11. There is also a Controlled Assessment unit (see 'Field Work' below).

How will I be taught?

A wide variety of methods is employed, including research of up-to-date case study material from different media. ICT is used for research, presentation and data handling. Local fieldwork allows application of knowledge and, of course, there is some good old fashioned talk and chalk and colouring maps!

Opportunities for Field Work and Trips

You will do some fieldwork as part of your course, where you go out and put your skills and knowledge into practice to question and measure the environment. You will then write up the work under timed conditions as a controlled assessment. This is worth 25% of the total mark.

What skills will I develop?

Geography is an ideal subject for developing a wide range of skills. You will learn how to research information from a range of sources and present it in a variety of ways both written and in diagrams. You will learn how to question, investigate, interpret and apply. You can develop experience of manipulating data, using statistical techniques, spreadsheets and graphic packages. Your fieldwork will help you to develop the skills of organising your own time, and working and co-operating with others. The skills you develop in GCSE geography will support you in further study as well as in the world of work.

Where can GCSE Geography lead?

Anywhere! Given the range of skills that you will develop, a GCSE in Geography will enhance your enjoyment of the world and your ability to understand and explain it.

J A Gill
Head of Geography

BUSINESS STUDIES

Examining Board

OCR

Specification J253

Course Content:

Unit 1 Marketing and Enterprise A291

Sample topics: Business Planning
The Marketing mix
The role of the entrepreneur

Unit 2 Business and People A292

Sample topics: Business ownership and structure
Organisation and communication
Employment and retention

Unit 3 Production, finance and the external business environment A293

Sample topics: Financial accounting
The external business environment
Globalisation and international trade

Assessment

Unit 1 Marketing and Enterprise
Controlled assessment from June Year 10 to January Year 11
10 hours of guided research
6 hours controlled write up
25% of the GCSE

Unit 2 Business and People
Examination June, Year 10
25% of the GCSE

Unit 3 Production, Finance and the External Environment
Examination June, Year 11
50% of the GCSE

How will I be taught?

You will participate in discussions of Business Studies ideas in various case study contexts, as well as in relation to the changing business and economic environment. There will be opportunity for independent research into your preferred areas of business interest, as well as more formal teacher-led lessons and guided work on conceptual knowledge. There is much scope for use of multimedia resources to investigate the ever-changing business world.

What skills will I develop?

The main aims of the syllabus are to develop a knowledge and understanding of the business environment whilst developing skills such as numeracy and literacy in order to present and interpret information. In addition, the course aims to develop effective use of relevant terminology, concepts and methods and recognise strengths and weaknesses of ideas used.

The examination papers test business knowledge, comprehension of business concepts, analysis and evaluation, with greater emphasis on the last in unit A293.

Where can GCSE Business Studies lead?

The OCR course offers a direct link with both the A Level courses in Economics and Business Studies. Skills acquired and the applied nature of the material allows students a sound grounding for A Level study in either discipline. The course offers you an opportunity to acquire key business studies concepts, as well as skills for life.

To see a more detailed outline of the course go to www.ocr.org.uk and follow the links to GCSE Business Studies

As this is a subject that is not on the curriculum before Year 10, talking about the subject to those who teach it will give you a much better idea of what it is really about. Please do feel free to ask any of the department staff if you would like further information about Business Studies at GCSE level.

J M Percival
Head of Business Studies

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Examining Board

Edexcel

Specification 2RS01

Course Content

Unit 2 5RS02: Religion and Life based on a Study of Christianity

- Believing in God
- Matters of life and death
- Marriage and the family
- Religion and community cohesion

Unit 16 5RS16: Mark's Gospel

- The identity of Jesus
- Discipleship
- Conflict and argument
- Death and resurrection

Assessment

Unit 2 5RS02: Religion and Life based on a Study of Christianity

Examination: June Year 11
1 hour 45 minutes
50% of the total marks

Unit 16 5RS16: Mark's Gospel

Examination: June Year 11
1 hour 45 minutes
50% of the total marks

How will I be taught?

To begin with, you do not have to have a religious belief in order to take this subject nor will you be expected to adopt a particular point of view. In fact many who would claim to be atheists have opted to take this GCSE, as Religious Studies is both a fact-based and opinion-based subject. Some of the concepts and ideas that we study are open to interpretation and are dependent on the context in which they appear. As a result many of the topics are explored through discussion as this enables you to come to your own reasoned conclusion. There will also be the opportunity to evaluate source material together with the ideas and opinions of others. This is usually led by one of the Religious Studies teachers but will also include your own independent research. In addition to this, you will regularly practise examination-style questions.

What skills will I develop?

Religion has a direct impact in all aspects of life, and the ability to reflect analytically on religious belief and practice that you will develop will be an advantage to you. You will learn how to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of philosophical, ethical and religious arguments, to come to your own reasoned conclusion and to formulate an effective argument based on this process. These skills will be developed both orally and through writing.

Where can GCSE Religious Studies lead?

Religious Studies is a respected GCSE and A level because of the analytical skills that you will develop. Those who have taken this subject pursue a very wide range of careers including medicine, the law, the police service, politics (especially policy making), diplomacy and journalism.

To see a more detailed outline of the course go to www.edexcel.com and follow the links to GCSE Religious Specification 2RS01.

Please do feel free to ask any of the department staff if you would like further information about Religious Studies at GCSE level.

I A Wilson
Head of Religious Studies

LATIN Language & Literature

At last it has been acknowledged by one of the awarding bodies, that the study of Latin at Level 2 (GCSE and its equivalents) is worthy of two separate qualifications. If you choose to take 'GCSE' Latin you will be entered for these new awards:

1. The WJEC Certificate in Latin Language
2. The WJEC Certificate in Latin Literature

There is then the possibility to enter for one or both of these awards. In the past, some very strong literature marks have been diluted by the language element of the examination. This will no longer be the case if we follow this new course which has been developed by the Welsh Examining Board in conjunction with the Cambridge Schools Classics Project whose course we use here at Woodbridge. Over 40 Year 10 pupils took the first Language paper last June and over 50% scored A or A*, so we are confident the right choice has been made.

Course Content

Certificate in Latin Language

Unit 1 (65%)

a mixture of comprehension and translation of Latin at a level roughly commensurate with the end of Book III of the Cambridge Latin Course. You will take this in the Summer Term of Year 10.

Unit 4 (35%)

a single passage of translation for comprehension and translation where the language will be roughly commensurate with the end of Book V of the Cambridge Latin Course.

Certificate in Latin Literature

Unit 5

Latin Literature (themed)

Approximately 100 lines of literature on a theme such as "Leisure and Entertainment"
The texts will contain a mixture of verse and adapted prose.

Unit 6

Latin Literature (narrative)

Approximately 100 lines of literature, forming a continuous narrative (verse or prose)

Further information can be found on the board's website: www.wjec.co.uk

How will I be taught?

During Year 10 we continue to use the carefully graded text in Books III and IV, eventually reaching a level of competence in translations which will allow you to study

the literature set texts. Year 11 is spent on the literature and a more sophisticated level of translation work. You will translate orally, as a written exercise, or using the Cambridge website. Vocabulary will be tested regularly according to the prescribed list. Translation of the set texts will be taught in class, followed by a discussion of content and literary qualities. There are plenty of practice papers available to help familiarise you with the layout of the examination questions.

Where can GCSE Latin Lead?

Latin helps you to see how languages work, understand more about your own language, and comprehend a wider range of English and foreign words. It can also help improve your spelling and your ability to learn other languages. It has always been of benefit to lawyers, historians and those going into the medical profession. It is fascinating to learn about a culture that has so influenced our own, in its own words.

As far as careers are concerned, students with qualifications in Latin go into a variety of professions. In the 21st century at least 60% of jobs are not subject specific. To quote a journalist from the Independent:

“There is nothing that opens up a wider variety of skills and pleasures than knowledge of Latin.”

S Theasby
Head of Classics

MUSIC

Examining Board

Edexcel

Specification 2MU01

Course Content

Unit 1 5MU01: Performing

Comprising two parts:

- You have to perform one solo piece assessed and recorded internally. (Candidates should be approximately Grade 5 Associated Board standard.)
- You will perform one other piece during the course, which will be an ensemble for at least two players. You must play an undoubled part. This is recorded internally.

Unit 2 5MU02: Composition

Comprising two compositions to be written (with a combined duration of up to four minutes). Each composition will be based on a different area of study from the list below:

- Western classical music 1600-1900
- Music in the 20th century
- Popular music in context
- World music

Unit 3 5MU03: Listening and Appraising

You will study the following set music:

- Handel: Chorus “And the Glory of the Lord” from Messiah
- Mozart: Symphony No 40 in G minor First movement K550
- Chopin: Prelude in D flat Op 28 No 15
- Schoenberg: Peripetie from Five Orchestral Pieces
- Bernstein: “Something’s Coming” from West Side Story
- Reich: Electric Counterpoint Movement III
- Miles Davis: All Blues
- Jeff Buckley: Grace
- Moby: Why does my heart feel so bad
- Capercaillie: Skye Waulking Song
- Rag Desh
- Koko: Yiri

Assessment

Unit 1 5MU01

Coursework: Recording of performances normally during Year 11 lunchtime recitals or other appropriate performances.
30% of the total marks for GCSE

Unit 2 5MU02

Coursework: submitted at Easter of Year 11
30% of the total marks for GCSE

Unit 3 5MU03

Examination: June Year 11
1 hour 30 minutes
40% of the total marks for GCSE

How will I be taught?

You will be taught the basics of using Sibelius software to help write your compositions using a structured series of tasks in Year 10. Your performances will be prepared by your individual instrumental teachers. You will be taught to use analytical processes to discuss the salient features of the set music by discussion and listening. You will practise these techniques using exam-style questions.

Opportunities for Field Work and Trips

We usually attend the GCSE revision course in London in Year 11.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop your practical musical skills in performing and composing. You will develop listening skills that will help you understand different musical styles over a wide variety of music as well as being able to articulate these both orally and through written work.

Where can GCSE Music lead?

Musicians tend to be busy people who are well organised in their lives. Many musicians continue to play and sing throughout their lives whether professionally or in amateur groups. Music can lead to many careers in the arts world including performing, teaching, arts management, music therapy, journalism. Many musicians go on to be successful in completely different areas such as lawyers and doctors. A more detailed version of the syllabus can be found on the Edexcel website.

J R Penny
Head of Music

DRAMA

Examining Board

Edexcel

Specification 2DR01

Course Content

Unit 1 and 2: Drama Coursework (60%)

Unit 1: Drama Exploration: 'The Number Seven'.

This unit requires you to engage in a scheme of work that will help you appreciate how a variety of drama activities can be used to deepen your understanding of any given theme or issue. Through exploring three 'seven' themed genres, the seven levels of tension, the seven deadly sins and the seven ages of man, you will have the opportunity to make connections between these different stimuli and explore their creative potential.

Unit 2:

- a) Exploring Play Texts - 'The Trial' by Steven Berkoff. In this second unit you will be introduced to the playwright Steven Berkoff and his play, 'The Trial'. You will learn how to interpret the play in various ways and understand how a play works in performance.
- b) Response to live performance: You will be given the opportunity to experience live theatre as a member of the audience and must then complete a written review of the performance seen.

Unit 3: The Drama Performance (40%)

The theatrical skills and experience you have gained throughout the course are showcased at the end of Year 11 in a devised performance examination. You will work in a small group to create an exciting and original performance that is influenced by a nominated play text. This practical examination will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of practical drama through your application to a live performance.

Historically this is the unit that most excites our GCSE drama candidates!

Assessment

Year 10 October-December

Unit 2: Response to live performance (*Controlled assessment - written*)

15% of the total marks for GCSE

May-July

Unit 2: Exploring Play Texts (*Controlled assessment - practical workshop / written*)

15% of the total marks for GCSE

Year 11 September-January

Unit 2: Drama Exploration (*Controlled assessment - practical workshop / written*)

30% of the total marks for GCSE

Year 11 May

Unit 3: Drama Performance (*Marked by an external examiner*)

40% of the total marks for GCSE

How will I be taught?

The emphasis of this course is very much on practical exploration. All drama lessons are built around the 'create, perform, evaluate' model, which will allow you to develop your skills in each of these key areas. You will be given the opportunity to explore different play texts and also to devise your own performance material. All written coursework is fully supported by your class teacher and the majority of it completed under controlled assessment conditions so that your teacher is there to provide you with the necessary support each step of the way.

Opportunities for Field Work and Trips

There will be a number of organised trips over the two-year course to provide you with the opportunity to experience different genres of live theatre.

What skills will I develop?

GCSE drama will equip you with a wide range of transferrable skills, many of which will prepare you for the outside world. Drama students develop a huge range of interpersonal skills and are widely acknowledged as being excellent communicators. Lessons will provide you with a forum to develop your leadership skills and you will gain an understanding of how to work effectively with others. Drama will allow you to improve your self-confidence whilst developing your own creativity. You will be given the opportunity to develop an understanding of a range of dramatic texts and we hope very much that you gain a lasting enjoyment and appreciation of theatre.

Where can GCSE Drama lead?

GCSE drama equips you with a broad set of skills that make you extremely appealing to employers and institutes of further or higher education. Previous drama students have gone on not only to study drama at an advanced level, both academically and professionally, but have also pursued a wide range of other careers.

To see a more detailed outline of the course go to www.edexcel.com and follow the links to GCSE Drama. Please do feel free to come and speak to the drama staff personally if you would like further information about drama at GCSE level.

G Mayes
Head of Drama

ART and DESIGN

Examining Board

Edexcel

Specification 2AD01

Course Content

The course is divided into 2 units. Firstly you have to produce a "Personal Portfolio" comprising 60% of the overall mark. This is essentially practical coursework and it is generated through a period of controlled assessment. The second unit is the examination unit making up the remaining 40% of the mark. This is an eight-week study block of preparation, culminating in a ten-hour examination.

Assessment.

The study briefs for Unit 1 are set by us and the brief, or exam titles, are set by Edexcel. The whole course is marked internally by department staff and it is then moderated (checked and confirmed) by an Edexcel examiner.

How will I be taught?

There are 2 hours and 20 minutes of lessons timetabled each week for art. During the lessons you will be engaged with practical, creative work from the outset. New techniques are learned as well as ways of thinking and looking. Making and expressing your ideas are at the forefront of the course. Unit 1 consists of a series of subject briefs and within the brief you are free to pursue any visual form of expression you choose. Both units are always "hands-on" and it is up to you to generate the body of work that is needed to satisfy the assessment criteria.

Opportunities for Field Work and Trips.

There are visits to galleries, field trips to gather information and the possibility of an overseas visit in Year 11 depending on numbers.

What skills will I develop?

Photography, painting, printing, drawing, sculpture, textiles, fashion, film, art appreciation, critical and contextual skills: these are all skills that you will develop. The course is entirely open so you can learn as many different skills as you need in order to pursue your own particular and relevant line of expression. Other than the practical, the student learns to think and work independently. Imaginative, original expression of thought is all part of the art course. GCSE Art is both challenging and rewarding; you will be free to think and create and will be liberated from dates, names, and calculations.

Where can GCSE Art and design lead?

Absolutely anywhere! Britain still leads the world in the creative arts. It is no accident that we have the best creative minds in the world as it stems from the best art education in the world. The visual arts are the broadest and most colourful field of employment that exists. A good grade at GCSE can lead the way to an Art A Level and then to a place at university; it will even help you feel more fulfilled.

For any specific information regarding the Edexcel Art course, please refer to www.edexcel.com and follow the link from to GCSE to Art and Design (from 2009).

H J Tebbutt
Head of Art

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY (D&T)

Resistant Materials or Graphic Products

Examining Board

AQA: Course options

There are two course options available:

- Design and Technology: **Resistant Materials 4560**
- Design and Technology: **Graphic Products 4550**

Both courses follow a structure focusing on:

- Analysing and evaluating existing products and industrial processes
- Undertaking focused practical tasks to develop and demonstrate techniques
- Learning how to develop ideas, and plan and produce products
- Considering how past and present design and technology affects society
- Recognising the moral, cultural and environmental issues in design and technology situations
- Using ICT/CAD/CAM in design and manufacture

Visit the D&T department for examples of pupils' work.

Course Content

Graphic Products

This course puts an emphasis on working with materials such as paper, board, card, plastics, and new and smart materials to produce graphic products. The course starts with developing a range of graphical skills, teaching you how to communicate design ideas proficiently before branching into a range of 2D and 3D design-and-make projects.

During Year 10 you will learn skills used by professional designers to design and make a range of products from popup cards to an iPod point of sale stand, as well as learning to develop your own range of product packaging and promotional material. In Year 11 you will apply these skills in the design and manufacture of a graphic product of your choice.

With recent investment in the latest CAD/CAM equipment, this course puts an emphasis on the use of computer design and modelling software to enable you to produce accurate, professional-looking graphic products.

Resistant Materials

This course emphasises working with woods, metals and plastics to produce 3D products. The use of ICT and CAD/CAM is integral to this course; however the fundamental skills of designing with pencil and paper remain a key component of each project and you will be taught how to communicate your ideas professionally as well as manufacture them accurately.

In Year 10 you will be presented with a series of design-and-make projects focusing on one or more of the material areas. Here you will learn a range of both traditional and modern design-and-make skills providing solutions to an array of problems such as

storage, lighting, and mechanisms. In Year 11 you will apply these skills in the design and manufacture of a resistant-materials product of your choice

Assessment

You will be assessed in two ways:

1. a coursework (controlled assessment) project which will be 60% of your GCSE mark
2. a two-hour written examination at the end of the course that will make up 40% of your GCSE mark

In both the controlled assessment and the written examination, you will be assessed on how you demonstrate your knowledge, skills and understanding.

Most of the lessons in Year 11 are devoted to the major project and you are encouraged to involve yourself in a project with which you feel most comfortable and which you can enjoy. Approximately one third of the available time will be spent designing and the other two thirds spent in the workshops manufacturing your design.

It is important to note that with the new controlled assessment component, nearly all of the work has to be done in timetabled lessons.

Opportunities for Field Work and Trips

Design and Technology does not stop with the lesson bell. The Young Engineers' Club is currently engaged in designing and building an electric racing car for the Greenpower series. Also available is the Arkwright Scholarship scheme, through which successful candidates can win grants for higher education funding. In order to make more informed career choices we encourage participation in the Smallpeice Trust range of residential courses, all aimed at prospective engineers. Students studying GCSE D&T also find their knowledge of materials and problem-solving skills invaluable when it comes to initiatives such as Young Enterprise.

Where can GCSE D&T lead?

Both of these courses provide the ideal foundation for the A Level in Product Design. It should be noted that over recent years, this area of the curriculum has changed dramatically and is valued by higher education institutions and employers alike for its creative, problem-solving nature. A course in Design and Technology can lead to many careers including graphical design, product and industrial design, and engineering.

C Eager
Head of Design and Technology

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Examining Board

Edexcel

Physical Education - 2PE01

Course Content

Unit 1: The theory of Physical Education (5PE01)

Section 1: Healthy, active lifestyles

Physical activity in relation to a healthy, active lifestyle looking at influences on involvement, fitness, training and diet.

Section 2: Your healthy, active body

Focusing on the body systems and structures and how they are developed through exercise.

Unit 2: Performance in Physical Education (5PE01)

Section 1: Practical Performance

Section 2: Analysis of Performance

Assessment

Unit 1: The theory of Physical Education (5PE01)

External examination: May Year 11
 1 hour 30 minutes
 40% of total marks for GCSE

Unit 2: Performance in Physical Education (5PE01)

Section 1: Four practical performances assessed (roles either as a performer, leader or officiator)

 April/ May Year 11
 48% of total marks for GCSE

Section 2: Controlled Assessment

 Analysis of Performance (including PEP)

 Sept – December Year 11
 12% of total marks for GCSE

How will I be taught?

GCSE Physical Education is taught during morning PE lessons, therefore it is outside the normal option blocks. This means that it is a possible eleventh GCSE. The course has

both theoretical and practical elements; therefore lessons are divided between the two, although there are slightly more theory than practical lessons.

What skills will I develop?

- **Knowledge and understanding** of practical skills in a range of physical activities
- How to **examine** and **explain** the effects of exercise on performance
- How to **plan** an effective session in a practical activity (as **leader**)
- **Evaluating** your own performance in a variety of roles – **performer, leader or officiator**
- **Identifying** ways to develop and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle

Where can GCSE Physical Education lead?

As well as being the ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course, GCSE PE allows for progression to other qualifications in Sport or Sport and Exercise Science. The course develops transferrable skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities in such areas as teaching, coaching, officiating, recreational management, leisure activities, the fitness industry and the armed forces.

N L Sanders
Head of Academic PE

ENGLISH for SPEAKERS of OTHER LANGUAGES

For those pupils whose first language is not English it may be necessary to sit examinations in English as a Foreign Language, as well as those described above, in order to qualify pupils for entry to further or higher education courses.

In addition, there is now an IGCSE available in English as a Second Language which may be taken by all those in year 11 for whom English is not the first language. It comprises three parts:

- Reading and Writing (2 hours)
- Listening (45 minutes)
- Speaking

The IGCSE is of the same standard as, and graded in the same way as, other GCSE subjects. It is sometimes a more appropriate course for non-native speakers of English than the English language and literature GCSEs.

M M Barclay
Head of ESOL

CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Some GCSE subjects will be examined in part through controlled assessment, which replaces the coursework component of the previous syllabuses. Pupils will be required to write up their assessments under supervision in class, rather than preparing and writing the work up at home as they have done previously. The requirements in each subject may vary as to:

- the amount of material given in advance
- the material to be available during writing up in class
- help given
- support from staff
- possibilities to redraft

Information on controlled assessment for subjects is contained in each of the explanations above and these should be read in detail. Pupils will obviously be given more information about the process of controlled assessment as they progress through the GCSE course, in both Year 10 and Year 11.

COMPUTING

Examining Board

OCR:

Specification J275

Course Content

Unit 1 A451: Computer systems and programming

This unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems on which the examination will be based.

Unit A452: Current trends in computing

An investigative computing task, chosen from a list provided by OCR, which assesses the following: research, technical understanding, analysis of problem, historical perspective, use of technical writing skills, recommendations/evaluation.

Unit A453: Programming project

Assessment

Unit 1 A451: Computer systems and programming

Examination: June, Year 11

1 hour 30 minutes

40% of the GCSE

Unit A452: Current trends in computing

Controlled Assessment

January-March Year 10

Approximately 20 hours

30% of the total marks for GCSE

An investigative computing task, chosen from a list provided by OCR, which assesses the following: research, technical understanding, analysis of problem, historical perspective, use of technical writing skills, recommendations/evaluation.

Unit A453: Programming project

Controlled Assessment

January-March Year 11

Approximately 20 hours

30% of the total marks for GCSE

A controlled-assessment open-choice project involving programming to design, develop and test a solution to a problem within the OCR-set scenario.

How will I be taught?

Interactive discussion is at the heart of every good computing lesson. You will discuss concepts and ideas, undertake skills-based exercises, undertake knowledge-based research (sometimes teacher centred, sometimes independently), learn to program using a variety of tools and techniques, and practise examination techniques. A strong element of the course involves controlled assessment and individual application of ideas and concepts.

What skills will I develop?

The majority of the skills learned in computing are applicable to further study and the outside world. You will learn the skills of analysis and problem solving, programming and logarithmic thinking. Logic is fundamental to computing and this has wide applications in future study. You will develop your reasoning and thinking skills.

Where can GCSE Computing lead?

Computer scientists have an almost unparalleled opportunity to pursue careers in science, computing and mathematics, with the skills that in the increasingly systems-driven world is crying out for. Computer scientists are in great demand – recent research suggests that computing has the greatest potential employment demand over the next few years. Students with qualifications at GCSE and GCE level are highly in demand by UK universities.

To see a full outline of the course go to www.ocr.org.uk and follow links to GCSE Computing.

The department staff will be happy to provide any further information you would like about computing at GCSE level.

J A Hillman
Head of Computing

GCSE Options Form

Woodbridge School

GCSE Options 2011-2013

Name		Current School	
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You will nearly all take 10 GCSEs in the following subjects in Year 10 and Year 11:

- English
- at least one Modern Language
- English literature
- at least one humanity (Geography, History, Business Studies, Religious Studies)
- Mathematics
- a range of other optional subjects
- the three Sciences: **either** Separate Sciences in three option blocks for three GCSEs
or Science and Additional Science which allow one more optional subject but still form the basis of the study of any science at A level.

Sciences. Please tick which you wish to study:

Separate sciences (physics, chemistry, biology as 3 GCSEs)		Science and Additional Science (physics, chemistry, biology as 2 GCSEs)	
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Modern Languages (you may opt for one or two)

French		German		Spanish	
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Humanities (you must opt for one but may choose more)

Geography		History		Religious Studies		Business Studies	
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Other options: Tick enough of the following to reach 10 GCSEs in total (including English, Literature and Mathematics):

eg Separate Sciences + 1 Language + 1 Humanity + TWO more options from below.

Options							
Latin		Music		Drama		D&T Resistant Materials*	
		Computing		Art		D&T Graphic Products*	
Physical Education GCSE. Please tick here if you wish to take this in addition to 10 GCSEs. (outside the option blocks).							

* You cannot study both **D&T resistant materials** and **D&T graphic products**.
Please note anything else of relevance (eg Japanese) here or continue overleaf.

A parent should sign and date the form and return it to Mr Graeme Bruce, Director of Studies, Woodbridge School, Suffolk, IP12 4JH as soon as possible. Tel: 01394 615000

Do not hesitate to contact Mr Bruce, if you have any queries at any stage.

Parental Signature:

Date: