



**SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

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# **GCSE Curriculum**

## **Subject Descriptions**



## Introduction

This booklet has been written for you as a pupil in Year 9 to help you make informed choices about the subjects that you will study at GCSE. Please read the booklet carefully as its main purpose is to provide guidance on how to arrive at a sensible set of GCSE courses that will suit you.

## Moving on from Key Stage 3

Up until now, you have been studying the same subjects as everyone else in your year-group. At the start of Year 10 however, you may be one of only a few studying a particular combination of subjects, which will mean that you have your own personal timetable. In some subjects, there may be a limited amount of setting.

We support the idea of each student following a broad and balanced curriculum. At Sutton Grammar School, every student must study English (Language, and Literature), Mathematics, the three Sciences, and a Modern Foreign Language.

Other non-examined subjects will be taught and you will be allocated time for:

- Physical Education
- Careers, Business, and Enterprise
- Citizenship
- Health, Fitness and Well-being
- Personal Development (Including elements of RE)
- STEAM
- Metacognition

The foreign languages offered are French, German, and Spanish. You must study one of these.

All students at this school study the three separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You have started your GCSE Science course in Year 9 and you do not need to make any choices at this time on the options form.

There are three further choices for you to make and you can pick any combination of subjects you wish; there are no conditions placed on these. Although it may not always be possible for everyone, it is the school's intention that you will be able to study the exact combination of subjects you wish. Every effort is made to accommodate all subject choices, but occasionally compromises are required. It may not be possible to offer every subject combination.

For this reason, you are asked to choose three subjects (in preference order) and two reserve subjects. The expectation is that most students will be offered the chance to study their three preferred subjects. In some cases, however, a reserve subject will need to replace one of the preferred choices.

## Core Curriculum - Compulsory Subjects

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Courses</i>	<i>Exam Board</i>	<i>Number of GCSEs</i>
English	English Language and English Literature	AQA	2
Mathematics	Maths	Pearson	1
Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, & Physics	AQA, OCR & AQA	3
Modern Foreign Languages	German or French or Spanish	AQA	1

## Options Subjects - any three from

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Exam Board</i>	<i>Number of GCSEs</i>
Art (with a preference for Art & Design or Photography)	Pearson	1
Computer Science	OCR	1
Design Technology Product Design	Eduqas	1
Drama	OCR	1
Music	Pearson	1
GCSE P.E.	AQA	1
Geography	OCR	1
History	CIE	1
Religious Education	AQA	1

## Accommodating Your Choices

There are a wide range of different courses from which to choose. We usually accommodate all student choices with 100% satisfaction. If there is a problem with your choices we will of course speak to you directly to resolve the issue.

## GCSE

GCSEs emphasise the positive aspects of learning, and the philosophy behind it is to encourage success. It gives credit for what you know, understand and can do. When you begin Year 10 you will find the work for your GCSE courses more demanding and challenging than at Key Stage 3. Remember that there are effectively only five full terms between September 2025 and May 2027 in which the GCSEs are concentrated. You must therefore be prepared for a heavier workload and you will have to spend more time on homework and coursework during Years 10 and 11. You will have to work hard from the outset and will find that the pace of work will be quicker than you have been used to in Year 9.

## GCSE Coursework

Coursework will contribute to your final GCSE grades in many of your subjects. Most coursework will now be completed under controlled assessment conditions within the school. Your teachers will be expected to be able to verify that the work produced is your own. Coursework will involve a lot of independent effort in your own time preparing for the controlled assessments and you must work to a schedule in order to meet the deadlines necessary. Good personal organisational skills are needed for the production of high quality coursework and you will be expected to record deadlines in your Student Planner.

## Homework

During Years 10 and 11 the homework in some subjects will include progressively longer-term assignments for GCSE coursework. In the upper school you can expect to do approximately 20 hours of homework per fortnight. On your way through the longer pieces of coursework needed at GCSE your Student Planner will be invaluable to you for noting due dates and planning completion of interim stages set by your teachers.

## Aiming for high grades

You may notice the entry requirements for you to join the sixth-form are not overly demanding. That is because we want to be able to offer you all a place, even if things do not work out as expected. However, you should be aiming for much higher GCSE grades than this minimum. Universities, and future employers, will be looking at your results. We are expecting you to gain mostly 8s and 9s in all your subjects. This will be a challenge, and hard work, but you are all talented individuals and you will have plenty support along your learning journey.

## Physical Education and Games

All of you continue to have regular P.E. and Games periods on your timetables. For those doing full course PE these periods may contribute to your GCSE P.E. qualification.

## STEM Projects

STEAM has proven to be enormously popular in recent years and is something the school is keen that all pupils can experience in KS4. There are two routes to choose from.

### **Route 1 Additional STEAM**

In this route, students receive additional after-school classes in one of either Maths, Biology, or Electronics. Pupils work towards an extra GCSE in Electronics and a British Science Association Crest Award in Biology.

### **Route 2 Standard STEAM**

Nothing at all standard about this route. In a lesson per fortnight you will rotate through Art, DT, and Computer Science, combining your creative and technical expertise to make your very own holistic STEAM project. Entering for a Crest Award through this route is also possible.

More information will be shared with Year 9 students by Mr James in a forthcoming assembly.

## Careers, Business, and Enterprise

Drawing on the best of the GCSE Business Studies course, offering you the opportunity to engage in some entrepreneurial competitions, and improving your financial literacy our new CBE course is designed with you in mind.

## Metacognition

Your teachers spend an awful lot of time teaching you materials and helping you become experts in their subjects. Metacognition helps you to reflect on that learning process. How well do you know 'how to learn'? Although it is an amazing thing, it's not magic, and we're going to help you get better at it.

## Work Experience – part of the Work Related Curriculum

You will undertake a week of work experience in the summer term of Year 10. The three main aims of the placements are for you to gain an impression of the demands of the world of work, for you to gain in confidence through working with adults and to help you with your choice of career. We have found that the best placements are those secured by students themselves. Placements can be obtained by either writing direct to a company, or by approaching them through a relative or friend of the family. Most secondary schools send their students out on work experience in June or July and so it is vital that you apply up to a year in advance of the desired placement.

## Pastoral Care, Discipline, Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship

PSHE and Citizenship are provided through our Personal Development curriculum. This programme of study is designed to empower pupils to make informed, healthy and positive decisions driven by values of kindness, empathy and respect. By instilling this knowledge and these values in our pupils, we believe they will be able to navigate our ever-changing, diverse society and embrace its challenges. They will be able to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Even in the face of risks and challenges, our pupils will be resilient and know how and when to ask for help and support. We believe that this curriculum will facilitate our young people becoming happy and successful in their adult lives and share their values with others in their daily lives.

## Compulsory Subjects

In order to help you make your choice of GCSE courses, Heads of Faculty and Heads of Subject have prepared course descriptions. In addition, courses that have not featured in Years 7 to 9 are explained. You should read the rest of this booklet carefully and discuss possible course choices with your parents before the Options Evening on Wednesday, 12th February 2024. On that evening, you and your parents will hear short talks about Year 9 Options and life in general in Years 10 and 11. You will be able to ask questions.

You should let us know your subject choices through 'Options Online' – The system will have been made familiar to you through sessions at school. Please ensure that you make your choices by **FRIDAY, 21st MARCH 2024**.

All of the returns will be analysed and you will be advised of the outcome of your choices before the Easter Break.

## Core Curriculum - Compulsory Subjects

### English Language and English Literature

Language - [AQA 8700](#) Literature - [AQA 8702](#)

#### What you will learn

In English, you will study two GCSEs: English Language and English Literature. The course explores a range of texts, including Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" and Russell's "Blood and Brothers". You will develop skills in analysis, critical thinking, and clear communication, which are essential for success in all subjects and everyday life.

#### How you will learn

Through engaging lessons, class discussions, and writing tasks, you will explore the meanings behind words and texts. Teachers will guide you in mastering grammar, punctuation, and essay writing, helping you express ideas effectively. Regular practice and constructive feedback will build your confidence.

#### How you will be assessed

Assessment is through the spoken language certificate at the beginning of the course and through written exams at the end of the course. To help you prepare for this, we will give you key assessments and mocks during your two years. English Language focuses on critically reading unseen texts and writing your own fiction and non-fiction pieces. English Literature evaluates your understanding of set texts and your ability to analyse and articulate how meaning is created.

#### Where next

Proficiency in English opens many doors and is highly valued in careers such as law, business, politics, journalism and education.

## Mathematics

[Pearson 1MA1](#)

#### What you will learn

In Mathematics, you will develop essential skills to solve problems, reason logically, and communicate effectively using mathematical language. The course covers topics such as algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics, equipping you with the tools to apply mathematics confidently in real-life situations and across other subjects.

#### How you will learn

Teaching methods include interactive lessons, problem-solving activities, and group tasks that encourage collaboration. Students are guided to explore mathematical concepts, practise calculations, and apply their knowledge to practical scenarios. Weekly SPARX homework enables students to consolidate their learning.

#### How you will be assessed

Assessment is through three end of course exams, each lasting 1½ hours. Two of these allow the use of a calculator, while one is non-calculator-based. These exams will test your understanding of mathematical concepts, problem-solving abilities, and analytical skills.

#### Where next

A strong GCSE in Mathematics is crucial for most careers and further education pathways. Achieving a high grade can open doors to A-level courses, such as Mathematics and Further Mathematics, and provide a foundation for fields like engineering, finance, and computer science.

## Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

French - [AQA 8652](#) German - [AQA 8662](#) Spanish - [AQA 8692](#)

### What you will learn

The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department aims to equip students with the skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly globalised world. At Sutton Grammar School, students study French, German, or Spanish at GCSE level. Building on the foundation laid in Years 7, 8, and 9, this course enables students to achieve a high level of competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

### How you will learn

Lessons are highly interactive, with a focus on immersion in the target language. French, German, and Spanish are used extensively in class to help students internalise the language and students engage in role-plays, discussions, and practical exercises designed to build fluency.

### How you will be assessed

Assessment covers four key skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, each accounting for 25% of the final grade. The course concludes with Higher-level GCSE examinations, which test students' ability to understand and express themselves in the language.

### Where next

A GCSE in a foreign language provides an excellent foundation for further study, including A-levels and university courses. The ability to speak another language enhances career prospects in fields such as international business, tourism, translation, and diplomacy.

## Science

Biology - [AQA 8461](#) Chemistry - [OCR J248](#) Physics - [AQA 8463](#)

### What you will learn

In Science, you will study for three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Starting in Year 9, the course covers a wide range of scientific concepts, principles, and laws governing the natural world. You will also develop skills in interpreting and evaluating data, analysing experimental procedures, and applying scientific knowledge to solve complex problems.

### How you will learn

Science at SGS is taught with a strong emphasis on practical activities. Hands-on experiments help students understand theoretical concepts and develop essential practical skills. Lessons are dynamic, encouraging interaction and intellectual curiosity about how science impacts everyday life and addresses global challenges. Assessment is ongoing throughout the course, with regular feedback given to students about their progress and how to improve.

### How you will be assessed

Each of the three sciences is assessed through two terminal exams, each lasting 1¾ hours. These exams evaluate student knowledge, understanding, and application of scientific ideas, as well as student ability to interpret data and assess experimental methods.

### Where next

Studying the three separate Sciences provides an excellent foundation for A-level courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Achieving at least a grade 8 in the relevant Science GCSE and a grade 7 in Mathematics is recommended for A-level study. These GCSE qualifications are highly regarded by universities and employers, opening pathways to scientific careers, including medicine and engineering.

## Options Subjects - Any three from

### Art & Design or Photography

Art & Design - [Pearson 1AD0](#) Photography - [Pearson 1PY0](#)

#### Who this course is suitable for

This course is ideal for students who enjoy expressing their creativity, exploring innovative ideas, and working with a variety of artistic media and processes. It is perfect for those who wish to develop their practical skills, explore the history and theory of image making, and engage with in depth artistic concepts. If you're curious about visual storytelling, experimenting with different techniques, and creating original works, GCSE Art and Design (choosing either Fine Art or Photography) will provide an enriching and inspiring experience.

#### What you will learn

GCSE Art and Design introduces students to a wide range of artistic techniques and media, including drawing, painting, photography (camera-less and digital), installations, sculpture, ceramics and printmaking. In photography GCSE you will also learn digital tools such as Photoshop and Illustrator. You will study visual artists and relevant theory to inform your creative ideas, to develop personal projects that reflect your individual interests and skills. Themes such as 'Hidden Worlds' and 'Ordinary and Extraordinary' provide opportunities for unique exploration and expression.

#### How you will learn

Learning is hands-on and project-based, with a mix of workshop-style sessions and personal sketchbook coursework keeping. In Year 10, you'll complete units designed to build your technical skills and creativity. Visits to Kew Gardens, galleries and workshops with professional artists will offer insights into the art world and allow you to see famous artworks firsthand. Year 11 focuses on a major coursework project and a final exam project, culminating in an exhibition of your work assessed by external moderators and the Art Department staff.

#### What you will need to bring

Students will need basic art supplies such as pencils, sketchbooks, and erasers. Specific materials for projects will vary and may include paints, brushes, or digital tools. These are provided at discount prices through the art department as packs that will be made purchasable through Parent Pay. Access to a camera or smartphone for photography projects is also helpful, and the school has photography equipment that may be borrowed as well.

#### How you will be assessed

Assessment is based on two components:

- Coursework (60%): This includes personal projects developed throughout the course, showcasing your exploration of media, techniques, and ideas.
- Final Exam Project (40%): A practical 10-hour examination where you create a finished piece based on a set theme, completed under controlled conditions.

Both components are evaluated through an exhibition of your work, marked by the Art Department and an external moderator.

#### Where next

GCSE Art and Design provides a foundation for A-levels in Art, Photography, or Design, and is valued by creative industries such as advertising, graphic design, animation, fashion, architecture, and game design.



## Computer Science

[OCR/J277](#)

### Who this course is suitable for

This course is ideal for students who enjoy solving problems, thinking logically, and exploring how technology shapes the modern world. It is perfect for those who have a passion for understanding how computers work and want to learn how to program.

### What you will learn

GCSE Computer Science covers two main components:

- **Component 01: Computer Systems**  
You will learn about the central processing unit (CPU), memory, storage, and how computers communicate through wired and wireless networks. This component also explores network security, system software, and ethical, legal, cultural, and environmental issues related to digital technology.
- **Component 02: Computational Thinking, Algorithms, and Programming**  
This component focuses on applying computational thinking to design and debug algorithms, understand programming fundamentals, and explore Boolean logic and programming languages. Students will also learn to produce robust programs using Integrated Development Environments (IDEs).

Practical programming skills are developed through the use of C++, introduced in Year 10. This console-based programming language emphasizes abstraction and decomposition, building on skills developed in earlier years.

### How you will learn

Lessons include a mix of theory and hands-on programming tasks. You will work on solving computational problems, designing algorithms, and debugging code. Practical programming is an essential part of the course, allowing you to develop skills in designing, writing, and refining programs. You will also have access to an online textbook and other resources to support your learning.

### What you will need to bring

A willingness to dedicate time outside of lessons to practice coding is essential, as regular practice will help you develop your skills and confidence. Outside of the classroom, you will need access to a computer with administrator rights to install the necessary software. A Chromebook is not sufficient for programming tasks.

### How you will be assessed

The course is assessed through two written exams, each accounting for 50% of the total GCSE:

- **Component 01: Computer Systems (1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks)**  
Assesses topics such as systems architecture, memory and storage, networks, security, and the societal impacts of digital technology. This paper includes multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-response questions.
- **Component 02: Computational Thinking, Algorithms, and Programming (1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks)**  
Assesses your ability to apply knowledge from Component 01 and includes sections on algorithms, programming techniques, Boolean logic, and IDEs. Questions test your problem-solving and coding skills.

### Where next

GCSE Computer Science provides a strong foundation for A-level Computer Science and related courses. It is highly valued in careers such as software development, data analysis, cybersecurity, game design, and artificial intelligence.

## Design and Technology

[Eduqas C600QS](#)

### Who this course is suitable for

This course is ideal for students who enjoy designing, problem-solving, and creating practical solutions. It suits those interested in combining creativity with technical knowledge and those who are curious about the impact of design and technology in the modern world. If you are passionate about working with different materials and tools, and you enjoy innovative thinking, GCSE Design and Technology will provide an exciting and hands-on learning experience. There will be an expectation that students attend out-of-hours sessions.

### What you will learn

The course introduces students to designing and making products or systems using a range of materials, including woods, metals, and plastics. You will learn about computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM), sustainability, and the environmental impact of design. Students will also explore historical, social, and economic influences on design, as well as gain an understanding of engineering principles and electronics. Through hands-on projects, you will develop fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and a keen eye for detail.

### How you will learn

Learning is a mix of theory and practical work. In Year 10, you will complete small projects to explore a variety of materials and processes, such as pewter casting, laminating, laser cutting, CNC routing, and plastic moulding. You will also learn to work with systems to control lighting and other outputs. In Year 11, the focus shifts to a major project based on a contextual challenge, where you will research, design, plan, and manufacture a product for a specific client. Throughout the course, you will participate in competitions and collaborate on design briefs to gain real-world experience.

### What you will need to bring

Students will need standard stationery equipment, such as pencils and rulers, for designing and making projects. Access to a computer for CAD work and research will be beneficial. A willingness to experiment, solve problems independently, and meet project deadlines is essential for success in this course.

### How you will be assessed

Assessment consists of two components:

- Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) (50%): This is a coursework project completed in Year 11. It involves identifying a product to design, research, and manufacture for a specific client. The NEA is based on the contextual challenge set by the exam board.
- Written Examination (50%): A 2-hour written exam testing your knowledge of materials, processes, and the theory behind design and technology. This includes multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-response questions.

### Where next

GCSE Design and Technology provides a pathway to A-levels in Product Design, Engineering, and related fields. It is a strong foundation for careers in engineering, architecture, product design, furniture design, electronics, jewellery making, and more. The skills you develop in problem-solving, creativity, and technical knowledge are highly transferable and valued across many industries.

## Drama

[OCR/J316](#)

### Who this course is suitable for

This course is perfect for students who enjoy creativity, collaboration, and exploring ideas through practical activities. If you are eager to build confidence, improve communication skills, and develop artistic sensitivity, GCSE Drama is an excellent choice. You do not need to be an experienced performer; this course welcomes all abilities and focuses on personal growth, teamwork, and creative expression.

### What you will learn

GCSE Drama covers the core elements of performance, theatre history, and the work of influential drama practitioners. You will learn through the roles of Performer, Director, Deviser, and Designer. Key skills include acting, stagecraft, and the use of semiotics such as lighting, sound, costume, and props. You will also gain an understanding of text interpretation and the creative process, supported by theatre visits and workshops with professional theatre makers.

### How you will learn

The course is highly practical, with lessons centred around devising performances, rehearsing, and analysing live theatre. You will participate in group projects to create original performances and work with published texts to develop character and staging. Through class visits to live theatre and workshops, you will gain insight into professional performance and refine your critical evaluation skills. Collaborative learning fosters teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving abilities.

### What you will need to bring

Students should bring a notebook for reflective practice, comfortable clothing for movement-based activities, and a positive attitude towards collaboration and experimentation. You may also need access to props, costumes, and other resources for your performances. An open mind and enthusiasm for creative exploration will be your most valuable tools.

### How you will be assessed

- Component 01/02: Devising Drama (30%) In Year 10, you will devise a group performance based on a stimulus and complete a portfolio documenting your creative process. Your performance will incorporate semiotics to enhance the communication of your intent.
- Component 03: Presenting and Performing Texts (30%) In Year 11, you will perform two extracts from a published text to a visiting examiner. This unit focuses on enhancing your performance or design skills.
- Component 04: Performance and Response (40%) A written exam covering the study of the set text *Missing* by Dan Nolan by Mark Wheeller and a review of live theatre production. You will analyse and evaluate both the text and live performance from multiple perspectives, including those of an actor, director, and designer.

### Where next

GCSE Drama prepares students for A-levels in Drama, Theatre Studies, or Performing Arts, and supports careers in acting, directing, set design, and beyond. The skills developed—such as confidence, critical thinking, and teamwork—are transferable to fields like law, teaching, marketing, and event management. Drama combines academic study with practical experience, providing invaluable life skills and a creative edge in any career.

## Geography

[AQA 8035](#)

### Who this course is suitable for

This course is perfect for students who are curious about the world and want to understand the connections between people, places, and environments. Whether you're interested in natural landscapes, urban development, or environmental conservation, this subject offers something for everyone.

### What you will learn

GCSE Geography is divided into three units:

- Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment. Explore natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis, and study climate change, ecosystems, coasts, and rivers.
- Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. Examine urban issues, development, and the challenge of resource management. Focus on resource management, including energy, and gain insights into societal changes in cities like London and Rio de Janeiro.
- Unit 3: Geographical Applications. Engage in a decision-making exercise using a resource booklet. Develop advanced geographical skills to analyse and evaluate issues. Develop fieldwork and geographical skills through real-world investigations.

### How you will learn

Learning in Geography is varied and interactive. You will:

- Conduct fieldwork to investigate issues like river processes in Beddington Park and urban development in East London.
- Use modern mapping tools (GIS), interpret photographs, and analyse articles to develop a well-rounded perspective.
- Participate in debates, group projects, and decision-making exercises.
- Apply numeracy skills to interpret data, construct graphs, and analyse statistics.
- Boost your memory with techniques for recalling key case study information.
- Optional trips, such as a visit to Iceland, will provide hands-on experiences, including hiking volcanoes, exploring glaciers, and bathing in geothermal pools.

### What you will need to bring

You will need an exercise book, colouring pencils, a ruler and a calculator. Comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear for outdoor investigations and an inquisitive mindset will enhance your experience.

### How you will be assessed

Assessment is through three components:

- Unit 1 (35%) Written exam assessing natural hazards, climate, ecosystems, coasts, rivers, and geographical skills.
- Unit 2 (35%) Written exam focusing on urban issues, development, resource management, and geographical skills.
- Unit 3 (30%) A decision-making exercise, fieldwork questions based on familiar and unfamiliar fieldwork, and geographical skills.

### Where next

GCSE Geography opens pathways to A-level Geography and other related subjects. It supports careers in environmental science, urban planning, international relations, conservation, and cartography. The skills you develop—critical thinking, data analysis, teamwork, and problem-solving—are highly valued in a wide range of fields, making geography a versatile and rewarding choice.

## History

[CIE 0977AY](#)

### Who this course is suitable for

This course is ideal for students who are curious about understanding the events and decisions that shaped the modern world. If you enjoy analysing complex issues, constructing arguments, and exploring significant historical events, iGCSE History offers an engaging and thought-provoking experience. It is particularly suited to those who enjoy writing, debating, and developing critical thinking skills.

### What you will learn

The iGCSE History course focuses on 20th Century World History, covering:

- **Year 10: International Relations since 1919** Topics include the post-World War I Peace Treaties, the Road to World War II, and the Cold War. Key events such as the Treaty of Versailles, the Berlin Blockade, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam War are explored, providing a comprehensive view of global tensions and their impact on the modern world.
- **Year 11: Depth Study on Germany (1919-1945)** This in-depth study examines Germany's transition from democracy to dictatorship, including the Nazi rise to power, the role of propaganda, education under the Nazis, the Holocaust, and the impact of World War II. The coursework focuses on a specific aspect of this period, allowing students to delve deeper into key issues.

### How you will learn

Lessons are dynamic and involve a mix of group discussions, independent research, and essay writing. You will analyse historical sources, evaluate evidence, and construct persuasive arguments. Coursework provides the opportunity to explore a topic in-depth, developing skills in research and critical analysis. The course also includes debates and presentations to enhance communication and teamwork.

### What you will need to bring

Students will need basic writing materials and a folder to organise notes and resources. Access to online research tools and an inquisitive mindset are essential for success. A willingness to read widely and engage with historical texts and sources is highly beneficial.

### How you will be assessed

The final grade is based on three components:

- **Paper 1 (40%):** Essay-style questions on International Relations and the Germany depth study.
- **Paper 2 (33%):** Source-based questions focusing on an aspect of International Relations.
- **Coursework (27%):** An essay question on a specified topic within the Germany depth study, completed by February of Year 11.

Exams are scheduled early in the summer exam period and provide excellent preparation for A-level study.

### Where next

History is a highly respected subject that develops transferable skills valued by universities and employers. It supports careers in law, journalism, accountancy, economics, politics, and more. Studying history hones your ability to evaluate evidence, construct arguments, and make sound judgments, preparing you for diverse career paths, including medicine and education. By understanding the challenges of the past, you will be better equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

## Music

[Pearson 1MU0](#)

### Who this course is suitable for

This course is ideal for students who love music and want to deepen their understanding and skills. Whether you enjoy playing an instrument, singing, composing, or listening to music, GCSE Music offers an exciting opportunity to explore a wide variety of musical genres. You do not need formal graded exams or private lessons, but you should have some experience playing an instrument or singing and be willing to develop your skills further. Self-taught musicians, as well as those with formal training, are equally welcome.

### What you will learn

GCSE Music builds on the skills developed in Key Stage 3. You will:

- Perform: Choose and perform a piece of music on your preferred instrument or voice, individually or as part of an ensemble.
- Compose: Create original compositions, exploring your creativity and applying music theory.
- Listen and Analyse: Study a wide range of musical styles, including Western classical music, film music, pop, musical theatre, and world fusion music. You will learn to identify key features and understand music in its historical and cultural context.

### How you will learn

Lessons include practical and theoretical components. You will:

- Participate in group and solo performances.
- Compose music using your instrument or music software.
- Listen to and analyse set works and unfamiliar pieces.
- Engage in ensemble activities, such as choirs, orchestras, or bands, to refine your collaborative skills. Workshops and guidance from experienced teachers will support you in mastering your instrument and understanding the technical aspects of music.

### What you will need to bring

You will need access to your chosen instrument or voice and be able to dedicate time to regular practice. Basic materials such as a notebook and access to music software or apps for composition will be helpful.

### How you will be assessed

The assessment is divided into three components:

- Component 1: Understanding Music (40%)  
Written exam (1 hour 45 minutes) including listening exercises and a 12-mark comparative essay question. You will be assessed on your understanding of set works and your ability to analyse unfamiliar pieces.
- Component 2: Performing Music (30%)  
Internally assessed. Perform a solo and an ensemble piece, with recordings submitted for evaluation. Performances should aim for approximately grade 4 ABRSM (or equivalent) standard by the end of Year 11.
- Component 3: Composing Music (30%)  
Internally assessed. Compose two pieces: one to a set brief and one as a free composition.

### Where next

GCSE Music is an excellent foundation for A-level Music or Music Technology. It supports careers in performance, composition, music production, teaching, and other creative industries. The course also develops transferable skills such as creativity, discipline, and collaboration, which are valuable in any career.

## Physical Education

[AQA 8582](#)

### Who this course is suitable for

This course is ideal for students who enjoy sports, physical activity, learning about the science behind performance, as well as various socio-cultural aspects. It is particularly suited for those who enjoy practical learning and want to develop teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills.

### What you will learn

GCSE PE combines both practical sports performance and theoretical understanding. You will be required to select three sports from the list below, ensuring that you choose at least one individual sport and one team sport (the list of sports that are allowed can be found in the AQA GCSE PE specification). To achieve a good grade in GCSE PE, it is essential to demonstrate competence in the sports you choose. If you do a sport outside of school to a good level, you will need to provide evidence of your participation level to be approved. Please speak to the SGS PE department if you have any questions. Below is a competency guide for each sport you can select:

- Football – You should be in the school A or B team
- Badminton – You should be in the top 25% of your form
- Table Tennis – You should be in the top 25% of your form
- Basketball – You should attend a basketball club outside of school
- Cricket – You should play cricket for a club outside of school
- Handball – You should be able to throw and catch effectively
- Athletics – You will need to be competent in 2 athletics events. Sprinters, jumpers and throwers should perform well at sports day and/or represent the school. Long distance runners should finish in the top 30 in the house cross country A race.

The sports that you intending to select should be confirmed on a Google form that the PE department will send out soon.

### How you will learn

The course involves a mix of practical lessons and classroom-based theory. You will take part in a range of team and individual sports to develop your physical abilities. Study the science of exercise, exploring topics such as anatomy, physiology, and sports psychology and use data and real-life examples to analyse performance and apply theoretical concepts to practical situations.

### What you will need to bring

Students will need appropriate sportswear for practical lessons and a notebook or folder for theory work. A willingness to practise and refine your performance in sports outside of lessons will also be vital.

### How you will be assessed

Assessment is divided into two components:

- Theory (60%): Two written exams at the end of the course assess your understanding of fitness, body systems, health, performance, sports psychology, socio-cultural issues, biomechanics, and data analysis. This includes Exam 1: Fitness and Body Systems and Exam 2: Health and Performance.
- Practical (40%): You will be assessed in three sporting activities, including at least one team and one individual sport. This includes a practical performance in your chosen sports and a Personal Exercise Plan (PEP), a short piece of coursework designed to improve performance in one of your chosen activities.

### Where next

A good grade in GCSE Physical Education opens pathways to A-levels in PE, Sports Science, or related subjects. The skills developed in this course, such as teamwork, time management, and problem-solving, are highly valued by employers across diverse industries.

## Religious Education

[AQA 8062 A](#)

### Who this course is suitable for

This course is suitable for students who are curious about exploring ethical, moral, and philosophical questions. It is ideal for those who enjoy debating, analysing different viewpoints, and considering profound questions about human existence, values, and beliefs. If you are interested in understanding diverse religious traditions and their role in shaping societies and addressing global challenges, Religious Education will provide you with a rewarding and thought-provoking experience. This course encourages open-mindedness and empathy, preparing students to navigate a multicultural world with insight and understanding.

### What you will learn

Religious Education at Sutton Grammar offers an exploration of ethical, philosophical, and moral issues from both personal and religious perspectives. You will study the beliefs, teachings, and practices of Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam (Paper 1), gaining an in-depth understanding of these faiths and their significance in the modern world. In addition, you will delve into thematic studies such as Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Religion, Peace and Conflict and the existence of God and Revelation (Paper 2). These topics challenge you to critically evaluate moral dilemmas and ethical debates, encouraging both personal growth and academic excellence. The course fosters critical thinking, debate, and reflective writing skills.

### How you will learn

Lessons involve engaging discussions, structured debates, and opportunities for personal reflection. You will explore religious and ethical issues through case studies, role-plays, and multimedia resources, making learning interactive and dynamic. Visits to places of worship, workshops, and discussions with practitioners from various faiths will provide real-world context and deepen your understanding. Through these activities, you will "learn about" traditions and "learn from" them, broadening your perspective on how beliefs and values influence people and societies. Collaborative tasks and individual projects will further enhance your analytical and communication skills.

### What you will need to bring

You will need basic classroom materials, such as pens and pencils. An open mind and a willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions and critical analysis are essential for success.

### How you will be assessed

Assessment consists of two 1 hour 45-minute examinations:

- Paper 1 (Beliefs, Teachings and Practices)
- Paper 2 (Thematic Studies)

### Where next

Religious Education provides a strong foundation for A-levels in Philosophy, Politics, Ethics, and Law, as well as other humanities subjects. It prepares students for careers in medicine, anthropology, journalism, social work, and beyond. This is done by fostering a deep understanding of diverse perspectives, this course equips you with the skills needed to succeed in a multicultural and interconnected world. The analytical, writing, and reasoning skills you develop will enhance your academic and professional prospects, whatever path you choose.