

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark green school sweater over a white collared shirt, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. She is looking down and writing in a notebook with a blue pen. The background shows light green classroom cabinets and a doorway. The text 'GCSE Courses 2024/26' is overlaid in white cursive font.

GCSE Courses 2024/26

Introduction to GCSEs from the Head of Brighton Girls

As they begin their GCSE years, our students discover a broad yet balanced curriculum which can be tailored to individual passions and interests. Beyond the core subjects of English, Maths, Science and Languages, there is the opportunity to develop expertise in a diverse array of subjects, from Classical Civilisation to Computer Science, around their strengths and, most importantly, around what they enjoy.

In the pages of this booklet, you will find all the details you need to make informed decisions about GCSE options, with exam boards and specifications, and course content, but the next two years at Brighton Girls are about so much more than this. If the events of the past year have taught us anything, it is that we must never let exams dominate our thinking, even in these crucial GCSE years.

Exams have only ever been one small part of a learning process that lasts a lifetime, and the events of the past year have brought this into sharp relief. Increasingly employers are looking beyond paper qualifications - they want to see evidence of empathy, emotional intelligence, resilience, creativity and confidence. At Brighton Girls, these attributes are wrapped up in our values and in our tradition of developing individuals who are both kind and bold - these are the things that will count in the long-term, and these are the qualities we look to instil.

Throughout Year 10 and 11, students will start to look to the future – to our Sixth Form, and the world beyond school. Students are invited to take on leadership opportunities, such as becoming a Peer Supporter; through programmes like The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, they are given time to develop confidence, to embrace creativity and to hone their communication skills. By accessing a wide range of clubs, lectures and leadership opportunities, we hope our students will begin to feel more alert to future possibilities and will feel excited about the paths they might follow. By offering a broad, balanced GCSE curriculum, supported by a



unique, community-based co-curriculum, our hope is that our students will emerge better equipped, and even more determined, to go out and make a positive difference in the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosie McColl".

Rosie McColl
Head

At GCSE all girls take English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language, three separate science subjects or Double Award Science (which is two GCSEs). A further two or three GCSE subjects are also then chosen from: Art & Design, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Dance, Design & Technology, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, French, Geography, History, Latin, Music, Physical Education, Philosophy Religion and Ethics, and Spanish.

Choosing GCSEs is an exciting time but it can be daunting too. There will be lots of support so our students can be confident they have made the right choice. Please contact Mrs Lainchbury or Mrs Ashdown with any questions.

Related Calendar Events 2023-2024

November 2023

- Y9 GCSE options briefing: Wednesday 22nd November
- Y9 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 29th November

January 2024

- GCSE Speed Options event: Monday 8th January
- Y9 GCSE Curriculum interviews: 8th - 19th January

February / March 2024

- Option choices deadline: Wednesday 7th February
(In Feb 2023 your daughter will be emailed an invitation to enable her to access the GCSE Options programme on SIMS. Any problems with logging in after this, please contact school at itssupport@brightongirls.gdst.net)
- Curriculum Option blocks finalised by Friday 15th March

We will provide you with option blocks derived from your initial expressions of interest which will allow everyone to follow a broad and balanced GCSE curriculum.

The timetable outlined above will be supplemented by the general Wellbeing programme, in which information and guidance is given on many matters of interest including careers and higher education.

Top tips for choosing GCSEs

1. CHOOSE SUBJECTS THAT YOU LOVE

You will get lots of support from your teachers, but having a passion for a subject really helps, so choose subjects you think you will enjoy. Review the subject content closely in this booklet and talk to the teachers in the subject areas for further advice.

2. PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS

Choose subjects which you think you will be good at - you will be more likely to enjoy them. Think about why you might enjoy particular subjects and how committed you feel – e.g. drama: have you enjoyed performing previously? Do you like working collaboratively? Are you committed enough to rehearse for GCSE performance work in the evenings and maybe at weekends? Remember that creative subjects, whilst very rewarding, require commitment in terms of time.

3. THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE

Think seriously about future ambitions. If you do already have a university course in mind, check entry requirements for specific courses at university and work back from there. These are featured at the end of this booklet. Pupils thinking about Medicine should consider taking Triple Science, but do check with the Science Department as they have great experience with medic applications, and Double Science will suffice for some university applications.

4. BALANCE

If you have no idea what you want to do in the future make sure that your options provide a broad and balanced programme. Look at your choices from a distance. Write down your list of subjects and look at it as a future employer or university admissions officer might.

5. INDEPENDENCE

Don't choose on the basis of what friends are doing or on the basis of favourite teachers. Make your own decisions. Be bold!

6. ENJOY THE PROCESS

But, perhaps, most importantly: don't stress out too much, and pick subjects you feel you will enjoy doing for the next two years. Good luck!



Brighton Girls 2023 GCSE results

27% of all grades
9-8 | A*

47% of all grades
9-7 | A*- A

95% of all grades
9-4 | A*- C

COURSES IN YEARS 10 AND 11

This guide gives details of the courses in the GCSE years and explains which choices you could make. On this page, you could tick all those subjects that you are thinking about taking. Remember to try to keep a broad spread. We will discuss your choices with you individually and give you as much advice and help as we can as you make these important decisions.

1. Compulsory Courses:

All students follow courses in the following subjects:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science – either Double Award or Triple Award (please see below)

Modern Foreign Languages:

You need to choose one of the following:

- French
- Spanish

2. Additional subjects:

Your choice of optional subjects. You are strongly advised to choose at least one humanity (marked *):

- Art & Design
- Classics (Classical Civilisation)*
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography*
- History*
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Philosophy, Religion & Ethics*
- Triple Science

Science - girls are given a choice with strong guidance between Double Award Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics combined to give two GCSEs) and Triple Award Science (separate GCSEs for Biology, Chemistry and Physics). If you choose Triple Science, you can choose **two** optional subjects. Those choosing Double Science should choose **three** optional subjects.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

These are the people you should speak to if you have further questions about any of the GCSE courses:

Compulsory Subjects

English Language and English Literature:	Ms Brown
Mathematics:	Miss Shah
Science and Biology:	Mr Winter
Chemistry:	Mr Marsh
Physics:	Mr Brooks

Modern Foreign Languages

French:	Mrs Cormack
Spanish:	Mrs Cormack

Humanities

Classical Civilisation:	Ms Fox
Geography:	Ms Pearson
History:	Mr Sherwood
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics:	Mrs Dowglass

Optional Subjects

Art & Design:	Ms Blundell
Computer Science:	Mr Maddocks
Dance:	Ms Szkolar
Design & Technology:	Mr Pointer
Drama:	Mr Lias-Russell
Food Preparation & Nutrition:	Ms Tyson
Latin:	Miss Fox
Music:	Mr Walton
Physical Education:	Mr Freeland-Jones

You can also consult your Head of House, Miss English and Mrs Lainchbury if you have any general questions.

COMPULSORY COURSES

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Modern Foreign Languages
French
Spanish
The Sciences
Double Award
Triple Award

English Language

What we do

This GCSE develops the reading and writing skills necessary to an informed and enlightened life. Skills of understanding and inference are developed by reading a wide range of both literary and non-literary texts. Students are taught to write appropriately, coherently and expressively for many different purposes and audiences and in a variety of different forms. Students are taught to be confident readers and critics of contemporary and 19th Century texts.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED:

a) Unit 1: examination: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

– 50% of overall grade. Unseen texts exam.

This will include short comprehension questions on a piece of unseen fiction and a choice of two writing tasks, for example: describe a frightening experience.

b) Unit 2: examination: Writers' Viewpoints and Opinions

– 50% of overall grade. Unseen texts exam.

This examination will include comprehension questions on two non-fiction texts, including a comparison focusing on writers' viewpoints and how they are conveyed. It will also include a choice of two writing tasks, for example: write a letter or newspaper article or speech.

c) Unit 3: alongside preparation for the formal examinations, pupils' spoken language skills will be assessed in school. They will need to deliver a presentation and answer questions on their presentation. The marks will be reported as a separate grade alongside their final grade for English Language.

English Literature

What we do

The Literature course offers a variety of modern and traditional texts. The course builds an understanding of how writers create meaning and so develops students' awareness of the different techniques available to themselves as writers. Reading pleasure is increased commensurately with the awareness of how skilful good writing should be.

The texts chosen also open students' minds to the world in which they are growing up, developing all-important skills of empathy and understanding. The issues and messages dealt with are both engaging and challenging.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED:

a) Unit 1: Shakespeare & 19th Century Novel

('Much Ado About Nothing' / 'Frankenstein' or 'Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde')

50% of the overall grade. Closed book exam.

There are two different sections in this examination.

Section A: Students have to answer one question, focusing on how Shakespeare presents a theme. They are given one key scene as a starting point.

Section B: Students have to answer one question, focusing on how the writer of their second text presents a theme. They are given one key scene as a starting point.

b) Unit 2: Modern Prose

'Lord of the Flies', Power & Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry.

50% of the overall grade. Closed book exam.

There are two different sections in this examination.

Section A: Students are given a choice of two questions based on a character, theme or ideas from 'Lord of the Flies'.

Section B: Students need to compare one set poem from the Power & Conflict anthology with another Power & Conflict poem of their choice.

Section C: Students are given a contemporary unseen poem and answer one question. Students are then given a second contemporary unseen poem and are asked to compare the two.

Mathematics

All girls study Mathematics at GCSE. Because of the nature of the subject the GCSE course does not 'begin' in Year 10; you began your study of Mathematics when you first learned to count! The GCSE course covers work in number, algebra, shape and statistics, and there is a particular emphasis on problem solving. Some of the topics you will cover are 'useful in everyday life' but much of the course is intended instead to help you develop the much broader skills of logical thinking and attention to accuracy.

The Mathematics GCSE course taken at Brighton Girls is the Edexcel Linear GCSE 1MA1. Girls in Set 1 may be given opportunity to take the AQA Further Mathematics qualification and for a few pupils we may suggest the extremely challenging OCR Additional Mathematics (Level 3) course alongside their GCSE.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

This is a 100% examination subject. There will be three examinations, each 1 hour 30 minutes in length, at the end of Year 11. Each examination will contribute equally to the overall mark. Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper; the use of a calculator is allowed for Papers 2 and 3.

There are two tiers of entry, Higher and Foundation; the grades available on the Higher tier will be 9 down to 4, and on the Foundation tier 5 down to 1. The majority of the girls at Brighton Girls are entered for the Higher tier, however Set 4 are sometimes better suited to the Foundation tier. This decision, in consultation with parents, will generally be made after the Year 10 summer examinations, but it can even be delayed until after the Year 11 mock examinations so that the opportunity for Higher tier entry is kept open as long as possible for individual girls.

French

Why study French?

Modern languages have an increasingly important role to play in the 21st century. Now more than ever before, speaking another language is a distinct asset for any student in their chosen career. French remains a language of diplomacy and business across the world, with its 275 million speakers across the Francophone countries.

What we do

The new GCSE has been designed to create true linguists, with much more emphasis on independence and interaction in all skills. Students will have opportunities to learn more about the culture and identity of the target language countries. We will focus on building students' communication skills whilst ensuring that they have a deeper understanding of how language works (activating grammatical knowledge and understanding). The curriculum will provide opportunities to apply languages in personal, academic and employment-related contexts. There will be a greater focus on spontaneous talk and the inclusion of repair strategies as a skill. Students will also learn some translation skills, in a dynamic meaning-focused way, developing 'translanguaging skills' for the global labour force. Finally, the listening and reading exams will include literary texts to inform, inspire and as a stimulus for a personal response.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

Students are assessed in the four skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing) at the end of the two year course. The skills will have equal weighting to give an overall grade of 9 - 1.

Paper 1: Listening and understanding

Paper 2: Speaking

Paper 3: Reading and understanding

Paper 4: Writing

Spanish

Why study Spanish?

Modern languages have an increasingly important role to play in the 21st century. Now more than ever before, having a second language is a distinct asset for any student in their chosen career. Spanish is the language of Britain's most popular holiday destinations and is also of global importance as it is spoken in most Latin American countries.

What we do

The new GCSE has been designed to create true linguists, with much more emphasis on independence and interaction in all skills. Students will have opportunities to learn more about the culture and identity of the target language countries. We will focus on building students' communication skills whilst ensuring that they have a deeper understanding of how language works (activating grammatical knowledge and understanding). The curriculum will provide opportunities to apply languages in personal, academic and employment-related contexts. There will be a greater focus on spontaneous talk and the inclusion of repair strategies as a skill. Students will also learn some translation skills, in a dynamic meaning-focused way, developing 'translanguaging skills' for the global labour force. Finally, the listening and reading exams will include literary texts to inform, inspire and as a stimulus for a personal response.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

Students are assessed in the four skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing) at the end of the two year course. The skills will have equal weighting to give an overall grade of 9 - 1.

Paper 1: Listening and understanding

Paper 2: Speaking

Paper 3: Reading and understanding

Paper 4: Writing

The Sciences

What we do

Brighton Girls' students have been studying GCSE work since the beginning of Year 9.

OPTION 1: DOUBLE SCIENCE (COMBINED SCIENCE)

You will study each of the three sciences, as now, but a bit less of each one compared to those doing Triple Science. The grade attained at the end of the course **is an average from all three sciences combined**.

Two GCSE grades are awarded eg 6-6, 7-6, 7-7 etc.

Double Science is taught in sets.

HOW THIS OPTION IS EXAMINED

Each of the papers below are a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

Biology 2 papers each of 1 hour 15 minutes

Chemistry 2 papers each of 1 hour 15 minutes

Physics 2 papers each of 1 hour 15 minutes

OPTION 2: TRIPLE SCIENCE (3 SEPARATE SCIENCES)

The course leads to the award of a GCSE in **each** of the Sciences.

This option is for students who demonstrate clear evidence of very good scientific ability, as well as enjoying the three Sciences. They should be attaining marks of above 70-75% % in tests and at least 65% in the Y9 examinations.

We strongly recommend Double Science if a student is not academically suited to studying Triple Science after the Year 9 examination results.

HOW THE TRIPLE SCIENCE OPTION IS EXAMINED

Each of the papers below are a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

Biology 2 papers each of 1 hour 45 minutes

Chemistry 2 papers each of 1 hour 45 minutes

Physics 2 papers each of 1 hour 45 minutes

Both Double Science and Triple Science are 100% examination subjects as there are no controlled assessments. Practical skills are examined in each of the papers and are based on a standard set of experiments and their associated skills.

The Sciences (continued)

Tiers of entry

There are Foundation and Higher Tier papers for both GCSE options.

Higher Tier will award grades 4-9, with 9 being the top grade.

Foundation Tier will award grades 1-5 only.

For Double Science, the tier of entry is made on the evidence of examinations taken in Years 9-11. We expect most students to take the Higher Tier papers but some will benefit from taking the Foundation Tier.

Reasons to study

The sciences are enjoyable, rewarding, challenging and fun!

If you are considering Sciences at A Level and wish to pursue a higher education course in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science and other Science degrees, you are strongly advised to study Triple Science. However, **once again we reiterate you must possess good, proven scientific ability to study it.**

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

We strongly advise choosing at least one humanity (marked *)

If you choose Triple Science, you can choose two optional subjects.
Those choosing Double Science should choose three optional subjects.

Art & Design

Classics (Classical Civilisation)*

Computer Science

Dance

Design & Technology

Drama

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Geography*

History*

Latin

Music

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics*

Physical Education

Triple Science – please see page 15

Art & Design

Why study Art and Design?

Study of Art and Design at GCSE can lead to further study at A and AS Level, Foundation courses (pre-degree) and Degree courses in diverse areas such as graphics, computer graphics, fashion, photography, ceramics, product design, industrial design, sculpture, painting which lead to careers in illustration, graphic design, theatre design, fashion, gallery and museum work, teaching and many more. Further ideas can be gleaned from the handbooks 'Design Courses in Great Britain' and 'Careers in Art and Design' available in school. The study of Art can help you develop transferable skills which you can take into any career or job.

What we do

At GCSE we focus on developing basic skills in drawing and the manipulation of different media, the selection of appropriate media, processes and techniques in the exploration of a given theme or subject. This should include a good range of work from observation and the use of a sketchbook for research. Students develop a theme by exploring a range of visual sources and should be able to evaluate and modify their work in the light of their research. Credit is given for a personal response and independent working. 'Critical Studies' also plays an important role in GCSE Art. This includes looking at the work of artists and designers from diverse cultural backgrounds and relating this to their own work and a particular theme.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

- 1. Controlled Assessment:** All work completed during the course is submitted for assessment. It will include research, supporting studies and work showing the development of your ideas, plus final outcomes. Each candidate displays both components in an end-of-course exhibition.
- 2. Controlled Test / Final Examination:** There is a 10 hour exam in which candidates produce a final piece. The paper is given out at the beginning of February (in Year 11) and students have a minimum of 10 weeks in which to create their preparatory studies. It will take the form of a broad theme. All preparation and developmental work, along with a final piece, will then be submitted for assessment.

Both the above are assessed in school and moderated by an external examiner. 60% of your final grade is based on controlled assessment; the other 40% is based on the exam project.

Classical Civilisation

Why study Classical Civilisation?

Classical culture, history and literature lie at the very heart of our own civilisation. This subject enriches understanding of our own culture and, as a humanity, it combines well with both arts and sciences. The Classical Civilisation GCSE provides an interesting introduction to the major authors of the Classical world and its society, and develops an understanding of a culture which is firmly rooted in our own. No knowledge of Latin or Greek is required and no prior knowledge of the classical world is required for this GCSE.

What we do

Classical Civilisation involves the study of Greek and Roman life and literature. The syllabus has been designed to provide an introduction to the main literature and cities of the ancient world and through these to explore key aspects of ancient life.

The course is divided into two key areas:

- A thematic study of women in the ancient world: this is a comparative study of women in ancient Greece and Rome and combines literary and visual material. The unit explores the roles of women in all areas of society and looks at their portrayal in art and literature.
- The Homeric World. This unit contains two elements: an in-depth cultural study of the life and art of the Mycenaean age and the study of Homer's *Odyssey* in translation.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

We follow the OCR GCSE specification. The qualification consists of two papers:

Content	Duration	%
Unit J199/12: City Life in the Classical World	1½ hours (written)	50%
Unit J199/21: Epic and Myth	1½ hours (written)	50%

Computer Science

Why study Computer Science?

We are living in an age of extraordinary societal change as computers play an increasingly important part in all areas of life. Can you imagine a career in the future that will not involve using a computer in some way? Computer Science teaches you how computers are used to make the world work as it does. If you want to be more informed about what is going on when you interact with computers, you should study this course.

What we do

This course has a mixture of theory and practical skills. During most lessons you will be working with a computer. You will learn how to make a computer behave as you want, how computers work and the important components in them. You will learn how to use software packages, programming skills, and a variety of IT skills applicable in many contexts. There is a significant programming element in GCSE Computer Science; we will teach you how to program in Assembly and Python and guide you through the required practical programming project.

These are the areas you will study:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of computer technology;
- develop your knowledge and understanding of current and emerging technologies, how they work and can be applied in different contexts;
- acquire creative and technical skills in different software packages.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

There are two written examinations for this OCR GCSE in Computer Science (J277).

Content	Duration	%
Computer Systems	1 hour 30 min	50%
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	1 hour 30 min	50%

Dance

Why study Dance?

GCSE Dance is a hugely rewarding course that offers a dynamic mix of physical and mental challenge for those who are passionate about Dance. During the two-year course, you'll have the opportunity to develop a wide range of choreographic and performing skills that will help to drive your creativity and confidence.

You will explore a variety of Dance styles while studying professional dance works from internationally-renowned choreographers. You will also develop your interpretative, analytical and evaluative skills by considering how movement combines with costume, lighting, aural setting and staging to create impact and communicate an idea.

This course is a fantastic choice for those who are keen to deepen their intellectual curiosity and expand their artistic capabilities.

Are you ready to move your thinking?

What we do

The AQA GCSE (no tiers of entry) course covers:

- A variety of Dance styles and exciting repertory;
- Opportunities to choreograph and perform independently and in groups;
- Sophisticated approaches to choreography;
- Critical appreciation of six professional Dance works;
- A chance to reflect on how your choreographic choices and performing skills contribute to effective and engaging work;
- Safe and effective Dance practice.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

60% Practical Assessment and 40% Written Assessment

Written Assessment > Critical appreciation of Dance: 40%

- The written paper is 1hr 30 minutes and includes three sections: Choreographic processes and performing skills; critical appreciation of own work; and critical appreciation of professional works.

Practical Assessment > Performance: 30%

- Students perform two 30-second solos (choreographed by the Exam Board) and a duet/trio (choreographed in-house), where they will be assessed on their demonstration of physical, technical, mental and expressive skills.

Practical Assessment > Choreography: 30%

- Students choreograph a piece in response to an externally set stimulus. Students are assessed on how creatively and effectively their use of choreographic content and aural setting communicates their chosen intent.

To support students' performance skills, we hold weekly after-school technique classes, which are compulsory for GCSE Dance students. As well as extra-curricular performance opportunities, GCSE Dancers will have the chance to see live Dance work and take part in workshops with professional artists.

Design & Technology

Why study Design & Technology?

The world of technology is significantly changing. In a really short space of time, innovation and invention in design have changed almost every aspect of how we live. Studying Design & Technology will put students at the forefront of these changes and prepare them to be the new leaders of the next generation. Design & Technology encompasses a wide variety of topics and has many cross curricular links with Science, Maths, History and Art.

Students will collaborate on live projects and discover new ways of working with a range of materials and equipment. Students will combine modern and traditional working techniques, using machinery and computer-aided design symbiotically.

How will it be assessed?

The exam board we will be using is AQA and the course title is GCSE Design & Technology. The course itself will be made up of 50% exam and 50% coursework. The exam will take place at the end of Year 11 and will be 2 hours long. It will be made up of mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

The other 50% will be a Non-Exam Assessment and students will follow a brief to design and make a product of their own invention.

There has never been a more exciting time to get into Design & Technology, and there are an exceptional range of career opportunities for those who study this subject. Students can go on to study Architecture, Engineering, Fashion Design, Product Design and Electronics.

Lessons will include:

- Develop problem-solving skills
- Following the iterative design process
- Work on a “live” design brief
- Work with a range of machinery including a laser cutter
- Create a digital portfolio

Drama

Why study Drama?

Drama builds self-confidence and will help you with the presentation skills which are so important in any future career. The Drama GCSE will appeal to students who enjoy working closely with other people and using their own ideas to produce a variety of styles of drama. The course is very enjoyable and open to anyone who enjoys Drama and Theatre.

What we do

The course consists of devising improvised work in groups, performing extracts from plays and designing costumes, sets or make-up. There will also be opportunities to participate in backstage work such as stage management and lighting. We visit the theatre on a regular basis.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

The practical work is 60% of the final mark and 40% of the marks come from the written paper.

The written paper consists of one paper of 1 hour and 45 minutes, Component 1, which assesses:

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre;
- Study of one set play which can be taken into the exam;
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

For the practical, there are two components:

Component 2 - Devising Drama which assesses:

- Process of creating devised drama (including a devising log);
- Performance of devised drama;
- Analysis and evaluation of own work.

This accounts for 40% of the final mark and is assessed by the teacher and moderated by AQA.

Component 3 - Texts in practice (practical) which assesses:

- Performance of two extracts from one play (free choice of play);

This accounts for 20% of the final mark and is assessed by AQA.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

The food industry employs 2.5 million people in the UK and over 4 billion worldwide. Food graduates in food science, product development and nutrition and health will have no trouble gaining employment as there is a national shortage of qualified food scientists, nutritionists and specialists and starting salaries are high. Other possible careers include education, nursing, hotel and leisure management, culinary arts and health education. It is also a good basis for anyone thinking of going into a medical or science profession. It is a life skill and a fun, social and enjoyable practical subject.

This course is exciting and creative and focuses on practical skills. The course will ensure that students develop an understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. Students will also learn about British and international culinary traditions, food security and food safety. At the heart of the qualification is a focus on developing practical cookery skills and a strong understanding of nutrition. The emphasis is upon enabling learners to make connections between theory and practice and apply understanding of food and nutrition when preparing and cooking food.

What we do

The specification has been organised into the following sections:

- Cooking and food preparation skills (12 skills groups have been integrated throughout the specification to link theory and practical together);
- Food commodities;
- Principles of nutrition;
- Diet and good health;
- The science of food;
- Where food comes from.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

Two tasks must be completed:

1. The Food Investigation – 15% and 10 hours of work including scientific experiment
2. The Food Preparation Assessment – 35% and 20 hours of work, including a 3 hour practical task.

Single examination paper – 50%

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes duration

- **Section A** involves questions based on stimulus material
- **Section B** contains a variety of questions varying in styles of structure and content.

Geography

Why study Geography?

Geography studies the Earth and its peoples - it enquires into places where people and environments meet in the real world – developing awareness and understanding of the world, including how different landscapes have developed, the impact of local and global weather conditions and the importance of safeguarding the environment. As international links become closer, easier and faster and populations grow and become more culturally diverse, we need to understand our world, protect our resources and understand and appreciate the cultures, backgrounds and surroundings of people from all over the world. Geography is really a 'catch-all' term as it incorporates so many other subjects ranging from glaciology and oceanography to demography and migration issues. During the GCSE course we will investigate issues of sustainability – and review questions such as will the earth continue to provide sufficient resources?

Geography is a multi-skilled subject and is regarded by the Russell Group of universities as a highly valuable facilitating subject. It will help you to develop a range of transferable skills such as decision-making, research, evaluation, data collection and report writing. In addition you will further develop your ICT skills in a range of challenging contexts such as use of GIS and the Internet, and experience of manipulating data using software such as spreadsheets and graphics packages.

There are also trip opportunities - practical fieldwork investigations in varied contexts.

What we do

The Edexcel Geography Specification B has three externally examined units comprising of the following:

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues

- Hazardous Earth;
- Development Dynamics;
- Challenges of an Urbanising World.

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues

- The UK's evolving physical landscape - to include coastal change and conflict and river processes and pressures.
- The UK's evolving human landscape - including a case study - Dynamic UK cities.
- Geographical fieldwork investigations - including one physical topic and one human topic.

Component 3: People and Environment Issues: Making Geographical Decisions

- People and the biosphere;
- Forests under threat;
- Consuming energy resources;
- Making a geographical decision.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

There will be three 90 minute exams. Papers 1 and 2 include multiple choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and extended writing questions worth eight marks. Paper 3 includes a section called 'Making a geographical decision'. This has a choice of one from three decisions assessed through a 12 mark extended writing question.

History

Why study History?

Any intelligent individual should be taking an interest in the world around them, and yet it is often impossible to understand what you see unless you know how it got to be that way; if you don't understand where we have come from, you will find it hard to work out where we are going. History will give you this perspective.

GCSE History will teach you about:

- how the key events of the last century have shaped our lives now;
- how medicine has developed over the past centuries;
- how our surroundings and locality can shape events.

In addition, the study of History will give you the ability to handle facts and arguments with confidence, and to take a critical and informed view of the information you receive about the world in which you live.

The debates and heated discussions in class all help to bring these stimulating and controversial periods to life.

The skills and knowledge GCSE History will give you are hugely transferrable – analysing and organising evidence are crucial to careers such as journalism or law, producing a clear and closely argued report is essential in just about any career, and knowing something about the history of medicine would be a boon to any potential doctor.

What we do

The GCSE History course followed at Brighton Girls is the AQA specification. We start with Germany 1895-1945, looking at the way it lurched from the dictatorship of the Kaiser to democracy in the 1920s, before sliding into dictatorship under Hitler once more. We then move on to look at the way the pressures on the post-war world in 1945 led to the Cold War. We will be organising a trip to Berlin to support these elements of the course.

These international topics are followed by two British modules – Health and the People, looking at how medicine has changed from Roman times right up to the present day. We will also study Restoration England, looking at the reign of Charles II through the study of a particular site.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

There are two two-hour papers, both of which are taken at the end of Year 11 and which have equal importance. The first paper will cover the international topics (Germany, the Cold War), the second will cover the British topics (Medicine, the Restoration).

There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Latin

Why study Latin?

Latin is the root of most European languages. Knowledge of Latin will enrich students' vocabulary generally and will aid more specialised subjects such as Medicine and Law. The subject carries great weight with employers and university admission tutors, and it combines well with both arts and science subjects. The Latin GCSE provides an interesting introduction to the major authors of the Roman world and its society, and develops an understanding of a language and culture which is firmly rooted in our own.

What we do

Latin involves both the learning of the language and the study of Roman life and literature. The syllabus has been designed for students who follow the Suburani course and the GCSE continues using this course from the chapter reached at the end of Year 9 developing grammatical, comprehension and translation skills.

For the language element of the course students learn how to translate passages of Latin and answer comprehension questions on them; themes include mythology, domestic life and history. Selections of poetry and prose are also studied. The prose selection includes Apuleius' story of the witches of Thessaly. The poetry includes Ovid's account of the story of Echo and Narcissus and a selection of the love poems of Catullus.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

We follow the OCR GCSE specification. The qualification consists of three papers:

Content	Duration	%
Unit J282/01: Latin Language	1½ hours	50%
Unit J282/03: Prose Literature	1 hour	25%
Unit J282/04: Verse Literature	1 hour	25%

Music

Why study Music?

If you love Music and want a course that will develop you as an all-round musician this is the course for you! Anyone who enjoys working in groups, who is keen to work on their performance skills and wants to produce their own music will relish taking the subject. It is a great combination of a very creative subject where most of the assessment is practical with the academic study of music that touches on many different subject areas and skills including the Humanities, Literature and the other Performing Arts.

What we do

We learn to improve our performance skills throughout the course building up to final assessed performances in Year 11. Each half term we have a performance week (similar to your recent Year 9 performances). Keen singers and instrumentalists can take the course; if you are not currently having individual singing or instrumental lessons it is recommended that you start these in Year 10.

We learn to compose music, which builds on our composition work in Year 9. Depending on your strengths you can use different technology to help with this. For example, you could use Sibelius or GarageBand and specialise in different styles (such as classical or pop song writing).

We also study a wide range of music set by the exam board. The areas of study are Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Pop Music. When we study a piece of music, we consider its historical and social background and evaluate how effectively the composer has used different musical elements. Theatre and concert trips will complement this part of the course. This part of the course is accessible to those who are currently less confident music readers and you would be supported in improving general theory knowledge.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

- Students will perform (sing or play) two pieces. One will be a solo in any style and the other will be an ensemble piece. These are recorded and marked by the teacher. 30% of the overall marks are awarded for this unit.
- Students will also compose two pieces of music. One piece is based on a brief set by the exam board and the other is a free choice. The two pieces will be marked by the teacher and account for 30% of overall marks.
- There is a listening/appraising examination (40%) at the end of the course based on the set works. Students are tested on their knowledge and listening skills with shorter style listening questions, some general musical tests and one more extended piece of writing.

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Why study Philosophy, Religion & Ethics?

The world needs passionate, intelligent thinkers, thinkers who are both ethically informed and spiritually literate. This is the only GCSE course which will equip you to save the world! We debate current moral and philosophical issues from different perspectives, both religious and non-religious. You will be encouraged to be self-motivated, inquisitive, argumentative, and controversial. You will be taught how to think in an informed way, not what to think. If you want to know how enjoyable and challenging this course is, ask any GCSE student.

What we do

We choose four topics from the following six philosophical and ethical studies themes and two case studies of religion:

- **Theme A: Relationships and families.** Is human sexuality fluid? Are parents doing a good enough job? Why is same-sex marriage not global? Are women equal in marriage?
- **Theme B: Life.** Is abortion morally acceptable? Should people be allowed to choose when they die? Has the Big Bang disproved the existence of God?
- **Theme C: Philosophy.** What is real? Why is there pain and suffering? Does every effect have a cause? Can you get something out of nothing?
- **Theme D: Peace and conflict.** Why is terrorism not ok? Is it ever right to kill a child in war?
- **Theme E: Crime and punishment.** Should drug addicts be sent to prison? Is the death penalty wrong? Is any person evil?
- **Theme F: Human rights and social justice.** Do women have equal rights? Why are LGBT+ people persecuted worldwide?

These ethical and philosophical issues are explored from secular (non-religious) points of view (e.g. atheist & humanist) and also from two different religious perspectives.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

There are two written exams of 1 hour 45 minutes each. Each paper is worth 50% of the GCSE.

Physical Education

Why study Physical Education?

Do you enjoy performing in sport? Are you interested in the thought processes involved in participation and the social perspectives of sport? Have you considered how the body can use its energy systems to work at a high intensity for a long duration of time? Have you ever wondered why professionals take drugs? Why violence is often seen in sport? If you've answered 'yes' to any or all of these questions, GCSE PE is for you!

Studying GCSE Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports, you will also develop a wide-ranging knowledge into the hows and whys of physical activity and sport. This is an interesting and challenging learning experience, in which we introduce key sporting ideas and show how these interact with theoretical and practical performance.

The qualification can lead to further study in Physical Education and can prepare you for a career as a Sports Coach, Physical Education Teacher, Physiotherapist or Sports Psychologist amongst many others.

What we do

PE is understood through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on our lives and those of others. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people outperform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

The course introduces the key concepts of Physical Education, relating these to performance, whilst developing your knowledge, competence and confidence in a wide variety of skills. Once you understand the impact your lifestyle choices have on your physical aptitude, you will be able to combine academic study and physical performance to learn how to encourage, motivate and improve performance through application of the theory.

HOW IT IS EXAMINED

- Three practical assessments (30% - internally assessed and externally moderated)
- A piece of coursework on Analysis of Performance (10% - internally assessed and externally moderated)
- Two written examinations at the end of the two-year course (60% - externally examined)

GCSE Courses Reference Grid

Subject	Board & Code	Weblink	Examined %	Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)%
Art & Design	Edexcel 1FAO	www.edexcel.com	40%	60%
Classical Civ	OCR J199	www.ocr.org.uk	100%	0%
Computer Science	OCR J277	www.ocr.org.uk	100%	0%
Dance	AQA 8236	www.aqa.org.uk	40%	60%
Design & Tech	AQA 8552	www.aqa.org.uk	50%	50%
Drama	AQA 8261	www.aqa.org.uk	40%	60%
English Lang	AQA 8700	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700	100%	0%
English Lit	AQA 8702	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702	100%	0%
Food Prep & Nutrition	Eduqas/WJEC C560P1	www.eduqas.co.uk	50%	50%
French	AQA 8658	www.aqa.org.uk	100%	0%
Geography	B1GB0	www.edexcel.org.uk	100%	0%
History	AQA 8145	www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145	100%	0%
Latin	OCR J282 B 1GB0	www.ocr.org.uk	100%	0%
Mathematics	Edexcel Linear GCSE 1MA1	www.edexcel.com	100%	0%
Music	WJEC Eduqas C660QS	www.eduqas.co.uk	40%	60%
PE	OCR J587	www.ocr.org.uk	60%	40%
Philosophy	AQA 8062	www.aqa.org.uk	100%	0%
Religion & Ethics				
Spanish	AQA 8698	www.aqa.org.uk	100%	0%
Combined Science (aka Double Science)	AQA 8464	www.aqa.org.uk	100%	0%
Triple Science	AQA	www.aqa.org.uk	100%	0%
	Biology 8461			
	Chemistry 8462			
	Physics 8463			

An A-Z Guide

TO UNIVERSITY SUBJECTS AND RECOMMENDED A-LEVEL CHOICES 2024

Universities have differing requirements. The following is a guide to what is typical but, if in doubt, please consult Mrs Lainchbury.

Accountancy: Maths is recommended by some universities but most departments have no specific requirements. There can be GCSE Maths grade requirements.

Ancient History: No subjects specified. Can be studied without Latin or Greek and can be combined with archaeology.

Architecture: Art often strongly recommended, as a portfolio of work usually has to be submitted. Maths and/or physics can be beneficial, although most departments only require these subjects to GCSE.

Art: Art, followed by a foundation art course.

Biochemistry: Chemistry usually required, with biology and/or maths recommended.

Biological Sciences: Biology usually required. Some top departments also require or recommend one of physics, chemistry or maths.

Business: No subjects normally specified, but A-level maths required or preferred by some universities.

Chemical Engineering: A-level maths, physics and chemistry. Further maths is helpful on the most competitive courses.

Chemistry: Chemistry A-level. Maths essential for some. Physics desirable.

Classical Civilization: No subjects specified.

Classics: Most universities require either Latin or Greek A-level.

Computer Science: Maths A-level. For Cambridge and Imperial, further maths and a physical science recommended.

Criminology: No subjects specified. These courses often prefer students to have studied at least one humanity e.g. history, politics, psychology.

Dance: Dance A level is usually required or recommended. An A-Level in other Arts or performance subjects could be helpful.

Dentistry: Biology and chemistry usually required. Manual dexterity important.

Drama: No subjects specified. These courses are often extremely competitive and extensive relevant practical experience is required.

Economics: Maths is usually required, and compulsory at leading universities. Further maths is preferable for Cambridge and LSE. Economics strongly recommended.

Engineering: Maths and physics. Further maths recommended, especially for Oxbridge.

English: English Literature A-level is usually recommended, at least. History and languages (ancient or modern) can be good supporting subjects.

Food Science and related degrees: Chemistry and Biology are required.

French: French A-level usually required for single-honours, although there is more flexibility on combined programmes.

Geography: Geography A-level is usually required or recommended. Maths or a science can be helpful.

German: An A-level foreign language is required, though not necessarily German.

Global/International Development: No subjects specified. These courses often prefer students to have studied at least one of the following: geography, economics and a science.

History: A-level History is specified by several and recommended for others. A foreign language can be useful, but is not required.

History of Art: History, art, English or a language recommended for Oxbridge, although they are not required for admission.

Human Sciences: Biology often required. Maths, sciences or geography can be useful.

International Relations: No subjects specified. These courses often prefer students to have studied at least one humanity e.g. history, politics, psychology.

Italian: An A-level foreign language is required, though not necessarily Italian.

Land Economy: No subjects normally specified, but geography, economics and maths are helpful.

Law: No subject requirements, although at least one subject which involves use of language and/or essay writing is advised. A-level foreign language required for international law. Law A-Level is not required or deemed to be rigorous enough to be recommended by Russell Group and Oxbridge.

Liberal Arts: No specific requirements, although a bias towards arts subjects (e.g. English, music, theatre, philosophy, history) is usually expected.

Mathematics: Maths is required, with further maths highly desirable and physics recommended.

Medicine: Chemistry is required and biology is advised at most medical schools.

Music: Music A-level is strongly recommended or required. A European language is recommended for Cambridge.

Natural Sciences (Biological): Biology and chemistry essential and maths or physics helpful.

Natural Sciences (Physical): Chemistry, maths and physics are advised. Further maths recommended.

Nursing: No specific requirements – an EPQ based in medicine or care giving would be an advantage.

Oriental Studies: A modern language required and evidence of commitment to this course.

Philosophy: No subjects specified but a subject which demonstrates logical thought (e.g. maths) is highly recommended. Philosophy is very useful for courses which interview.

Physics: Physics and maths. Further maths very helpful, especially for the more competitive courses.

Politics: No subjects specified, though politics would be helpful.

Product Design: Most universities recommend art, and it is often well supported by physics.

Psychology: Often no specific requirements. The most competitive, and scientific, courses will require two of the following subjects: psychology, biology, physics or maths.

Sociology: No subjects specified. These courses often prefer students to have studied at least one humanity e.g. history, politics, psychology.

Spanish: An A-level foreign language is required, which sometimes has to be Spanish.

Theology: No subjects specified.

Veterinary Science: Chemistry and usually biology are required. Some courses have a preference for either maths or physics as a third A-level.

Zoology: Chemistry and usually biology are required. Some courses have a preference for either maths or physics as a third A-level.

Sixth Form Recent Leavers

Pembroke College, University of Cambridge / Engineering

University College London / Biomedical Sciences / Biochemistry

Durham University / Computer Science / Mathematics

University of Birmingham / Medicine / Liberal Arts

Central Saint Martins University of the Arts / Textile Design

University College London / Classics

University of Bath / Robotics Engineering

University of Exeter / English and Modern Languages

King's College London, University of London / Medicine

Oxford Brookes University / Criminology / Business Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

University of Brighton / Psychology and Criminology

University of Sheffield / Psychology

University of Westminster / Marketing Management

University of Nottingham / Medicine

University of Leicester / Biological Sciences (Genetics)

University College London / Law

Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance / Ballet and Contemporary Dance

Brighton Met / Art and Design Foundation

Edge Hill University / Psychology

University of Sussex / Biomedical Science

University of York / Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance

University of Bath / Management with Marketing

University of Leeds / Modern Languages and International Relations

University of East Anglia / English Literature with Creative Writing







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For further information, please contact the Admissions Department on +44(0)1273 280 280 or via email to admissions@brightongirls.gdst.net

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