



Year 9 Options Booklet

Llyfryn Opsiynau Blwyddyn 9

2025

A guide to KS4
courses at
Islwyn High
School



Please note that the options/ qualifications on offer within this booklet are subject to the number of pupils opting to follow these courses and the availability of staff to teach specific subjects; we reserve the right to amend our offer based on this information.

Contents / Tudalen Cynnwys:

Pages 1-4: Introduction, including types of qualification

Pages 5-7: The options process, including key dates

Pages 8-16: Core subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Skills
- Equality and Diversity
- Welsh

Pages 18-19 Core PE and PSE

Pages 20-43 Option Courses:

p.22-23	Art
p.24-25	Business Studies
p.26	Computer Science
p.27	Level 1/2 [BTEC] Construction in the Build Environment
p.28	Geography
p.29	Health and Social Care, and Childcare
p.30-31	History
p.32	Hospitality and Catering
p.33	Level 1/2 [Vocational Award] ICT
p.34	Media Studies
p.35	Music
p.36	Performing Arts
p.37	Physical Education
p.38	Product Design
p.39	Religious Studies
p.40	Separate Science: Triple Award
p.41	Sociology
p.42-43	Spanish

A guide to KS4 courses at Islwyn High School

Canllaw i gyrsiau CA4 yn Ysgol Uwchradd Islwyn

Dear parents / carers,

I hope that you find this booklet helpful in providing information about the choices available to your child in year 9, and how to set about making such choices with them. The Key Stage 4 (school years 10 and 11) curriculum introduces possible new courses and high expectations for your child.

In this booklet you will find information regarding the courses available for each option subject. It includes details such as assessment, including examinations and coursework, and an outline of topics and concepts taught. Hopefully, this will enable you and your child to make informed decisions about which subjects they would like to study over the next two years.

Due to timetabling constraints, it is not always possible for students to take their first choice subject in every instance, but we will make every effort to ensure that the Key Stage 4 pathway followed by your child is purposeful and allows them to progress once they leave Islwyn High.

If you require any more information regarding the options process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

Mr D. Price

Head of Year

The Learning Pathway - Y Llwybr Dysgu



The curriculum is divided into core subjects i.e. subjects that ALL students must study; and options, giving students a chance to choose some of their subjects.

Core Subjects (qualifications)	English, Mathematics, Science, Equality and Diversity, Welsh, Skills Challenge Certificate
Core Subjects (not examined) (Health and Wellbeing)	PSE, Physical Education
Options	<p>GCSE: Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, Geography, Health and Social Care & Childcare, History, Media Studies, Music, PE, Product Design, Religious Studies, Sociology*, Spanish, Separate Science: Triple Award**</p> <p>Vocational GCSE: Construction, Hospitality and Catering, ICT, Performing Arts</p>

* WJEC Eduqas graded 9 – 1

***Dependent upon final curriculum model, the 'Separate Science: Triple Award' course may be followed by certain classes rather than remain an option choice*

When choosing your options, consider the following points:

	
Choose subjects you enjoy	Choose a subject because your friend is taking it
Choose subjects that you are good at	Reject a subject because you think it's 'for girls' or 'for boys'
Find out which subjects you need if you have a chosen career in mind	Choose or reject a subject because you either like or dislike the teacher
Keep your options open by making a <i>balanced</i> choice	Choose a subject only because you think it will be easy
Talk to your careers advisor and your teachers	Choose a new subject without finding out more about it
Talk to your parents and family	Decide at the last minute

TYPES OF QUALIFICATIONS

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

Many of the subjects available are taught as GCSE courses. These courses are suitable for the many students within the year group. All GCSE qualifications include at least one external written exam and some also have controlled assessments (coursework tasks completed in supervised environments within a given time period). The examinations and controlled assessments are scheduled during *years 10 and 11*. Within some subjects there is a choice of tier which will give learners the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt at the most appropriate level.

GCSE results are graded from A* to G (apart from Sociology which is graded 9 to 1). Each of these grades represents a pass at GCSE level. A 'U' grade, 'Unclassified', signifies that a student has failed to gain the qualification.

If a student gains a grade D to G it is classified as a Level 1 qualification. Grades C to A* are categorized as Level 2 qualifications. The level of qualification will support their direction of progression after completing year 11.

Vocational Courses

We recommend that a number of students choose vocational courses as at least one of their options. These courses are designed to enable students to achieve a qualification with a more practical, modular approach yet still maintaining an element of rigour with an external examination as part of the core learning. They are an alternative but equivalent pathway through education and suit the learning styles of many students over the traditional system of examinations. Each unit is assessed as the course progresses and students will be awarded an overall grade of Level 1 or 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction at the end of the two year course. These courses have an equivalent GCSE grade weighting to support progression at the end of year 11.

The Process

Tuesday 4 th March 2025	Initial email to parents/carers fo Year 9 pupils outlining the 'options process' and timeline
March - April 2025	Information booklet shared with parents/carers and students (subject/course videos to follow online)
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening – an opportunity to speak with subject teachers regarding potential course options; Careers Wales adviser also on-site
April - May 2025	In-lesson and assembly talks (from subject specialists and Heads of Department) with a particular emphasis on courses which have not been studied at Key Stage 3
June (dates to be announced)	Option column information distributed with final deadline for options to be made

When initial choices are processed, students' options will be reviewed and, in some cases, interviews will be scheduled with staff to ensure their choices are appropriate and they have chosen the best courses to pursue successfully given their strengths and needs.

However please note the following:

- Each student is asked to make two choices in each column. They should think carefully about the second subject as it is not always possible to meet everyone's first choice. For example, the numbers opting for a course could be so low that it is not viable to run it. Equally, it may be that a course attracts more students than can be accommodated; in such an events we will take into account previous commitment to the subject and the individual's ability to benefit from the course.

Support for Students

We recommend that each student discusses their choices with as many people as possible as they can offer impartial and objective advice and support them in this process:

- Students already studying the subject in years 10 and 11
- Parents and family
- Subject teachers
- Form teacher
- Year Team: (Head of Year) Mr Price dprice@islwynhigh.org
- Careers advisor: Sara Llewellyn sara.llewellyn@careerswales.gov.wales

Remember, each course lasts for *two years*, and to be successful students will need to work hard, meet deadlines and complete all assessments.

If they have a particular career in mind, check if any particular subjects are required. Also have a look at careers that are available within chosen subject areas.



Pupil Voice

Here are some comments from previous Year 11 pupils

What factors did you consider when choosing your options?

- Future courses at college
- Future career
- Subjects I enjoyed
- Subjects I was likely to do well in
- I chose subjects that I wanted to do, not what my friends wanted to do
- As I don't know what I want to do in the future I chose a range of subjects to keep my options open.

What have you done to maximise your success in the courses you have studied?

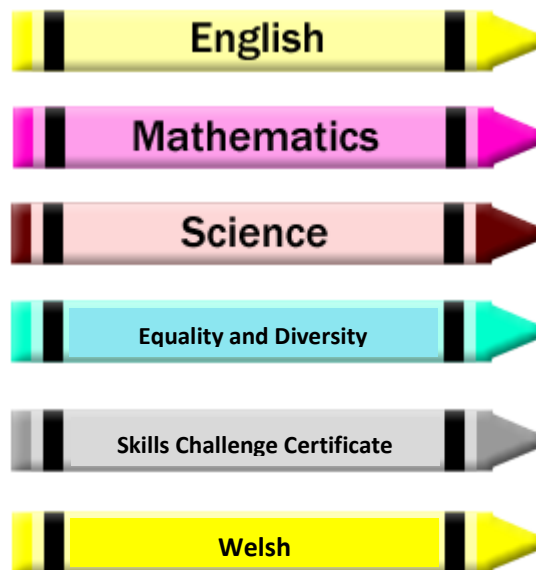
- Attend revision classes
- Revise more at home
- Ask for help from my teachers when I need it
- Attempt past paper questions to improve the types of questions I will be asked
- Revisit my classwork for 10 minutes each evening
- Completed the coursework to the best of my ability.

What advice would you give younger students starting Key Stage 4?

- Choose subjects you enjoy and think about what you want to do in the future
- Work hard in both lessons and at home to understand all the work covered
- Be organised; this helps as you get a lot of work and need to be more independent
- Don't choose subjects you don't like
- Work hard from the start until the end because everything you do will affect your results
- Work to deadlines
- Teachers will always help you if you ask
- Work hard in all your subjects to make sure your future is full of opportunities especially if you do not know what you want to do yet.

Belong... Believe... Achieve...

Core Examination Subjects



**Pynciau Arholiad
Craidd**

English Language and Literature

COURSE OUTLINE

From September 2025, all KS4 pupils will follow a new combined GCSE (either double award or single award). This course enables pupils to:

- appreciate how language connects us to the world around us through engagement with the spoken word and written texts from a range of times, places and cultures;
- read and listen to a range of spoken and written texts, considering how language, register and style convey meaning;
- understand the significance of purpose, audience, medium and context when communicating, expressing, understanding and responding to language;
- express themselves in speaking and writing through clear, accurate, fluent and creative use of English;
- develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary, grammar and use of the English language

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The vast majority of pupils will study the double award course. This will include:

- A range of poetry (both studied and unseen)
- A range of non-fiction texts such as articles, reviews and autobiographies
- 'A Christmas Carol' – Charles Dickens
- 'An Inspector Calls' – J. B. Priestley
- 'Macbeth' or 'Romeo and Juliet' – William Shakespeare

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Single Award

- **Unit 1: Context and Meaning** – 30% written examination, 60 marks
- **Unit 2: Belonging** – 20% Non Examination Assessment (NEA), 60 marks
- **Unit 3: Influence and Power** – 20% NEA, 50 marks
- **Unit 4a: Motivations** – 30% written examination, 60 marks

Double Award

- **Unit 1: Context and Meaning** – 15% written examination, 60 marks
- **Unit 2: Belonging** – 10% Non Examination Assessment (NEA), 60 marks
- **Unit 3: Influence and Power** – 10% NEA, 50 marks
- **Unit 4a: Motivations** – 20% written examination, 60 marks
- **Unit 5: Continuity and Change** – 20% NEA, 60 marks
- **Unit 6: Connections** – 25% written examination, 80 marks

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

- Writing and Media – author, journalist, editor, copywriter, scriptwriter, content creator
- Marketing and Communication – PR specialist, social media manager, advertising executive
- Education and Academia – teacher, lecturer, tutor, researcher
- Law and Politics – lawyer (with further study), paralegal, political advisor, speechwriter
- Business and Management – HR, corporate trainer, business analyst
- Creative Industries – playwright, theatre director, actor, literary agent
- Translation and Linguistics – translator, interpreter, lexicographer

Mathematics

COURSE OUTLINE

All learners will follow the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy. This is a double award qualification meaning that it is worth two GCSEs.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy. This is a written examination which constitutes 30% of the qualification. Questions will be set in personal and other real-world contexts. A calculator will be allowed in this paper.

Unit 2: Non-calculator. This is a written examination which constitutes 30% of the qualification. The paper will include context-free questions and questions set in mathematical and other contexts. A calculator will not be allowed in this paper.

Unit 3: Calculator-allowed. This is a written examination which constitutes 40% of the qualification. The paper will include a mix of questions set in real-world and other contexts, and context-free questions. A calculator will be allowed in this paper.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

There will be two tiers of entry for this qualification: Higher: A*-D; Foundation: C - G

Over the two year course, learners will study

- Number
- Algebra
- Shape, space and measures
- Handling data
- Probability

Pupils will also develop skills including written communication, problem solving, working with others and improving their own learning.

FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS OFFERED

Some learners will complete the Entry Level Mathematics-Numeracy qualification in year ten before going on to study the double award qualification in year eleven.

For some Learners there is an opportunity to study Additional Mathematics in Year 11 which is excellent preparation for further Mathematical study post 16.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Mathematics at GCSE is required for a wide variety of careers, with many asking for at least a B or C grade. A high grade at GCSE provides good preparation for AS/A2 Mathematics along with science, finance and computing based courses. Many Universities require a good GCSE grade in Mathematics to access their courses.

Science: Double Award

At Islwyn High School there are three qualifications offered to pupils: **WJEC SEPARATE Science: Triple Award** (3GCSEs); **WJEC GCSE Double Award Science (2 GCSEs)**; WJEC GCSE Single Award Applied Science (1 GCSE).

The majority of pupils will study either Double Award or Single Award Science. However, pupils will have the option to choose to study Triple Award Science as one of their options. Depending on progress, personal interest, aspirations and the advice of teaching staff, students will study Science in one of the three courses.

COURSE OUTLINE

The WJEC GCSE Science (Double Award) specification provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, Science and to recognise its importance in their own lives and to society. Studying GCSE Science (Double Award) provides the foundations for understanding the material world.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two tiers of entry: Higher Tier (Grades A*-D) and Foundation Tier (Grades C – G). **All students are awarded TWO GCSE Grades.**

The Double Award qualification consists of:

Qualification Unit	Weighting
Unit 1: BIOLOGY 1 – Yr. 10	15%
Unit 2: CHEMISTRY 1 – Yr. 10	15%
Unit 3: PHYSICS 1 – Yr. 10	15%
Unit 4: BIOLOGY 2 – Yr. 11	15%
Unit 5: CHEMISTRY 2 – Yr. 11	15%
Unit 6: PHYSICS 2 – Yr. 11	15%
Units 1 - 6 all consist of: Written examination: 1hr 15 minutes. A mix of short answer, structured, extended writing and data response questions with some set in a practical context.	
UNIT 7: PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT Practical Assessments are carried out in centres but are externally marked by the WJEC. These take place in the spring term (Jan-Feb) of Year 11.	10%

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students cover a large range of topics across the three disciplines including: Cells, The Human Body and its Functions, Plants and Photosynthesis, Ecosystems, Classification, Disease, Atomic Structure and Bonding, Chemical reactions, Metals, The Periodic Table, Acids, Bases and Salts, Electricity, Waves, Energy, Motion, Radiation, Stars and Planets.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Scientific understanding changes our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. High grades at Science (Double Award) provides a good foundation for not only the continuation of all Science courses but also in a variety of non-science based careers and qualifications.

Science: Single Award

At Islwyn High School there are three qualifications offered to pupils: WJEC Triple Science (3GCSEs); WJEC GCSE Double Award Science (2 GCSEs); **WJEC GCSE Single Award Applied Science (1 GCSE)**.

The majority of pupils will study either Double Award or Single Award Science. However, pupils will have the option to choose to study Triple Award Science as one of their options. Depending on progress, personal interest, aspirations and the advice of teaching staff, students will study Science in one of the three courses.

COURSE OUTLINE

The WJEC GCSE Applied Science (Single Award) specification utilises a context led approach to science learning and assessment. It provides learners with a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. Studying the GCSE Applied Science (Single Award) provides insight into, and experience of how Science works, whilst stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging them to develop an understanding of Science, its applications and its relationship to the individual and society. This GCSE is not designed to enable progression to level 3 qualifications in Science.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two tiers of entry: Higher Tier (Grades A*-D) and Foundation Tier (Grades C – G). **All students are awarded ONE GCSE Grade.**

This qualification consists of:

Qualification Unit	Weighting
Unit 1: SCIENCE IN THE MODERN WORLD – Yr. 10 Written examination: 1hr 30 minutes. A mix of short answer, structured, extended writing and data response questions with some set in a practical context.	40 %
Unit 2: SCIENCE TO SUPPORT OUR LIFESTYLES – Yr. 11 Written examination: 1hr 30 minutes. A mix of short answer, structured, extended writing and data response questions with some set in a practical context.	30%
Unit 3: TASK BASED ASSESSMENT – Yr. 11 A task based assessment which is externally assessed by WJEC. It will take place in the second half of the autumn term (November – December) of Year 11.	20%
Unit 4: PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT Practical Assessments that are carried out in centres but are externally marked by WJEC. These take place in the spring term (Jan-Feb) of Year 11.	10%

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students cover a large range of topics including: Modern Living and Energy, Obtaining Resources from our Planet, Our Planet, Protecting our Environment, Health, Fitness and Sport, Controlling Processes.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

This GCSE is designed to nurture scientific interest and is not designed to enable progression to Level 3 qualifications in Science. However the ideas, principles and skills learnt throughout the course will enable students to make better sense of the everyday world around them.

Equality and Diversity

COURSE OUTLINE

Equality and Diversity is a Level 2 qualification awarded by the exam board NCFE and is delivered to all KS4 students.

It is a preparation for life and work course that is specifically designed to give students an understanding of a range of relevant issues while helping to ensure they are prepared for life after school.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Equality and Diversity course is split into three units:

- Equality and Diversity in Society
- Equality and Diversity in the Community
- Equality and Diversity in the Workplace.

Over the course of these three units, students look at topics such as discrimination, stereotyping, identity and tolerance. They must show an understanding of the community they live in and the differences that exist within it. Students also look at case studies of people and events that have been affected by issues relating to inequality and prejudice.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

As all employers in the UK are expected to show a commitment to equality and diversity when employing staff. This course shows colleges and workplaces that learners have a good understanding of the issues related to this.

More specifically, relevant careers include:

- ✚ Youth work
- ✚ Community Development work
- ✚ Health & Social Care
- ✚ Customer service
- ✚ Early years care
- ✚ Education.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There is no external exam in Equality and Diversity. Students are assessed purely on the work they produce in class. Everyone will have an online booklet that they must complete over the course in years 10 and 11. Once completed, their work will be assessed and a pass grade will be awarded if students have demonstrated a good level of understanding and knowledge in all areas of the course.

The NCFE Equality and Diversity qualification is a Level 2 course and is equivalent to **two B grades** when achieved.

Skills Challenge Certificate

COURSE OUTLINE

The Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) aims to enable learners to develop and demonstrate an understanding of, and proficiency in, essential and employability skills. These are described as the skills that employers and next-stage educators value and which learners need for learning, work and life. As such, the SCC focuses on the following seven essential and employability skills:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is 100% coursework and all aspects will need to be passed in order to gain the GCSE. The Skills Challenge Certificate consists of three components which are followed by all learners:

Section	Weighting	Skills
Individual Project	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning and organisation ▪ Critical thinking and problem solving ▪ Digital literacy
Enterprise & Employability Challenge	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creativity and innovation ▪ Personal effectiveness ▪ Digital literacy
Global Citizenship Challenge	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Critical thinking and problem solving ▪ Creativity and innovation

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Global Citizenship Challenge

Pupils will study a current Global Issue and form their own opinions as to what needs be done to solve it. They must conduct research into the Global Issue then design a raising awareness method to raise awareness with Year 7 pupils. Past Global issues have been extremism and plastic pollution.



Enterprise and Employability Challenge

Pupils will study the fundamentals of business and use their knowledge to create their own company and produce a product to sell at our Christmas Fair. Can they utilise their skills and make a profit?



Individual Project

Pupils will set themselves a research question in a topic area of their choice and complete a research essay, which addresses their question.

The pupils can choose any topic that grabs their interest.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The emphasis in the SCC is on applied learning i.e. acquiring and applying a range of **transferable skills**. Learners will develop skills in the context of **purposeful tasks** and appropriate knowledge and understanding. Learners will be encouraged to **value skills development as a key aspect of education and life-long learning**. **These skills are highly valued by employers and colleges alike.**



COURSE OUTLINE

The new GCSE specification provides experiences that give all candidates the opportunity to reach their full potential in Welsh in line with their needs and abilities. The aim of the course is to ensure that candidates are aware of the use of Welsh in modern Wales by nurturing a positive attitude towards the Welsh language and culture. This is a qualification that can foster your curiosity, develop language skills and strategies, and open doors to further study and jobs. Be part of the Government's aim and be one of a million Welsh speakers by 2050!

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

There are three broad themes - Cynefin, Identity and Culture.

Within these themes you will learn:

- about the value of Welsh language socially and in the world of work;
- about its use in Wales and around the world;
- how to understand and use Cymraeg with others in a spontaneous and confident way;
- how to develop skills for work and life;
- how to respond creatively to literature.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

During the course, pupils will complete 4 units: two units are Non-Examination oral Assessments and two units are external reading and writing exams. **All examinations are single tier, which will allow all pupils to access all grades.**

Exam	Assessment	When?	Weighting
Unit 1	Paired oracy -responding to visual stimulus (non-examination assessment)	Year 11	25%
Unit 2	Paired oracy – responding to various sources (non-examination assessment)	Year 11	25%
Unit 3	Preparing for the future – translanguaging and translating tasks	Year 11	25%
Unit 4	Literature and creative writing	Year 11	25%

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Jobs advertised in Wales often require the ability to speak Welsh as essential or desirable. Welsh language skills are currently in demand in the Welsh workplace. This qualification will afford you the basic language skills needed for the workplace, as well as opportunities to further develop your fluency through further education.

Core Subjects

Health and

Well-Being



Core Physical Education

COURSE OUTLINE

The school provides Physical Education lessons and activities for all students throughout Key Stage 4 with an emphasis on the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. It aims to ensure that all pupils:

- ✚ develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- ✚ are physically active for sustained periods of time
- ✚ engage in competitive sports and activities
- ✚ lead healthy, active lives.

It is essential that pupils have opportunities to participate in regular and frequent physical activities and that they are encouraged to make informed and responsible choices about the role of physical activity in their lives both in and out of school.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The programme of activities helps students to develop personally and socially as they work individually and in groups or teams. It helps them to reflect on and evaluate their own and others' performances and find ways of improvement.

Activities include badminton, basketball, volleyball, Welsh baseball, tennis, football, rugby, 'health, fitness and wellbeing', dance, rounders and cricket.

Core PSE

COURSE OUTLINE

PSE (Personal and Social Education) prepares learners to be personally and socially effective by providing learning experiences in which they can develop and apply skills, explore personal attitudes and values, and acquire appropriate knowledge and understanding.

PSE enables our students to develop a sense of self-worth and interact effectively with others. Learners are equipped to be more informed, confident and skilled in order to take an active and responsible part in society and enhance learning, motivation and achievement.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

PSE at Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, learners build on the skills, attitudes and values, and knowledge and understanding they have acquired and developed at Key Stage 3.

PSE reflects the fact that learners are moving towards an independent role in adult life, taking on greater responsibility for themselves and others. Learners are equipped with the skills to manage changing situations with increased confidence and to become financially capable. PSE enables learners to develop a critical awareness of local and global contemporary issues and to participate within their communities as active citizens in the twenty-first century.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 10	Life, Crime and Social Survival		Sex, Drugs and Alcohol
Year 11	Preparing for Life After Islwyn High	Money Management	

Option Courses



Cyrsiau Dewisol

Potential Option Subjects

- + Art
- + Business Studies
- + Computer Science
- + [Level 1 / 2] Construction in the Built Environment
- + Geography
- + Health and Social Care, and Childcare
- + History
- + Hospitality and Catering
- + [Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award] ICT
- + Media Studies
- + Music
- + Performing Arts
- + Physical Education
- + Product Design
- + Religious Studies
- + Separate Science: **Triple Award***
- + Sociology
- + Spanish

*Dependent upon final curriculum model, the '**Separate Science: Triple Award**' course may be followed by certain classes rather than remain an option choice

Please note that the options/qualifications on offer within this booklet are subject to the number of pupils opting to follow these courses and the availability of staff to teach specific subjects; we reserve the right to amend our offer based on this information.

COURSE OUTLINE

The WJEC Art and Design GCSE course is split into two units:

UNIT 1 - Portfolio – 60%

UNIT 2 - Externally Set Assignment – 40%.

GCSE candidates will work on their Portfolio studies throughout Year 10 and the first term of Year 11.

During Year 10, candidates will undertake a knowledge, understanding and skills building course. This will introduce them to a wide range of art media, processes and techniques. After this initial course candidates will begin working on their Portfolio; this will be based on a personal response to given themes, that they will develop individually. **Portfolio work will be assessed on the Assessment Objectives:**

AO1 - Development of ideas, demonstrating critical and contextual understanding.

AO2 - Refinement of work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with media, techniques, tools and processes.

AO3 – Reflecting on their own work and recording ideas, observations and insights that are relevant to intentions.

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful response that demonstrates an



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

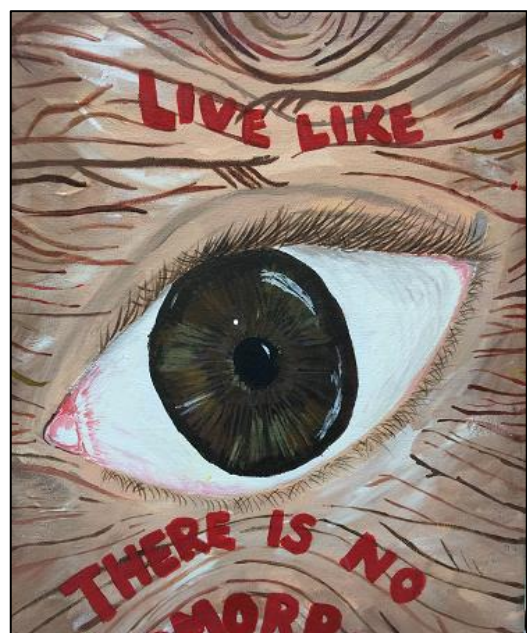
Candidates will receive the exam paper for Unit 2 in the January of Year 11.

Candidates will select a theme from the exam paper, which they will develop over the Preparatory Time in the lead up to the 10 hour exam.

During the preparation time for the Externally Set Assignment, candidates will receive constant guidance and feedback. The exam element will be conducted under exam conditions.

Both the Portfolio and Externally Set Assignment are marked against the Assessment Objectives at the end of the course.

The course will allow candidates to pursue areas of Art that are of interest to them, while developing creative solutions through enquiry and experimentation. They will gain knowledge and understanding of how art functions, and opportunities that are available in arts based careers.



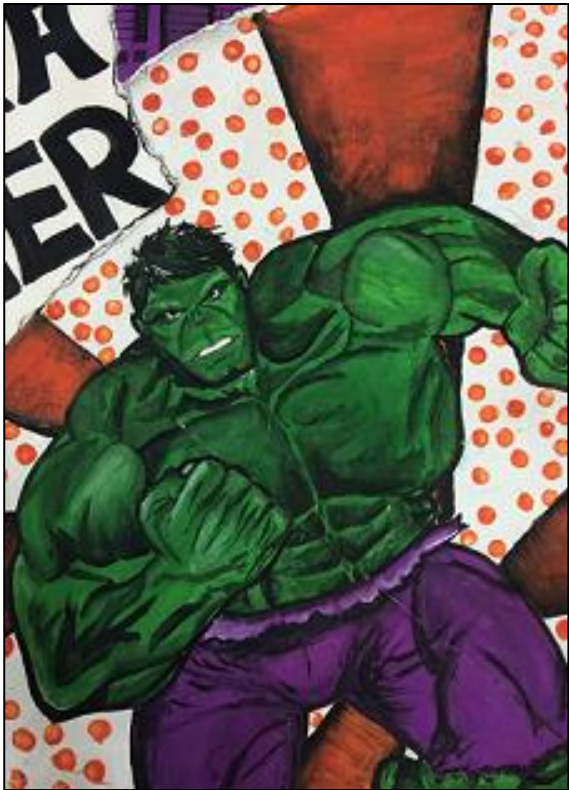
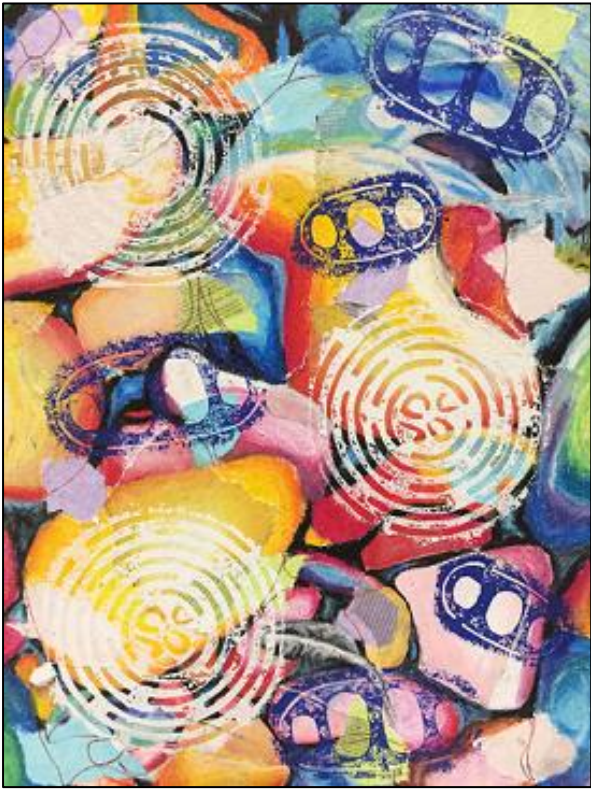
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Art and Design courses offered by colleges provide direct and valuable access to the world of industry and commerce.

There are currently over seventy Art and Design related courses on offer in many colleges. These courses offer many opportunities and access to a wide variety of careers. Any career that requires visual literacy will value a qualification in Art.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Research and analysis tasks looking at a variety of artists and designers.
- Sketching and recording through hand drawn images and photography.
- Development of ideas through the use of a range of materials, techniques and processes.
- Self-evaluation using annotation to explain ideas, techniques and materials.



Business Studies

COURSE

The WJEC GCSE Business qualification will develop your understanding of the activities that make a business successful. You will gain an insight into critical issues facing businesses and ways in which these can be solved. You will research to make reasoned judgements and think critically about businesses in your area. You will also reflect on business activity in the context of the environment and sustainability. You will study the impact business has on society. You will explore job market trends and understand different business careers and employment opportunities available to you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1: Introduction to the Business World – In this unit, you will study the fundamentals of business. You will explore the purpose of business activity and the nature of business enterprises, understanding the different types of business ownership and aims. Additionally, you will learn about markets and business sectors and the importance of the consumer. You will calculate costs and revenue to make business decisions.

Unit 2: Key Business Considerations - In this unit, you will undertake research on a chosen business in your locality and use your research findings to produce a report.

Unit 3: Business Strategies for Success – In this unit, you will explore the key business functions of finance, marketing, human resources, and production. Additionally, you will study strategies for business growth and understand how businesses are affected by political, legal, and economic external factors.

Unit 4: Business Creation – In this unit, you will develop enterprise skills. You will carry out primary and secondary market research to collect information for an entrepreneurial opportunity you have identified. You will produce a report that covers key aspects of your business proposal.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Units 1 and 3 are assessed by written examinations containing both short and extended answers, with some based around business situations.

Units 2 and 4 are Non-Examined Assessments where you will be given an assignment brief to complete. You will undertake research, analyse the data and provide judgements.

The depth of coverage means that this course will provide a solid foundation for either the study of A Level Business and employment.

Unit 1	Written Examination: 1 hour 15 Minutes	30% of Qualification	60 Marks
Unit: Introduction to the Business World - Available in Year 10			
Main Topics	<i>Introduce learners to the key concepts to be explored throughout the course, introduce learners to skills, introduce learners to business fundamentals, introduce the business world and build up knowledge to allow for meaningful analysis and investigation of the themes that follow.</i>		
Unit 2	Non-examination Assessment: 5 Hours	15% of Qualification	48 Marks
Unit: Key Business Considerations - Available in Year 10			
Main Topics	<i>Allow learners to develop their skills in business ethics, business and the environment, business and technology.</i>		
Unit 3	Written Examination: 1 hour 15 minutes	30% of Qualification	60 Marks
Unit: Business Strategies for Success - Available in Year 10			
Main Topics	<i>Allow learners to develop their skills in business finances, marketing, human resources, and production</i>		
Unit 4	Non-examination Assessment: 8 Hours	25% of Qualification	60 Marks
Unit: Business Creation - Available in Year 11			
Main Topics	<i>Allow learners to make links to the other three units, allow learners to consider a wide range of business concepts and themes in a practical sense, allow learners to consider how businesses are created, developing a wide range of business skills.</i>		

SKILLS, CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

GCSE Business helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Literacy Skills – reading, writing, understanding, and engaging with various forms of text and information.
- Numeracy Skills – understanding, interpreting, and working with numbers to solve business problems.
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving – analysing business information to make decisions or judgments.
- Personal Effectiveness Skills – achieving your goals by managing your time, setting targets and learning from your experiences.
- Creativity and innovation - thinking creatively by coming up with solutions to business problems.

GCSE Business will equip you with a range of skills that are not only valuable for studying business further, but which will combine with a variety of subjects.

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Business at either AS or A level. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject.



Computer Science

COURSE OUTLINE



With a growing requirement for computer science skills in society, this rigorous and highly academic GCSE course provides learners with a stimulating and motivating study of computer science fit for the 21st century.

WJEC's revised GCSE Computer Science specification from 2025 is designed to encourage learners to apply and understand a broad range of fundamental principles that underpin computer science. Learners understand how computers work, learning key theoretical principles, whilst using their own programming skills to create applications and solutions, considering the ethical, legal and environmental issues on individuals and wider society.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1 will help build learners' understanding of the practical aspects of computer science such as hardware, software, systems, networks and communication, planning and developing computer-based solutions. In unit 2, learners will be given the opportunity to develop their programming skills, creating and developing solutions to real world problems using Python Tkinter.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is 50% written examination and 50% on screen examination and is divided into two units both examined in the summer of Year 11:

Unit 1 - Understanding Computer Science (50%)	Weighting
1 hour 30 minutes written examination to assess the practical content of the course	50%
Unit 2 – Computer Programming (50%)	
2 hour on-screen examination using Python Tkinter to assess the programming element of the course	50%

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

The depth of coverage means that this course will provide a solid foundation for either the study of A Level Computer Science or ICT and employment.



Level 1/2 Construction in the Built Environment

COURSE OUTLINE

The WJEC BTEC L1/L2 Construction in the Built Environment offers a learning experience for 14 – 16 year olds which focuses on gaining and applying knowledge, skills and understanding through contextualised tasks and study.

It provides an ideal introduction to the built environment.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is made up of three units:

Safety and security in construction – an external exam based on 30 hours of theory lessons.

Practical construction skills – an internally assessed unit made up of 60 hours of practical experiences, supported with written evidence of understanding.

Planning construction projects – an internally assessed unit based on a case study project over 30 hours.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

By studying this qualification, you will develop two practical skills. Those available are wood, tiling and electrical.

In addition to these practical skills, you will gain other Built Environment skills including interpreting technical sources of information, costing and planning.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1: Safety and Security in Construction.

In this examined unit you will develop knowledge, skills and understanding in the ideas and concepts related to the Built Environment. This will include: health & safety legislation and regulations, fire safety, signage risk assessment and security of work sites.

Unit 2: Creating the Built Environment

In this Non-Examined Assessment unit (NEA), focus is on the development of 3 practical skills. The tasks assess your knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to identifying, interpreting and calculating information; writing success criteria; carrying out a range of techniques appropriate to the pathway and evaluating tasks.

Unit 3: Planning Construction Projects.

In this unit you will learn, and demonstrate, project management skills. These skills will be used to plan projects, calculate materials, cost jobs and understand who is required to complete tasks.



Geography

COURSE OUTLINE

"The study of Geography is more than remembering places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, accepting the diversity of cultures that exist across continents. It's about using that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together. Barack Obama.

Geography is the study of places and our relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore the physical properties of the earth's surface and human societies spread across it. What can be more important for our future?

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1 - Our physical and human world (30% exam).

- Drainage basin and rivers
- Changing coastlines
- Migration
- Settlement change



Unit 2 - Developing fieldwork skills (25% fieldwork enquiry).

Unit 3 - Our dynamic and diverse world (30% exam)

- The geography of inequality
- The high and lows of our weather
- Wild weather
- Continual climate change
- Managing global challenges



Unit 4 - Sustainable solutions (15% decision making exercise)

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam 60% Coursework/NEA 40%

SKILLS THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

Geography is always in the news, from issues such as river and coastal flooding, mass migration, tropical storms and climate change. Geography will help you interpret and analyse issues and problems that people face around the globe.

Geography is about problem solving these issues, you will learn how to discuss and evaluate. These are important skills for your future career.

Collecting data and information during fieldwork visits. You will then learn how to analyse and evaluate this data and form conclusions.

The transferable skills practised in geography are actively sought by employers. There is a wealth of jobs that

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

geographers can do. Most jobs require an element of geography, be that a Doctor looking at the spread of disease or an engineer trying to reduce plastic use and waste. Most university courses now contain at least one module on sustainability. You will have a head start if you choose Geography

Health and Social Care, and Childcare

COURSE OUTLINE

This qualification will equip learners with knowledge and understanding of the development and care of individuals from conception to old age.

Learners will gain an understanding of how service provision in the Health and Social Care and Childcare sectors in Wales support the development and well-being of individuals.

Learners will also be introduced to a broad range of roles within the Health and Social Care and Childcare sectors that will help them to develop an understanding of the career pathways available to them.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Learners completing the GCSE in Health and Social Care, and Childcare, could then go on to study other qualifications such as:

- Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development
- Level 3 Advanced GCE in Health and Social Care, and Childcare.

They may also be interested in progressing to further study and/or training in related areas including Sociology, Psychology and Medical Science.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE in Health and Social Care, and Childcare will cover key topics such as:

- human growth, development and well-being
- promoting and maintaining health and well-being
- health, social care and childcare in the 21st Century
- promoting and supporting health and well-being.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Single Award GCSE in Health and Social Care, and Childcare is made up of two mandatory units:

Unit 1: Human Growth, Development and Well-Being.

External examination: 1 hour 30 minutes.
40% of qualification.

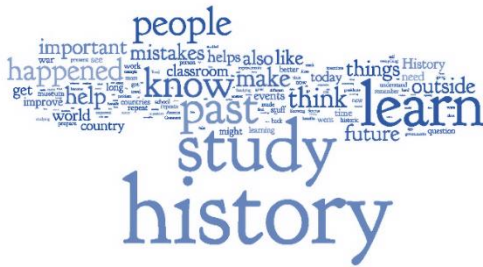
Unit 2: Promoting and Maintaining health and well-being.

Non-Exam Assessment: 60% of qualification.

History

COURSE OUTLINE

History is an exciting and diverse option choice at GCSE where you will study a subject that has real relevance to the world in which we live. History is highly regarded by employers and universities and opens paths to a multitude of careers. With a historical perspective you will be better equipped to appreciate and understand the present day and make informed decisions as to the future.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed by 3 examinations, two of 60 minutes (50% of the GCSE), and 1 exam of 75 minutes (30% of the GCSE). In addition, there are two pieces of internally marked controlled assessment (accounting for 20% of the GCSE).

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Depth Study

USA 1919-1929

Pupils will study the problems and challenges facing the USA such as restrictions on immigration, racism towards black Americans, Prohibition and the rise of the gangsters, and the threat of Communism in the 1920s. Pupils will also study culture and society in the USA while learning about Charlie Chaplin and the cinema, Louis Armstrong and the jazz music, as well as sport stars such as Babe Ruth. The rise of the American economy will also be studied, including the rise of the motorcar and the stock market, as well as the end of the boom period with the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

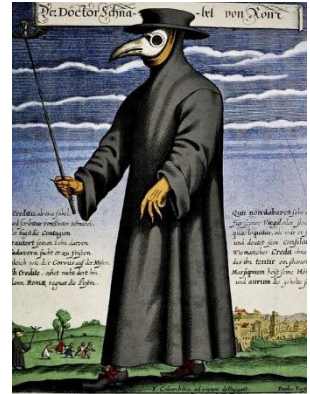


Depression, War and Recovery 1930-1951

Pupils will study the problems facing Britain during the Depression, the years during and after WW2 and how this affected the people of Britain. The course will examine the causes of World War Two and how people coped during the War years. The course will also focus on how the Depression, War and Recovery impacted on the people of Wales. The course is focused on social, political and economic changes in Britain 1930-1951.

Medicine through time

Students learn about changes in Health and Medicine 1340 to the present day. Students will learn about the causes, treatment and prevention of illness and disease, advances in medical knowledge, developments in patient care and advances in public health and welfare over time. Students will learn about the discovery of bacteria and the creation of antibiotics, plastic surgery and organ transplants. Students will also find out how surgeons moved away from sawing patients legs off whilst they were awake to allowing them to be anaesthetised without feeling pain.



Coursework/Controlled Assessment

There will be two essay questions worth 20%. The topic of the controlled assessment will be on life in the Trenches during World War One and punishments during World War One. When feasible, we run a trip to Belgium/France to visit the battlefields of World War One.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Studying History builds a number of skills that are highly valued by employers, including; critical thinking and analytical skills, problem solving, creativity, intellectual rigour, independence, research, constructing reasoned arguments, communication, time management and thinking objectively.

As History is such a highly reputed subject, it leads to a multitude of different careers, including but not restricted to, a range of managerial roles, secondary school teacher, journalist, civil service administrator, solicitor, archivist, curator, heritage manager, academic librarian, archaeologist, political analyst, business consultant.

Careers linked to History

- Archeologist
- Journalist
- Housing Officer
- Art Gallery Conservator
- Editor
- Archivist
- Choose subjects because you enjoy them
- Choose subjects because you're good at them
- Have fun exploring your options
- Legal Executive
- Librarian
- Museum Curator
- Choose subjects to gain useful skills
- History Teacher
- Politician
- Choose subjects that are useful for your chosen career
- Planning Officer
- Costume Designer

Useful Skills:

- Research
- Good memory
- Communication
- Confident in expressing an opinion
- Excellent literacy
- Organisation

Connect with RedCrest Careers

www.redcrestcareers.com

hello@redcrestcareers.com

Stone Mason RedCrest Careers.

Hospitality and Catering

COURSE OUTLINE

By studying Hospitality and Catering, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- Understand and explore the Hospitality and Catering Industry, the job roles and different types of equipment used to support the industry.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Further study would provide you with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support your progression to employment.

Employment in Hospitality and Catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- The environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate
- Principles of nutrition
- How Hospitality and Catering provisions operate
- How provision meets health and safety requirements
- Cooking and food preparation
- How food can cause ill health
- The Hospitality and Catering provision to meet specific requirements.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Written examination:

40% of the qualification.

Length of exam: 1 hour 20 minutes.

Unit 2: Non-Examination assessment

60% of qualification.

Total time allowed: 12 hours.

- You will safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes.
- You will propose four nutritional dishes for a menu and then plan for the production of two dishes that could be included on the menu.
- You will then prepare, cook and present the two dishes.

Level 1/2 Vocational Award in ICT

COURSE OUTLINE

With a growing requirement for digital skills in society, this vocational course provides learners with a stimulating and practical study of information communication technology fit for the 21st century.



The vocation course gives learners the opportunities to investigate information technology in a range of settings, include business, organisations, education and home, along with an ability to solve problems in vocational settings.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1 allows learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society. Learners will investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use of information technology

Unit 2 introduces learners to a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images and enables learners to apply their knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is 40% examination and 60% controlled assessment and is divided into two units:

Unit 1 - ICT in Society	On Screen Exam - 1 hour 20 minutes	40%	80 marks
<p>This unit allows learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society. Learners will investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use.</p>			
Unit 2 - ICT in Context	Controlled Assessment - 40 hours	60%	120 marks
<p>This unit enables learners to gain a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents (mail merge) and images, and to apply their knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings. Learners will need to draw on knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 How IT can be used to fulfil the needs of organisations and individuals • 1.2 How data and information is used and transferred, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1.2.1 Why data must be fit for purpose, and ○ 1.2.2 How data is checked for errors 			

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

The depth of coverage means that this course will provide a solid foundation for either the study of A Level ICT, Digital Technology or employment.



Media Studies

COURSE OUTLINE

The WJEC specification is designed to introduce learners to the key concepts for studying media - media language, representation, media industries and media audiences – in relation to examples from a wide range of media forms.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Through this study, learners gain a good understanding of the foundations of the subject, enabling them to question and explore in a critical way aspects of the media that may seem familiar and straightforward from their existing experience.

This exploration extends learners' engagement with the media to the less familiar, including products from different historical periods or those aimed at different audiences, providing rich and challenging opportunities for interpretation and analysis.

This specification recognises the cross-media, multi-platform nature of the contemporary media and the centrality of online and social media platforms in distributing, accessing and participating in the media. In some instances, specific forms are highlighted for detailed study, but this is in the context of their relationships to online platforms.

Studying aspects of the media in Wales is also an important part of this specification.

Learners will explore a range of media products that reflect this Welsh dimension, including those produced by the media industries in Wales, those set in Wales or those intended for a Welsh audience.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Exploring the Media - Written exam.: 1 hour 30 minutes - 30% of qualification (60 marks)

Section A: Representations – advertising, video games and newspapers: This section will assess knowledge and understanding of the representation of gender and events in relation to any of the media forms studied – advertising, video games and newspapers. One stepped question based on unseen print-based resource material related to advertising, video games or newspapers. **Section B: Music:** This section will assess knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. One stepped question and two single questions.

Unit 2: Understanding Television and Film - Written exam.: 1 hour 30 minutes - 30% of qual. (60 marks)

Section A: Wales on Television: This section will assess knowledge of media industries, audiences, media language and representation. One stepped question based on the set 'Wales on Television' product chosen by the centre. The final part of this question requires an extended response where the quality of written communication will be assessed. **Section B: Contemporary Hollywood Film:** This section will assess knowledge and understanding of media industries, audiences and media language. One stepped question and two single questions.

Unit 3: Creating Media - Non-exam assessment - 40% of qual. (80 marks)

A media production, including individual research and planning, created in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, and applying knowledge and understanding of key concepts. An individual reflective analysis of the production.

Music

COURSE OUTLINE

Primarily, Music is a practical based subject with emphasis on performing and composing. The GCSE is a two year course, which prepares learners for careers in the Performing Arts, Music or Entertainment Industry whilst developing skills required for any profession, such as confidence, organisation, time keeping and ICT.



Bro:

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Performing*	32.5%
Composing*	32.5% - 2 pieces
Appraising	35% - Externally marked listening exam, sat digitally online

****A combined total of 65% of the qualification is assessed through coursework.***

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Western Classical Traditions and the orchestra, Musical Theatre, Jazz & Blues, Welsh Music, Chamber Music, Film Music, Rock & Pop Including Heavy Metal, EDM and Music Technology.



You must be:

- willing to perform (instrument or voice) to an audience
- organised;
- able to work to deadlines (like in the music industry!);
- able to work as a team;
- willing to join choir, band or the show cast.

The following skills are required:

- the ability to play an instrument or sing;
- the ability to read **basic** music notation;
- basic piano skills;
- good ICT skills.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

This qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Music at A-level. It will also provide a satisfying and worthwhile course of study for you if you choose not to progress to study further. In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum). The study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed, whatever your ambitions! At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community. Importantly, studying music will develop many transferable skills including communication, presentation skills, team working, leadership, focus, refinement, creativity and self-confidence.

WJEC Level 2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts (Drama or Dance)

COURSE OUTLINE

Performing Arts is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop creativity, teamwork, confidence, critical thinking, self-discipline and the ability to work collaboratively.

The WJEC Level 2 Performing Arts qualification enables candidates to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of **drama or dance** as a performer and creator. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances, work with professional companies and perform to live audiences. You need to be enthusiastic about drama or dance and have a willingness to learn and develop your ideas. You need to have a positive attitude towards the subject and be committed to doing practical activities most lessons. The qualification is the equivalent to **one GCSE**.

The qualification is made up of 3 units: Unit 1: Performing, Unit 2: Creating and Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice. The units are all projects/coursework, there are **no written exams**.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Performing	Weighting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will learn the skills and techniques needed to produce a successful performance of an existing work. This unit can be completed through either drama or dance. You will be assessed through project work (not exams) in response to a brief. You will produce documentation which outlines your research, a rehearsal plan, a reflective journal which records the rehearsal process, and finally an evaluation of the performance. Your final performance will need to be between 3 to 6 minutes long. 	30% Internal
Unit 2: Creating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will gain, develop, and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to create and refine your own original piece of work. Your performance piece will be between 3 and 10 minutes long. This can either be a devised drama or dance choreography and can be done individually or as part of a group. You will produce documentation including an outline of your creative idea, a log which tracks the development of your creative idea, and an evaluation on the effectiveness of your creative idea. 	30% Internal
Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This unit will be completed in Year 11. You will complete a series of tasks in response to an industry commission requiring you to propose an original creative work in response to a brief for an event. You will produce a practical example from your proposal and will pitch your proposal to a small audience. 	40% External

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

The qualification provides a suitable foundation to study Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts or A Level Drama or Dance. Career opportunities include: Actor, Professional dancer, Choreographer, Community arts worker, Dance movement psychotherapist, Theatre director, Drama or Dance teacher, Stage Manager. It can also help with careers in media, business, law, advertising, sales, hospitality and tourism.

Physical Education

COURSE OUTLINE

The WJEC GCSE Physical Education course is designed to encourage pupils to be inspired, motivated and challenged by the subject and enable them to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways in sport and physical activity.

Pupils who pursue GCSE Physical Education **must**:

- ❖ have an immaculate participation record at Key Stage 3
- ❖ display a positive attitude towards the subject, being a positive role model to others
- ❖ **actively participate in competitive sport for school teams and be members of team/individual clubs outside of school**, participating in at least one sporting activity on a regular basis.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Introduction to Physical Education 50% theory	Unit 2 - The active participant in Physical Education 50% practical
Written examination: 2 hours.	Practical exam assessment
Assessed through a range of short and extended questions based on all units of work covered.	Assessed in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● three different activities in the role of a performer ● at least one individual and one team sport and one other activity from the activities provided ● a personal fitness programme linked to the chosen major activity (8% of grade).

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Summary of the theory content	Summary of the practical content
The subject content focuses on five key areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health, training and exercise 2. Exercise physiology 3. Movement analysis 4. Psychology of sport and physical activity 5. Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport. 	GCSE Physical Education is assessed in three different practical activities in the role of a performer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● one individual sport ● one team sport ● and one other activity from the range of activities covered. One activity will be a major activity which will have a personal fitness programme linked.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Pupils who study GCSE PE can pursue careers in sports science, PE teaching, Physiotherapy, sports coaching, personal training or diet and nutrition related jobs.

Some of the key hiring qualifications requested by employers in today's market, include **leadership**, **perseverance**, **dedication** and **strategic thinking**, all of which you learn in Physical Education at Islwyn High School.

Product Design

COURSE OUTLINE

Students will follow a 2 year GCSE course where the emphasis is on working in a variety of different areas including graphics, systems and control and resistant materials. They will analyse existing products and design and make a range of 3-dimensional products using a wide variety of materials.

Assessment is through written examination (50%) and controlled assessment (50%), which must include a design folder, and 3-dimensional products, and both are completed in Year 11.

Controlled assessment requires strong evidence of the use of ICT, and in-depth knowledge and use of industrial practices.

NOTE: A positive approach and commitment to all Design Technology subjects is essential throughout the course. Pupils will be expected to put in 'extra time' if necessary to keep up with coursework deadlines.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The subject content for GCSE Design and Technology will be assessed in the written examination and non-exam assessment (NEA).

Written examination: Design and Technology in the 21st Century Design.

- Length: 2 hours.
- 50% of the qualification.

NEA: approximately 35 hours.

- 50% of the qualification.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Product Design is an exciting, creative subject leading to a range of potential careers including architecture, fashion, engineering and design.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Syllabus

A combination of theory and practical projects will give you an overview of technological processes which must be applied within problem solving activities.

The core involves the following:

- Designing and communication skills
- Knowledge of materials and making skills
- Evaluation
- Products and application
- Systems and control
- Awareness of the environmental, moral and social implications of technological activities.



Religious Studies

COURSE OUTLINE

At GCSE, RVE becomes RS (Religious Studies). The course is made up of four topics studied over 2 years.

The course covers a wide range of religious, non-religious and ethical issues. Students find out about what religious people believe and how they act as well as examining different approaches to moral issues such as abortion, the death penalty and war.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The RS GCSE is 60% written examination and 40% Non-Examination Assessment. There will be two examinations: one in Year 10 and one in Year 11.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students follow the WJEC Religious Studies GCSE course. They will be expected to study two world religions in depth- one of which must be Christianity. Students will then study a range of philosophical and ethical issues from both religious and non-religious perspectives. Some of the topics studied include the creation of the world and our place in it. We discuss the sanctity of life and how this applies to issues such as abortion, euthanasia and organ donation. We also tackle issues related to the changing nature of relationships in our modern world before moving onto the extremely relevant issue of human rights. We discuss complex topics such as censorship, discrimination and wealth. Students will have opportunities to express their own ideas and opinions on these issues while being encouraged to understand the views of others.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

RS is one of the most relevant subjects for a job where you are expected to work with members of the public and is highly sought after by employers. Related professions include; teaching, law, journalism, publishing, nursing, social services, caring services and childcare.

Separate Science: Triple Award

(Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

**Dependent upon final curriculum model, the 'Separate Science: Triple Award' course may be followed by certain classes rather than remain an option choice.*

At Islwyn High School there are three qualifications offered to pupils: WJEC Triple Science (3GCSEs); WJEC GCSE Double Award Science (2 GCSEs); WJEC GCSE Single Award Applied Science (1 GCSE).

The majority of pupils will study either Double Award or Single Award Science. However, pupils will have the opportunity to choose to study **Triple Award Science** as one of their options. Depending on progress, personal interest, aspirations and the advice of teaching staff, students will study Science in one of the three courses.

COURSE OUTLINE

The WJEC GCSE Science (Triple Award) specification allows students to achieve a GCSE in each of the three sciences: **Biology, Chemistry and Physics**. The course specification provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, Science and to recognise its importance in their own lives and to society.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two tiers of entry: Higher Tier (Grades A*-D) and Foundation Tier (Grades C – G). **All students are awarded THREE GCSE Grades.** Each GCSE Qualification consists of:

Qualification Unit	Weighting
Unit 1: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY and PHYSICS (1 for each subject) – Yr. 10	45 %
Unit 2: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY and PHYSICS (1 for each subject) – Yr. 11	45%
Units 1 and 2 consist of: Written examination: 1hr 45 minutes. A mix of short answer, structured, extended writing and data response questions with some set in a practical context.	
UNIT 7: PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY and PHYSICS (1 for each subject) Practical Assessments that are carried out in centres but are externally marked by WJEC. These take place in the first half of the spring term (Jan-Feb) in Year 11.	10%

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students cover a large range of topics across the three disciplines including: Cells, The Human Body and its Functions, Plants and Photosynthesis, Ecosystems, Classification, Disease, Homeostasis, Micro-organisms, Atomic Structure and Bonding, Chemical reactions, Metals, The Periodic Table, Acids, Bases and Salts, Reversible Reactions, Electricity, Waves, Energy, Motion, Radiation, Stars and Planets, Kinetic Theory, Nuclear Decay.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Scientific understanding changes our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. High grades at Science (Triple Award) provide an excellent foundation for all A-level Science Courses and also in a very wide variety of non-science based careers and qualifications.

Sociology

COURSE OUTLINE

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Sociology is designed to foster in learners an understanding and critical awareness of the social world around them. The specification focuses on the importance of social structure in explaining social issues.

Learners will be encouraged to explore and debate contemporary social issues to enable them to challenge taken-for-granted assumptions and to question their everyday understanding of social phenomena. By following this course, learners will develop their own sociological awareness through active engagement with the contemporary social world. This specification will develop learners' ability to think sociologically in relation to their experience of the social world around them so that they are able to play a positive, active and informed role in society.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be two 1hr 45 minute examinations both worth 50% of the final GCSE grade. Both of these exams will take place at the end of the year 11. There is no coursework in this GCSE.

Students who choose Sociology are required to have good literacy and writing skills.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?



Topics included in this GCSE are:

- Social concepts (understanding identity, gender, social class, feral children)
- The family (including divorce, marriage, gender roles)
- Education (including gender, social class and ethnicity attainment gap)
- Social stratification (including racism, poverty, sexism, disability, sexuality)
- Crime (understanding reasons why people commit crime)
- Social research methods (understanding how sociologists collect data and design social research).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESSION

Studying sociology at GCSE will provide students with a solid foundation for studying A Levels including Criminology, Sociology and Psychology.

Job options relating to studying sociology at GCSE and A Level include:

- Teacher, police officer, criminologist, social worker, social policy maker, youth worker, journalist and many more.

Spanish

COURSE OUTLINE

This highly academic subject offers you an exciting challenge, allowing you to use your language skills to communicate in the country/countries where the language is spoken. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture. You will learn useful language that you can use in situations relating to leisure and wellbeing, travel and study or work.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The content of the course will cover the following broad themes:

- Language for leisure and wellbeing
- Language for travel
- Language for study and work

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 - Oracy (Speaking): Non - Examination conducted by your teacher (Worth 30%)

Task 1: Read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of Spanish pronunciation.

Task 2: Role play

Task 3: Short presentation (prepared in advance) and discussion/questions to follow.

Unit 2 - Reading and writing: Non- Examination completed in class (Worth 15%)

Task: You will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in Spanish. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in Spanish about the short work you have studied.

Unit 3 – Listening: Exam at the end of year 11 (Worth 20%)

Task: You will listen to a range of speakers in Spanish and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by answering questions in English.

Unit 4 - Reading and writing: Exam at the end of year 11 (Worth 35%)

Task 1: You will read texts in Spanish and answer a series of questions in English.

Task 2: You will also be required to complete a translation into English from Spanish.

Task 3: Write up to 120 words in Spanish from a choice of 3 questions (1 from each broad theme)

All units are tierless (A*-G)

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will learn how to communicate clearly and accurately in speaking and writing.

- You will develop your understanding of the language by reading and listening.
- You will learn how to contribute to discussions and conversations.
- You will develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.
- You will make connections with your own language.

REFLECTION ON MY CURRENT SUBJECTS

Reflect on how you feel about your current subjects in the blob tree and/or table.



SUBJECTS I ENJOY	WHY I ENJOY THEM
SUBJECTS I DON'T ENJOY	WHY I DON'T ENJOY THEM

Notes on Research: Complete the table below to summarise any research you have carried out.

Possible Jobs/Careers	Why this interested me?	Subjects that I should consider studying to help me work towards this job/career

