



REPTON

GCSE
CURRICULUM
BOOKLET

GCSEs at REPTON

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CORE SUBJECTS

The core subjects you will study throughout A and O Block are English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and a core Modern Foreign Language (either French, German or Spanish). You will also have a timetabled lesson in PSHCE each week.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

In addition to the core subjects, you will choose three other subjects from the following: Art, Business, Classical Civilisation, Design and Technology, Drama, French (as a second modern foreign language), Geography, History, Latin, Music, Physical Education and Religious Studies.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

During the Lent Term of B Block, you will discuss possible GCSE choices with a wide variety of staff at Repton: teachers, Heads of academic departments, Tutors and Houseparents. You will be asked to provide an initial indication of subject choice so that the process of timetabling can begin. Timetable constraints may prevent a completely free choice of GCSE courses, so a provisional column structure is produced to make your final choice of subjects based on that column structure. Whilst we naturally attempt to satisfy the desired combination of courses chosen by each individual pupil, we are not able to guarantee that every combination can be made available. Moreover, we may not offer a course if the number of pupils opting to take that subject is low.

The choice of the optional GCSEs is important and should not be based solely on your likes and dislikes. You should select a combination of subjects appropriate to your academic abilities and taken into consideration your future plans for the Sixth Form and beyond.

Unless there are good reasons for not so doing, you are advised to choose at least one Humanities subject (Classical Civilisation, Geography, History or Religious Studies). There are some subjects which have a high practical content, and you should only choose these if you are capable of performing well in them.

A very high GCSE points average is essential for entry to some courses at prestigious universities, and it may be that some GCSE subjects are considered to provide a more rigorous preparation for further study than others. The Deputy Head (Academic), the Head of Higher Education and Careers, Houseparents and Tutors will be able to offer advice if required, and Heads of Department can give detailed information about their subject areas.

The curriculum is revised regularly; changes are therefore likely from time to time.





SECTION A

CORE
SUBJECTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE *and* LITERATURE

THE SUBJECT

English Language at IGCSE focuses on honing skills in communication and encourages a love of reading and writing. The creative and analytical abilities this nurtures are immensely valuable life skills; a fact confirmed by the continuing importance placed on these qualifications by universities and employers.

You will work towards two different but complementary qualifications: the Edexcel International GCSEs in English Language and in English Literature. Both of these qualifications are weighted 40% coursework and 60% examination, and both examinations contain a mixture of unseen and prepared material.

THE COURSES

International GCSE in English Language (Edexcel A)

This course offers a good degree of flexibility for all abilities. You will produce two coursework pieces over the two years (worth 40%); one responding to poetry or prose set texts and the other a creative piece. You will be able to draft and redraft these to achieve the best possible standard of work. The language paper requires responses to unseen material, encouraging a skills-based approach, as well as responding to anthology texts. In addition, there are writing tasks which require pupils to adapt their responses to a variety of purposes, audiences and forms.

International GCSE in English Language (Edexcel)

Reptonians study the English Literature IGCSE with Edexcel, which consists of one (closed text) exam worth 60% on unseen poetry, a comparison of two poems (from an anthology) and a novel (usually *Of Mice and Men*). There are two coursework essays worth 40% which involve responding to two plays (usually *An Inspector Calls* and *Romeo and Juliet*). The coursework is not controlled and so, like the language pieces, it may be redrafted with help from teachers. Both the novel and the first coursework text are studied in the A Block (alongside half of the anthology poetry), whilst the Shakespeare coursework is completed in the O Block.

PREPARATION & CO-CURRICULAR

The best possible preparation for English study at this level is to read a quality newspaper regularly, especially the editorial and comment sections. It is also very useful to see as much theatre as possible and to seek personalised recommendations for reading based on the novels and poetry you have enjoyed in English so far. The department seeks to offer theatre trips to extend and support study, and at the School, there are opportunities to write via the Reptonian and a variety of literary and journalistic competitions. The Junior Literary Society is very well supported and holds weekly meetings, in which pupils are encouraged to pursue their interests in reading and creative (and non-fiction) writing on a range of topics, as well as entering competitions and hosting events and visiting speakers.



MATHEMATICS

THE SUBJECT

Mathematics remains an extremely important subject and one which is highly regarded by potential universities and employers. At GCSE, Mathematics involves the study of Geometry, Algebra, Number, Shape and Space and Data Handling. These five strands of study provide skills which can be used in other school subjects e.g. data analysis in Science, and give a deeper understanding of how the world we live in works.

THE COURSES

The Three-Year Course

In this course B Block is spent on the study of topics to about grade 6 standard, A Block takes pupils on the grade 7 material before we finish teaching in O Block with the very hardest grade 8/9 material. Each year the work will include material of the five strands of the subject. The aim is to finish teaching by the Christmas of O Block so that the Lent Term can be used to work through past papers in preparation for the summer examination. The examination consists of two 2-hour papers both of which permit the use of a calculator. It may be that a small number of pupils are recommended to sit the GCSE foundation tier papers early which will provide a course and examination more in line with their mathematical ability. However, all such pupils will be offered the chance to sit the Higher Tier paper in the summer of the O Block year. These pupils follow a separate scheme of work.

Additional Mathematics

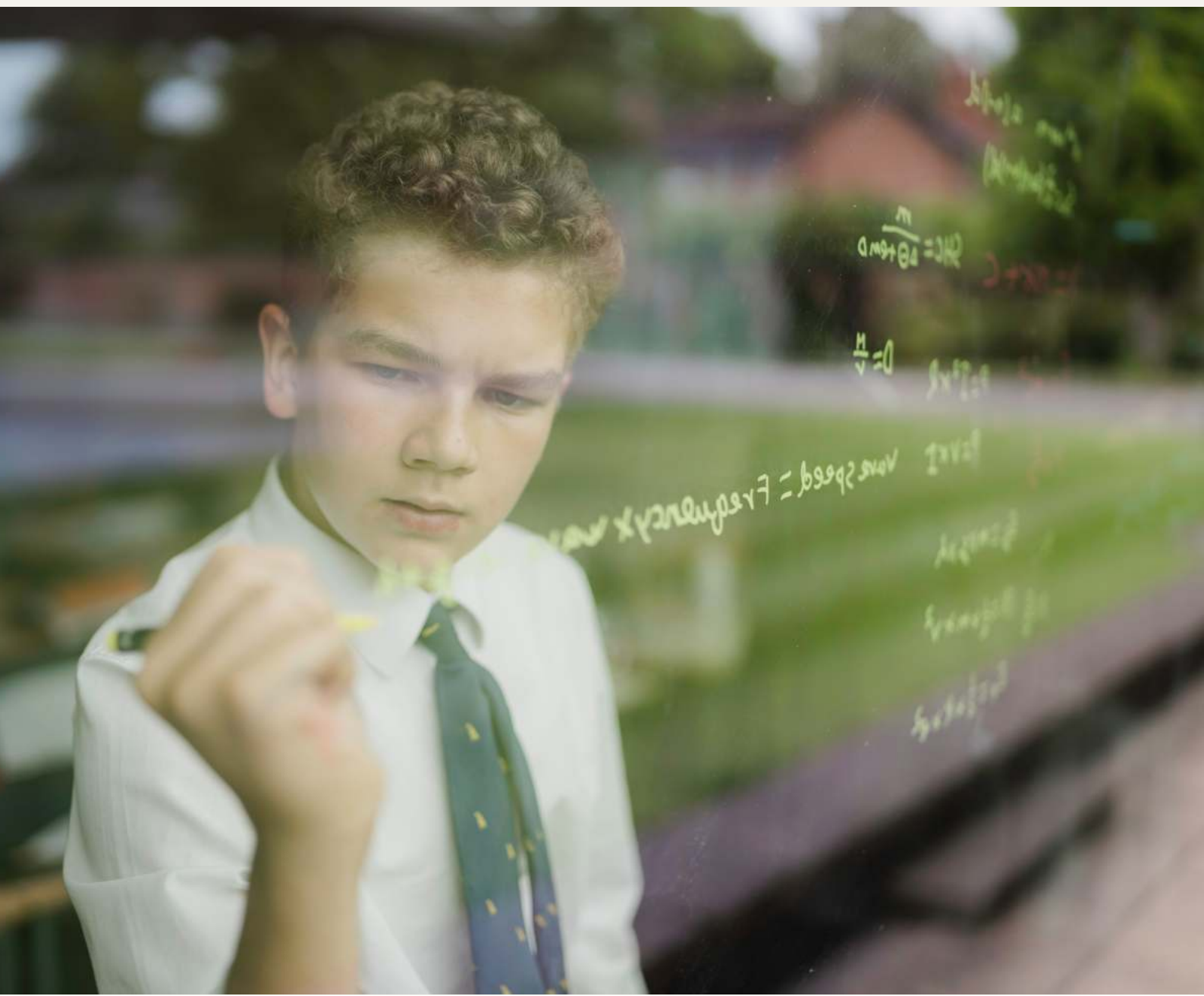
There is a three-year additional mathematics course for the very brightest pupils which aims to add breadth and depth to their study of the subject. These pupils will broadly aim to complete the IGCSE content at the end of A Block before spending O Block studying a further course in order to prepare for the Sixth Form and A Level study. Whilst the intention is not to take the IGCSE examination at the end of A Block, it might be that some of the brightest pupils do. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. If you are interested in pursuing degree courses in Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry, the first GCSE result is often sought by universities and so you should delay taking the paper until the end of O Block in order to maximise your chances of achieving a top grade.

EXAMINATION BOARD

We follow the Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics A (4MA1) specification.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Maths Department holds twice-weekly clinic sessions for pupils to drop in with specific problems and questions and there are numerous additional revision classes as the examination season approaches. Repton's Mathematics Society, the Ferguson Society meets weekly for a number of activities which may include: Computer Programming, Lectures, Inter-House competitions and problem-solving evenings. We also enter pupils for the National Mathematics Contests at both junior and senior-level and has twice reached the National Final of the team challenge in recent years.



SCIENCE

THE SUBJECT

Within Science and across Biology, Chemistry and Physics we aim to give our pupils opportunities to:

- acquire scientific knowledge and develop an understanding of science
- develop an interest in and enjoyment of science
- develop experimental and investigative abilities
- develop an understanding of the nature of science
- develop an understanding of the role of science and technology in society.

All pupils study Biology, Chemistry and Physics to GCSE with a total of seven 55-minute lessons being taught every week in B, A and O Block allowing opportunities for extended practical investigations. There will be two lessons in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics each week plus an additional lesson of either Biology, Chemistry or Physics. The extra Science lesson will be different in each of the year groups.

THE COURSE

The sciences are taught separately and by subject specialists, but links between the sciences and with ICT and technology are stressed where appropriate. You will be prepared for examinations within the AQA science syllabi. Most pupils will follow the Combined Science: Trilogy course (leading to the award of two GCSEs), but our more able scientists are entered for examinations in the three separate sciences (leading to the award of three GCSEs). At present only the top two or three sets in O Block will be entered for the three separate science GCSEs.

Either mode of entry is regarded as a good foundation for A Level study, although grade 7 and above (separates) or grade 8 and above (Combined Science) should be achieved for successful further study at A Level. In addition, grade 7 and above in Mathematics is a requirement for A Levels in the Sciences due to the high mathematical demand of these courses.

It should be stressed that either route through GCSE is perfectly acceptable for further study at university. The quality of grades achieved at GCSE is far more important than the number of GCSEs sat and the Combined Science course provide acceptable GCSEs even for the most competitive courses such as medicine, natural sciences and engineering. Whilst universities do not discriminate over which route through GCSE is taken, they do differentiate applicants by the quality of the grades achieved in their GCSE sciences. The decision as to which GCSE course is most suitable for each pupil is finalised at Christmas of A Block with further adjustments in the summer of A Block. It is based on internal examination results, regular testing and discussion between the three science departments, and with Tutors and Houseparents.

Assessment at GCSE, for both routes, is 100% by written examination and there are no controlled assessments or ISAs. For Combined Science there are six written examinations each of 1 hour 15 minutes duration, split into two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics papers. For the separate science GCSEs, there are two papers for each science, each of 1 hour 45 minutes duration; again this is six written examinations in total.

The 9-1 GCSEs have a greater mathematical demand than previous GCSE specifications. A minimum of 10% of marks will test maths skills in GCSE Biology; 20% in GCSE Chemistry; and 30% in GCSE Physics. For Combined Science qualifications, maths skills will be in the ratio 1:2:3. In other words, for every one mark of maths in biology there must be two in chemistry and three in physics.

There are a number of key changes with the 9-1 GCSEs.

- No controlled assessment (ISAs).
- No assessment of quality of written communication.
- 15% of GCSE marks will be for practical skills.
- The A* to G grades will be replaced by 9 to 1 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Combined Science will have a 17 point grading scale, from 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1, 1-1.

These changes can be read in more detail at: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse

EXAMINATION BOARD

All pupils follow AQA 9-1 Science specifications and are entered either for two GCSEs in Combined Science: Trilogy (8464) or three GCSEs in Biology (8461), Chemistry (8462) and Physics (8463).

THE DEPARTMENT

The Science department is housed in the Science Priory with state-of-the-art laboratories, lecture theatres and seminar rooms. There are flourishing co-curricular programmes in the sciences, including both a Gurney Society, where pupils have the opportunity to explore science beyond the examined curriculum, and a very popular Medical Society.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH, SPANISH *and* GERMAN

THE SUBJECT

The skill of being able to speak and understand languages confidently and effectively has never been more important than it is in both the European and global contexts of today. The syllabus that we use is admirably suited to developing that skill. In addition, we hope to develop your awareness, both of the nature of language and culturally, and to lay the firmest foundations possible for further study of your chosen language if you choose to carry on to A Level.

Dual linguists will take Spanish or German as their Core MFL and French as an option.

THE COURSE

You will follow the AQA syllabus and the language you learn will vary according to your ability and to the knowledge you have already acquired, but it will be drawn from three key themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

In the AQA examinations, the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are assessed separately through tiered papers and are each worth 25% of the final GCSE grade. Candidates are entered for either the foundation or the higher tier and there is no option to mix the two tiers. Choices about which tier pupils are entered for are not typically made before Lent Term in O Block.

Dictionaries are not permitted in the examinations, so the need to develop a wide vocabulary is very important. The ability to produce the language independently using grammatical knowledge, skills and understanding is also the key to success.

THE EXAMINATION BOARD

The examination board is AQA for the French (8658), Spanish (8698) and German (8668).

THE DEPARTMENT

You will also have the opportunity to make regular use of the Language Centre. This facility provides extensive opportunities for working on listening, speaking and audio-visual materials either independently or in a class situation. The MFL Society meets at least once every half term to discuss and explore a variety of linguistic and cultural issues.

PREPARATION

Time spent abroad where the foreign language is spoken is always valuable, as is listening to music and films in French, Spanish or German. A thorough revision of all vocabulary and grammar covered in B Block is essential and must be completed over the summer holiday.







SECTION B

OPTIONAL
SUBJECTS

ART

THE SUBJECT

Art GCSE provides not only a firm foundation in advanced art skills for pupils of all abilities but also encourages them to develop as independent artists through the range of work and the creative atmosphere in the department. The subject encourages the intellectual, imaginative, creative capabilities of pupils and enables them to apply their investigative, analytical, and critical facilities to an entirely practical subject.

The GCSE Art course also introduces pupils to a lifetime's experience and enjoyment of the depth, excitement and beauty of traditional and contemporary Art.

THE COURSE

The GCSE Fine Art course is based entirely on the individual practical studio-based work of the pupil taught by the three members of the staff in the Art Department. The first part of the A Block programme includes a foundation of skills' training in drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, three-dimensional and mixed media studies with an appreciation of their context in contemporary and traditional forms of Art.

In the latter part of the first year and O Block, you will use this knowledge to undertake one self- devised project (60%) and the Set Task Controlled Assignment, the theme of which is set by the OCR examination board (40%).

You will visit the London galleries at least once during the course and are exposed to the work of practising artists in many disciplines through the programme of exhibitions in the Art School, New Court Gallery and Gallery No. 1.

EXAMINATION BOARD

Fine Art, Photography and Textiles all come within the OCR GCSE Art and Design specification code J160 and more information can be obtained from the OCR website Art and Design Suite.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Art Department is made up of a number of excellent studio spaces, which include two large painting studios, pottery, computer suite, darkroom, sculpture studio, and a textiles workshop. The Art School is open seven days a week and its facilities are available every day out of lesson times, with at least one member of the Art staff present.

PREPARATION

You are encouraged to take a healthy interest in the work of the department, using it to make art in your free time, encountering the varied exhibition programme and to take any opportunity to visit museum and galleries while travelling in Britain and abroad. A book which the department encourages pupils to read to gain an insight into the history of the subject is 'The Thames and Hudson Introduction to Art' by Debora De Witte.



BUSINESS

THE SUBJECT

Business is a subject about the real world – what do businesses do? What influences their behaviour? How do they grow? How do they attract customers and persuade them to stay loyal? Over the two years, you will learn key ideas related to strategy, HR, marketing, production, finance and the external environment and then apply them to a range of real business situations. There is a significant amount of new terminology covered in the course but you will learn this language so that you can comfortably understand and explain the decisions made by businesses. At least 10% of the marks are awarded for quantitative skills, but these will be rooted firmly in a business context, such as calculating profit margins.

The course suits anyone with a healthy interest in the world of business. It is an excellent springboard into either Business or Economics at A Level but it will also be of benefit to pupils who do not intend to study the subject beyond GCSE.

THE COURSE

Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes)

Theme 1: Investigating small business – this covers entrepreneurship, the management of and issues facing small businesses, such as the economy and stakeholders. Topics will include market research, financial effectiveness, and business plans.

Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes)

Theme 2: Building a business – this covers business growth, the management of and issues facing large businesses, such as globalisation and ethics. Topics will include decision-making in HR, operations, finance and marketing.

EXAMINATION BOARD

We follow the Pearson Edexcel GCSE Business (1-9) course (1BS0).

THE DEPARTMENT

The department is located on Boot Hill, along with the Economics department. There are currently four teachers teaching GCSE Business, and another three who only teach Business and/or Economics at A Level. There are a number of competitions open to GCSE pupils, including the Pupil Investor challenge and the Tycoon In Schools competition.

PREPARATION

The most useful preparation for GCSE Business is to get an understanding of ‘real world’ businesses – what they are doing, and why. This can be done by reading the business section of a quality newspaper or news website, and by watching some of the business documentaries available on the BBC iPlayer or channel4.com.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

THE SUBJECT

This course is aimed at those who have enjoyed the B Block Classical Civilisation course and are interested in exploring the literature and culture of the ancient world. We follow the OCR syllabus, which is wide-ranging and consists of the following elements:

Myth and Religion (50%)

- Gods
- The Universal Hero
- Religion and the City: Temples
- Myth and the City: Foundation Stories
- Festivals
- Myths and Symbols of Power
- Death and Burial
- Journeying to the Underworld

Roman City Life (50%)

- Roman Housing
- The Roman Home and Family
- Society
- Leisure and Entertainment

EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR J199

THE DEPARTMENT

The department is housed in Furneaux School, right in the heart of the school. There is an office for use by staff and pupils in which a superb range of resources is available. The School Library also has many dedicated resources to the subject. We run many trips to destinations at home and abroad.

PREPARATION

The following would be useful preparation for the GCSE Classical Civilisation:-

- Pompeii: The Life of a Roman Town (Mary Beard) (Book and documentary series)
- Ancient Rome: The Rise and Fall of an Empire (Simon Baker)
- Rubicon: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Roman Republic (Tom Holland)

DESIGN *and* TECHNOLOGY

THE SUBJECT

Design and Technology prepares young adults to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. In the subject, you will work creatively when designing and making, whilst working to analyse the work of others and develop their technical expertise. These are valuable skills in relation to design or engineering careers, but as past GCSE Design and Technology pupils have proven, also to other careers such as business, marketing and even medicine and law. The subject will offer a unique and complimentary approach to the study of your other academic subjects.

THE COURSE

The GCSE specification encourages a rigorous understanding of the subject whilst promoting creativity and “risk taking”. The most important focus of this GCSE is “iterative design”: the constant encouragement to develop, refine, test and improve your ideas.

You will study core technical principles, as well as design and making principles, which cover a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also cover selected specialist technical principles in greater depth, with a leaning towards Product Design and Resistant Materials. Design and Technology at GCSE is a challenging, demanding and interesting course. You will experience much of the course through a hands-on approach by working with a variety of materials, sketching and relevant technical processes (including CAD/CAM).

The final grade at GCSE is taken from the following units:

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)

At the end of A Block we start to prepare for the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), the AQA contexts (themes to base designs on) are released in June ready for the start of O Block.

- 30-35 hours
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE grade

Assessment criteria:

- Investigating
- Designing
- Making
- Analysing and Evaluating

The NEA focuses on “iterative design”. The project will involve research, interviews, coming up with sketched ideas, modelling and of course manufacturing. The format for which we use to submit the NEA is called an e-portfolio, whereby all the work is done on PowerPoint. The final prototype that you produce is combined with your written e-portfolio to give you your final mark.

Written Paper

The end of the course will see you sit a formal written examination, which will assess your range and depth of subject theory knowledge.

- 100 marks
- 2 hours
- 50% of GCSE grade

Content

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles
- 15% Mid-GCSE Level math-based contextual questions

The paper examines your knowledge of design, understanding of materials, manufacturing processes, safety procedures and applications of technology.

EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA Design and Technology: 8552

THE DEPARTMENT

The Design Centre allows pupils the opportunity to use and experience all areas of Design and Technology. This ranges from a pencil for graphical work through to CAD, traditional manufacturing processes to 3D printing. The opportunity to work on project work outside of timetabled session is also encouraged with the facilities being available during Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as the weekend. Individual Tutoring is also available from 8am each morning.

PREPARATION

In advance of starting the course, you are advised to develop their freehand drawing skills and to observe and analyse the everyday products they interact with. How is it made? What material is it made from? How will it affect the environment?

You can find more information in the department's Microsoft Team, 'The Workshop' and through our Twitter and Instagram pages (@ReptonDesign).

DRAMA

THE SUBJECT

GCSE Drama is an exciting and dynamic subject suitable for those who enjoy all aspects of drama and theatre and who are prepared to work hard with others towards a common end. Studying Drama helps pupils develop creative links between theory and practice and allows them to express their own ideas and opinions in creative ways.

THE COURSE

The course is an immersive blend of practical work and study and performance of a set play and live theatre. Throughout the two years, you will be introduced to a range of different acting theories and techniques. Everyone has the opportunity to perform from a script, have 'hands-on' experience of design and technical aspects (set design, lighting, sound, etc.) and also 'devise' materials of your own during the two years. Lessons take place in the Studio Theatre, in the 400 Hall and in the classroom, which provides a perfect blend between theory and practice.

The study of Drama at GCSE consists of two practical components and one examination paper. For Components 1 and 2 each pupil must choose to be assessed as a performer or as a designer (sound, light, costume or set).

Component 1 - Devising Drama (60 marks - 40% of GCSE)

You will be assessed on either acting or design. You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by the examination board. You must produce:

- a realisation of their piece of devised theatre
- a portfolio of supporting evidence
- an evaluation of the final performance or design

Component 2 - Performing from a Text (60 marks - 20% of GCSE)

You will participate in a performance based on two 10-minute extracts from a performance text of their choice and will be assessed on either acting or design.

Component 3 - Interpreting Theatre (60 marks - 40 % of GCSE)

This is a written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes.

- Section A: Set Text

A series of questions on one text explored as an actor, designer and director

- Section B: Live Theatre Review

One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of one live theatre production seen during the course.

EXAMINATION BOARD

You will follow the Eduqas GCSE in Drama (part of WJEC). Further information can be found on the Eduqas website.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Drama department is currently comprised of three teachers, each with a different area of expertise allowing us to offer a range of opportunities to the pupils.

All those taking Drama GCSE have the opportunity to be involved in the many dramatic activities at Repton School and the Drama department will also do their best to facilitate any personal project the pupils may wish to undertake. Working and learning in the magnificent 400 Hall is a fantastic opportunity for pupils with an interest in the dramatic arts.



GEOGRAPHY

THE SUBJECT

There has never been a better time to study Geography and the subject opens up an eclectic range of options for the future. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences it is highly flexible in terms of what other subjects you can combine it with. Whenever possible, contemporary case study examples are used to demonstrate how the human and physical environments interact from the local to the global scale. You will investigate and discuss thought-provoking issues such as the impact of rapid population growth and uncontrolled urbanisation, the growth of newly industrialising countries and the impact of natural hazards upon countries at different levels of development.

Geography helps young adults to develop a number of transferable skills. As well as working independently, geographers have the opportunity to problem-solve and learn how to manipulate data in the form of interpreting graphs, maps, satellite images and photos. You will also undertake fieldwork exercises.

THE COURSE

The Edexcel Specification A has three components. Units one and two are worth 37.5% of the GCSE whereas Unit 3 is worth 25%.

Unit 1 (The Physical Environment) is worth 37.5% of the GCSE and is examined in a 1 hour 30 minute paper. There are three topics in this paper:

- The changing landscapes of the UK
- Weather hazards and climate change
- Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Unit 2 (The Human Environment) is worth 37.5% of the GCSE and is examined in a 1 hour 30 minute paper. There are three topics in this paper:

- Changing Cities
- Global Development
- Resource Management

Unit 3 (Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges) is worth 25% of the GCSE and is examined in a 1 hour 30 minute paper. There are three topics in this paper:

- Geographical investigations – Physical environments
- Geographical investigations – Human environments
- UK Challenges

This paper will require you to answer questions relating to a piece of fieldwork they have undertaken. There will be questions focused on a physical investigation as well as a human investigation and pupils will be expected to discuss their methodology, data presentation and findings.

EXAMINATION BOARD

This course is certified through the Edexcel examination board and we study the GCSE Geography A Specification. All available marks are awarded within examined units.

THE DEPARTMENT

Lessons are taught by one of the three subject specialists who all have excellent subject knowledge and a track record of first-rate examination results.

Fieldwork is an integral part of this GCSE course, and the subject of Geography more broadly. To that end, you will undertake some urban-based and river-based fieldwork as part of the two year course. This fieldwork will directly relate to the examination questions in unit 3.

The Repton Geography department runs a plethora of international field trips. These include trips to Iceland and Costa Rica. The Iceland field trip provides pupils with the opportunity to see a number of unique geographical phenomena first-hand, possibly including the Northern Lights.

PREPARATION

You are advised to keep an eye on current global issues within the newspapers. Of particular interest would be articles looking at climate change and the management and mitigation of this. Furthermore, there are a myriad of documentaries and films that would be of interest such as the BBC's series 'Perfect Planet', 'Race Across the World' as well as any of Simon Reeve's travel documentaries.

HISTORY

THE SUBJECT

The History Department exists to teach historical perspective, contemporary understanding and judgement. G.R. Elton's view that a historical education should produce "balanced people used to working on practical problems" encapsulates the essence of what the Department aims to achieve. History is central to the values of a liberal education and to the school's aim of producing fulfilled individuals and responsible citizens.

The course involves the study of twentieth-century modern world history. You will develop a range of historical skills which you can apply to other periods if you choose to take the subject further. However, the modern period is the medium chosen to develop these skills because of the abundance of source materials. It certainly provides you with an unrivalled opportunity of gaining valuable insight into the background of today's world.

THE COURSE

The IGCSE course is divided into two papers, both assessed through an exam at the end of the two-year course. Of the two examination papers, one tests knowledge and the other paper is partly concerned with testing the candidates' skills in handling historical sources (such as photographs, cartoons and newspapers) and applying their own knowledge in response to these documents. As such the qualification provides suitable preparation for A Level study.

Unit 1 – Depth Studies 4HI1/01 (worth 50% of the IGCSE)

This unit has two elements. One covers Germany between the wars, 1918-45 and the other looks at Superpower relations, 1943-72. The first element explores the problems faced by Germany after the First World War and the rise of Hitler. It also covers the policies of the Nazi regime and the German homefront during the Second World War. The second section considers the origins of the Cold War and its development through the 1940s to the 1970s and includes key events such as the Berlin Blockade and the Cuban Missile Crisis. This unit is assessed through an examination of 1 hour 30 minutes

Unit 2 – Investigation and Breadth Studies 4HI1/02 (worth 50% of the IGCSE)

This unit also covers two topics. These topics provide some overlap with the material studies for paper 1 to ensure that the entire course provides a coherent programme. The first topic focuses on the origins and course of the First World War, 1905-18. The second topic covers conflict, crisis and change in the Middle East between 1917 and 2012, including the disputed territorial claims, the key ways and the role of terrorism. This unit is assessed through an examination of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

EXAMINATION BOARD

The examination board is Edexcel and the course is 4HI1.

THE DEPARTMENT

The department comprises a strong team of six specialists who have varied and complementary areas of historical and political expertise.

PREPARATION

No specific preparation is required for those thinking of studying IGCSE History and elements of the course build on work that has been covered in B Block. However, you may enjoy reading the following:

- P. Baker, *Regeneration*
- J. Boyne, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*
- S. Faulks, *Birdsong*



LATIN

THE SUBJECT

Anybody who has enjoyed studying Latin in B Block will be able to take the subject through to GCSE. Latin is a rewarding subject that appeals to those with an interest in language and literature. Pupils who study Latin at GCSE go on to a wide range of degree courses, including Law, Classics, Medicine and Philosophy.

THE COURSE

1. **Latin Language:** Unseen translation and comprehension on the themes of mythology and domestic life and history. (90 minutes)
2. **Latin Prose Literature:** Learners study Latin set texts, answer questions in English on aspects of content and analyse, evaluate and respond to the ancient literature they have studied. (1 hour)
3. **Latin Verse Literature Comprehension:** questions on extracts from Virgil's Aeneid. (1 hour)

EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR J282

A SECOND MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

GERMAN OR SPANISH

Pupils may opt to study French in addition to Spanish or German. Details of the courses are given earlier in this Curriculum Booklet.

MUSIC

THE SUBJECT

The GCSE Music course comprises performance, composition and listening/analysis. It builds and supports the variety of skills that all musicians require and introduces a wide range of music, from classical and world music, through to musical theatre, rock and pop. Don't let anyone say that music is not an academic subject - the skills of analysis, logic, written communication and creativity involved in this wide-ranging and challenging course make it just as intellectually rigorous as any other subject!

All pupils studying GCSE need to be confident they will reach at least Grade 4/5 standard in an instrument or voice by the end of O Block, and should be reasonably confident in reading traditional musical notation.

THE COURSE

The GCSE is a three-part course: 30% Performance, 30% Composition, 40% Appraising.

It is based around four areas of study:

- Instrumental Music 1700-1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

Unit 1: Performing

You will record one solo (piano accompaniment is permitted) and one ensemble piece of chamber music (i.e., duet, trio, quartet, etc.) for a total duration of four minutes. The standard difficulty level is roughly equivalent to ABRSM Grade 4/5, with marks scaled up if a piece deemed to be 'more difficult' is presented.

Unit 2: Composing

Two short compositions (three minutes combined length) are completed – one in response to a choice of four briefs set by the exam board (each related to the Areas of Study above), the other in a style freely chosen by the candidate. These pieces are usually produced using the Sibelius software. Do not worry if this sort of work sounds new, as you will be taught all of the necessary skills before embarking on the coursework.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising

Study is approached through eight set works. Through these, you will learn and apply a wide range of technical vocabulary, as well as contextualising and justifying opinions about the works and related pieces of music. The set works are of widely varying styles:

- Instrumental Music 1700-1820 (a Bach concerto and a Beethoven piano sonata)
- Vocal Music (songs by Purcell and Queen)
- Music for Stage and Screen (music from Wicked and Star Wars Episode IV)
- Fusions (music inspired by African and South American styles)

This is the one unit assessed by a written paper. For the first section of the exam, there is a range of 'short answer' listening questions, most based on musical extracts from the set works but with one based on an unfamiliar piece of music; there is also a short melody/rhythm completion exercise. In the second section of the exam, your analytical and stylistic understanding is assessed through a short essay that compares one of the set works to an unfamiliar piece of music.

EXAMINATION BOARD

The Edexcel course is followed (1MU0). Units 1 and 2 are assessed as coursework, and Unit 3 through a 1 hour 45-minute exam paper.

THE DEPARTMENT

Pupils are taught by one or two specialist teachers in the impressive Music Department building which houses a beautiful concert hall, generous teaching space and recording studio. The department runs an extensive extra-curricular programme, concert visits, tours, and a professional concert series.

PREPARATION

Working on Music Theory (either through the ABRSM workbooks or Dorothy Dingle's 'Pass Grade 5 Theory') would be good preparation for this course, as would listening to a wide range of music both as recordings and in live performance. Additionally, plenty of instrumental or singing practice is always advisable!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

THE SUBJECT

GCSE Physical Education is suitable for anyone who has an interest in sport and physical activity. It provides the knowledge and understanding of how to live a healthy and active lifestyle and how to improve sporting performance.

THE COURSE

You will study the AQA Course and the GCSE consists of two written components and a practical component.

Component 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

This includes applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data.

Applied Anatomy and Physiology

- The Structure and Functions of the Musculoskeletal System
- The Structure and Functions of the Cardio-Respiratory System
- Anaerobic and Aerobic Exercise
- The Short and Long Term Effects of Exercise

Movement Analysis

- Lever Systems
- Planes and Axes of Movement

Physical Training

- The Relationship Between Health & Fitness
- The Components of Fitness
- The Principles of Training
- How to Optimise Training and Prevent Injury
- Effective Use of warm Up and Cool Down

Use of Data

- Understanding of How Data are Collected
- Presenting Data
- Analysing and Evaluating Data

This component is worth 30% of the GCSE and will be examined by a 1 hour 15 minute written paper.

Component 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

This includes sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and wellbeing and use of data.

Sport Psychology

- Classification of Skills
- The Use of Goal setting
- Basic Information Processing
- Guidance and Feedback on Performance
- Mental Preparation for Performance

Socio-Cultural Influences

- Engagement Patterns of Different Social Groups in Physical Activity
- The commercialism of Physical Activity and Sport
- Ethical Issues in Physical Activity and Sport

Health, Fitness and Well-Being

- Physical, Emotional and Social Health, Fitness and Well-Being
- The Consequences of a Sedentary Lifestyle
- Energy Use, Diet, Nutrition and Hydration

This component is also worth 30% of the GCSE and will be examined by a 1 hour 15 minute written paper.

Component 3: Practical performance in physical activity and sport.

You will be assessed in three practical activities and in a performance analysis. You will need to select at least one team activity and at least one individual activity from a range of sports as stipulated by the exam board.

This component is worth 40% of the GCSE and will be internally examined.

EXAMINATION BOARD

Pupils will follow the new AQA specification.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

THE SUBJECT

Religious Studies appeals to anyone who enjoys thinking through issues and who is interested in developing skills of analysis, argumentation and critical thinking. An interest in current affairs, culture, history or debating could be a sign that it is for you. You will develop skills in essay writing and discussion which will be very useful in other subjects and in the future.

It is an excellent choice for any pupil with an interest in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science due to its application to contemporary real-world moral issues like fertility treatments, euthanasia and animal experimentation. If you are thinking about a career in law or politics, Religious Studies includes discussion of matters of law and society such as terrorism, crime, war and peace. RS is a great platform from which you can go on to study Philosophy and Ethics at A Level and can open the doors to a wide range of university courses and careers.

THE COURSE

Thematic Studies (50%)

This unit examines religious and non-religious perspectives on a range of ethical and philosophical issues. We will study four themes:

- Religion and life (Abortion, Euthanasia, Animal Experimentation)
- The Existence of God and revelation (Arguments for and against God)
- Religion, Peace and Conflict (Just War Theory, Terrorism, Pacifism)
- Religion, Crime and Punishment (Causes of crime, Punishment, Death Penalty)

The study of religions: belief, teachings and practices (50%)

This unit takes a more traditional route, asking questions about how and why religious believers do what they do. We will examine two religions:

- Islam: Key beliefs about the nature of Allah, life after death, the Prophet Muhammad and the Qur'an. The role of worship including the Five Pillars, Jihad, and the importance of festivals for British Muslims.
- Christianity: Key beliefs about the nature of God, the afterlife, Jesus Christ and salvation. Different forms of worship with a focus on prayer, the role and meaning of the sacraments and the place of the Church in the community.

EXAMINATION BOARD

The board is AQA and the code is 8062 (GCSE Religious Studies 'A'). You will be examined by two exams at the end of the course of 1 hour 45 minutes each.

THE DEPARTMENT

The department is based in the Furneaux School and is taught by three specialists with a wide range of interests and enthusiasms. There is also a department extra-curricular society, The Hampshire Society, where you can enjoy improving your skills of philosophical discussion and debate.

PREPARATION

The best preparation is to have an open mind and to start engaging critically with issues that you see in the news. You could read the novel *Sophie's World*, by Jostein Gaarder, as a good basic introduction to philosophical thinking. You are welcome to come along to a Hampshire Philosophy Society meeting too; sessions are open to all members of the school.



SECTION C

ACADEMIC
SUPPORT

PERSONALISED LEARNING

Those who have a recognised Specific Education Need and/or Disability (SEND) may be invited to follow a programme of support in place of the core Modern Foreign Language. You will work in small groups focusing on the quality of your written expression, reading for meaning, numeracy, science revision skills and study skills. These areas support GCSE work across the subjects.

If you continue to study a core Modern Foreign Language, you can seek help and advice during evening Prep Support sessions. These sessions are advertised in daily notices and are available to all pupils. You may also wish to focus on developing your independent study skills, reading skills and writing techniques and this support can be accessed via the Support workshops which are advertised in Houses. Pupils who demonstrate a SEND need in the particular area of focus each week will receive an invitation to the workshop.

The Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ) has significantly tightened the regulations governing exam access arrangements (extra time, reader, scribe, rest break, prompt, laptop). Applications for reasonable adjustments must include evidence that you require significant support to access the curriculum in each subject as well as assessment scores and a history of SEND needs.

If a school fails to hold the required evidence relating to an application for access arrangements an accusation of maladministration can be made and paper disqualification can occur. Seeking an unfair advantage in a public exam can be classed as criminal fraud. The regulations governing access arrangements are linked to the Equality Act 2010 and parents should be aware that pupils working with concessions are listed as 'disabled learners'. In line with the regulations, it is our aim to provide strategies to overcome a difficulty, rather than to register a pupil as a disabled learner. A pupil can only be considered eligible for access arrangements if they are currently making regular use of support. Many pupils will experience timing difficulties at some point during their courses and improved revision and exam techniques help equip the vast majority of our pupils to meet the requirements of public exams.

ENGLISH *as an* ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

DESCRIPTION

It is the aim of the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department that pupils whose first language is not English are helped to become increasingly fluent in speaking, reading and writing English. You will be given support in developing the skills needed in GCSE subjects, for example in building up subject-specific vocabulary and planning and writing essays.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IGCSE COURSE

If you are in A and O Block and have EAL lessons, you will work towards the CIE English as a Second Language IGCSE. This is taken in addition to the core subjects IGCSE English and IGCSE English Literature.

Pupils in both A and O Block follow the CIE course books which focus on the four parts of the exam and help build skills in reading, writing and listening, in addition to developing speaking skills.

EXAMINATION

The examination consists of the following:

2-hour reading and writing paper: this consists of six tasks requiring a range of reading and writing skills such as writing a summary, writing a report or article and email and letter writing.

50-minute listening exam: pupils are required to listen to several extracts and complete a range of tasks such as gap-filling, multiple choice questions and short-answer questions.

10-15 minute speaking exam: this consists of a warm-up conversation and a discussion on a given topic.

THE LIBRARY *and* ACADEMIC RESOURCES

The School Library, housed on two floors in the Old Priory not only provides access to a fantastic range of books and online resources but is also the ideal place to work and research. The main room in the Library contains the non-fiction section, which supports the curriculum and provides ample opportunities for reading beyond it.

Adjacent to the main Library are two additional rooms – the Garth Room contains a dozen computers giving access to a selection of online and subscription resources, including encyclopaedias and study guides.

The Audit Room contains the fiction section, and with its comfortable armchairs and sofas, it is the ideal environment for quiet reading. Above the main Library, the Hunter Room contains a substantial collection of books about the Classical World and has many more spaces for pupils to study and revise in peace.



HIGHER EDUCATION *and* CAREERS GUIDANCE

All pupils should be aware that your GCSE results profile is an important criterion in the selection process for many university courses, and for the more competitive courses very high grades will be needed. The decision about which optional subjects to take through to GCSE should therefore be based on your strengths and interests, whilst also taking into account the need to keep doors open to as many degree courses and careers as possible. For example:

- Pupils who intend to study Modern Foreign Languages at undergraduate level are advised to study two languages to GCSE and A Level.
- Some subjects can be studied at A Level without having studied them at GCSE, however others (e.g. foreign languages and Latin) cannot be.

Your GCSE grades will most likely be your first opportunity to evidence your academic achievements when applying to university and, as such, a much greater focus is placed upon these during the admissions process. Strong GCSE grades will add weight to higher predictions when A Level grades are being forecast.

In the majority of cases, university courses will not stipulate certain GCSE grades, but there is often an expectation of a pass at both English Language and Mathematics at a Grade 4/5. In some cases, higher grades are required (particularly if applying for medicine or science based subjects at degree level).

For those pupils who are speakers of English as a foreign language, it should be noted that the English Language International GCSE does not include a spoken language element which means that pupils will need to sit an IELTS test before progressing to university.



Talks from universities happen regularly and we encourage you to attend these in order to start an early process of research into your higher education study options.

The main aim of the Careers Department is to provide a framework that encourages you to think about life beyond school and plan a career path that suits your individual strengths and interests. Houseparents, subject teachers, Tutors, the Higher Education Team and the Head of Careers work together to guide and advise you as you move through the school.

Work experience is essential for entry to a number of university courses (including medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, physiotherapy and teaching) and pupils are encouraged to arrange suitable placements at an early stage. An ideal time for the first placement would therefore be after GCSEs have finished or during the summer holidays of O Block.

Regular careers talks are advertised to all pupils from O Block upwards. Recent talks have covered areas including Accountancy, Architecture, Aviation, Engineering, Fashion, Hospitality & Events Management, Law and Investment Banking. Army and RAF Careers Liaison Officers visit regularly to interview pupils and provide guidance to those pupils interested in joining the armed forces.





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