



Key Stage 4 course options

Saint Helena Secondary School

2026-27

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Welcome

Dear Student

Up until now, you have had little choice over the subjects you study. As you move into Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), that changes. You will continue to study the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, but you will now have the opportunity to choose additional subjects that reflect your interests, strengths and future aspirations.

This options booklet is designed to support you and your parents or guardians in making informed decisions. It outlines the courses available, what each subject involves, how it is assessed and where it can lead in the future. It is important to remember that this booklet cannot answer every question, so you are strongly encouraged to speak to your teachers for further guidance.

Subjects should not be chosen simply because friends are taking them, because you like the teacher, or because you think they will be easy. Instead, aim for a broad and balanced range of subjects that will keep your future options open, particularly if you are considering further study at A Level or beyond.

Support is available throughout this process, including:

- The Options Evening, where subject teachers will be available to answer questions
- Advice from tutors and subject teachers
- One-to-one guidance interviews

While we will always try to meet students' first choices, this cannot be guaranteed due to class sizes and timetabling constraints. Reserve choices are therefore essential.

Please take the time to make thoughtful, informed decisions.

Mr Phil Toal
Headteacher

How to Choose Your Subjects

Choosing your Key Stage 4 subjects is an important decision that should be made carefully and in discussion with parents and teachers.

Do choose a subject because:

- You enjoy it and are good at it
- It links to your future career ideas
- It complements your other subjects
- It helps you develop useful skills for the future
- It keeps your options open

Don't choose a subject because:

- Your friends have chosen it
- You like your current teacher
- You think it will be easy
- You cannot think of another subject

Once choices are made, there is very limited opportunity to change. You should also be prepared to work with new classmates, as this is a valuable opportunity to develop communication and teamwork skills.

Understanding Qualifications & Levels

Qualifications at Key Stage 4 are offered at different levels to match students' strengths, learning needs and future pathways. Each qualification is recognised and designed to support progression to further education, training or employment.

Unit Awards

Unit Awards recognise achievement in specific skills or areas of learning. Students complete short units assessed by teachers through practical tasks or evidence of learning. There are no written examinations. Unit Awards are ideal for students who benefit from structured, practical learning and allow progress to be built up gradually.

Entry Level Qualifications

Entry Level qualifications are designed for students working below GCSE level. They focus on developing confidence, independence and core skills through accessible and practical learning. Entry Level courses support progression to Level 1 qualifications.

Level 1 Qualifications

Level 1 qualifications are equivalent to GCSE grades 1–3. They develop essential knowledge and skills and are suitable for students building confidence in a subject. Level 1 courses support progression to Level 2 qualifications, apprenticeships and employment.

Level 2 Qualifications

Level 2 qualifications are equivalent to GCSE grades 4–9. They require greater independence and understanding and support progression to A Levels, further vocational study, apprenticeships and employment.

Functional Skills (English)

Functional Skills focus on practical English and Maths skills needed for everyday life, work and further study.

Qualifications Comparison

Level	Qualification Examples
Level 3	A-Level
	Other Level Qualifications
Level 2	GCSE / IGCSE Grade 4 - 9
	Functional Skills Level 2
	Other Level 2 Qualifications
Level 1	GCSE / IGCSE Grade 1 - 3
	Functional Skills Level 1
	City & Guild Level 1
	Other Level 1 Qualifications
Entry Level	Entry Level 3
	Entry Level 2
	Entry Level 1
Unit Award	AQA Unit Award

Core Subjects

English Language

Course Overview

IGCSE English Language focuses on developing students' ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of texts, as well as to write clearly, accurately and effectively for different purposes and audiences.

Students learn how language is used to inform, persuade and entertain, and develop confidence in both creative and transactional writing. Strong emphasis is placed on spelling, punctuation, grammar and written accuracy.

What You Will Study

- Reading comprehension and analysis of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Directed writing tasks (letters, speeches, articles, interview scripted response, reports, journals)
- Narrative and descriptive writing
- Language techniques and structure
- Speaking and listening skills (separately endorsed)

Assessment

- Two written examinations
- No coursework
- Speaking and listening assessed separately and does not count towards the final grade

Where Can This Subject Take You?

English Language is a **core qualification** required for most post-16 pathways, including A Levels, vocational courses, apprenticeships and employment. It is essential for college entry and is highly valued by employers.

Careers using English Language include education, business, administration, media, law, healthcare, customer service, tourism and public sector roles.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International – IGCSE First Language English (0990)

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-9-1-first-language-english-0990/>

Contact

Mrs M George

English Literature

Course Overview

GCSE English Literature is an academic subject that develops students' ability to read, understand and analyse a wide range of literary texts. Students explore how writers use language, structure and form to convey ideas, emotions and viewpoints, while also developing their own written communication skills whilst considering the impact and influence of contextual factors.

The course encourages independent thinking, discussion and critical evaluation. Students learn to express informed opinions, support ideas with evidence and write clearly and accurately under examination conditions.

What You Will Study

Students will study a range of literary texts, including:

- A Shakespeare play
- A 19th-century novel
- Modern prose or drama
- Poetry from a set anthology
- Unseen poetry

Texts may include works such as *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Christmas Carol*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Lord of the Flies* or *Animal Farm* (texts studied may vary, the list provided is not exhaustive).

Assessment

- Two written examinations at the end of Year 11
- No coursework
- Closed-book examinations requiring detailed written responses

Where Can This Subject Take You?

English Literature supports progression to A Level English Literature and other subjects which require critical thinking and analysis. It is highly valued by colleges and universities due to the strong analytical, essay-writing and critical thinking skills it develops.

Career pathways include law, teaching, journalism, media, publishing, public services, marketing, politics and any role requiring strong written communication and analytical skills.

Examination Board & Specification

AQA – GCSE English Literature

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

Contact

Mrs M George

Functional Skills English (Level 1 and Level 2)

Course Overview

Functional Skills English is a practical qualification designed to develop essential communication skills needed for everyday life, work and further study. The course focuses on reading, writing, speaking, listening and communications in real-world contexts.

It is suitable for students who are not following GCSE English Language but still need a recognised English qualification.

What You Will Study

- Reading and understanding everyday texts
- Writing emails, letters and reports
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Speaking, listening and presenting ideas clearly

Assessment

- Reading examination
- Writing examination
- Speaking, listening and communication assessment (Individual Presentation and Group Discussion)

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Functional Skills English supports progression into further education, apprenticeships and employment. It is widely recognised by employers and training providers and is often required for vocational courses.

It supports careers in trades, hospitality, construction, care services, retail, administration and many practical employment routes.

Examination Board & Specification

TQUK – Functional Skills English (Levels 1 and 2)

Specification: <https://www.tquk.org/functional-skills-suite>

Contact

Mrs M George

Mathematics

Course Overview

GCSE Mathematics is a core academic subject that develops logical thinking, problem-solving skills and numerical confidence. Students build on the foundations established in Key Stage 3 and learn how mathematics applies to everyday life as well as to scientific, technical and financial contexts.

The course is taught at Foundation or Higher tier, depending on prior attainment, and places strong emphasis on reasoning, problem-solving and applying mathematics in unfamiliar situations.

What You Will Study

- Number, algebra and ratio
- Geometry and measures
- Statistics and probability
- Mathematical reasoning and problem solving

Assessment

- Three written examinations (calculator and non-calculator)

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Mathematics is essential for most post-16 pathways. It supports progression to A Levels in Maths, Sciences, Business, Economics and Computing, and is a key requirement for many university courses. Careers using mathematics include engineering, finance, construction, computing, science, teaching, trades and technical roles.

Examination Board & Specification

AQA – GCSE Mathematics

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

Contact

Mrs G Williams

Combined Science, Single Award

Course Overview

This course covers basic principles of Biology, Chemistry and Physics at GCSE level. This course is suitable for those who want to leave school with a basic science qualification without progressing to a higher level science after Yr 11.

What You Will Study

- Core concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Scientific investigations and experimental skills
- Data analysis and evaluation
- Application of science to real-world contexts

Assessment

- Written examinations (Core or Extended pathways). Knowledge of practical skills is also assessed in a written paper.
- This course awards **one** IGCSE grade

Where Can This Subject Take You?

This qualification supports careers that require basic scientific knowledge, such as technical trades. The skills developed are also highly valued in non-science careers. Note, students will **not** be able to progress to A level science after taking this course.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) - IGCSE Science Combined

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-science-combined-0653/>

Contact

Science Department

Coordinated Sciences (Double Award)

Course Overview

IGCSE Coordinated Science provides students with a broad and balanced study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, leading to a double science qualification. The course is designed for students who enjoy scientific enquiry and want to understand how science explains the world around them. It combines theoretical learning with practical investigations, helping students develop strong analytical, mathematical and problem-solving skills.

Students choosing this option have additional science lessons each week, allowing deeper exploration of scientific concepts and more practical work. This course is particularly well suited to students considering further study in science-related subjects.

What You Will Study

- Core concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Scientific investigations and experimental skills
- Data analysis and evaluation
- Application of science to real-world contexts

Assessment

- Written examinations (Core or Extended pathways). Knowledge of practical skills is also assessed in a written paper.
- This course awards **two** IGCSE grades

Where Can This Subject Take You?

This qualification provides an excellent foundation for A Level sciences and science-related college courses. It supports progression into careers such as medicine, nursing, engineering, environmental science, laboratory work, marine science and technical trades. The skills developed are also highly valued in non-science careers.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) – IGCSE Coordinated Sciences

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-sciences-9-1-only-0973/>

Contact

Science Department

Unit Award Agriculture

Course Overview

The Agriculture course provides students with a practical and realistic introduction to farming and land-based studies, rooted firmly in the local context of St Helena. Students learn how food is produced, how land is managed sustainably and how agriculture supports the local economy and community. Learning takes place through a balance of classroom-based theory and extensive hands-on practical work.

Students are based at the Harpers Agricultural Centre, a modern and well-equipped facility surrounded by farmland. Each student maintains their own garden plot and gains experience of both protected farming (polytunnels) and open-field farming, alongside opportunities to work with local farmers.

What You Will Study

- Types of agriculture on St Helena
- Crop production and basic soil management
- Protected and open farming systems
- Health, safety and environmental responsibility
- Portfolio-based practical evidence

Assessment

- Teacher-observed practical tasks
- Portfolio of evidence

Where Can This Subject Take You?

This qualification supports progression into apprenticeships, further vocational training and employment in agriculture, horticulture, conservation and environmental work. It is particularly valuable for students seeking practical careers within the island community, but also develops transferable skills such as responsibility, problem-solving and teamwork.

Examination Board & Specification

AQA – Unit Award Scheme (Agriculture)

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme>

Contact

Mrs R Samuel

IGCSE / GCSE Option Subjects

Art and Design

Course Overview

GCSE Art and Design is a creative course that allows students to explore their ideas, interests and talents through a wide range of artistic media. Students are encouraged to develop their creativity, visual awareness and ability to express ideas in a personal and meaningful way. The course values experimentation, independence and reflective thinking.

Throughout the course, students work on sustained projects that take them from initial ideas and research through to final outcomes. They learn how to analyse artists' work, refine their own ideas and present a coherent body of work.

What You Will Study

- Drawing, painting and mixed media techniques
- Artist research and analysis
- Developing and refining creative ideas
- Presenting final outcomes

Assessment

- Coursework portfolio
- Externally set assignment completed under supervised conditions

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Art and Design supports progression to A Level Art, Photography, Graphic Design and other creative subjects. It can lead to careers in art, design, architecture, media, fashion, advertising, illustration, teaching and creative industries. The skills developed are also valuable in any career requiring creativity, problem-solving and visual communication.

Examination Board & Specification

AQA – GCSE Art and Design

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201>

Contact

Mrs S Duncan / Mrs A Plato

Business Studies

Course Overview

IGCSE Business Studies provides students with a clear and practical understanding of how businesses operate in the real world. The course explores how businesses are set up, how they grow, how decisions are made and how organisations respond to internal and external influences. Students learn to think like entrepreneurs and managers, developing both commercial awareness and analytical skills.

The course uses real-world and international case studies to help students understand business activity in different countries and economic contexts. Students are encouraged to apply theory to practical situations, evaluate business decisions and consider the impact of finance, marketing, operations and human resources on business success.

What You Will Study

- Business in the real world
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing and finance
- Influences on business

Assessment

- Paper 1: Operations & Human Resources (50%)
- Paper 2: Marketing & Finance (50%)

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Business Studies provides excellent preparation for A Level Business Studies, Economics and related college courses. It is also a strong foundation for university degrees in business, management, economics, finance, marketing and entrepreneurship. Career pathways include business management, accounting, finance, marketing, retail management, human resources, administration, entrepreneurship and self-employment. The subject also develops transferable skills such as communication, problem-solving, numeracy and decision-making, which are valued across all employment sectors.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International – IGCSE Business Studies

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-business-studies-0450/>

Contact

Mr K Fick

Computer Science

Course Overview

IGCSE Computer Science introduces students to the principles of computing, programming and problem-solving. The course develops computational thinking and helps students understand how computer systems work, from hardware and software to networks and data representation. Students learn to approach problems logically and design solutions using algorithms and programming.

This is an academic and challenging course that suits students who enjoy logical thinking, mathematics and working independently. Programming is a core element of the course, and students will learn to write and test code using a high-level programming language.

What You Will Study

- Data representation and computer systems
- Hardware, software and networks
- Cyber security and ethical issues
- Algorithms, pseudocode and flowcharts
- Programming concepts and problem-solving

Assessment

- Paper 1: Theory examination
- Paper 2: Problem-solving and programming examination

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Computer Science provides a strong foundation for A Level Computer Science and related university courses in computing, engineering and technology. Career pathways include software development, IT support, cybersecurity, engineering, data analysis and technical roles across many industries, both locally and internationally.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International – IGCSE Computer Science

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-computer-science-0478/>

Contact

Mr N Odunsi

Design and Technology

Course Overview

IGCSE Design and Technology is a practical and creative subject that develops students' ability to design, make and evaluate products. Students learn how to solve real-world problems by combining creativity with technical knowledge and practical skills.

The course focuses on Resistant Materials and encourages students to think independently, manage projects and produce high-quality outcomes.

What You Will Study

- Design problem-solving and communication
- Resistant materials and manufacturing techniques
- Safe use of tools and equipment
- Evaluating and improving designs

Assessment

- Written design examination
- Written materials examination
- School-based practical project

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Design and Technology supports progression to A Levels and college courses in design, engineering, construction and manufacturing. Career pathways include engineering, product design, architecture, carpentry, trades, manufacturing and technical roles.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International – IGCSE Design and Technology

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-design-and-technology-9-1-0979/>

Contact

Mr N Plato

Food and Nutrition

Course Overview

IGCSE Food and Nutrition develops students' understanding of food, health and nutrition alongside practical cooking skills. Students learn how diet affects health and wellbeing and how to prepare food safely and efficiently.

The course combines theory with practical work and is well suited to students who enjoy cooking and are interested in health, hospitality or food-related careers.

What You Will Study

- Nutrition and healthy diets
- Food preparation and cooking methods
- Food safety, hygiene and preservation
- Kitchen planning and organisation

Assessment

- Written examination
- Practical cooking examination

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Food and Nutrition supports progression to A Levels and college courses in food science, nutrition, hospitality and catering. Career pathways include chef training, catering, hospitality management, nutrition, health services and food production industries.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International – IGCSE Food and Nutrition

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-food-and-nutrition-0648/>

Contact

Mrs L Yon

Geography

Course Overview

IGCSE Geography helps students understand the physical and human world and the relationships between people and their environment. The course develops strong skills in analysis, decision-making and evaluating global issues, while remaining highly relevant to everyday life and local environments.

Students learn through case studies, maps, photographs and data, developing a clear understanding of global challenges such as population change, resource use and environmental sustainability.

What You Will Study

- Population and settlement
- Physical environments
- Economic development
- Environmental challenges

Assessment

- Three written examination papers

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Geography supports progression to A Level Geography and related subjects such as Environmental Science and Geology. It is highly regarded by employers due to the transferable skills it develops. Career pathways include environmental management, planning, tourism, education, conservation, government services and research.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International – IGCSE Geography

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-geography-0460/>

Contact

Mrs I Andrews

History

Course Overview

GCSE History encourages students to explore key periods in British and world history and to understand how the past has shaped the modern world. The course develops strong written communication, critical thinking and research skills.

This subject is delivered through distance learning and therefore requires a high level of independence, motivation and commitment.

What You Will Study

- Medicine in Britain and the Western Front
- The American West
- Elizabethan England
- Weimar and Nazi Germany

Assessment

- Three written examination papers

Where Can This Subject Take You?

History is highly valued for its academic rigour and supports progression to A Levels and university courses across a wide range of subjects. Career pathways include law, teaching, politics, journalism, tourism, archaeology, public service and research-based roles.

Examination Board & Specification

Pearson Edexcel – GCSE History

Specification: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

Contact

Ms J Kibengo

Information and Communication Technology

Course Overview

IGCSE ICT is a practical and applied course that focuses on using technology effectively to solve real-world problems. Students develop strong skills in using software applications, managing information and creating digital products, alongside understanding how ICT impacts society and the workplace.

The course balances theory with hands-on practical tasks and is well suited to students who enjoy working with computers and developing practical digital skills.

What You Will Study

- Computer systems and networks
- Data handling and analysis
- Document production and presentations
- Website authoring and digital communication
- Safety, security and ethical use of ICT

Assessment

- Theory examination
- Two practical examinations completed in a computer lab

Where Can This Subject Take You?

ICT supports progression to A Levels and college courses in Information Technology and related fields. Career pathways include IT support, administration, business technology, digital media, office management and roles that require strong computer and organisational skills across all sectors.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International – IGCSE Information and Communication Technology

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-information-and-communication-technology-0417/>

Contact

Mr N Odunsi

Marine Science

Course Overview

IGCSE Marine Science provides students with a scientific understanding of the oceans and the life they support. The course explores the physical and chemical properties of seawater, marine ecosystems and the impact of human activity on the marine environment. It combines scientific theory with practical investigation and fieldwork wherever possible.

As an island community in the South Atlantic, the marine environment is central to life on St Helena. This course is particularly relevant to students who are interested in the ocean, conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. Students develop scientific enquiry skills while gaining a deeper appreciation of their responsibility to protect the marine environment.

What You Will Study

The course covers six main topic areas:

- The Earth and its oceans
- Seawater and its properties
- Marine organisms and classification
- Nutrients and energy flow in marine systems
- Marine ecology and ecosystems
- Human influences on the marine environment

Students will also develop practical scientific skills, including data collection, analysis and evaluation, with a strong emphasis on environmental responsibility and safe working practices.

Assessment

- Written examination papers
- Practical investigation skills assessed through examination
- No coursework

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Marine Science provides an excellent foundation for further study in Biology, Environmental Science, Marine Biology and related A Level or college courses. It supports careers in marine conservation, fisheries, environmental management, research, tourism, sustainability, education and science-based roles. The subject also develops transferable skills such as problem-solving, data analysis, critical thinking and environmental awareness, which are valued across a wide range of careers.

Examination Board & Specification

Cambridge International – IGCSE Marine Science

Specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-marine-science-0697/>

Contact

Miss A Young

Physical Education

Course Overview

GCSE Physical Education combines practical performance with the scientific and theoretical understanding of sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Students develop their physical abilities while also learning how the body works, how performance can be improved and how sport impacts society.

The course suits students who enjoy being active, are willing to train and practise regularly, and can balance physical performance with written academic work.

What You Will Study

- Anatomy and physiology
- Health, fitness and training
- Skill acquisition and sports psychology
- Social, cultural and ethical influences in sport

Assessment

- Written theory examination
- Practical performance in selected sports

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Physical Education supports progression to A Level PE, Sport Science and related college courses. Career pathways include sports coaching, fitness instruction, physiotherapy, teaching, sports management, health services and uniformed services. The course also develops teamwork, leadership and resilience.

Examination Board & Specification

AQA – GCSE Physical Education

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>

Contact

Mrs C Caswell

Psychology

Course Overview

GCSE Psychology introduces students to the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Students explore why people think, feel and behave as they do, while developing research, analysis and evaluation skills.

The course is engaging and thought-provoking and encourages students to think critically about real-life behaviour and mental processes.

What You Will Study

- Memory and perception
- Perception
- Development and social influence
- Research methods
- Language, Thought & Communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

Assessment

- Two written examinations

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Psychology provides a strong foundation for A Level Psychology and related university courses. It supports careers in health care, education, social services, counselling, mental health support, research, law enforcement and human resources.

Examination Board & Specification

AQA – GCSE Psychology

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>

Contact

Miss L McDaniel

Religious Education

Course Overview

GCSE Religious Education encourages students to explore important questions about beliefs, values and morality, and how these influence individuals and societies. The course develops students' understanding of religious beliefs and practices, while also encouraging critical thinking, respectful debate and the ability to evaluate different viewpoints.

What You Will Study

Students will study two main components:

- **Study of Religions**
 - Beliefs, teachings and practices of selected religions (commonly Christianity and Islam)
 - Places of worship, festivals and religious life
 - Sources of authority and religious expression
- **Thematic Studies (Ethics and Philosophy)**
 - Relationships and families
 - Religion, peace and conflict
 - Religion and life (including life, death and the environment)
 - Crime and punishment
 - Human rights and social justice

Students learn how to construct reasoned arguments, analyse religious teachings and apply them to contemporary moral issues.

Assessment

- Two written examinations taken at the end of Year 11
- No coursework
- Examinations require extended written responses and evaluation of different viewpoints

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Religious Education supports progression to A Levels in Religious Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology and other humanities subjects. Universities and employers value RE for the strong skills it develops in analysis, evaluation, essay writing and ethical reasoning. Career pathways include law, teaching, social work, healthcare, journalism, public services, counselling, politics, international relations and roles that involve working with people from diverse backgrounds. The subject also develops transferable skills such as empathy, communication and critical thinking.

Examination Board & Specification

AQA – GCSE Religious Studies

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062>

Contact

Ms J Kibengo

Sociology (Distance Learning)

Course Overview

GCSE Sociology helps students understand society, social behaviour and the institutions that influence our lives. Students learn to question social issues, analyse evidence and develop balanced arguments.

As a distance learning subject, Sociology requires students to be organised, motivated and confident readers.

What You Will Study

- Families and education
- Crime and deviance
- Social stratification
- Research methods

Assessment

- Two written examinations

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Sociology supports progression to A Levels and university courses in social sciences. Career pathways include social work, nursing, teaching, law, policing, journalism, marketing, public services and community-based roles.

Examination Board & Specification

AQA – GCSE Sociology

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

Contact

Ms R Lawrence

Level 1 & 2 Equivalent Qualifications

ASDAN Personal Development (Bronze / Silver / Gold)

Course Overview

Course Overview ASDAN Personal Development Programmes are practical, skills-based qualifications designed to support students in developing confidence, independence and employability skills. The courses focus on real-life learning and personal achievement, helping students to recognise their strengths and prepare positively for future education, training or employment.

The programme is highly flexible and inclusive, allowing students to work at Bronze, Silver or Gold level depending on their starting point, progress and individual needs. Learning is personalised and supported through practical activities, discussion, reflection and portfolio building.

What You Will Study

- Communication and teamwork
- Problem solving and independent learning
- Health, wellbeing and personal responsibility
- Community involvement and citizenship
- Work-related learning and enterprise
- Planning, reviewing and reflecting on progress

Assessment

- No written examinations
- Ongoing assessment of completed challenges
- Portfolio of evidence moderated by ASDAN

Where Can This Subject Take You?

ASDAN qualifications support progression into further education, vocational courses, apprenticeships and employment. They are particularly valuable for students who benefit from practical learning and recognition of wider skills beyond examinations.

Examination Board & Specification

ASDAN

Specification:

<https://www.asdan.org.uk/qualifications/programmes/personal-development-programmes>

Contact

Mrs A Kirk

Automotive Studies (Level 1)

Course Overview

VRQ Automotive Studies provides students with hands-on experience of vehicle maintenance and automotive systems. The course is practical in nature and designed for students who enjoy mechanical work and learning through doing.

Students develop an understanding of how vehicles operate and how to carry out routine maintenance safely and effectively.

What You Will Study

- Engine lubrication and cooling systems
- Fuel, exhaust and ignition systems
- Braking, steering and suspension systems
- Electrical systems and tyres

Assessment

- Practical tasks
- Online GOLLA tests
- Credit-based unit completion

Where Can This Subject Take You?

This qualification supports progression to apprenticeships, further vocational training and employment in automotive maintenance, mechanics and engineering support roles. It is particularly valuable for students seeking technical careers within transport and engineering sectors.

Examination Board & Specification

City & Guilds – VRQ Automotive

Specification:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/engineering/vehicle-maintenance>

Contact

Mr C Henry

Child Development (Level 1 & 2)

Course Overview

Cambridge National Child Development is a vocationally focused qualification that develops students' understanding of how children grow, develop and learn from birth to five years. The course combines theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on learning, making it ideal for students interested in working with children or in health and social care-related careers. Students gain insight into children's physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, as well as the factors that influence healthy growth. The course encourages responsibility, organisation and reflective thinking, and allows students to apply learning through real-life observations and practical investigations.

What You Will Study

Students will study key areas of child development, including:

- Health and wellbeing for child development
- Developmental norms from birth to five years
- Factors affecting child development
- Nutritional needs of young children
- Equipment and resources used to support development
- Planning and carrying out practical investigations

Students will also complete a **child study**, which involves first-hand experience of observing and understanding a child's development over time.

Assessment

Assessment is a combination of examination and coursework:

- One written examination focusing on health and wellbeing for child development
- Coursework components including: A child study based on real observation, A practical investigation into children's equipment or nutritional needs

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Career pathways include early years practitioner, teaching assistant, nursery nurse, childminder, youth worker, health care assistant and roles within education and care services. The subject also develops transferable skills such as communication, organisation, empathy and responsibility, which are valuable in many careers.

Examination Board & Specification

OCR – Cambridge National in Child Development

Specification:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/child-development-level-1-2-j809/>

Contact

Miss L McDaniel

Construction Skills (Level 1)

Course Overview

VRQ Construction Skills introduces students to a range of practical construction trades. The course is designed for students who enjoy hands-on work and want to develop real-world skills used within the construction industry.

Students progress through units that build competence in carpentry, joinery, brickwork and finishing skills, developing safe working practices and practical confidence.

What You Will Study

- Carpentry and joinery skills
- Brickwork, plastering and rendering
- Site skills and health and safety
- Portfolio development

Assessment

- End-of-unit practical assessments
- Portfolio of work
- Health and safety testing

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Construction Skills supports progression into apprenticeships, further training and employment in construction trades such as carpentry, joinery, bricklaying and general building. The skills developed are highly transferable and valued across technical industries.

Examination Board & Specification

City & Guilds – VRQ Construction Skills

Specification: <https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/construction>

Contact

Mr C Fowler

Hospitality and Catering (Level 1 & 2)

Course Overview

This vocational qualification introduces students to the hospitality and catering industry and the skills needed to work successfully within it. Students learn how hospitality businesses operate and how food safety, nutrition and customer service contribute to success.

The course combines theoretical understanding with practical cooking and planning activities, helping students develop confidence, organisation and time-management skills.

What You Will Study

- The hospitality and catering industry
- Nutrition and food safety
- Food preparation and cooking skills
- Planning and evaluating hospitality services

Assessment

- Externally assessed written/on-screen examination
- Internally assessed practical assignment

Where Can This Subject Take You?

Hospitality and Catering supports progression to further vocational qualifications, apprenticeships and employment in catering, hospitality, tourism and food services. Career routes include chef training, hospitality management, catering services and customer service roles, both locally and internationally.

Examination Board & Specification

WJEC – Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

Specification: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering>

Contact

Miss S Ellick