

Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

Year 10 and 11

GCSE • IGCSE • BTEC



**SUNMARKE
SCHOOL**
Where Amazing Happens™



Key Stage 4 Options Booklet
GCSE, IGCSE & BTEC

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this booklet is to give you information about the courses your son/daughter could study in Years 10 and 11. We hope you will find it both interesting and useful as a guide to choosing the right options as well as a reference throughout the two year IGCSE, GCSE or BTEC Level 2 programmes. It will tell you at a glance the areas of study within each subject and can be used by yourselves to support the teaching and learning that takes place in school. Our expectations are high, not only for our students but for our staff too. We place high emphasis on the quality and standards of teaching and learning in a caring environment; these are at the very core of our philosophy.

Sunmarke is a lead school in Positive Education; this philosophy along with our use of developing student's multismart intelligences allows students to flourish in an ever-changing future. By focusing on our students' emotional and social growth alongside their academics, creativity and international mindedness our students, become lifelong learners who can and will succeed. Our highly trained and motivated staff follow the same philosophy and offer support to the students both academically and pastorally in order to create an excellent learning environment for students to thrive.

Regular attendance at school is especially important during Year 10 and 11. Some of the subjects will have a coursework component that contributes to the final IGCSE, GCSE or BTEC Level 2 grade. If coursework is not completed, then a final grade cannot be awarded. Therefore a students attendance along with work ethic is key to their success.

I am confident that your son/daughter will continue to make good progress at Sunmarke in a supportive yet intellectually challenging environment. During the process leading up to final choices, your son/daughter will have many conversations with relevant teaching staff about some of the subjects that can be studied next year in more detail. There will also be an options evening for parents to meet and discuss further with teachers before the final option choices are made.

Please contact us if you require any further clarifications throughout the process.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Joshua Cope
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Deputy Head Teacher
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Over the next few weeks, you will have to reflect on your subjects so that you can make the right decision on which learning pathway you need to take...

- Do you have a career in mind?
- Are there specific subjects which you should choose at GCSE or BTEC for this career?
- Do you have in mind a University course?
- Where do you see your strengths in terms of the different parts of the school curriculum?

Many pupils will base their decisions on whether they enjoy the subject or not. No one can predict the future trends in employment and opportunity, and so a balance of courses is recommended. We would encourage you to choose a variety of courses to avoid disappointment in the future – unless you have a clear career goal in mind. Choose those courses which will motivate you and courses which you will enjoy.

At Sunmarke, our desire is that all our students have a successful learning journey.

What part can parents play?

Parents know their children best and therefore have a key role to play in the decision making process.

Research has shown that most children will turn to their parents for advice and support during this period in their lives.

Who can you ask for advice?

- Subject teachers
- Head of year
- Career counsellor
- People who work in this area
- Internet research
- Local community
- Family

General advice for choosing subjects

Choose subjects which:

- You are good at
- You like best
- You find interesting
- You need for your future career
- The method of assessment suits you

Avoid choosing subjects because:

- Your friends are choosing them.
- You 'like' the teacher. (You may have a different teacher in Year 11),
- You can't think of anything else,
- You have been told that it is 'easy'.

Internet resources

Many resources are now available online. Students will have had some time in school to access these resources but it would be strongly recommended that they also consult them at home in their own time.

Below is a list of some useful websites:

- www.careerserviceni.com – an excellent website that has online questionnaires to match students with careers and provides a wealth of information on what is involved in different careers. It also provides contacts for apprenticeships.
- www.careersa-k.co.uk – this website provides information on different jobs.
- www.ucas.com – UCAS is the organisation through which students apply for university education in the UK. Students will be able to find out course requirements for different degree courses.
- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>
- <http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/info/your-choices-at-14> - Information about choices at 14
- <http://www.plotr.co.uk/career-choices/school/gcse-options-advice-guide/> - Information about choices at 14
- www.dfes.gov.uk/qualifications - Information on qualifications.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/gcse-subject-content> - Subject content information for GCSEs

For more information about specific subject specifications, please visit following websites:

Edexcel GCSE - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses.html>

Edexcel IGCSE - <https://www.pearson.com/international-schools/british-curriculum/secondary-curriculum/International-GCSE.html>

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications>

Cambridge IGCSE - <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-up-per-secondary/cambridge-igcse/>

AQA International GCSE - <https://www.oxfordaqaexams.org.uk/>



Trina Nagle
Careers Counselling

All students must study:

Core	Values	Wellbeing
English Mathematics Science Arabic	Islamic Studies (Muslim students only) Positive Education (all students) Moral, Social and Cultural Studies (Y7-Y10)	Games Life-skills Coaching

Students can then choose from the following subjects:

- Arabic
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Economics
- Electronics
- French
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- IT
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Resistant Materials
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textiles

Students can also choose from the following BTEC Level 2 subjects:

- Business
- Creative Media Production
- IT



Exam Grading

GCSEs have been follow the grading scale of 9 - 1. 'Good' passes at GCSE are classed as 5 (B) and above.

Secondary Attainment Levels									
Below curriculum standard			Dubai standard		Above curriculum standard				
KS3 GCSE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BTEC L2				P	M	D	D*		

Exam Fees

Please note that in line with all other independent schools, Sunmarke School charges for all external examinations and, if required, re-sits, readers and scribes.

Students are required to enter examinations for all subjects - regardless of their attainment - and invoices will be issued once entries have been made, normally a part of the term 2 fees invoice.

Awarding Bodies

Sunmarke School is accredited & authorised to offer examinations from the three largest providers; Edexcel, AQA and CIE. Different examination boards are used depending on what content their course offers - there is no difference between them in terms of academic rigour.

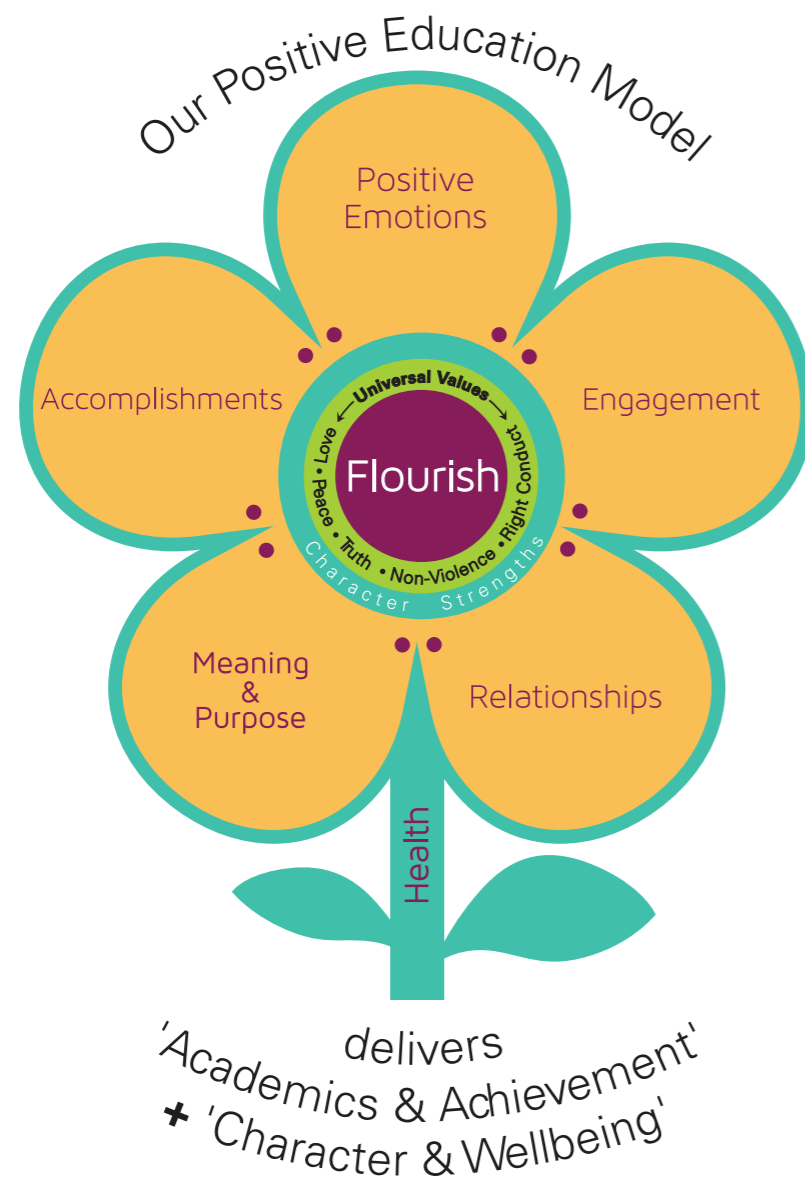


Positive Education (PosEd) brings together the science of Positive Psychology with best teaching practices to enable individuals, schools and communities to flourish. PosEd drives a person to learn more effectively, and be more resilient, creative, productive, successful and healthy.

Positive Education is not an additional subject but the culture of the whole school at Fortes Education. At Fortes Education, our teachers, all trained in PosEd, learn, live, teach and embed positive education.

PosEd pervades all our teaching practices and routines, school and behaviour policies (which are based on empathy and forgiveness), lesson plans, activities and assemblies. As a result, children build deep character strengths, resilience, leadership skills, and values as well as overall wellbeing.

Ultimately, through our PosEd philosophy, children develop a love for learning and acquire skills for self-growth.



As a resident of the UAE, there are certain educational necessities that all students must adhere to in order to meet the compulsory requirements requested by the Ministry of Education. Therefore, these essentials will be included in their weekly timetabled lessons.

These compulsory requirements include:

All Arab students must study Arabic A until the end of Year 13

All Muslim students must study and pass Islamic Education in Year 13

Emirati students and all those wishing to study in the UAE, must receive certificate equivalency. To get this, students must ensure they fulfill the following requirements:

They must complete 12 years of school

They must have 5 GCSE's A*-D including the following subjects:

- Mathematics
- Physics Chemistry or Biology
- History or Geography
- English Language or English Literature

They must complete and pass Islamic education and ministry tests in Year 13

They must complete and pass Arabic education and ministry test

Sixth Form

General Pathway

Students wishing to follow the general path of education in the UAE must adhere to the following further conditions:

A Levels

They must achieve A*-D in at least 2 A Levels (not including A Level Arabic)

IB

Student must achieve 24 points or more

Students must pass the following subjects:

- English (HL or SL)
- Mathematics (HL or SL)
- One of the Sciences - Biology, Chemistry or Physics (HL or SL)

If Physics is not chosen in the IB the student must show proof of passing it in Year 11

Subjects Entry Guidelines

Course	Guideline of Requirement
GCSE Art	4 in Art at the end of Year 9
BTEC Business	No requirement
GCSE Business	No requirement
GCSE Computer Science	6 in Mathematics at the end of Year 9
GCSE Drama	4 in Drama at the end of Year 9
GCSE DT – Resistant Materials	4 in Mathematics at the end of Year 9
GCSE DT – Electronics	4 in Mathematics at the end of Year 9
GCSE Economics	6 in English and Mathematics at the end of Year 9
GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition	4 in English or Science at the end of Year 9
GCSE French	Have previously studied French
GCSE Geography	4 in English or Geography at the end of Year 9
GCSE History	4 in English or History at the end of Year 9
BTEC IT	No requirement
GCSE ICT	4 in English at the end of Year 9
BTEC Creative Media Production	4 in English at the end of Year 9
GCSE Media Studies	4 in English at the end of Year 9
GCSE Music	5 in Music and ability to play an instrument (vocals included)
GCSE PE	5 and 4 in English and Science at the end of Year 9
GCSE Psychology	4 in Maths or Science at the end of Year 9
GCSE Sociology	4 in English at the end of Year 9
GCSE Spanish	Have previously studied Spanish
GCSE Textiles	4 in Art at the end of Year 9

Subject guide for GCSE + BTEC



Arabic A

Why study IGCSE Arabic?

The Edexcel International GCSE in Arabic (First Language) qualification enables students to:

- Appreciate the richness, beauty and diversity of the Arabic language.
- Develops their ability to read, understand and respond to material from a variety of sources
- Communicate clearly, accurately and effectively.

What is involved?

Students will be fast tracked to complete this GCSE at the end of Year 10. Students will learn to speak, listen, read, write and communicate effectively in Arabic, as well as develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where Arabic is spoken.

How will I be assessed?

This Edexcel International GCSE in Arabic (First Language) qualification comprises two external written assessed papers.

- Paper 1, written examination, 70% of the total International GCSE marks, 2 hours 15 minutes, which includes 10 minutes' recommended reading time. 70 marks
- Paper 2, written examination, produce two pieces of continuous writing. Students will Choose two titles from a choice of six 1 hour 30 minutes. 60 marks.
- Grammatical usage which will be tested in Paper 1, Section 3

This course will also be supplemented with Ministry of Education assessments for Arabs

Where will this course take me?

The ability to speak a First language, has huge advantages in the job market. You will find that you can use your Arabic skills in many unrelated fields. However, if you are looking to actively use the language in your career, then here are some professions that may be of interest:

- Social media executive
- Films and voice podcasting
- Radio & TV presenter
- Diplomatic work in embassies
- Translating and Interpreting
- Marketing and Commercial ads

Arabic B

Why study Edexcel GCSE Arabic?

Arabic A students have the opportunity to gain an extra GCSE in the form of a fast track Arabic B GCSE sat in Year 10. The Pearson Edexcel level 1/level 2 GCSE(9-1) in Arabic has been developed to help students of all abilities progress and develop a passion for languages, through culturally engaging content. This is an examination designed for students learning Arabic As An Additional Foreign Language. The course has developed after some feedback from the language community, and have developed an engaging and inspirational course of study, that will enable the students to manipulate and use the target language effectively, independently and creatively. So that they have a solid basis from which to progress to A level or employment.

The examination is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. These are built on as student's progress through their studies. The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilization of countries where the language is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

What does it involve?

Paper 1: Listening and Understanding in Arabic

Students are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken Arabic in a variety of scenarios. Students will need to identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions, deduce meaning from a variety of spoken areas. The paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all themes.

Paper 2: Speaking in Arabic

Students are assessed on their ability to communicate and interact through speaking in Arabic for different purposes in different settings. They will be assessed on 3 tasks: Role play, picture-based task and a discussions.

Paper 3: Reading and Understanding in Arabic

Students are assessed on their understanding of written Arabic across a range of different types of texts.

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all the themes.

Paper 4: Writing in Arabic

The student are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in Arabic. Students need to:

- Communicate effectively in writing for a variety purpose across a range of specified contexts.
- Write short texts using simple sentences and familiar language accurately, make independent, creative and more complex use of words, translate sentences and short texts from English into the assessed language.

Department

Arabic

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

4 at KS3

Department

Arabic

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

4 at KS3

Art & Design

Why study GCSE Art and Design?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, Art and Design is a great choice. The critical thinking skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

What does it involve?

Alongside improving your practical expertise, you'll learn how to:

- develop, refine and record your ideas
- present a personal response that realises your intentions
- improve your creative skills through the effective and safe use of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies
- successfully use visual language and the formal elements eg colour, line, form, shape, tone, texture
- use drawing skills for different needs and purposes.

Unit 1 — Personal Portfolio in Art and Design (60% of total GCSE)

Unit 2 — Externally Set Assignment (40% of total GCSE)

How will I be assessed?

During the course you will produce a portfolio (60% of final mark). In Y11 at the start of term 2 you will begin an externally set assignment (40% of final mark). As part of the externally set assignment you will sit a 10 hour (across 2 days) supervised unaided practical exam.

Where will the course take me?

This is a gateway to A Level in Art and Design or IBDP Visual Arts. If students choose to seek employment, they will have a portfolio of work that evidences their ability to pursue a course in Art and Design, covering different projects and producing a range of work. There may be opportunities to work, for example, in local galleries, design offices, graphics companies and retail.

Studying GCSE Art can lead to further Art courses and careers in:

- Interior Design
- Product Design
- Graphic Design
- Architecture
- Fashion
- Photography
- Illustration
- Gallery
- Curator
- Art therapy
- Concept Art
- Digital Art
- Game Design
- Film & media production
- Fine Artist
- Theatre & Stage Design
- Make Up Artistry



Students cannot choose Art and Textiles, these are the same qualification

Business

Why GCSE Business?

The Business course enables learners to understand and appreciate the nature and scope of business, and the role it plays in society. Students of this course should study business in a variety of contexts (e.g. large/small, local/global, service/manufacturing etc).

What is involved?

Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behavior.

Students will apply their knowledge and understanding to business decision making including:

- The interdependent nature of business activity, influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, and how these interdependencies underpin business decision making.
- How different business contexts affect business decisions.
- The use and limitation of quantitative and qualitative data in making business decisions

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Influences of operations and human resources on business activity (50% of the IGCSE)

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity (50% of the IGCSE)

Where will this course take me?

Studying Business helps to develop many important skills, such as numeracy, literacy, ICT, problem solving, information collecting, as well as analytical, evaluative and social skills. These skills can be helpful in many further education choices in the future. Furthermore, the themes of enterprise underpins the course and helps students become more creative and innovative and equips them with the appropriate knowledge and understanding if they were to wish to start their own business in the future.

Department

Creative Arts

Accreditation

AQA

Requirements

4 in Art at KS3

Department

Business & Economics

Accreditation

Oxford International
AQA

Requirements

No requirement

Calculator Required



Why study BTEC Business?

This is a very popular course which aims to develop students' understanding of Business, encourages creative thinking and decision making. Students will learn about the world of business through research and investigation, as well as practical tasks. Students will be able to develop their communication, planning and team-working skills, as well as gaining techniques, personal skills and attributes that are essential for professional success in the industry.

What does it involve?

Students should be interested in learning about the aspects of the business world around them, how businesses are set up and what makes a great entrepreneur. Through selected modules, students will be given a wider understanding of the large range of Business specialisms.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed through well-defined assignments set from actual criteria, which 100% coursework based. The assignments will be assessed through internal and external assessments on this 2 year course. The assessments will lead to grading of either Pass, Merit or Distinction, and students will have the opportunity to use differing mediums to demonstrate their creativity.

1	Unit 1	Business Purposes
2	Unit 2	Business Organisations
3	Unit 3	Financial Forecasting for Business
4	Unit 5	People in Organisations

Where will this course take me?

The BTEC Level 2 Award in Business lead students on the path to employment in many different areas of business; roles such as marketing, human resources or managing key aspects of a business. This is an excellent pathway to continue onto a BTEC Level 3 in Business too, where there is a clear progression route to develop their skills further and delve deeper into core modules of businesses, whether they are small or more large scale businesses.



Why study IGCSE Computer Science?

The Cambridge iGCSE Computer Science course introduces students to computational thinking and problem-solving with computers. Through algorithms and programming, students learn to design effective, real-world solutions. With a focus on Python, they develop technical skills and learn to use computational tools efficiently. This course also builds an understanding of emerging technologies, their benefits, and associated risks, making it a strong foundation for further study in computer science at AS & A Level and beyond.

What does it involve?

The iGCSE Computer Science syllabus covers key areas, including:

Topic 1: Data Representation	Topic 6: Automated & Emerging Technologies
Topic 2: Data Transmission	Topic 7: Algorithm Design & Problem Solving
Topic 3: Hardware	Topic 8: Programming
Topic 4: Software	Topic 9: Database & SQL
Topic 5: The Internet & Its Uses	Topic 10: Boolean Logic

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Computer Systems Questions will be based on Topics 1–6 of the subject content	1 hour 45 minutes 50% - Externally Assessed
Paper 2: Algorithm, Programming & Logic Questions will be based on Topics 7–10 of the subject content	1 hour 45 minutes 50% - Externally Assessed

Where will this course take me?

This course opens doors to technical and non-technical careers, fostering skills highly valued by employers across sectors. Computer science is integral in fields like finance, government, data management, healthcare, and technology. With growing digitalization, expertise in computer science can lead to diverse roles, including software development, network management, data analysis, cybersecurity, and project management, across a wide array of industries.

Department

Business and Economics

Accreditation

Pearson Btec International Level 2 Award

Requirements

No requirement

Department

ICT & Computing

Accreditation

Cambridge International

Requirements

6 in Math's at KS3

Why study GCSE Electronics?

Students will be undertaking a two year course in their chosen Design and Technology discipline. Students who wish to study Electronics must have an interest in Designing and Making. The course has a practical nature, so individuals who enjoy using their hands, testing products and manipulating materials, will enjoy this course. This specification has been designed to encourage students to be able to design and make quality electronic products with creativity, originality and flair using a wide range of electronic components with appropriate materials to package the electronic circuit. Candidates will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical opportunities this Specification offers. The packaging of the electronic circuit can include individually designed cases made from a range of resistant materials, textiles, card or recycled materials. Alternatively, candidates can purchase a commercially made case and modify the case to meet their project needs. Any design related career choice will benefit from having GCSE in Electronic Product, particularly those which require three dimensional prototypes when presenting ideas. This subject alongside Graphic Products + Resistant materials leads into A Level Product Design, a very useful qualification if the next step desired is a design degree, an electronics course or Engineering.

What does it involve?

Topics covered in this syllabus are:

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy
- Smart materials
- Mechanical devices
- Materials and their properties
- Professional designers
- Electronics

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the two year course students will need to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of their chosen discipline through the completion of the following two:



Department

Design and Technology

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

4 in KS3 Maths

Component 1: 1 hour and 45 minute examination paper set and marked by Edexcel worth 100 marks which consists of:

- Section A Core:
 - 40 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 10 marks of calculation questions in Section A. and a subject specific element, all questions are compulsory
- Section B Electronics:
 - 60 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 5 marks of calculation questions

Component 2: NEA – Non Examined Assessment (Design and Make Contextual challenge)

- This unit is completed under internally timed controlled conditions.
- Students must complete a design and make activity. This activity is set by the exam board in the form of a contextual challenge on June 1st of Year 10 and summer homework is necessary.
- The Design and make contextual challenge is worth 100 marks and 50% of the final grade

Where will this course take me?

Any design related career choice will benefit from having a GCSE in Electronics, particularly those which require three dimensional prototypes when presenting ideas. Careers related to this qualifications are:

- Engineering
- Product Design
- Furniture Design
- Aeronautical Design
- Architecture
- Construction and Building services

Department

Design and
Technology

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

4 in KS3 Maths

Calculator Required



Students cannot choose Electronics and Resistant Materials these are the same qualification

Why study GCSE Resistant Materials?

Students will be undertaking a two year course in their chosen Design and Technology discipline. Students who wish to study Resistant Materials must have an interest in Designing and Making. The course has a practical nature, so individuals who enjoy using their hands, testing products and manipulating materials, will enjoy this course. This specification has been designed to encourage students to be able to design and make quality products with creativity, originality and flair using a wide range of appropriate materials. The final outcome of the coursework can include materials such as textiles, card, recycled materials, polymers and electronic components.

What does it involve?

Topics covered in this syllabus are:

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy
- Smart materials
- Mechanical devices
- Materials and their properties
- Professional designers
- Timbers

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the two year course students will need to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of their chosen discipline through the completion of the following two:

Component 1: 1 hour and 45 minute examination paper set and marked by Edexcel worth 100 marks which consists of:

- Section A Core:
 - 40 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open- response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 10 marks of calculation questions in Section A. and a subject specific element, all questions are compulsory
- Section B Resistant Materials (Timbers):
 - 60 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 5 marks of calculation question

Department

Design and Technology

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

4 in KS3 Maths

Component 2: NEA – Non Examined Assessment (Design and Make Contextual challenge)

- This unit is completed under internally timed controlled conditions.
- Students must complete a design and make activity. This activity is set by the exam board in the form of a contextual challenge on June 1st of Year 10 and summer homework is necessary.
- The Design and make contextual challenge is worth 100 marks and 50% of the final grade

Where will this course take me?

Any design related career choice will benefit from having a GCSE in Resistant Materials, particularly those which require three dimensional prototypes when presenting ideas. Careers related to this qualifications are:

- Engineering
- Product Design
- Furniture Design
- Aeronautical Design
- Architecture
- Construction and Building services



Students cannot choose Electronics and Resistant Materials these are the same qualification

Department

Design and Technology

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

4 in KS3 Maths

Drama

Why study GCSE Drama?

Drama is life reflected. There is nothing more powerful in the human experience than the ability to connect and empathize. If you enjoy performing, collaborating with others, leading a creative process, analyzing live performance and play text, then this course is the perfect choice for you.

What is involved?

The course will engage you through encouraging creativity, with a focus on practical work that reflects twenty-first century Theatre practise. You will develop your practical and analytical skills through the perspectives of a performer, director and designer of Theatre.

How is it assessed?

You will be assessed through three components.

Component 1:

Devising 40% (60 marks)

Creating a devised performance from stimulus. (15 marks)

Analyze and evaluate the devising process and performance (45 marks)

Component 2:

Performance from a text (20%) 48 marks

Perform two key extracts from a performance text.

Component 3:

40% (60 marks)

Written examination on one complete performance text and live Theatre evaluation.

Where will the course take me?

Studying Drama can lead to further Drama and Theatre courses and careers in:

- Acting (Theatre and screen)
- Directing (Theatre and screen)
- Choreography
- TV Presenting
- Film and TV Production
- Film and TV Direction
- Speech writing
- Screen writing
- Set design
- Lighting design
- Sound design
- Stage management
- Motivational speaking
- Teaching



Economics

Why you should study IGCSE Economics?

Economics is about making choices. It is the social science that studies the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. It's the study of scarcity, the study of how people use resources and respond to incentives, or the study of decision-making. It often involves topics like wealth and finance, but it's not all about money. Economics is a fascinating subject to study, which is not only well respected but also extremely relevant to the real world.

What does it involve?

The subject content looks at economic activity through the lens of the consumers, producers, and governments. Students will be covering economics in individual countries and the global economy. IGCSE Economics is designed as a two-year course for teaching in international schools such as Sunmarke. As students go through the course they are presented with opportunities to focus on real-world issues. Students should consider and reflect upon moral, ethical and sustainable issues that arise as a result of the impact of economic activity.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Microeconomics and Business Economics	Both 1 hour 30 minutes	Both have a 50% weighting of the qualification	A mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data response and open-ended questions.
Paper 2: Macroeconomics and the Global Economy			

Where will this course take me?

Throughout the course students will be able to develop their skills of analysis and evaluation as they learn to apply economic theory to different contexts. The IGCSE Economics course lays excellent foundations for IB, AS and A Level study. In addition students will develop excellent skills in communication, numeracy and problem solving - extracting information, drawing conclusions and making recommendations.



Department

Creative Arts

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

4 in Drama at KS3

Department

Business and
Economics

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

6 English and Maths
at KS3

Why study English Language?

English Language allows students to develop the skills of reading a wide range of texts fluently and with good comprehension. They will critically appraise texts and use knowledge gained from wider reading to inform and improve their own writing. Students will learn and develop skills that help them to write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately. Students need to develop skills that use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately to evidence a mature application of the English Language. They must also ensure that they acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.

What does it involve?

Students will study texts from:

- The contemporary non-fiction texts from Part 1 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.
- Any two poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.
- A range of different text types so they can match the style and purpose for a creative piece and for their examination.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Examination

- The contemporary non-fiction texts from Part 1 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.
- Weighting 60 % of the IGCSE - 90 marks.
- Duration of paper - 2 hours 15 mins

Paper 3: Coursework portfolio

- Weighting 40% of the total IGCSE - 60 marks.

Assignment A: Poetry and prose texts – one 30-mark essay question based on any two poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology, including a 6-mark commentary on why these texts were selected.

Assignment B: Imaginative writing – one 30-mark imaginative writing task.

Where will this course take me?

English Language is a compulsory requirement and imperative for Sixth form and University entry. Students must be able to demonstrate a sound understanding of the English Language in order to access any course studied at Sixth form or University. Students must achieve a grade C/5 or above in English Language to apply to any University around the world.

Why study GCSE English Literature?

English Literature involves the study of prose, poetry and plays. The course allows students to engage with and develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world. They learn to develop an appreciation of the ways in which writers achieve their literary effects by exploring language and structure of each of the texts studied. Furthermore it allows students to explore through the literary texts studied, different cultures and societies. Our aim is to encourage students to find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies.

Department

English

Accreditation

Edexcel

What does it involve?

Study texts:

- Macbeth – William Shakespeare
- An Inspector Calls – J.B. Priestly
- Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
- A collection of poetry from the Edexcel anthology

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Modern Prose and Poetry examination

- Weighting 60% of the IGCSE - 90 marks
- Examination paper – 2hrs
- Examination paper consists of 3 sections: Section A: Unseen Poetry, Section B: Poetry collection, Section C: Of Mice and Men

Paper 3: Literary Heritage and Modern Drama coursework

- 40% of the IGCSE - 60 marks.
- There are two coursework tasks worth 30 marks each.
- Assignment A: An Inspector Calls, Assignment B: Macbeth

Where will this course take me?

Literature is a vast and engaging field that many international students choose to study in University. There is so much you can do with a degree in Literature. Some of the more popular options for graduating literary students are:

- Media and journalism
- Law: Barrister or Solicitor
- Teaching
- Advertising and marketing
- Editor, writer or Publisher.

Where will this course take me?

English Language is a compulsory requirement and imperative for Sixth form and University entry. Students must be able to demonstrate a sound understanding of the English Language in order to access any course studied at Sixth form or University. Students must achieve a grade C/5 or above in English Language to apply to any University around the world.

Department

English

Accreditation

Edexcel

Why study GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition?

If you have a passion for food, cooking and testing out ingredients, Food Preparation and Nutrition is the subject for you! The course has a practical nature, so individuals who enjoy using their hands, testing products and manipulating ingredients, will enjoy this course. There is also a science element to this course in which we research how ingredients work in a dish and test them to find what gives the best result.

What does it involve?

Year 10 focuses upon developing students' knowledge and understanding of the key topics, as outlined below, in readiness to undertake their Non-Exam Assessments in Year 11.

The topics we will study are:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

How will I be assessed?

There are two Non-Exam Assessments (NEA) which are completed in year 11. The first, NEA1, is a food investigation task focusing on the Food Science topic, particularly nutrition and functions of ingredients. It is a written report (1,500-2,000 words) including photographic evidence of practical experiments. NEA1 is worth 15% of the overall grade.

The second, NEA2, is a food preparation task focusing on practical skills as well as food safety, food choice and food provenance topics. Students will prepare, cook and present several dishes, to demonstrate complex cooking skills, before preparing a final menu of three dishes, which will be cooked within a three hour practical exam. The three dishes are presented in a 'MasterChef' style where they are assessed by the teachers and the class. NEA2 is worth 35% of the overall grade.

The written exam at the end of year 11 encompasses the five topics identified above. The exam consists of 20 multiple choice questions and five extended writing questions, each with a number of sub questions. Students will have 1 hour 45minutes to complete the exam and it is worth 50% of the overall grade.

Where will this course take me?

Any catering / hospitality / nutrition / sports related career choice will benefit from having a GCSE in Food Preparation & Nutrition, particularly those which require an understanding of foods, nutritional requirements of different people and functional properties of foods.

Why study GCSE French?

The Edexcel IGCSE French course is designed to equip students with the language skills and intercultural knowledge necessary to effectively communicate in French-speaking environments. It encourages learners to expand their perspective beyond the classroom, fostering an appreciation of cultural diversity and preparing them to engage in a global society.

What is involved?

The course covers the following topics and themes:

Theme 1: Identity and Culture

Daily life, family and friends, hobbies and interests, social media.

Theme 2: Local Area, Holiday, and Travel

Holidays, tourism, local area, places of interest.

Theme 3: School, Future Aspirations, Study, and Work

School life, future plans, career choices, work experience.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment Objectives	Format	Time	& of final grade
External Assessment			75%
AO1: Listening	Comprehension exercises on audio tracks	35 minutes	25%
AO3: Reading	Comprehension exercises on texts	1hr 45 min	25%
AO4 : Writing	Two written tasks, grammar task		25%
Internal Assessment			25%
AO2 : Speaking	conversation, presentation, follow-up questions for the photo	8-10 minutes	25%

Where will this course take me?

Taking a language at GCSE can significantly boost future career opportunities. It helps develop communication skills, cultural awareness, and adaptability—all qualities highly valued by employers. Language proficiency opens doors to working internationally, understanding different markets, and effectively collaborating with diverse teams, making candidates more competitive in the global job market.

Careers include:

- International Business Manager
- Diplomat or Foreign Service Officer
- Travel Guide or Hospitality Manager
- Journalist or Foreign Correspondent
- Marketing Specialist
- Intelligence Analyst or Security Specialist

Department

Design and Technology

Accreditation

AQA

Requirements

Grade 4 in English or Science in KS3

Department

Modern Foreign Languages

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

Must have studied French before

Geography

Why study GCSE Geography?

Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Topics will include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of using sustainable resources. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. Fieldtrips are a requirement of this course.

What does it involve?

Students will study four interesting and challenging areas of study;

- Living with the Physical Environment
- Challenges in the Human Environment
- Geographical Applications
- Geographical Skills

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1	Living with the Physical Environment. Written paper – 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks, 35% of GCSE.
Paper 2	Challenges in the Human Environment. Written paper – 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks, 35% of GCSE.
Paper 3	Geographical Applications. Written paper – 1 hour 15 minutes, 76 marks, 30% of GCSE.

Where will this course take me?

According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment. Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include:

- Town or transport planning
- Surveying
- Conservation
- Sustainability
- Waste and water management
- Environmental planning
- Tourism
- Weather forecasting.

The army, police, government, research organisations, law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop. As geographers learn about human and population development, geography can be useful for jobs in charity and international relations too.

History

Why study IGCSE History?

Studying history develops an understanding of the past, which leads to a deeper understanding of the nature of humans and of the world today. History is a dynamic, contested, evidence-based discipline that involves an exciting engagement with the past. It is a rigorous intellectual discipline, focused on key historical concepts such as change, causation and significance. History is an exploratory subject that fosters a sense of inquiry.

What does it involve?

Over the course of the two-year programme, you will cover the following:

<p>Unit 1a: Germany: The Development of Dictatorship, 1918 – 45. Students will explore Germany's transformation from the end of World War I to the fall of the Nazi regime in 1945.</p> <p>Unit 1b: A World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943 – 72. Students will explore the origins and development of the Cold War, focusing on the rivalry between the USA and the USSR from the end of World War II to the 1970s</p>	<p>Unit 2a: The USA, 1918 – 41 Students will examine the United States' history during the interwar years, including the economic boom of the 1920s, the Great Depression, and Roosevelt's New Deal, exploring how American society was transformed by economic changes, social tensions, and government intervention.</p> <p>Unit 2b: Changes in Medicine, c1848 - c1948 Students will examine the transformation in medical knowledge, practice, and public health from the 19th to the mid-20th century, studying major breakthroughs, development of surgery and public health.</p>
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How will I be assessed?

Paper 1	Units can be completed at the end of Year 10 (modular option) and also at the end of Year 11 (Linear)
Paper 2	Unit 2 examination is in Year 11

Where will this course take me?

International GCSE History prepares student for further study in History at both A Level and IBDP level, as well as being a good connector of other subject areas, due to the nature of learning and methodologies.

Department

Humanities

Accreditation

AQA

Requirements

4 in English or
Geography at KS3

Department

Humanities

Accreditation

EDEXCEL

Requirements

4 in English or
History at KS3

Why study IGCSE IT?

The IGCSE ICT course provides a solid foundation in essential ICT skills, covering the evolution of ICT systems and technology's role in the modern world. This internationally recognised qualification helps students understand ICT systems and networks, develop analytical and design skills, and evaluate digital solutions. Students gain insights into the impact of technology on industries, recognise potential risks, and adopt safe, responsible digital practices, preparing them for diverse careers and further studies.

What does it involve?

The iGCSE IT syllabus covers key areas, including:

Topic 1: Types & Components of Computer System	Topic 12: Images
Topic 2: Input & Output Devices	Topic 13: Layout
Topic 3: Storage Devices & Media	Topic 14: Styles
Topic 4: Network & the effects of using them	Topic 15: Proofing
Topic 5: The effects of using IT	Topic 16: Graphs and charts
Topic 6: ICT applications	Topic 17: Document production
Topic 7: The systems life cycle	Topic 18: Databases
Topic 8: Safety and security	Topic 19: Presentations
Topic 9: Audience	Topic 20: Spreadsheets
Topic 10: Communication	Topic 21: Website authoring
Topic 11: File management	

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Theory Questions will be based on sections 1–21 of the subject content	1 hour 30 minutes 40% - Externally Assessed
Paper 2: Documentation Production, Databases & Presentation This test assesses practical skills for using applications in sections 17, 18, and 19 of the subject content.	2 hour 15 minutes 30% - Externally Assessed
Paper 3: Spreadsheet & Website Authoring This test assesses practical skills for using applications in sections 20, and 21 of the subject content.	2 hour 15 minutes 30% - Externally Assessed

Where will this course take me?

- Understand the basic components, uses, and applications of various ICT systems and networks.
- Develop skills to analyze, design, implement, test, and evaluate ICT systems.
- Gain insights into the impact of emerging and current technologies on workplace practices and global industries.
- Recognise potential risks associated with using ICT and apply safe, secure, and responsible practices in digital environments.

Why study BTEC IT?

This course provides an introduction to the IT sector, focusing on practical skills and understanding needed for future study or entry-level roles. It covers how IT supports communication and management in businesses, which is essential in the current digital-driven economy. The qualification supports progression to Level 3 and higher education, and it helps students develop skills in various IT applications that are valued by employers.

What does it involve?

The course includes a variety of units that aim to develop core IT skills:

- **Using IT to Support Information and Communication in Organisations:** Students learn about the use of IT in meeting organisational needs, focusing on data and communication.
- **Data and Spreadsheet Modelling:** Covers using spreadsheets for data management and modelling in practical applications
- **Setting up a Technology System:** Involves setting up and managing technology systems safely and effectively.
- **Website Development:** Focuses on creating functional websites, covering design principles and coding basics.
- **Computer Graphics:** Discuss the hardware and software to generate and manipulate computer generated images. You will then produce computer graphics using graphic software

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is coursework-based, covering multiple methods like written reports, presentations, and practical assignments. There are no exams, but some units include a Pearson Set Assignment, which is externally validated to ensure standards. Students' overall grades are awarded based on their performance across units, with possible grades of Pass, Merit, or Distinction. Each assignment aligns with specific learning aims, ensuring that students demonstrate their skills and knowledge comprehensively.

Where will this course take me?

This course can support your progression into further education or entry into the workforce. It provides a pathway to Level 3 qualifications, such as the BTEC in Esports or BTEC in IT. Additionally, it equips you with the foundational knowledge and skills needed for various roles within the IT and computing sector, including Graphic Designer, Web Developer, IT Technical Support, Project Manager, or even preparing you with the skills necessary to start your own business within the IT industry. developer, IT Technical support, Project Management, IT Technical support or even setting you up with the skills required to set up your own business within the IT sector.

Department

ICT & Computing

Accreditation

Cambridge
International

Requirements

4 in English at KS3

Department

ICT & Computing

Accreditation

Pearson

Requirements

No requirement

Why study International IGCSE Mathematics?

The Mathematics Department at Sunmarke School aims to promote an interest and curiosity in all aspects of Mathematics. The Department teaches Mathematics both for its own sake and to support study in other areas. An important aspect of our teaching is to promote effective communication using Mathematics so that pupils learn to communicate in a logical and concise way. At the heart of our teaching is the development of each pupil's confidence in Mathematics. Pupils of all abilities will develop their mathematical skills, and we aim to engender a love of Mathematics.

What does it involve?

The course is split into four mathematical areas, each of which contributes towards the final award.

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Statistic

How will I be assessed?

- IGCSE Mathematics is entirely assessed by written examination.
- The written examination will consist of two papers which are each worth one half of the final mark.
- Both papers are worth 50% each and are 2 hours each. Each exam is worth 100 marks. Both papers allow the use of a calculator.
- The papers can be taken at Higher Tier (Grades 9-3) or Foundation Tier (Grades 5-1).
- Students will be entered at the school's discretion for the most appropriate tier for their ability.

Where will this course take me?

Top-tier Mathematicians will be accelerated on to the Further Mathematics (Level 2) course in Year 11

Mathematics is the basis of all subjects, hence gaining a high grade in this subject will allow you to pursue a course at higher education and at University.

Achieving a grade 8 in Mathematics will allow you to study any of our KS5 Mathematics courses which include; A level Further Mathematics and A Level Mathematics, as well as AAHL, AASL, AISL IB Courses.

Achieving a grade 7 in Mathematics will allow you to study AS Level Mathematics, AASL or AISL IB Courses.

Achieving a grade 5 in Mathematics will allow you to study AISL IB.

Department

Mathematics

Accreditation

Edexcel International
IGCSE Mathematics

Calculator Required



Why study GCSE Media Studies?

Studying media provides students with critical skills to understand their role as media users and encourages active engagement with global issues and debates surrounding the media. The course fosters practical skills in media production, allowing students to analyse and create media content with a critical approach to current media trends and practices.

What does it involve?

This Media Studies course involves examining various forms of media products, such as film, social media, videogames and podcasts. Students study media through a flexible framework that emphasises practical, creative skills alongside theoretical knowledge, giving them insight into how media representations, language and audience interactions shape public perceptions.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment consists of both written examinations (50%) and non-exam assessments (50%). Exams measure students' understanding of media theory, frameworks and applications, while the NEA assesses their ability to respond to briefs through practical media production. This approach combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on production experience.

Where will the course take me?

Studying media can lead to many different job roles such as:

- Directing
- Producing
- Cinematographer
- Editor
- Scriptwriter
- Journalist
- Graphic designer
- Radio producer
- Researcher

As well as providing an opportunity to study this further at A Level, IB Film or BTEC Level 3 and then on to degree level courses.



Department

Media & Film

Accreditation

Oxford International
AQA

Requirements

4 in English at KS3

Students will need to use The Adobe Creative Cloud throughout this course. This is a professional software that will be provided by the school.

To ensure a student can successfully complete production work using this software they will need to own a suitable laptop and their own SD card.



BTEC Creative Media Production

Why study Creative Media?

Media is an important factor in all of our lives, with a growing interest of people who consume it daily and its dominance and demand within the job market. The media and its influence continue to shape the way we think and our view on the world. Through the practical nature of the BTEC Level 2 course you will have an opportunity to gain insight into the world of media not just as a consumer but also as a production crew member.

What does it involve?

Within Creative Media you will have the opportunity to investigate and create a wide range of media products ranging from podcasts, films, advertisements, magazines and many more. During each project you will:

- Develop research skills and understand your audience
- Analyse existing products to understand how producers communicate meaning
- Develop technical skills and produce a range of media products
- Self-evaluate your progression and the quality of your product

How will I be assessed?

You will work in groups and independently across two years to complete 4 units:

- Digital Video Production
- Photography
- Advertising Production
- Pearson set Assignment- announced each year.

For each unit you will be assessed across the set learning aims (A Research, B Developing your ideas and C Producing final outcomes) using the criteria of Pass, Merit and Distinction. The BTEC L2 is 100% coursework.

Where will this course take me?

Studying Creative Media can lead to further vocational courses in Media and a career in:

- Videographer
- Director
- Marketing Manager
- Animator
- Executive Producer
- Journalist
- Editor
- Social Media Manager
- Market Researcher
- Music Producer and Writer
- Sound Designer
- Location Manager
- Screen Writer
- Lighting Operator
- Production Coordinator



Department

Media & Film

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

4 in English at KS3

Students will need to use The Adobe Creative Cloud throughout this course. This is a professional software that will be provided by the school.

To ensure a student can successfully complete production work using this software they will need to own a suitable laptop and their own SD card.



Music

Why study GCSE Music?

Passionate about music or curious about sound and rhythm? GCSE Music offers an engaging journey where creativity meets skill. This course is more than learning to play or read music; it's about understanding music's cultural roots and exploring genres from classical to contemporary. Whether you dream of performing, working in a studio, or enriching your education, GCSE Music provides the perfect note to enhance your experience!

What does it involve?

The AQA GCSE Music course immerses students in performance, composition, and musical understanding. Students explore diverse genres, from classical to pop and world music, honing skills in solo and ensemble performance on their chosen instrument or voice. Composition units encourage students to create original pieces, experimenting with melody, harmony, and rhythm. Listening and appraisal activities deepen their musical insight, equipping students to analyze any piece with confidence.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in three areas: performance, composition, and listening & appraising. Performance assessment includes solo and ensemble recordings. Composition requires two original pieces—one free choice and one based on an AQA brief. A listening exam tests understanding of musical elements, context, and studied pieces, providing a thorough evaluation of each student's growth.

Where will the course take me?

Music studies enhance creativity, teamwork, discipline, and problem-solving—qualities valued across many careers. This course can lead to paths in performance, teaching, sound engineering, media, and more. Musicianship can also strengthen university and job applications, adding a unique dimension to any field.



Department

Performing Arts

Accreditation

AQA

Requirements

5 in Music & ability to play an instrument (Vocal included)

Physical Education

Why study GCSE Physical Education?

AQA have worked closely with teachers and the Youth Sport Trust to develop a new GCSE Physical Education specification that will inspire young people with an interest in sport and P.E. New and contemporary topics will help students of all abilities to develop a well-rounded skill set and prepare them for progression to further sport related studies.

The Sunmarke P.E department are confident the GCSE Physical Education program will inspire and challenge our students to do their best.

What does it involve?

Subject content:

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data
5. Sports psychology
6. Socio-cultural influences
7. Health, fitness and well-being
8. Practical performance in sport

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: (1 hour 15 minutes) 30% The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Paper 2: (1 hour 15 minutes) 30% Socio-cultural and well-being in physical activity and sport

Non-exam assessment: 40% Practical performance in three physical activities as a performer (30%) Analysis of performance and evaluation to bring about improvement written coursework (10%)

Where will this course take me?

Students who successfully complete this course can look to enroll onto the A-level course or pathways to a level three sport related qualification.



Psychology

What is GCSE Psychology?

Psychology is an engaging and relevant subject which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills into the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace. It is thought-provoking and at times controversial, resulting in students enjoying debate and learning how to justify arguments of their own and others. This is a written subject, which requires essay writing and also links to scientific study and methodology enabling students to apply their knowledge of biology and mathematics.

How will I be assessed?

Subject content and assessment:

This is a linear course and all examinations are sat at the end of the two years. Two written papers (100 marks) – 50 % each of GCSE. Each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Each exam covers 4 sections and will include multiple choice, short answer and extended essay questions (25 marks)

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (50%) – Cognition and behaviour	Paper 2 (50%) – Social context and behaviour
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memory 2. Perception 3. Development 4. Research methods 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social influence 2. Language, thought and communication 3. Brain and neuropsychology 4. Psychological problems

What skills will I develop?

Skills required/developed in the study of Psychology:

- Understanding of methodology to include arithmetic and numerical computation and handling data.
- Essay writing – to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key psychological perspectives and studies and to develop analysis and evaluation of the strengths and limitations of approaches and research.
- Discussion and communication skills – students will have the opportunity to develop their speaking and listening through class discussion.

What careers might the study of Psychology lead to?

Psychology is a popular subject at undergraduate level, where students can go onto work in areas of psychology such as clinical, educational or forensic, but it can also be a good foundation to other areas of study such as marketing, business, law, consumer psychology, sports science, criminology, social work, education and medicine and health careers.

Department

Physical Education

Accreditation

AQA

Requirements

5 and 4 in Science and English at KS3

Department

Individuals and Societies

Accreditation

AQA

Requirements

4 in Maths or Science at KS3

Science – Double Award (Trilogy)

Why study GCSE Double Award Science?

The majority of students at UK curriculum schools study Double Award science for GCSE. You will study a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will be able to go on to study science subjects at A Level and university (including engineering and medicine at university) with this qualification.

“If you’re scientifically literate, the world looks very different to you, and that understanding empowers you” – Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Studying science helps you to understand the world around you and make informed decisions. It also helps you to develop critical thinking skills and enables you to collect, interpret, analyse and present information in any context.

What does it involve?

You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics content and develop transferable practical skills.

How will I be assessed?

Double Award students will sit a total of six exams all lasting 1hr 15mins long.

Biology paper 1 & 2

Chemistry paper 1 & 2

Physics paper 1 & 2

Where will this course take me?

With two GCSEs in science you will be able to study science subjects at A level (you need grade 7-7 to study science A levels or 8-7 for IB Higher Level. It is also a good foundation for science-related subjects such as psychology or physical education.



Science - Triple Award

Why study GCSE Triple Award Science?

You should consider Triple Science if you currently attain very high grades in biology, chemistry and physics and are 100% sure that you want to pursue a science-related career in the future. It is not necessary to do triple science if you want to go on to study science subjects at A level or university (including engineering and medicine at UK universities).

What does it involve?

You will have extra science lessons in one of the option blocks and will study additional biology, chemistry and physics content and develop transferable practical skills. You will gain three separate GCSE qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics.

How will I be assessed?

Triple Award students will sit a total of six exams all lasting 1hr 45mins long.

Biology – 1 & 2

Chemistry – 1 & 2

Physics – 1 & 2

Where will this course take me?

Students who study triple science at GCSE often go into science or science-related careers. It is a good foundation for science A Levels and science-related courses at university. You need grade 7 at GCSE to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics A Levels and IB Higher Level Sciences.



Department

Science

Accreditation

AQA

Sociology

Why study GCSE Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society and human social interaction. Sociology encourages critical thinking and urges you to challenge ideas and views. Sociology offers explanations for a variety of questions from 'Why do girls do better at school than boys?' to 'Why is marriage decreasing in popularity?' Pupils who have gone on to study sociology at a higher level enter careers from teaching to social work, from therapists to criminologists.

This is an essay based subject which will follow the AQA specification assessing four skills: Knowledge and Understanding, Interpretation and Application, Analysis and Evaluation.

What is involved?

Year 1	Year 2
Topic 1: Families and Households Topic 2: Education Topic 3: Research Methods	Topic 4: Crime and Deviance Topic 5: Social Stratification Topic 6: Sociological Theory and Methods

Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying GCSE Sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to:

- Investigate facts and make deductions
- Develop new ideas on social issues
- Analyse and better understand the social world.

How will I be assessed?

This is over two papers at the end of the two year course. Each paper is worth 50% of the GCSE and involves a one hour 45 minutes written examination (100 marks)

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

Where will this course take me?

Sociology is an absolutely ideal subject for students considering careers in a range of fields. Typically, students who study Sociology go on to careers in law, international relations, criminology, marketing, banking, management consultancy, civil service, local and national government, journalism, teaching, social work, educational psychology, publishing, public relations, probation service, occupational therapy, nursing and midwifery. For further details, see the British Sociological Association website at www.britisoc.co.uk.

Spanish

Why study IGCSE Spanish?

The Edexcel IGCSE Spanish course is designed to equip students with the language skills and intercultural knowledge necessary to effectively communicate in Spanish-speaking environments. It encourages learners to expand their perspective beyond the classroom, fostering an appreciation of cultural diversity and preparing them to engage in a global society.

What is involved?

The course covers the following topics and themes:

Theme 1: Identity and Culture

Daily life, family and friends, hobbies and interests, social media.

Theme 2: Local Area, Holiday, and Travel

Holidays, tourism, local area, places of interest.

Theme 3: School, Future Aspirations, Study, and Work

School life, future plans, career choices, work experience.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment Objectives	Format	Time	& of final grade
External Assessment			75%
AO1: Listening	Comprehension exercises on audio tracks	35 minutes	25%
AO3: Reading	Comprehension exercises on texts	1 hr 45minutes	25%
AO4: Writing	Two written tasks, Grammar task		25%
Internal Assessment			
AO2: Speaking	Conversation, presentation, follow-up questions for the photo	8 -10 minutes	25%

Where will this course take me?

Taking a language at GCSE can significantly boost future career opportunities. It helps develop communication skills, cultural awareness, and adaptability—all qualities highly valued by employers. Language proficiency opens doors to working internationally, understanding different markets, and effectively collaborating with diverse teams, making candidates more competitive in the global job market.

Careers include:

- International Business Manager
- Diplomat or Foreign Service Officer
- Travel Guide or Hospitality Manager
- Journalist or Foreign Correspondent
- Marketing Specialist
- Intelligence Analyst or Security Specialist

Department

Social Sciences

Accreditation

AQA

Requirements

4 in English at KS3

Department

Modern Foreign Languages

Accreditation

Edexcel

Requirements

Must have studied Spanish before.

Why study GCSE Textiles?

Your chance to design products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles. Areas of study include fashion design and illustration, costume for film and theatre design, constructed textiles/clothing/fashion, printed and dyed textiles and digital textiles.

What is involved?

In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in one or more area(s) of textile design, such as those listed below:

1. Art textiles
2. Costume design
3. Constructed textiles/clothing
4. Printed and dyed textiles
5. Surface pattern
6. Stitched and embellished textiles
7. Soft furnishing/textiles for interiors
8. Installed textiles

How will I be assessed?

Two components:

- Component 1 Portfolio: produce a sustained project and a selection of further practical evidence, that represents the course of study. This is worth 60% of your overall marks.
- Component 2 Externally set assignment: Assigned in January of Y11. This features seven tasks and you have to complete one of them. You get preparation time, plus 10 hours of supervised time to produce a final practical fashion or textile item. This is worth 40% of your total marks.

Where will this course take me?

You can continue your art and design studies as AS and A-Level. Gain transferable skills, you will develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, visual communication, teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas.

- Exciting careers
- Fashion design
- Product design
- Textiles design
- Fashion editorial/photography
- Fashion styling
- Fashion and media journalism
- Jewellery design

Students cannot choose Art and Textiles, these are the same qualification

Department

Art and Design

Accreditation

AQA

Requirements

4 in KS3 Art

The teaching of Islamic Education at Sunmarke School is a core course of study for all Muslim Students. Set by the Ministry of Education, it reflects the precepts of Islam and its culture and is delivered with the aim of nurturing students in a broad range of social, educational and emotional skills.

The Islamic studies course is offered to students in both English and Arabic.

The Department's Islamic Education Syllabus

Sunmarke Islamic Education Syllabus is based on UAE recommended Curriculum of study and aims to develop in learners the following:

- An understanding of the concepts of commitment (Islam) and faith (Imaan) in a religious tradition.
- An awareness of how spiritual and moral issues (Ihsaan) permeate life experiences and the manner in which those may relate to students' own lives.
- A respect for the diverse range of religious and cultural traditions in the UAE and the wider world.
- A range of investigative, critical and moral thinking skills to enable them to make informed choices and decisions.

Internal Assessment

All students partake in a range of end of unit assessments covering: the meaning of Faith, Biographies of the Prophets and Muslim historical figures, Matters of daily ritual worship (Prayer, Charity, Fasting and Hajj), Islamic Ethics and Values and Quran Studies.

Content Overview

All students will cover:

- The Qu'ran and Hadith (Divine revelation)
- The Biography of the Prophet, which represent good example, as well as the historical examples representing role models for imitation. (The Prophet biography and characters)
- The Elements of identity: language, culture, civilization, nation, and the local society. (Contemporary issues and Identity)
- The value of worship – in its wide-range meaning for all the human's activities and behaviors (Islamic Values)
- Islamic Rulings and its purpose (Islamic Ruling and Aims)
- The true believe in Allah and His Creation (Islamic Belief)

Department

Islamic

Duke of Edinburgh's International Award



What is a Duke of Edinburgh's International Award?

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a world wide programme for non-formal education and learning, which challenges young people to dream big, celebrate their achievements and make a difference in their world. Through developing transferable skills, increasing their fitness levels, cultivating a sense of adventure and volunteering in their community, the Award helps young people to find their purpose, passion and place in the world. The Award operates in more than 130 countries and territories, helping to inspire millions of young people to gain new skills and enhance their CVs and university applications.

The Adventurous Journey at Sunmarke:

Students are taken to the mountains of Ras al Khaimah to complete their Adventurous Journey. They will camp and hike in the wilderness and as part of the journey will learn how to navigate and be self-sufficient for the required amount of time dedicated by the level of the award they are completing. These trips usually take place in November and January as the students must complete a practice and qualifying journey for the Award.

When to sign up?

Students can sign up to complete the Award in the first 4 weeks of term in the new academic year. They must come and see Miss Eloise Seddon to receive information prior to signing up.

Who to contact:

For any questions about the Duke of Edinburgh International Award please email our DofE Coordinator: Miss Eloise Seddon

Email: e.seddon@forteseducation.com



SUNMARKE
SCHOOL
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1981 Enlighten • Empower • Excel

To Register
04 423 8900

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