Guide to GCSE Courses for 2015 - 2016
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Examination Boards

The examination boards used at Bradford Grammar School for GCSE and IGCSE examinations are:

- AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)
- CIE (www.cie.org.uk)
- Edexcel (www.edexcel.com)
- OCR (www.ocr.org.uk)

Foreword

At Bradford Grammar School, pupils develop confidence in their own abilities, learning to question, assess and think independently. These are skills which will help them throughout their lives. We inspire them to have the curiosity, ambition and sense of adventure to define their own goals and to fulfil their potential.

For their first two years in the senior school at Bradford Grammar School, all pupils follow the same curriculum. On entry to Year 9, new subjects become available and certain choices need to be made; further decisions come at the end of that year. At the end of this booklet (on page 30) you will find full details of our curriculum. By preparing pupils for ten (I)GCSEs, we feel there is time for well-paced and in-depth study and the prospect of high quality results in a broad spectrum of subjects.

Choosing subjects can be difficult and the aim of this Guide is to assist pupils and their families in making well-informed choices. Subject teachers will be pleased to give advice to pupils and their parents, not only at Consultation Evenings but also at other times. Form Tutors naturally have an overview of the performance and potential of pupils within their form and families are encouraged to discuss matters of a broader nature with them or the Head of Year. Mr Woods as Academic Director has oversight of all academic matters and can provide advice too. In choosing (I)GCSEs pupils need to be confident that they are making decisions which reflect their interests and strengths and keep future options open.

Kevin Riley
Headmaster

Introduction

Subjects at (I)GCSE

All pupils follow (I)GCSE courses in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, pupils must study at least one modern language from French, German or Spanish. Three option subjects are also taken (see page 30 for full details).

You may be aware that some GCSEs are changing from first teaching in September 2015. The subjects that are changing next September are English, English Literature and Mathematics. In these subjects, pupils at Bradford Grammar School take IGCSE examinations, and these examinations are not changing. Our pupils will therefore benefit from the continuity that IGCSE represents. IGCSEs are academically very well regarded and considered an excellent preparation for A Level study.

Continued/
Advanced Level
We prefer pupils to obtain (I)GCSE grade A or A* in those subjects that they want to study for AS and/or A Level. At the start of Year 11 pupils are given the companion to this booklet, *A Guide to Sixth Form Courses*; this is followed by a careers interview during the Autumn Term at which further advice concerning A Level choices is given.

Gary Woods
Academic Director

Choosing GCSE Options

The careers department can help you if you are in doubt about what to choose.

Before you see a member of the careers department, however, you should research the question thoroughly yourself. Start by reading this booklet carefully.

Ask yourself the following questions:
- Will I enjoy the subject?
- Will I be any good at the subject?
- Does it offer the prospect of interesting and challenging post-GCSE study?
- If I don’t take this subject, how will that affect my Sixth Form choices?
- Will this subject enhance my career and higher education ambitions?

Some of these may be hard to answer, as most of you may not know what career you would like. Therefore it is best to think in general terms. For example, would languages help in a career in business and so broaden your longer term employability? Could design and technology be of use in engineering? Could art and design be of use in architecture or advertising? Try not to narrow down your options too much and keep a range of subjects.

Your teachers may be able to advise you on which subject suits you. Your French or German teacher will have a fair idea of how you might cope with Russian or Spanish, for instance, and your Latin teacher may know how you would manage with Greek.

Think about possible A Level subject combinations. For example, History develops your essay writing skills, and at A Level can be studied in combination with almost any subject. Geography sits comfortably with both the arts and the sciences.

Finally, further information is available in the careers and higher education section of the library. If you feel you need further advice then speak to Mr Walker, who can be found in the careers room in the Sixth Form Centre, or contacted by e-mail careers@bradfordgrammar.com.

Ian Walker
Head of Careers
Art and Design

Awarding Body: OCR (GCSE)
Specification Code: J161, J166

Course outline

Art and Design is both a form of communication and a means of expression of ideas and feelings, which complement those of the literary, mathematical, scientific and factually based subjects. It is especially concerned with the development of those complex mental processes involved in visual perception and aesthetic experiences.

Art and Design fosters and encourages creativity through direct personal expression, imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation, analytical abilities and practical attitudes. The course content reflects these aims through the use of mixed media: painting, drawing, textiles, ICT, 3-dimensional work and critical/historical studies.

Method of assessment

- Coursework portfolio - 45 hours of work (60%)
- Externally set task portfolio - 10 hour controlled test accompanied by appropriate research work (40%)

The coursework portfolio and externally set task portfolio must contain all four assessment objectives listed below to show the candidate’s overall abilities. Sketchpads and notebooks produced over two years must also be presented.

Assessment objectives

1. Developing ideas through critical and historical investigations
2. Refining ideas through experimentation with materials and techniques
3. Recording ideas through observational drawing and other forms of communication
4. Final pieces/outcomes of individual research
Computing

Awarding Body: OCR
Specification Code: J275

What is Computer Science?
The use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in a shortage of computer programmers and software developers. This has resulted in changes to GCSE Computing to make it relevant and modern by including a year of traditional programming and a year of mobile application (app) development. Computing or Computer Science is about problem-solving, designing solutions and programming or coding. It is a highly academic subject that is perfect for logical thinkers and problem solvers, such as Mathematicians or Scientists.

What topics will I study?
- Programming
- Fundamentals of Computer Systems
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Representation of Data (binary, ascii, sound and images)
- Databases
- Communications and Networking

How is it Assessed?
The GCSE is assessed by doing Controlled Assessments in class (60%) and a written exam at the end of Year 11 (40%).

- **A453 Programming Project** – this involves analysing three problems, designing algorithms, programming in Python and testing the solutions. The tasks are carried out in class as part of the Controlled Assessment (30%)
- **A452 Practical Investigation** – this is a practical task which involves researching, designing and programming apps. The tasks are carried out in class as part of the Controlled Assessment (30%)
- **A451 Computer Systems and Programming** – written exam – 1hr 30 mins (40%)

Where will success take me?
By opting to study GCSE Computing you will learn how to program and to build apps, which is a valuable skill to have for your future in Higher Education or in your career. If you enjoy programming and want to develop your ability further you could then take A Level Computer Science. The A Level is listed by leading Russell Group Universities as a useful qualification for the following degree courses: Medicine; Engineering; Mathematics; Economics; and Psychology.

Previous Knowledge:
There is no need to know how to program as you will be taught to do this as part of the GCSE. Pupils who have taken Computing in Year 9 will be at a slight advantage, but it is not necessary to have taken Computing in Year 9 to opt for GCSE Computing.
Design and Technology – Product Design (3D Design)

Awarding Body: AQA (GCSE)
Specification Code: 4557

Design and Technology – Product Design is a student-focused, interdisciplinary subject. The Product Design specification is both academically and creatively demanding.

The GCSE Product Design course provides the opportunity for students to develop their creative, problem solving and entrepreneurial skills. Through a range of creative and technological activities, Product Design students learn to apply knowledge and understanding to a given situation and develop their critical and creative thinking, collaborative and communication skills.

GCSE Product Design is intended to give students an insight into the wide-ranging creative activities and to develop key skills appropriate to a variety of creative fields. However, many of the skills developed through Product Design provide students with a platform of transferable skills much sought after in many other disciplines and can be utilised to enhance other aspects of a student’s education, working and personal life. These transferable skills include:

- Problem analysis
  - Creative problem solving (thinking outside the box)
  - Evaluating products/systems/environments/performance
- Visual/verbal communication
- Project management
- Information technologies
- Psychology issues
- Social issues
- Environmental issues
- Aesthetics
- Increased discernment and perceptivity
- Team building/working
- Leadership skills
- Increased self confidence

Planning Ahead - Subject combinations

The multidisciplinary nature of Design and Technology Product Design ideally positions it to straddle the boundaries between Art and the Sciences. At A Level subject combinations of Design and Technology Product Design in conjunction with Mathematics and Physics are a popular selection. However, combined with Art, English, Geography, Economics, History etc. it can provide a variety of degree/career opportunities.

Continued/
Design and Technology (continued)

As well as degrees in any design discipline e.g. Product, Fashion, Industrial, Furniture, Interior etc. **Product Design** is also a relevant subject for students intending to pursue degrees in Engineering, Architecture, Ergonomics, Management/Business, Medicine, Dentistry and many other fields.

Course Summary

**GCSE Product Design** is designed to encourage candidates to:
- develop a broad view of design and technology
- develop their capacity to design and make products
- appreciate the complex relations between design, materials and manufacture.

**Assessment for the GCSE course involves examination and Controlled Assessment**

**Controlled Assessment - 60% of the overall GCSE Grade**
This is a time-limited practical assignment completed wholly in school over approximately one year. This drastically reduces the workload on students of previous courses. Students design and manufacture their own product in line with a pre-determined theme chosen from a wide selection of tasks set by the board. The student’s project builds on the skills in designing and making acquired in the earlier part of the course.

The assessed outcome will be in the form of:

- A high quality manufactured product
- An electronic design folder.

This element of the course is assessed internally and then externally moderated.

**Written Paper - 40% of the overall GCSE Grade**
This is a 2 hour theory paper.

It is based on generic design topics covered throughout the course and specific topics covered during the controlled assessment. Topics included will be design evolution and influences; product analysis; material, processes, environmental and consumer issues; and industrial practices.
English Language and English Literature

Awarding Body: CIE (IGCSE)
Specification Code: 0500 (Language); 0486 (Literature)

Course outline

IGCSE English Language and IGCSE English Literature are subjects that are part of the core curriculum at Bradford Grammar School. At the end of Year 11, you will gain two full IGCSE certificates, but the two courses are integrated so that some activities will help you with both examinations. IGCSE English Language and English Literature are recognised as a gold standard in education across the world.

Working hard in English will raise your achievement in other subjects, because all academic subjects require successful readers, writers, listeners, speakers and thinkers. IGCSE English in Year 10 and Year 11 will build upon the skills you have developed lower down the school and develop your ability to:

- enjoy the experience of reading literature in different forms (drama, poetry and prose) from different periods and cultures
- appreciate how Literature contributes to aesthetic, imaginative and intellectual growth
- read, interpret and analyse texts, explaining how writers deliberately use language to create effects when communicating meaning
- enjoy and appreciate a variety of non-fiction texts both in printed form and from digital sources
- understand, explain and collate both explicit and implicit meanings and identify main and subordinate topics
- scan to locate and retrieve specific information
- summarise, paraphrase, and re-express information in a new style
- convey both simple and detailed information
- understand and present facts, ideas and opinions in an orderly sequence
- communicate an informed personal response appropriately and effectively
- express thoughts, feelings and opinions in order to interest, inform or convince the reader
- complement your ability to work with information and ideas in other areas of study, for example, by developing skills of analysis, synthesis and the drawing of inferences
- write in a variety of styles according to context, purpose and audience
- write using a variety of sentence structures and recognize the need for paragraphing
- demonstrate a strong control of vocabulary, syntax (word order) and grammar
- demonstrate a strong control of punctuation and spelling
- articulate experience and express intelligibly what is thought, felt and imagined
- where necessary use precise, vivid and ambitious vocabulary
- use language and register appropriate to audience and context
- speak with confidence and precision
- listen with care and attention and respond appropriately to the contributions of others
- promote your own personal development and an understanding of yourself and others

The IGCSE Noticeboard outside J3 contains updates and helpful information about the two examinations and assessments that take place through Year 10 and Year 11.
French

Awarding Body: AQA (GCSE)
Specification Code: 4655

Course outline

The GCSE in French aims to enable pupils to speak and write French confidently and accurately in a variety of situations, both familiar and new. Pupils will also be able to understand spoken and written French at a high level, and learn to appreciate the culture and society of France and French-speaking countries.

Themes

The GCSE course will cover a range of topics, including Health, Relationships and Choices, Free Time and the Media, Holidays, Home and Local Area, Environment, School/College and Future Plans, and Current and Future Jobs. Some of these topics will be familiar to pupils from work covered in Years 7 - 9, but pupils will learn to deal with more advanced vocabulary and structures when speaking, writing, reading or listening to French that deals with these themes. The themes are presented in relevant contexts and in a way which encourages pupils to make practical use of their language skills. Pupils will also be taught the grammar needed to express themselves clearly and accurately in French and which will allow them to access the highest marks at GCSE.

Method of Assessment

The GCSE is made up of four components, Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Two of these skills (Listening and Reading) are externally examined in the June session of Year 11 (i.e. at the end of the course). These external units account for 40% of the marks in total. 60% of the GCSE is in the form of Controlled Assessment. These Controlled Assessment pieces (two speaking tasks and two writing tasks) will be completed when the teacher considers the pupils ready to produce their best work – this is likely to be at various points during Year 11. Pupils will have the chance to complete more than two pieces of Controlled Assessment, and to submit the best marks for assessment at the end of the course.

Continued/
French (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>20% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is an <strong>external examination</strong>, available at Foundation and Higher Tier. We expect to enter all our pupils for Higher Tier. Pupils will listen to pre-recorded spoken material in French and answer a range of questions requiring non-verbal responses or responses in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>20% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is an <strong>external examination</strong>, available at Foundation and Higher Tier. We expect to enter all our pupils for Higher Tier. Pupils will read written material in French and answer a range of questions requiring non-verbal responses or responses in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>30% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is a <strong>Controlled Assessment</strong> unit. Pupils will complete two speaking tasks in French which will take the form of dialogues with the pupils’ teacher. Each dialogue will last between 4 and 6 minutes. These Controlled Assessment pieces will be completed when the teacher considers pupils ready to produce their best work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>30% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is a <strong>Controlled Assessment</strong> unit. Pupils will complete two writing tasks in French in the classroom but in examination conditions. Pupils will need to write 400 – 600 words across the two tasks. These Controlled Assessment pieces will be completed when the teacher considers pupils ready to produce their best work.</td>
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</table>

**Course books and materials**

Pupils will be issued with a course book that has been specially written to match the new AQA GCSE specification. This course book will build on the skills and knowledge acquired in Years 7 - 9 and deal with the themes mentioned above in a lively and stimulating fashion. The course book will also systematically improve pupils’ understanding of how the language works and provide the necessary vocabulary for pupils to express themselves clearly and effectively, as well as guide them in the completion of the Controlled Assessment pieces. Other course books, newspapers and videos/DVDs will be used when necessary to supplement this material. The department also makes extensive use of the language laboratory in the Delius Room, using listening materials and websites that are tailored to GCSE candidates. Extensive examination practice will be provided in Year 11, and there may be the opportunity for pupils to have small group tuition with our native-speaker French Assistant in Years 10 & 11.

**Trips**

Pupils are strongly encouraged to participate in the French Exchange to the Auvergne. This normally runs during the October and February half-terms of Years 9 & 10.
Geography

Awarding Body: OCR (GCSE)
Specification Code: J382

Course outline

The content of the specification includes the study of extreme environments (hot deserts and high mountains), two regions (one in the UK - we study Bradford, and one non-UK - we study Mumbai), the process of production and consumption and a number of global issues relating to hazards (earthquakes), population change and energy. In addition there is a controlled assessment which will involve fieldwork and the use of varying geographical skills (e.g. O.S. map interpretation, drawing charts, diagrams etc.). The controlled assessment is assessed internally but the geographical skills which will be included throughout the two year course will be assessed through examination.

Scheme of Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit A731: Contemporary Themes in Geography</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50% of the total GCSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 hour 45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written paper</td>
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<td>112 marks</td>
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**Geography (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit A731: Contemporary Themes in Geography</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme 3: Similarities and Differences in Settlements and Population</strong></td>
<td>Students study a UK location that is special to them ('your place' - Bradford) and one non-UK city or region (Mumbai) in terms of their physical and human geography with particular emphasis on aspects of settlement and population in both localities. They also consider contemporary issues affecting both places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>In addition they also study one recent issue relating to population change</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>There will be questions on all themes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Candidates answer all questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is a separate Resource Booklet provided with the question paper.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This unit is externally assessed</td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit A732: Geographical Skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>25% of the total GCSE</td>
<td>Geographical skills are fundamental to the study and practice of geography and are integrated into all aspects of the subject. The assessment of Geographical Skills will be in the form of a question paper that requires candidates to demonstrate their skills and to extract, interpret, analyse and evaluate information from a range of previously unseen resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour 15 minutes</td>
<td>Candidates answer all questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written paper</td>
<td>There is a separate Resource Booklet provided with the question paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 marks</td>
<td>This unit is externally assessed.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit A733: Local Geographical Investigation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25% of the total GCSE</td>
<td>Local Geographical Investigation uses the collection of primary data. Candidates complete a 2000 word assessment under controlled conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled assessment</td>
<td>Candidates complete one from a choice of four tasks. Tasks will change each year but will relate to either ‘Issues related to retail areas’ or ‘Issues related to settlements and land use’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 marks</td>
<td>This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All units will be examined in June 2016
German

Awarding Body: AQA (GCSE)
Specification Code: 4665

Course outline

The GCSE in German aims to enable pupils to speak and write German confidently and accurately in a variety of situations, both familiar and new. Pupils will also be able to understand spoken and written German at a high level, and learn to appreciate the culture and society of Germany and German-speaking countries.

Themes

The GCSE course will cover a range of topics, including Health, Relationships and Choices, Free Time and the Media, Holidays, Home and Local Area, Environment, School/College and Future Plans, and Current and Future Jobs. Some of these topics will be familiar to pupils from work covered in Years 7 - 9, but pupils will learn to deal with more advanced vocabulary and structures when speaking, writing, reading or listening to German that deals with these themes. The themes are presented in relevant contexts and in a way which encourages pupils to make practical use of their language skills. Pupils will also be taught the grammar needed to express themselves clearly and accurately in German and which will allow them to access the highest marks at GCSE.

Method of Assessment

The GCSE is made up of four components, Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Two of these skills (Listening and Reading) are externally examined in the June session of Year 11 (i.e. at the end of the course). These external units account for 40% of the marks in total. 60% of the GCSE is in the form of Controlled Assessment. These Controlled Assessment pieces (two speaking tasks and two writing tasks) will be completed when the teacher considers the pupils ready to produce their best work – this is likely to be at various points during Year 11. Pupils will have the chance to complete more than two pieces of Controlled Assessment, and to submit the best marks for assessment at the end of the course.

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German (continued)

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Course books and materials

Pupils will be issued with a course book that has been specially written to match the new AQA GCSE specification. This course book will build on the skills and knowledge acquired in Years 7 - 9 and deal with the themes mentioned above in a lively and stimulating fashion. The course book will also systematically improve pupils’ understanding of how the language works and provide the necessary vocabulary for pupils to express themselves clearly and effectively, as well as guide them in the completion of the Controlled Assessment pieces. Other course books, newspapers and videos/DVDs will be used when necessary to supplement this material. The department also makes extensive use of the language laboratory in the Delius Room, using listening materials and websites that are tailored to GCSE candidates. Extensive examination practice will be provided in Year 11, and there may be the opportunity for pupils to have small group tuition with our native-speaker German Assistant in Year 11.

Trips

The department organises an exchange with Hofgeismar, Germany, for pupils in Years 9 - 13, and pupils studying for GCSE German are encouraged to take part in this trip. There is also a Sixth Form study trip to Berlin, combined with the History department, which offers an excellent opportunity to explore the cultural highlights of the city.
Greek

Awarding Body: OCR (GCSE)
Specification Code: J291

Course Outline

Year 9

After their taster course in Classical Greek during Year 8 the fun of decoding the Greek alphabet continues. Pupils now begin their study of Greek afresh following John Taylor's *Greek to GCSE Part 1*, encountering not only Greek noun and verb formations but also stories drawn from Greek history and mythology.

Years 10 and 11

In Year 10, students cover most of the grammatical requirements for GCSE Greek, following John Taylor's *Greek to GCSE Part 2*. They also begin to assimilate the 500-word defined vocabulary list. In Year 11, knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and syntax is consolidated and two set texts are studied in depth, one prose, one verse, each approximately 135 lines in length. Students need to be able to translate these texts with accuracy, but also to appreciate them and comment on them as literature.

Method of Assessment

The GCSE exam consists of four papers, each an hour long and worth 25% of the total mark. All four papers are sat in the summer at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.

*Paper One (B401) Language 1 (mythology and domestic life):* translation and comprehension questions on a story or stories drawn from mythology or Greek domestic life.

*Paper Two (B402) Language 2 (history):* translation and comprehension questions on a story from Greek History.

*Paper Three (B403) Prose Literature:* comprehension and literary appreciation questions on passages from the prescribed text.

*Paper Four (B404) Verse Literature:* comprehension and literary appreciation questions on passages from the prescribed text.
**History**

Awarding Body: CIE (IGCSE)
 Specification Code: History 0470

**Course outline**

The area studied for GCSE is twentieth-century world history. The course consists of several elements. These are:

1.  **Component one option B:**
   The 20th Century: International Relations since 1919
   1. Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?
   2. To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
   3. Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?
   4. Who was to blame for the Cold War?
   5. How effectively did the USA contain the spread of communism?
   6. How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948-1989?

Students will need to study four of these.

**Depth Study**

The USA, c. 1919-1941, covers the economic boom and the ‘Roaring Twenties’; the Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression; and the New Deal.

2.  **Component Two:**
Candidates answer questions based on a range of source materials relating to a topic prescribed from the core content. A different topic is chosen each year and is specified in advance. The topic for examination in 2017 will be “How Successful Was The League of Nations?”

3.  **Component Three:**
Candidates produce one piece of extended writing of up to 2000 words based on material taken from in depth study. It must focus on the issue of significance. Our chosen study will be A: The First World War 1914 - 18. In October of Year 11, the History Department runs a fieldtrip to the First World War Battlefields (approximate cost £380, 4 nights abroad - not compulsory but strongly recommended).

The skills developed and the knowledge acquired in studying GCSE History enables students to progress to Advanced Level History and to develop their analytical thinking. GCSE History is not essential for A Level History, but it is advisable to have studied it.

Continued/
History (continued)

Method of assessment

Component I 2 hours: Sections on Core Content and USA Depth Study. Answer 3 questions, each split into 3 parts. 40%

Component II 2 hours: 6 questions on a range of source material relating to the prescribed topic (notified at the start of the course). 33%

Component III Coursework
The essay will be completed in the later stages of the Autumn term of year 11. 27%
This is marked internally with external moderation.
Latin

Awarding Body: OCR (GCSE)
Specification Code: J281

Course outline

Year 9

Students now begin the study of Latin grammar afresh, following Nicholas Oulton’s “So You Really Want to Learn Latin” course alongside stories from Roman history and mythology.

Years 10 and 11

In Year 10 pupils move onto the third and final volume of “So You Really Want to Learn Latin”, completing the grammar requirements for Latin GCSE and beginning to assimilate the 500 word defined vocabulary list.

In Year 11, knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and syntax is consolidated and two set texts are studied in depth, one prose, one verse, each approximately 135 lines in length. Students need to be able to translate these texts with accuracy, but also to appreciate them and comment on them as literature.

Method of Assessment

The GCSE exam consists of four papers, each an hour long and worth 25% of the total mark. All four papers are sat in the summer at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.

*Paper One (A401) Language 1 (mythology and domestic life)*: translation and comprehension questions on a story or stories drawn from mythology or Roman domestic life.

*Paper Two (A402) Language 2 (history)*: translation and comprehension questions on a story from Roman History.

*Paper Three (A403) Prose Literature*: comprehension and literary appreciation questions on passages from the prescribed text.

*Paper Four (A404) Verse Literature*: comprehension and literary appreciation questions on passages from the prescribed text.
Mathematics

Awarding Body: Edexcel (IGCSE)
Specification Code: 4MAO

Course outline

The IGCSE course aims to encourage candidates to develop the following:

- A positive attitude to mathematics, including confidence, enjoyment and perseverance.
- An appreciation of the place and use of mathematics in society, including historical and cultural influences.
- An ability to think and communicate precisely, logically, and creatively.
- An ability to apply mathematical knowledge and understanding to solve problems and to present solutions clearly, interpreting and checking results.
- An appreciation of pattern and relationships in mathematics.
- An ability to classify, generalise and justify or prove statements.
- An understanding of the inter-dependence of different branches of mathematics.
- An ability to use mathematics across the curriculum.
- A firm foundation for future study.

All pupils follow the Edexcel IGCSE mathematics syllabus. Top sets will naturally finish the course earlier and will then cover some extra topics relevant to AS Level study.

Method of assessment

Two terminal written papers, both with calculator allowed.
Music

Awarding Body: Edexcel (GCSE)
Specification Code: 2MU01

Is this the right subject for me?

Yes, if you enjoy:
- composing and performing music
- learning an instrument or singing
- creating music on your instrument, on computers or in a recording studio
- learning about all types of music, including classical, popular and world music

Unit 1 Performing (30% of total GCSE, Controlled Assessment)

For this unit, students must submit two performances - a solo performance and an ensemble. Pupils may wish to record many pieces and submit the best two as their final work to be assessed. The recordings are made in the presence of the classroom teacher.

In order to do well in this unit, students must be attending weekly instrumental lessons on the instrument they will be assessed on. These lessons could take place in school as part of peripatetic lessons or outside school. We will work closely and carefully with your instrumental teachers so you can access the highest marks for this unit and feel supported. As a guide, students should be working at a grade 4 level to access the higher marks in this unit. We also advise that in addition to instrumental lessons, pupils participate in at least one school ensemble. The skills gained in these groups will be invaluable to the GCSE course.

Unit 2 Composing (30% of total GCSE, controlled assessment)

Over the course of the two years, pupils must compose two pieces which link with the areas of study in the listening and appraising unit. For example, you may wish to compose a song from a musical, a blues piece or a more classically inspired work. You will use the composition software Sibelius to notate your compositions.

Unit 3 Listening and Appraising (40% of total GCSE, examination)

Pupils will study 12 set works over the course of the two years and these range from dance music and blues to Chopin and Mozart. These set works are divided into 4 areas of study: Western Classical Music, Music in the 20th Century, Popular Music in Context and World Music. Students study these set works in class and in the exam pupils are required to answer two types of question: section A comprising short-answer questions and section B comprising slightly longer essay-type answers.
Religious Studies

Awarding Body: AQA (GCSE)
Specification Code: 4055 (Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society)

Course outline

GCSE Religious Studies follows the new AQA Specification B (Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society). This course is studied over two years. Two units are studied:

Unit 2 - Religion and Life Issues. This unit explores a range of interesting and topical contemporary moral issues including Animal Rights, Planet Earth, Prejudice, Early Life, War and Peace and Young People. This unit encourages students to think critically and creatively about many of the key issues which face society today. It raises awareness of events, points of view, debates and responses to these issues and students are given opportunities to explore and express their own perspectives as well as the perspectives of the world religions that they will study.

Unit 4 - Religious Philosophy and Ultimate Questions. This unit is an introduction to philosophical thinking at GCSE and material specifically linked to the Philosophy of Religion. It encourages students to reflect upon ultimate questions about the meaning and purpose of life, and to develop their own reasoned response to those questions. Students will explore debates about the existence of God, revelation, the problems of evil and suffering, life after death, miracles and the relationship between science and religion. This unit complements the exploration of key moral issues undertaken in Unit 2 and together they provide a broad-based Religious Studies course which will give students a range of practical and transferable skills (for example, critical thinking, the skills of debating and expressing points of view supported by reasons and the development of positive values such as tolerance, empathy and compassion). Unit 2 and Unit 4 will also provide a valuable foundation for those students who then wish to continue Religious Studies at A Level (the course being Philosophy and Ethics of Religion).

GCSE Religious Studies students in Year 11 have the opportunity to attend a residential revision visit to Sneaton Castle in Whitby, led by the Department in preparation for final GCSE examinations in the Summer.

Method of Assessment

Each unit accounts for 50% of the total GCSE Course marks (100% external / written papers). There is no coursework component; the assessment comprises of two examinations (for each unit) where the candidates will be required to answer four questions in the examination, based on the four of the six topics available. Each examination paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes.
**Russian**

Awarding Body: Edexcel (GCSE)
Specification Code: 2RU01

Course outline

The GCSE in Russian aims to enable pupils to speak and write Russian confidently and accurately in a variety of situations, both familiar and new. Pupils will also be able to understand spoken and written Russian at a high level, and learn to appreciate the culture and society of Russia and other countries and communities where Russian is spoken as a significant minority language.

Themes

The GCSE course will cover a range of topics, including Media and culture; Sport and leisure; Travel and tourism; Business, work and employment; Out and about; Customer services and transactions; Personal information; and Future plans, education and work. Some of these topics will be familiar to pupils from work covered in Year 9, but pupils will learn to deal with more advanced vocabulary and structures when speaking, writing, reading or listening to Russian that deals with these themes. The themes are presented in relevant contexts and in a way which encourages pupils to make practical use of their language skills. Pupils will also be taught the grammar needed to express themselves clearly and accurately in Russian and which will allow them to access the highest marks at GCSE.

Method of Assessment

The GCSE is made up of four components, Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. The GCSE Russian examination is 100% externally assessed (i.e. there are no Controlled Assessment components in this qualification). Pupils will sit all four components at the end of the course (in the summer of Year 11).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>27% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is an external examination. Pupils will listen to pre-recorded spoken material in Russian and answer a range of questions requiring non-verbal responses or responses in English or Russian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>27% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is an external examination. Pupils will read written material in Russian and answer a range of questions requiring non-verbal responses or responses in English or Russian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>23% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is an external examination. Pupils will sit a speaking test lasting between 8 and 10 minutes in which they will take part in a focused picture-based discussion or presentation (with follow-up questions) and a general conversation in Russian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>23% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is an external examination. Pupils will produce two pieces of writing in Russian in response to a choice of questions dealing with the prescribed topics of media, travel and culture OR sport, leisure and work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Russian (continued)

Course books and materials

The teaching is based on the successful Teach Yourself Russian course which will build on the skills and knowledge acquired in Year 9 and deal with the themes mentioned above in a lively and stimulating fashion. The course book will also systematically improve pupils’ understanding of how the language works and provide the necessary vocabulary for pupils to express themselves clearly and effectively. Other course books, newspapers, DVDs and material from the internet will be used when necessary to supplement this. The department also makes use of the language laboratory in the Delius Room, using listening materials and websites that are tailored to GCSE candidates. Extensive examination practice will be provided in Year 11, and there may be the opportunity for pupils to have small group tuition with our native-speaker Russian Assistant in Year 11.

Trips

There will sometimes be the possibility of a study trip to Moscow and St Petersburg, in which pupils studying for GCSE Russian are encouraged to take part.
Science

Biology

Awarding Body: Edexcel (IGCSE)
Specification Code: 4BI0

All pupils study Edexcel IGCSE over three years, beginning in Year 9 and work towards the terminal exam papers in the summer of Year 11. It is assumed that all candidates will prepare for both the core, Paper 1 (120 marks, 2 hour exam) and extension, Paper 2 (60 marks, 1 hour exam) papers giving them access to the A* grade in Biology.

The IGCSE course follows a traditional Biology syllabus. There is an emphasis on academic content and rigour combined with the development of good practical skills.

Teaching is supported by a course-specific and Edexcel endorsed text book, which includes a CD for students to use at home to further enhance their understanding and acquisition of knowledge.

Year 9 - all students will have completed Life processes, Enzymes, Cellular respiration, Movement into and out of cells, Breathing and gas exchange, Food and digestion before the summer exams.

Year 10 - Animal transport, Plant transport, Plants and food, Co-ordination, Excretion, Plant co-ordination, Ecology and variety of life; this will include an educational visit to Chester Zoo.

Year 11 - Reproduction in plants, Reproduction in humans, Inheritance, Biotechnology, Food production and Human impact on the environment.

The course is assessed at regular intervals by ‘Short’ topic-based tests and module tests, plus the school summer exams in June (Year 10) and the mock exams in February (Year 11).

Practical work is used throughout the course wherever possible, to aid understanding of the material covered. The written exam papers will test the student’s ability to understand the principles behind performing successful scientific investigations. Application of knowledge and practical procedures will be assessed, together with graphing and simple data and manipulation skills.

To ensure continuity, students will be taught by the same member of staff for both Years 10 and 11.
Science (continued)

Chemistry

Awarding Body: Edexcel (IGCSE)
Specification Code: 4CHO

In Years 7 and 8 students follow a programme of study that is specifically designed to provide a strong basis for and introduction to studying IGCSE in Year 9.

The IGCSE course is taught over 3 years, Years 9 to 11, and is an excellent preparation for any student interested in taking the AQA A-level course in the Sixth Form.

The Edexcel IGCSE course (4CHO) is one of the most up-to-date international qualifications available in the UK for 14-16 year olds. Studying the IGCSE course will provide students with an exceptional standard of chemical education which is both modern and relevant. It is ideal preparation for students who may be planning to study more advanced courses in chemistry. It blends traditional chemistry content with the freedom to adopt real chemistry in practical sessions and provides a rigorous grounding in all the key and essential skills and theory required to take the subject to a higher level. The course is not restricted by the need to do assessed practical assessments or continuous module assessments that eat into teaching time.

The course is examined via two examinations taken at the end of Year 11.

The first is a 2 hour examination worth 120 marks and covers all core aspects of the syllabus in order of increasing difficulty of concept taught (worth 66.6% of total marks).

The second paper is a 1 hour examination worth 60 marks that can ask questions on any aspect of the course but also only includes the extra content specified by the board signified in the syllabus in bold type (worth 33.3% of total marks).

16 key practicals are covered in the teaching scheme about which students can expect to be asked via investigative skill type questions on the main paper. An outline of the main 5 subject areas and outline scheme of work can be found below.

The specification content is divided into five areas:

1 Principles of Chemistry
2 Chemistry of the Elements
3 Organic Chemistry
4 Physical Chemistry
5 Chemistry in Society.

Continued/
Chemistry (continued)

Order of teaching Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry

Year 9
1. Kinetic theory and diffusion and methods of separating and analysing
2. Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
3. Tests for gases and water
4. Formulae and chemical equations
5. Metals and the reactivity series
6. Metals and metal extraction
7. Acids, bases and soluble salts
8. Oxygen and oxides
9. Crude oil and fuels

Year 10
1. Ionic bonding and structure
2. The Periodic Table
3. Moles and masses
4. Rates of reactions
5. Making salts and tests for ions
6. Covalent bonding and structure
7. Alkanes, alkenes and addition polymers
8. Reversible reactions and equilibria
9. The Haber Process and the Contact Process

Year 11
1. Moles and volumes, types of acid, titrations and calculations
2. Electrolysis and calculations and the Chlor-alkali industry
3. Energetics, energy level diagrams and bond energy calculations
4. Metallic bonding and structure, Group 2 and Transition metals
5. Redox, half equations and electrons
6. Alkenes, alcohols and condensation polymers
Science (continued)

Physics
Awarding Body: Edexcel (IGCSE)
Specification Code: 4PHO

We follow the Edexcel International GCSE in Physics. This is a more traditional course compared to the conventional GCSE and we believe it is much more suitable for students at an academic school.

Course outline
The course consists of three years of study of the fundamentals of Physics, centred around the topics of:

- Forces and motion
- Electricity
- Waves
- Energy resources and energy transfer
- Solids, liquids and gases
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Radioactivity and particles

The GCSE course begins in Year 9. We teach elements from all topics in each year to allow gradual progress and revision. Practical work is woven into the course in every topic.

Examination is by two written papers taken in the June of Year 11.

There is no coursework. Practical skills are examined in the written papers.
Spanish

Awarding Body: AQA (GCSE)
Specification Code: 4695

Course outline

The GCSE in Spanish aims to enable pupils to speak and write Spanish confidently and accurately in a variety of situations, both familiar and new. Pupils will also be able to understand spoken and written Spanish at a high level, and learn to appreciate the culture and society of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries.

Themes

The GCSE course will cover a range of topics, including Health, Relationships and Choices, Free Time and the Media, Holidays, Home and Local Area, Environment, School/College and Future Plans, and Current and Future Jobs. Some of these topics will be familiar to pupils from work covered in Year 9, but pupils will learn to deal with more advanced vocabulary and structures when speaking, writing, reading or listening to Spanish that deals with these themes. The themes are presented in relevant contexts and in a way which encourages pupils to make practical use of their language skills. Pupils will also be taught the grammar needed to express themselves clearly and accurately in Spanish and which will allow them to access the highest marks at GCSE.

Method of Assessment

The GCSE is made up of four components, Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Two of these skills (Listening and Reading) are externally examined in the June session of Year 11 (i.e. at the end of the course). These external units account for 40% of the marks in total. 60% of the GCSE is in the form of Controlled Assessment. These Controlled Assessment pieces (two speaking tasks and two writing tasks) will be completed when the teacher considers the pupils ready to produce their best work – this is likely to be at various points during Year 11. Pupils will have the chance to complete more than two pieces of Controlled Assessment, and to submit the best marks for assessment at the end of the course.

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>20% of the GCSE</td>
<td>This is an external examination, available at Foundation and Higher Tier. We expect to enter all our pupils for Higher Tier. Pupils will listen to pre-recorded spoken material in Spanish and answer a range of questions requiring non-verbal responses or responses in English.</td>
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Continued/
Spanish (continued)

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<th>Course books and materials</th>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Speaking</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
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Pupils will be issued with a course book that has been specially written to match the new AQA GCSE specification. This course book will build on the skills and knowledge acquired in Year 9 and deal with the themes mentioned above in a lively and stimulating fashion. The course book will also systematically improve pupils’ understanding of how the language works and provide the necessary vocabulary for pupils to express themselves clearly and effectively, as well as guide them in the completion of the Controlled Assessment pieces. Other course books, newspapers and videos/DVDs will be used when necessary to supplement this material. The department also makes extensive use of the language laboratory in the Delius Room, using listening materials and websites that are tailored to GCSE candidates. Extensive examination practice will be provided in Year 11, and there may be the opportunity for pupils to have small group tuition with our native-speaker Spanish Assistant in Year 11.

**Trips**

The department organises a study trip to Madrid, offered to Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form pupils. In addition to this, there is a cultural trip to Barcelona offered to Year 9 pupils.
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<th>Bradford Grammar School</th>
<th>Curriculum in Years 9, 10 and 11 (leading to 10 (I)GCSEs)</th>
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<td><strong>Year 9</strong></td>
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