

Passmores Academy

GCSE OPTIONS

2025-2026

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KEY DATES



KEY WORDS

In this booklet, we explain the subjects you can take and use terms like:

- **GCSE 9-1**
- **GCSE 9-1 with Higher/Foundation tiers**
- **BTEC Level 1/2**

What does this mean?

GCSE 9-1 Grades: When you take GCSEs, your grades will be from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest. These replaced the old A*- G grades.

Higher/Foundation Tiers: Some subjects, like Maths and Science, have two levels of exams – Foundation (1-5) and Higher (5-9).

BTEC Level 1/2: These are qualifications that include both exams and coursework. Grades are given as Level 1, Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, or Distinction*.

All qualifications help you move to the next stage of education. For example:

If you complete a Level 1 course, you can move on to a Level 2 course after age 16.

If you complete a Level 2 course, you can progress to a Level 3 course, i.e. A Levels or BTEC 3.

New GCSE Grading Structure	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
	Higher Tier Grades 5-9									
					Foundation Tier 1-5					

New BTEC Grading Structure	Distinction * (8.5)	Distinction (7)	Merit (5.5)	Pass (4)	Level 1	U
	Level 2				Level 1	



CAREERS, EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

At Key Stage 4, students take part in activities and opportunities designed to help them make informed choices about their future. We're committed to providing unbiased advice, information, and guidance, along with careers education.

Our Goals:

1. Help students use their strengths and values to explore career ideas.
2. Support students in developing areas that might hold them back from reaching their goals.
3. Teach students about different ways to gain qualifications for their dream careers.
4. Build awareness of the realities of further training and finding a job.

How We Help:

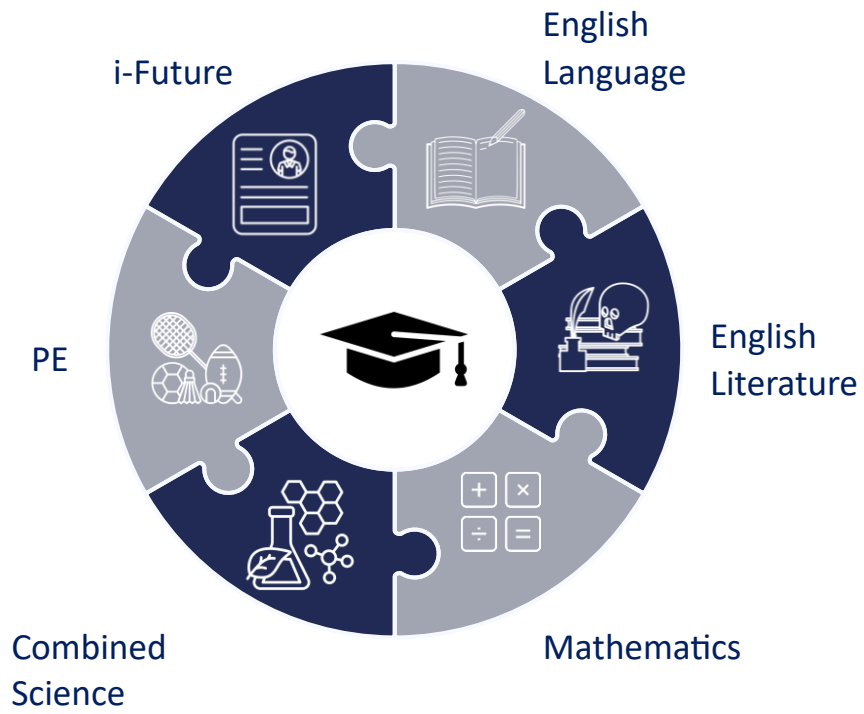


Careers Advisor: Julie Kay
j.kay@passmoresacademy.com



KS4 OVERVIEW

Compulsory subjects (See pages 8-13)



GCSE Options (See pages 19-37)

Computer Science



French



Spanish



History



Geography



Triple Science



Art



Photography



Drama



Citizenship



Music



Psychology



Business



Sociology



Design Technology



CTE



Creative Media



Child Development



Sport



Catering



Hair and Beauty



Construction



Compulsory Option – At least **ONE** of these needs to be picked



Art and Design GCSE – Only one of these can be picked



GCSE Options - Any of these can be picked



Vocational Offering - Any of these can be picked. However you can only pick CTE OR Creative Media not both.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA English Language 8700

What will I learn?

This course helps students of all abilities develop skills to:

- Read, understand, and analyse a variety of texts from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.
- Write clearly, logically, and accurately, using a wide range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

What is the structure of the course?

1. Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
2. Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
3. Reading - One-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
4. Writing - Writing to present a viewpoint
5. Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

How will I be assessed?

There will be 2 exams at the end of Year 11, based on unseen extracts which the students will need to read and respond to.

Paper 1: Fiction

1hr 45mins

50%

Paper 2: Non-Fiction

1hr 45mins

50%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Translator, Medical secretary, Editor, Proofreading, Public relations (PR) officer, Actor, Barrister, Journalist, Publisher, English Teacher, Administrator, Librarian, Broadcaster, Author, Technical writer, TV Director.

Head of Department: Naomi Van Der Lith
n.vanderlith@passmoresacademy.com



ENGLISH LITERATURE

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA English Language 8702

What will I learn?

This course focuses on developing skills for studying English Literature across all genres. The materials are designed to help teachers focus on inspiring lessons and to support students of all abilities in performing their best on every question.

Texts We Study:

1. *'An Inspector Calls'* by J.B. Priestley
2. *'A Christmas Carol'* by Charles Dickens
3. *'Macbeth'* by William Shakespeare
4. *'Power and Conflict'* Poetry (various poets from the AQA Poetry Anthology)

What is the structure of the course?

1. *'An Inspector Calls'* by J.B. Priestley
2. *'A Christmas Carol'* by Charles Dickens
3. *'Macbeth'* by William Shakespeare
4. *'The Poetry Anthology'* by various poets
5. *'Unseen poetry'* by various poets

How will I be assessed?

There will be 2 exams at the end of Year 11. All the inserts will be unseen extracts which the students will need to read and respond to.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

1hr 45mins

50%

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

2hr 15mins

50%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Teaching, Media, Influencing, Helping, Careers with a degree in English, Professions, Information (Librarian, archives, Information Officer, Booksellers), Public Sector, Postgraduate Study.

Head of Department: Naomi Van Der Lith
n.vanderlith@passmoresacademy.com



MATHEMATICS

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Pearson Edexcel 1MA1

What will I learn?

The course aims to:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems in the real world.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and draw conclusions from information.
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.

What is the structure of the course?

Our scheme of learning covers the following content:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

How will I be assessed?

Students will either sit the foundation tier (grade 1-5) or higher tier (grade 4-9) papers.

**Paper 1: 1MA1/1F
or 1MA1/1H**
1hr 30mins
Non calculator
80 marks

**Paper 2: 1MA1/2F
or 1MA1/2H**
1hr 30mins
Calculator assessment
80 marks

**Paper 3: 1MA1/3F
or 1MA1/3H**
1hr 30mins
Calculator assessment
80 marks

What careers can I do with this subject?

Engineer, Architect, Scientist, Building Design, Technology, Accounting, Banking, Business Management, Game design, animation, Doctor, Pilot, or Data analyst.

Head of Department: Kathleen Blake
k.blake@passmoresacademy.com



COMBINED SCIENCE

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy 8464

What will I learn?

Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Topics include: plant biology, the environment, forces and motion, radioactivity, health and disease, rates of reaction, acids and alkalis and electricity.

What is the structure of the course?

Students will have a separate teacher for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

100% exam based.

At the end of year 11, you will be awarded with 2 science grades. One grade for the average of your score in the paper 1 exam and the second grade from your average score across the paper 2 exam.

How will I be assessed?

Examination only

Paper 1: Biology 1hr 15mins	Paper 1: Chemistry 1hr 15mins	Paper 1: Physics 1hr 15mins	Paper 2: Biology 1hr 15mins	Paper 2: Chemistry 1hr 15mins	Paper 2: Physics 1hr 15mins
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What careers can I do with this subject?

Laboratory Technician, Environmental Scientist, Pharmaceutical Technician, Biomedical Scientist, Forensic Scientist, Science Teacher, Engineering Technician, Food Scientist

Head of Department: Ashley Wilhite
a.wilhite@passmoresacademy.com



i-FUTURE (NON-EXAMINED SUBJECT)

i-Future is a mix of citizenship, relationships and sex education, religious education, personal, social, and health education, and careers education.

What It Covers:

In Citizenship students will focus on the law joint enterprise – What it is, how this works in today’s society and real-life case studies where a young person has become involved and the consequences.

In Careers students will learn what a CV is, the importance of being able to write one and will produce their own CV in preparation for their Mock Interview Day. Students will also, during these lessons, pick up interview techniques and do’s and do nots of a job interview.

In RSE students focus on healthy and unhealthy relationships to help them identify manipulative, coercive and gas-lighting behaviour. Students will watch a powerful drama based on a real-life case called *Murdered By My Boyfriend*.

In RE students will look at Moral and Ethical dilemmas such as abortion, euthanasia, and animal testing. Students will be able to debate and discuss these sensitive issues and investigate how religions will look at these.

In PSHE student will read a novel called JUNK which is about the consequences and realities of drug taking.

In Financial Capability lesson students, will learn the importance of budgeting, why do we pay taxes about earning money and deductions on payslips.

Goal:

To help students become confident, self-reliant, and empathetic individuals who leave Passmores as fully functioning, politically aware young citizens.

Head of Department: Tammy Bassett
T.Bassett@passmoresacademy.com



CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (NON-EXAMINED SUBJECT)

What It Covers:

Students will follow a similar program to KS3 and will be assessed at the end of each activity block on:

- Personal performance in individual and/or group skills
- Application of skills within the activity
- Understanding and application of rules and regulations
- Tactical awareness and decision-making

Activities:

Games:

Football, rounders, basketball, netball, rugby, badminton, tennis, cricket, handball

Athletic Activities:

Athletics, fitness

Gymnastic Activities:

Trampolining

Goal:

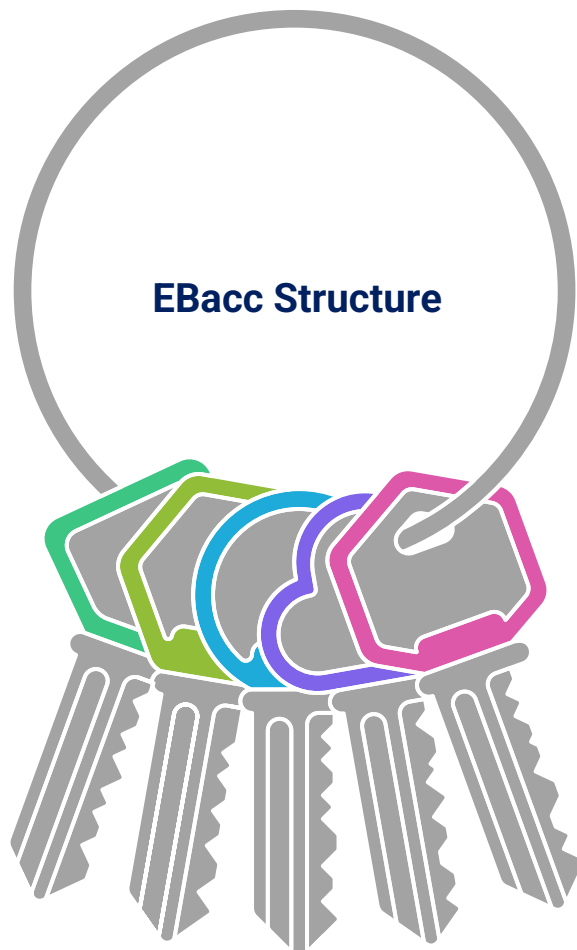
This subject helps improve your well-being and fitness. You will take part in physical activity twice a week, encouraging lifelong exercise habits. There may also be opportunities to work with outside companies and try new activities like Taekwondo, judo, and yoga.

Head of Department: Andrew Martin
a.martin@passmoresacademy.com



THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification, but a selection of subjects used to encourage students to choose a broad and challenging range of subjects. Before deciding whether to follow the EBacc pathway, discuss your options with teachers and parents/carers.



 English

 Maths

 Science

 Language

 History/Geography

Why Consider the EBacc?

- It is highly recommended for students planning to apply to Russell Group universities, known for their high academic standards and strong reputation with employers.
- Research by University College London (UCL) shows that studying EBacc subjects increases opportunities in further education and improves the likelihood of staying in full-time study.
- The Sutton Trust has found that taking the EBacc can enhance performance in English and maths.

At Passmores, we encourage students to consider the EBacc but only if it aligns with their goals and abilities. For more details about Russell Group universities, visit

www.russellgroup.ac.uk.



GCSE OPTIONS

Computer Science



French



Spanish



History



Geography



Triple Science



Art



Photography



Drama



Citizenship



Music



Psychology



Business



Sociology



Design Technology



CTE



Creative Media



Child Development



Sport



Catering



Hair and Beauty



Construction



Compulsory Option – At least **ONE** of these needs to be picked



Art and Design GCSE – Only one of these can be picked

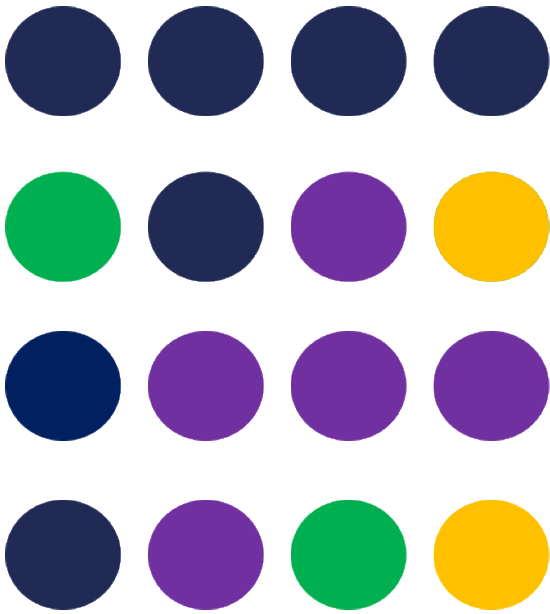


GCSE Options - Any of these can be picked

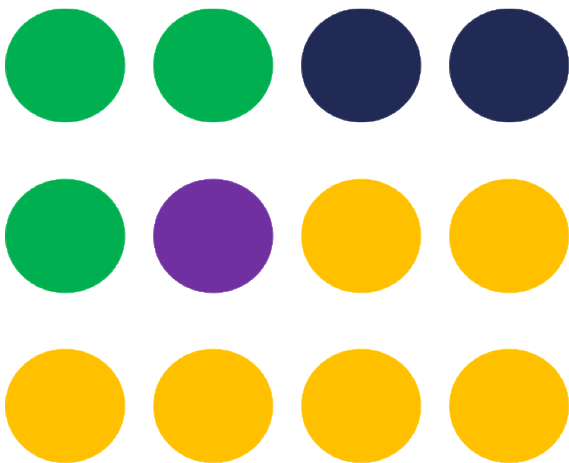


Vocational Offering - Any of these can be picked. However you can only pick CTE OR Creative Media not both.

Examples of combinations that would be acceptable:



Examples of combinations that would **NOT** be acceptable:

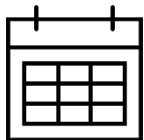


Two Art and Designs

No Compulsory option

No Compulsory option

MAKING YOUR CHOICES



25th November 2025

Options open (first round)

10th December 2025

Options close (first round)

19th January 2026

Options open (second round)

13th February 2026

Options close (second round)

- Make a note of your final deadline to submit your options.
- Take time to review the options booklet and decide which subjects you would like to choose.
- If you have questions about a specific option, speak to the Head of Department.
- For general guidance, talk to your Form Tutor or Head of House.
- Use the Easter holidays to finalise your choices and submit them online as soon as possible.

KEY POINTS

1. Choose what is right for you

When choosing your GCSEs, the most important thing is to choose what's right for you. Don't pick a subject just because your friends are taking it—it's unlikely you'll be in the same class.

2. Make your own decision

Your family will offer help and advice to support you through this process. Make sure you select the subjects you want to.

3. Think about your future

It's also helpful to think about your future career goals when choosing your GCSEs. If you have a career in mind, research which GCSEs will help you get there. Mrs Kay, Careers Advisor, is available for students to drop-in all day Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Alternatively, you can visit the Careers Library or attend a Careers Fair.



HOW TO SELECT YOUR OPTIONS

1. Go to <https://www.studentoptions.co/passmores/>
2. Enter your username and password. These will be shared with you separately. If you are unsure of these details, please visit the data team or email datateam@passmoresacademy.com
3. Follow the instructions on the screen, you will first need to pick a compulsory subject:
 - Computer Science
 - French
 - Geography
 - History
 - Spanish
 - Triple Science
4. Click 'Next'.
5. You will then need to select 3 more subjects, and a reserve subject. Enter '2', '3', and '4' for your chosen subjects, and 'R' for your reserve subject.

Please remember that you can only pick one creative subject:

- Creative Media
- Creative & Technical Enterprise

And one Art subject:

- Art
- Design & Technology
- Photography

6. When you have selected your choices, click the 'Submit' button. Your choices will then appear in a table. You cannot easily go back and change your choices once they have been submitted, so please double check them before clicking 'Confirm Choices'.

Please visit the data team or email datateam@passmoresacademy.com if you have any queries or wish to make any changes to your choices.



ART AND DESIGN

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA GCSE Art and Design

What will I learn?

GCSE Art and Design challenges you to explore your creativity and develop artistic skills through hands-on experiments with different materials and techniques. You'll learn to express ideas visually, think creatively, and connect your work with existing artists and designers.

At Passmores Academy, you can specialise in 3D Design, Textiles, Fine Art, or Photography—perfect for students who love creating and want to try new materials and concepts.

What is the structure of the course?

AO1: Develop Ideas – Research and analyse artists, designers, and cultural influences to inspire and inform creative work.

AO2: Refine Work – Experiment with materials, techniques, and processes to refine ideas and improve outcomes.

AO3: Record Ideas – Document creative development through observations, sketches, photographs, and written reflections.

AO4: Present a Final Outcome – Create a final piece that effectively communicates intentions and demonstrates skills developed throughout the project.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio

60%

A main project showing the full creative process, along with a selection of other pieces

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

40%

10hr practical exam

Where could GCSE Art and Design take me?

Product Designer, Model Maker, Fashion Designer, Textile Artist, Pattern Maker, Interior Designer, Illustrator, Art Therapist, Curator, Art Teacher, Printmaker, Photojournalist, Graphic Designer, Digital Content Creator.



Our 2 specialist pathways

Fine Art

Fine Art encourages students to express themselves through a mix of traditional and modern art forms. They develop skills in drawing, painting, mixed media, and printmaking while exploring techniques to build their unique style. Students are inspired by studying established artists, which helps enhance their creative journey.

Head of Department: Georgia Harris
g.harris@passmoresacademy.com



Photography

Photography helps students develop creativity and technical skills in both traditional and digital photography. They experiment with image manipulation, studio and location photography, and other techniques. Students learn to capture, edit, and present their work while building skills in composition, digital editing, and critical analysis.

Head of Department: Carolyn Richards
c.richards@passmoresacademy.com



BUSINESS



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel (1BS0)

What will I learn?

Students will develop an understanding of key business concepts and the language used in the world of business.

In **marketing**, they will explore market research, branding, and promotion, learning how businesses attract and retain customers. In **finance**, they will study topics such as cash flow, budgeting, and profit margins to understand money management.

The course also covers **human resources**, introducing ideas such as recruitment, leadership, and motivation, and showing how businesses manage people. In **operations**, students will learn about production methods, supply chains, and how goods and services are delivered efficiently.

Additionally, students will explore the wider **business environment**, including the economy, competition, and ethical business practices.

By the end of the course, students will be able to confidently use business terminology to analyse real-life business scenarios, preparing them for further study or future careers in business.

What is the structure of the course?

Two components:

- Theme 1: Investigating Small Business
- Theme 2: Building a Business

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit two exam papers at the end of Year 11 — one for each theme

Paper 1: Investigating Small Business

1 hour 45 minutes

50%

Paper 2: Building a Business

1 hour 45 minutes

50%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Marketing, Finance, Entrepreneurship, Human Resources, Management, Accounting, And Retail.

Head of Department: Matthew Moloney
M.moloney@passmoresacademy.com



CITIZENSHIP



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

OCR J270

What will I learn?

Students learn about rights, laws, and the justice system in the UK, exploring the ineffectiveness, and challenges within UK prisons. They study government and politics, including the voting system and Parliament's role. The course also covers life in the UK, immigration trends, and the benefits and challenges these bring. Additionally, students examine international organisations that the UK is part of and assess the significance of each membership.

What is the structure of the course?

This course is 100% exam based. Your GCSE grade will be awarded by adding up your marks across the three papers, which are all sat at the end of Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

3 exams at the end of Year 11 -

Paper 1: Citizenship in perspective

50mins

25%

Paper 2: Citizenship in Action

1hr 45mins

50%

Paper 3: Our rights, our society, our world

1hr

50%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Lawyer, Politician, Civil Servant, Social Worker, Human Rights Officer, Community Development Worker, Diplomat, Journalist

Head of Department: Claire Le Dain
c.ledain@passmoresacademy.com





What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA 8525

What will I learn?

In this GCSE course, students will use real-world programming techniques to understand how technology works. In today's fast-changing digital world, this course helps prepare students for the future. They will build skills in problem-solving, logical thinking, teamwork, and self-discipline.

What is the structure of the course?

There are 8 different topics that cover a range of areas including Data Representation, Computer Systems, Networking, Cyber Security, Databases, Algorithms and Programming, and Laws and Ethics

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Algorithms and Programming

Written Exam - 2hrs
50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Computer Systems

Written Exam - 1hr 45mins
50% of GCSE

What careers can I do with this subject?

Software Developer, Cybersecurity Analyst, Data Scientist, IT Support Specialist, AI Engineer, Web Developer, Network Administrator, Game Developer

Head of Department: Matthew Moloney
M.moloney@passmoresacademy.com





What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Eduqas GCSE in Design and Technology

What will I learn?

Students will learn how to design and make high quality products that solve real problems. The course includes a strong understanding of materials, processes, tools and modern technologies. Students explore how products are developed and how designers consider sustainability, the environment, users and real contexts.

Learners study:

- New and emerging technologies and their impact on people, industry, and the environment
- Smart, modern, and composite materials
- Electronic systems, programmable components, and mechanical devices
- A wide range of materials: papers/boards, timbers, metals, polymers, textiles
- How to identify user needs, write briefs/specifications, develop ideas, and create prototypes
- How to analyse and evaluate products, design choices, and broader design issues

What is the structure of the course?

Written Exam (50%) – Covers core technical, designing, and making principles taught throughout the course. Assessed by a 2-hour exam at the end of Year 11.

Non-Examined Assessment / NEA (50%) – A design-and-make project based on one of three annual Eduqas contextual challenges. Students research, develop a brief, design, prototype, and evaluate their work under supervised lesson conditions.

How will I be assessed?

Written examination

50%

Non-Examined Assessment

50%

Where could GCSE Art and Design take me?

This qualification prepares students for A-levels, apprenticeships, and careers in design, engineering, and creative industries, developing practical skills, creativity, and problem-solving.

Head of Department: Georgina Histon
g.histon@passmoresacademy.com



DRAMA



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

OCR 316

What will I learn?

You will develop drama skills by creating, performing, and responding to theatre. By exploring different performance texts, you'll understand their social, cultural, and historical contexts while experimenting with various theatrical styles and techniques. You'll also explore the roles of directors and designers, learning how all elements of theatre come together. Collaboration is crucial—you'll work with others to develop and communicate creative ideas. Reflecting on your work and giving constructive feedback is essential.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is split into three units:

Devising Drama - This component is completed in the summer of Year 10.

Presenting and Performing Texts - This component is completed in the spring of Year 11.

Performance and Response - This component is completed as part of your main exam series at the end of Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a combination of both practical performance and/or design, portfolio-based coursework and a final written exam.

Devising Drama	Presenting & Performing Texts	Performance and Response
Coursework, over 12 weeks Final performance, 15mins 30%	Coursework, over 12 weeks Final performance, 30mins 30%	Written exam - 1hr 30mins 40%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Actor, Theatre Director, Drama Teacher, Scriptwriter, Stage Manager, Casting Director, Voice Actor, Set Designer, Teaching, Law, Business

Head of Department: Karen Warncken
k.warncken@passmoresacademy.com





What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Pearson Edexcel 1FR1

What will I learn?

Language is part of everyday life, shaping how we connect with the world. In today's multicultural society, strong communication skills are more valuable than ever. In French, we help students develop both language skills and cultural awareness, fostering confident and open-minded global citizens.

You will also have the chance to immerse yourself in the cultural experience of a trip to Paris.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is split into six main themes, and your skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing will be assessed across these areas.

1. My personal world
2. Lifestyle and wellbeing
3. My neighbourhood
4. Media and technology
5. Studying and my future
6. Travel and tourism

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1:	Paper 2:	Paper 3:	Paper 4:
Listening Exam	Reading Exam	Writing Exam	Speaking Exam
Foundation – 45mins	Foundation – 45mins	Foundation – 1hr 15 mins	Foundation – 35-40 words in 5 sentences
Higher – 1hr	Higher – 1hr	Higher – 1hr 20 mins	Higher – 50-55 words in 4 sentences
25%	25%	25%	25%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Translator, Interpreter, Diplomat, Foreign Language Teacher, International Sales Representative, Tour Guide, Flight Attendant, Travel Consultant

Head of Department: Yvonne Corkery
y.corkery@passmoresacademy.com



GEOGRAPHY



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA 8035

What will I learn?

GCSE geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. This course has a good mix of content such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers, and hazards. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big issues which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and impact our daily lives.

What is the structure of the course?

There are 3 main units:

- 1. Human geography**
 - Urban issues and challenges
 - Economic development
 - Resource management
- 2. Physical geography**
 - Living World
 - Natural hazards
 - River and Coastal Landscapes
- 3. Field Work:**
 - Coastal and Urban enquiry at Walton-on-the-Naze

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Physical Geography

1 hr 30mins
35%

Paper 2: Human Geography

1hr 30mins
35%

Paper 3: Fieldwork and Issue

Evaluation
1hr 30mins
30%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Cartographer, Urban Planner, Environmental Consultant, GIS Analyst, Climatologist, Hydrologist, Transport Planner, Conservation Officer

Head of Department: Valerie Neagus
V.Neagus@passmoresacademy.com



HISTORY



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA 8145GA

What will I learn?

Throughout the course you will:

- Have regular knowledge and key word quizzes to ensure you understand everything.
- Regularly attempt exam-style questions to improve your confidence.
- Often analyse sources and interpretations.
- Be invited to attend extra talks and revision sessions.
- Complete online homework to improve knowledge retention.

What is the structure of the course?

Year 10:

- Health and the People: c.1000 to the present day (Thematic Study)
- Conflict and Tension: The Inter-War Years 1918-39 (Wider World Depth Study)
- Germany 1919-45: Democracy and Dictatorship (Period Study)

Year 11:

- Norman England c.1066-c.1100 (British Depth Study)

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Conflict and Tension and Germany

Written exam: 2hrs
50%

Paper 2: Health and the People and Norman England

Written exam: 2hrs
50%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Historian, Museum Curator, Archaeologist, Archivist, History Teacher, Journalist, Genealogist, Lawyer, Art Gallery Conservator, Editor, Planning Officer, Costume Designer.

Head of Department: Lyndsey Frederick

l.frederick@passmoresacademy.com



MUSIC



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Music 7010

What will I learn?

Performing

Students will perform two pieces on their chosen instrument or by voice, totaling 4–6 minutes. One piece will be a solo performance, and the other will be as part of an ensemble. To enhance their skills, students are encouraged to take instrumental or vocal lessons throughout Years 10 and 11.

Composing

Students will compose two contrasting pieces, totalling 3–6 minutes. One is a free composition, while the other follows a brief set by the exam board. They can use music technology, including Cubase Elements 11 and MuseScore4, to create their compositions.

Appraising

Students will take a 75-minute listening exam in June of Year 11. The exam covers four areas: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music, and Popular Music. It assesses their understanding of musical elements, contexts, and language.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is structured into three units: Performing , Composing and Appraising.

How will I be assessed?

Performing	Composing	Appraising
Head of department assessed	Head of department assessed	Written exam
4-6mins	3-6mins	1hr 15mins
30%	30%	40%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Musician, Composer, Music Producer, Sound Engineer, Music Teacher, DJ, Music Therapist, Conductor, Orchestral Musician, Songwriter, Composer For Video Games, Music Producer, Studio Engineer, Assistant Recording Technician, Music Manager, Project Co-Ordinator.

Head of Department: David Butler
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PSYCHOLOGY



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

OCR J203

What will I learn?

Students will study the following knowledge units and engage with the following inquiry questions: criminal behaviour (why do we commit crime and how can we reduce criminal behaviour and reoffending?); development (does everyone's brain develop in the same way, and how does this influence our development into adulthood?); memory (how does memory work, and how does this influence how we understand our world?); social influence (why do people obey or conform in different contexts?); sleep and dreaming (why do we sleep, and what is happening in our brain when we dream?); and psychological problems (what is mental health and how do illnesses such as schizophrenia or depression impact the individual and their place in society?). In addition to this, students will develop skills in planning, conducting, and evaluating research in psychology, and applying knowledge of neuropsychology to a variety of contexts.

What is the structure of the course?

At the end of the course, two final exams are sat worth 50% of the final grade each. Students will learn 4 units in year 10, and 2 units in year 11, with research methods, statistics and neuropsychology interleaved throughout the 2 years.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Studies and Applications in Psychology 1

Written exam: 1hr 30mins
50%

Paper 2: Studies and Applications in Psychology 2

Written exam: 1hr 30mins
50%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Psychologist, Counsellors, HR Specialist, Market Researcher, Forensic Psychologist, Social Worker, Therapist, Mental Health Nurse, Policing, Law, Childcare, Sport Psychology

Head of Department: Toni Hastler
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SOCIOLOGY



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

WJEC Eduqas GCSE Sociology: C200QS

What will I learn?

GCSE Sociology (WJEC Eduqas) explores how society works and why people behave the way they do. You'll study key ideas such as culture, identity, socialisation and inequality, and examine major institutions including the family, education and the criminal justice system. You also learn about different sociological perspectives like Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism, and gain practical skills in research methods such as surveys, interviews and observations. The course helps you understand social issues, analyse evidence and build strong evaluative writing skills, making it ideal for students interested in people, society and current social debates.

What is the structure of the course?

You will learn 6 different topics over 2 years.

The topics of introduction to sociology (key concepts) and research methods cover both final papers.

In paper 1, you will also explore topics of the family and education.

In paper 2, you will study crime and deviance as well as social stratification.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1

Written exam: 1hr 45mins
50%

Paper 2

Written exam: 1hr 45mins
50%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Studying GCSE Sociology can lead into a wide range of careers that involve understanding people, behaviour and society. It's a great foundation for jobs in areas such as People & Community, Law, Crime & Justice, Education & Child Development, Media, Communication & Public Services, Research & Policy as well as Business & People Management.

Sociology is useful for any career that requires understanding people, analysing problems, or thinking critically about society.

Head of Department: Toni Hastler
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SPANISH



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Pearson Edexcel 1SP1

What will I learn?

Students will have the opportunity to develop their ability to communicate confidently with native speakers in speech and writing.

Students will learn how to develop and use their knowledge and understanding of grammar progressively throughout the course. These lessons will be delivered through topics using a variety of engaging, interactive resources.

There will also be an opportunity to experience the language and culture first-hand with a trip to Spain.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is divided into five common topic areas from which the skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing will be assessed:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday, travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study and work
5. International and global dimensions

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Speaking

30 mins
25%

Paper 2: Listening and understanding

Foundation, 50mins
Higher, 1hr 5mins
25%

Paper 3: Reading and understanding

Foundation, 45mins,
Higher, 60mins
25%

Paper 4: Writing

Foundation, 1hr
15mins
Higher, 1hr 20mins
25%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Translator, Interpreter, Diplomat, Foreign Language Teacher, International Sales Representative, Tour Guide, Travel Consultant, Journalist

Head of Department: Andrew Farmery
a.farmery@passmoresacademy.com



TRIPLE SCIENCE



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA GCSE Biology 8461
AQA GCSE Chemistry 8462
AQA GCSE Physics 8463

What will I learn?

Triple scientists learn the same as those that choose combined science, however they will learn additional content such as, space, the eye/brain/kidney, organic chemistry, polymerisation, alcohol and static electricity.

What is the structure of the course?

2 year course, with 3 teachers, teaching within the disciplines.
100% exam based.
Students will achieve 3 GCSEs, with a grade in biology, chemistry and physics.

How will I be assessed?

Examination only

Paper 1:			Paper 2:		
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
1hr 45mins	1hr 45mins	1hr 45mins	1hr 45mins	1hr 45mins	1hr 45mins

What careers can I do with this subject?

Doctor, Biomedical Scientist, Pharmacist, Chemical Engineer, Research Scientist, Microbiologist, Forensic Scientist, Environmental Scientist

Head of Department: Ashley Wilhite
a.wilhite@passmoresacademy.com



CHILD DEVELOPMENT (VOCATIONAL)



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

OCR-Cambridge Nationals J809

What will I learn?

You will study the development of children from conception to age five, focusing on health, well-being, and creating supportive environments. The course covers safety, nutrition, essential equipment, and child growth, through observation and research.

What is the structure of the course?

A unit that covers children's health and well-being, exploring parenthood roles from pre-conception to postnatal care. You will learn how to create the best conditions for a child to thrive and develop.

A unit that focuses on creating a safe environment and understanding the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years. You will research safety, nutrition, and hygiene requirements and demonstrate how to meet these needs through practical activities to support a child's development and well-being.

A unit that explores the developmental norms of children from birth to five years and examines how play influences these norms. You will apply your knowledge through practical activities with children, demonstrating your understanding.

How will I be assessed?

Please note all coursework units need to be complete before the exam can be sat.

Health and well-being for child development

Written exam 1hr 15mins
40%

Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years

Coursework – four practical tasks
30%

Understand the development of a child from one to five years

Coursework – two practical tasks
30%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Early Years Teacher, Child Psychologist, Nursery Nurse, Social Worker, Nursery Manager, Speech Therapist, Child Welfare Officer, Family Support Worker

Department: Sophie Luxton
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CONSTRUCTION (VOCATIONAL)



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award

What will I learn?

Unit 1 introduces students to the built environment and provides them with the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment.

Students will explore a range of profession and trade roles, and some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment.

Unit 3 offers students the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.

What is the structure of the course?

This is a unitised qualification through which there are two routes. Learners must follow one route and study two units.

The two units which will be studied are;

- Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment
- Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1	Unit 3
On-screen exam	Internal Assessment
50%	50%

What careers can I do with this subject?

The successful completion of this qualification, together with other equivalent qualifications, such as in maths and the sciences, could provide the learner with opportunities to access a range of qualifications including the GCE, apprenticeships, vocationally related and occupational qualifications. These include:

- Level 3 Extended Project
- Level 3 qualifications in construction, such as Diplomas in Construction and the Built Environment;
- Level 2 qualifications in construction, including specialist areas such as plumbing, bricklaying and carpentry
- Apprenticeships in construction

Support Lead: Clyde Morgan
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CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION (VOCATIONAL)



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Pearson BTEC 603/7053/1

What will I learn?

In this course, you'll explore the ideas behind different types of media, like TV, film, games, and radio. You'll watch, study, write, and create various media pieces, applying what you learn to develop and improve your projects. You'll also learn how to plan creative work, use professional software, and review media products.

What is the structure of the course?

Component 1: Students will research and apply what they have learnt around genre, camera work, audience, sound, mise-en-scene, narrative and media conventions to an existing media products relating to a specific theme in the form of an essay. During this component students will also create a presentation comparing media products.

Component 2: Students will complete their own independent project in which they will develop a short 2-minute film in response to a specific brief from pre-production. Students will begin by planning, writing and storyboarding their own short film before filming, editing and reflecting on their final piece.

Component 3: Students create a magazine in response to a set brief e.g. a magazine that focuses on charities. Students will research, review, draft and then create their own piece before writing a reflection.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1:	Component 2:	Component 3:
10hrs in class to complete 2 tasks.	10hrs in class to complete their pre-production, production, post-production and reflection.	10hrs of supervised exam time to complete their planning, draft, production and reflection.
3hrs: Comparison presentation 7hrs: Written essay 30%	30%	40%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Graphic Designer, Video Editor, Social Media Manager, Web Designer, Animator, Digital Marketer, UX Designer, Content Creator

Head of Department: Achia Begum
a.begum@passmoresacademy.com



CREATIVE & TECHNICAL ENTERPRISE (VOCATIONAL)



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

OCR Cambridge National - J834

What will I learn?

RO93 - Creative iMedia in the Media Industry

- The media industry
- Factors influencing product design
- Pre-production planning
- Distribution considerations

RO94 - Visual Identity and Digital Graphics

- Develop a visual identity
- Plan digital graphics for products
- Create visual identity and digital graphics

RO99 - Digital Games

- Plan digital games
- Create digital Games
- Review digital Games

What is the structure of the course?

30% exam, 70% Coursework

How will I be assessed?

RO94: Visual Identity

Coursework
20%

RO99: Digital Games

Coursework
50%

RO93:

Written Paper
30%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Game Developer, Game Designer, Animator, Web Developer, Web Designer, Graphic Designer, Content Manager, Lighting Technician, Sound Technician, Editor, Director, 3D Artist, Sound Designer, Game Producer, VR Developer

Head of Department: Matthew Moloney

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HOSPITALITY & CATERING (VOCATIONAL)



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award

What will I learn?

The Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is for students interested in the industry and its career opportunities. It provides a strong foundation for further study, helping students develop both specialist and general skills for future employment.

What is the structure of the course? 50%

Unit 1:

- Hospitality and catering provision
- How hospitality and catering providers operate
- Health and safety in hospitality and catering
- Food safety in hospitality and catering

Unit 2:

Learners will follow a structured program, covering a range of topics, including practical elements. This will lead to a Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) coursework project.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry

Exam paper – 1hr 20mins

40%

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

Coursework – approx. 12 hrs

60%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Chef, Hotel Manager, Event Planner, Restaurant Manager, Catering Manager, Food Technologist, Bartender, Travel Consultant

Head of Department: Emma Jameson
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HAIR AND BEAUTY (VOCATIONAL)



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

City & Guilds Level 2 Technical Award in Hair and Beauty Studies (3038-24)

What will I learn?

Within this course, students will learn about hair and skin science and why different products work. They practice basic skills like washing and styling hair, skincare, makeup application, and nail care. The course teaches important professional skills including client communication, salon safety, and product knowledge. Students discover what working in a salon is like and explore various career options in the industry. This qualification blends hands-on practice with important theory, giving students a complete understanding of hair and beauty work.

What is the structure of the course?

40% exam, 60% Coursework

How will I be assessed?

201 Exploring the world of hair and beauty

Exam
40%

202 Science of hair and beauty

Coursework
30%

203 Design in the hair and beauty sector

Coursework
30%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Hairdresser, Barber, Beauty Therapist, Nail Technician, Makeup Artist, Skincare Specialist, Salon Assistant, Salon Receptionist, Retail Beauty Consultant, Salon Manager, Beauty Product Demonstrator, Spa Therapist, Theatrical Makeup Artist, Fashion Industry Stylist, Cruise Ship Stylist, Bridal Hair Specialist

Important Information: This course is taught at Stewards Academy. There are limited places

Head of Department: Vicki Smith
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SPORT (VOCATIONAL)



What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Pearsons BTEC 603/7068/3

What will I learn?

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport is designed for students who want to gain practical knowledge and skills in sport. They will explore various types of sport and physical activity, equipment, and technology, as well as the different types of participants and their needs. The course focuses on increasing participation and understanding the needs participants and the types of provision available. Students will also develop their ability to plan and deliver sports activity sessions to improve performance through practical learning.

What is the structure of the course?

- Component 1 – students will complete extensive research into the world or recreational and competitive sport, understanding and advising on appropriate physical activity opportunities in both written and practical scenarios.
- Component 2 – students utilise their ability to analyse athletes' performance as well as the roles and responsibilities of officials in a chosen sport.
- Component 3 – students apply a combination of skills learned in Component 1 and 2 to demonstrate their knowledge in an athlete's fitness in sport and exercise.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity

Coursework
60 marks
30%

Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance

Coursework
60 marks
30%

Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity

Written exam
1 hr 30 mins
60 marks
40%

What careers can I do with this subject?

Personal Trainer, PE Teacher, Sports Coach, Physiotherapist, Sports Scientist, Nutritionist, Sports Journalist, Referee

Head of Department: Andrew Martin
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