



# **Year 9 Options Process 2022-2024**

March 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At this time of the academic year, Year 9 students begin the process of selecting their Key Stage 4 curriculum. At Kings College, we are continually reviewing our curriculum to ensure that we offer our students breadth, balance, and choice. Our final option blocks have been formulated as a result of the initial student interest.

Your child must study the mandatory core subjects. These include some 'non-qualification subjects' which do not have any exams and do not lead to a certificate. However, it is important that your child studies these courses as they will help develop the wider knowledge and skills needed for their future.

**The core subjects are:**

- English GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Science Trilogy GCSE (worth two GCSEs)

**Non-qualification core subjects:**

- PSHE (includes careers, sex and relationships education, health and wellbeing)
- Religious Education
- Physical Education (core PE)

Your child must choose **three** of the following options. There must be **one** option from **each** of the following blocks:

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Art Geography Spanish Performing Arts	Geography History Media Studies French	History Sport and Fitness Design Technology Computer Science

Your child should think about the following when choosing their options:

- Which subjects do they enjoy?
- What are their learning strengths and skills and which subjects do these go well with?
- Does the balance between coursework and examinations suit them?

Your child should not choose a subject because:

- They like the teacher – the teacher may not be teaching that class next year.
- Their friend is choosing it – they may end up in a different class to their friend.

In the following weeks your child will have a 1-1 meeting with a member of staff and have the opportunity to discuss the options available. After this point we will send out final options forms for completion.

Every option form will be checked by Mr Bland and if there are any concerns regarding your child's option choices, you will be contacted to discuss further. We are keen to work in partnership with you at this key time, so that your child makes the most appropriate choices for their future. Do not hesitate to contact Mr Bland at school should you have any questions or queries regarding the options process or wish to meet, along with your child, to discuss the final option choices.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Bland  
Pastoral Leader Years 9 & 10

## Key Stage 4 - Core Subjects

### English Language GCSE

**Examination Board:** WJEC Eduqas

**Assessment:** 100% examination

Paper 1 – Written examination	1 hour and 45 minutes	40%
Paper 2 – Written examination	2 hours	60%
Paper 3 – Non-exam assessment		Class based assessment



#### Overview of Content:

- The reading of an unseen extract from one 20th century literary prose text
- Candidates will be offered a choice of four titles giving opportunities for writing to describe and narrate, and imaginative and creative use of language
- The reading of two high-quality unseen non-fiction texts (about 900-1200 words in total), one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century
- Opportunities to write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and to real-life contexts in, for example, letters, articles, reviews, speeches, etc.
- Formal presentation or speech

### English Literature GCSE

**Examination Board:** WJEC Eduqas

**Assessment:** 100% examination

Paper 1 – Written examination	2 hours	40%
Paper 2 – Written examination	2 hours 30 minutes	60%



#### Overview of Content:

- 'Macbeth.' Learners will be expected to comment on Shakespeare's use of language, structure and form and show an understanding of key themes, characters, and ideas within the text.
- Knowledge, understanding and comparison of poetry from 1789 to the present day.
- 'An Inspector Calls' - Learners will comment on the use of language, structure and form in a text that, whilst on the surface may appear to be a simple detective story, poses deeper questions about social responsibility and our duty to our fellow man.
- 'A Christmas Carol' - students will engage with the context of the Victorian era and use their understanding of another time period to influence the way they interpret characters, plotlines, themes and ideas in a story that challenges perceptions of poverty.

## Mathematics GCSE

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Assessment:** 100% examination

Paper 1 – Non-calculator	1 hour and 30 minutes	33.3%
Paper 2 – Calculator allowed	1 hour and 30 minutes	33.3%
Paper 3 – Calculator allowed	1 hour and 30 minutes	33.3%



### Overview of Content:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

## Science GCSE (Combined Science: Trilogy – 2 GCSE Grades)

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Assessment:** 100% written examination

Biology Paper 1	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7%
Biology Paper 2	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7%
Chemistry Paper 1	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7%
Chemistry Paper 2	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7%
Physics Paper 1	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7%
Physics Paper 2	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7%



### Overview of Content:

#### Biology:

1. Cell Biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

#### Chemistry:

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

#### Physics:

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism

## Key Stage 4 – Option Subjects

Choose three of the following options. You must choose one from each option block.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Art Geography Spanish Performing Arts	Geography History Media Studies French	History Sport and Fitness Design Technology Computer Science

### Art GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Assessment:** Examination and centre-assessed tasks



Unit 1 - Portfolio	Produced throughout Year 10	60%
Unit 2 - Examination	Preparation in class over 12 weeks and then a 10 hour exam	40%

#### Overview of Content:

Students will explore a range of materials, techniques and processes whilst developing their contextual knowledge and critical understanding. This is explored through three themed portfolio projects, recent themes include Identity, Surrealism, Close Up and Contrasts.

Students will develop their knowledge of contemporary and traditional artists; improving their visual literacy and gaining a better understanding of the visual and creative world. Students will be encouraged refine their skills, producing artworks that are relevant and personal to them. By working in this way, students will improve their practical and theory skills and develop into conscientious young artists.

## Computer Science GCSE (9-1)

**Examination Board:** OCR (J277)

**Assessment:** Written examinations.



Unit 1: Computer systems.

1 hr 30 mins 50%

Unit 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

1 hr 30 mins 50%

### Overview of Content:

Unit 1:

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Unit 2:

- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

## Design Technology

**Examination Board:** Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE

**Assessment:** 100% examination



Component 1 - Written examination

1 hour 45 minutes 50%

Component 2 - Non-exam assessment

Throughout Year 11 50%

### Overview of Content:

#### Component 1 Overview:

The written examination consists of two sections. Section A is assessed on the core content of the design Technology course. Section B is assessed on the Timber material category.

The content is divided into two sections: core content and material categories. The core content provides students with a breadth of study across Design Technology and the material categories will be based on the material used for Component 2.

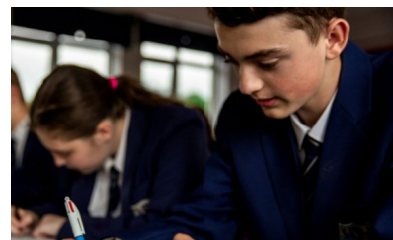
#### Component 2 Overview:

Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released a year before certification. The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product. Tasks will be internally assessed and externally moderated. The marks are awarded for each part as follows. **Investigate** (16 marks), **Design** (42 marks), **Make** (36 marks), & **Evaluate** (6 marks).

## French GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Assessment:** Listening, Writing and Reading written examinations and Speaking non-exam tasks, all marked by AQA.



Unit 1 – Listening written paper Foundation	35 minutes	25%
Listening written paper Higher	45 minutes	
Unit 2 – Speaking (non-exam) Foundation	7-9 minutes	25%
Speaking (non-exam) Higher	10-12 minutes	
Unit 3 – Reading written paper Foundation	45 minutes	25%
Reading written paper Higher	1 hour	
Unit 4 – Writing written paper Foundation	1 hour	25%
Writing written paper Higher	1 hour 15 minutes	

### Overview of Content:

Our intention is to offer a Languages trip overseas as an important part of studying French at GCSE. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about the themes below relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where French is spoken:

#### Theme 1: Identity and culture covers the following four topics and related sub-topics:

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends, Relationships with family and friends, Marriage/partnership

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life, Social media, Mobile technology

Topic 3: Free-time activities, Music, Cinema and TV, Food and eating out, Sport

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

#### Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest covers the following four topics with related sub-topics:

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues, Charity/voluntary work, Healthy/unhealthy living

Topic 3: Global issues, the environment, Poverty/homelessness

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

#### Theme 3: Current and future study and employment covers the following four topics:

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

## Geography GCSE

**Examination Board:** Edexcel Specification B

**Assessment:** Written examination and centre-assessed tasks



Unit 1 – Global Geographical Issues - Written examination	1 hour 30 minutes	37.5%
Unit 2 – UK Geographical Issues	1 hour 30 minutes	37.5%
Unit 3 - People and Environment Issues	1 hour 30 minutes	25%

### Overview of Content:

- Topic 1: Hazardous Earth
- Topic 2: Development dynamics
- Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world
- Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape including coastal change and conflict and river processes and pressures
- Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape including a Case Study - Dynamic UK cities
- Topic 6: Geographical investigations – including one physical fieldwork investigation and one human fieldwork investigation linked to Topics 4 and 5
- Topic 7: People and the biosphere
- Topic 8: Forests under threat
- Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

## History GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Assessment:** 100% written examination



Paper 1 - Understanding the Modern World (international)	2 hours	50%
Paper 2 - Shaping the nation (Britain)	2 hours	50%

### Overview of Content:

- America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality: Interpretations; Description and Essay Questions
- Conflict and Tension, 1918-1939: Source; Narrative Account and Essay Questions
- Britain, Health and the people: c1000 to the present day: Source; Explanation and Essay Questions
- Medieval England - the reign of Edward I, 1272–1307: Interpretations; Explanation; Narrative Account; Essay Questions



## Media Studies

**Examination Board:** WJEC/Eduqas

**Assessment:** Written examinations and Non-exam assessment



Component 1: Exploring the Media -Written examination	90 mins	40%
Component 2: Understanding Media Forms & Products -Written examination	90 mins	30%
Component 3: Creating Media Products –Non-exam assessment		30%

### Overview of Content:

**Component 1 Overview:**

This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements

**Component 2 Overview:**

This component assesses all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media in relation to television and music.

**Component 3 Overview:**

An individual media production for an intended audience in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, applying knowledge and understanding of media language and representation.

## Performing Arts (RSL Award)

**Examination Board:** RSL

**Assessment:** Centre-assessed and examination board assessed tasks



### Overview of Content:

#### Music:

- Live music performance
- Music sequencing and production
- Musical knowledge and development
- Instrumental study
- Composing music
- Sound recording

#### Drama:

- Live performance for drama
- Acting for the camera
- Performing text
- Vocal techniques
- Working with masks or puppetry

#### Dance:

- Live performance of dance
- Choreography
- Dance techniques and performance
- Ensemble dance performance
- Global dance styles

## Spanish GCSE

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Assessment:** Listening, Writing and Reading written examinations and Speaking non-exam tasks, all marked by AQA. GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.



Unit 1 – Listening written paper Foundation	35 minutes	25%
Listening written paper Higher	45 minutes	
Unit 2 – Speaking (non-exam) Foundation	7-9 minutes	25%
Speaking (non-exam) Higher	10-12 minutes	
Unit 3 – Reading written paper Foundation	45 minutes	25%
Reading written paper Higher	1 hour	
Unit 4 – Writing written paper Foundation	1 hour	25%
Writing written paper Higher	1 hour 15 minutes	

**Overview of Content:** Our intention is to offer a Languages trip overseas as an important part of studying Spanish at GCSE. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where Spanish is spoken.

**Theme 1: Identity and culture covers the following four topics with related sub-topics:**

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends, Relationships with family and friends, Marriage/partnership

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life, Social media, Mobile technology

Topic 3: Free-time activities, Music, Cinema and TV, Food and eating out, Sport

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/communities

**Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest covers the following four topics with related sub-topics:**

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues, Charity/voluntary work, Healthy/unhealthy living,

Topic 3: Global issues, The environment, Poverty/homelessness

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

**Theme 3: Current and future study and employment covers the following four topics:**

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

## Sport Studies (Cambridge National)

**Examination Board:** OCR Cambridge National

**Assessment:** Written examination and centre-assessed tasks



Unit 1: Contemporary issues in sport – written paper	1hr15mins	37%
Unit 2: Performance and Leadership in sports activities – centre assessed task	16 hours	42%
Unit 3: Sport and the Media – centre assessed task	10 hours	21%

### Overview of Content:

#### Unit 1:

- Issues which affect participation in sport
- The role of sport in promoting values
- The implications of hosting major sporting event for a city or country
- The role of national governing bodies in sport
- The issue of technology in sport

#### Unit 2:

- Key components of performance
- Performance and leadership in sports activities
- Organising and planning a sports activity session
- Leading a sports activity session
- Reviewing your own performance in planning and leading a sport activity session

#### Unit 3:

- The different sources of media that cover sport
- Positive effects of the media in sport
- Negative effects of the media in sport