

GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET

2022-2024



**THE
PALMER
CATHOLIC
ACADEMY**

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

In this booklet you will find information on all of the subjects available to you.

Key diary dates and how we will support every student with their option choices.

How The Palmer Catholic Academy is measured through Progress 8 and the EBacc.

The Key Stage 4 Option Pathways that are available.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

(You *have to* study these subjects)

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Science [separate **or** combined]

GCSE RE

PE [non examined]

Helping you make your choices.

The graphic below highlights the various skills and types of activity likely to be used in subjects. Use it to help you match your preferred ways of learning to different subjects.



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

OPTIONS

Ebacc Subjects

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE French

GCSE Spanish

OPEN Subjects

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Business Studies

GCSE Fine Art

GCSE Media Studies

GCSE Music

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Photography

GCSE Psychology

BTEC Digital Information Technology

GCSE Drama

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Notes

These pages are to add any notes when making your selections.

Year 9 Options selection sheet

Use the Google Form to complete your choices and click the submit button by

Friday 11th March 2022.

CHOOSING YOUR KS4 OPTIONS

Key Dates:

Spring Term 2022:	Impartial Careers Advice (30 minutes - small groups)
	Options Evening 2nd February 2022
	Options Day 4th February 2022
	Parents' Evening 9th March 2022
	Deadline for Option Choices – 11th March 2022

Over the course of the spring term you will receive guidance and help from a number of sources to help you make your selection of GCSE and BTEC qualifications. This is the first time you will take responsibility for your subject choices, making decisions that will influence the next stage of your education and your future career. Therefore, you need to think *carefully* about what you want to do.

This booklet should be your **starting point** for information; it provides you with an outline of all the subjects that are on offer, the aims of the course, examination requirements and coursework [if applicable].

Every student has to take the compulsory GCSE subjects: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science [Separate or Combined] and RE. They then choose **three** optional subjects. All students in Year 10 and Year 11 also study compulsory non-GCSE courses in Physical Education.

The key to choosing your options is to select subjects that *play to your strengths* and that you are *inspired by* and will *enjoy*. Also consider your future *career* when choosing. This is the best guarantee that you will be prepared to apply yourself fully and thus succeed.

You should not be choosing a subject because you like the teacher, or your friends are doing it, or indeed because it worked well for a member of your family. As you can imagine, there is no guarantee that the same teacher will actually teach you for GCSE or that you will enjoy the subject if you do not have a genuine interest in it.

We try to accommodate your choice and rewrite the timetable each year in order to do this, therefore the vast majority of you will be able to take the options you select. However, classes will run according to demand and if only a very small number choose a particular option it might not be viable. **For these reasons we ask you to choose a reserve subject in case the preferred option is not available, being fully aware that this reserve choice may be given.**

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Progress 8 measure

Schools and academies are now measured on how much progress students make from when they start in Year 7 to when they complete their exams at the end of Year 11. This is known as Progress 8.

The Progress 8 measure is designed to encourage schools and academies to offer a broad and balanced curriculum at KS4.

Our Progress 8 measure is based on students' progress measured across eight subjects: English; Mathematics; three other English Baccalaureate [EBacc] subjects (any three from sciences, computer science, geography, history and languages); and three further subjects, which can be from the range of EBacc subjects, or can be any other GCSE or BTEC Tech qualification that we offer.

Qualifications that will count towards the Progress 8 measure

EBacc measure



English* Maths

Double weighted



EBacc qualifications x3

sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages



Other x3

Further GCSE qualifications or any other DfE approved non-GCSE qualification

The EBacc is a set of core subjects at GCSE level that keeps young people's options open for *further study and future careers*. The EBacc is made up of the subjects which the Russell Group says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees.

- ♦ **English Language or English Literature**
- ♦ **Mathematics**
- ♦ **Geography or History**
- ♦ **Science**
- ♦ **French or Spanish**

Research shows that a pupil's socio-economic background impacts the subjects they choose at GCSE, and that this determines their *opportunities* beyond school.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with *greater opportunities* in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.

Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help *improve* a young person's *performance* in English and Mathematics.

OPTION PATHWAYS

Option Pathways

As part of our commitment that all students be given the most effective guidance throughout the options process we have introduced three option pathways. Each student in Year 9 will be guided onto one of the three pathways based upon a range of information including their academic progress throughout KS3, their learning style and their flair for specific subjects.

Pathway 1 - EBacc

Students studying on this pathway will study Core Subjects (Mathematics, English Language and English Literature, Science and Religious Education). Students will choose either French or Spanish and will also choose History or Geography. Students will then select **one** other option of their choice.

Pathway 1 has been designed to adequately prepare students for A-level study and progression to a potential 'Russell Group' University. By studying a range of academically demanding subjects, students will maintain the opportunity to study successfully these subjects at A-level.

Pathway 2

Students on pathway 2 will also study the core subjects (Mathematics, English Language and English Literature, Combined Science and Religious Education). Students will then have the opportunity to select **three** further options, with at least **one** being from the English Baccalaureate group of subjects. Students on this pathway may also wish to progress to study either A-levels, Level 3 vocational qualifications or apprenticeships.

The Supported Study Pathway 3

Students on Pathway 3 will study the core subjects (Mathematics, English Language and English Literature, Combined Science and Religious Education). In addition, students studying on this pathway will receive additional time allocation in English and Mathematics to ensure that they can successfully access their Level 2 courses and be adequately prepared for opportunities that are available Post-16. Students will then have the opportunity to select **two** further options.



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (9-1) AQA (8701)



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MISS TAYLOR

Outline of the course

There are 3 sections to GCSE English Language.

Explorations in creative reading and writing.

Students will refine their skills needed to analyse an *unseen* fictional extract and be able to express themselves critically. Students will explore how to write successful and effective fictional prose.

Writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

Students will refine their analytical skills to be able to analyse two unseen non-fiction extracts and express themselves critically. Students will explore how to write successful and effective non-fiction tasks.

Speaking and Listening:

Students will also prepare and perform their own speech on a chosen topic.

GCSE

CORE/EBacc

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

The course is examined with two papers, both 1 hour 45 minutes.

English Language Paper 1 – [80 marks]

Explorations in creative reading and writing

Section A: Analysis of an unseen prose extract (40 marks).

Four questions: extracting information, exploring language and structure, responding critically to a statement.

Section B: Descriptive and narrative writing (40 marks)

English Language Paper 2 – [80 marks]

Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Section A: Analysis of two unseen non-fiction extracts. (40 marks)

Four questions: inference skills, summarising information, analysis of language, comparison of language. [

Section B: Transactional (non-fiction) writing. [40 marks]

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



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Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

GCSE English Language is a pathway to a wide variety of careers. Ranging from online digital media, journalism, publishing, advertising, marketing, teaching and law. English is a respected qualification owing to the numerous transferable skills it demonstrates. Publishers and Journalists have a starting salary of £23,000, while a Law graduate can earn between £22,000 to £45,000.

Post-16 pathways include GCE English Literature at The Palmer Catholic Academy.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE (9-1) AQA (8702)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MISS TAYLOR

Outline of the course

There are 5 sections to GCSE English Literature.

All texts are studied with a focus on essay writing skills, the analysis of language and influencing contextual factors.

Shakespeare: Students will study Romeo and Juliet.

19th Century Novel: Students will study The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Modern Drama: Students will study An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley.

Poetry: Students will study the Power and Conflict Cluster.

Unseen Poetry: Students will study the skills required to analyse a poem and write a critical analysis in response to a question.

GCSE

CORE/EBacc

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

The course is examined with two separate papers, both closed book exams (no copies of the texts)

English Literature Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes [64 marks]

Section A: Shakespeare

Section B: 19th Century Novel

Both sections students will be assessed on one essay question, responding to an extract.

English Literature Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes [96 marks]

Section A: Modern drama, students have a choice of two questions.

Section B: Poetry, one question

Section C: Unseen Poetry, two questions, both must be answered.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

GCSE English Literature is a pathway to a wide variety of careers. Ranging from online digital media, journalism, publishing, advertising, marketing, teaching and law. English is a respected qualification owing to the numerous transferable skills it demonstrates.

The average salary for Digital Media jobs is £52,500.

Post-16 pathways include GCE English Literature.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE MATHEMATICS: Pearson Edexcel (1MA1)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS SHARMA

Outline of the course

The specification will cover the following topics:

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

GCSE

CORE/EBacc

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

Paper 1 (80 marks):

Written examination papers with a range of question types from all topics.

No calculator is allowed

1 hour and 30 minutes (both Foundation and Higher tier papers)

Paper 2 (80 marks):

Written examination papers with a range of question types from all topics.

Calculator allowed

1 hour and 30 minutes (both Foundation and Higher tier papers)

Paper 3 (80 marks):

Written examination papers with a range of question types from all topics.

Calculator allowed

1 hour and 30 minutes (both Foundation and Higher tier papers)

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

Studying math's helps you develop skills in logical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making, which are valued by employers across many job sectors. Careers can include: Actuarial (risk) analyst, Chartered accountant, Chartered certified accountant, Data analyst, Data scientist Investment analyst or a Research scientist.

A professional actuary can expect to earn an average of £52,000 plus bonuses.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCE (BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS)

AQA Biology (8461), Chemistry (8462), Physics (8463)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR GILLIN

Outline of the course

This specification encourages the development of knowledge and understanding in science through opportunities for working scientifically.

Students will cover:

- Biology,
- Chemistry and
- Physics.

This course is aimed at developing students understanding and explanation of everyday and technological applications of science, appreciate the power and limitations of science and consider any ethical issues which may arise and evaluate risks both in practical science and the wider societal context.

GCSE

CORE/EBacc

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

Studying Separate Sciences results in three Separate GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each of the three GCSEs is assessed by two, 1 hour and 45 minute exams. (Six exams in total).

Each paper counts toward 50% of the grade for that Science.

Each paper holds a maximum of 100 marks.

Students are assessed through multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

GCSE Separate Sciences can be a pathway to many different careers. Some career opportunities include Health related careers including Nursing, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Doctor, Dentist, Midwife, Paramedic, Operating Department Technician and Pharmacist Careers related to animals and the environment, including Conservation, Farming, Gardening, Vet, Veterinary Nursing, Engineering, Teaching, Laboratory Technician, Forensic Scientist and Research Scientist.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE COMBINED: TRILOGY SCIENCE: AQA (8464)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR GILLIN

Outline of the course

This specification encourages the development of knowledge and understanding in science through opportunities for working scientifically.

Students will cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics over a 3 year course.

This course is aimed at developing students understanding and explanation of everyday and technological applications of science, appreciate the power and limitations of science and consider any ethical issues which may arise and evaluate risks both in practical science and the wider societal context.

GCSE

CORE/EBacc

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

Combined: Trilogy is a double award and worth two GCSEs.

It is assessed by **six**, 1 hour and 15 minute exams.

Each paper holds a maximum of 70 marks which is worth 16.7% of GCSE.

Students are assessed through multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

Combined: Trilogy can be a pathway to many different careers. Some career opportunities include Health related careers including Nursing, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Doctor, Dentist, Midwife, Paramedic, Operating Department Technician and Pharmacist Careers related to animals and the environment, including Conservation, Farming, Gardening, Vet, Veterinary Nursing, Engineering, Teaching, Laboratory Technician, Forensic Scientist and Research Scientist.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE RS [A]: Pearson Edexcel (1RA0 - Opt. ZS)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS EGHAN

Outline of the course

There are eight main sections to GCSE Religious Studies:

- (1) Catholic Beliefs and (2) Practices.** Students analysis Catholic beliefs, explore rituals and ceremonies, considering how they differ to other Christian beliefs.
- (3) Religious Sources.** Students will critically examine sacred text and comments from religious leaders.
- (4) Forms of Expression.** Students will analysis the ways in which belief is reflected in art, drama, architecture and more.
- (5) Jewish Beliefs and (6) Practice.** Students investigate the divergent traditional and liberal beliefs, rituals and ceremonies within Judaism.
- (7) Philosophy.** Students critique the various arguments for the existence of God, evaluating atheist and religious views.
- (8) Ethics.** Students evaluate a range of ethical situations assessing atheist and religious views.

GCSE

CORE

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9-1

The course is examined in 2023 with three separate papers.

Paper 1: Catholic Christianity [1 hour 45 minutes. 102 Marks. 50% of qualification]

There are four questions, each containing four sub-questions; assessing knowledge, understanding and evaluative skills in Catholic beliefs, practices and expression.

Paper 2: Judaism [50 minutes. 51 Marks. 25% of qualification]

There are two questions, each containing four sub-questions; assessing knowledge, understanding and evaluative skills in Jewish beliefs and practices.

Paper 3: Philosophy & Ethics [50 minutes. 51 Marks. 25% of qualification]

There are two questions, each containing four sub-questions; assessing knowledge, understanding and evaluative skills in philosophical and ethical areas.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

GCSE R.S. is a pathway to many careers.

Each section could be a potential career ranging from medicine to law, politics, social work and education.

An average salary for politicians is £80,000, whereas in education the national average is £35,000.

Post-16 pathways can include GCE Philosophy and Ethics.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE Geography (9-1) Pearson Edexcel (Geography B 1GBO)



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR ALLITT

Outline of the course

There are 3 main components to GCSE Geography:

1. **Global Geographical Issues.** Students will study global geographical issues such as Hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanoes as well as considering how and why India has become a global power.
2. **UK Geographical Issues.** Students will study geographical issues for the UK such as how climate change will impact the UK as well as regional inequalities. Students will visit Walton-on-the-Naze and investigate the impacts of coastal management.
3. **People and Environment Issues.** Students will study global biomes such as the rainforest and will learn how people must find a balance between making money and exploiting nature. They will make their own justified decision based upon the evidence.

GCSE

OPTION/EBacc

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is examined in 2023.

Geography (01) Global Geographical Issues. (94 marks, 37.5% of qualification)

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.

Geography (02) UK Geographical Issues. (94 marks, 37.5% of qualification)

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.

Geography (03) People and Environment Issues (64 marks, 25% of qualification)

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions. Section C will include 8-mark extended writing questions and Section D will offer a choice of one from three decisions assessed through a 12-mark extended writing question.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

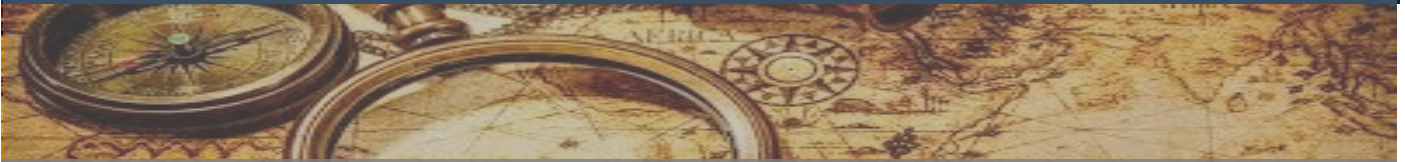
CAREERS

Geography is a pathway to many careers. Some examples are an architect who can on average £60,000. A civil engineer who earns on average £45,000 or an Archaeologist who can earn on average £25,000. Other jobs include Environmental Science, Financial adviser, Geologist, Meteorologist, Town Planner, Surveying, Teaching, Tourism, Travel and Urban Studies. We offer A-Level Geography at The Palmer Catholic Academy.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE HISTORY: OCR (11H10)



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR CHAN

Outline of the course

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment

Section A: Historic Environment – Whitechapel, 1870-1900.

Section B: Thematic study – Crime & Punishment, 1000-present day.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

Section A: Period study – Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991

Section B: British depth study – Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

Paper 3: Modern depth study – Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

Section A: Students answer a question based on a provided source.

Section B: Students answer a single four-part question, based on two provided sources.

GCSE	OPTION/EBacc
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1	
Paper 1: Crime and Punishment.	
52 marks. 30% of total marks.	
1 hr 15 minutes.	
Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England and 26/27 - Superpower relations and the Cold War.	
64 marks. 40% of total marks.	
1 hr 45 minutes.	
Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918 -1939.	
52 marks. 30% of total marks.	
1 hr 20 minutes	

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

Employers value the research, analytical, teamwork and communication skills that history students develop throughout their education.

Careers can include; Archaeologist, Broadcast journalist, Civil Service administrator, Editorial assistant, Human resources officer, solicitor or an Information officer. Starting salaries for qualified solicitors range from around £25,000 to £40,000.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE FRENCH (9 - 1) AQA (8658)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS LOURENCO

Outline of the course

There are four skills in French GCSE. Students are expected to be able to show the following skills:

Listening: identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of short and longer spoken passages

Speaking: communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts

Reading: identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of short and longer written passages

Writing: Communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts

GCSE

OPTION/EBacc

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grades 9 - 1

This qualification is linear which means that students will sit all their exams in 2023.

Listening Exam (Weighting: 25%):

35 minutes (Foundation Tier),
45 minutes (Higher Tier)

Speaking Exam (Weighting: 25%):

7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time,
10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time.

Reading Exam (Weighting: 25%):

45 minutes (Foundation Tier),
1 hour (Higher Tier)

Writing Exam (Weighting: 25%):

1 hour (Foundation Tier),
1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

Being able to offer a Modern foreign language is an invaluable asset in many fields of employment.

French will allow students to play a full part in the job market of tomorrow and enjoy the world of leisure. Language graduates are employed by a wide variety of employers and sectors, including: business services, charity work, engineering, media, public administration, teaching, tourism, transport and logistics. The average salary for Language jobs is £37,500.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE SPANISH (9 - 1) AQA (8698)



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS LOURENCO

Outline of the course

There are four skills in Spanish GCSE in which students are expected to be able to do:

Listening: identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of short and longer spoken passages.

Speaking: communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts.

Reading: identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of short and longer written passages.

Writing: Communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts.

GCSE

OPTION/EBacc

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

This qualification is linear which means that students will sit all their exams in 2023.

Listening Exam (Weighting 25%):

35 minutes (Foundation Tier)

45 minutes (Higher Tier)

Speaking Exam (Weighting 25%):

7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time.

10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time.

Reading Exam (Weighting 25%):

45 minutes (Foundation Tier),

1 hour (Higher Tier)

Writing Exam (Weighting 25%):

1 hour (Foundation Tier),

1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

Spanish is a natural choice to allow students to play a full part in the job market of tomorrow and enjoy the world of leisure. Language graduates are employed by a wide variety of employers and sectors, including: business services, charity work, engineering, media, public administration, teaching, tourism, transport and logistics.

The average salary for Language jobs is £37,500.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE. OCR (J277)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR WATERHOUSE

Outline of the course

In GCSE Computer Science you will be studying:

Computer systems—Paper 1:

[Systems Architecture, Memory, Storage, Wired and wireless networks, Network topologies, System security, System software, Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

Computational thinking—Paper 2:

Students will study algorithms, Programming fundamentals, Produce robust programs, examine Boolean logic and develop Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments.

GCSE

OPTION

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

Computer Systems J277(01)

Written paper (80 Marks): 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE

This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

Computational thinking (J277(02))

Written paper (80 Marks): 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE

All questions are mandatory. In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

There are a range of careers that can be followed with GCSE Computer Science. This can include, animation design, website design, software development, network manager, computer engineer, artificial intelligence, game developer, database administrator, IT consultant, system analyst, IT sales and training. A website designer earns an average salary of £25,304 compared to a computer engineer earning £24,108. We offer A-Level Computer Science at The Palmer Catholic Academy.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE BUSINESS (9-1). OCR (J204)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR WATERHOUSE

Outline of the course

There are six main sections to GCSE

Business:

1. **Business Activities.** Students analyse entrepreneurship, business planning, business ownership and objectives.
2. **Marketing Methods.** The role of market research and methods to embed a marketing plan are analysed.
3. **People.** Students will investigate recruitment, employee motivation employment law.
4. **Operations.** Students will analyse methods of production and working with suppliers.
5. **Finance.** Calculations and analysis of revenue, costs, profit and cash flow.
6. **Influences.** Students will analyse business ethics and the impact of globalisation.

GCSE

OPTION/OPEN

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

Business (01): Business activity, marketing and people.

[80 Marks. 50% of qualification]

There are 15 multiple choice questions and then, using three separate case studies, context based questions ranging from 1 mark identify questions to extended 9 mark questioning.

Business (02): Operations, finance and influences on business.

[80 Marks. 50% of qualification]

There are 15 multiple choice questions and then, using three separate case studies, context based questions ranging from 1 mark identify questions to extended 9 mark questioning.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



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Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

GCSE Business studies is a pathway to many careers. Each section could be a potential career ranging from starting your own business, to working in marketing, human resources, operations, finance/accounting or logistics (importing and exporting).

Accountants earn an average salary of £62,000, whereas a logistics job has an average annual salary of £32,000.

Post-16 pathways can include GCE Applied Business and GCE Economics.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE ART & DESIGN - FINE ART: Pearson Edexcel (1FA0)

LEAD TEACHER: MISS WREN

Outline of the course

Art and Design equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives.

Art and Design provides the opportunity for students to explore both contemporary and historical sources of art and design first hand through their surroundings and environments and experiencing audio visual productions, including still and moving imagery.

Students take an individual approach to their art by developing the skill of selecting their best and most appropriate work for presentation.

Students will be experimenting in various media including: drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, charcoal, pastel, ceramics, sculpture, installation and collage.

GCSE

OPTION/OPEN

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

GCSE Art and Design covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. Pupils have the opportunity to experiment with different media and techniques in order to explore the subject.

- Unit 1 – Personal Portfolio in Art and Design. This unit will be split into two separate assignments and themes. (internally set and marked)
- Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment in Art and Design. This unit theme will be externally set by the exam board and internally marked.

Both Unit 1 and 2 are externally moderated.

Unit 1 is worth 60% of the overall GCSE grade and Unit 2 is worth 40%.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



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Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

The UK's creative industries contribute £92billion to the economy. The growth of the sector is expected to continue, predicting a worth of £128.4billion to the UK economy by 2025.

A Fine Artist, including a Painter, Sculptor, or Illustrator on average gets paid between £40,000 - £60,000 based on their experience. Fine Artists will usually earn a pay level of £53,200 per year.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE Media Studies (9-1) Eduqas (A680QS)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS MALIK-BROWN

Outline of the course

There are 3 components in Media Studies:

Exploring the Media:

Section A: Exploring Media Language & Representation:

Print forms: magazines, newspapers, advertising (film posters), print advertisements

Section B: Exploring Media Industries & Audiences, Film, newspapers, radio, video games

Understanding Media Forms & Products

Section A: Television; (Studying Luther & The Sweeney)

Section B: Music; Music videos & online media (Pharrell Williams or Katy Perry)

17 set texts (eg magazine front cover, film poster, music video, Luther TV programme)

Creating Media Products: NEA coursework

Creating a media product from a brief; e.g. film marketing (DVD cover & film poster; magazines, front cover, contents page, feature page)

GCSE

OPTION/OPEN

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

Paper 1: 80 marks (90 minutes)

A: Media Language & Representation; Two questions (45 marks)

1. Analysis of one of the set texts (short response)
2. Analysis of representation & context

B: Industries & Audiences; Two questions (35 marks)

Paper 2: 60 Marks (90 minutes)

A: Television (a short excerpt from the TV programme will be played) (30 marks)

Two questions

B: Music (Videos & Online media) (30 marks)

Two questions

NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) (60 marks)

10 marks - written statement of aims

20 marks - meeting the brief

30 marks - creative & technical use of media language

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

Media Studies can lead to a variety of interesting and exciting careers.

Creativity and critical thinking combine to open up pathways to the media industries; film, television, radio, newspapers, publishing, advertising, marketing; in roles such as producers, directors, editors, journalists, copywriters and art directors.

A production manager in a creative agency can earn an annual salary £30,000 by 25 years of age.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE Music: WJEC Eduqas

LEAD TEACHER: MISS McCOY

Outline of the course

Students will be studying a variety of different musical styles and features including:

- Musical forms and devices,
- Music for ensemble,
- Film Music,
- Popular Music.

Students will also be developing their skills as composers and performers.

The specification has three components based on the three skills of performing, composing and appraising.

An integrated approach to the three skills is developed through each area of study and serves to highlight the importance of the relationship between composer, performer and audience.

GCSE	OPTION/OPEN
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1	
The exam has three components:	
1. Performing (30%)	
Total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.	
2. Composing (30%)	
Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.	
3. Listening and Appraising (40%)	
This component is assessed via a listening examination (1hr 15mins)	
Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study. Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble Area of study 3: Film Music Area of study 4: Popular Music Two of the eight questions are based on extracts set by the examination board.	

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

This will lead to a variety of different prospects including: music therapy, musician, school teacher, sound technician, broadcasting (film/TV), events manager, radio producer, theatre stage manager. The average pay for a Sound Engineer in London is £25,920 per year.

Following on from GCSEs, students can expect to move to A levels and then degree level.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE Physical Education (9-1): OCR (J587)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR EDWARDS

Outline of the course

Students will gain the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being.

This will require students to:

- Develop theoretical knowledge of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance.
- Perform effectively in different physical activities. To develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance.
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being.
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

GCSE

OPTION/OPEN

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 -1

Physical factors affecting performance (01) 60 marks, 1 hour written paper - 30% of total GCSE

Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (02) 60 marks, 1 hour written paper - 30% of total GCSE

Performance in physical education (03) 80 marks, non-exam assessment (NEA) - 40% of total GCSE

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

Some careers that you could consider doing with PE include: sports science, PE teacher, physiotherapist, Professional sportsperson, sports coach/consultant, sports policy at local and national level, diet and fitness instructor or as a personal trainer.

Starting salaries for qualified physiotherapists range from £23,023 to £29,608.

Senior physiotherapists can earn between £28,050 and £36,644.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE ART & DESIGN - PHOTOGRAPHY: Edexcel (IPY0)

LEAD TEACHER: MISS WREN

Outline of the course

Students will attempt to use the photographic mediums to explore and create a body of work, which develops and refines both the process and the concept.

Students will also investigate the work of other practitioners.

Students will develop a practical knowledge and understanding of the:

- use of formal elements to communicate a variety of approaches
- camera and its functions
- application of observational skills to record from sources and communicate ideas
- effects and creative potential of combining and manipulating different two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials/media
- use of digital and/or non-digital applications.

GCSE

OPTION/OPEN

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1

Students will be assessed through two components;

1. Personal portfolio 60%

2. Externally set assignment 40%

Through these components, students must:

AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources

AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes

AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses

AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

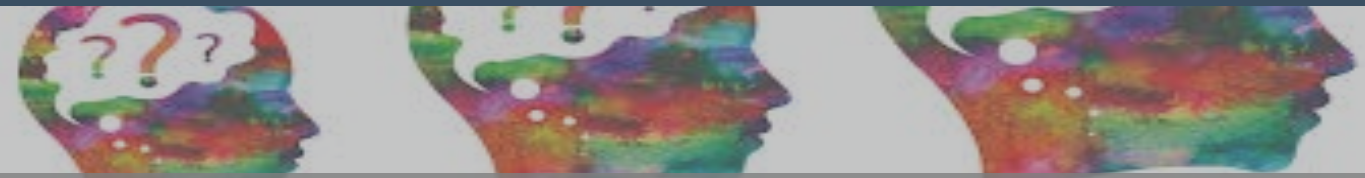
The UK's creative industries contribute £92 billion to the economy. The growth of the sector is expected to continue, predicting a worth of £128.4 billion to the UK economy by 2025.

On average the annual salary of a photographer is £36,580 with photographers earning on average £17.59 per hour.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE PSYCHOLOGY: AQA (8182)



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MS BAILEY

Outline of the course

Unit 1:

Memory: Processes including encoding, storage and retrieval, structures of memory and reconstructive memory.

Perception: The difference between sensation and perception, the influence of visual cues, theories of perception and inferences.

Developmental: Early brain formation, Piaget's theories of cognitive development and the effect of learning and different learning styles.

Research Methods: Hypotheses, variables, sampling methods and research design.

Unit 2:

Social Influence: Explanations and studies of conformity, obedience, bystander behaviour.

Language, Thought and Communication: The relationship between language and thought, explanations of verbal and non-verbal behaviour.

Brain and neuropsychology- The structure and function of the nervous system, sensory, relay and motor neurons.

Psychological problems: How mental health changes over time, the effects of mental health on individuals and society.

GCSE

OPTION/OPEN

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grades 9 - 1

There are two exam papers.

Each lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and each exam is worth 50% of the total GCSE grade.

Each paper is set out as follows:

- **Section A:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- **Section B:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- **Section C:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- **Section D:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

Jobs directly related to Psychology include: Clinical psychologist, Counselling psychologist, Educational psychologist, Forensic psychologist, Further education teacher, Health psychologist, High intensity therapist or an Occupational psychologist.

The average salary for a Clinical Psychologist in United Kingdom is £40020.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology - Edexcel

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MR WATERHOUSE

Outline of the course

There are three separate components.

Component 1 investigates the use of User Interfaces [UI] using a range of devices such as mobile phones and entertainment systems. Students will also plan, create and assess their own UI.

Component 2 investigates the characteristics of data and information in decision making. Students will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions.

Component 3 explores how recent developments in technology enable organisations to communicate and collaborate. It explores how digital regulation, ethics and security concerns influence the way in which organisations operate.

BTEC LEVEL 1/2

OPTION/OPEN

**HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Level 1/2
(Distinction* - Pass)**

The course is equivalent to a GCSE but is graded as; Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*. If a Level 2 Pass is not achieved, then either a Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction is awarded.

Component 1 [Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques].

Internally Assessed Project [30%].

Component 2 [Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data].

Internally Assessed Project [30%].

Component 3 [Effective Digital Working Practices].

Examination [40%].

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

The growth in User Interfaces [UI] by businesses can lead to a wide range of careers within the digital sector such as a UI designer for e-commerce, mobile technology, game design and entertainment systems earning an average salary of £36,451.

Businesses are increasingly using data and with the skills you will acquire you could become a dashboard developer, earning an average salary of £45,000.

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE DRAMA: Pearson Edexcel (1DR0)



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS ENVER-YUSUF

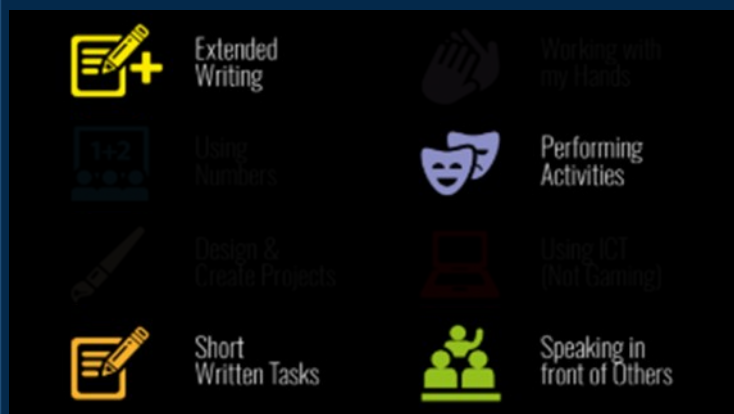
Outline of the course

Students will throughout the three year course develop a range of skills and knowledge:

- Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus.
- Develop a performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance.
- Analyse and evaluate the devising process and final performance.
- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.
- Develop practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Conduct a live theatre evaluation – free choice of production.

GCSE	OPTION/OPEN
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 - 1	
Component 1: Devising (*Component code: 1DR0/01) Non-examination assessment 40% of the qualification – 60 marks	
Component 2: Performance from Text (*Component code: 1DR0/02) Non-examination assessment 20% of the qualification – 48 marks	
Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (*Paper code: 1DR0/03) Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of the qualification – 60 marks	

SKILLS INVOLVED



CAREERS

There are a wide range of careers within Drama, including:

- Actor
- Teacher.
- Media researcher.
- Music producer.
- Television floor manager.
- Theatre manager.

Average salary in the Arts: £33,108

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

OPTIONS BOOKLET

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition: AQA (8585)



LEAD TEACHER: MS TUMOE

Outline of the course

The course focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

1. **Food, nutrition and health**
2. **Food science**
3. **Food safety**
4. **Food choice**
5. **Food provenance.**

GCSE	OPTION/OPEN
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? Grade 9 -1	
Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition	
What's assessed: Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from Sections 1 to 5.	
How it's assessed: Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (100 marks). 50% of GCSE.	
Multiple choice questions (20 marks). Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks).	
Non-exam assessment (NEA)	
What's assessed: <u>Task 1:</u> Food investigation (30 marks). <u>Task 2:</u> Food preparation assessment (70 marks) Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within three hours.	
How it's assessed: <u>Task 1:</u> Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation. <u>Task 2:</u> Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence.	

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

CAREERS

A passion for Food and Catering can lead to a wide range of career opportunities in agriculture, catering and hospitality, environmental health, leisure and tourism, retail sales and customer service, as well as Food Production Scientist and manufacturing, Food Labelling specialist, Hygiene Manager, Food Psychologist and Lecturer or Teacher.

Average salary - £12,000 to £100,000

OPTIONS SELECTION SHEET

OPTION CHOICES BY Friday 11th March 2022

YEAR 9 OPTIONS SHEET 2022

Pathway 1: EBacc

Students will choose a total of 3 subjects and 1 reserve subject

The subject choices **MUST** be **numbered 1 to 4** in order of preference (**preference 4 is a reserve subject**)

Core Subjects	EBacc Subjects	Open Subjects
Compulsory	Choose TWO subjects from this section	Choose your remaining subject from this section + ONE reserve (number 4) subject
English	Geography	Computer Science
Mathematics	or	Business Studies
Science	History	Drama
Religious Education	AND	Art and Design
PE (non-exam)	French	Media Studies
	or	Music
	Spanish	Physical Education
		French
		Photography
		Psychology
		BTEC Digital Information Technology
		Food Preparation & Nutrition
		History
		Geography
		Spanish

YEAR 9 OPTIONS SHEET 2020

Pathway 2

Students will choose a total of 3 subjects and 1 reserve subject

The subject choices **MUST** be **numbered 1 to 4** in order of preference (**preference 4 is a reserve subject**)

Core Subjects	EBacc Subjects	Open Subjects
Compulsory	Choose at least ONE subject from this section	Choose your remaining TWO subjects from this section + ONE reserve (number 4) subject
English	Geography	Computer Science
Mathematics		Business Studies
Science	History	Drama
Religious Education		Art and Design - Fine Art
PE (non-exam)	French	Media Studies
		Music
	Spanish	PE
		French
		Art and Design - Photography
		Psychology
		BTEC Digital Information Technology
		Food Preparation and Nutrition
		History
		Geography
		Spanish