



GCSE Course Information Booklet

2025-2027

(Exams Summer 2027)


jags

James Allen's Girls' School

Examination Boards and Subject Codes

GCSE:

Art and Design	Art and Design AQA GCSE 8201
Classical Civilisation	OCR GCSE Classical Civilisation J199
Computer Science	OCR GCSE Computer Science J277
Design Technology	AQA GCSE Design and Technology 8552
Drama	AQA 8261
English - Language	Cambridge Assessment International Education IGCSE in English Language 0990
English - Literature	Cambridge Assessment International Education IGCSE in English Literature 0992
French	AQA GCSE 8658
Geography	Pearson Edexcel A (2016) 1GA0
German	AQA GCSE 8668
Greek	OCR J292
History	Pearson Edexcel 1H10
Italian	AQA GCSE 8633
Japanese	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Japanese (1JA0)
Latin	OCR J282
Mathematics	Pearson Edexcel GCSE Mathematics (Specification A) (IMA1) Higher Tier
Music	Pearson Edexcel 1MU0
Physical Education	AQA GCSE Physical Education 8582
Religious Studies	AQA Religious Studies (Specification A) 8062
Russian	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE 1RU0
Science (double award)	AQA Combined GCSE in Science (Trilogy) 8464
Biology	AQA GCSE in Biology 8461
Chemistry	AQA GCSE in Chemistry 8462
Physics	AQA GCSE in Physics 8463
Spanish	AQA GCSE 8698

Level 2

Extended Mathematics Certificate	Pearson Edexcel 7M20
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Introduction

Welcome to Year 10 and the first year of your GCSE courses. The transition from Year 9 to Year 10 is a very important one and your teachers, form tutors, Miss Braybrook, the nurses and I are all here to support you. Making sure that you get into good routines from the beginning of the year is really important and useful habits you develop now will stand you in good stead for the future.

This booklet outlines the type of assessment you will be required to carry out in each subject. Controlled assessment has replaced coursework in some subjects, and this usually involves work being completed in class under the supervision of the teacher. Some subjects have no coursework or controlled assessment but keeping up with homework is equally important.

Alongside your examination classes, lessons will include enrichment options and societies and information about these will be provided, separately.

Here are some guidelines to help you with organising your studies:

- Make sure that you have a copy of your timetable displayed at home and on the inside of your locker door. Keep your locker locked and tidy.
- Keep your files organised on OneNote and separate topics, ensure you keep any work completed on paper store in a file at home.
- Ensure that you check teams each evening for homework that has been set and get into a good routine in completing homework and don't leave until the last minute.
- Be organised and ensure that you pack your bag the night before and charge your device overnight.
- Make sure you check Teams regularly – we frequently use the Year Group Team to give you messages and updates.
- When working at home, keep your workplace tidy.
- Plan your time. If you find that this is difficult, ask for help. You need time to relax and enjoy your co-curricular interests, as well as to work.
- You can only revise the work you have covered in class if you have understood it. If you are unclear about something, please ask your teacher. It is better to ask straight away than to leave questions until later. You can also use the subject clinics to help you.

We are sure that you will enjoy Years 10 & 11. Take advantage of all the opportunities available to you, ask for help if you need it and use your time well.

Miss Dodson

Assistant Head, Head of KS4

Art & Design

Art and Design GCSE AQA 8201

AQA Art and Design is a vibrant and dynamic course. Students will be taught to realise their ideas in a variety of ways with workshops in printmaking, sculpture and textiles as well as lens-based media. Students will also have opportunities to learn about the wider Art and Design world through residential and day visits as well as in class.

How GCSE Art and Design Assessed

Component 1: Portfolio of work

This is taught as three projects, building work around a theme with increasing independence. These go together and provide evidence of the 4 assessment objectives. The completed portfolio is seen holistically and is worth 60% of the overall final mark.

Component 2: Externally Set assignment

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment, relating to their subject title and the resulting project and outcomes are supported in lesson time. This is seen as a separate project and is worth 40% of the overall mark.

Do I have lesson or homework time to work on it?

All lesson and homework time is devoted to building the Portfolio until the end of December in Year 11. After this you will have until after Easter to complete the ESA. Pupils are required to allocate one evening a week to working after school in the studios.

Brief description of all controlled assessment

Students will have three dedicated studio sessions in controlled conditions to realise their outcome from the Externally Set Assignment.

Is there an opportunity to discuss my progress with my teacher?

Progress is discussed on an individual basis and during group discussions. Students may come every day during lunch or after school to get more specific one to one feedback by appointment at any stage. Effort grades, reports and formal assessments at the end of units.

How many pieces are set and how many count?

The Portfolio of work is expected to show breadth as well as depth in answer to the four assessment objectives set by the exam board. The three projects or 'Units' will cover these. All the work produced is marked positively and can contribute towards the overall mark.

Self-evaluation, independence and development of skills and creative response are important.

Deadlines for Y10

Portfolio (made up of three projects of 'Units')

Unit One: by the end of Autumn term.

Unit Two: by the end of the Summer term.

Deadlines for Y11

Unit Three: end of Autumn term.

Externally Set Assignment: by the beginning of the Summer term.

THERE IS NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Classical Civilisation

Pupils at JAGS are prepared for the OCR Classical Civilisation GCSE course

Classical Civilisation GCSE J199

In Year 10, students will study Homer and the Homeric World, focusing on an in-depth study of books of 'The Odyssey' as well as learning about the history, culture and society of Mycenaean Greece. In year 11, we shall focus on the thematic study of myth and religion. This will involve a comparative study of ancient Greece and Rome and combine literary and visual material sources.

How is Classical Civilisation assessed?

There are two examination papers, both worth 50% of the final mark and both 1 hour 30 minutes:

Paper 1: Thematic Study Myth and Religion

Paper 2: Literature and culture: Homer and the Homeric World

Is there controlled assessment?

There is no controlled assessment for OCR Classical Civilisation GCSE.

For full details see www.ocr.org.uk.

THERE IS NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Computer Science

Computer Science – J277

Students are introduced to Computer Systems, exploring the internal working of a computer and their application in a wider context. Key focus is on the Systems Architecture, Algorithms and Programming. Topical and current discussions on AI and Computer Systems threats are also engaged in. Bringing home the ever evolving and developing world of Computer Science and algorithms.

Students will apply their knowledge and understanding of algorithms, programming concepts and languages, in the creation of relevant and engaging software solutions, which solve real world problems, all whilst developing and honing their computational thinking and problem-solving skills. A variety of programming challenges are embarked upon both independently and collaboratively, preparing students for an ever-evolving digital workforce and community.

How is Computer Science assessed?

There are two examinations for this course, each of equally weighting -

Paper 1: Computer Systems - 50%

- 80 Marks
- Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming – 50%

- 80 Marks
- Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Do I have lesson or homework time to work on building programming skills?

Both. All homework and assessments are designed to enable students to develop the mathematical, logic computational thinking and programming skills required to complete this course successfully. Additional support is offered where required and subject mentors are available should this be necessary.

Is there an NEA?

No. This new specification does not have an NEA.

Is there an opportunity to discuss my progress with my teacher?

Yes. Subject teachers are always available to discuss general concerns and provide suggestions, where required. The Head of Department is also available to support students. In addition to the subject teacher, a sixth form subject mentors can also be allocated.

Deadlines for Y10

N/A

Deadlines for Y11

N/A

Design and Technology

What preparation is there before I start the NEA, Non-examined assessment?

Designing, making and theory is taught through a series of practical assignments throughout year 10.

How long do I have to complete the NEA Contextual Challenge?

35 hours as a guideline.

Do I have lesson or homework time to work on it?

Both lesson and homework time can be used to complete the NEA. Most of the practical element will be completed in the workshop. Much of the folder will be completed at home when writing up the activities from the workshop sessions.

Brief description of the NEA Contextual Challenge

At the beginning of June in year 10, students will be set a contextual challenge by the exam board. There are three to choose from; they are very broad and are designed to enable students to make attractive and functioning prototype solutions. These practical outcomes will be accompanied by a PowerPoint portfolio including research investigations with analysis, a design brief and specification, design ideas developed into a final solution, a manufacturing specifications and evidence of ongoing analysis and evaluation throughout.

Is there an opportunity to discuss my progress with my teacher?

At times, when students are not involved with NEA Contextual Challenge, teachers are happy to discuss their work and give specific feedback about how they can improve.

During the NEA, teachers can provide general feedback to the class to ensure that students' work is appropriately focused. They can advise on resources and remind students of the key sections that should be included in their final portfolio.

How many pieces of coursework are set and how many count?

One 20-page folder and a high-quality working prototype.

What % of the final mark is NEA Contextual Challenge?

50%

Deadlines for Y10

NEA Contextual Challenge:

Mind mapping and research plan by end of the summer holidays.

Deadlines for Y11

NEA Contextual Challenge continued:

Needs and wants identified, investigated and outlined with a design brief and specification by October half term.

Initial and developed ideas and a final proposal with a production plan before Christmas break.

Practical work completed by end of February.

Evaluations and modifications before Easter break

Final deadline: First lesson after the Spring half term all work is to be handed in.

Drama

What preparation is there before I start the coursework?

Practical workshops on the text or performance style.
Live Theatre visits to fuel theatrical understanding.
Theoretical lessons on key areas of study.

How long do I have to complete the coursework?

Eight weeks approximately.

Do I have lesson or homework time to work on it?

All lesson and homework time is dedicated to the practical project during this period. Rehearsal time will increase to 2hrs per week in the four weeks leading up to the project.

Brief description of all coursework

Performance or Design presentation with an accompanying portfolio of 2500 words.

Is there an opportunity to discuss my progress with my teacher?

Progress can be discussed at any time during the project.

How many pieces are set and how many count?

Two Practical Projects take place during the course, and they are both assessed.

What % of the final mark is the coursework?

Devising Project - 40% (including written portfolio)
Performance of Extract - 20%

Deadlines for Y10

First Devising assessment takes place in the first two weeks of the Summer Term.

Deadlines for Y11

Performance of the Extract will be completed by half term in the Spring term.

English

You are prepared for both English Language and English Literature, which are awarded as separate certificates.

Cambridge Assessment International Education IGCSE in English Language 0990

Your writing is assessed for audience, purpose, tone, style and register, as well as grammatical and structural features, vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation.

What is the structure of the English Language examinations?

There are two examination papers:

Paper 1: Fiction & Imaginative Writing (1hr 45 mins).

(40% of total marks).

Section A: Reading unseen C19th fiction.

Section B: Imaginative Writing.

Paper 2: Non-Fiction & Transactional Writing (2hrs 5 mins).

(60% of total marks).

Section A: Reading: Comparison of two unseen texts from the C20th and C21st, one non-fiction; the other, literary non-fiction.

Section B: Transactional Writing.

There is also a compulsory **Speaking & Listening** Task:

presenting, listening to questions and responding, using Standard English.

The mark does not go towards the final grade; it is a separate endorsement.

Cambridge Assessment International Education IGCSE in English Literature (0992)

This qualification is to enable you to:

- enjoy the experience of reading literature.
- understand and respond to literary texts in different forms and from different periods and cultures.
- communicate an informed personal response appropriately and effectively.
- appreciate different ways in which writers achieve their effects.
- experience literature's contribution to aesthetic, imaginative and intellectual growth.
- explore the contribution of literature to an understanding of areas of human concern.

What is the structure of the English Literature examinations?

There are three examination papers:

Paper 1: Poetry & Prose (closed book) 1 hour 30 minutes; 50% of total marks.

- One question on one poem from *Selected Poems of Ted Hughes*.

The poem is printed on the examination paper.

- One question on *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier.

An extract from the novel is printed on the examination paper.

Paper 2: Drama 45 minutes; 25% of total marks.

- One question on an extract from a play printed on the examination paper

Paper 3: Unseen 1 hour 15 minutes; 25% of total marks.

- One question requiring critical commentary on either a poem or a literary prose extract.

French and German

What qualifications are offered for Year 10?

French and German offer the AQA GCSE qualification.

French specification code: 8658

German specification code: 8668

All students will take the Extended Curriculum (Higher Tier).

What is the curriculum content?

Candidates are required to show knowledge and understanding of three general themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Relationships with family and friends / Marriage / partnership / Social media / Mobile technology / Music / Cinema and TV / Food and eating out / Sport / Customs and festivals.

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Charity/voluntary work / Healthy and unhealthy living / The environment / Poverty and homelessness / Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

My studies / Life at school / Education post-16 / Jobs, career choices and ambitions

How is the GCSE assessed?

There are 4 papers. There is no controlled assessment or coursework.

Paper 1 **Listening** (45 minutes)

Paper 2 **Reading** (1 hour)

Paper 3 **Speaking** (15 minutes preparation / 15 mins examination)

Paper 4 **Writing** (75 minutes)

What is the weighting of papers?

Each paper counts for 25% of the final mark.

When do I take my GCSE?

All papers will be taken in Year 11.

Paper 3 **Speaking** takes place between April and mid-May.

All the other papers take place during the Summer examination period.

Will I have a mock examination?

Yes, Mock examinations take place in Year 11 and all papers will be assessed.

THERE IS NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Geography

Pupils at JAGS are prepared for the Pearson Edexcel A GCSE

Geography

The GCSE Geography course covers a wide range of important and topical human, physical and environmental issues. For example:

- How is human activity changing coastal landscapes, impacting people and the environment?
- What is the most effective and efficient way to manage river flooding?
- Why has climate changed in the past and why is it changing now?
- How and why have London and Sao Paulo changed?
- What economic, social and demographic processes influence the development of Brazil?
- What are the different water supply issues around the world?

Topics include: Rivers, Coasts, Weather, Ecosystems, Cities, Development and Water Resources, which are taught using a wide range of contemporary case studies. GCSE Geography also requires you to have a good understanding of mapping, graphical and statistical skills.

Fieldwork

The course requires pupils to have experience of a minimum of two contrasting types of fieldwork, in both physical and human environments. We will be visiting the Field Studies Centre in Slapton for a residential trip in the September/October of Year 11 (to study coasts) and a day trip to Rye at the end of Year 10 (human geography). These trips will be examined in the examination; there is no separate coursework in GCSE Geography.

How will I prepare for the fieldwork examination questions?

You will become familiar with a range of fieldwork techniques, both during the fieldtrips and within lessons. In the examination, you will be assessed on the data collection, presentation and findings from your fieldtrips. There will be plenty of opportunity to tackle sample questions to prepare you for the examination and you will have a special fieldwork workbook to help you prepare.

How is the Edexcel A Course assessed?

There are three one and a half hour papers, which are all taken at the end of Year 11, usually with a few days or a week between them. The physical and human geography papers (Units 1 and 2) both account for 37.5% of the GCSE. The third paper (Fieldwork and UK Challenges) accounts for 25%. The mapping, graphical and statistical skills may be assessed across any of these papers.

What is the structure of the examinations?

Some will be multiple choice or questions worth 1-2 marks, but most marks will be for a mix of structured and open response questions worth 3-4 marks. Each topic area will have one longer question carrying either 8 or 12 marks.

Questions will be 'ramped', so that easier marks are at the beginning of each question and the most challenging questions are at the end of each topic.

Are there marks available for quality of written communication?

Spelling, punctuation and grammar, along with use of specialist terminology are formally assessed in one longer question in each paper worth 12 marks; this question is clearly highlighted.

Greek

OCR GCSE specification J292. The course is assessed by written examination taken at the end of Year 11. The course comprises three units, one language and two literature.

How is the Greek GCSE assessed?

The course is assessed by written examination taken at the end of Year 11.

There are three examination papers.

J292/01 Greek Language 50%

J292/02 Prose Literature A (Herodotus) 25%

J292/04 Verse Literature B (Euripides' Medea) 25%

(% indicates the weighting given to each paper).

What is the structure of the examinations?

Paper 1: Unseen translation and comprehension on some Greek passages. (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: You will answer a variety of questions on the prose literature texts which you will have studied in depth during your GCSE course. (1 hour)

Paper 3: You will answer a variety of questions on the verse literature texts, which you will have studied in depth during your GCSE course. (1 hour)

For full details see www.ocr.org.uk.

THERE IS NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

History

Pupils at JAGS are prepared for the Pearson Edexcel GCSE.

Edexcel GCSE History 1H10

This course provides a broad range of History and will develop a variety of key skills in analysing and critically evaluating depth and breadth studies.

You will develop essay writing skills which will provide an excellent foundation for A Level studies in humanities based subjects, including History, Geography, RS and subjects like Law at university and you will develop source analysis and evaluation skills.

How is the History GCSE assessed?

There are three examination papers:

Paper 1 - 75 minutes: Thematic study and historic environment: (The History of Western Medicine) (30%)

Paper 2 –105 minutes: Period study and British depth study (Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91 with each part being answered in separate booklets) (40%)

Paper 3 – 80 minutes: Depth Study (Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41) (30%)

(%) = the weighting given to each paper.

What is the structure of the examinations?

Paper 1

Section A: historic environment: Students answer a question that assesses knowledge plus a two-part question based on two provided sources.

Section B: thematic study: Students answer three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding. The first two questions are compulsory. For the third question, students answer one from a choice of two.

Paper 2

Booklet P Period study: Students answer three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding. The first two questions are compulsory. For the third question, students select two out of three parts.

Booklet B British depth study: Students answer a single three-part question that assesses their knowledge and understanding. The first two parts are compulsory. For the third part, students select one from a choice of two.

Paper 3

Section A: Students answer a question based on a provided source and a question that assesses their knowledge and understanding.

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

Italian

What qualifications are offered for Year 10?

Italian offers AQA GCSE qualification.

Syllabus Code: 8633

All students will take the Higher Tier.

What is the curriculum content?

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

The Italian GCSE course enables students of all abilities to develop their Italian language skills to their full potential, to expand students' cultural knowledge of Italy and help develop a passion for learning languages. At the end of this course students will have a solid basis from which to progress to A level or employment. The course will build on knowledge of Italian acquired at Key Stage 3

How is the GCSE assessed?

There are 4 papers. Each paper counts for 25% of the final mark.

Paper 1: **Listening**

Paper 2: **Reading**

Paper 3: **Speaking**

Paper 4: **Writing**

Are there opportunities to practise the language beyond the classroom?

Yes, the department offers co-curricular opportunities to expand your knowledge of the language and culture.

When do I take my GCSE?

All papers will be taken in Year 11.

Paper 3 **Speaking** takes place between April and mid-May.

All the other papers take place during the Summer examination period.

Will I have a mock examination?

Mock examinations take place in Year 11. All papers will be assessed.

Japanese

Content

Identity and culture

- Who am I?
- Daily life
- Cultural life

Local area, holiday and travel

- Holidays
- Travel and tourist transactions
- Town, region and country

International and global dimension

- Bringing the world together
- Environmental issues

School

- What school is like
- School activities

Future aspirations, study and work

- Using languages beyond the classroom
- Ambitions
- Work

Skills & Papers

Paper 1 - Listening and Understanding (45 minutes including 5 minute's reading time)

Assessment: Final exam at the end of Year 11

Paper 2 – Speaking (10-12 minutes plus 12 minutes' preparation time)

Assessment: **Three** tasks together on **chosen** themes at the end of Year 11 between April and May.

1. Role-play (one theme)
2. Picture based questions (one theme)
3. Conversation (two themes)

Paper 3 - Reading and Understanding (1 hour 5 minutes)

Assessment: Final exam at the end of Year 11

Paper 4 – Writing (1 hour 25 minutes)

Assessment: Final exam at the end of Year 11

What is the weighting of papers?

Each paper counts for 25% of the final mark.

THERE IS NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Latin

OCR GCSE specification J282.

How is the Latin GCSE assessed?

The course is assessed by written examination taken at the end of Year 11.

There are three examination papers:

J282/01 Latin Language 50%

J282/03 Prose Literature B (Tacitus and Pliny) 25%

J282/05 Verse Literature A (Ovid and Catullus) 25%

(% indicates the weighting given to each paper).

What is the structure of the examinations?

Paper 1: Unseen translation and comprehension on some Latin passages. (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: You will answer a variety of questions on the prose literature texts which you will have studied in depth during your GCSE course. (1 hour)

Paper 3: You will answer a variety of questions on the verse literature texts, which you will have studied in depth during your GCSE course. (1 hour)

For full details see www.ocr.org.uk.

THERE IS NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Mathematics

What qualifications are offered for Year 10?

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Mathematics (9-1) Higher Tier.

How long do I have to complete the controlled assessment?

There is no controlled assessment or coursework in Mathematics.

Brief description of the course

You will extend the mathematics already studied in Key Stage 3. You will be taught to solve numerical, algebraic and spatial problems alongside processing and interpreting data, and calculating probabilities of events. Using a calculator efficiently for calculation and graph plotting are two important skills that are both built into the course. Emphasis is placed on explaining your stages of reasoning clearly and logically. Applying your techniques to solve contextual problems is an important skill which is developed throughout the course and is a crucial foundation for A Level Mathematics.

Is there an opportunity to discuss my progress with my teacher?

Yes. Progress is discussed throughout the course.

Homework

Two pieces per week, each of 30 minutes.

What is the weighting of the final papers?

There are three final examination papers taken in the Summer of Year 11. Each is worth 1/3 of the final mark. The GCSE has 1 non-calculator and 2 calculator papers.

Deadlines for Y10

N/A

Deadlines for Y11

N/A

THERE IS NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Music

There are three parts to GCSE Music: Performing and Composing which are internally assessed (non-examination assessment), and a Listening and Appraising exam which is assessed externally.

What preparation is there before I start the coursework?

Techniques of composition, related elements of music theory and use of IT all form part of introductory projects arising from study of the set works in Year 10.

Students must be having lessons on their chosen instrument (or voice).

How long do I have to complete the coursework?

Composition 1 is undertaken during the Autumn term of Year 11 and Composition 2 during the Spring term of Year 11. Regular practice on your chosen instrument (or voice) is necessary to prepare for performances in the Autumn and Spring terms of Year 11. Students need to be practising regularly with a small group or ensemble from the start of Year 10 as well as preparing solo performances.

Do I have lesson or homework time to work on it?

Research for compositions is done in lessons and homework times. Students are encouraged to use the studio outside lesson times, but homework can also be done at home on *Sibelius* or *Logic* software or using pencil and paper. The writing up of the assignments is done under controlled conditions in lesson time in Year 11.

Practice on your chosen instrument (or voice) is ongoing.

Brief description of all coursework

Both composition and performance assignments are completed and submitted in Year 11. One of the compositions is written to a brief provided by the Board, relating to one of the Areas of Study, and one is a free composition. Solo performances and ensembles are recorded during the Autumn and Spring terms of Year 11, and students are expected to take part in a concert such as the Chamber Music Concert or a lunchtime concert with their ensemble.

Is there an opportunity to discuss my progress with my teacher?

Of course, either weekly in lessons or individually as arranged.

How many pieces are set and how many count?

Two compositions are set and submitted with two assessed performances as below. Students are encouraged to submit the mock solo performance from the start of the Spring term if a satisfactory mark has been achieved or may record a solo later in the term. Ensembles are recorded as part of live concerts or on the studio day in March.

What % of the final mark is the coursework?

60% (30% composition and 30% performance).

Deadlines for Y10

No official controlled assessment deadlines in Year 10.

Deadlines for Y11

Composition 1: End of the Autumn term.

Composition 2: End of the Spring term.

Final opportunity to record solo and ensemble performance: Studio Session in the Spring term.

Physical Education

What preparation is there before I start the controlled assessment?

It is advisable to take part in as many sports as possible with clear and obvious strengths in at least one team and / or individual sport (list of sports applicable available on request). It is also helpful to be aware of your own performance and analyse your own strengths and weaknesses as well as that of other performers.

How long do I have to complete the controlled assessment?

The practical element of the course is covered during the whole of Year 10 and up until Christmas in Year 11, this includes any sports that are required to be filmed externally. The preparation for the written coursework will take place in Year 10 (including over the summer holidays) and undertaken in Year 11 once the relevant theoretical content has been completed.

Do I have lesson or homework time to work on it?

Pupils will have time in lessons throughout Year 10 and the first term in Year 11 to work on both the practical and theoretical components of the controlled assessment. Pupils wishing to be assessed in sports that they play outside of school (either to a higher standard or not covered in school), will need to provide video evidence of these sports. Information on how and when to film, will be provided by teachers.

Brief description of all controlled assessment

1. Practical performance in three different physical activities, one in a team activity, one in a different individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity.
2. Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Is there an opportunity to discuss my progress with my teacher?

Progress and grades can be discussed at any time over the course of the two years.

How many pieces are set and how many count?

Pupils will cover more practical areas than necessary over the course and will then put forward their strongest three assessment grades for their final mark.

What % of the final mark is the controlled assessment?

40%

Deadlines for Y10

N/A

Deadlines for Y11

All three practical areas - January in Year 11. Exact date TBC.
Coursework - February half term in Year 11

Religious Studies

Which examination board and specification?

AQA Religious Studies, specification A:
'Religious Beliefs and Lifestyles'

Which two religions will be studied?

The beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam

Which Themes will be studied?

- Relationships and families
- Religion and life
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment.

What skills will I learn?

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon of religion, and you will learn to express your personal responses, informed insights and views on fundamental questions and issues.

You will develop writing skills that will provide an excellent foundation for RS A Level (or other Humanities subjects at A level).

You will learn to

- explain concepts accurately
- exemplify them with precision
- use religious teachings to support them
- evaluate them by considering different viewpoints

Will I just learn about religions and religious points of view?

You will study each of the four themes selected through a range of religious *and* non-religious perspectives.

What about examinations?

There will be two, one for Religions and one for Themes.

They are weighted evenly – 50% each.

Each examination will last 1¼ hours.

THERE IS NO COURSEWORK OR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Russian

What qualifications are offered for Year 10?

We offer the Pearson Edexcel GCSE qualification.

Syllabus Codes: Level 1/Level 2 GCSE 1RU0

All students will take the Higher Tier.

What is the curriculum content?

Candidates are required to show knowledge and understanding of five general Topic Areas: Five main themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday, travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

How is the GCSE assessed?

There are 4 papers. There is no controlled assessment or coursework.

Paper 1 **Listening** (50 minutes)

Paper 2 **Speaking** (10-12 minutes)

Paper 3 **Reading** (1 hour 5 minutes)

Paper 4 **Writing** (1 hour 25 minutes)

What is the weighting of papers?

Each paper counts for 25% of the final mark.

When do I take my GCSE?

All papers will be taken in Year 11.

Paper 2 **Speaking** takes place in April/May

All the other papers take place during the Summer examination period.

Will I have a mock examination?

Mock examinations take place in Year 11.

All papers will be assessed.

Science

Pupils at JAGS are prepared for the AQA GCSE. The course starts in Year 9, so pupils have already completed part of the GCSE course by the time they begin Year 10.

AQA Science GCSE Separate Sciences

The separate Science GCSEs offer a solid preparation for studying A level sciences.

How is practical work assessed?

There is no separate practical assessment or coursework, however, there are compulsory practical activities for each Science and they are undertaken in lessons throughout the course.

Practical work is assessed within the written examination and at least 15% of the marks are for such questions.

How will I prepare for the practical questions?

You will become familiar with the nature of experimental work and evaluating results during the course. Some questions will require knowledge of 'how science works' terms and those will be used throughout the course. There will be plenty of opportunity to tackle sample questions.

How is the AQA Science GCSE assessed?

There are two 105 minute papers for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Both papers are sat at the end of Year 11 and have equal weighting.

For those choosing the Combined Science – Trilogy option at the end of year 10, there are two 75 minute papers for each science.

Each paper assesses different topics from the syllabus and has equal weighting.

What is the structure of the examinations?

Individual questions will carry up to 6 marks. Some will be multiple choice, but most marks will be for a mix of structured and open response questions.

Questions will be 'ramped', so that easier marks are at the beginning of each question. They are also ramped so that the most challenging questions are at the end of the paper.

Are there marks available for quality of written communication?

Good use of English and clear presentation are both expected, however, marks are not set aside.

Marks awarded for extended response questions will be determined by the Quality of Communication (QC) as well as the standard of the scientific response. This means answers should be logical with good use of scientific terminology.

Will all pupils sit separate science examinations?

Combined Science – Trilogy Award in Science may be available and has a reduced content. Following discussion at the end of Year 10, pupils may elect to sit the Combined Science GCSE.

Spanish

What qualifications are offered for Year 10?

Spanish offers AQA GCSE qualification.

Syllabus Code: 8698

All students will take the Higher Tier.

What is the curriculum content?

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

The Spanish GCSE course is diverse and will allow you to get to know important aspects of the Spanish speaking world while building up your grammar and vocabulary up to a lower-intermediate level. It is a great steppingstone for those interested in A-level as well as for those who are fascinated by Spanish grammar and translation!

How is the GCSE assessed?

There are 4 papers. Each paper counts for 25% of the final mark.

Paper 1: **Listening**

Paper 2: **Reading**

Paper 3: **Speaking**

Paper 4: **Writing**

Are there opportunities to practise the language beyond the classroom?

Yes, the department offers co-curricular opportunities to expand your knowledge of the language and culture.

When do I take my GCSE?

All papers will be taken in Year 11.

Paper 3 **Speaking** takes place between April and mid-May.

All the other papers take place during the Summer examination period.

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