



Welshpool High School  
Ysgol Uwchradd Y Trallwng

2026 - 2028

Raising Achievement By Raising Expectations | Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau



# OPTIONS BOOKLET

*Your journey starts here*



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## INTRODUCTION

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The information contained in this booklet has been compiled in order to give parents/carers and students details of the courses of study that are available in Years 10 and 11 at Welshpool High School. The course descriptions in this option booklet reflect the changes that have occurred over recent years with GCSE and BTEC courses. A copy of the booklet has been posted on the school website at <http://www.welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk/>

We appreciate that choosing options for Year 10 can be daunting, and it's only natural to feel like this. However, as a school we are here to help and support students and parents/carers. Please ask questions and seek advice from the experienced staff in school if you are unsure about anything.

### **Year 10 Curriculum**

The curriculum is designed to offer pupils flexibility of choice and a wide variety of subjects. Courses chosen this year will be studied over two years, with many culminating in examinations at the end of Year 11 in the summer term of 2028.

During Years 10 and 11 students are required to study a number of **Core Subjects**:

English

Mathematics

Science

Welsh Second Language

The Skills Challenge Certificate

Physical Education

World Views Studies

Careers

Relationships and Health Studies

The remainder of the curriculum is made up of **Three Option Subjects**.

It is our belief that students should follow a broad and balanced curriculum. We therefore operate a system of guided choice. We encourage students to choose subjects from different curriculum areas, e.g. international languages, humanities and creative and technical subjects.

**Please be advised that courses can only run if there is sufficient uptake by students.**

Students are strongly advised to seek the assistance of subject teachers, the Careers Wales Adviser, Form Tutors and Mrs S Lewis/Mrs J Loxam (Heads of Year), before completing their option forms. It is worth noting that choices made now are important not only in the next few years, but also in the years beyond 16.



## **ASSESSMENT, COURSEWORK/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT**

Regular assessment of work in Years 10 and 11 will take place through classwork, homework, internal school examinations and reports. Many courses have assessed elements throughout the duration of the course, often culminating in external examinations during the summer term of the second year of study.

The courses offered will mainly be either General Certificate of Secondary Education (**GCSE**) or Business and Technology Education Council (**BTEC**) qualifications. GCSE and BTEC are both academic qualifications that are awarded in the United Kingdom.

The main difference is that BTEC is awarded for vocational subjects, and the GCSE is awarded for a large number of other subjects. Vocational subjects are those which are not purely academic but which involve learning skills useful for a particular job.

Further details of the examinations are listed on Pages 6 and 7. Specific information about each subject is given throughout the booklet.

**Students will need to organise their work and their time very carefully over the next two years to ensure that they meet the many deadlines which occur throughout the course.**

It is best if any coursework / controlled assessment unit commitments are cleared well before the final examination to allow maximum time for revision and preparation.

Next academic year several subjects will be delivering newly designed 'Made for Wales' GCSE specifications. Details of these can be found in the subject information pages.

### **Coursework/Controlled Assessment:**

Coursework/controlled assessment is an important element in many subjects. Coursework/controlled assessment is used to test the ability of the students to organise themselves, work individually and complete investigations, drawing valid conclusions from information that has been researched and analysed. It has the advantage of allowing the student to gain marks through classwork, thus reducing the pressure felt by many students in examination situations.

Much of this work is now completed in class under supervision, adhering to the guidelines specified for that qualification. These exercises are referred to as controlled assessments. Students will be told by their subject teachers when these are to take place.

It is very important that students attend school when these assessments take place as the work cannot be set as homework due to examination regulations.

If students are absent at these times, we will endeavour to provide opportunities for this work to be completed in school. This will inevitably mean that other lessons will be missed.

However, it will mean that the marks awarded for coursework/controlled assessment can be accessed by students who have been absent.



## YEAR 9 INTO 10 OPTIONS FORM 2026-2028

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Form: 9

The table below shows the *PROPOSED* learning pathways for Welshpool High School from Year 9 into Years 10 and 11. The number of students choosing each subject will dictate the *FINAL* curriculum offer available to students. Throughout this process we will keep you informed of any changes to the options that are available.

Please be aware that:

- The Separate Science option in column C is for those students who are particularly able scientists and who wish to study a full 3 Science GCSE course of Biology, Physics and Chemistry.
- Students should choose subjects that they enjoy, need for the future, but will also succeed in.

Instructions for students:

- In Year 10 you can only study one subject from each option block. However, you are asked to indicate two subjects in each block. This will assist us in curriculum planning.
- Put a '1' next to the subject which would be your first choice in each block.
- Put a '2' next to the subject which would be your second choice in each block.
- Please return the completed options form to Form Tutors by 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Geography GCSE	French GCSE	Separate Science GCSE
History GCSE	Spanish GCSE	History GCSE
Drama GCSE	Art GCSE	Geography GCSE
Health and Social Care GCSE	PE GCSE	Music GCSE
D&T Product Design GCSE	SWEET Award	Art (Photography) GCSE
D&T Engineering Design GCSE	Business BTEC	ICT BTEC
D&T Hospitality and Catering Vocational Award		King's Trust Award

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unfortunately, subjects recruiting low numbers may be withdrawn.  
A maximum of 5 classes per option block will be offered.**



## SUBJECT QUALIFICATIONS, TIERS & CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT/EXAM PERCENTAGES DETAILS

	EXAM LEVEL	COURSEWORK CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT UNITS (inc. practical/oral)	EXAM %
English	Single Award GCSE	40%	60%
	Double Award GCSE	40%	60%
Mathematics & Numeracy	GCSE Double Award	N/A	100%
Science	Separate (3 GCSEs) Double Science(2 GCSEs)	10% Scientific Enquiry/Practical Assessment	90%
Art & Design	GCSE	60%	40% controlled test (10 hours)
Art & Design (Photography)	GCSE	60%	40% controlled test (10 hours)
Drama	GCSE	Coursework 40% Performance 30%	30%
Geography	GCSE	40%	60%
History	GCSE	40%	60%
International Languages (French/Spanish)	GCSE	N/A	Oral 30% Reading 15% Listening 20% Writing 35%
Music	GCSE	Composing 32.5% Performing 32.5%	Appraising 35%
Physical Education	GCSE	Practical 60%	Theory 40%



## QUALIFICATION DETAILS (continued)

	EXAM LEVEL	COURSEWORK/ CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT UNITS (inc. practical/oral)	EXAM %
Design And Technology	GCSE Engineering Design	70%	30%
	Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality & Catering (Technical Award)	60%	40%
	GCSE Product Design	70%	30%
Welsh	2nd Language	N/A	Speaking and Listening 25% Oral 25% Reading and Writing 1 25% Reading and Writing 2 25%
Business	BTEC First Award Level 1/2	75%	25%
ICT	BTEC First Award Level 1/2	75%	25%
Health/Social Care	GCSE	60%	40%
Skills Challenge Certificate	GCSE	100%	N/A
Sweet (Personal Growth and Wellbeing)	BTEC First Award Level 1/2	100%	N/A
King's Trust	Level 1/2 Award	100%	N/A
Worldviews Studies	Agored Level 1/2 Award	100%	N/A



## ENGLISH GCSE (Level 2)

Subject	Exam Level	Controlled Assessment units	Exam %
English language and literature	Single Award GCSE	40%	60%
	Double Award GCSE	40%	60%

### English Language and Literature Double award

#### What will be studied (Course Structure):

GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Communication Skills – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language.
- Reading Skills – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability.
- Contextual Analysis Skills – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing.
- Literacy Skills – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

#### Assessment:

This is an untiered qualification meaning that all students will sit the same assessments and can be awarded a grade between A\*- G.

#### Unit 1 Exam: Context and meaning [15% 1hr 30 mins]

Section A: a selection of shorter reading responses and a comparative poetry essay.

Section B: extended written response from a choice of two titles (creative literary or non-fiction writing).

#### Unit 2 NEA: Belonging [10%]

Task A: a written essay on a selected prose text.

Task B: an individually researched presentation linked to the theme of 'belonging' and inspired by the studied prose text.

#### Unit 3 NEA: Influence and Power [10%]

Task A: group discussion based on texts taken from WJEC anthology.

Task B: creative non-fiction writing task, informed by the texts read for task A.

#### Unit 4 Exam: Motivations [20% 1hr 30 mins]

Section A: a selection of shorter reading responses and an analytical essay based on the text selected for study.

Section B: an extended response question, from a choice of two titles (creative literary writing).

#### Unit 5 NEA: Continuity and Change [20%]

Task A: an extended response to the study of a Shakespeare play.

Task B: a paired discussion of poetry selected from the WJEC anthology and one other poem.

#### Unit 6 Exam: Connections [25% 1hr 30 mins]

Section A: a selection of reading questions exploring connections between WJEC non-fiction anthology texts and an unseen text.

Section B: an extended response question, from a choice of two titles (non-fiction writing).



# ENGLISH GCSE (Level 2)

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## English Language and Literature Single award

### What will be studied (Course Structure):

GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Communication Skills – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language.
- Reading Skills – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability.
- Contextual Analysis Skills – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing.
- Literacy Skills – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

### Assessment:

This is an untiered qualification meaning that all students will sit the same assessments and can be awarded a grade between A\*- G.

### Unit 1 Exam: Context and meaning [30% 1hr 30 mins]

Section A: a selection of shorter reading responses and a comparative poetry essay.

Section B: extended written response from a choice of two titles (creative literary or non-fiction writing).

### Unit 2 NEA: Belonging [20%]

Task A: a written essay on a selected prose text.

Task B: an individually researched presentation linked to the theme of 'belonging' and inspired by the studied prose text.

### Unit 3 NEA: Influence and Power [20%]

Task A: group discussion based on texts taken from WJEC anthology.

Task B: creative non-fiction writing task, informed by the texts read for task A.

### Unit 4 Exam: Motivations [30% 1hr 30 mins]

Section A: a selection of shorter reading responses and an analytical essay based on the text selected for study.

Section B: an extended response question, from a choice of two titles (creative literary writing).

### Skills required for both single and double award

- Work within a group context.
- Communicate clearly and confidently in speech and writing.
- Effectively manage own time, especially in planning, drafting and editing non-examination assessments.

### Career links and progression routes:

Most post-16 education providers require A\*-C in GCSE English. The communication skills taught in this course are transferable to most careers. Possible career paths: journalist, teacher, author, lawyer, editor, librarian and archivist, technical writer.



# MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

## GCSE (Level 2)

In GCSE Mathematics & Numeracy, you will build on the knowledge and understanding you have of topics within number, algebra, geometry, and data.

You will be taught the key financial aspects of everyday adult life, such as dealing with payslips, bills, and savings.

A good understanding of the content of this qualification is the perfect platform to those hoping to follow a STEM career.

### **WHAT WILL I STUDY?**

The course has 3 units:

#### **UNIT 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy**

In this unit you will learn life lessons that will help you become a financially well-informed adult. Think about terms or acronyms you may have heard about like 'National Insurance', 'VAT' or 'AER' – these will become familiar to you. Financial opportunities and pitfalls will be addressed, and you will learn how to read important documents like payslips, bills and bank statements.

All sorts of other real-world contexts will also be taught and assessed, making this unit relevant and interesting.

#### **UNIT 2: Non-calculator**

You will explore concepts where you won't need your calculator in this unit. You will deepen your understanding of probability and explore new ideas within algebra and geometry, like quadratic graphs and circle theorems.

#### **UNIT 3: Calculator-allowed**

This unit has the biggest weighting of all three units, and you can have your calculator by your side. There is lots of data handling and statistics in this unit as well as new geometry concepts such as Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry.



# MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY GCSE (Level 2)

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

UNIT 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy

Higher tier

1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks

Weighting: 30% of the qualification

Foundation tier

1 hour 30 minutes 65 marks

UNIT 2: Non-calculator

Higher tier

1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks

Weighting: 30% of the qualification

Foundation tier

1 hour 30 minutes 65 marks

UNIT 3: Calculator-allowed

Higher tier

2 hours 90 marks

Weighting: 40% of the qualification

Foundation tier

1 hour 45 minutes 75 marks

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- You will develop an understanding of the different areas of mathematics and how they relate to each other.
- You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and be able to use and apply them to a range of real-life contexts.
- You will gain a strong foundation in financial mathematics to prepare you for life and work.

## CAREERS IN MATHEMATICS

A GCSE in Mathematics and Numeracy can lead to a variety of career paths. These include jobs such as:

financial analyst  
computer programmer  
medical scientist  
actuary  
software developer  
economist  
data or research analyst  
accountant  
teacher



## DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE GCSE (Level 2)

GCSE The Sciences (Double Award) is a new qualification that supports learning and progression through the Curriculum for Wales. It allows a strong foundation of knowledge to be developed along with skills and understanding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### What will be studied (course structure)?

There are two units taught per subject which are summarised in the following table:

Year of Study	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Year 10	Unit 1: Basis of Life	Unit 2: Chemical Substances and How They Behave	Unit 3: Forces, Motion and the Universe
Year 11	Unit 4: Continuity of Life	Unit 5: Chemical Bonding, Reactions and Resources	Unit 6: Waves, Electricity and Energy

### Assessment:

The course is assessed through a series of examinations containing a mix of short answer questions, structured questions, extended writing and data response questions with some set in a practical context.

There are 7 examinations in total which are all marked by the WJEC:

- Units 1, 2 and 3 are assessed at the end of year 10 in written external examinations; each paper is 14% of the total marks.
- Units 4, 5 and 6 are assessed at the end of year 11 in written external examinations; each paper is 16% of the total marks.
- The final unit (Unit 7) is called 'Scientific Enquiry' and is assessed as a practical exam worth 10% of the total qualification. Learners are required to complete two enquiries from a choice of three, completed during January or February of year 11.

There are two tiers of entry for each unit of qualification; Higher Tier which awards grades A\*– D and Foundation Tier awards grades C – G. The scientific enquiry is not tiered.

As shown above, learners study all three sciences and receive two GCSE grades which are reported on an eight-point scale from A\*A\*- GG.



## **DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE GCSE (Level 2)**

### **Skills developed:**

- Understand and explain concepts and apply them to real- world contexts.
- Question scientific ideas, evaluate evidence, and use creative thinking to solve problems.
- Design, conduct, and refine investigations using a range of enquiry skills.
- Analyse and interpret data to draw valid conclusions.
- Use mathematical, digital, and communication skills to present and explain scientific ideas effectively.
- Consider moral, ethical, and sustainability issues in science and understand its impact locally and globally.

### **Career links and progression routes:**

GCSE Science can open up a wealth of career paths. These include jobs within the following fields: aerospace and defence, agriculture, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, cosmetics and personal care, education, energy and renewable energy, engineering, environmental science, food and drink production, forensic science, medicine and healthcare, meteorology and climate change, science and research, sport and fitness and telecommunications.

Most jobs have an element of science in them. The transferrable skills developed by studying science are actively sought out by employers.

This qualification builds on subject content which is taught in the lower school and provides a suitable foundation for the study of science at either AS or A level (a minimum of a Grade B must be obtained at GCSE level, obtained by taking a higher tier paper in the subject to be studied further).

### **Additional information:**

All students are expected to provide themselves with basic stationary equipment and it is a requirement of the external examination that all students require a calculator.

This is a new course, commencing in September 2026. New resources are available on the WJEC website and staff will provide more advice on this throughout the course.



## SEPARATE SCIENCE GCSE (Level 2)

The Separate Science route allows learners to study for GCSEs in each of the three sciences and receive a separate grade in each one.

- **GCSE Biology** helps you explore the world of living things, from how your body works to how plants, animals and ecosystems survive and interact. You'll build useful scientific skills and gain a deeper understanding of the natural world around you.
- **GCSE Chemistry** helps you understand the materials that make up our world and how we use them in everyday life. You'll discover how important chemicals are made, and how chemists use their skills to solve real problems facing our planet.
- **GCSE Physics** helps you understand how the world around you works, from forces and energy to waves and electricity. The ideas you learn in physics shape the technology we use every day and are key to solving the big challenges of the future.

Studying Separate Science GCSEs is the start of a journey with a huge range of opportunities and will of course prepare you for study at A level.

### What will be studied (course structure)?

There are two units taught per subject which are summarised in the following table:

Year of Study	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<b>Year 10</b>	Unit 1: Cells, organ systems and ecosystems (comprises 6 topics)	Unit 1: Chemical substances, reactions and essential resources (comprises 6 topics)	Unit 1: Electricity, energy and waves (comprises 9 topics)
<b>Year 11</b>	Unit 2: Variation, Homeostasis and Micro-organisms (comprises 8 topics)	Unit 2: Chemical bonding, application of chemical reactions and organic chemistry (comprises 6 topics)	Unit 6: Waves, Electricity and Energy (comprises 9 topics)

### Assessment:

There are 3 examinations in total for GCSE Biology, GCSE chemistry and GCSE physics which are all marked by the WJEC:

- Unit 1 is a written exam which makes up **45%** of the qualification. It is sat at the end of year 10. This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier
- Unit 2 is a written exam which makes up **45%** of the qualification. It is sat at the end of year 11. This exam can be sat at either foundation tier or at higher tier.
- Unit 3 is a scientific enquiry assessment which makes up **10%** of the qualification. It is completed during January or February of year 11. This assessment is not tiered.



## SEPARATE SCIENCE GCSE (Level 2)

There are two tiers of entry for Unit 1 and Unit 2 of each qualification:

Higher Tier awards grades A\*– D and Foundation Tier awards grades C – G.

### **Skills developed:**

- Knowledge and understanding of key areas of biology, chemistry and physics and their applications.
- Competence and confidence in a variety of practical, and problem-solving skills.
- Scientific enquiry and modelling skills and understanding in laboratory, and work-related contexts.
- Understanding of the relationships between data, evidence and explanations.
- Understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues.
- Communication, mathematical and technological skills in scientific contexts.

### **Career links and progression routes:**

Each Separate Science GCSE can open up a wealth of career paths. These include jobs within the following fields: Medicine and healthcare, science and research, agriculture, sport and fitness, education, pharmacy, the chemical industry, environmental science, engineering, aerospace and defence, energy and renewable energy, meteorology and climate change and telecommunications.

The transferrable skills developed by studying Separate Sciences are actively sought out by employers.

Many students who study Separate Science at GCSE go on to take science subjects at A-level and later at university. This pathway offers a stronger foundation for further study because it allows more time to explore each subject in greater depth. To progress to an A-level science course, students are required to achieve at least a grade B in the relevant GCSE subject.

### **Additional information:**

- All students are expected to provide themselves with basic stationary equipment and it is a requirement of the external examination that all students require a calculator.
- This is a new course, commencing in September 2026 but Units 1 and 2 are the same as the 2016 specification. Unit 3 will look different to be in line with the practical assessment completed by students studying Double Award Science.
- There are many support materials available for this course including textbooks, revision guides and resources on the WJEC website. Staff will provide more advice on this throughout the course.



## WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE GCSE FULL COURSE (Level 2)

### What will be studied (course structure):

There are 3 themes:

- Cynefin
- Identity
- Culture

### Assessment:

<b>Unit 1</b>	Speaking and Listening	<b>(25%)</b>
<b>Unit 2</b>	Oral - Group Task	<b>(25%)</b>
<b>Unit 3</b>	Preparation for the Future. Written Exam 1hr 30 mins	<b>(25%)</b>
<b>Unit 4</b>	Literature and Creative Writing. Written Exam 1hr 30 mins	<b>(25%)</b>

### Skills required for this course:

This is a new course with more emphasis on developing listening and oral skills which will enable learners to be more fluent and confident when speaking Welsh in and outside the classroom.

### Career links and progression routes

Welsh is now a compulsory subject for all students going into Year 10 as it is a growing and dynamic language. It is increasingly required by employers in jobs throughout Wales.

It is spoken by an increasing number of young people, and it offers a whole range of social opportunities. The trend is set to continue as the Welsh Language Act passed by Parliament in 1993 ensures that more and more services are available in both Welsh and English.

Many school leavers, either straight away or after a college course, are likely to find themselves applying for jobs in council or government departments or agencies.

The opportunities are varied – you could find yourself in an office, a hospital, a school, a leisure centre or the police or fire service. They all now offer their services in both Welsh and English – face to face, over the phone and in forms and other literature. This means that there will always be a need for people who can work in both languages.

Many bodies now offer special Welsh courses for their staff, but you will have something extra to offer if you already have a Welsh Language qualification – even if you are not fluent.

Let's face it – it will be much more difficult to learn Welsh after you have left school.

Since 1987 the number of adults who have suddenly realised that they need to be able to speak Welsh has increased every year.

Thirteen thousand adults attend classes every year and nearly 200,000 watch S4C programmes for Welsh learners and follow home study courses. Many wish they'd learnt Welsh at school. This course gives you the opportunity to achieve this.

Pob lwc!



## SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE

### What will be studied (course structure):

Two Challenges and a Project:

- Enterprise & Employability
- Community
- Individual Project

### Assessment:

There are no examinations (100% internal assessment)

- Enterprise & Employability (25%)
- Community (25%)
- Individual Project (50%)

The Enterprise and Community challenges are currently studied in Year 10 and the Individual Project is studied in Year 11.

The 2 challenges (Enterprise & Employability & Community) are group challenges.

The Individual Project is an individual component.

### Skills required for this course:

The skills that are developed are:

- ◇ Numeracy
- ◇ Literacy
- ◇ Digital Literacy
- ◇ Personal Effectiveness
- ◇ Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- ◇ Planning & Organisation
- ◇ Creativity & Innovation

### Career links and progression routes:

The skills developed through the Skills Challenge Certificate are universal in their application to whatever the next steps after Year 11. Sixth Forms, Colleges, Universities and Employers will all want pupils that have developed the skills mentioned.



## **ART & DESIGN GCSE (Level 2)**

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### **What will be studied (course structure):**

This is a two-year course which consists of the following areas of study:

- ◇ Drawing and Painting
- ◇ Printmaking
- ◇ Contextual Studies
- ◇ Collage and Mixed Media
- ◇ Unit 1 – Identity
- ◇ Unit 2 – Self Generated Exam

### **Assessment:**

Certification will take one form:

Art and Design in which the work submitted will be selected from a broad area of study (of at least two of the above).

A candidate successful in the unendorsed examination will have 'Art and Design' on the certificate. The selection of areas of the syllabus for study will depend on the resources of time, equipment and expertise within the department and on the ability, aptitude and career aspirations of the student. The work is marked internally and moderated externally.

Assessment is divided between coursework (60%) and a controlled test of up to 10 hours(40%).

Coursework will consist of 1 unit, total marks 60%. These units follow WJEC guidelines and will follow a specified theme showing candidates' interest, ability and an understanding of contextual references. Alternatively, students may work on one theme but produce two separate final outcomes.

Units can be a collection of related pieces providing evidence of a broad course study.

A sketchbook is mandatory to support the unit. Students will work throughout the two-year course on skills and techniques to produce a coursework portfolio to a high standard of presentation.

The controlled exam will take place in March/April of the examination year. Candidates will have up to 11 weeks to prepare; this is determined by the centre. The total time allowed for the completion of the exam will be up to 10 hours. Candidates will attempt one test only.



## **ART & DESIGN GCSE (Level 2)**

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### **Skills required for this course:**

Candidates will be required to complete homework that will be set as longer tasks requiring a practical element, or short tasks requiring research. Students will be required to write about artists and evaluate and analyse their work. Students must keep a comprehensive sketchbook detailing their research and ideas. Homework is set regularly throughout the course.

Students will require access to a computer and photography is required for homework on a regular basis.

Students are expected to make regular visits to galleries and museums independently and gain a wider understanding of art history and culture.

Students need to be self-motivated, independent learners and be prepared to have a go. Art is time-consuming but equally rewarding.

Students must be hands-on, have an eye for detail and be prepared to explore ideas, concepts and using materials creatively.

### **Career links and progression routes:**

The course leads onto the opportunity to study Art and Design at AS and A level, BTEC level 3 or diploma and subsequent degree courses at college.

Careers can progress into some of the following: architecture, creative writing, art history, curating, museum, library, art gallery, historians, analytics, journalism, fashion, textiles, spatial design, 3D product design, packaging design, interior design, photography, digital media, animation, graphic design, fine art, sculpture, arranging, displaying, floristry, hair and beauty, marketing, teaching and lecturing, advertising, typography.

### **Additional information:**

Extra-curricular sessions are available at lunch and after school.



# **BUSINESS STUDIES**

## **BTEC First Award (Level 1/2)**

### **What will be studied (course structure):**

#### **Unit 1 – Introduction to Business**

This unit introduces you to the language and terminology used in business. You will explore different types of business ownership and how they relate to the size and scale of a business. You will also explore how the type of ownership impacts on the responsibilities of the owners of a business.

#### **Unit 2 – Finance for Business – External**

In this unit, you will explore the types of costs that businesses incur, from the initial start-up costs involved in setting up a business to the ongoing daily costs of running the business. You will then explore the ways in which the sale of products and services generates revenue and learn about profit.

#### **Unit 3 – Enterprise in the Business World – Internal**

This unit introduces you to the language and terminology used in business. It explores what businesses do, trends that affect them, how they operate and the factors that influence their success.

#### **Unit 4 – Promoting a Brand – Internal**

In this unit, you will find out what it takes to build a brand and what a business has to consider when planning brand development. You will investigate the importance of branding to a business, the types of branding that are available and why businesses need to review and update their brands.

### **Assessment:**

- 75% of the course is coursework based
- 25% of the course is exam based

### **Skills required for this course:**

Research skills, the ability to manage time effectively, good computer skills, organisation skills, good attendance, good project management skills.

### **Career links and progression routes:**

The BTEC Business Studies qualification will give you the opportunity to enter employment in the Business sector. This course is also a good foundation for Level 3 Business and then further progression to higher education. Typical careers include employment in a range of different jobs within a range of different businesses including business administration, marketing, business development, business ownership and accountancy.

### **Additional information:**

You do not to have prior experience of studying Business, however you should be interested in local and national business within the UK and Wales. You will enjoy this Business Studies course if you are interested in how businesses work, aspire to work within the business environment or have an interest in owning your own business.



# DRAMA

## GCSE (Level 2)

### What will be studied (course structure):

#### Unit 1

Devising Theatre: Learners will create a performance in the style of a chosen practitioner. This will be accompanied by coursework on their process and research. This is concluded with a written evaluation in exam conditions.

#### Unit 2

Performing Theatre: Learners will be assessed on a scripted performance.

#### Unit 3

Interpreting Theatre: This digital exam will be separated into two sections:

**Section A** will be on the play 'FACE'.

**Section B** will be based on live theatre; therefore, the learners will attend at least one live theatre show during the course.

#### Assessment:

- Unit 1 - 40% (performance and coursework)
- Unit 2- 30% (performance)
- Unit 3- 30% (digital exam)

#### Skills required for this course:

- Working as a team
- Confidence
- Willingness to perform
- Independent working

#### Career links and progression routes:

- Acting
- Teaching
- Theatre Technician
- Multiple roles with the TV, Theatre and Film industry
- Any position which requires communication and public speaking

#### Additional information:

This course is an exciting opportunity for learners who prefer a practical working environment. This course enables you to build in confidence whilst working productively in teams. You will have the ability to work creatively exploring various plays, playwrights and practitioners.



## **GEOGRAPHY GCSE (Level 2)**

### **Why choose GCSE geography?**

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore the physical properties of the earth's surface and the human societies spread across it.

What can be more important for our future?

### **What will I study?**

#### **TITLE/UNIT 1- Our Physical and Human World.**

Here you will study:

- Drainage basin and rivers
- Changing coastlines
- Migration
- Settlement Change

#### **TITLE/UNIT 3 - Our Dynamic and Diverse World.**

- The geography of inequality
- The highs and lows of our weather
- Wild weather
- Continual climate change
- Managing global challenges

### **What skills will I develop?**

Geography is always in the news. You will develop skills to interpret, analyse and evaluate information to make decisions about issues and problems that affect people and the environment.

An ability to collect, process, analyse and understand qualitative and quantitative data and communicate it to a variety of audiences.

Develop a reasoned argument and communicate it to a variety of audiences.

Teamwork and leadership skills.

Studying geography allows you to develop a range of personal skills for life, including time management, dealing with uncertainty, flexibility, creativity, problem solving and self-confidence.



## **GEOGRAPHY GCSE (Level 2)**

### **How will I be assessed?**

**EXAM 1** - Unit 1 Our Physical and Human World.

This is worth 30% of the qualification and is a written exam 1 hour 30 mins.

**EXAM 2** - Unit 3 Our Dynamic and Diverse World.

This is worth 30% of the qualification and is a written exam 1 hour 30 mins.

**Non-Examination Assessments (NEA)** - There are 2 NEA tasks:

**Unit 2 Developing Fieldwork Skills 25% of the qualification.**

You will carry out a field work visit based on a topic such as, change over time or sustainability, and investigate this in a chosen location, writing a fieldwork enquiry that will be submitted to WJEC.

**Unit 4 Sustainable Solutions, 15% of the qualification**

You will receive a resource booklet on a geographical issue and will also carry out background reading on the issue. You will then write a report based on a real-world issue in a decision-making task, reporting how sustainable the various options are likely to be.

### **Careers in geography**

The transferable skills developed by studying geography are actively sought by employers. There is a wealth of jobs that geographers can do spanning almost every sector! Most jobs have an element of geography in them, whether a doctor investigating the spread of disease or an engineer designing products to cope with less demand for plastic.

"The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together." **Barak Obama.**



# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE GCSE (Level 2)

## **What will be studied (course structure):**

### **Unit Information**

Learners will be given opportunities to explore human rights and diversity throughout the three units, including consideration of:

- access to service provision across health and social care, and childcare
- the impact of service provision and delivery on outcomes in relation to health and social care, and childcare
- Black, Asian and minority ethnic perspectives, identity, culture, experiences and contributions.

### **Unit 1 Health and Social Care, and Childcare in Wales in the 21st Century**

Written examination

40% of qualification

80 marks

#### **Overview of unit**

The purpose of this unit is to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- the life cycle and the factors that affect growth and development
- the promotion and maintenance of health and wellbeing and tools that can be used to measure and support this
- core principles and values, underpinned by legislation and service provision within a Welsh context, across the health and social care, and childcare sectors.

#### **This unit will focus on:**

- human growth, development and wellbeing across the life cycle
- factors affecting growth, development and wellbeing across the life cycle
- legislation and service provision across health and social care, and childcare
- core principles, values and approaches when working in health and social care, and childcare
- the promotion and maintenance of health and wellbeing of individuals throughout their life
- indicators and tools to measure and support health and wellbeing
- Welsh language and culture in health and social care, and childcare.

### **Unit 2**

#### **Adult Health and Social Care**

Non-examination Assessment: 12 hours

Marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC

30% of qualification

60 marks

#### **Overview of unit**

The purpose of this unit is to gain knowledge and understanding of:

- individual needs and key conditions and illnesses in adulthood
- how professionals work in adult health and social care to achieve positive outcomes
- the role of health promotion in public health in Wales.

#### **This unit will focus on:**

- types of care to meet individual needs and achieve positive outcomes
- how professionals work to meet needs in adult health and social care
- public health and health promotion in adult health and social care
- key conditions and illnesses in adulthood.



## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE GCSE (Level 2)

### Unit 3 Childcare

Non-examination Assessment: 12 hours

Marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC

30% of qualification

60 marks

### Overview of unit

The purpose of this unit is to gain knowledge and understanding of:

- life stages, expected milestones, and physical, intellectual, language, emotional and social (PILES) development
- key conditions and illnesses of children
- how professionals work, including play and play work, to meet the needs of children in Wales to achieve positive outcomes.

### This unit will focus on:

- life stages, expected milestones, and PILES
- play and play work
- types of care and intervention to meet children's needs and achieve positive outcomes
- how professionals work to meet children's needs
- health promotion and early intervention in childcare
- key conditions and illnesses in children.

### Assessment:

60% of the course is coursework based, 40% of the course is exam based.

**Skills required for this course:** Research skills, managing time effectively, computer skills, organisation skills, good attendance.

**Career links and progression routes:** The GCSE Health and Social Care qualification will give you the opportunity to enter employment in the care sector. This course is also a good foundation for A Level Health and Social Care or other Level 3 Health and Social Care qualifications, then further progression to higher education. Typical careers include employment in a range of different jobs in health care, medical care, teaching and childcare.

**Additional information:** You do not need to have any prior experience in Health and Social Care; however, you should be interested in healthcare and people. You will enjoy this Health and Social Care course if you want to know more about how people grow and develop.



## HISTORY GCSE (Level 2)

### What will be studied (course structure):

The GCSE History course allows you to explore a wide and diverse selection of topics from various historical periods and societies, covering British, European and World History. It is a mix of 2 exams and 2 Non examination assessments.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>% of final grade</u>	<u>Type of assessment</u>
Unit 1:	Wales and the early Tudors	30%	Exam: 1 hour.
Unit 2:	The Black Death	20%	NEA. (Non-examination assessment)
Unit 3:	Changes to US society 1880-1980.	30%	Exam: 1 hour, 30 mins.
Unit 4:	British History (Topics to be confirmed by the exam board, but likely World War I/ II)	20%	NEA. (Non-examination assessment)

### Assessment:

60% exam. 40% NEA (Non examination assessment).

### Skills required for this course:

The GCSE course builds on skills taught in KS3. Students will be required to:

- Judge and evaluate the reliability of evidence & historical interpretations
- Analyse the usefulness of sources
- Prioritise & debate ideas (The ability to see 2 sides of the story)
- Make and support an argument
- Show good historical knowledge

### Career links and progression routes:

Taking GCSE History is a smart move. Employers are always looking for young people who can think critically, and this is a key skill of the historian. It can be used in an incredibly wide range of careers:

- Law
- Travel
- Management
- Journalism
- Publishing
- Education



# HISTORY

## GCSE (Level 2)

### **Additional information:**

#### **Why study GCSE History?**

We all live in a constantly changing and interconnected world. Understanding historical events is crucial in making sense of the current happenings in our world. GCSE History assists us in achieving this by examining significant events and figures from the past and their influence on our present.

#### **What skills will I develop?**

GCSE History is the perfect subject to develop a wide range of transferable skills for employment or further study, including:

- Reaching conclusions and making judgements
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Writing skills
- Research skills
- Independent study skills
- Analysis and evaluation skills
- Making connections

#### **Why study GCSE History at Welshpool High School?**

- The History Department boasts consistent, excellent results.
- History is a highly respected academic subject.
- It is a platform to study A Level History.
- Success in History shows that you have high level thinking skills, can identify and debate with different interpretations and can analyse sources and come to balanced conclusions – all skills valued by employers.
- History helps you understand your place in the world today.
- History GCSE includes interesting stories about the past. If you love a good story, you will enjoy History GCSE.
- It is listed by the Russell Group Universities as a 'Facilitating Subject' at A level. This means that it is one of the non-core subjects (History, Geography, MFL) that is listed as being most commonly required by the top universities to do degrees.



## **HOSPITALITY & CATERING Vocational Award (Level 1/2) (TECHNICAL AWARD)**

This exciting course being offered combines practical cooking activities with knowledge about nutrition, cooking methods, dietary needs, menu planning and the Hospitality industry.

It is ideal for any pupil who wishes to pursue a career in Hospitality and Catering or who has a keen interest in the subject and enjoys cooking. Skills learnt here are transferable to other subjects and situations.

The Level 1/2 Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award) has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study.

**Unit 1** enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety.

**Unit 2** enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.

### **Structure:**

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is made up of two mandatory units:

- **Unit 1** The Hospitality and Catering Industry
- **Unit 2** Hospitality and Catering in Action Learners must complete and pass both units.

### **Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry**

**Written examination:** 1 hour 20 minutes

40% of the qualification

**80 marks**

Questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

### **Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering In Action**

**Controlled assessment:** approximately 12 hours

60% of qualification

**120 marks**

An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available via the WJEC Secure Website.

### **Grading:**

Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction\*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction\*.

***Pupils will be expected to bring ingredients most weeks and wear chef whites for practical lessons.***



## **HOSPITALITY & CATERING Vocational Award (Level 1/2) (TECHNICAL AWARD)**

### **Skills:**

- Skills required for independent learning and development
- A range of generic and transferable skills
- The ability to solve problems
- The skills of project-based research, development and presentation
- The fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment

### **Progression and Career Links:**

Learners completing the Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering may be interested in progressing to Level 3 qualifications in Food Science and Nutrition.

Through the two units, learners will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression. Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering such as:

- Level 1 Certificate in Introduction to Professional Food and Beverage Service Skills
- Level 2 Certificate in Professional Food and Beverage Service Skills
- Level 1 or Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Professional Cookery



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY GCSE ENGINEERING (Level 2)

### **What will be studied (course structure):**

Through studying GCSE Design and Technology students will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world, and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors. The course will offer you the opportunity to solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. The subject is divided into core knowledge and information - which will ensure that you have a broad knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology.

Students will learn about modern manufacturing technologies and the impact these will have on society in the future. They will study the work of a few important designers and engineers. In the Engineering Design option, the students will learn about materials and components used in electronic, electrical and mechanical engineering and how these can be combined to produce complex control systems.

Computer Aided Design and Manufacture will be a significant part of the course and students must be able to design in 2d and 3d on the computer to manufacture any parts.

Electronics problem solving, soldering and computer programming will also play an essential part in any engineering solution that students will create.

### **Assessment:**

**Unit 1** – Digital examination 30% of qualification: 80 marks the on-screen exam will require you to demonstrate and apply your knowledge and understanding of the principles, materials, tools and techniques used in Design and Technology. There will be a mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions on both core knowledge and content that is specific to your chosen pathway.

**Unit 2** – Design Project: Contextual Challenge Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 70% of qualification: 100 marks. This unit is designed to give you the opportunity to solve ‘real life’ problems by designing and making products or systems that respond to your selected target markets’ needs, wants and values. You will be required to identify design opportunities, produce a clear design brief and specification, create innovative solutions, produce quality final prototypes and evaluate their suitability for their intended users’ needs.

The design project will be completed in school during Year 10 and 11.

Grading is A\*- G at GCSE.

### **Skills required for this course:**

Studying Design and Technology will enable you to develop a wide range of transferable skills for further education, work and life:

- Creative and innovative thinking
- Use of imagination and experimentation
- Ability to critique and refine your own ideas
- Knowledge and Understanding of all design and technological activity and influences
- Decision making and communication skills
- Develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes



## **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY GCSE ENGINEERING (Level 2)**

### **Career links and progression routes:**

This qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Design and Technology at A-level which would allow you the opportunity to study a range of courses at university.

There are many careers that come from studying Design and Technology, a few are listed here:

- Architecture
- Technician
- Structural engineer
- Engineering: mechanical, electrical, structural, civil, aerospace, automotive, renewable energy, mechanic, robotics, material development
- Construction: carpenter, joiner, blacksmith, metal fabricator, electrician, plumber, project manager, construction manager, health and safety manager

### **Additional information:**

The course builds on basic skills covered in KS3 Design and Technology. However, there is a great deal of new specialised information. This means that students will be expected to show creativity and innovation in their work. In addition to computer design work, traditional drawing and sketching will be required. The course includes lots of new theory and is not just a making course.



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

### GCSE PRODUCT DESIGN (Level 2)

#### **What will be studied (course structure):**

Through studying GCSE Design and Technology students will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world, and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors. The course will offer you the opportunity to solve real problems by designing and making products.

The subject is divided into core knowledge and information - which will ensure that you have a broad knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology

- The course is made up of two parts:
  - 30% written exam (taken at the end of Year 11).
  - 70% coursework (non-exam assessment) completed in school.
- The coursework includes research, analysing existing products, designing ideas (including CAD work), making a prototype, and evaluating the final product. The practical making element makes up around 20% of the overall qualification.
- There will also be educational visits and guest speakers from industry.

#### **Assessment:**

Unit 1 – Digital examination 30% of qualification: 80 marks the on-screen exam will require you to demonstrate and apply your knowledge and understanding of the principles, materials, tools and techniques used in Design and Technology. There will be a mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions on both core knowledge and content that is specific to your chosen pathway.

Unit 2 – Design Project: Contextual Challenge Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 70% of qualification: 100 marks. This unit is designed to give you the opportunity to solve ‘real life’ problems by designing and making products or systems that respond to your selected target markets’ needs, wants and values. You will be required to identify design opportunities, produce a clear design brief and specification, create innovative solutions, produce quality final prototypes and evaluate their suitability for their intended users’ needs.

- Unit 1 is taken at the end of Year 11 and tests pupils’ knowledge of theory content.
- Unit 2 is a “design and make” project. Pupils will design and develop a product based on a context set by the exam board. This project is completed during Year 11.

Year 10 focuses on building the theory knowledge needed for the final exam.

Grades are awarded from A\*–G (GCSE grading system).

Practical feedback is predominantly given during lessons as work progresses.

#### **Skills required for this course:**

Pupils will apply their knowledge and skills through project-based learning. The course encourages independence and responsibility, helping students develop important workplace skills, including:

- Working from a set design brief
- Meeting deadlines/being organised
- Creative thinking and problem-solving
- Presenting ideas clearly and accurately



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY GCSE PRODUCT DESIGN (Level 2)

### **Career links and progression routes:**

GCSE Design and Technology (Product Design) is particularly suitable for students interested in careers in engineering or design. It provides strong preparation for studying Design and Technology at AS and A level.

### **Possible careers:**

- Product designer
- Industrial designer
- Furniture designer
- Model maker
- User experience (UX/UI) designer
- Ergonomist
- Materials specialist
- Architectural technician/architect.

### **Additional information:**

The course builds on the basic skills learned in Key Stage 3 Design and Technology, but it also introduces a lot of new and more detailed theory. Pupils will need to be willing to learn, think creatively, and develop innovative ideas. As well as computer-aided design (CAD), students will use traditional drawing and sketching skills. It is important to understand that this is not just a practical “making” course — there is a significant amount of theory to learn.

Pupils will study modern manufacturing technologies and explore how these may affect society in the future. They will also learn about influential designers and engineers.

The Product Design option is different from GCSE Engineering.

GCSE Product Design focuses on materials (both traditional and modern), how they are selected, and how they are used in everyday products.

GCSE Engineering places more emphasis on electronics and systems.



# INFORMATION & CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

## BTEC First Award (Level 1/2)

### **What will be studied (course structure):**

#### **Unit 1 - The Online World – External**

How do websites work? How do emails reach your computer? How does the use of computer applications affect your daily life? This unit provides an introduction to the modern online world.

#### **Unit 3 – A Digital Portfolio – Internal**

This unit is your chance to show off! A digital portfolio is an exciting onscreen way to showcase your achievements to potential employers or when applying for a course. It is all about the projects you have created and developed, your use of communication and presentation skills, and your capabilities and potential.

#### **Unit 4 – Creating Digital Animation – Internal**

How are the amazing visual effects in science fiction, fantasy films and computer games made?

This unit provides you with an introduction to tools/techniques and processes that are used commercially when creating computer animation.

#### **Unit 6 – Creating Digital Graphics – Internal**

You will see graphics at work whenever you surf websites, play computer games, go shopping or read a user manual. Graphics are used to communicate messages in every part of our lives, such as advertising, music, fashion, interior design and architecture. It is the job of a graphic designer to create digital graphics that bring colour, information and interest to our lives for a wide range of industries.

### **Assessment:**

- 75% of the course is coursework based
- 25% of the course is exam based

### **Skills required for this course:**

Research skills, effective time management skills, excellent computer skills, design skills, organisation skills, good attendance.

### **Career links and progression routes:**

The BTEC ICT qualification will give you the opportunity to enter employment in the ICT and computer sector. This course is also a good foundation for Level 3 ICT and then further progression to higher education including computing courses. Typical careers include employment in a range of computing jobs whether in computer support roles or in specialist roles such as computer programming, mobile app development and computer games development.

### **Additional information:**

You do not have to have studied ICT in Year 9 to do this course as the course does not specifically focus on elements covered in Key Stage 3. You will like this course if you like designing and creating. You must also like using a computer and be able to use a computer independently.



# INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES - FRENCH/SPANISH GCSE (Level 2)

## What will be studied (course structure):

The new International Languages GCSE is underpinned by the curriculum for Wales framework and has been designed to ensure learners can continue to make progress towards the four purposes whilst studying this qualification.

The context for learning the language is organised under **three broad themes**:

- Language for Leisure and Wellbeing
- Language for Travel
- Language for Study and Work

## ASSESSMENT

### Unit 1: Oracy

NEA

30% of qualification      60 marks

**Three tasks:** Read aloud sentence, roleplay, 1 min presentation followed by a discussion.

### Unit 2: Reading & Writing

NEA

15% of qualification      45 marks

A written response about a short/graphic novel or film script, studied in class (Max 200 words).

### Unit 3: Listening

Written examination: Foundation/Higher tier

20% of qualification      45 marks

Listening tasks.

### Unit 4: Reading & Writing

Written examination:

35% of qualification      70 marks

Reading comprehension tasks, in English, on French/Spanish texts.

Translation task, into English.

Written response, from a choice of 3 questions (Max 120 words).



## INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES - FRENCH/SPANISH GCSE (Level 2)

### Skills required for this course:

- Listening, speaking reading and writing skills.
- Time management.

### Career links and progression routes:

The course provides a suitable foundation for the study of French/Spanish at A level, which in turn can lead to studying languages at university.

Studying a language adds an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV and puts you in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links, or to study and/or work abroad.

Potential career paths: Law, the armed forces, education, travel and tourism, hospitality and catering, journalism, engineering, business and commerce, medicine, translation, interpreting, media.

### Additional information:

French is spoken by over 220 million people in all five continents and France itself has become one of the most powerful countries in the world. Its history is closely related to Great Britain, and its culture (fashion, food and wines) can be found in most British towns.

France is the most visited country in the world. As the closest foreign country to the UK, it is not surprisingly the most popular holiday destination for Britons.

There are more than 400 million native speakers of Spanish. It is the official language of most of Central and South America and is also spoken in places as far away as The Philippines and Equatorial Guinea in Africa. Spanish is the third most spoken language globally and is the second most used language on the internet. Spanish-speaking countries make up a vast Hispanic global economy so Spanish speakers are highly sought after by employers. The influence of Spanish music, food and culture is everywhere – you don't have to look far to find it.

Both GCSE courses build on Language acquired in KS3, however if you are genuinely interested in studying Spanish GCSE but have not studied it previously, then please see Miss O'Sullivan to discuss this further.

As part of its Global futures plan the Welsh Government wants learners to become '**Bilingual plus 1**' i.e. proficient in English, Welsh and at least one Modern Foreign Language.

The Russell Group of leading UK universities states that Modern Foreign Languages are Facilitating Subjects, improving your chances of getting into one of their universities.

The study of a Language will broaden horizons, develop cultural knowledge and understanding and foster transferable skills such as confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity.

Whether it is for your future career prospects or simply for pleasure, studying French and/or Spanish at GCSE will give you a head start later on in life.



## **MUSIC GCSE (Level 2)**

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### **What will be studied (course structure):**

During the GCSE Music course you will learn about music from different times and places through a series of performing, composing and listening activities. Your involvement in these activities will deepen your understanding and awareness of the many different styles of music that are performed and listened to: from Baroque and Classical to Film Music and Popular Music!

All learning activities will be centred both on developing pupils' general performing and composing skills and developing an understanding of how the elements of music are used in a range of music from contrasting style and genres and periods and contexts.

### **Assessment:**

At the end of Year 11 you will be assessed on the three skill areas detailed below.

#### **Unit 1: Performing (32.5%)**

- 4-6 minutes worth of music.

You will perform a minimum of two pieces, which can be a solo or ensemble or combination of both.

#### **Unit 2: Composing (32.5%)**

- 3-6 minutes worth of music.
- 2 compositions.
- A Reflective Log.

You will compose two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by WJEC in Year 11. The second composition is a free composition which allows you to choose any style of music to write for.

#### **Unit 3: Appraising (35%)**

This unit is assessed through a digital listening examination at the end of Year 11. There are eight questions in total, two of which will focus on two set works with the remainder assessing learner's ability to describe how the elements of music have been used in a variety of extracts of music.

### **Skills required for this course:**

The ability to work as a team, manage your time effectively and, above all, a general enthusiasm for creating and performing music and a willingness to learn about new areas and styles.

**Please note: It is not essential to play an instrument or read music to take this course.**



## **MUSIC GCSE (Level 2)**

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### **Career links and progression routes:**

Studying Music at GCSE can lead to a wide range of career opportunities: from choosing a career in education, in the forces or in music therapy to working in one of the many areas open to you in the recording industry and the media.

Whether planning a career in music or not, Music can also help you when considering sixth form and university: the analytical skills gained in addition to those of communication and creativity is useful for all career paths, and Music is often considered as an additional subject to add variety to choices. At university level, Music is often a preferred subject due to its traditional background and the dedication and diversity of skill it shows.

### **Additional information:**

Music GCSE builds on the knowledge and skills gained at KS3 through the way in which it adds depth to pupils' understanding. It continues to stretch their practical skills of performing and composing and ensures it is centred on practical music making.

However, in doing so, it also provides pupils with the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the impact certain styles and structures made on time and place.

Music is an excellent GCSE to choose if you are looking for a subject that contains a good balance of creative practical work and in-depth written work whilst also developing your wider social skills of confidence, communication & leadership.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE (Level 2)

### **What will be studied (course structure):**

The GCSE Physical Education and Health course will enable you to engage in a practical course, designed to encourage you to be inspired, motivated and challenged by the subject. You will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in sports or physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being.

The specification in Physical Education and Health will enable you to make connections between theory and practice so that you are able to apply your understanding of the factors that underpin health and wellbeing, sports and physical activity and use this knowledge to improve performance.

### **UNIT 1: PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH (THEORY)**

- Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Marked by WJEC
- 40% of qualification
- Questions requiring objective response, quick responses, short and extended answers.

Most of the theoretical elements of the course will be integrated into the practical lessons, however there will be time spent in the classroom. The subject content focuses on five key areas:

- Health, wellbeing, sport and physical activity
- Exercise physiology
- Diet and nutrition
- Psychology of sport and physical activity
- Socio-cultural influences on participation and performance.

### **UNIT 2: PERFORMANCE AND PERSONAL TRAINING (PRACTICAL)**

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed by your teacher and externally moderated by a WJEC visiting moderator:

- 60% of qualification

Practical non-examination assessment:

- Perform in one sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Perform in a second sport or physical activity or provide coaching in a sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Plan, implement and evaluate a personal training activity over 8-10 weeks for a sport or physical activity from the approved list.

### **Skills required for this course:**

A keen interest and enjoyment of sport is essential.

A reasonable level of fitness and practical ability, however this can be developed over the course.

Must attend a sports club either in school or at a club outside of school.

Ability to work as part of a team and independently.

Energy, enthusiasm and willingness to learn.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE (Level 2)

### **Career links and progression routes:**

- Sports science
- PE teacher
- Physiotherapist
- Sports coach
- Sports development
- Personal trainer
- Nutritionist
- Physical therapist
- Sports journalist
- Professional sports performer or official

### **Additional information:**

GCSE PE will draw on and enhance knowledge from KS3 and increase understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in physical education.

Through studying GCSE PE you will gain many valuable skills that will help you in other GCSE and A level subjects as well as your future career. Some of the skills that you will develop include:

- Communication skills – working as a team, problem solving, developing clear communication skills that will help you in the workplace. Every employer looks for candidates who are able to communicate well verbally and in writing.
- Social skills – PE is a very social subject, it can build your confidence, and you will learn how to socialise with people in an effective way.
- Analysis and evaluation – PE involves analysing your own and others' performance while looking for ways it could be improved.
- Given opportunities to experience different roles e.g. officiating, coaching, performer.



## PHOTOGRAPHY GCSE (Level 2)

### **What will be studied (course structure):**

This is a two year course which consists of the following areas of study:

- Documentation photography
- Photo-journalism
- Studio photography
- Location photography
- Experimental imagery
- Installation
- Unit 1 – Identity
- Unit 2 – Self Generated Exam

### **Certification will take one form:**

Photography (endorsed) in which the work submitted will be selected from various areas of study.

A candidate successful in the endorsed examination will have 'Art & Design (Photography)' on their certificate.

### **Assessment:**

The work is marked internally and moderated externally. Assessment is divided between coursework (60%) and a controlled test of up to 10 hours (40%).

Coursework will consist of 1 unit, total marks 60%. These units follow WJEC guidelines and will follow a specified theme showing candidates' interest, ability and an understanding of contextual references. Alternatively, students may work on one theme but produce two separate final outcomes.

Units can be a collection of related pieces providing evidence of a broad course study.

A sketchbook is mandatory to support the unit. Students will work throughout the two-year course on skills and techniques to produce a coursework portfolio to a high standard of presentation.

The controlled exam will take place in March/April of the examination year. Candidates will have up to 10 weeks to prepare; this is determined by the centre. The total time allowed for the completion of the exam will be up to 10 hours.

Candidates will attempt one test only.



## **PHOTOGRAPHY GCSE (Level 2)**

### **Skills required for this course:**

**Homework and individual work:** Students will be required to complete homework that will be set as longer tasks requiring a practical element or short tasks requiring research. Students will be required to write about and evaluate their work and the work of other photographers. Students must keep a comprehensive sketch/notebook detailing their research and ideas. Homework is set regularly throughout the course. Students will require access to a computer and photography is required for homework on a regular basis.

### **Career links and progression routes:**

The course leads onto the opportunity to study photography at AS and A level, BTEC level 3 or diploma and subsequent degree courses at college.

It can lead into career paths in marketing, fashion, jewellery, journalism, photo-journalism, graphics, CAD, digital media, game design and animation.



## **(SWEET) PERSONAL GROWTH AND WELLBEING BTEC (Level 1/2)**

### **What will be studied (course structure):**

Sweet is a personal and growth development course delivered in secondary schools and other educational establishments. The Sweet programme is a nationally recognised qualification awarded by Edexcel. The course combines key themes from the PSE Curriculum, with Learners studying the following:

- Physical Health and Wellbeing
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Social Health and Wellbeing
- Sexual Health and Wellbeing
- Personal Identity
- Environmental Awareness
- Financial Awareness
- Personal Progress

### **Assessment:**

SWEET is a fully accredited qualification and nationally recognised, with no examination. Assessment is 100% coursework based. Grading for SWEET is Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\* (equivalent to GCSE A\*-G).

### **Skills required for this course:**

- Learners gain valuable skills in wellbeing, confidence and resilience
- Development of life and employability skills
- Learners need to be organised and manage their time well

### **Career links and progression routes:**

SWEET develops many of the discreet skills required by employers across all sectors, e.g. managing money effectively and working as part of a team.



## KING'S TRUST (LEVEL 1/2)

**The ACHIEVE PROGRAMME supports pupils to develop key life skills, build their confidence and improve their overall attitude to learning.**

Students will have the opportunity to work towards the King's Trust's recognised *Personal Development and Employability Skills Qualification (PDE)*.

### **Course Structure:**

The PDE has a wide range of units which are in line with the new Curriculum for Wales. These units allow for flexibility, choice and pathways to progression and include:

Preparing for/experiencing the World of Work	Career Planning
Teamwork	Sustainability
Project-based Learning	Money Matters
Wellbeing	Enterprise Project
Community Impact	Personal Development
Presentation Skills	Customer Experience

### **Assessment**

Tasks for each assessment are collected as a portfolio of evidence. Assessment is 100% coursework and is awarded at Entry Level 3, Level 1 or (Level 2). The qualification is available in 4 different sizes (Award, Certificate, Extended Certificate and Diploma).

There is also an opportunity to take part in enrichment activities funded by the King's Trust which could include inspirational speakers, outdoor activities and STEM activities (funding dependent).

### **Skills required for this course:**

- Ability to get involved in the decision-making process relating to module choice and content
- Enthusiasm to look for opportunities to develop understanding outside the classroom
- Determination to work as a team, build resilience, manage time and improve personal wellbeing

### **Employability:**

The King's Trust qualification in Personal Development and Employability Skills (PDE) recognises a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors.



## **WORLD VIEWS STUDIES (Level 1/2)**

### **What will be studied (course structure):**

The Agored Cymru Exploring Worldviews qualification supports learners to increase their skills, knowledge and experiences in order to improve their understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews. This ensures that young people become equipped and confident individuals who can live, empathetically and successfully, in a fast changing and diverse society, as responsible and informed citizens.

The qualification supports both current and new educational policy areas of the Welsh Government relating to Religious Education (RE) and Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE). This includes the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education 3 to 19- year-olds in Wales and the statutory guidance, which makes up the Curriculum for Wales Framework.

### **Qualification units include:**

- Understanding worldviews
- Exploring my worldviews
- Ultimate questions
- Medical ethics
- Ethics of sport and leisure
- Worldviews in my community

### **Assessment:**

Worldviews studies is a fully accredited Agored qualification and nationally recognised, with no examination.

Assessment is 100% coursework based. Grading is Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\* (equivalent to GCSE A\*-G).

### **Skills required for this course:**

- Time management
- Critical thinking
- Compassion and empathy

### **Career links and progression routes:**

- Further Education
- Social work
- Community engagement
- Civic/cultural organisations
- Humanities based employment (ethics, sociology, philosophy, etc.)



## **STUDY SKILLS AND STUDENT/TUTOR REVIEWS**

Every student in Years 10 and 11 participates in an Academic Monitoring Programme.

This is designed to inform students of their current performance and their future potential. This system has been developed over a number of years and has been seen to work in two ways:

- Students' levels of aspiration and commitment to work have improved
- Final results have improved.

As part of this programme students meet with their tutor to discuss their academic progress. In some instances, students may also be assigned a staff mentor, often a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

### **Careers**

All students will undertake a module on Careers. This module will be centred on the following topics:

- Work Experience preparation
- A period of work experience
- Careers interviews
- Introduction to the Careers Suite
- Meetings with the Careers Advisor
- The use of careers websites and resources

When considering how option choices will influence career destinations, please refer to <https://careerswales.gov.wales/job-information>

### **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**

Students follow a programme which aims to encourage them to make informed and responsible decisions about their attitudes and behaviour towards a number of issues, including:

- sexual behaviour including contraception + STI's
- peer pressure
- relationships and respect for others