



Northgate School
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Northgate School

Subject summaries 2020/21

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Remember – These are only some of the course that are on offer. If you are interested in studying a different subject which is not listed in this booklet, please talk to Angela or Anna.

AQA English Language GCSE Course overview

What will I study?

GCSE English Language will help you develop a range of skills to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods. It will also develop your written communication enabling you to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

English is an essential subject in the curriculum and will support your progression onto a range of courses and further study.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through two exams.
- Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long
- The total mark for each exam is 80 marks

Paper 1: **Examination worth 50%:** Creative reading and writing.

Paper 2: **Examination worth 50%:** Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

Seneca - <https://www.senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Seneca learning has online tutorials for different areas of the specification. It covers both Language and Literature through short online modules. Seneca is a GREAT resource.

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Key texts

- For English language read as much and as widely as you can. This includes newspapers, articles, journals, literature and poetry.

Key texts for literature

- A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)
- A Taste of Honey (Shelagh Delaney)
- Romeo and Juliet (William Shakespeare)

Top tips for success in English Language

1. Read as much as you can! Read everything!
2. Practice writing to time as frequently as possible
3. Expand your vocabulary. Try to use as many new words as you can in your writing. Reading more will help you to do this.

AQA English Literature GCSE Course overview

What will I study?

GCSE English Literature is taught in combination with GCSE English Language and encourages a world of creativity. Through studying a variety of texts you will explore the characters, plot and language techniques the authors have used and this will help you to develop your skills of analysis, critical thinking and self expression.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through two exams.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel:

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks - 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry:

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks - 60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

Spark notes - <https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/romeojuliet/>
<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/christmascarol/>

Provides a great summary of the plot and characters to be used in conjunction with the text.

British Library online - <https://www.bl.uk/works/a-taste-of-honey>

Provides a snap shot and context details of a vast range of texts.

Seneca - <https://www.senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Seneca learning has online tutorials for different areas of the specification. It covers both Language and Literature through short online modules. Seneca is a GREAT resource.

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Key texts

- For English literature read extensively This includes newspapers, articles, journals, literature and poetry. The poetry theme we will be looking at is Power and conflict.

Key texts for literature

- A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)
- A Taste of Honey (Shelagh Delaney)
- Romeo and Juliet (William Shakespeare)
- AQA Poetry Anthology

Top tips for success in English Literature

1. Read as much as you can!
2. Practice writing to time as frequently as possible
3. Analyse what you read. Look at the language the author uses and consider the impact it has on you as a reader.

AQA Mathematics GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE Mathematics will help you to develop basic skills that are used daily. Skills such as problem solving, analysing data, communication, logical thinking, and attention to detail. The course has a foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a higher tier (grades 4 -9). The topics covered are:

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

Mathematics is an essential subject in the curriculum and will support your progression onto a range of courses and further study.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through three exams.
- Each exam is 1 hour 30 minutes long.
- The total mark for each exam is 80 marks.
- Each paper may contain content from any part of the specification.

Paper 1: **Examination worth 33.3%**: Non – calculator paper.

Paper 2: **Examination worth 33.3%**: Calculator paper.

Paper 3: **Examination worth 33.3%**: Calculator paper.

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics>

AQA has a range of past papers online and has a copy of the full specification.

MathsWatch - <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

MathsWatch has learning videos, worksheets, tests, and assignments that cover all topics for the both foundation and higher tiers.

Top tips for success in Mathematics

4. Practise, practise, practise!
5. Revise at home as much as possible.
6. Use the available resources, including pass papers.
7. Time yourself when completing pass papers.

AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy **Course overview**

What will I study?

In GCSE Combined Science Trilogy, you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Biology will give you a fundamental understanding of living organisms (such as animals, plants and bacteria) from their cellular structure through to the effect they have on our planet. You will look at human and plant tissues, organs and organ systems in more detail, as well as our current understanding of genetics and evolution.

Chemistry will give you a solid grounding in what matter is fundamentally made of, that is, atoms and molecules. You will also learn how and why these atoms and molecules come together to make the millions of substances that make up the universe as we know it.

Physics is concerned with those things we cannot directly touch and see, forces and energy, such as gravity, magnetism and electricity to name just some. You will learn that it is these forces along with energy that underpin what takes place in Chemistry and Biology.

As well as studying the theory, you will also do practical work in all three sciences. The practical work will give you the skills to analyse and evaluate data you have obtained from your own and others experiments. This will give you a fundamental grasp of how science is conducted in the real world.

Science is an essential subject in the curriculum and Combined Science Trilogy will support your progression onto a range of courses and further study.

How will I be assessed?

- GCSE Combined Science Trilogy is a double award. This means you will be awarded two GCSE's.
- You will be assessed through six exams papers, two in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics.
- You can choose to sit either the Foundation or Higher Tier Exam
- Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes long
- The total mark for each paper is 70 marks
- Each of the six papers is worth 16.7% of the total mark.

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/combined-science-trilogy>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Top tips for success in Combined Science Trilogy

1. Do your homework regularly. Make a note of what you are not sure of and ask a classmate or your teacher for help.
2. Revise a little and often. Fifteen minutes of revision each evening will make a huge difference to your final grades.

AQA PSHE Unit Awards Course overview

What will I study?

AQA PSHE Unit Awards will offer you the opportunity to gain practical knowledge and skills to help you live safe, confident, healthy and responsible lives. You will study units across three core themes: health and wellbeing, relationships, and living in the wider world, including economic wellbeing and aspects of careers education. These PSHE Unit Awards will act as a stepping stone towards further education, employment, training or independent living.

How will I be assessed?

All PSHE units are accredited by AQA and will be Level 2 (equivalent to Higher Level GCSE)

- Each completed PSHE unit will initially be assessed by your teacher.
- All completed PSHE units will then be sent to the AQA exam board for moderation.
- AQA will accredit you with a certificate listing all your completed PSHE units.

There is no examination for PSHE.

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme>

AQA explains about the Unit Award Scheme and all the PSHE units can be found here with a description of each one's criteria and evidence required.

GCSE BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3ckjxs>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of great videos on all the PSHE topics being studied.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

BBC Bitesize also offers a range of resources specifically on careers including what to study, taking your exams, planning a career, the world of work, with lots of great tips and advice.

AQA Units (Autumn Term)	AQA Units (Spring Term)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotional Wellbeing• Healthy Lifestyles• Making Informed Career Choices• Applying for Jobs and Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sex and Relationship Education• Personal Finance• Personal Safety

Top tips for success in PSHE

8. When completing the PSHE units, read the criteria for each unit carefully and make sure you provide all the evidence required.
9. Try and include examples based on your own views and experience.
10. Complete all the AQA Unit Award assignments in your own words.

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills ICT Level 1/Level 2

Course overview

What will I study?

The Functional Skills Information and Communication Technology (ICT) qualification is designed to give learners the skills to operate confidently, effectively, and independently in education, work, and everyday life. It has been created in response to employers' perceptions that many learners are not achieving a sufficiently firm grounding in the basics. The Functional Skills ICT qualification will allow you to develop your confidence and ability when using ICT systems and tools. You will learn how to find and select information which, as well as how to develop, present and communication in both everyday life and work.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through one exam lasting two hours. The total mark for the exam is 50 marks. During the exam you will be assessed on your ability to:

- Use ICT
- Find and select information
- Develop, present, and communicate information

Resources that will support my learning

Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-functional-skills/ict.html>

Edexcel has a range of past papers online and has a copy of the full specification.

REVISE Functional Skills ICT

<https://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/secondary/Revision/Functional-Skills-ICT/Revise-Edexcel-Functional-Skills-ICT/Revise-Edexcel-Functional-Skills-ICT.aspx>

Pearson offers revision guides and workbooks suitable for independent study and exam practice.

CGP Functional Skills ICT: Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2 - Study & Test Practice

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/functional-skills/ict/isra3-new-functional-skills-ict-entry-level-3>

CGP offer a study guide providing explanations, examples, tips, and practice questions to help you prepare for your exam.

GCSE BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zdjphbk>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Top tips for success in Functional Skills ICT

11. Familiarise yourself with the specification
12. Practise using Microsoft Office programs such as Word, PowerPoint, and Excel
13. Make the most of the resources provided by your teacher and ICT study guide

AQA Drama GCSE Course overview

What will I study?

Edexcel GCSE Drama encourages creativity, a focus on practical work and develops skills that will support progression to further study of drama and a wide range of other subjects. You will have the opportunity to explore practitioners and performance texts from this century through performance, design and academic study and also to experience live theatre.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through three components.

Component 1: Devising:

- a devised performance created and developed from a free choice of stimulus (15 marks)
- a portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process which can be handwritten/typed/video recording (45 marks)
- 60 marks - 40% of GCSE

Component 2: Performance from Text:

- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text chosen by the school
- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner
- 48 marks – 20% of GCSE

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice:

- written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 60 marks - 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A: Bringing Texts to Life:

This section consists of one question broken into five parts (short and extended responses) based on an unseen extract from a chosen performance text (45 marks)

Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation

This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen (15 marks)

AQA History GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE History will teach you the importance of not just learning history but learning from history. Understanding past events and people and their significance will give you a better insight into the world around you.

You will cover four major studies: Germany 1890-1945, Conflict and tension 1918-1939, Health and the People c1000 to the present day and Elizabethan England c1568-1603.

Studying history will help you develop essential skills for further study.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through two exams

Each exam is 2 hours long

The total mark for each exam is 84 marks

Paper 1: **Examination worth 50%:** Understanding the modern world

Paper 2: **Examination worth 50%:** Shaping the nation

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification.

Seneca - <https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free&Subject=History>

Seneca learning has online tutorials and standardised assessments for all the AQA GCSE history topics being studied. This is a GREAT resource.

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxjk4j6>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies of the AQA GCSE history topics being studied with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Key texts for Paper 1

Hodder Education:

AQA GCSE History: Understanding the modern world

Engaging with AQA GCSE (9–1) History:

Germany, 1890–1945, Democracy and dictatorship

Conflict and tension, 1918–1939

AQA Hodder Workbook on each topic GCSE History Revision Guides (various)

Key texts for Paper 2

Hodder Education:

Shaping the nation

Engaging with AQA GCSE (9–1) History:

Health and the people, c1000 to the present day

Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

AQA Hodder Workbook on each topic GCSE History Revision Guides (various)

Top tips for success in History

1. Take an enquiry-based approach to your learning.
2. Learn important dates/events, the really key ones!
3. Recall information through repeated revision and practice.
4. Apply the information to different contexts (ultimately exam questions).

AQA Religious Studies GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE Religious Studies will help you to understand how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture and will prepare you for further study.

For this course you will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions, chosen from Christianity, Judaism, Islam

You will also study four religious, philosophical and ethical themes chosen from: religion and life; relationships and families; the existence of God and revelation; religion, peace and conflict; religion, crime and punishment; religion, human rights and social justice.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through two exams
- Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long
- The total mark for each exam is 96 marks

Paper 1: **Examination worth 50%:** The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

Paper 2: **Examination worth 50%:** Thematic studies

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification.

Seneca - <https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free&Subject=Religious+Studies>

Seneca learning has online tutorials and standardised assessments for the whole AQA GCSE Religious Studies course. This is a GREAT resource.

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgx47h>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your study of AQA GCSE Religious Studies (the beliefs, teachings and practices) with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Key texts

Oxford University Press:
 GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Christianity
 GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Judaism
 GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Islam
 AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (9-1):
 Christianity and Islam Revision Guide
 AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (9-1):
 Christianity and Judaism Revision Guide

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (9-1)
 Workbook: Christianity and Islam for
 Paper 1
 AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (9-1)
 Workbook: Themes through Christianity
 and Islam for Paper 2
 AQA GCSE Religious Studies A Revision
 Guides (various)

Top tips for success in Religious Studies

1. Learn key terms and vocabulary. Try not to get terms confused between religions!
2. Use quotations to support your writing and know where they come from.
3. You can use the point, evidence, explain technique in this subject.
4. Give your opinion on the themes and if you don't have one, make one up!

AQA Sociology GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE Sociology will help to develop your knowledge and understanding about society. You will study the sociology of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. The course is exciting, interesting and relevant to your lives!

It will also develop your skills of investigation and constructing balanced arguments, as well as strengthen your analytical and research skills, all of which will support your progression onto a range of courses and further study.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through two exams
- Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long
- The total mark for each exam is 100 marks

Paper 1: **Examination worth 50%:** The sociology of families and education

Paper 2: **Examination worth 50%:** The sociology of crime & deviance & social stratification

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

Seneca - <https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free&Subject=Sociology>

Seneca Learning has online tutorials and standardised assessments for the whole AQA GCSE Sociology course. This is a GREAT resource.

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbbw2hv>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your GCSE Sociology studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Key texts

Hodder Education:

AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology, Updated Edition

My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology

AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology Workbook Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology Workbook Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

Top tips for success in Sociology

1. Learn sociological definitions.
2. Make sure you have a good knowledge and understanding of the main theories.
3. Be able to apply the main theories to the four main topic areas.
4. Be aware of different research methods (even though there is no separate question on these!) as you will be asked about them in the four main topics.

Careers websites and resources

<http://www.plotr.co.uk> – Games, and activities which are matched to you to get you thinking about your next steps

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk - The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential and impartial advice. This is supported by qualified careers advisers.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk/ - The official government website to find out about apprenticeships.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> - National database of apprenticeship vacancies.

www.careersbox.co.uk/ - A free online library of careers related film, news and information. Case study films show real people doing real jobs, giving viewers insight into careers across all sectors and helping them to find the right career.

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk> Career pilot offers quick videos and impartial information and advice about options and different types of qualifications.