

GCSE Exam Paper Overview for All Subjects: 2024

Subject	Exam Board	Paper number/title	Time	Topics/Skills (and URL links)	Exam Date
Art	Edexcel	Unit 2. AO1,2&3 Unit 2. AO4.	8-12 weeks. 10 hours.	AO1: Artist research. Completed in your sketchbook as classwork and homework. AO2: Experimentation. (Use of materials) Completed in your sketchbook as classwork and homework. AO3: Recording of ideas. Completed in your sketchbook as classwork and homework. AO4: Final piece. This must link to AO1,2&3. Completed in the art room in exam conditions over 2 days.	
Biology	AQA	Paper 1 Paper 2	1H 45 1H 45	Paper 1 Topics B1-B9. Cell biology, Organisation, Infection, response and disease, bioenergetics. (see Student RAG sheet for further detail) Paper 2 Topics B10-B18. Homeostasis and response, Genetics and reproduction, Ecology. (see Student RAG sheet for further detail)	
Business	Edexcel	Paper 1: Theme 1 Investigating Small business Paper 2: Theme 2 Building a business 1H 45 Topic 2.1 Growing a business Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions	1H 45 1H 45	Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice Topic 1.4 Making the business effective Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business The paper consists of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended writing questions. Section B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper. Topic 2.1 Growing a business Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions Topic 2.4 Making Financial decisions Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions	

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		Topic 2.4 Making Financial decisions Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions		
Chemistry	AQA	Paper 1 Paper 2	1H 45 1H 45	Paper 1 Topics C1-C7. Atoms, bonding and moles, Chemical reactions and energy changes (see Student RAG sheet for further detail) Paper 2 Topics C8-C15. Rates, equilibrium and organic chemistry, analysis and the Earth's resources (see Student RAG sheet for further detail)
Computer Science	OCR	Paper 1: Computer Systems Paper 2: 277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	1H 30 1H 30	1.1 Systems Architecture 1.2 Memory & Storage (including data representation) 1.3 Networks & Topologies 1.4 Network Security 1.5 Systems Software 2.1 Algorithms 2.4 Boolean Logic • 2.1 Algorithms • 2.2 Programming fundamentals • 2.3 Producing robust programs • 2.4 Boolean logic • 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments
Drama	Eduqas	Drama Component 1 Devised Theatre	1 hours 30mins. Total= 40% Teacher assessed in Centre - Exam Board Moderated.	Component 1 Devised Theatre - Practical Performance, Written Portfolio with Evidence 900 Wds & Evaluation typed under controlled conditions

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		Component 2 Scripted Performance	20% Externally Assessed by Exam Board Visit 1H 30 Exam paper	Two Extracts from the same play in groups of 2 - 4 Section A Set Text: Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz Questions 1 – 5: A range of questions based on an extract from the play Topics can include: Rehearsal Techniques, Design and theatre staging, Acting techniques: voice, movement, motivation, Directing a scene. Section B: Live Theatre Review based on one live theatre production you have seen. Choice of questions: One key moment analysing and evaluating any design element, or actor's performance techniques: vocal / movement skills.
English Language	AQA	Paper 1: Creative Reading & Writing	1 hour 45	Q1: list 4 things you learn from a small section of the text Q2: analysing language and methods identifying effects of writer's choices Q3: analysing structural choices and how these choices create effects

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				<p>Q4: responding to a statement about the text and evaluating how far you agree (using skills from Q2 and Q3)</p> <p>Q5: Writing to describe or narrate using a picture as a stimulus. Marks are awarded for what is written, how it is written, and technical accuracy.</p>
		Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	1 hour 45	<p>Q1: true or false statements</p> <p>Q2: summarising the differences or similarities between the two texts with a focus on making inferences about their presentation.</p> <p>Q3: analysing structural choices and how these choices create effects</p> <p>Q4: comparing writers' viewpoints and perspective on a topic and how they present these (focusing on language methods).</p> <p>Q5: Writing from a viewpoint based on a statement given related to the topic of the inserts. This could be an article, letter, or speech. Marks are awarded for what is written, how it is written, and technical accuracy.</p>
English Literature	AQA	Paper 1: Shakespeare & 19 th Century Texts	1 hour 45	<p>Macbeth: characters, plot, themes, key quotations, links to Shakespeare's intentions.</p> <p>A Christmas Carol: characters, plot, themes, key quotations, links to Dickens' intentions.</p>
		Paper 2: Modern Texts & Poetry	2 hours 15	<p>An Inspector Calls: characters, plot, themes, key quotations, links to Priestley's intentions.</p> <p>Power and Conflict poems: knowledge of what happens in each poem, what ideas about power and conflict are presented, how these are presented, quotations, being able to link and compare poems.</p> <p>Unseen Poetry: ability to read a poem that's not been studied, understand what is happening in the poem and what ideas are presented, explore how these ideas are presented.</p>
Food Preparation & Nutrition	AQA	Non-Exam Assessment 1	Sept-Nov Yr11	<p>NEA 1 – Food science investigation: You will be given a topic brief and then form a hypothesis about a food science related issue. You will investigate this and prove/disprove your hypothesis</p>

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		Non-Exam Assessment 2 Paper 1 Food & Nutrition	Nov – April Yr11	based on food trials evidence undertaken by yourself – Worth 15% of GCSE mark NEA2 – You will research, plan, prepare and cook three dishes of your own choice based upon a theme set by the exam board. All of your work will be submitted as an assignment along with photographic evidence of your final dishes. - Worth 35% of GCSE mark Food Exam – You will take a single exam paper which contain short medium and extended answer questions in which you will be required to apply your food & nutrition knowledge learned during the course – Worth 50% of GCSE mark
French & German (for exams in 2025 only)	AQA	Paper 1: Listening	Foundation 35 mins Higher 45 mins	Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language. Section A. questions in English and answers in English Section B. dictation – transcribing short sentences or a short text
		Paper 2: Speaking	7-9 minutes (foundation) 10-12 mins	Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. Part 1: role play - 2 mins Part 2: photo card and discussion – 2 mins Part 3: general conversation – 5 mins max
		Paper 3: Reading (foundation)	45 mins	Understanding and responding to different types of written language. Section A. questions in English and answers in English Section B. Questions and answers in the target language Section C. translation from the target language into English
		Paper 4: Writing (foundation)	1 hour	Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. Question 1. Four sentences in response to a photo. Question 2. Short 40 words passage. Question 3. Translation from English into the target language of 5 sentences. Question 4. Written 90 words passage

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		Paper 1: Listening (Higher)	45 mins	Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language. Section A. questions in English and answers in English Section B. Questions and answers in the target language
		Paper 2: Speaking (Higher)	45 mins (including preparation)	Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. Part 1: role play - 2 mins Part 2: photo card and discussion – 3 mins Part 3: general conversation – 7 mins max
		Paper 3: Reading (higher)	1 hour	Understanding and responding to different types of written language. Section A. questions in English and answers in English Section B. Questions and answers in the target language Section C. translation from the target language into English
		Paper 4: Writing (higher)	1 hour 15 mins	Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. Question 1. structured writing task (approx. 90 words) Question 2. open-ended writing task (approx. 150 words) Question 3. Translation from English into the target language (minimum 50 words).
Geography	AQA	AQA GCSE Geography Specification Paper 1: Section A: Natural Hazards (Q1) Section B: Living World (Q2) Section C: Coastal Landscapes in UK (Q3) AND River Landscapes (Q4) Paper 2:	1 hour 30 minutes	All papers have a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions, 4–6-mark questions. There are 9-mark questions, which typically require an introduction, 3 x PEET/PEACE paragraphs and a conclusion in: Paper 1: Section A (+SPaG marks) & B Paper 2: Section A (+SPaG marks) & B Paper 3: Section A & B (+SPaG marks)

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		<p>Section A: Urban Issues and Challenges (Q1) Section B: Changing Economic World (Q2) Section C: Resource Management (Q3) AND Food (Q4).</p> <p>Paper 3: Section A: Issue Evaluation (All questions) Section B: Fieldwork (All questions)</p>		
Graphic Communication	Edexcel	<p>Unit 2. AO1,2&3 Unit 2. AO4.</p>	<p>8-12 weeks. 10 hours.</p>	<p>AO1: Research (including artist research) and concept ideas. Completed in your portfolio as classwork and homework. AO2: Experimentation and development of ideas (Use of materials) Completed in your portfolios using a range of techniques such as formal drawing, CAD, Rapid prototyping and modelling as classwork and homework. AO3: Recording of ideas. Completed throughout your portfolio clearly showing your thinking as classwork and homework. AO4: Final piece. This must link to AO1,2&3. Completed in the graphics room in exam conditions over 2 days.</p>
Health and Social care	OCR	<p>R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings</p>	<p>Exam 1hour 15 minutes</p> <p>Coursework</p>	<p>TA1: The rights of service users in health and social care settings TA2: The person-centred values TA3; Effective communication in health and social care settings TA4: Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care</p>

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		<p>R033: Supporting individuals throughout life stages</p> <p>R035: Health promotion campaigns</p>	<p>Coursework/presentation</p>	<p>TA1: Supporting individuals through life stages TA2: Supporting individuals through life events TA3/4: Recommending areas of support- application of the person-centred values</p> <p>TA1: Impacts of current health issues on society TA2: Plan a health promotion campaign TA3: Deliver a health promotion campaign TA4: Evaluation of your campaign</p>
History	OCR	<p>British Study: People's Health and Norman Conquest</p>	<p>1:50</p>	<p>People's Health: Q1: 3 X 1 mark question: Apply finger-tip knowledge Q2: 9-mark – Write a clear and organised summary of the topic required Q3: 10-mark – This is an explanation question, pupils need to have a clear, coherent and sustained response to the question supported with evidence. Q4&5: 18 marks – Pupils will be given a statement on our study of People's Health and will be asked “how far do you agree?” Pupils need to provide a balanced answer of four paragraphs. They get to choose whether to answer Q4 or Q5.</p> <p>Norman Conquest: Q6A: 3-mark question – Pupils will be given an interpretation to analyse, they are expected to identify a feature linked to the question and explain. Q6B: Create a line of investigation based around a second-order concept</p>

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				<p>Q7: 12-mark question – Pupils will get two interpretations where they need to analyse why their content, origin and purpose is different.</p> <p>Q8 and Q9: 20 marks – Pupils will be given a statement on our study of the Norman Conquest and will be asked “how far do you agree?” Pupils need to provide a balanced answer of four paragraphs. They get to choose whether to answer Q8 or Q9.</p>
		History Around Us: Kenilworth Castle	1hour	2x 20+5-SPAG mark questions focused on a theme such as turning point. Pupils must apply their contextual knowledge and their understanding of what remains on the site today to answer the question effectively.
		World Study: Making of America and Living Under Nazi Rule	1:50	<p>Making of America:</p> <p>Q1: 3 X 1 mark question: Apply finger-tip knowledge</p> <p>Q2: 9-mark – Write a clear and organised summary of the topic required</p> <p>Q3: 10-mark – This is an explanation question, pupils need to have a clear, coherent and sustained response to the question supported with evidence.</p> <p>Q4 and Q5: 18 marks – Pupils will be given a statement on our study of the Making of America and will be asked “how far do you agree?” Pupils need to provide a balanced answer of four paragraphs. They get to choose whether to answer Q4 or Q5.</p> <p>Living Under Nazi Rule:</p> <p>Q6: 7-mark – Pupils will be given a source/interpretation, and they will have to analyse what it can inform us around a topic, they are expected to apply content, origin and purpose to analyse effectively.</p> <p>Q7: 15-mark – Pupils will be given a set of 3 sources/interpretations, they will have to evaluate how useful they are to a historian studying a specific question. Pupils are expected to write a paragraph on each source/interpretation and then provide a conclusion on how they’re useful as a collective.</p>

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				Q8 and Q9: 18 marks – Pupils will be given a statement on our study of Nazi Germany and will be asked “how far do you agree?” Pupils need to provide a balanced answer of four paragraphs. They get to choose whether to answer Q8 or Q9.
Maths	Edexcel	Paper 1 Non-Calculator	90 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our GCSE in Mathematics is assessed through three equally weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. • Questions are targeted at grades 1–5 at Foundation tier and at grades 4–9 at Higher tier • All papers begin with questions that target lower grades (to provide a gentle start to the papers). • The level of demand gradually increases throughout the paper. • Questions that target upper grades are towards the end of the paper. • Level of demand also increases within some questions. • There is not set topics for each paper, although some number skilled topics will only appear on paper 1.
		Paper 2 Calculator	90 mins	
		Paper 3 Calculator	90 mins	

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PE (GCSE)	OCR	Paper 1: Physical factors affecting performance	1 hour	<p>1.1 Applied anatomy and physiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure and function of the skeletal system • Structure and function of the muscular system • Movement analysis • The cardiovascular and respiratory systems • The effects of exercise on the body systems <p>1.2 Physical training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Components of fitness • Applying the principles of training • Preventing injury in physical activity and training <p>Section A – shorter answer knowledge questions Section B – Longer answer evaluation, analysis and data questions</p>	
		Paper 2: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology	1 hour	<p>2.1 Socio-cultural influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement patterns of different social groups in physical activities and sports • Commercialisation of physical activity and sport • Ethical and socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport <p>2.2 Sports psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of skilful movement and classification of skills • Goal setting • Mental preparation • Types of guidance and feedback <p>2.3 Health, fitness and well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, fitness and well-being • Diet and nutrition <p>Section A – shorter answer knowledge questions</p>	

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				Section B – Longer answer evaluation, analysis and data questions	
Physics	AQA	Paper 1	1H 45	Topics P1-P7 Energy and Energy resources, Electricity and Particles at Work (see Student RAG sheet for further detail)	
		Paper 2	1H 45	Paper 2, Topics P8-P16. Forces in action, Waves electromagnetism and space (see Student RAG sheet for further detail)	
Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics	Eduqas	Paper 1: Religious, Philosophical & Ethical issues in the Modern World	2 hours	<p>Theme 1: Issues of Relationships Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights</p> <p>Questions follow a set structure across each paper: A = definition and an example for 2 marks B = short answer describing facts about a concept, religious belief, person, organisation or theory. C = longer answer. Use a range of sources of wisdom and key words to provide a highly detailed explanation from two different religious groups, their belief or attitude towards a concept. D = extended writing. Discuss a range of issues from religious and non-religious perspectives. Analyse and evaluate different views. Making a judgement on the issue.</p>	
		Paper 2: Christian beliefs and practices	1 hour	<p>Section A = Christian beliefs and teachings Section B = Christian practices</p> <p>Qu structure as above, except ONLY from a Christian perspective. <i>C = longer answer. Use a range of sources of wisdom and key words to provide a highly detailed explanation towards a belief or practice.</i></p>	

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		Paper 3: Hindu beliefs and practices	1 hour	<p>Section A = Hindu beliefs and teachings Section B = Hindu practices</p> <p>Qu structure as above, except ONLY from a Hindu perspective. <i>C = longer answer. Use a range of sources of wisdom and key words to provide a highly detailed explanation towards a belief or practice.</i></p>
Science (double award)	AQA	<p>Paper 1 Biology</p> <p>Paper 2 Biology</p> <p>Paper 1 Chemistry</p> <p>Paper 2 Chemistry</p> <p>Paper 1 Physics</p> <p>Paper 2 Physics</p>	1H 15 (per paper)	<p>Biology Paper 1– B1-B9. Cell biology, Organisation, Infection, response and disease, bioenergetics.</p> <p>Biology Paper 2 – B10-B18. Homeostasis and response, Genetics and reproduction, Ecology.</p> <p>Chemistry Paper 1 Topics C1-C7. Atoms, bonding and moles, Chemical reactions and energy changes</p> <p>Chemistry Paper 2 Topics C8-C15. Rates, equilibrium and organic chemistry, analysis and the Earth’s resources</p> <p>Physics Paper 1 – Topics P1-P7 Energy and Energy resources, Electricity and Particles at Work</p> <p>Physics Paper 2 – P8- P16 Forces in action, Waves and electromagnetism (see Student RAG sheet sent to all pupils)</p>
Sports Science	OCR	R181: Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance.	Coursework 80 marks	<p>TA1: Components of fitness applied in sport</p> <p>TA2: Methods of training and their benefits</p> <p>TA3: Organising and planning a fitness training programme</p> <p>TA4: Evaluate own performance in planning and delivery of a fitness training programme</p>

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Three-Dimensional (3D) Design	Edexcel	Unit 2. AO1,2&3 Unit 2. AO4.	8-12 weeks. 10 hours.	AO1: Research (including artist research) and concept ideas. Completed in your portfolio as classwork and homework. AO2: Experimentation and development of ideas (Use of materials) Completed in your portfolios using a range of techniques such as formal drawing, CAD, Rapid prototyping and modelling as classwork and homework. AO3: Recording of ideas. Completed throughout your portfolio clearly showing your thinking as classwork and homework. AO4: Final piece. This must link to AO1,2&3. Completed in the workshop in exam conditions over 2 days.	
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