

Mathematics

(CORE.Exd)

In Year 10 students will embark on the new IGCSE examination, which will be assessed in January with a resit opportunity in June of Year 11. They will be awarded a grade from 1 up to 9. The examinations are rigorous but students are properly prepared for them. In the January examination students have a very good opportunity to achieve a top grade. If this does not happen, however, then they have the opportunity to resit in June.

Students will be entered for the Higher Tier which is designed for those candidates who are expected to achieve grades 4 to 9.

Candidates who fail to achieve a grade 4 (equivalent to the old C) at the higher level may still be awarded a grade 3 (new D). Only eight students have failed to achieve the equivalent of a 4 or better in the last five years.

Examination

Students will follow the EDEXCEL course. Currently the scheme of assessment consists of two, 2 hour papers each worth 50% of the total marks.

Both of the exam papers are calculator papers. The students have two attempts sitting in January of Year 11 and they have an opportunity to boost their grade by sitting it again in June.

Progression to A Level

About 50% of pupils normally achieve a 7, 8 or 9 (equivalent of A or A*) so pupils wishing to study Mathematics at A Level should aim at achieving at least a '7' grade at GCSE Higher Level. They should also attend as many revision sessions in Year 11 as possible to ensure they have very few gaps in their knowledge. Those students who achieve considerable success in January start the A Level course early.

48%
Grade 9 - 7



Science

(CORE.Exd)

Students start the AQA GCSE Science Trilogy course in the Lent Term while in Year 9. Initially they all study the first modules of the Trilogy course. An internal exam at the end of Year 9 allows a decision to be made about setting for Year 10. All students study Science at KS4 with aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics taught by specialist teachers in all disciplines.

Some of our most scientifically minded students may be offered the opportunity to study some extra aspects of the Science curriculum in order to gain three GCSE grades in the separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Others will study Combined Award Science which covers aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and leads to two GCSE grades. Although the students will be in sets from the start of Year 10 a final decision about which exams the students will sit can be deferred until Year 11 when they have completed their Year 11 mock examinations.

Candidates taking both the Dual Award and the Separate Awards will have the experience necessary to progress to appropriate Level 3 (which include A Level) qualifications.

All courses are offered at both Foundation Level or Higher Level with the new grading system for dual award being from 9,9 - 1,1 with 9,9 being the highest. The Higher Tier awards grades from 9,9 - 4,3 and the Foundation Tier awards grades from 5,5 - 1,1. The double number reflects the fact that Science is a double GCSE. Students taking Separate Sciences would get three separate single grades.

The qualification is linear which means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. There are six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Further information on the course can be found on the AQA website:
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/>



96%

Levels 9 - 4

21%

Level 9

(Separate Awards)

Geography

(OP.SUB)

Geography GCSE follows the AQA syllabus and allows pupils to:

- Develop and extend their knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes at different scales and of social, political and cultural contexts
- Gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the interrelationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts
- Develop and extend their competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and in researching secondary evidence, including digital sources whilst developing their competence in applying sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses
- Apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues; and develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on their geographical knowledge and understanding

The 6 areas of Geography studied throughout the GCSE course will be:

- Locational Knowledge
- Develop competence in Maps, Fieldwork and Geographical Skill
- Place: processes and relationships
- Physical geography: processes and change
- People and environment: processes and interactions
- Human geography: processes and change

43%

Levels 9 - 7

93%

Levels 9 - 4

GCSE Geography has a specific focus on the geography of the UK. However, case studies include local, national and international locations.

Fieldwork in GCSE Geography

There is no controlled assessment/coursework in the new Geography GCSE, however, fieldwork experiences will be assessed in a terminal written examination in the summer of 2021.

Fieldwork is completed during a residential visit in the Trinity term of Year 10 or the Michaelmas term of Year 11 and costs around £200 (inclusive of transport, teaching, accommodation, food and equipment). The opportunity to take part in the bi-annual residential international visit (currently Iceland but possibly Canary Islands in 2020) will remain an optional fieldwork experience. (GCSE students who do not take part in the international visit will not be disadvantaged in any way).

Assessment of the GCSE will be by terminal examination at the end of the two year course in Summer 2021. Students will sit three Geography examinations; one testing fieldwork skills and findings and the remaining two focusing on the taught areas of the course.

Topics covered in GCSE Geography

Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests, Urban Issues & Challenges: Rio de Janeiro and Bristol, Tropical Storms, Extreme Weather in the UK and Climate Change, Energy, Coastal Landscapes in the UK, River Landscapes in the UK, Changing Economic World, Tectonic Hazards, and Challenge of Resource Management.

