

ART

The Art GCSE course has two distinct areas of assessment.

Unit 1: Portfolio of work. This is marked out of 80 and carries 60% of the total mark.

Unit 2: Externally set task. This is also marked out of 80 and is worth 40% of the final mark.

The portfolio unit is the coursework element of the GCSE course. Students will complete a short and experimental, introductory project, followed by two extended coursework units. The deadline for unit 1 will be February 2012. The work on unit 2 may continue into Year 11. A critical studies assignment will also be set; during the summer term, this will be due in September 2012.

BUSINESS STUDIES (AQA)

Students will complete a mock controlled assessment in the summer term of Year 10 after the Unit 1 external examination.

BUSINESS STUDIES and ECONOMICS (Edexcel)

Students will complete a mock controlled assessment in the summer term of Year 10

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The Controlled Assessment is not submitted until Year 11; specific tasks will be set and monitored closely during lessons to help prepare students for important assignments. The research section of the Controlled Assessment will be started in the final term of Year 10. This will be approximately 8 hours of the 45 hours of controlled time.

ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Students will complete four written assessment tasks in Year 10 for the English Language GCSE. These will be set in each of the first four half terms and will be written under controlled conditions. Students will be able to take notes into the assessment with them in order to complete the tasks, but these must be written on the appropriate planning sheets sent by the AQA Examinations Board. Students will be given a set amount of time to complete the tasks and will not be able to work on their responses at home. All the written pieces must be completed under timed conditions in the English lessons. In addition, students will complete three Speaking and Listening tasks during the year. All the Controlled Assessment marks will be submitted to AQA at Easter 2012. The Controlled Assessment and Speaking and Listening tasks are in total worth 40% of the final English Language result at GCSE.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

The first piece of controlled assignment 'Contemporary Issues' will start in September 2011 for completion by Thursday 19th January 2012; the second controlled assignment 'Wider Perspectives' will start in February 2012 for completion by July 2012. Both these assignments will be presented to an external AQA examiner and parents will be invited to come and watch the presentations.

60% of the final mark

FRENCH

During the two year GCSE course students will complete two written controlled assessments and two oral controlled assessments. It is expected that students will complete one written and one oral assessment in Year 10. At the end of Year 11 the written and oral assessments account for 60% of the final mark.

GEOGRAPHY

The controlled assessment task in Geography is based on a fieldwork investigation, the title of which is set by the exam board (AQA). There will be a fieldwork day followed by a maximum of 20 hours of work in school for this task. This will take place between the Summer Term of Year 10 and the Autumn Term of Year 11.

HISTORY

The History Controlled Assessment will be completed in the Autumn Term of Year 11, so there is no Controlled Assessment in Year 10. The Controlled Assessment will look at, and compare, the Home Front in Britain during both World War One and World War Two. Two written responses will be completed in timed, examination conditions in class, the date of which will be set by the individual History teachers. The two responses will be based on the use of source material and the skills of source analysis. The Controlled Assessment is worth 25% of the final GCSE result.

MATHEMATICS

There is no coursework or controlled assessment requirement.

MUSIC

All coursework/controlled assessment takes place in Year 11.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All practical work is coursework. Students must demonstrate two different roles as a performer; leader or official in four different activity areas.

60% of the final mark

Year 10 Leadership Sessions:- softball, athletics, gymnastics, orienteering, multi-skills. All leadership sessions will be confirmed at the start of the academic year. Additional leadership sessions may also be organised to suit the needs of the group.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

There is no coursework or controlled assessment requirement.

SCIENCE

Dates have not yet been finalised but students will be informed before each assessment / examination – as far as possible the assessments will be spread over the whole year.

Students taking “Biology”, “Chemistry” and “Physics” GCSEs (ie Triple Science):

All students will do a piece of coursework in each of their Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons. It is called an Investigative Skills Assignment (ISA) and consists of practical work done in lesson time, followed by a written exam based upon the experiment that has just been completed. This work is usually completed over three consecutive lessons and there is nothing to be done at home. We aim to do one ISA in Year 10 and another in Year 11 for each subject - the mark for the best one in each subject is used and counts for 25% of the GCSE when combined with a small mark (PSA) which is an assessment of the student's practical skills in the laboratory.

NB. These students will take 3 GCSE module exams in June 2011 (B1, C1 and P1).

Students taking “Science” GCSE (ie the GCSE taken in Year 10 by the majority of the dual science students):

All students will do a piece of coursework in each of their Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons. It is called an Investigative Skills Assignment (ISA) and consists of practical work done in lesson time, followed by a written exam based upon the experiment that has just been completed. This work is usually completed over three consecutive lessons and there is nothing to be done at home. The mark for the best one is used and counts for 25% of the Science GCSE when combined with a small mark (PSA) which is an assessment of the student's practical skills in the laboratory.

NB. These students will take 3 GCSE module exams in June 2011 (B1, C1 and P1). This means that all the work for the “Science” GCSE will be completed by the end of Year 10.

SPANISH

During the two year GCSE course students will complete two written controlled assessments and two oral controlled assessments. It is expected that students will complete one written and one oral assessments in Year 10. At the end of Year 11 the written and oral assessments account for 60% of the final mark.