

Spanish
Combined Science
ENGLISH LANGUAGE *Music*
Mathematics **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**
GEOGRAPHY **Physical Education**
German **ETHICS & VALUES**
Drama *English Literature*
Computer Science
Triple Science
Business
GEOLOGY
HISTORY
French
Art



GCSE CHOICES 2025

TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dear Year 9

As you enter your final months within the Lower School at TGGs, I just wanted to wish you all every success in your preparations for GCSE next year. In choosing the subjects that you wish to focus on, please take care to take on board the key messages of Mr Neighbour and myself in our presentation, namely that when selecting your options consider;

- enjoyment;
- your interests;
- the strengths you have;
- those subjects in which you are confident and, if known;
- possibly your future career.

Remember too that in the vast majority of cases, the decisions which you make at this stage in terms of which specific subjects you take, will not have a significant bearing on your future careers. This is because the school's option system makes sure that you take a range of subjects which will keep your options open. It is however really important that you choose subjects that you really like and feel you can do well in; so that you have every chance of getting great grades eventually!

Finally, always bear in mind that the decisions you take should be your decisions – not those of your best friend! Choose your pathway for your life – as the famous American poet Robert Frost said;

“Two roads diverged in the wood and I ... I took the road less travelled by ... And that, has made all the difference”

Good luck!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Baker', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mr Baker
Assistant Headteacher

Dear Year 9s and Parents,

You have access to an independent careers and university adviser working with TGGs students. In school they meet with students individually, mainly in years 11, 12 and 13, to discuss plans for after GCSE and A levels.

When it comes to picking your GCSEs, the subjects that are compulsory in TGGs keep open almost all careers, so whatever you pick, it is unlikely that you will rule out options for later in life. However, at A level, some subjects require/prefer you to have taken the subject at GCSE, so it is worth thinking ahead to possible 6th form choices. It also follows that some degrees and careers prefer certain A levels, so you can see that it's good to start thinking now about your future directions.

The adviser will be available for the Year 9 parents' /options evening and would welcome the chance to meet you and your parents to discuss your choices via the TGGs Parents Evening platform. You can also request an individual careers interview in school, via Teams, for a more detailed discussion. Please email Mr Neighbour on gneighbour@tggacademy.org if you would like to book an appointment.

Good luck with your progress through year 10 and 11, and I look forward to meeting you as you make your decisions about life after TGGs.

Gordon Neighbour

Careers Leader

Independent, unbiased, confidential

TOP TIPS FROM YOUR HEAD OF YEAR

Choosing your GCSE subjects can seem daunting at first, but here are some useful tips and considerations to help you decide:

- Do you have enough interest in the subject to sustain two more years' study?
- Have a look at the curriculum overview for subjects you're unsure of - is the content motivating for you?
- Look at your predicted grades for each subject if you really can't make a decision and choose the stronger of the two.
- If you want to know what a subject is really like, talk to our Year 10 and 11 students who are currently taking that subject.
- Finally, if you have a hobby outside school, such as drama, playing a musical instrument, or sport, then why not consider making your hobby a GCSE subject; engagement with a subject is half the battle!

If you're still stuck, please come and see me and we can talk through your options together.



Miss McIlwrath
Head of Year 9

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been produced to help both pupils and parents understand the Year 10 Options programme at Torquay Girls' Grammar school. Decisions will be made this term about the subjects to be studied in Years 10 and 11 to GCSE standard.

At this school we aim to give you impartial, unbiased advice to help you make realistic decisions about education, training and work.

Our overriding philosophy is that the subjects you choose for GCSE should be chosen because you enjoy them! **Remember**, there is **no "must do"** combination of subjects at GCSE for any career routes. Given the way that options are set up at TGGs it ensures that you end Year 11 with a broad and balanced set of subjects - if you do know what you want to do double check the entry requirements.... It is therefore impossible to make the wrong choice!

It may seem rather soon to be thinking about a career or university choice, but you must start to consider your ideas because certain options may be more difficult to access to you if you do not have the correct subjects at GCSE level – therefore do look at the A level requirements page to reassure yourself of your choices.

Your reason for choosing subjects should be because:

- you enjoy them;
- you are good at them.

It is important not to let the choice of your friends or your personal feelings towards teachers influence you.

All students moving into Year 10 in September 2025 will take **9 GCSE subjects** as follows;

Mathematics

English Language

English Literature

Double Science

A Humanity: *History or Geography or Religious Studies*

A Language: *French or German*

Plus

Two other options subjects from;

*Art & Design: Fine Art, Art & Design: Business Studies, Computer Science, Drama, History, Geography, German, French, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Spanish and Triple Science**

Students may also take a **fast-track** GCSE in *Geology* which is taught in **twilight** sessions.

All students also do three non-GCSE subjects which are *Ethics & Values, PE and PSHE*.

So, at this point you need to choose;

- Which Language?
- Which Humanities subject?
- Which two options?

Frequently asked questions include:

Can I study two languages? – **YES**

Can I study History, Geography and Religious Studies together? – **YES**

Is double or triple science best for me? – Study the A level requirements page and also see the guidance in the science section.

We hope that you will find this booklet useful and advise you to use it as part of the broader guidance programme designed for you this year.

Good luck!



G. Neighbour FGS
Careers Leader
January 2024

MAKING YOUR CHOICE

There are several questions that you need to ask yourself...

1. **What subjects do you feel you are good at?** Look at the feedback you have had in mentoring sessions and more especially on parents' evenings. Consult subject staff (but be mindful that it is also useful to balance their guidance with impartial views). In particular, try to attend the parents' evening with your parents. Do not choose a subject which is too difficult for you.

2. **Which subjects do you enjoy?** Read through the subject descriptions in this booklet - consider the skills and knowledge that you will gain. Consider the subjects you have studied this year - which did you enjoy the most? For example, when sitting down to work in a particular lesson, or when completing homework at home, you might feel more motivated than you do with other subjects

3. **Which subjects do you need?** If you do feel certain about the job you are aiming for it is important to check that you are taking the correct GCSE subjects. If you do not have a specific career interest, and even if you do, it is best to keep your options open; often by the end of the Year 11 you may well have changed your mind - so it is good to keep a 'balance' of subjects.

4. **Am I doing well in this subject?** For example, you might find that you consistently get good feedback from your teacher in this subject and have consistently met or exceeded your expectations.

5. **Do you have an interest in this subject beyond the classroom?** For example, you might attend enrichment opportunities in this subject area. You might also have represented your house, or the school, in something relevant to this subject.

6. **Does my preferred way of working fit with the demands of this subject?** For example, if you like writing essays and are confident drafting and re-drafting pieces of work, then more literacy-based subjects are possibly well suited to you. If you like completing practical work then Science is probably well suited to you. If you are happy performing in front of your peers, then drama or music are potentially a good fit.

7. **Do I want to go to University?** If so, then making sure you have a broad range of subjects that feed into lots of A-Levels and degree subjects is probably advisable.

You are now embarking on one of the most important decisions of your educational career. Making sure you pick the Key Stage 4 courses that are right for you will make a big difference to the next two years and beyond. Getting it right will help you to finish Year 11 with a great set of GCSE results; getting it wrong will put that at risk. So, it's important, and you should take some time to make the correct decision for you.

Remember at GCSE level there are **no courses** that you **MUST** study for a particular career and that a less well-balanced good set of results will be much better than a superbly balanced set of low grades at GCSE. Keeping a balance is a useful point to start from, though.

I am very proud of every subject area and teacher here at TGGS and have great confidence in our staff. I know whichever courses you choose, you will receive the highest quality teaching and opportunities that rival any in other schools nationally. You will be supported at every stage by your Form Tutor, Head of Year and all staff. However, you also need to know that being successful at KS4 demands maturity, and that maturity begins now by making sure you choose your courses wisely.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER

Key Stage 4 begins for all TGGs students at the start of Year 10. Some 'core' subject areas may begin working towards the GCSE course before this (for example English, Mathematics and Science) in order to maximise the amount of lesson time available. However, most subjects will begin in September 2024. Students will work on their KS4 courses until the end of Year 11. Remember that most GCSE courses are now 'linear', meaning they are assessed in the main at the end of Year 11.

Coursework has gone in most subjects, and where it remains, its weighting in the overall subject grade has been heavily reduced. Most GCSE courses have also had their content and specifications revised and it is generally accepted that the new 'strengthened' courses are much more demanding and require much more of students than they have in previous years.

VALUE OF SUBJECTS FOR A CAREER

Sometimes it is assumed that subjects are only useful if they relate directly to a specific career. Indeed, some advice you will receive from people still assumes this. While many careers, particularly on the science side, do require qualifications in certain subjects, **all subjects** have considerable educational value and are qualifications for a career.

Employers will recognise potential for training by the different skills shown in examination performance. Thus, all education is a preparation for further training.

Where will you be heading?

Levels of entry to work can be distinguished in most careers. It is a good idea to know vaguely to which standard you are heading, although the examples given are only a broad outline.

Technologist/Managerial Level:	Degrees, HND or professional qualifications needed. Work may be managerial or involve research or development.
Technician Level:	Those holding responsible skilled posts involving a high degree of scientific, technical or other specialised knowledge.
Craftsman Level:	Skilled practical work in various fields – sometimes includes training for a craft apprenticeship lasting up to five years.
Operative Level:	Work involves specific operations in industry, office, retail or other areas of work. Training can vary in length.

LOOKING AHEAD

You will not be considering a college or university place for a long while yet, but it is important to understand that the choices you make now have a bearing on your openings later on. At the end of Year 11 you may:

- seek employment (with training);
- seek Apprenticeships;
- enter 6th form to undertake A-levels / AQA Baccalaureate;
- enter college of further education;
- follow vocational courses, T-Levels BTEC or National Vocational diplomas

At the end of Years 12 and 13 you may enter:

- university;
- college of higher education;
- college of further education;
- professional qualifications;
- apprenticeships;
- seek employment;
- take a year off (often called a "Gap Year").

At whichever stage you choose - what qualifications will be needed? If you are unsure about what you will do in future - keep your options open by choosing a sensibly balanced choice of subjects.

WHERE YOU CAN OBTAIN HELP & USEFUL DATES

1. Ask Careers Staff – Mr G. Neighbour (Careers and Enterprise Centre).
2. Ask the Qualified Careers Personal Adviser.
3. Ask form teachers, Head of Year and subject teachers.
4. Consult relevant websites in the Careers folder in *SharePoint*.
5. Use the Careers Library or 'ICOULD, 'UNIFROG' and other resources on the Internet, including university webpages.
6. Consult the Careers Notice Boards in the Roberts Building.
7. Attend Careers Options preparation session: **Thursday 9th January 2025**
8. Attend Parents Evening online **16.00-1900 hrs Thursday 27th February (B,C & J)**
16.00-1900 hrs Thursday 6th March (9R,W)
9. Attend Options Evening for parent/students **17.15-19.00 hrs Thursday 23rd January**
10. Attend the careers talks, workshops and presentations that are advertised through the student notices.
11. For more information about the TGGs curriculum visit www.tggsacademy.org/curriculum
12. Consult the School Careers Newsletter at www.tggsacademy.org/careers_news
13. **Option choices to be submitted by 3.30pm on Friday 7th March 2025**

ALWAYS ASK IF YOU ARE IN DOUBT

Also consult university and colleges of further and higher education prospectuses in the careers room and in the careers annex outside the S1.

Read carefully the information regarding A level choice and the two examples provided for applying for university to allow you to make the choices that are suited to you; free of bias and made because they suit you!

Also look at the information regarding skills shortage areas.

Some of you may well have questions that require a more detailed response than may be possible on the Parents Evening regarding subject choices. The Heads of Department for the various subject areas will be able to answer any questions regarding subject specific information. Please, in the first instance, raise any queries you have during your parents evening consultation, but if you need further information after that, please contact the Heads of Department.

Subject	Head of Department	Email
Art & Design: Fine Art	Mr S Smedley	ssmedley@tggsacademy.org
Business	Mrs J Potter	jpotter@tggsacademy.org
Computer Science	Mr G Neighbour	gneighbour@tggsacademy.org
Drama	Miss J Abbott	jabbott@tggsacademy.org
Geography	Mrs N Gardner	ngardner@tggsacademy.org
Geology	Mr G Neighbour	gneighbour@tggsacademy.org
History	Ms R North	rnorth@tggsacademy.org
Languages	Ms H Brown	hbrown@tggsacademy.org
Music	Mrs N Hagland	nhagland@tggsacademy.org
Physical Education	Mrs S Greaves Miss C Mcilwrath	sgreaves@tggsacademy.org cmcilwrath@tggsacademy.org
Religious Studies	Mrs D Bloomfield	dbloomfield@tggsacademy.org
Triple Science – Biology Triple Science – Chemistry Triple Science - Physics	Mrs K Bumby Dr T Sweet Mr J Castillo	kbumby@tggsacademy.org tsweet@tggsacademy.org jcastillo@tggsacademy.org

If you have any specific queries regarding the Options process, please feel free to email me – gneighbour@tggsacademy.org

Mr G A Neighbour FGS

Careers Leader

CAREERS BACKGROUND

Understanding Shortage Areas

The Government publishes a list annually that details the professions that are in high demand in the UK. That is to say that there are not enough applicants for the positions that are available – therefore looking for a career in one of these sectors can be very rewarding. For the current year, the tables below show the **in-demand** sectors:

Job types included on the shortage occupations list	Areas of the UK where there is a shortage
Health services and public health managers and directors – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Chemical scientists – only jobs in the nuclear industry	Scotland only
Biological scientists and biochemists – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Physical scientists – only the following jobs in the construction-related ground engineering industry: engineering geologist hydrogeologist geophysicist	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Physical scientists – only the following jobs in the oil and gas industry: geophysicist geoscientist geologist geochemist technical services manager in the decommissioning and waste areas of the nuclear industry senior resource geologist and staff geologist in the mining sector	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Social and humanities scientists – only archaeologists	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Civil engineers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Mechanical engineers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Electrical engineers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Electronics engineers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Design and development engineers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland

Job types included on the shortage occupations list	Areas of the UK where there is a shortage
Production and process engineers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Engineering professionals not elsewhere classified – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
IT business analysts, architects and systems designers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Programmers and software development professionals – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Web design and development professionals – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Information technology and communications professionals not elsewhere classified – only cyber security specialists	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Veterinarians – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Actuaries, economists and statisticians – only bio-informaticians and informaticians	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Architects – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Quality control and planning engineers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Laboratory technicians – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Artists – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Dancers and choreographers – only skilled classical ballet dancers or skilled contemporary dancers who meet the standard required by internationally recognised UK ballet or contemporary dance companies. The company must be endorsed as being internationally recognised by a UK industry body such as the Arts Councils (of England, Scotland or Wales).	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Musicians – only skilled orchestral musicians who are leaders, principals, sub-principals or numbered string positions, and who meet the standard required by internationally recognised UK orchestras. The orchestra must a full member of the Association of British Orchestras.	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Arts officers, producers and directors – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Graphic designers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland

Job types included on the shortage occupations list	Areas of the UK where there is a shortage
Agriculture and fishing trades not elsewhere classified – only jobs in the fishing industry	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Welding trades – only high integrity pipe welders, where the job requires 3 or more years’ related on-the-job experience. This experience must not have been gained through illegal working.	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Bricklayers and masons – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Roofers, roof tilers and slaters – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Carpenters and joiners – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Construction and building trades not elsewhere classified – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Plasterers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Care workers and home carers - private households or individuals (other than sole traders sponsoring someone to work for their business) cannot sponsor Skilled Worker applicants	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Senior care workers – all jobs	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
Fishing and other elementary agriculture occupations not elsewhere classified – only deckhands on large fishing vessel (9 metres and above). The job must require 3 or more years’ full-time experience. This experience must not have been gained through illegal working.	England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland

BEYOND OPTIONS - INFORMATION REGARDING A LEVEL CHOICES

If you plan to stay on at TGGS, our students take three A Level subjects chosen from an extensive range. Students can also choose to also take an AS level in a creative subject, alongside their three A levels, in: Art & Design, Drama & Theatre Studies, Media Studies, or Music.

We also enable a student's request to take a fourth A level as long as it fits within their timetable and the subject classroom size isn't exceeded.

Requirements for A Levels at TGGS

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	
Art	6 or above in GCSE Art.	
Business	6 or above in Maths and English Language. GCSE Business is not a requirement but, if taken, a 6 is required.	
Computer Science	No additional requirements.	
Drama and Theatre Studies	6 or above in English Language and English Literature. 6 or above in Drama. <i>Students who have not studied GCSE Drama will be considered on an individual basis but will be expected to perform a short monologue.</i>	
Economics	6 or above in Maths and English Language. GCSE Business or Economics would be useful but is not a requirement. <i>If the GCSE has been taken, a 6 is required.</i>	
English Literature	6 or above in English Language and English Literature.	
French	7 or above in French. <i>If a student achieves a 6, but still wants to take the subject, then the Head of Department will assess that candidate's suitability.</i>	
Geography	6 or above in Maths and English Language. 6 or above in Geography.	
Geology	<i>Separate Science GCSE students: 6 or above in at least two sciences. Double Award Science GCSE students: 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science, and 6 or above in Maths</i>	
German	7 or above in German. <i>If a student achieves a 6, but still wants to take the subject, then the Head of Department will assess that candidate's suitability.</i>	
History	6 or above in History or 6 or above in English Language or Literature GCSE.	
Maths	7 or above in Maths. 6 or above in core and additional science or at least a 6 in two out of three separate sciences.	
Further Maths	8 or above in Maths. 6 or above in core and additional science or at least a 6 in two out of three separate sciences.	
Media Studies	6 or above in English Language and English Literature.	
Music	7 and grade 5 on any instrument/voice OR 6 and grade 6 on any instrument/voice . <i>In exceptional circumstances it may be possible for advanced performers without GCSE, but with grade 5 theory, to join the course after interview with Head of Department.</i>	
Physical Education	A strong practical background is required as well as 6 or above in GCSE Science. GCSE PE is not a requirement but if taken a 6 is required.	
Politics	6 or above in English Language.	
Psychology	6 or above in Maths. 6 or above in English Language or English Literature. 6 or above in Combined Science. Or single Science 6 or above in any two Sciences	
Religious Studies	6 in Religious Studies and 6 in English Language. <i>If RS not taken at GCSE, at least a Grade 6 in History or Geography</i>	
Sciences: Biology	6 or above in Maths.	<i>Separate Science GCSE students 7 or above in chosen A Level science and 6 or above in other two sciences OR Double Award Science GCSE students 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science, with an overall 7 in chosen science and 6 or above in the other two science components.</i>
Chemistry	7 or above in Maths.	
Physics	7 or above in Maths.	
Sociology	6 or above in English Language or Literature. <i>You will not need to have studied Sociology at GCSE level, but you will need to enjoy reading and have an interest in human behaviour and society</i>	
Spanish	7 or above in Spanish. <i>If a student achieves a 6, but still wants to take the subject, then the Head of Department will assess that candidate's suitability.</i>	

The information detailed above is taken from the current 6th Form Information booklet and is accurate at the time of writing.

BEYOND OPTIONS – EXAMPLE OF APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITY

There are many urban myths that to access certain courses at university, you need to have chosen certain combinations of GCSE subjects **OR** have specific combinations of subjects at A level. Using two examples below, you will be able to see that this is not always the case.

Studying Law at University

There are many misunderstandings about studying Law at university – that there are certain subjects that should be studied in order to study the subject. The information below will clarify the situation.

If you've decided law is the university course for you, you're over the first decision hurdle. You'll be well aware that you'll be expected to earn your place at your university of choice by meeting their specified law degree entry requirements. Law, particularly the LLB, is a popular choice for many prospective university students. There were 127,640 law applications via UCAS in the 2018-19 application session.


Owing to this amount of competition and the challenging nature of the subject, universities are keen to attract the top students to their courses. This can only mean one thing: high entry requirements. Some universities have stated they have a list of "preferred" subjects, though this will not necessarily be a determining factor in their final decision.

Ultimately the subjects you choose should teach you skills that will be valuable in your law degree and the rest of your legal career. For example, a law degree is going to involve A LOT of essay writing, so it's a good idea to take at least one subject that will develop these skills. Universities also recommend that a good spread of subjects is appealing, so a good mix will be wise. General Studies and Critical Thinking are NOT usually counted as one of these main A-Levels. They can definitely look good alongside three or four strong A-Level results, but most universities will now not accept either of these subjects as a part of their entry requirements.

Key Points

- For law you **do not** have to do specific subjects for **MOST** law degrees
- Some ask for one essay based subject e.g. English.
- You need good analytical skills – these are present in all GCSE and A Level subjects - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessment-objectives-ancient-languages-geography-and-mfl/gcse-as-and-a-level-assessment-objectives>
- The key thing is that good grades are essential – do what you are best at and what you enjoy.

Example from the University of Birmingham:

A LEVEL AAA	IB 32	BTEC  BTEC options considered
International Requirements		
<input type="text" value="Select country"/>		
Typical offer: AAA		
General Studies: General Studies is not accepted but a good performance may be taken into account if you fail to meet the conditions of the offer.		
Preferred subjects: We prefer applications from students offering at least two A levels from our list of preferred subjects:		
Accounting, Ancient History, Anthropology, Archaeology, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computing, Drama and Theatre Studies, Economics, English Language, English Language and Literature, English Literature, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Further Mathematics, Geography, Geology, Government and Politics, History, History of Art, Human Biology, Law, Mathematics, Medieval History, Modern or Classical Languages, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Statistics, World Development		

Studying medicine at university

If you are going to choose to study medicine, then you do need to consider carefully your subject choice at A level. Typically, at GCSE you will be expected to have gained good grades in all of your subjects (grade 6 to 9), and you typically must have gained a grade 5 or above (minimum in Maths, English Language) and grade 6 or above in your sciences – see the following website:

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/choosing-a-medical-school/gcse-requirements-for-medicine/>

GCSE grades are definitely important for Medicine, but there is no hard and fast rule categorising the grades as good or bad. Depending on where you apply, your GCSE grades will have a varying level of impact on whether you'll be offered a place.

At A level, the answer is pretty straightforward - Chemistry and Biology. These two subjects are required by almost all UK universities to study Medicine, so in order to keep your options open, these two are the way to go! Your Medicine degree at university will be packed with biology and chemistry, so it's crucial you have a genuine interest in how science works, the human anatomy, calculation and chemicals!

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/choosing-a-medical-school/what-a-levels-do-you-need-to-be-a-doctor/>

With regard to other A levels, this is where the universities offering medicine differ – but most ask that the third A-Level is an academic one, so have a think about which other subjects you enjoy at the moment. Often students have their third choice as either Maths or Physics – but this is a matter of personal choice.

Key Points

- For Medicine you **will** need to study Chemistry **and** Biology for most universities.
- Your third choice needs to be an academic subject.
- The key thing is that good grades are essential – do what you are best at and what you enjoy.

Example from the University of Birmingham:

<p>A LEVEL</p> <p>AAA</p> <p>With predicted AAB including Biology and Chemistry. 2019 entry: A*AA with predicted AAA.</p>	<p>IB</p> <p>6, 6, 6</p> <p>Minimum of 32 points must be attained at Higher Level from Chemistry and Biology and one other approved subject.</p>	<p>BTEC</p> <p>X</p> <p>BTEC qualifications not accepted for this course</p>
<p>International Requirements</p> <p>Select country ▼</p>		
<p>Number of A levels required: 3</p> <p>Typical offer: AAA</p> <p>General Studies: Not accepted. Critical Thinking is also not accepted. Other non-standard subjects may not be accepted. Please contact us for advice.</p>		

CORE SUBJECTS

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

There are two units for English Language. Both are examined at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes 50%

Explorations in creative reading and writing

Section A

Analysis of unseen 20th Century fiction extract

Section B

Creative writing (choice of 2 tasks linked to theme)

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes 50%

Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Section A

Analysis and comparison of 2 unseen non-fiction texts from 19th and 20th Century

Section B

Transactional writing task (form and purpose specified).

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Students study a range of poetry and prose texts and a Shakespeare play. Units are assessed by two examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 mins; 40%

Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Section A

Shakespeare text - *Macbeth*

Section B

19th Century British novel – Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

Paper 2: 2 hours 15 mins 60%

Modern Texts and Poetry

Section A

Modern Drama – Winsome Pinnock's *Leave Taking*

Section B

Poetry Anthology – AQA Power and Conflict Anthology
Unseen Contemporary poems – Analysis and comparison

Find out more about English at TGGs [here](#).

MATHEMATICS

Students will be following EDEXCEL GCSE in Mathematics (1MA1) syllabus. They will be entered for the Higher tier. The Higher tier enables them to achieve grades 9 to 4 (where 9 is the highest grade) and tests the whole of the National Curriculum including Further Material, functional skills and quality of written communication. There will also be an emphasis on problem solving and questions will be set both in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

The final assessment involves three examinations only, one non-calculator and two calculator papers. Each examination is 1 hr 30 minutes in duration. The three examinations carry equal weighting and each assess content from the five topic areas: (1) Number, (2) Algebra, (3) Ratio, proportion and rates of change, (4) Geometry and measures, (5) Probability and Statistics. There is no coursework or controlled assessments.

Students are expected to provide a suitable electronic scientific calculator and a standard set of geometrical instruments.

Find out more about Maths at TGGs [here](#).

MODERN LANGUAGES – FRENCH/GERMAN

In Year 10, students will continue with French or German. In both languages candidates will be entered for the GCSE examination administered by Edexcel. Although there are two levels of entry at Key Stage 4, Foundation and Higher Tier, we will be working towards the Higher Tier thus allowing access to the top GCSE grades.

Students beginning their GCSE courses in September 2025 be the second year group to take the new Languages GCSEs, which will be examined for the first time in summer 2026.

Final assessment will happen at the end of the course and will involve:

Paper 1: Speaking	25% of GCSE	Approximately 10-12 minutes Reading aloud Role play Picture task and conversation
Paper 2: Listening and understanding	25% of GCSE	60 minutes Listening comprehension Dictation
Paper 3: Reading and understanding	25% of GCSE	60 minutes Reading comprehension Translation into English
Paper 4: Writing	25% of GCSE	1 hour 20 Written tasks Translation into French/German

The new GCSE courses are an exciting change, and they aim to focus on the important ways that languages foster communication, broaden perspectives, introduce new cultures and develop students into global citizens. These aims are what we build our curriculum around and students will spend their lesson time developing their comprehension, verbal and written communication skills within the context of the target language culture.

The French department will be offering an immersion trip to support students' studies in school, which will allow them to put their skills into action in real life situations and to learn about the culture and society of France. We hope to also offer a German trip of a similar nature.

Looking ahead to the Sixth Form, we offer courses in A-Level French, German and Spanish. Many pupils have successfully continued their foreign language studies to A-level and beyond. Indeed, A Level languages are viewed as excellent facilitating subjects by universities.

We are excited to offer Spanish as a second language as an option and this will be studied from beginner level to GCSE level within the two years. Further details on this can be found in the Options section of this booklet.

Find out more about Languages at TGGs [here](#).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students take part in P.E. lessons.

We aim to inspire students to be active, motivated, and eager to learn, improve, and enhance their personal skills and fitness levels.

In Key Stage 3, students experience a wide variety of activities, with Year 9 given the opportunity to choose from different strands, enabling them to focus on activities they are most interested in. This approach helps prepare them for the broader range of options available at Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 4 offers an exceptional range of options, ensuring that every student can find activities they enjoy, can improve in, and can continue pursuing to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. Students sign up for their chosen activities at the start of each term, with input from each Tutor group to help guide selections for the following term.

We encourage all students to actively engage in lessons, even if they are temporarily unable to participate physically. In such cases, they can contribute by coaching or officiating, and are expected to wear their PE kit for these roles.

Find out more about PE at TGGs [here](#).

COMBINED SCIENCE

Students will take the following qualification which is the equivalent of two GCSEs:

AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

Our current Year 9 students started their science GCSE courses at the beginning of the academic year. In Years 10 and 11, students will continue to be taught by three teachers who will each be subject specialists. Due to GCSE option choices and timetable changes, science groups will be reorganised for the start of Year 10 and students may have different teachers to those they currently have in Year 9.

At the end of the course in Year 11, students will sit six examinations, two per science subject; these examinations will not only assess students' subject knowledge and understanding, but also their investigative skills developed during their normal science lessons. Students will be awarded two GCSE grades.

If students choose this course, they will be able to go on to do any science A level.

Due to the extra time triple scientists receive, they can expect to finish the course after February half term whereas double scientists will be covering the specification until close to the exam leave in the summer. In this extra time triple scientists will revise topics and hone exam techniques.

Find out more about Science at TGGs [here](#).

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

In order to comply with legal requirements concerning Religious Education, all students have a timetabled RP&E lesson. This course explores questions of meaning and looks at contemporary moral issues from a variety of religious standpoints. In Year 10 much of the time is spent considering Human Rights and moral theories. In Year 11 the focus is the Sanctity of Life and issues that arise from it.

Find out more about R,P&E at TGGG [here](#).

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

At KS4, we continue to have one lesson per fortnight. In Year 10 students continue to learn about fundamental British values such as Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect. We also continue to create strategies for good physical and mental health by teaching students how to know and look after their bodies, to look for any unusual changes and to create mental health toolkits to deal with the challenges of KS4. In addition to this, we look at challenges students might meet in their every day lives, such as online bullying and falling victim to online sextortion. In Year 11, we continue to reinforce the messages about how to manage stress, creating revision timetables and looking at different ways to revise, the importance of sleep and how to stay physically healthy. We also revisit budgeting and complete sessions on Money Sense. These sessions provide opportunities to build upon their understanding of topics covered in earlier years, such as staying safe online and we have managed to secure four sessions per student of self-defence from an external provider.

Find out more about PSHE at TGGG [here](#).

OPTION SUBJECTS

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN: FINE ART

The selection of subject options involves significant decisions for each student entering Year 10 and it is perhaps an appropriate moment to reconsider some of the broader aspects of art education, as well as the more topical implications of the GCSE examination.

Whilst by no means suggesting that creativity is absent from other aspects of the curriculum, subjects which are of an essentially creative nature differ in some significant ways from the majority.

To begin with there is no text book, no fixed 'corpus' of knowledge which the successful student must assimilate - rather, each student has the opportunity, through the development of visual awareness and creative skills, to explore and interpret not just the visible world, but also the world of ideas and imagination in their own way.

The educational value of the processes of creative learning is by no means limited to a 'gifted' minority. Indeed, the ability to interpret the world, to organise ideas, to develop strategies for the practical resolution of open-ended problems - the qualities of imaginative thinking, mental and practical agility and adaptability, are vital aspects of any pupil's preparations for an increasingly challenging and changing world.

By the same token, the cultivation of judgement and discrimination in a learning context where there is no given "right" or "wrong" is of crucial importance for all kinds of "real life" transactions.

Focusing more closely on **Fine Art** as a subject, it is generally accepted that in a man-made environment where visual messages constantly flow into the conscious and subconscious mind; visual 'literacy' - the ability to interpret visual stimuli, and to communicate visually - is as significant as numeracy or literacy in spoken or written languages. Moreover, department staff are firm in their belief that Art is as 'academic' a subject as any other on the curriculum and wish to dispel any lingering myth that the subject represents a 'soft' option. Of no less importance is the intense personal satisfaction derived from the act of making - potentially - a life-long source of enrichment.

Our experience indicates that the aims and benefits outlined above are promoted and enhanced by the GCSE Fine Art course. The Art Department offers OCR courses, and the students are entered for the Fine Art option (J171).

Much of the classroom work will develop from activities and skills with which most students are already familiar. However, there is naturally a degree of enhanced expectation in certain areas and these may be summarised in the following way:-

- Firstly, students are offered the opportunity of taking much more responsibility for their own programmes of work. Whilst the staff continue to offer a structured framework of activity, individual students may diverge in their approach to these projects. Work proceeds on a flexible basis and through a continuous process of evaluation.
- Secondly, it is expected that staff and students will, where possible, make direct use of the 'real' world outside the classroom. This will include a visit to a major gallery of national importance in Year 10. With this in mind, the distinctions between classwork and homework become blurred resources of home, neighbourhood and the larger environment take on greater significance.

- Students will look at ways in which other artists have approached themes and issues which are under investigation in class. Discussions take place on the role of art and design in wider society. Students should make visual presentations based upon their research and in support of their own creative work.

At the end of the course students present a coursework portfolio. This submission, selected from each student's entire submission, carries 60% of the mark. The remaining 40% is allocated to a further piece, set externally by OCR and carried out under examination conditions. In the first instance, all work is assessed by the teachers and the assessment process is completed by visiting external moderators.

The Art Department consistently achieves outstanding outcomes in the context of the whole school GCSE results: The Department results are historically SIGNIFICANTLY above the whole school averages. In 2024, for example, under the 9-1 grading system, the Department achieved 94% of grades at 9-7 – the school average was 61%. Taking results at or 9-7 from previous years the same picture is true: over the previous 3 years, (2021-2024) the whole school % of 9-7 grades is 66% - very impressive. However, over the same 3-year period the Art department average % of 9-7 grades was a whooping 90%! This is testimony to the hard work, endeavour but above all, ENJOYMENT that the pupils taking Art invest into securing these incredible results.

Looking ahead there are numerous career opportunities in art and related areas. Courses in further and higher education range from architectural courses, fine art degrees, to specialist design courses in fashion, textiles, graphic design, illustration, interior design, furniture design, product design, animation, television and theatre design, art teaching, administration and many more.

Moreover, it is vital to understand and appreciate that many universities value highly students who are able to think creatively and imaginatively 'outside the box' on courses which are far removed from the study of Art.

Past 'A' level students have secured places on Medicine and Dentistry courses, for example. Furthermore, many other students have secured places at prestigious Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities on a plethora of courses with Art as an integral part of their A Level appeal as open-minded and fully rounded students.

Taken as a 3-year average (2022-2024), the school average % of A*-B grades at A Level is 80%. The Art Department results for the same period are an astonishing 98%!

All of the above should convince pupils and parents that, if you enjoy Art as a subject...

THE QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE 'WHY TAKE ART?'

THE QUESTION SHOULD BE '**WHY WOULDN'T YOU TAKE IT?!**'

Find out more about Art at TGGs [here](#).

BUSINESS

Business GCSE examines the activities of local, national and international enterprises with the help of real world case studies. These case studies seek to answer a wide range of practical questions on all aspects of business including:

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Business aims and objectives
- Revenue, costs and profit
- Breakeven analysis
- Cash flow
- Sources of small business finance
- Franchising
- Location decisions
- Marketing
- Viral advertising and the use of social media
- Business Plans
- Technology and business
- Introduction to the economy
- Growing a business
- Ethics, the environment and business
- Globalisation
- Choosing suppliers
- Recruitment and motivation of employees

There are 2 assessment units:-

Unit 1 Investigating small business. This paper is worth 50% of the overall mark.

Unit 2 Building a business. This paper is worth 50% of the total mark.

Both papers require a mixture of multiple – choice, short - and extended answers and data response questions.

Why choose Business?

There is no doubt that business decisions have an important impact on us all as consumers, employees and citizens. If we are able to understand the forces which influence these decisions then we place ourselves in a much stronger position in our everyday lives.

Business GCSE seeks to offer **a lively and relevant insight into business activities** and therefore to help students to **understand the world around them** and **prepare them for the world of work**.

In addition, GCSE Business is a useful introduction for those students wishing to take Business or Economics at 'A' level.

The course assessment will together not only assess students' knowledge and understanding of business activities but will also enhance skills of numeracy, literacy, IT, investigation, selection and interpretation of data.

Students will therefore have the opportunity to learn subject specific skills and to apply appropriate areas of expertise developed in other areas of the curriculum. Through studying Business at GCSE, **students can gain a much better understanding of the social, economic and political environment in which they live**. It is a subject which can be combined, like Economics, with a variety of other disciplines at A-level and, as such, can provide **an essential practical foundation for a wide range of academic, professional and business careers**.

Find out more about Business at TGGs [here](#).

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Examination Board – OCR

The GCSE Computer Science course is intended to be of interest to a wide range of students including those of you with other interests and aspirations, as you will benefit from the many **transferable and essential skills** inherent in the study of Computer Science:

- Problem solving;
- Critically evaluate arguments and evidence;
- Analytical and Computational thinking;
- Designing & Modelling;
- Reflection and communication;
- Criteria evaluation and testing.

The course builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills established whilst studying Computing and IT at Key Stage 3, whilst also developing widely applicable ideas and concepts and a theoretical framework into which these ideas and concepts fit. It encourages you to develop your **critical thinking skills**, to see the relationship between program designer and user, and the role of **computational thinking skills** within the world in which we live and provides opportunities to develop your **Functional/Essential Skills**, particularly those in problem solving, use of IT, the practical application of numbers and effective communication.

Unit 1- J277/01: Computer systems

External Assessment: 1½ hours (50% of the qualification) (80 Marks)

This component assesses systems architecture, memory and storage, computer networks, connections and protocols, network security, systems software and ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues. This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

Unit 2 - J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

External Assessment: 1½ hours (50% of the qualification) (80 Marks)

This component assesses algorithms, programming fundamentals, producing robust programs, Boolean logic and programming languages and Integrated Development Environments. This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections. All questions are mandatory. In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with (normally Python).

Link to specification – <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

Why study Computer Science?

Computing is of **enormous importance** to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself, as an '**underpinning**' subject across science and engineering, is **growing rapidly**. Study of the subject will help you gain **valuable skills for life**, for example, in innovation, reasoning, logic, resourcefulness, precision, problem solving and clarity in communication.

The course will teach you to become authors of computational tools rather than simply users. As adult workers, you may well be applying for jobs that have not yet been invented. A good grounding in Computer Science will teach you how to deal with **change later in life** and allow you to learn how to play an **active and effective role** in the digital world, rather than simply being solely a user of digital tools.

The course in Computer Science will give a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of **how computers work** and will allow you to create and troubleshoot computer programs for **real-life** purposes.

This is a new and exciting GCSE specification, which encourages you to explore how computers work and to investigate how **information is communicated** in a variety of contexts. There will be ample opportunity for you to **apply** and **consolidate** your knowledge of computer programming by carrying out **practical tasks** that will develop your capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

Other additional information

You will need to have **access** to a computer for homework and for practising the practical components of the course. The software you will need is **free!**

You will be using the following programming languages and software, which will need to be installed on your computer: Python, Flowgorithm and a basic text editor – e.g. Notepad.

There are many jobs available in the subject area, with many identified in the Shortage Occupation List published by the Government:

The professional body for Computing is the **British Computer Society (BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT)**. There are lots of possibilities in Computer Science and Information Technology.

What can you do with a degree in Computer Science? **Check out the opportunities here.**

What can you do with a degree in Information Technology? **Check out the opportunities here.**

Find out more about Computer Science at TGGs [here](#).

DRAMA

Examination Board – AQA

This course allows opportunities for students to:

- Develop performance skills to a high level.
- Create their own performance pieces from a variety of stimuli.
- Explore and perform different play texts.
- Analyse and evaluate 'live' theatre.

Year 10

During Year Ten, students work on acquiring fundamental performance skills, whilst creating exciting and sustained practical pieces. They study the work of practitioners Brecht and Stanislavski. Accompanying the performance element of the course, students develop their written ability to analyse and evaluate drama. They study a variety of texts from a practical point of view, which they then write about in the written exam at the end of Year Eleven. The majority of the work is practical, with students performing a number of pieces during this year in preparation for assessments at the end of Year Ten, and throughout Year Eleven.

Students will have the opportunity to see several 'live' performances throughout the course to enable them to develop an appreciation of performance skills in action. Where possible, workshops from outside companies are arranged.

Year 11

Practical Course Work (60%)

In Year Eleven, students create two practical coursework pieces for assessment: one scripted piece on a chosen text (20% of GCSE) and one devised piece, developed from a stimulus (40% of GCSE).

Written Examination (40%)

Drama students sit the written examination at the end of the Year Eleven. The students develop their practical writing skills throughout the course and will undertake written assignments alongside practical projects.

Why take Drama for GCSE?

The course allows students to develop their skills in performance, oral communication, research and creative processes. It is relevant for all students who wish to pursue a career in drama or media as well as those that require the skills of public speaking, teamwork, respect for deadlines, creative problem solving, the ability to work under pressure, self-discipline, leadership, respect for colleagues and confidence!

Find out more about Drama at TGGS [here](#).

GEOGRAPHY

Why choose Geography at GCSE?

- You live in the world – why not find out more about the **challenges** and **opportunities** it offers, and how to get **involved**?
- This subject looks at the **issues** that are facing people in all parts of the world today, and asks how they might affect you as a **citizen of tomorrow's world** – and how you might be able to **influence** events
- Investigate issues of **resilience and sustainability** – will the Earth still be able to provide us with all the **resources** we take for granted now?
- How will **global warming** affect the world's population?
- How do we cope with ever growing **cities** and what challenges do they pose?
- What really causes 'natural disasters' like **floods, earthquakes** and **volcanoes**? How can people cope with them and build more resilient communities?
- Employers and universities recognise the importance of geography as it teaches so many transferable skills. It scores highly in employability surveys
- You want to be able to learn skills that you can use in other subjects such as science, maths, history and PE.
- You will be taught by one of a team of teachers that are **experienced AQA examiners** and know exam technique inside out

Will I enjoy it? *You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:*

- Provides an engaging and **real-world focus**
- Is **relevant** to the world you live in, and to your future
- Provides you with a better understanding of the problems facing our planet such as **climate change**
- Encourages you to discuss **current affairs**
- Focuses on the challenges of a **rapidly increasing world population**
- Involves **fieldwork** including a trip to Bristol - it gets you out of the classroom into the real world.
- Is studied through **investigation and discussion**, not just listening and reading
- **Cares** and **understands** about the **environment** and **people** across the globe

There are three components in this specification (AQA):

Component 1: Living in the Physical Environment

- Hazards – volcanoes, earthquakes and tropical storms
- The living world – tropical rainforests and cold environments
- The physical geography of the UK – rivers and coasts

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes with a variety of question types (1-9 marks)

Component 2: Challenges in Human Environments

- Urban issues and challenges – Inequality and opportunities in Bristol and Rio de Janeiro
- The changing economic world – population, development gap and globalisation in the UK and Nigeria
- Resource management (energy, water and food) – in-depth focus on food

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes with a variety of question types (1-9 marks)

Component 3: Geographical Application

- Geographical fieldwork. Human fieldwork with a trip to Bristol and Physical fieldwork at Dawlish Warren.
- Decision-making exercise based on pre-release material

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes with a variety of question types including a decision-making task (1-12 marks)

Optional Fieldtrip to Iceland

Learning Outcomes if you take this course - *You will be able to:*

- Develop a very wide range of transferable skills.
- Develop your knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate how they are relevant to our changing world.
- Develop your spatial awareness and appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments from local to global.
- Appreciate differing news of the world, in terms of environment, societies and cultures.
- Understand the significance of values and attitudes to the development and resolution of issues.
- Develop your responsibility as a “global citizen” and learn how to contribute to a future that is both sustainable and inclusive.
- Develop and apply your learning to the real world through fieldwork.
- Use geographical skills, appropriate technologies, enquiry and analysis.

“Choose geography - that’s where all the jobs are needed – saving the planet” Professor Iain Stewart (BBC presenter)

“Geographers are the future of our planet” Michael Palin

**Choose Your Future.
Choose Geography.**



Find out more about Geography at TGG5 [here](#).

GEOLOGY

Examination Board – Eduqas

Geology is a field-based, multi-disciplinary science that integrates the principles of chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics in the study of Earth processes and history, as well as the evolution of other planets in our solar system.

Geologists study a broad range of topics including plate tectonics, glaciers, floods, groundwater flow – even dinosaur evolution. Geologists are increasingly in demand to study and evaluate geologic hazards and natural resources such as oil and gas.

Students studying the GCSE Geology course will also learn valuable and important transferable skills throughout their time studying the course:

- skills in observation, data collection, analysis and interpretation;
- the ability to prepare, process and present data;
- the ability to handle information in a range of different mediums, e.g. textual, numerical, oral, graphical;
- written and verbal communication skills;
- report writing skills;
- problem-solving skills and lateral thinking;
- self-motivation and resilience;
- teamworking skills and the ability to work on your own initiative.

Why study Geology?

Are you interested in global change, not just during historical time, but over the whole lifetime of the Earth? Are you interested in the origin and development of our landscape and in how plate tectonics control the surface features of the Earth such as earthquakes and volcanoes? Do you wonder how we can manage our natural resources more sustainably?

Geologists are scientific detectives who try to reveal the past and the future of the Earth. Geology attracts people who wish to study the dynamics of the Earth we live on, its resources, and the most economic and sustainable way to use these resources.

Students who enjoy working outdoors, have a good scientific background, and are interested in understanding how the world around them works will find this field of science a rewarding area of study.

Component 1: Geological Principles

On-screen examination: 1 hour 15 minutes (50% of qualification)

An on-screen assessment consisting of data and stimulus response questions.

This assessment requires multiple-choice, short, structured and extended writing answers relating to all the GCSE Geology subject content outlined in this specification. A data sheet is used in this assessment.

Component 2: Investigative Geology

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of qualification)

A written assessment consisting of data and stimulus response questions.

This assessment requires short, structured and extended writing answers to investigate the geology of an area shown on a simplified geological map. This

assessment is wholly based on the area covered by the geological map. A data sheet is used in this assessment.

Students will be expected to undertake fieldwork and laboratory experiments in order to develop their field observation and practical skills.

The importance of Geology

Geology is of **enormous importance** to the economy, and the role of geology as a discipline itself, as an '**underpinning**' subject across science and engineering, is growing rapidly.

Geology is **fundamental** to us. Geology is fundamental to **understanding resources** and **risk**, the nature of diversity, infrastructure and community development. Sand, gravel and crushed stone is mostly used to make concrete to build, for example, **houses** and **roads**. But mineral products **surround us** in our ordinary daily life and during festive times. **Minerals** can be found in mobile phones, personal computers, cables, wind turbines, cars, make-up, paint, paper and batteries. You **could not**, for example, set a party table with plates, glasses, bowls and napkins **without** the help of rocks. At the same time, we have large **groundwater deposits** hidden, in the ground, often underneath our feet.

Geology in everyday life is **not restricted** to resources. It is also about **hazards** and **risk** associated with amongst others, rock falls, radon, landslides, landslides and earthquakes. Geology is **detective work**. Geology helps us **understand climate change** in the past, which may help us predict future scenarios.

It will allow you to develop skills that will enable you to pursue a career in many different aspects of the **Earth Sciences** and **Civil Engineering** if you so choose, and which will also help you gain valuable skills for life - for example, in critical thinking, evaluation, reasoning, logic, resourcefulness, precision, problem solving and clarity.

Other additional information

You will be supplied with study books for each of the modules, so you will need to have a folder to enable you to keep your work organised.

Fieldwork is important in the subject and fieldwork trips are an essential component of the course:

- **Cawsand and Kingsand** – Introduction to fieldwork techniques;
- **Widemouth Bay** – Sedimentary and structural geology;
- **Waterside Cove** – sedimentary environments and igneous geology;
- **Dartmoor** – metamorphic and igneous geology;
- **Watchet** – Palaeontology and palaeoenvironments.

Geology and related professions are identified on the Governments Shortage Occupation List. The **Geological Society of London** also has excellent [Careers Resource](#) for students. Additionally, the **Geological Society of London** (the professional body for geologists) has an archive of its [public lectures](#) which may be watched on YouTube.

IF YOU WISH TO TAKE THIS SUBJECT PLEASE SELECT IT ON THE ONLINE FORM BUT NOTE THAT IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ONE OF YOUR MAIN OPTIONS CHOICES.

Find out more about Geology at TGGS [here](#).

HISTORY

Pupils at Torquay Girls' Grammar School follow the Edexcel History syllabus for their GCSE course. This is not a tiered course. All pupils will be entered for the same examination. Studying History in Years 10 and 11 builds on the periods studied at Key Stage 3 as well as introducing new areas. Pupils may, therefore, have a welcome familiarity with some of the subject matter that they are required to study for GCSE.

The main elements to the course offer a breadth across several periods of history as well as both British and international studies:-

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present

- c1250–c1500: Medicine in medieval England
- c1500–c1700: The Medical Renaissance in England
- c1700–c1900: Medicine in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Britain
- c1900–present: Medicine in modern Britain

A study of the historic environment:

The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

30% of the total GCSE

Examination time: 1 hour and 20 minutes

Combination of knowledge and source based questions

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

Depth study: The reigns of Richard I and King John 1189-1216

- Life and government in England
- Wars that England was involved in, including the Crusades
- King John and his downfall

Period study: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

- The origins of the Cold War, 1941–58
- Cold War crises, 1958–70
- The end of the Cold War, 1970–91

40% of the qualification

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Questions assess student knowledge and understanding of the two periods

Paper 3: Modern depth study

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

- The Weimar Republic 1918–29
- Hitler's rise to power, 1919–33
- Nazi control and dictatorship, 1933–39
- Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–39

30% of the qualification

Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes

Questions are a combination of knowledge, sources and interpretations

School trips

As part of the course students will have the opportunity to participate in a four day residential to the WWI Battlefields of France and Belgium in the summer term of Year 10. This is a superb trip and of direct relevance to Paper 1. Student feedback has been extremely positive about the experience.

Why choose History?

History is the subject on the curriculum which addresses itself most directly to the question of how our present society and its social and cultural attitudes, has emerged from the past. We hope that by studying a wide breadth of both British and international History the students at this school will be better equipped as citizens to make the informed judgements that are necessary for participation in the democratic process. We further hope that a study of World History will better help them to appreciate the background to the disputes that occurred in the past between America and the Soviet Union and the difference between democratic and non-democratic systems of government. Perhaps the best reasons, however, for opting for History at this stage derive from a combination of genuine interest in the subject and a perception that the student is likely to do well.

History is highly regarded as a Humanities subject and blends in easily with other disciplines. People in all walks of life have degrees or qualifications in History. Recent statistics from Bristol University showed that graduates ended up in such varied careers as the Civil Service, Accountancy, the Navy, Management, Journalism, Advertising, Teaching and Law. An Historian therefore does not become a narrow specialist.

We also need to consider the subject with regard to changing work and lifestyle patterns. History is concerned with making informed judgements about people who have lived in the past. Most students have a shared curiosity about the past: their comics, television programmes and, for centuries, many of their games are evidence of this. The interest of adults is equally apparent; paperback sales, borrowing from public libraries, research on the Internet, enrolment in adult education classes, popularity of television programmes dealing with the past and visits to country houses and museums all bear effective witness to it. We in school can help in this searching for our own identity, in trying to seek out our "roots".

For those pupils who are considering a future course in History at 'A' level or who are considering taking a degree in subjects such as Law, Politics or History at University our current GCSE course provides a good grounding in the techniques and skills required for these disciplines.

'Those who do not learn History are doomed to repeat it.'
Writer and philosopher George Santayana



Find out more about History at TGGS [here](#).

MUSIC

Students wishing to study music should be hugely passionate about the subject. It is a fantastic opportunity to develop creative skills through composition and performance opportunities, as well as gaining a well-rounded understanding of how music works through the exploration of iconic pieces from a range of genres. Students should be committed to at least one instrument (this includes voice) and can demonstrate a performance standard of Grade 3. This may be achieved through sitting formal exams, or simply by having dedicated a significant amount of time to practicing the instrument. **Having sat formal graded exams is *not* a requirement of the course. If students would like to see if their skills fit the criteria, they should arrange a session with Mrs Hagland to showcase their chosen performance specialty.**

A range of extra-curricular activities are available to students. Those studying GCSE Music should prioritise these to widen their musical understanding and to further develop their practical skills:

- **Further performance opportunities:** to live audiences, in ensembles (particularly important for those who usually perform as soloists).
- **Concert participation:** students can experience first-hand how a concert runs effectively and the work that goes behind its success by participating in a music group that will perform at these events.
- **Opportunities to lead music groups:** students can gain fantastic skills through leading groups for other musicians. GCSE Music students often go on to running our Year 7 Choir in Year 12 as well as leading other groups based on their specialism.
- **Widening repertoire:** students may discover new pieces of music that they wish to use for other performance opportunities.

Examining Board: AQA

Requirements for Non-Exam Assessment (60%)

Composing **30%**, Performing **30%**.

Requirements of Examination (40%): Listening and Appraising Test 1 hour 30 mins.

Description of the course:

Students explore **four Areas of Study** (AoS). Through their exploration, students will develop an understanding of the organisation of sounds. Areas of Study for the whole specification are based on key periods and styles of music:

Area of study 1: Western classical tradition 1650 – 1910.

Area of study 2: Popular music.

Area of study 3: Traditional music.

Area of study 4: Western classical tradition since 1910.

Component 1: Understanding Music 40%

The listening exam is split into two parts. The first part focuses on pupils responding to questions set using musical listening examples. The second part of the exam requires pupils to answer two questions based on the set works from the areas of study.

Component 2: Performing Music 30%

Solo performance and Ensemble performance. The total length of performances must be a combined minimum time of four minutes. Performances are recorded rather than performed live, so there are plenty of opportunities to polish and perfect!

Component 3: Composing Music 30%

Two compositions to be submitted: **Composition 1:** Composition to a brief, **Composition 2:** Free composition. Compositions are written in any style and for any group of instruments that you are most comfortable with, from pop songs and folk music to percussion pieces and string quartets!

A good grade at Music GCSE will enable all of the following careers to be possible:

This is an ideal course if you wish to go on to study AS/A2 Music, Performing Arts, Music Technology and as preparation for vocational courses in the music industry. Music teaching at Primary and Secondary levels, as a Community musician or as a private tutor for a particular instrument; working as a professional performer, as a session musician or in an orchestra; working as a sound engineer in the world of media eg: TV, film, theatre and radio.

The skills which students develop throughout the Music GCSE course indicate to employers and universities an ability to work and co-operate in a team; the dedication and hard work required to achieve a high level of ability on an instrument or voice; evidence that you are a well-rounded individual. In addition to this, UCAS now recognises formal examinations from Grade 6 and above and attribute UCAS points for these.

Find out more about Music at TGGS [here](#).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Board: AQA GCSE Physical Education

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

What's assessed

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 78 marks
- 30% of GCSE

Questions

- Answer all questions.
- A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

What's assessed

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 78 marks
- 30% of GCSE

Questions

- Answer all questions.
- A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed

- Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).
- Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

How it's assessed

- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA
- 100 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

- For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity).
- Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Anyone considering taking this subject will need to be able to perform in a team activity and an individual activity to a good level and be able to maintain and improve these throughout the course. Activities performed to a high standard outside of school i.e. skiing, horse riding, swimming, may also be offered although video evidence would have to be collected.

Find out more about PE at TGGS [here](#).

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The GCSE in Religious Studies aims to help pupils to:

1. understand a major part of human history and cultural heritage both in this country and worldwide,
2. describe and discuss the views of belief systems they may or may not share
3. develop their own personal beliefs and values,
4. form their own judgments.

It will encourage respect for moral and legal obligations and a concern for fairness and justice in society. It also contributes to international understanding in the world and to community relations within Britain.

The Value of Religious Studies

Religious literacy is increasingly important in our interconnected, global society. Religious Studies develops those skills which are needed in the study of any academic subject e.g. the ability to find out information, to use a variety of enquiry techniques and to handle and interpret evidence. A skill particularly developed by Religious Studies is an ability to understand and interpret the views of people who are from different traditions and cultures.

Careers

Religious Studies helps pupils to form their own beliefs and commitments, to be more critically aware of the beliefs of others and to develop a greater awareness of personal and social relationships. It will therefore be useful for careers that involve contact with and understanding of others. A qualification in Religious Studies is a very good background for social work, medicine, counselling, the civil service, business management, local government, the police, prison and probation work, legal work, teaching and personnel management in industry.

To gain a GCSE, students study two units, with each unit accounting for 50% of the total marks. Attainment is through two examinations of one hour and forty-five minutes at the end of year 11. Within the examinations, each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

We will follow the AQA Syllabus A course. The units are 'The Study of Religions' and 'Thematic Studies':

The Study of Religions:

Christianity

- Key Beliefs
- Jesus Christ and Salvation
- Worship and Festivals
- Role of the Church in the Community

Judaism

- Key Beliefs
- Covenant and the Mitzvot
- Synagogue and Worship
- Family life and Festivals

Thematic Studies:

1. Theme A: Relationships and families.
2. Theme B: Religion and life.
3. Theme E: Crime and Punishment
4. Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

Find out more about RS at TGGs [here](#).

SPANISH

The Languages department are excited to offer our motivated and hard-working linguists the opportunity to take a GCSE in Spanish for the first time. This will be in addition to either their French or German GCSE that will form part of their core GCSE curriculum.

Students will begin studying the language from a beginner level but their knowledge of studying French for three years at KS3 will stand them in very good stead for making rapid progress at the start of the course and we will be able to move at a good pace to ensure that all content is covered in enough depth. Staff leading the course have run similar courses before with high levels of success.

Due to the fact that students will be completing a GCSE from scratch in two years, anyone opting for the course will need to be dedicated, interested and prepared to work hard both inside and outside of the classroom. However, the sense of achievement and satisfaction of having achieved a GCSE in a language from a complete beginner level will be huge!

As with French and German, final assessment will happen at the end of the course and will involve:

Paper 1: Speaking	25% of GCSE	Approximately 10-12 minutes Reading aloud Role play Picture task and conversation
Paper 2: Listening and understanding	25% of GCSE	60 minutes Listening comprehension Dictation
Paper 3: Reading and understanding	25% of GCSE	60 minutes Reading comprehension Translation into English
Paper 4: Writing	25% of GCSE	1 hour 20 Written tasks Translation into Spanish

The course will focus on developing students as competent communicators, both in written and spoken Spanish and will allow them to understand the language competently whilst also introducing them to Hispanic culture, society and media.

Looking ahead to the Sixth Form, students will be able to continue their study of Spanish to A Level. Many pupils have successfully continued their foreign language studies to A-level and beyond and the transferable skills developed through the course will be of great use in whichever career direction students choose to go in.

Find out more about Languages at TGS [here](#).

TRIPLE SCIENCE*

Instead of following the GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy course, which is offered as a Core Subject, students can use an option choice to take three separate science GCSEs:

AQA GCSE Biology

AQA GCSE Chemistry

AQA GCSE Physics

Due to the extra time triple scientists receive, they can expect to finish the course after February half term whereas double scientists will be covering the specification until close to the exam leave in the summer. In this extra time triple scientists will revise topics and hone exam techniques. In addition to the Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics covered in the GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy course, students will study the following extension topics:

- **Biology:** culturing microorganisms; monoclonal antibodies; plant hormones and diseases; the brain; the eye; the control of body temperature; advantages and disadvantages of asexual and sexual reproduction; DNA structure; cloning; evolutionary theories; speciation; extinction; the impact of environmental change; energy flow between trophic levels; decomposition; food production.
- **Chemistry:** transition metals; nanoparticles; further calculations involving the mole in titrations and gases, atom economy and percentage yield; organic Chemistry, including the reactions of the alkenes, alcohols, and polymer; chemical and fuel cells; chemical analysis by ion identification and spectroscopy; the Haber process and NPK fertilisers; The uses of materials, such as polymers, ceramics, alloys and composites, and corrosion and its prevention.
- **Physics:** Moments, levers and gears; pressure and pressure differences in liquids; changes in momentum; reflection of waves; sound waves; waves for detection and exploration; lenses; visible light; black body radiation; insulation, fuses and circuit breakers; static electricity; loudspeakers; induced potential, transducers and the National Grid; gas pressure; hazards and uses of radioactive emissions and of background radiation; nuclear fission and fusion; space physics (solar system, stars, orbital motion and satellites; red shift).

Topics common to both GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics: models of the atom; relative charges of subatomic particles; atomic size and mass; electronic structure.

At the end of the course in Year 11, students will sit two examinations per science subject; these examinations will not only assess students' subject knowledge and understanding, but also their investigative skills developed during their normal science lessons. Each science GCSE will be awarded a separate grade.

Triple Science is particularly useful for those students wanting to continue with one or more science subjects at A level or are considering a science-related degree at university. It is possible for double science students to take A level sciences..

Find out more about Science at TGGs [here](#).

CAREERS EDUCATION AND WORK AWARENESS

The school is well aware of the important career decisions facing pupils during their school life and, as a result, careers education features as a regular part of the curriculum, formal and informal teaching occurs in Years 7 -13 and the material covers such topics as self-development, career management and career exploration, all of which prepare students for the choices they must make and the world of work beyond school. The aim of the careers programme is to provide pupils with information and ideas in as varied an approach as possible incorporating the use of outside agencies and employers, past pupils, role play, video films and careers literature of all kinds and resources on the Internet.

In the main school the task of teaching lessons is spread widely amongst a number of staff. In Year 7, 8 and 9 the careers curriculum is delivered as part of the Well-Being module in PSHE, in addition the Career Leader plays an important role before the options choices with an assembly and optional workshops. This is particularly important at the time of the selection of Year 10 GCSE options and helps to support pupils as they make their choices.

Within the careers programme there are dedicated careers modules that ensure pupils have access to **CareerPilot**, **ICOULD** and the **UNIFROG** programs and these have proved to be very useful in widening pupils' awareness of career opportunities, linking subject interests and abilities.

Apart from lessons other careers facilities such as the **Careers and Enterprise Centre** exist to help the pupils in the school. In addition to the numerous career websites, careers literature and information is available in school. All pupils have access to a qualified **Careers and University Adviser**. The Adviser has many years' experience with grammar school pupils, and works extensively with years 11, 12 and 13. She will be available at the Year 9 Options choice evening, to discuss career or university issues.

Year 9 pupils can request a one-to-one careers interview with our qualified careers adviser if they wish – please email Mr Neighbour to arrange an appointment. It is also possible for students to make appointments with Mr Neighbour for further careers advice – his office is in the Careers and Enterprise Centre by the Lecture Theatre.

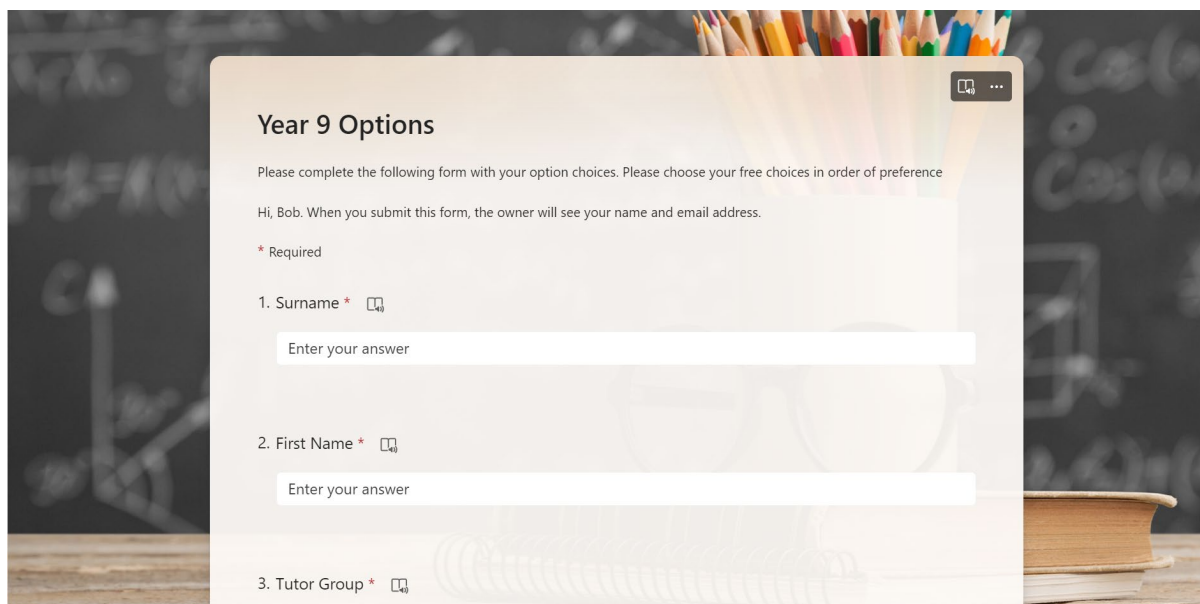
In years 10 pupils are encouraged to visit various places of work and to arrange work experience. Work experience is also encouraged throughout year 11 and the Sixth Form. In addition, attempts are made to hold meetings between staff and employers in schemes to promote 'Links with Industry'.

In addition to the Careers and Enterprise Centre, the main school library provides access to a range of careers materials including video films and computer programmes including **ICOULD**, **UNIFROG**, **CareerPilot** and other **INTERNET** facilities. Pupils should make use of these in their free time.

Find out more about Careers at TGGs [here](#).

MAKING THE OPTION CHOICES

Your child will have access to a form to enable us to collect their choices.



Year 9 Options

Please complete the following form with your option choices. Please choose your free choices in order of preference

Hi, Bob. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

* Required

1. Surname *

Enter your answer

2. First Name *

Enter your answer

3. Tutor Group *

They will be guided to make their choices through the form.

1. They must choose one language from the MFL choice
2. They must choose one humanity from their humanities choice
3. They will be prompted to make 2 free choices separately and should be careful not to choose the same subject twice as students are able to opt for a language or a humanity in their free choice and if they do so this must be different to their MFL or Humanities choice.
4. Students should choose 1 reserve although if there are any problems with their 1st choice subjects Mr Baker will speak to the student and communicate with parents.
5. Students may also opt for geology separately as this is taught in twilight sessions.

PLEASE NOTE: GCSE option subject viability is dependent on sufficient student numbers. If your first choice of option subject does not receive adequate interest and therefore cannot run, your reserve choice(s) will be used. However, unless Mr Baker tells you to the contrary all your first choices will have been allocated.

Option choices to be submitted by 3.30pm on Friday 7th March 2025

Student Statement of Entitlement Careers Education and Guidance

As a student at Torquay Girls' Grammar School, you will be entitled to participate in a comprehensive Careers Education programme, which will be implemented from Year 7 onwards. The programme will be delivered through the rotation in your wellbeing lessons, Computing & IT lessons and tutorials.

- develop ideas and awareness of self in relationship to abilities, aptitudes, interests, attitudes, values, skills, strengths and limitations;
- participate in suitable learning opportunities which will explore, process, test and record these ideas;
- acquire knowledge and awareness of opportunities, qualifications, routes ahead, occupational structures, progression, implications of choices;
- access these opportunities through Open Days, interviews, careers conventions, admission systems;
- identify strategies and tools for putting self-awareness and opportunity awareness together in order to make informed and reasoned choices (self-development, career exploration and career management)

Through the Careers Resources held within the School and those available through **Unifrog** and **ICould** (as well as through the **CareerPilot** website from the University of Bath), the School's commitment is to provide you with information that is:

- freely available
- accessible
- up-to-date
- accurate
- unbiased
- comprehensive
- of high quality
- at an appropriate level

You will have the opportunity to learn about the world of work which is linked to the curriculum.

Individual guidance will be available from specialist careers staff and professional advisers which is:

- impartial and free from institutional bias
- available at key decision times
- confidential