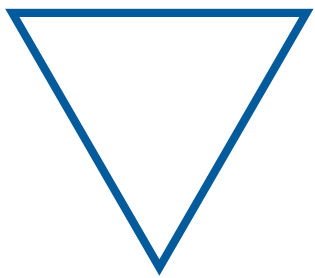


# GEMS WELLINGTON SCHOOL



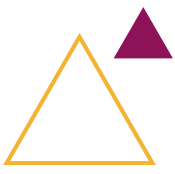
## GCSE

# Curriculum 2024-26



**GEMS**  
Wellington School  
QATAR  
A Branch of Premier Schools International





# Mr. David Wilson

Principal/CEO



Dear Parents and Students,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to GEMS Wellington School (WSQ). I am extremely privileged to lead such a fantastic community of talented staff and students in our pursuit to offer a truly world class education.

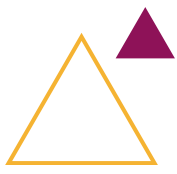
With a focus on excellence in all we do, we believe that every student has the potential to succeed and achieve, providing the right mindset is developed and learning environment is created. This aspirational approach is realised by creating a wealth of rich, high-quality learning experiences both in and out of the classroom, further enhanced by a number of external partnerships delivering expertise in their respective specialisms. Our desire for WSQ students to have access to the best is relentless.

Further demonstrating this commitment is the 'GEMS for Life' programme. A student's journey does not end following graduation, a GEMS student is a GEMS student for life and will continue to have access to a number of services, mentoring and career opportunities, supported by a global Alumni well after they leave school.

At WSQ, we truly do 'Achieve Excellence Together'.



**Achieving Excellence Together**



# Mr. Ben Raybould

Vice Principal

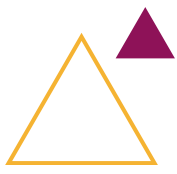


A very warm welcome to all our students and families who are about to embark on their GCSE education. I very much hope that the information contained within this booklet, and that provided during our Curriculum Evening will provide all the information you need to fully understand what GCSE's are and how our options process works.

I am driven by a belief that all students really can change the world and will be integral to helping solve many of the complex problems we face today. For this to become a reality, we must instill an inner confidence and optimism deep within them, so that they can find their talents and achieve the very highest academic and personal outcomes throughout their time at GEMS Wellington School (WSQ). The curriculum we offer here at WSQ is designed to provide a broad and balanced experience which allows each one of our students to achieve personal and academic excellence.

**Ben Raybould**  
Vice Principal





# Mr. David Thiesen

## Head of Secondary



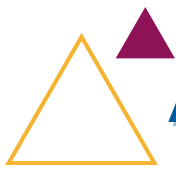
I am extremely privileged to be part of this growing school which is leading the way in delivering a quality, world-class education. We are firmly committed to putting the best interests of our students at the heart of everything we do, including your child's personal and academic development. We are a vibrant, high-performing, inclusive, very friendly, multicultural community made up of students from many different nationalities, which helps to develop their international mindedness and respect for cultural diversity. Relationships are strong and supportive. Our staff and students all work and collaborate within a caring, friendly and joyful atmosphere that reverberates throughout our school.

In addition to nurturing academic progress, we value the development of our students outside of the classroom and encourage student learning beyond the curriculum to enhance the skills they possess through our wide range of extracurricular activities. We have several well-developed programmes for our Secondary School students, including the Duke of Edinburgh International Award and Model United Nations.

Our purpose as educators is to see young people succeed and make real change in today's globalised, knowledge-based world by relentlessly pursuing excellence. We aim to empower our students in fulfilling their full potential, by encouraging intellectual curiosity, independent thinking and effective learning habits. This facilitates their growth as creative, analytical and inquisitive life-long learners, capable of showing empathy and armed with the courage and determination to seek out new opportunities; to grow as happy, fulfilled individuals



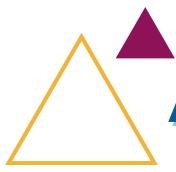




# An Introduction to GCSEs

- **GCSE is the acronym for the General Certificate of Secondary Education.**
- **We use examination boards based in the UK: Pearson (Edexcel) and AQA**
- **GCSEs are designed to examine all ability ranges with grades ranging from 9 to 1 (9 being the highest level of attainment) for current GCSEs, with the previous scoring system of A\*-G still being used in some iGCSEs.**
- **Students at GEMS Wellington School typically study between 9 and 10 GCSEs.**
- **5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 are often used as a benchmark of reasonable attainment for students of average ability, with many expecting English Language and Mathematics to be included. We set aspirational and realistic targets with our students which, alongside the quality of provision, ensure that the vast majority achieve well in excess of average attainment.**
- **GCSEs are undertaken over the two years of Key Stage 4, i.e. Years 10 and 11.**
- **A few select GCSE courses have an element of coursework known as Controlled Assessment which is prepared in class and at home but completed under examination conditions in . Tasks are marked by our teachers then externally moderated by the examination board. All controlled assessments must be completed before examinations are undertaken.**
- **Examinations will take place at the end of the two years of study in the final term of Year 11. This is according to regulations issued by the UK Government. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>.**
- **To qualify for entry to the GEMS Wellington School Sixth Form at the current time, a minimum of four GCSEs at grade 6 (B) and two GCSEs at grade 5 or 4 (C) are required, including English Language as a first language and Mathematics. Although some subjects have a higher entry requirement, the minimum entry requirements for specific subjects is usually a grade 6 (B grade) at GCSE. More detailed information is to be found in the Sixth Form prospectus available as an eBook on the College Website.**





# An Introduction to GCSEs

GRADING NEW GCSEs FROM 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	B
6	C
5	D
4	E
3	F
2	G
1	U
U	U

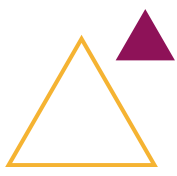
Key structural features of the new GCSEs confirmed by Ofqual include:

- A new grading scale that uses the numbers 1–9 to identify levels of performance (with 9 being the top level -attained by the top 5% of the global GCSE cohort in a subject). Where performance is below the minimum required to pass a GCSE, students will be awarded a U for Ungraded.
- GCSEs are now linear, with assessment to be taken at the end of the course in June. Re-sit opportunities will only generally be available in November for English Language and Maths.
- Assessment by external exam only, except where non-exam assessment is the only way to provide valid assessment of the skills required. Maths, English Literature and English Language to be externally assessed. English Language has a Speaking assessment that will be reported separately.

## Ministry of Education Requirements

- All students who are an Arab Passports holders must study Arabic A for 4 hours per week and Islamic Studies for 2 hours per week. For these students, three further options at GCSE are still possible. However, due to our Curriculum restructuring, the Ministry requirements still contribute to our overall aims of providing a truly broad and balanced curriculum and contribute to the EBacc suite of subjects.
- For our Non-Arab Muslim students –a further two hours of Islamic studies must be studied. We have found time within the timetable for this to happen without decreasing the number of Options.





# The KS4 Curriculum at GEMS Wellington School

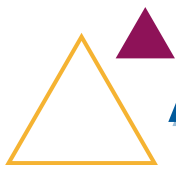
The curriculum at GEMS Wellington School is designed to meet the overall aim of excellence for all, both personally and academically as our students build the behaviours and characteristics of high performance.

GEMS Wellington School aims to create an aspirational and globally minded community of happy, high performing students who achieve personal and academic excellence

We achieve these aims through our focus on High Performance Learning and our quest for creating Global Citizens, Advanced Performers and Enterprising Learners.

- Students will develop two core sets of characteristics to develop advanced thinking and advanced learning. They are Advanced Cognitive Performance Characteristics (ACPs) and Values Attitudes and Attributes (VAAs).
- Students develop their Meta-Thinking to begin consciously thinking about thinking. Students will develop and become aware of their repertoire of thinking skills that will be available to them when faced with a range of complex problems.
- Our curriculum is broad and throughout students will be asked to link learning episodes and create their own schema of learning. Our students will see learning as part of a larger scheme as opposed to a series of single events.
- We want our students to be logical and careful in their learning, even when being creative. Through the development of analysis our students will improve their precision, critical thinking and approach to multi-step problem solving.
- Creativity sits at the heart of all subjects within our curriculum and our students will be creative in their thinking and learning. We want our students to experience the satisfaction and joy which comes with creative problem solving and to know what to do when we are not around.
- Realising other characteristics which when applied, best enhance learning is something we want all our students to achieve. A sense of automaticity without the loss of speed and accuracy.





# An Introduction to GCSEs

Our curriculum from KS1 through to KS5 is supported by four main themes which bind a student's journey towards reaching our school vision and preparedness for what is an extraordinarily complex, challenging, and exciting world.

- **Communication**
- **Creativity**
- **Enterprise**
- **Global Citizenship**

GCSEs are designed to ensure students receive a broad and balanced curriculum in order to allow students to develop the skills, knowledge and attributes required to be successful beyond school and therefore we have thought very carefully about our subject offering at KS4.

## Communication

Arabic A  
Arabic B  
Spanish  
French  
Media  
Business  
Geography

## Enterprise

Business Studies  
Computer Science  
ICT  
Media  
BTEC Sport

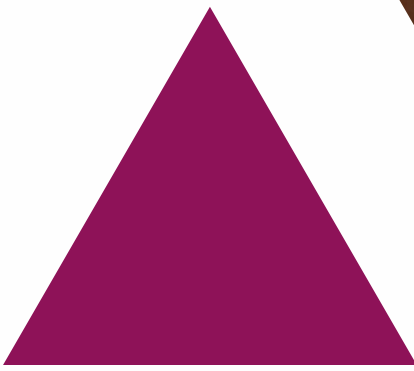
## Creativity

Design Technology  
Food Technology  
Art  
Music  
Drama  
BTEC Sport  
BTEC Dance

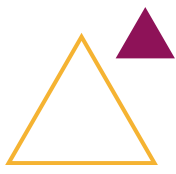
## Global Enterprise

Geography  
History  
Psychology  
ASDAN (Invite Only)









# The Wider Curriculum

To complement our extensive subject offering, we have also focused on designing a future-focused wider curriculum aimed at developing the wider skill set and talents of our students. Like with most of what we do here at WSQ, we follow closely the research coming from global organisations and universities and the message is clear on this, the more a student can develop the softer skills, such as a performance mindset, critical thinking, complex problem solving, analysis and empathy through authentic and relevant experiences, the more easily they will transition through the many career opportunities which will present throughout their life. We must remember that many of the jobs our current students will undertake do not even exist at this stage

**Student leadership** We have lots of opportunities for students to be a part of our student leadership team. At Key Stage 4 there are more roles on offer and more specialised roles for those that have specific skills that are suitable and beneficial for our student leadership team.

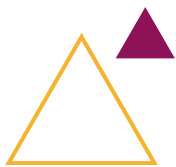
**Unifrog** Students are provided with training and personal development opportunities through the platform Unifrog. Students can work to develop their profiles; practice writing a CV/Covering letter and are involved in a range of tasks during tutor time to enhance their knowledge and understanding for skills that are required in the future. Students can search for university courses and pathways whilst using the platform and will have the opportunity in KS4 to meet with the school careers counselor to look into potential opportunities. Unifrog also offer free Webinars for both students and parents that are always promoted to our students.

**University/Career fairs** We have built links with Universities and companies both here in Qatar and globally, which has allowed us to host University and Career fairs in school as well as taking students to the fairs in Qatar. Students have the opportunity to meet and ask any questions to University staff or Company staff at these events and it gives them the chance to pick up any brochures or contact details for the areas that they are interested in.

**External Connections** We have worked with companies that we have now built a link with, one being LLS (A Sports Leadership company) and one being SAE (A creative media company). Students have had the opportunity to participate in workshops and sessions to enhance their skills and provide them with an insight into both areas. We will continue to build relationships with companies in other fields in order to provide students with more opportunities. Some of our Key Stage 4 students have been able to participate in Internships that they have either sourced themselves or through our connections.







# What to Study

At WSQ we pride ourselves on creating educational pathways which personalise the learning experience for our students and whilst we have a professional responsible to ensure all students get the breadth and depth of learning they will need throughout their lives, students will get the opportunity to make personal choices about aspects of what they study in Year 10 and 11. On top of subject choices, we also offer several pathways for students requiring additional support with their learning to ensure everyone develops a love of learning and inner confidence towards their abilities.

## The Core Subjects (Compulsory)

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science Double Award or Triple Science in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Core PE (Physical Education) (Not a GCSE)

## Optional Subjects

Students are required to select four subjects that they would like to study and a reserve choice as it is inevitable that in some cases a subject might be oversubscribed or in some cases, not attract enough students to make it viable to run the course. To ensure the best chance of being successful in their choices and to achieve the breadth and depth we believe is of paramount importance, we ask students to select a subject from each of the blocks below. We have duplicated several of our more popular subjects in the Communication Block to bring a little more flexibility to proceedings.

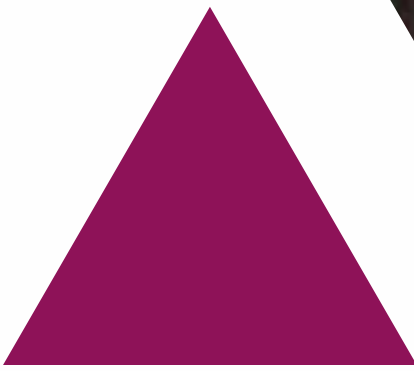
## The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The English Baccalaureate is not a separate qualification but is available for students whose options meet the below criteria. The aim of the EBacc is to ensure students gain a range of worthwhile subjects, skills and experiences and has been designed in collaboration with Russell Group Universities. It is achieved by attaining at least grade 4s at GCSE in English Language, Mathematics, Sciences, a humanity (either history or geography) and a modern foreign language (including Arabic). We encourage students to ensure that their option choices allow them to qualify for the English Baccalaureate, although we have not made qualification for the EBacc compulsory.

## The BTEC Qualification

As part of our unique curriculum, we offer students the opportunity to choose a BTEC in Sport or Dance as an alternative to one of their GCSE options. The BTEC qualification provides subject connections to real-life situations and is popular with students who prefer a less academic experience and who benefit from ongoing assessment rather than end of course examinations





# What to Study

## International GCSE Arabic (First Language) (9–1)



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mr. Ahmed Dewidar (a.dewidar1\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### *What skills will I develop?*

Identification, synthesis, analysis, evaluation and comparison Creativity, imagination and originality  
Composition, structure and organization of ideas

### *What career opportunities can this subject lead to?*

The course allows learners to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when writing
- learn how to use a wide range of vocabulary, and correct spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed. Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness other ways in which Arabic can be used.

also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively. Giving them distinct future careers in education, media and communication, and other fields.



### *Course components:*

#### *Paper 1:*

**Part One:** Reading (49 marks) Short- and extended-response questions on two texts.

**Part Two:** Summary (6 marks) Summary of the main points of a third text.

**Part Three:** Grammar (20 marks) Four questions on a range of aspects of grammar.

60% of GCSE

#### *Paper 2:*

Writing Paper: Externally assessed Written examination.

1 hour and 30 minutes, 40% of the examination

### *Course content:*

This paper assesses reading grammar and writing skills across a selection of topic areas:

youth matters, Education, media , culture, sport and leisure, travel and tourism, business, work and employment, environment, health, technology.

### *What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?*

- Detailed, perceptive, sophisticated, critical, convincing responses

### *What extra support is available ?*

The Arabic Department run a range of tailored support for all pupils.

- Extra lessons
- Exam master blaster revision classes



# What to Study

## GCSE Arabic (9–1)



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mr. Ahmed Dewidar (a.dewidar1\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### ***What skills will I develop?***

Identification, synthesis, analysis, evaluation and comparison

Creativity, imagination and originality

Composition, structure and organization of ideas

### ***What career opportunities can this subject lead to?***

**Communications:** Reporter, Foreign correspondent, Translator, International finance, International banker.

**Law:** Contract consultant, Corporate consultant

**Industry:** Manager of government relations for oil companies, Marketing analyst for export companies.

**Education:** College professor, Researcher.

**Government:** Foreign-service officer, Development program officer, Government relations specialist, Translator Interpreter.



### ***Course components:***

**Listening 25% External Assessed.** 45 minutes (plus 5 minutes' reading time) A number of passages or interactions in Arabic with a variety of question types.

The spoken material will include both formal and informal speech.

**Speaking 25% External assessed.** 4-5mins per task

1. A focused, picture-based discussion or presentation (with follow-up questions related to a chosen theme).

2. A general conversation related to a chosen theme.

**Reading 25% External Assessed.** 55 minutes. A number of short texts, notices or short news reports in Arabic which include a range of settings and styles both formal and informal.

**Writing 25% External Assessed.** one hour. Students will produce two pieces of Arabic writing in response to a choice of questions that relate to the prescribed themes of this specification.

### ***Course content:***

The five themes are: 1. Identity and culture 2. Local area, holiday, travel 3. School 4. Future aspirations, study and work 5. International and global dimension.

### ***What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?***

-Detailed, perceptive, sophisticated, critical, convincing responses

### ***What extra support is available ?***

The Arabic Department run a range of tailored support for all pupils.



# What to Study

## BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts (Dance)



**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Ms. Wright (e.wright\_wsq@gamsedu.com)

### What is a BTEC course?

A BTEC is a qualification that's based on practical study, in the case of performing arts this would involve studying the theoretical components of dance as well as developing practical skills. BTEC students study to gain skills and knowledge in their subject area, then put those skills into practice in real-life scenarios. This course is ideal for well-motivated and organised students who are capable of carrying out good independent work.

This qualification is the equivalent to 1 GCSE.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

Actor, teaching, production team, make up artist, dance performer, musician, director, lighting technician, costume designer and many more.

### What extra support is there available?

All support comes from your class teacher and the course specification. There is no official text book. It is hoped that students will have to opportunities of trips to see live performances.

*\*An initial registration fee is to be paid at the beginning of the course (unlike GCSE's when the fee is paid at the end of the course), this fee is approximately 1225QAR*

### How is it assessed?

Assessment is designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualification in this sector. All assessment is conducted internally and grades are awarded by the teachers. Some units of study are assessed using a Pearson Set Assignment brief. At the end of the course, pupils will achieve a grading scale of pass, merit or distinction. There is no final exam.

### Course Content:

Units to be studied and content:

Unit 1 Introduction to Performing and Production Art

Unit 2 Performing Arts Production (Pearson Set Assignment)

### How can you be successful in this subject?

Performing arts should be prepared and motivated to work consistently and independently to achieve the requirements of the qualification. They need to understand how they will be assessed and the importance of deadlines. They must also appreciate fully that all work submitted for assessment must be their own.



# What to Study

## IGCSE Computer Science 4CPO



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mr. Usman Choudhary (u.choudhary\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

- Critical thinking.
- Communication skills.
- Creativity.
- Problem solving.
- Perseverance.
- Collaboration.
- Information literacy.
- Technology skills and digital literacy.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

You maybe able to work in Software Development, Engineering, Publishing, Health, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Music or Film Production.

### How can you be successful in this subject?

Ability to time manage, set goals and act accordingly. Focused throughout duration of course. Be a confident independent learner.



### How is it assessed?

There are two exams:

#### Paper 1:

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 50% of IGCSE

#### Paper 2:

- Practical On-screen exam: 3 hours
- 50% of IGCSE

### Course Content

- Computational Thinking and Problem Solving
- Programming techniques
- Computer Systems
- Data
- The Bigger Picture
- Communication and the Internet
- Impact of Technology
- Current and Emerging Trends

### What extra support is there available?

Different online resources including ebook and useful websites like GCSEPod are available. Booster sessions and 1:1 support will be provided near the exams.



# What to Study

## GCSE Design and Technology



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel (1DT0-F Timbers)

**CONTACT:** Mr Robert Hannan (r.hannan\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Team Work
- Organisational Skills
- Problem Solving
- Planning
- Communication
- Portfolio Building

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

- Architect
- Engineer (of several disciplines)
- Product/Industrial Designer
- Construction
- Manufacturing



### How is it assessed?

The course is assessed in two different sections as follows:

- terminal examination of 1 hr 45 mins (50%)
- project and accompanying portfolio (50%)

### Course Content

The course is broken into two sections

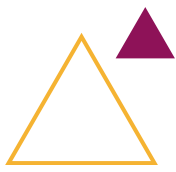
- Core
  - New and emerging technologies
  - Energy generation and storage
  - New materials
  - Mechanical and electronic devices
  - Papers, metals, polymers, textiles
- Option (Timbers)
  - Where timber comes from
  - How timber is used
  - Mass manufacturing of products

### How can you be successful in this subject?

- Interests and enthusiasm in all things design related
- Ability to be focused and disciplined in completing long term tasks
- Ability to make links between other subjects and apply it to Design and Technology

### What extra support is there available?

- Booster Sessions
- Revision Videos
- Extra lessons in build up to exam



# What to Study



## GCSE DRAMA



**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mr. S. Williams (s.williams\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

Creativity, collaboration, confidence, to name only a few! Drama is an excellent subject to grow creative and life skills. The power this gives pupils is a wonderful selection of practical and cognitive knowledge and resources which can enrich pupil future career pathways.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

Acting, directing, theatre and film script writing, teaching, hospitality, leadership and management, once again to name only a few! Studying GCSE Drama is not only a key to opening the door to a career in Performing Arts, but also to many other walks of life. This is because the skills learned are highly transferable and welcomed by future employers seeking creative, dynamic young graduates.



### How is it assessed?

Pupils are assessed in three components over the two years of the course:

#### Component 1 Devising Theatre

Pupils will create their own original theatre play based on a selected stimuli such as a poem, painting, or sociopolitical theme. The play should be 10 mins long minimum and is performed to an audience for assessment. Additionally, pupils must produce a written portfolio logbook that evaluates their creative journey, to a minimum of 1,500 words.

#### Component 2 Performance From Text

Pupils perform two extracts from a chosen play to an audience for assessment.

#### Component 3 Theatre Makers In Practice

Pupils will sit a 1hr 45min written exam where they must analyze and evaluate a live theatre production they see and about a play they study.

### Course Content

Theatre writing and devising skills, acting and directing techniques, play study and live theatre evaluation and knowledge.

### How can you be successful in this subject?

Team working skills, writing creatively and evaluatively, reading and a love of the theatre arts.

### What extra support is there available?

1-2-1 teacher feedback, peer feedback, online resources and production recordings.





# What to Study

## iGCSE ECONOMICS (9 - 1)



**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson / Edexcel iGCSE

**CONTACT:** Mr. Cathal Tighe c.tighe\_wsq@gemsedu.com

### What skills will I develop?

- develop an understanding of economic concepts and apply these concepts to real-life situations
- calculate, interpret and evaluate economic data in order to make reasoned arguments and informed judgements
- develop an awareness of economic change and its impact on developing and developed economies
- understand economic issues, problems and possible solutions that affect mixed economies
- participate effectively in society as citizens, producers and consumers

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

The study of Economics lends itself well to careers related to law, data analysis (market, political, finance), economic consultancy and auditing.



### How is it assessed?

Two, equally weighted, 1 hour 30 minutes externally assessed papers, consisting of four compulsory questions, each worth 20 marks. The sub questions consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, data response and open-ended questions.

Paper 1: Microeconomics and Business Economics

Paper 2: Macroeconomics and the Global Economy

### Course Content

Paper 1 Topic 1.1: The market system

Topic 1.2: Business economics

Paper 2 Topic 2.1: Government and the economy

Topic 2.2: The global economy

### How can you be successful in this subject?

- hard working and perseverance by completing exam style questions, key terminology worksheets and practice interpreting data and drawing graphs
- participate in class discussions and projects
- further reading and online research

### What extra support is there available?

1:1 sessions | intervention/extension sessions | Exemplar work, 6, 9 and 12-mark frameworks and other resources on Phoenix



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# What to Study

## IGCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Ms. Nina Taylor (n.taylor\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

IGCSE English Language students will learn to:

- Read a wide range of texts fluently and with good understanding
- Read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell correctly acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

English Language is the gateway to a myriad of different job opportunities around the world as English is the business language of the world.



### How is it assessed?

**Paper 1—2 hours 15 minutes**

Section A—Reading (Anthology Section A)

Section B—Transactional Writing

**Paper 2—1 hour 30 minutes**

Section A—Reading (Anthology Section B)

Section B—Imaginative Writing.

### Course Content

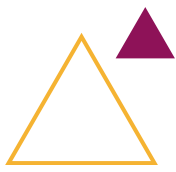
Students will draw upon a range of texts and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. Students should read a variety of high-quality, challenging non-fiction texts, in preparation to respond to one unseen non-fiction texts in the examination.

### How can you be successful in this subject?

Working hard and reading widely is extremely important. There is also an expectation to write at length frequently.

### What extra support is there available?

- Interventions
- 1:1 Support when required



# What to Study

## IGCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Ms. Nina Taylor (n.taylor\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

IGCSE English Literature students will learn to;

- Engage with and develop the ability to understand and respond to a variety of literary texts from around the world
- Develop an appreciation of the ways in which authors achieve literary effects
- Develop the skills needed for literary study
- Explore, through literature, the cultures of their own and other societies
- Find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

English Literature is the gateway to a myriad of different job opportunities around the world as English is the business language of the world.



### How is it assessed?

**Paper 1—2 hours**

**Poetry and Modern Prose**

Unseen Poetry

Anthology Poetry

Of Mice and Men

**Paper 2—1 hour 30 minutes**

**Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Text**

An Inspector Calls

Macbeth

### Course Content

Students will be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best literature. Studying IGCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and prepare for studying literature at a higher level.

### How can you be successful in this subject?

Working hard and reading widely is extremely important. There is also an expectation to write at length frequently.

### What extra support is there available?

- Interventions
- 1:1 Support when required





# What to Study

## AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition



**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**CONTACT:** S Jahangir ( s.jahangir\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

The Food Preparation and Nutrition syllabus equips you with the understanding, knowledge and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, food nutrition and healthy eating. An early focus on food safety ensures that you will be able to develop your knowledge and skills within a clear framework of safe working practices.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

#### Food Scientist/Technologist

In this role you will work closely with the production team to research and develop innovative recipes using new and existing ingredients. These recipes may need to satisfy a specific condition, such as having a low fat or low sugar content, or be suitable for a specific purpose, such as lunchtime takeout foods or ready meals. Hygiene and quality, and that all legal requirements are fulfilled.

#### Quality Assurance Manager

Quality assurance managers are about as close as you can get to a police role in the food industry. Individuals working in quality assurance ensure that food products meet the correct standards set out in the regulations and comply to all internal and external requirements. The role also requires you to collect and interpret data on current standards and procedures, reporting any findings to senior management with suggestions on how to improve them.

#### Toxicologist of Food

Toxicologists study toxic materials and how they affect humans, animals and the environment. They conduct studies on food, air, water and soil to determine how different chemicals and biological substances alter them and assess any risks or potential harmful effects. To become a toxicologist, a strong science-based background is vital – there are a lot of hypotheses to test and lab reports to write! You also need to be a logical thinker with excellent written and oral communication skills, but with a background in food science, this won't be a problem.

#### Chef

A fast-paced, busy environment may want to consider being a chef. Beware, the hours may be long and often unsociable, but for those who love to cook, this can be an incredibly rewarding career. Although a food degree isn't essential for this role, it can be incredibly useful to gain an understanding of the industry. Experience here is a necessity, and anything you can do to get your foot in the door. A love for Food and trying new experiences is a must. Try to get as much experience as you can in the hospitality industry, be it in waiting, dishwashing etc. Being in the environment can teach you a lot about the industry and will look great on your CV!

### How is it assessed?

**Task 1: Food Investigation**—This allows pupils to show their knowledge and understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients through a practical investigation and brief written report.

**Task 2: Food preparation**—This practical based task assesses pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food, and application of nutrition in response to a chosen task. Pupils have to showcase their practical food preparation skills and produce a written account to support their practical work.

Pupils' knowledge and understanding of food preparation and nutrition is further assessed via one written examination paper, which contributes 50% to the final GCSE grade.

#### **Course Content**

The Food course looks at the many processes involved in producing the foods we eat and gives pupils opportunities to combine their creativity and designing skills with a knowledge and understanding of food and the practical application of scientific principles. It allows pupils to develop the important transferable skills of time management and organization required for successful A-level and degree level study, helping them to make more effective and efficient use of their time.

Some of the topics covered during the course include the nutritional and functional properties of food, healthy eating, practical food preparation skills, food provenance, the effects of food processing and cooking, and food science. Pupils will continue to build on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed during their KS3 course.

Throughout the course there is a strong emphasis on practical work which takes a variety of forms and includes practical food preparation, food science experiments and investigations. Weekly practical lessons allow pupils to develop their time management and organizational skills alongside their practical food preparation skills.

#### **How can you be successful in this subject?**

To go beyond what is expected of a Food Preparation and Nutrition student at GCSE and achieve outstanding outcomes in the subject, students should develop a passion for Food that evolves outside of class-room learning. They should watch ~~programmes~~ programmes and competitions which allow them to maintain an awareness of fashionable ingredients, techniques and plating. They should also look to form conscious links between their studies in FT and their studies in science, the humanities and PE.

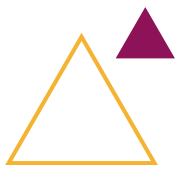


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# What to Study

## iGCSE FINE ART



EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

CONTACT: Miss N.Madiar( n.madiar\_wsq@gemsedu.com )

### What skills will I develop?

Learning through this iGCSE will help you to develop solid, lifelong transferable skills which will enable you to adapt and thrive in different educational environments and ultimately into employment. Through the exploration and development of your knowledge, skills and understanding of visual language, you will also develop essential skills needed for higher education such as self-directed study, independent research, interpersonal and intercultural skills, self-regulation and self awareness of own strengths and weaknesses. This course is based on a holistic learning approach to enhance your creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring drawing, painting, printing and making. You will highly develop your critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills whilst simultaneously growing in confidence and awareness of the purposes and functions of different forms of art in a variety of context.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

You could go on to take an AS level in Art & Design, a Vocational A level in Art & Design or a related subject. If you know the area of art, craft or design you want to specialise in, you could study for a National Certificate or National Diploma in Art & Design. A GCSE in Fine Art will give you good grounding that can lead you to any career path in the field of Art and Design ( Animation & Illustration, Architecture, Graphic Design: Print, Graphic Design: Web, Photography, Product Design, Prop & Set Design, Landscape Design, Art Teacher, Airbrush Artist, Art Dealer, Cartoonists, E book Cover Artist, Fashion Designer, Freelance Artist, Fashion Illustration, Graphic Artist, Interior Design, Illustrators, make up artists, museum director, Theatrical Make up Artist).



### How is it assessed?

#### Course components:

Assessment comprises a personal portfolio and an externally-set assignment, allowing students to demonstrate their creativity and skills through mediums and subjects that inspire them.

#### Component 1 50%

Students must submit: • three sheets of supporting studies (maximum size A2 for each sheet) • one sheet of final outcome/s (maximum size A2).\*\* Students' work must show evidence of all four Assessment Objectives in response to the internally-set theme. All work is internally set and is externally marked. The total number of marks available for the Personal Portfolio is 72.

#### Component 2 50%

Students must submit: • three sheets of supporting studies (maximum size A2 for each sheet) • one sheet of final outcome/s (maximum size A2).\*\* Students' work must show evidence of all four Assessment Objectives in response to the Externally Set Assignment theme. All work is externally set and is externally marked. The total number of marks available for the externally set assignment is 72.

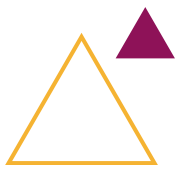
### How can you be successful in this subject?

You will need the following attributes and values to be successful in this subject:

- Have an interest in Art and the curiosity to want to explore and experiment.
- Have an open and growth mindset.
- Be hardworking and willing to persevere.







# What to Study



## IGCSE French course



**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Joe Buckley (j.buckley\_wsq@gemsedu.com )

### Candidates should:

- ⇒ Have a deep interest in developing their knowledge of the language and culture of French speaking countries
- ⇒ Understand that language learning is a skill that they will be able to apply to other languages in the future

### How is it assessed?

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in French qualification comprises three assessments:

- Paper 1 – a written examination paper
- Paper 2 – a written examination paper
- Paper 3 – a spoken examination paper.

### Paper 1: Listening

• Assessment is through a 30-minute examination paper set and marked by Pearson, plus five minutes' reading time.

The total number of marks for the paper is 40.

25% of the IGCSE

### Paper 2: Reading and Writing

- ◇ Assessment is through a 1-hour and 45-minute examination paper set and marked by Pearson.
- ◇ The total number of marks for the paper is 80, with 40 marks for reading and 40 marks for writing.
- ◇ 50% of the IGCSE

### Paper 3: Speaking

Total assessment time is 8-10 minutes.

The total number of marks for the paper is 40

25% of the IGCSE

### Course Content

The IGCSE French course is designed to develop candidates' performance in the 4 core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The course is topic-based with candidates covering 5 modules, building on their previous knowledge of basic vocabulary and grammar.

Topics covered include

- 1) Education and employment
- 2) Home and abroad
- 3) Personal life and relationships
- 4) The world around us
- 5) Social activities, fitness and health

⇒ Candidates will also learn to deal with a large number of situations that require the use of spoken French, such as shopping for food, ordering food in a restaurant, reporting lost and stolen items etc.

⇒ Candidates will be able to use a range of tenses and grammatical structures to communicate when travelling in French speaking countries.

### What extra support is there available?

All support comes from your class teacher and the course specification. If you have any further questions, please contact

Ms. Simeone; [n.simeone\\_wsq@gemsedu.com](mailto:n.simeone_wsq@gemsedu.com) or follow the link for the full specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/French/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/International-GCSE-French-Specification.pdf>



# What to Study

## IGCSE Geography



**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Ms. Samira Rokadia (s.rokadia\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

- Independent learning skills
- Critical Thinking skills
- Reflective thinking skills
- Enquiring skills
- Present and analyse data, draw conclusions and evaluate information from different sources
- Fieldwork Skills: **This fieldwork is compulsory and will incur an additional cost.**

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

Law  
Market Research  
Analyst  
Astronomy  
Politics  
Urban Planning  
Hospitality and Events  
Tourism  
Computer programming  
Economist

### How is it assessed?

Two external exams:

Paper 1 (40%) – Exam 1 hour 10 minutes

Paper 2—Exam - 1 hour 45 minutes

### Course Content:

Paper 1– Physical Geography

A) Coastal Environments

B) Hazardous Environments

Paper 2 (60%) - Human Geography

A) Economic Activity and Energy

B) Urban Environments

C) Globalisation and Migration

Both Exams have fieldwork elements in section B of the exam

### What extra support is there available?

- Extra Lessons if required
- Fieldwork activities
- Revision sessions—themed revision on skills and exam technique



# What to Study

## GCSE HISTORY



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Ms. Samar Ali (s.ali\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

By studying GCSE History, you will prove your ability to develop and extend your knowledge and understanding of specific key events, eras and societies in national and world History.

You will become a successful independent learner and a critical and reflective thinker. You'll know which questions are relevant to give you the information you need. Taking on investigations with an impartial stance, analysing them in detail to draw substantiated conclusion, by using a range of sources in their context.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

The skills you develop through this course can be utilized in many different ways as you are constantly researching and constructing arguments based on a range of viewpoints. Some exciting career options, include- journalism, law, business, teaching, museum work and politics.



### How is it assessed?

- Paper 1: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city. 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91. 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Paper 3: Modern Depth Study Weimar and Nazi Germany. 1 hour and 20 minutes.

### Course Content

- The changing nature of crime and punishment in Britain
- The Battles of 1066 and the Norman Conquest
- The origins of the Cold War and the development of superpower relations
- Weimar Germany and the rise of the Nazi Party

### How can you be successful in this subject?

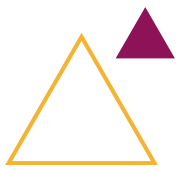
You will need the ability to explain, analyse and make judgements about historical events and periods. Use a range of source material to comprehend, interpret and support your judgment.

### What extra support is there available?

- 1:1 support where necessary
- Revision guides and homework booklets to



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# What to Study

## IGCSE ICT



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mr. Sidat (b.sidat\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

- Explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society
- Learn about current and emerging digital technologies and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts by individuals and organisations
- Develop awareness of the risks that are inherent in using ICT and the features of safe, secure and responsible practice
- Work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts
- Learn how to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and how to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

You maybe able to work in Business Analyst, Computer Service Technician, Cyber Security Specialist, Data Analyst, Data Centre Technician, Data Scientist, Database Administrator, Database Analyst.

### How can you be successful in this subject?

Ability to time manage, set goals and act accordingly.  
Focused throughout duration of course.  
Be a confident independent learner.



### How is it assessed?

There are two exams:

#### Paper 1:

- Written exam: 1 hours 30 minutes
- 50% of IGCSE

#### Paper 2:

- Practical On-screen exam: 3 hours
- 50% of IGCSE

### Course Content

- Digital Devices
- Connectivity
- Operating Online
- Online goods and services
- Applying Information & Communication Technology
- Software Skills

### What extra support is there available?

Different online resources including ebook and useful websites like GCSEPod are available. Booster sessions and 1:1 support will be provided near the exams.





# What to Study

## IGCSE MATHEMATICS



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mrs. Tamara Crosdale (t.crosdale\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

Mathematics will allow you to develop many skills including analysing, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. These are skills that are developed through the use of Higher Performance Learning in all maths lessons.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

IGCSE Mathematics is an important foundation for many courses and careers. Analytical and quantitative skills are sought by a wide range of employers. A degree in mathematics provides you with a broad range of skills in problem solving, logical reasoning and flexible thinking. This leads to careers that are exciting, challenging and diverse in nature.

Further vocational and academic qualifications: A level Mathematics and Further Maths



### How is it assessed?

All six areas are assessed via two external examinations, at the end of year 11. There is no coursework therefore the exams make up 100% of the assessment. Both papers are calculator papers and are two hours in duration. They each contribute equally to the overall grade. There are two tiers available: **Foundation** tier, with grades 1-5 available; and **Higher** tier, with grades 3-9 available. Students sit all three exams at the same tier.

### Course Content

The IGCSE Mathematics content has been divided into six main domains:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio & Proportion
4. Geometry and Measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

### How can you be successful in this subject?

The course is accessible to everyone at his or her own level. You do, however, need to be willing to persevere and ask for help when you need it. By incorporating the HPL ACPs and VAAs into your independent practice.

### What extra support is there available?

- Extra classes available at KS4 but especially during Y11
- Revision materials to prepare for internal and external exams
- Regular class tests and mock exams

# What to Study

## GCSE Media Studies



**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**CONTACT:** Mr. George Pearce (g.pearce\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

- Group work.
- Independent work –ability to analyse and explore different media texts and platforms.
- Film skills.
- Digital photography.
- Knowledge of industry standard software.
- Psychology analysis and social impact of media.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

This GCSE will lead to a variety of other qualifications including; Media Studies and Film Studies at A-Level, This qualification will enhance students' progression in their creative ability as well as an academic insight into journalism and marketing.

GCSE Media Studies will allow students to follow a career path in many areas in the media; practical theoretical and psychological .



### How is it assessed?

#### Media One

Section A will focus on Media language and representations. Section B will focus on Audience and Industries - Written Exam 1h 30mins 35%

#### Media Two

Section A will be based on a screening from an extract . Section B will focus on any of the theoretical frameworks.

- Written Exam 1h 30mins 35%

#### NEA

Students will be focus on creating a physical product following a set brief. This will be in line with professional expectations and use of industry standard software.

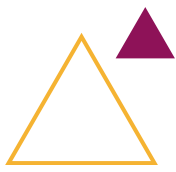
- Coursework 30%

### Course Content

Students will cover a variety of different media texts and will participate in theoretical discussion based around the theoretical framework and psychological analysis of set products including: Television, film industries, magazines, newspapers, radio, social media, video games etc.

### How can you be successful in this subject?

A love of media texts and platforms with the focus of wanting to analyse the impact that media has had on culture and society as well as a drive to perform creatively when considering audience interactions with products.



# What to Study

## GCSE MUSIC



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mr. Vitor Boga (v.boga\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

- Performance—Solo & Ensemble
- Composition
- Appraisal

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

Producer; Therapist; Musician; School and private music teacher; Sound designer & Engineer; Sound technician—broadcast/film/video; SPX technician



### How is it assessed?

- Performance—2 pieces 30%
- Composition—2 pieces 30%
- Appraising—Exam 40%

### Course Content

- Performance—Solo & Ensemble
- Composition—Solo & Ensemble
- Appraising— Instrumental  
Vocal  
Stage & Screen  
Fusion

### How can you be successful in this subject?

- Listening to relevant music;
- Practice the instrument throughout the week—no private lessons needed;
- Follow student guide;
- Study previous students examples

### What extra support is there available?

- Provided assessment grids outline what students need to achieve the levels
- Enroll in extra curricular provided in school;
- Follow support for set work



# What to Study

## GCSE Psychology



**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mrs Sanaa Serroukh (s.serroukh\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What skills will I develop?

- Conducting experiments
- Debating, Speaking and listening
- Understand WHY humans behave in a certain way
- Become open minded to current and relatable topics related to human behaviour

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

- Any form of management role in business
- Psychologist/ psychotherapist
- Sports psychologist
- HR role
- Counselor/ support work
- Teacher/ Nurse/ Doctor
- All jobs working with people!



### How is it assessed?

- Two exam papers at the end of Y11
- Paper 1 98 marks
- Paper 2 79 Marks

### Course Content

- 6 Compulsory Topics: Memory, Development, Psychological problems, Neuropsychology, Social Influence, Research Methods
- 2 Topics of choice: Criminal psychology/ sleep and dreaming

### How can you be successful in this subject?

- Be organised and thorough– there is a lot of in depth content so classwork and homework tasks must be done thoroughly always





# What to Study



## IGCSE Spanish course



**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Mr Cano (a.cano\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### Candidates should:

- ⇒ Have a deep interest in developing their knowledge of the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries
- ⇒ Understand that language learning is a skill that they will be able to apply to other languages in the future

### How is it assessed?

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Spanish qualification comprises three assessments:

- Paper 1 – a written examination paper
- Paper 2 – a written examination paper
- Paper 3 – a spoken examination paper.

### Paper 1: Listening

• Assessment is through a 30-minute examination paper set and marked by Pearson, plus five minutes' reading time.

The total number of marks for the paper is 40.

25% of the IGCSE

### Paper 2: Reading and Writing

- ◇ Assessment is through a 1-hour and 45-minute examination paper set and marked by Pearson.
- ◇ The total number of marks for the paper is 80, with 40 marks for reading and 40 marks for writing.
- ◇ 50% of the IGCSE

### Paper 3: Speaking

Total assessment time is 8-10 minutes.

The total number of marks for the paper is 40

25% of the IGCSE

### Course Content

The IGCSE Spanish course is designed to develop candidates' performance in the 4 core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The course is topic- based with candidates covering 5 modules, building on their previous knowledge of basic vocabulary and grammar.

Topics covered include

- 1) Education and employment
- 2) Home and abroad
- 3) Personal life and relationships
- 4) The world around us
- 5) Social activities, fitness and health

⇒ Candidates will also learn to deal with a large number of situations that require the use of spoken Spanish, such as shopping for food, ordering food in a restaurant, reporting lost and stolen items etc.

⇒ Candidates will be able to use a range of tenses and grammatical structures to communicate when travelling in Spanish speaking countries.

### What extra support is there available?

All support comes from your class teacher and the course specification.

If you have any further questions, please contact

Mr Cano ; [a.cano\\_wsq@gemsedu.com](mailto:a.cano_wsq@gemsedu.com) or follow the link for the full specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Spanish/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/International-GCSE-Spanish-Specification.pdf>



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# What to Study

## iGCSE Science



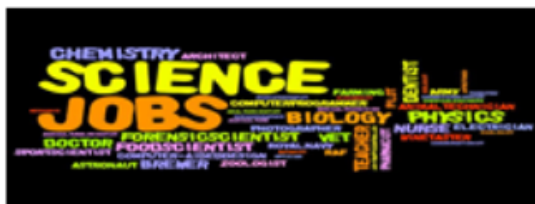
**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson Edexcel

**CONTACT:** Dr. Mandy Rampling (d.rampling\_wsq@gemsedu.com)

### What is Triple Science Course?

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE is part of a suite of International GCSE qualifications offered by Pearson. The course content offers separate science qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and all the 3 sciences as triple award science. The course enables successful progression to A level Science and beyond.

### What career opportunities can this subject lead to ?



### How is it assessed?

Linear qualification, two written examinations must be taken in the same series at the end of the course of study.

### Course Content

The content has been designed to meet different students' needs.

#### Biology Content

1. The nature and variety of living organisms.
2. Structure and functions in living

4. Ecology and the environment
5. Use of biological resources

#### Chemistry Content

1. Principles of chemistry
2. Inorganic chemistry
3. Physical chemistry
4. Organic chemistry

#### Physics content

1. Forces and motion
2. Electricity
3. Waves
4. Energy resources and energy transfers
5. Solids, liquids and gases
6. Magnetism and electromagnetism
7. Radioactivity and particles
8. Astrophysics

### How can you be successful in this subject?

Self motivation, enthusiasm and hardwork through independent studies.

### What extra support is there available?

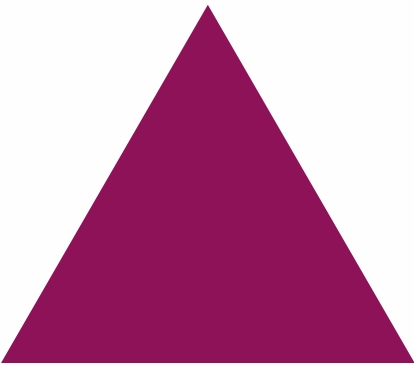
There is an official text book and online learning resources provided by the school. Examples: Activelearn, EP, SENECA and GCSE Pods.







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