



Y PANT

YEAR 8 OPTIONS 2019



Changes this year

Key Stage 3

Years 7, 8 and 9

Key Stage 4

Years 10 and 11

Key Stage 3

Years 7 and 8

Key Stage 4

Years 9, 10 and 11

- Narrow choice
- Lack of curriculum time - *increased content and earlier exams*
- Wellbeing - *stress/pressure, additional revision sessions*
- Disengagement during Year 9
- Enrichment
- Results

...with all key stakeholders:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Governors
- Teachers
- **Students**
- Parents
- Other schools



The benefits

- More choice
- More curriculum time
- More enrichment and exploration
- Improved well-being
- Improved outcomes



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The Process

- **Thursday 14th February (day)**
 - Options presentation to students
- **Thursday 14th February (evening)**
 - Parents Information Evening
- **Wednesday 20th February**
 - Year 8 Parents Evening: a chance for parents to discuss progress and suitability of students continuing with subjects
- **w/c 18th February**
 - Assemblies by Heads of Department outlining course details (option subjects only)



Y PANT The Process Continued...

- **w/c 4th March**

- Deadline for preferred option choices to be made. All students to be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team

- **Late March**

- Curriculum planning meeting - decision on which courses run. Further tweaks to student options and second interview where necessary

- **April/May**

- Timetabling for Year 9 begins

Compulsory and Option Subjects

- English Language/Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Maths/Numeracy (2 GCSEs)
- Science (at least 2 GCSEs*)
- Welsh (1 GCSE)
- Welsh Bacc (1 GCSE equivalent)
- Life Skills (up to 3 GCSE equivalents)
- Games (no qualification)
- 4 option subjects - choice of **four** from over **twenty** option subjects
- Sets vs mixed ability



Y PANT Double vs Triple Science

Double	Triple
9 hrs per fortnight*	13 hrs per fortnight*
6 exams Exam duration =1 hr 15 min	6 exams Exam duration =1 hr 45 min
2 amalgamated qualifications, eg: Science AB	3 separate qualifications, eg: Biology B, Chemistry A*, Physics A
4 options remaining	3 options remaining
'Standard' content covered	'Extra' content covered
Offered in all schools	Offered in some schools

Basis Of Good Option Choices



Positive reasons

- Interest
- Enjoyment
- Ability
- Learning styles
- Variety
- Subject choice at post-16
- Possible career/future plans

Basis Of Good Option Choices

Negative reasons

- Friends
- Staff teaching the subject
 - Subject is new
- Parents/carers/other interested parties
- Subject is gender dictated



Subjects to careers by gender?



Families of subjects

Languages	Technology	Humanities	Creative
French	DT Engineering Construction	History	Drama
Spanish	Food and Nutrition Child, Health and Social Care	Geography	Music
Welsh	Business	REP	Art
	ICT/ Computing	Media Studies	Music

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Triple Science	Triple Science	Triple Science	Triple Science
French	Geography	French	Geography
Drama	History	ICT	History
DT Product Design	Media Studies	Geography	DT Product Design
Business	Computer Science	Food and Nutrition	Art
Art	Music	Drama	Media Studies
PE	Food and Nutrition	PE	Textiles
History	DT Product Design	Art	Computer Science
Health, Social Care, and Childcare	Health, Social Care, and Childcare	Religion, Ethics and Philosophy	Religion, Ethics and Philosophy
Engineering IVET	Retail Business IVET	Engineering IVET	Spanish
Sport IVET	Construction IVET	Construction IVET	Engineering IVET



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Common questions?

- What's the difference between GCSE and vocational courses? Are they commensurate?
- Is Triple Award Science a prerequisite to studying Science A levels? Is Triple Award Science for 'set 1' only?
- How long do I have to change my mind?
- What should I do?
- Should I consider extracurricular activities?

1. Think
2. Research
3. Discuss - teachers, students, parents/carers, careers adviser
4. Taster sessions?



Option Choice Form

Name:
Form:

Option Subjects	Why have I chosen this subject?
A	
B	
C	
D	



Remember

- Aim for interest, enjoyment, variety and, ultimately, good grades!
- Don't undervalue vocational qualifications (highlighted in **bold**)
- A subject may not be offered due to insufficient numbers - have a back up plan
- Listen carefully to guidance provided
- Effort vs ability

Subject specific information

The GCSE course is made up 4 modules that are taught over year 10 & 11.

- **Unit 1. Britain, Depression, War & Recovery 1930-1951.** A 1-hour exam worth **25%** of your final mark.
- **Unit 2. The USA: A nation of contrasts 1910- 1929.** A 1-hour exam worth **25%** of your final mark.
- **Unit 3. Changes in Health & Medicine 1340- Present Day.** A 1-hour 15- minute exam worth **30%** of your final mark.
- **Unit 4. Working as an Historian, Controlled Assessment.** Class work tasks under controlled conditions worth **20%** of your final mark.

“Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What can be more important than that?” Michael Palin.

“Geography is important because we are inextricably linked to the world we live in. We can only live on this planet with a knowledge of how it works and a commitment to respect it.” Anon

General Aims:

Geography enables us to understand and appreciate the world in which we live, and to make informed judgments on issues of importance in our world. Geography is a popular option choice and the Department has an excellent record of exam success.

The G.C.S.E. course has the following aims:

1. To develop an **interest** in and **enjoyment** of the subject.
2. To develop an understanding of the **interactions** between people and their environment.
3. To gain an understanding of the physical and human **processes** that affect places.
4. To develop a **sense of place** within our global community.
5. To acquire and use geographical **skills**.
6. To encourage informed **judgments** on current issues and global problems and hence citizenship.

Course Content:

The GCSE course is made up of two modules: “Changing Physical and Human Landscapes” and “Environmental and Developmental Issues”. Candidates are also required to undertake a fieldwork enquiry.

Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

Core Theme One: Landscapes and Physical Processes.

Core Theme Two: Rural-Urban Links.

Options: Tectonic Landscapes and Hazards or Coastal Hazards and their Management.

Environmental and Developmental Issues

Core Theme Five: Weather, Climate and Ecosystems.

Core Theme Six: Development and Resource Issues.

Options: Social Development Issues or Environmental Challenges.

Methods of Assessment:

Candidates are required to sit two written examination papers worth 80% of the final mark, both of which are examined at the end of Year Eleven. Candidates are also required

to complete a written report worth 20% of the final mark, based on two fieldwork days which will assess their understanding of the geographical enquiry process and their independent ability to process and present data.

Career Prospects:

Geography is a requirement for a few particular careers such as teaching and planning, although more usually it is used as a general qualification for a wide range of areas. The analytical and interpretative skills that the subject imparts are a requirement for most jobs. It is a subject of common sense and geographers can be found in almost every walk of life.

Link Subjects:

Geography is a natural science which means that it can be usefully combined with all subjects.

Religion, Ethics and Philosophy

The GCSE course is made up 8 modules examined under two units that are taught in years 9 to 11.

- Unit 1. Christian beliefs and practices, Jewish beliefs and practice, ethical and philosophical issues: Life and Death (creation, evolution and Big Bang, sanctity of life, abortion, euthanasia and Humanist teaching on these); Good and Evil (the Holocaust, Just War theory, pacifism, crime and punishment, the death penalty).
- A 2 hour exam in Year 10 worth 50% of your final mark.
- Unit 2. Christian beliefs and practices continued, Jewish beliefs and practices continued, ethical and philosophical issues: Relationships (family, marriage, contraception, adultery, divorce) and Human Rights (human nature, environmental responsibility, prejudice and discrimination, poverty, free will, personal conviction).
- A 2 hour exam in Year 11 worth 50% of your final mark

3 Broad themes:

Identity and culture

- Youth Culture- Self and relationships, Technology and social media / Lifestyle- Health and fitness, Entertainment and leisure / Customs and Traditions- Food and drink, Festivals and celebrations

Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- Home and Locality- Local areas of interest, Transport /France and French speaking countries- Local and regional features and characteristics, Holidays and tourism / Global Sustainability- Environment, Social issues

Current and future study and employment

- Current Study- School/college life, School/college studies/ World of Work- Work experience and part-time jobs. Skills and personal qualities /Jobs and Future Plans- Applying for work/study, Career plans
- Four skills of Listening , Reading, Writing and Speaking all tested in Year 11 exams 25% each

This subject focuses on the creative and productive use and application of technology and computer systems, especially in organisations.

For example pupils will look at the “Use of ICT equipment” and look at graphical design work such as creating publication material using software.

If you like to be creative- this subject is for you!

Course Structure & Assessment

- **Unit 1: Understanding ICT- 20%**

This is a written exam that looks at the functional elements of ICT in a home and school context.

- **Unit 2: Solving Problems with ICT- 30%**

This is a controlled assessment which consists of a portfolio of work. The brief is issued by the exam board.

- **Unit 3: ICT in Organisations-20%**

This is a written exam that looks at the 'application' content of ICT in a business and industry context.

- **Unit 4: Developing Multimedia ICT Solutions-30%**

This is a controlled assessment will give pupils the opportunity to develop a piece of work using multimedia software following a single task brief issued by WJEC.

Computer Science is the study of the design and development of computer systems. It is a subject discipline, on a par with Maths or Physics.

For example with Computer Science you will look at “how a Network works” and how to Program using specific programming languages.

If you like to problem solving/coding/programming this a subject for you!

Course Structure & Assessment

- **Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science –Exam– 50%**

This is an exam at the end of year 11 that looks at areas of study such as:- Networks, Internet & Communications, Algorithm's & Programming.

- **Unit 2: Solving Problems Using Computers -30%**

This assessment consists of a series of tasks set and marked by WJEC and completed on screen by candidates. These tasks will assess the practical application of knowledge and understanding.

- **Unit 3: Developing Computing Solutions -20%**

This controlled assessment will give candidates the opportunity to develop a piece of work using programming software following a task brief from a choice of two issued by WJEC.

The courses offered at this level are:

- **GCSE Business– WJEC** examination board. Assessed via two external exams at the end of year 11.
- **Retail Business Level 1 / 2 Award and Certificate - WJEC** examination board. Assessed via 60% internal assessment (controlled assessments) and 40% external assessment. Assessments in year 10 and year 11.

Topics covered are:

GCSE Business	Retail Business
The nature of business activity Business enterprise and planning Influences on businesses Business operations Finance Marketing Human resources	Customer Experience Retail Business Retail Operations Promotion for Retail Business Stock Control in Retail Business Selling Retail Products

Pupils will have the opportunity to experience theory in the classroom in real life environments. Three of the trips available are:

- **Cadbury World** to look at production techniques and marketing.
- 4 day trip to **Prague or New York** to visit several businesses and explore the city.

The Media Studies GCSE course is made up of 4 exam units and one coursework unit. The 1 hr 30 min exams are worth 30% each of the overall GCSE grade and the coursework unit is worth 40%.

Both exams are sat at the end of year 11. The coursework is begun at the end of year 10 and completed in year 11.

Unit 1 Exam content is studied in year 10:

- Section A - Representation of gender in Advertising and Video Games; representation of events in newspapers
- Section B - The Music Industry (magazines, music videos, radio, social media)

Unit 2 Exam content is studied in year 11:

- Section A - Wales on Television (particular focus on the set text, Gavin and Stacey)
- Section B - Hollywood Film Industry, with a focus on the set text, Balck Panther

Coursework - Research, Planning, Creation and Evaluation of a product (e.g. magazine) involving use of creative skills such as photography and photoshop

- **Assessment:**
- 2 hour written **theoretical** exam at the end of Year 11
- **Weighting:** 50% of total mark
- The subject content focuses on five key areas:
 - 1. Health, training and exercise
 - 2. Exercise physiology
 - 3. Movement analysis
 - 4. Psychology of sport and physical activity
 - 5. Socio-cultural issues in sport and physical activity
- **Practical** Coursework assessed over the course of the GCSE qualification:
- **Weighting:** 50% of total mark
- Assessed in **3 sports** (from list). These must be a mixture of **both team and individual** sports.

GCSE Course

- Unit 1 - Design and Technology in the 21st Century - Written Exam 2hrs - 50%
- Unit 2 - Design and make task - 35hrs - 50%

IVET Course (25% exam)

- Unit 1: Engineering Design - controlled assessment (25%)
- Unit 2: Product Engineering Products - controlled assessment (50%)
- Unit 3: Solving Engineering Problems – exam (25%)

IVET Course

- Unit 1: Safety and Security in Construction – exam (25%)
- Unit 2: Practical Construction Skills - controlled assessment (50%)
- Unit 3: Planning Construction projects - controlled assessment (25%)

UNIT 1 - PRINCIPLES OF FOOD AND NUTRITION- 40% written exam
1 hour 30 minutes

- 1. Food commodities
- 2. Principles of nutrition
- 3. Diet and good health
- 4. The science of food
- 5. Where food comes from
- 6. Cooking and food preparation

UNIT 2 - COURSEWORK - 60% (year 11)

- NEA1 - food investigation 20%
- NEA 2 - Food preparation 40%



Health, Social and Child care

- Unit 1 - Written exam 1 and half hours worth 40% of your mark, on Human growth, development and well-being.
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- Unit 2 - Non Exam Assessments (coursework) worth 60% of your mark, on Promoting and maintaining health and well being.
- There are 2 separate tasks, one is about health services provided for a group of people and the other is health promotion.
- This subject is for anyone that wants to work with children or in the health care sector (doctors, midwives, therapists etc.)

- This GCSE falls under the umbrella of Art and Design. The course is split 60% portfolio and 40% externally set assignment. There is no written exam; the course is practical based.
- The course is suitable for anyone who enjoys creativity, craft, design, making or illustration. Portfolios will consist of exploration, research, sampling and making.
- Possible career opportunities include – Textile designer, Fashion or interior designer, textile buyer, fashion forecaster, knitwear designer, milliner, fashion journalist, colour consultant, theatrical costume designer, fashion illustrator, pattern-cutter and designer-maker.

The GCSE Art course is made up of 2 parts - Coursework (60% of grade) / Exam(40%)The coursework folder is based on a given theme. An open ended theme is set and students find their own areas of interest. Previous themes have included Fragments, Structures, and Wraps.

The coursework folder is made up of 3 projects. The 3d & Print units are structured to learn processes and skills. A thematic enquiry follows this where students choose their own outcome.

Recording in a range of media underpins each project, sketchbook work is essential alongside visits to museums and galleries to make connections between students own practical work and that of other artists/ designers/ practitioners.

The exam paper is given in Jan of Yr11. There is usually a 10 week (approx) preparatory period where students select a theme from a choice of 15 options. Students must show research, ideas, development of their ideas from looking at the world around them and other artists / designers. There is a 10hr exam in which students produce their final outcome. This can be in any media (3d / Print / Painting / Drawing / Mixed Media / fashion etc).

Each unit (cwk / exam) is mounted and presented in an exhibition for assessment. All work is internally marked and externally moderated.

There are three components - skills that you are examined in: Performing; Composing; Appraising

The types of music will study are called areas of study. They are:

- 1. Musical Forms and Devices
- 2. Music for Ensemble
- 3. Film Music
- 4. Popular Music

There are also two pieces of music that you will learn to analyse in depth. They are by Stereophonics and Purcell

The GCSE course is made up 3 units that are taught over Year 10 and 11

- Unit 1. - Devising Theatre - 40% of final qualification
- A piece of theatre created by the student, internally marked.
- Unit 2. - Performing Theatre - 20% of final qualification
- A performance from a script in pairs, external moderator.
- Unit 3 - Text in Theatre - 40% of final qualification
- A written exam on Romeo and Juliet in its theatrical setting.