



Yate Academy



Year 9

Options Booklet

February 2025

A better chance of success

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Important Dates

Options Online Launch (Google Meet)
<https://meet.google.com/jud-roko-pvw>

Wednesday 12th February 2025

Year 9 Options Evening in Person

Wednesday 26th February 2025

Deadline for submitting options choices

Friday 7th March 2025

After the option form deadline is reached, interviews will be held with any child who has not been able to get all their first choices so that we can discuss alternatives.

If at any point you would like to discuss options with a subject teacher, please email them using the addresses in the options booklet or contact options@yateacademy.co.uk

Contact Details

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Director of Key Stage Three
E-mail: options@yateacademy.co.uk

Mr T. Pottle
Assistant Headteacher
Email: options@yateacademy.co.uk

INTRODUCTION

Key Stage 4 is an exciting opportunity to choose those subjects that you will study for the next two years and possibly beyond. Deciding what you want for yourself at the end of Key Stage 4 is an important decision and one which you should not consider taking alone.

What will I study?

Core Subjects

All students will study the following exam subjects as part of the core offer in Key Stage 4:

- GCSE Maths
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Combined Science (2 GCSEs)

Triple Science

- Some students will study separate sciences (Triple Science) and gain 3 GCSEs in Science. Students are selected for triple science based on their academic record since year 7, and this sits outside of the options process. If a student takes triple science this is not one of their four option subjects.

Students will also study PSHE, Philosophy & Ethics and Core PE, however these subjects will not be examined at the end of year 11.

Option Subjects

All students will study 4 option subjects to complement their core subjects. Students are placed onto an options pathway by the school and this will guide the subjects they can choose. Please see details of the 2 pathways below:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
EBacc Pathway (English Baccalaureate)	History / Geography	Language (French / Spanish)	Free Choice	Free Choice
Academic Pathway	History / Geography	Sport / Health	Free Choice	Free Choice

Students on the EBacc Pathway must choose at least one of Geography or History alongside a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish). Students can only choose a language they have previously studied. Students are able to study both Geography & History if they wish.

Students on the Academic Pathway must choose at least one of Geography or History alongside either BTEC Sport Studies or BTEC Health & Social Care.

Students on both pathways will select four subjects in total alongside a reserve choice.

We feel that both these pathways will give students a broad set of qualifications which will set them up for excellent outcomes alongside a wide set of potential choices at Key Stage 5.

WILL I GET ALL MY CHOICES?

On occasion we do not have enough interest in a subject for us to offer it at all. Students that are affected by this will be interviewed and will reselect options.

Sometimes a subject will become oversubscribed. In this instance students will be interviewed individually to try and reallocate places. In the event of this not easing the problem, there will be a random allocation of students to ensure everyone has a fair chance of studying the course.

HOW SHOULD I CHOOSE MY OPTIONS?

Think about:

- What will I learn?
- How will I learn?
- How will I be tested? *
- What do I enjoy?
- Where will I learn?
- What qualification will I get?
- What could I go on to do when I finish?
- What am I interested in?

If you have a firm career idea, choose subjects that you will need for the next stage of your career journey – the ones you need to go into Further or Higher Education or into an Apprenticeship (see the Unifrog website for more information). Think ahead: what qualifications and subjects will you need?

If you do not have a firm career idea, choose subjects that will allow you to keep your options open. Get to know yourself. Consider which subjects you enjoy and could commit to. Learn what people do at work. Find out how much they earn.

Do not be afraid to ask for help and advice from your teachers, tutors and others. Your teachers will be more than happy to discuss your choices with you. Speak to them during lessons, breaktimes or after school.

Good reasons for choosing a course:	Bad reasons for choosing a course:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are good at the subject• You think you will enjoy the course• It goes well with your other choices• You are interested in the knowledge and skills it develops• It will give you plenty of choice in the future• You think that you might want to continue studying it or a related subject after Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your friends are doing it – don't pick something just to be part of the crowd• People say it is easy• You think it is a good course for a boy or for a girl• Someone else thinks that it is a good idea but you disagree• You like the teacher you have now• You did not have time to research your options properly

Useful Websites:

- For help choosing options: <http://www.careerpilot.org.uk>
- For finding out more about careers: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>
- For information about apprenticeships, jobs & university courses: <https://www.unifrog.org/>

Guide to qualifications on offer

The following pages outline each of the core GCSE qualifications plus details of the options qualifications.

It is essential that students read these pages carefully so that they have a clear understanding of the demands of each course.

Key Stage 4 Courses

Qualifications	Page
GCSE English Language	7
GCSE English Literature	8
GCSE Mathematics	9
GCSE Sciences	10
GCSE Modern Languages: French	12
GCSE Modern Languages: Spanish	14
GCSE History	16
GCSE Geography	17
GCSE Religious Studies	19
GCSE Art	20
GCSE Photography	21
BTEC Health and Social Care	22
Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering	23
GCSE Music	25
NCFE Music Technology	26
BTEC Sport	28

Core Subjects

GCSE English Language

Exam Board: AQA

Why is English Language important and what's in the course?

Every pupil at Yate Academy will study English Language as part of their core GCSE package. It is a central pillar, not only to support pupils' access to other subjects, but also as a GCSE required by many employers and college courses. The English Language GCSE course will offer pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their ability in both reading and writing. English Language is assessed through two exams (one fiction exam and one non-fiction exam) taken at the end of Year 11.

GCSE English Language builds on the learning, knowledge and skills from Key Stage 3 and features unseen texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Pupils will become skilled in reading unseen texts and being able to extract information and to analyse the way the text has been put together. Critical reading is a vital skill for these lessons, as is the knowledge of all the various tools a writer uses to construct a text.

At Yate Academy we will aim to teach pupils the knowledge they need to approach unseen texts and also to give them opportunities to practise analysing unseen texts, during a range of interesting and varied lessons. Pupils will study GCSE English Literature alongside GCSE English Language, giving them two GCSEs by the end of Year 11.

One of the most important things a pupil can do in preparation for taking English Language GCSE is to develop a reading habit. Regular reading is vitally important to cultivate a wider vocabulary, understanding of literary technique and understanding of the way texts are structured.

How will I be assessed in English Language?

Pupils take two exams; each is worth 50% of the final GCSE. They will be taken at the end of Year 11

The exams are:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 50%

Section A: Pupils read a piece of unseen fiction from literature and answer questions about it.

Section B: Pupils craft a piece of original writing which describes or narrates in response to a stimulus.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 50%

Section A: Pupils read two pieces of unseen literary non-fiction and answer questions about them.

Section B: Pupils craft a piece of original writing which presents a viewpoint.

Pupils will also have to complete a speaking and listening assessment, which will be graded and reported separately. However, this will not form part of the final GCSE mark.

What careers can it lead to?

English Language GCSE is essential for all careers, but if you are looking for a career in film and television, journalism, professional writing, advertising and editing you will need to have GCSE and A-Level qualifications in English.

GCSE students are expected (by law) to continue studying English with their employer/ educational institution until they are 18 years of age if students have not achieved a minimum of a Grade 4 at GCSE level.



For further information, contact Mrs Wilde at awilde@yateacademy.co.uk

GCSE English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Why is English Literature important and what's in the course?

English Literature is the second English GCSE which will be studied by all pupils at Yate Academy. This GCSE is focused on a range of different literature from different times and places.

Studying English Literature GCSE allows you to develop a thorough knowledge of some of the most important texts of our time. You will think about the way an author crafts a text to create meaning, but you will also think about characterisation, culture, politics and what it really means to be human. Our wonderful subject is about stories—we learn how they are created, we learn what they mean and we learn how to tell our own stories. Put simply, English Literature helps you to explore and analyse some of life's greatest questions. However English Literature also helps you to develop transferable skills that are highly sought by a wide range of employers, such as critical thinking, cultural understanding and analytical writing.

English Literature GCSE will test pupils' ability to read texts and write about them under exam conditions. Pupils will study 4 texts: a Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, a modern novel and a selection of poetry. They will also be tested on two unseen poems. The exam will be closed book, although selected extracts from the texts will be printed in the exam paper. This means that pupils will not be able to take copies of the texts into the exam and therefore it will be vital for pupils to know their set texts really well and to have memorised key quotations. In lessons we will be studying each of the texts and will also be preparing pupils fully for the final exams. It is obviously important, however, that pupils also take responsibility for their own learning and that all home study tasks are completed effectively.

This GCSE runs alongside the English Language GCSE and all pupils will study English Literature as a complement to their English Language study. Many of the skills required are transferable between the two GCSEs and the methods of teaching will be similar.

How will I be assessed In English Literature?

Pupils take two exams for English Literature.

Paper 1 (40%) tests the pupils on a Shakespeare play (currently 'Romeo and Juliet') and on a novel written in the 19th century (currently 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens).

Paper 2 (60%) tests the pupils on a modern text, (currently 'An Inspector Calls' by J. B Priestley,) on poetry of Love and Relationships and on Unseen Poetry.

What careers can it lead to?

English Literature is widely regarded as a prestigious and useful subject which can lead to career opportunities in a diverse range of areas including journalism, law, management, teaching, editing, marketing, public relations, banking, retail and many more.

For further information, contact Mrs Wilde at awilde@yateacademy.co.uk



GCSE Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why is Maths important and what's in the course?

As a core subject, GCSE Mathematics is a required part of the curriculum. GCSE Mathematics expects students to develop their fluency in the subject and use this knowledge and understanding to solve problems that may occur in everyday situations. These skills build on the Mathematics taught in Key Stage 3. Students are taught broadly in line with peers and are extended and supported in their deep understanding of the mathematical content taught. Students are expected to demonstrate certain resilience in their application to in depth problems. Independent thinking and learning play a pivotal role in the success of studying GCSE Mathematics.

Subject content- The subject is split into 6 main topic headings:

1 Number, 2 Algebra, 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change, 4 Geometry and measures, 5 Probability and 6 Statistics

How will I be assessed in Mathematics?

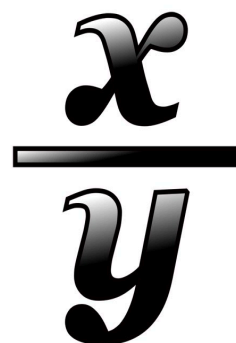
GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). 5 is broadly in line with the old grade C GCSE, 7 is broadly in line with the old grade A GCSE. Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series. Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper; papers 2 and 3 will both be calculator papers. Each paper will be 1 hour 30 minutes in length. The total mark for the combined 3 papers will generate the final given grade.

What careers can it lead to?

Mathematics is widely recognised as a crucial subject for a wide range of career choices. The GCSE certificate supports applications to a plethora of courses and many institutions see a strong mathematical background as a key factor in offering a course or employment. Maths is a great subject to develop students' problem solving and analytical skills - skills which have been identified as desirable by a variety of major institutions. A strong mathematical background will open the door to many employment opportunities. Such Careers include: Engineering, Medicine, Vocational courses such as Plumbing or Hair and Beauty; entry to specific roles in the Army, Accountancy and Finance, Science, Technology and many more.

GCSE students are expected (by law) to continue studying Maths with their employer/ educational institution until they are 18 years of age if students have not achieved a minimum of a Grade 4 at GCSE level.

For further information, contact Mrs E.Morgan at emorgan@yateacademy.co.uk



GCSE Combined Science

GCSE Biology

GCSE Chemistry

GCSE Physics

Exam Board: AQA

Why is Science important and what's in the course?

- Explains the world we live in.
- Helps improve our lives.
- Links your practical experience of the world to ideas that explain them.
- Satisfies curiosity about phenomena with explanations.
- Initiates critical and creative thought.
- Shows you how scientific ideas contribute to technological changes.

As a core subject, all students will follow a course leading to two or three GCSEs; this will be either GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. **Students will be guided during Year 10 and Year 11 to the course most appropriate to them.**

(a) GCSE Combined Science - the majority of students study combined science

Students study the following topics:

Biology: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; Ecology.

Chemistry: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; Energy changes; The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; Using resources.

Physics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure; Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism.

Students gain a single qualification that has a value of two GCSEs, graded 1-1 to 9-9.

(b) GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics

Students study the same topics as above but in greater detail, and with the addition of Space Physics.

Students gain three separate GCSEs, graded 1-9.

How will I be assessed in Science?

All students for both qualification routes are required to take 6 exams. GCSE Combined exams are each 1hr 15 minutes and GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics exams are 1hr 45 minutes.

What careers can it lead to?

Careers for which Science is essential include: medical services, medicine, research, teaching, armed forces, engineering, ecology and food science. A good Science GCSE is also recognised by employers in ALL professions as a valuable qualification due to all of the transferable skills acquired throughout the course, including analysis, maths, written communication and the ability to evaluate information. For further information, contact Miss E.Oram eoram@yateacademy.co.uk.

Option Subjects

GCSE Modern Languages French

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why is French important and what's in the course?

Learning a foreign language is an excellent opportunity to improve your communication skills (in your native language as well) and enables you to gain a deeper appreciation of different countries and cultures. One of the greatest benefits of learning a language is that it enables you to travel outside of the UK and explore the world! If you are interested in broadening your horizons and improving your academic and career opportunities, then studying GCSE French is an excellent choice for you.

Throughout the course you will practise the four communication skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking, across multiple topics relating to your own interests and experiences, as well as the wider world.

You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and Higher Education providers look for. Learning French could also improve your chance of studying at a top university in the UK or studying abroad whilst at university (even if you do not choose to do a language degree).

You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as: the ability to communicate clearly, gaining confidence in public speaking and using problem-solving strategies. You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links. Many employers look for people who speak a foreign language.

How will I be assessed in French?

Reading examination – 25%, Writing examination – 25%, Speaking examination – 25%, Listening examination – 25%

What careers can it lead to?

People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world, it is essential that we continue developing strong linguists in the UK, now more than ever in the current climate post-Brexit. Language students stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE French means you will:

- Develop excellent communication and problem-solving skills; two of the most sought-after qualities in future careers
- Be able to study A Level French
- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or to work abroad.

Careers which use French include: working in any business which deals with importing or exporting, the Foreign Service, travel and hospitality, the leisure industry, accountancy, marketing, management, teacher, translator, and many more!

Potential university courses with French:

There are hundreds of courses that you can take at university which include French. Some degrees at certain universities **require** a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language.

Language specific courses	Non-language specific courses
French studies	Finance
Arabic and French	Economics
Mandarin and French	Law
Classics and French	Journalism
Biology and French	Global studies
Chemistry and French	Politics
...and many other subjects 'and/with French' (meaning that you will also study another subject but will have the opportunity to study abroad for a year)	Criminology
Linguistics	History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)
Francophonie studies	History of Art
Modern languages and international relations	Film and visual culture
Teaching English as a foreign language	Popular music
Professional education and specialism in modern languages	International business
	European studies
	Psychology

For further information, contact Miss Sharman at fsharman@yateacademy.co.uk



GCSE Modern Languages Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why is Spanish important and what's in the course?

Learning a foreign language is an excellent opportunity to improve your communication skills (in your native language as well) and enables you to gain a deeper appreciation of different countries and cultures. One of the greatest benefits of learning a language is that it enables you to travel outside of the UK and explore the world! If you are interested in broadening your horizons and improving your academic and career opportunities, then studying GCSE Spanish is an excellent choice for you.

Throughout the course you will practise the four communication skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking, across multiple topics relating to your own interests and experiences, as well as the wider world.

You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and Higher Education providers look for. Learning Spanish could also improve your chance of studying at a top university in the UK or studying abroad whilst at university (even if you do not choose to do a language degree).

You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as: the ability to communicate clearly, gaining confidence in public speaking and using problem-solving strategies. You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links. Many employers look for people who speak a foreign language.

How will I be assessed in Spanish?

Reading examination – 25%, Writing examination – 25%, Speaking examination – 25%, Listening examination – 25%

What careers can it lead to?

People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world, it is essential that we continue developing strong linguists in the UK, now more than ever in the current climate post-Brexit. Language students stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE Spanish means you will:

- Develop excellent communication and problem-solving skills; two of the most sought-after qualities in future careers
- Be able to study A Level Spanish
- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or to work abroad.

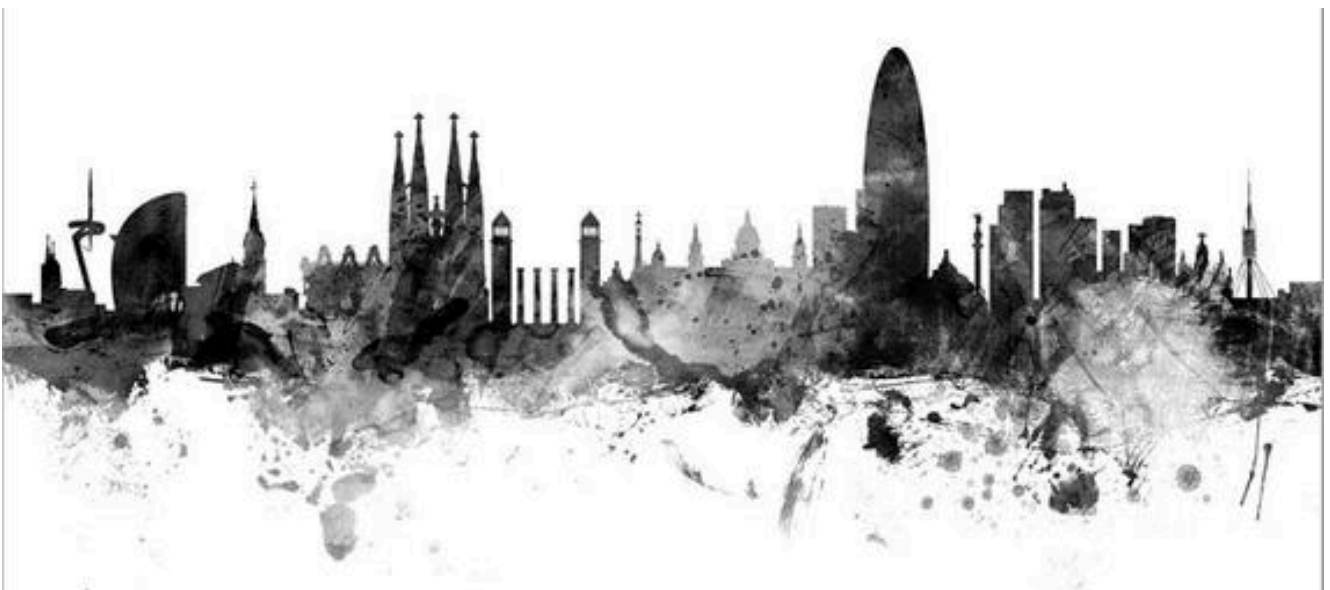
Careers which use Spanish include: working in any business which deals with importing or exporting, the Foreign Service, travel and hospitality, the leisure industry, accountancy, marketing, management, teacher, translator, and many more!

Potential university courses with Spanish:

There are hundreds of courses that you can take at university which include Spanish. Some degrees at certain universities **require** a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language.

Language specific courses	Non-language specific courses
Spanish studies	Finance
Arabic and Spanish	Economics
Mandarin and Spanish	Law
Classics and Spanish	Journalism
Biology and Spanish	Global studies
Chemistry and Spanish	Politics
...and many other subjects 'and/with Spanish' (meaning that you will also study another subject but will have the opportunity to study abroad for a year)	Criminology
Linguistics	History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)
Hispanic studies	History of Art
Modern languages and international relations	Film and visual culture
Teaching English as a foreign language	Popular music
Professional education and specialism in modern languages	International business
	European studies
	Psychology

For further information, contact Miss. Sharman at fsharman@yateacademy.co.uk



GCSE History

Exam Board: OCR

Why is History important and what's in the course?

As a history student, you have to become skilled at asking questions, sometimes awkward questions. You have to develop empathy and an understanding of the actions and achievements of others. You have to be prepared to put your case and argue it well; you have to use evidence to draw conclusions and make judgements.

The GCSE History course helps you build on what you have learnt in your Key Stage 3 lessons. We study units that allow you to study different historical societies in different ways, from a thematic study ranging over 1,000 years to local depth studies looking at the History of a particular location.

GCSE History Units Thematic Study: The People's Health, c.1250 to present	The Coronavirus pandemic has changed our lives in ways we would never have predicted. But how did past societies deal with killer diseases? In this unit, we look at how Britain has responded to diseases such as the Black Death, Cholera, and Spanish Flu over a 1,000 year period.
British Depth Study: The Elizabethans, 1580-1603	How did the English people respond to a female monarch? Why did some of them want to assassinate her? Why did others set sail for America and India? In this unit we look at England in the reign of Elizabeth I, focusing on religion, popular culture, and the daily lives of ordinary people.
Period Study: Viking Expansion, c.750–c.1050	The Vikings are about more than you thought they were. Yes, they were fierce warriors who believed in Odin and Thor. But they were also traders, travelling to the Middle East, Greenland, and even America to find new goods. They were settlers too, and established towns across Europe.
World Depth Study: Living under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945	How did Hitler come to power in Germany? How did he keep the German people loyal to him? What was it like if the Nazis occupied your country? What happened in Germany during the Second World War? In this unit, we explore life under the Nazi dictatorship and answer these questions and more.
History Around Us: The Big Pit	One hundred years ago, Britain produced more coal than any other country in the world. Millions of people owed their livelihoods to journeys deep underground. Today, mining plays a much lesser role in our national life. In this unit, we look at this story through the study of Big Pit, a coal mine in South Wales. We explore the history of the pit, compare it to mines in our local area, and go on a trip!

How will I be assessed In History?

GCSE History is assessed in three exams at the end of the course.

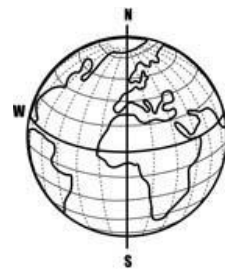
What careers can it lead to?

GCSE History can unlock a huge range of different careers in education, journalism, healthcare, research, law, and many other sectors. Employers value the ability to communicate in writing, command a lot of detailed information, and create arguments that support and challenge different points of view.

For more information contact: edurbin@yateacademy.co.uk

GCSE Geography

Exam Board: AQA



Why is Geography important and what's in the course?

This exciting and in-depth course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. It allows you to investigate the link between the human and physical, and approach and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds. Geography not only allows you to better understand issues important to your area but global issues as well so that you can better participate in the world around you and develop an appreciation of dynamic and diverse world we live in.

How will I be assessed in Geography?

You will be assessed at the end of Y11 through three exams.

<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment – 35%</p> <p>The aims of this unit are to develop an understanding of the tectonic, geomorphological, biological and meteorological processes, their effects upon humans and the strategies humans use to manage them.</p>	<p>Section A: The challenge of natural hazards: Tectonic, weather and climate hazards.</p> <p>Section B: The living world: Ecosystems, Tropical rainforest, Hot Deserts.</p> <p>Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK: UK physical landscapes, Coastal landscapes in the UK and River landscapes in the UK.</p>
<p>Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment – 35%</p> <p>This unit is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change – both spatially and temporally. Students study these in a variety of places and at a range of scales and include places in various stages of development</p>	<p>Section A: Urban issues and challenges</p> <p>Section B: The changing economic world</p> <p>Section C: The challenge of resource management: Food, water and energy</p>
<p>Paper 3: Geographical applications – 30%</p> <p>The Geographical applications unit is designed so that students will be required to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the full course of study. It is an opportunity to complete two pieces of fieldwork which showcases students' understanding and evaluation of interrelationships between different aspects of geographical study.</p>	<p>Section A: Issue evaluation- a pre-release booklet will be given 12 weeks before the exam.</p> <p>Section B: Fieldwork: Conduct two Geographical Enquiries which include the collection of primary data. You will carry out one field trip at the beginning of year 11 and one in February of Year 11.</p> <p>Section C: Geographical Skills</p>

Progression and career opportunities

Having a GCSE in Geography and A Level in Geography compliment many other A Level subjects in science and the social sciences. At university you can specialise in a variety of areas such as environmental geoscience, human activity and environmental change, development, climatology or geology. Or you may wish to combine your geography degree with politics, law, economics or international relations. Geography is a very versatile subject that has crossovers with many other subjects.

From here Geography could lead you to exciting career prospects. Geography achieves good examination results nationally and is one of the most versatile subjects; as a result, a Geography degree is well respected by employers and can be applied to a variety of different and exciting job opportunities.

Career paths include international aid work, architecture, environmental conservation, town planning, teaching, countryside management, journalism, travel and tourism, surveying, environmental health and oceanography.

For more information contact: amayo@yateacademy.co.uk

GCSE Religious Studies

Exam Board: AQA



Why is Religious Studies important and what's in the course?

The briefest of glances at the television news tells us why religion is important. Across the world, religious belief drives individuals and nations to incredible acts of heroism and kindness, but also of cruelty and violence. Regardless of how non-religious British society might have become, religion still underpins our history and our culture, be that in the role of the Queen as head of the Church of England or the religious divides in Northern Ireland. Equally, Britain is a diverse and outward-looking nation that is home to many different religions. Understanding beliefs – and why people hold them – is vital to navigating the modern world.

GCSE Religious Studies allow students to explore two religions - Christianity and Islam – as well as debating philosophical and ethical themes. In the Christianity unit, students will examine the nature of Christian belief in God and Jesus Christ. They will also explore the role of the church and different forms of worship across the world. In the Islam unit, students will look at the key Muslim beliefs, such as the nature of God and the role of the Qur'an, and compare Sunni and Shia Islam. They will also encounter the different forms of worship in Islam and consider Islamic duties such as Zakah and Hajj. The thematic unit encourages students to consider ethical issues e.g. Should we forgive? Should capital punishment be legalised in the UK? Should euthanasia be legalised? Is there a God? Is animal experimentation cruel? Should it be easy to get a divorce? Is abortion, ever right?

<p>Component 1 The study of religions: beliefs, teachings, and practices</p> <p>1 hour 45 minute exam 50% of the total grade</p>	<p>Topics to be covered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Christianity● Islam
<p>Component 2 Thematic Studies</p> <p>1 hour 45 minute exam 50% of the total grade</p>	<p>Topics to be covered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The existence of God and Revelation● Religion and Life● Crime and Punishment● Relationships and Family

Progression and career opportunities

Studying Religious Studies is important as it allows students to develop key skills including decision-making, problem solving and questioning. These skills will be valuable whatever career you consider.

Potential university courses that studying Religious Studies could lead to are Anthropology, Education, Politics and International Relations, Philosophy, Social studies, Sociology, Theology.

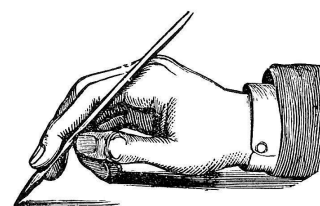
Religious Studies enables students to enter into many public service industries including nursing, policing and social work, along with law, teaching, retail and community work.

If you are considering a career in medicine – say, for example, as a doctor or a nurse, a grounding in ethical and philosophical decision-making can be very useful.

For more information contact: hvandort@yateacademy.co.uk

GCSE Art

Exam Board: EDUQAS



Why Study Art?

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, then Art and Design is the subject for you! Art & Design is suitable for a wide variety of students; from gifted artists who wish to pursue a career in creative industries, to those wishing to balance academic and practical subjects and also students who simply enjoy Art & Design and are willing to work hard.

What Skills Will I Gain?

GCSE Art & Design gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You can choose to focus on a specialist area of study from a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your individual interests and abilities. This can result in A-level/degree opportunities and careers ranging from painting portraits to producing exotic fashion costumes or designing futuristic architecture.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Unit 1: Portfolio of work. Personal, themed project - 60% of total mark.

Unit 2: Externally set brief – project set by exam board - 40% of total mark.
10 hours of sustained focused study (exam).

What Careers Can It Lead To?

Animator	Costume design	Graphic design	Product design
Architect	Exhibition Design	Illustrator	Sculptor
Art Therapist	Fashion design	Interior design	Set designer
Blacksmith	Film director	Jewellery design	Tattoo artist
Ceramics	Fine artist	Make up/Hair design	Teacher
Cartoon/Comic art	Furniture design	Medical illustrator	Theatre design
Community arts	Game design	Photographer	Web design

Students who study Art have a good chance of attending top level university. These are places such as The Royal Academy of Art, Oxford University and London College of Fashion. Art can support a number of courses at higher education.

For further information, contact Mrs Davis at kdavis@yateacademy.co.uk



GCSE Photography EDUQAS



Unit 1: Portfolio of work. Personal, themed project set by student - 60% of total mark.

Unit 2: Externally set brief – project set by exam board - 40% of total mark.
10 hours of sustained focused study (exam).

Photography GCSE will focus on a range of photography approaches using devices and editing apps. Pupils will learn an array of skills across year 10 before specializing in more individual styles of photography in year 11. Pupils will not need an expensive DSLR and can instead use alternative devices such as phones and tablets for much of their work.

A01 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources

DEVELOP
INVESTIGATE

EXPLAIN IDEAS **ARTISTS**
ANNOTATE

contextual research

EXPLORE

A02 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes

REFINE
EXPERIMENT

EXPLORE TECHNIQUES AND SKILLS **SELECT**
EXPLAIN

PHOTOGRAPHS

IDEAS

A03 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses

RECORD
INTENTIONS

LINK IDEAS **OBSERVATION**
PLANNING

PRIMARY RESEARCH

RELEVANT

A04 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

RESPONSE
MEANINGFUL

VISUAL LANGUAGE **DEMONSTRATE**

UNDERSTANDING

MAKE CONNECTIONS

CONCLUSION

Photography GCSE is marked under four assessment objectives:

- Critical Thinking
- Creative Making
- Reflective Recording
- Personal Response

Pupils must work hard throughout KS4 to ensure they keep up with the demands expected and fulfil the requirements of the course.

Pupils must have an interest in photography and analysing the work of others. Pupils will need to have good drawings skills as drawing and planning are assessed in this subject.

Pupils will be required to experiment with a range of media and digital processes to explore their own creativity.



Future Career Options:

- Advertising art director.
- Film/video editor.
- Graphic designer.
- Magazine features editor.
- Medical illustrator.
- Photographer.
- Press photographer.
- Television camera operator.

BTEC level 1/ 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care

Exam board: Pearson

Why is this course important and what's in the course?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on three areas, which cover:

- skills and processes, such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing
- attitudes, namely the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them
- knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

This course builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you learn in your GCSEs, such as English. It will complement the more theoretical aspects covered by GCSE Biology or GCSE Psychology by allowing you to apply your knowledge and skills practically in a vocational context.

How will I be assessed in Health and Social care?

1	Human Lifespan Development	Internal - Coursework
2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	Internal - Coursework
3	Health and Wellbeing	External - Exam

The course is marked by a Pass, Merit and Distinction; this will be marked internally and externally by Pearson.

What careers can it lead to?

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Health and Social Care, which prepares to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in aspects of health or social care.

Students can continue their study of Health and Social Care at Level 3 post 16 or at A level. This leads to a wide range of careers in care, including nursing, social care work and midwifery if a degree is studied after successful completion of the level 3 course.

Universities that can link to many Health and Social Care courses or routes in this area are: Bristol, Cardiff, South Wales, UWE, London, Birmingham, Middlesex, Oxford Brookes, Bournemouth and many more.

For further information please contact Mrs Davies at gdavies@yateacademy.co.uk



WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

Exam Board: WJEC

Ever wondered what it takes to work in a top hotel or restaurant? Does food and discovering new flavours in the kitchen inspire you? Maybe you're interested in developing the skills you need to work in a kitchen or front of house?

What is Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering – Food and Catering?

This course is ideally suited to learners with a preference for both practical and theoretical learning – specifically focused on creating a menu for a range of clientele, producing those dishes and reviewing your own performance.

This Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering gives you a whole host of easily transferable skills. They include: Developing a wide range of practical skills including developing a range of knife skills, using complex skills such as piping and tempering chocolate to mastering presentation of dishes that would not look out of place in a restaurant. This course will help students to gain an understanding of catering and an awareness of other hospitality related career paths.

This course is suitable for all students interested in studying food preparation in a commercial environment.

You will be expected to make a range of food products and develop skills related to commercial food preparation, including food hygiene, food presentation and considering production in quantity. You will also be expected to apply technical and practical expertise to ensure that food meets customer needs and preferences and is appropriate for a given occasion.

This Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering will also develop an understanding of commercial catering practice and an in-depth knowledge of food commodities.

What will I study?

This qualification is made up of 2 units,

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering industry

You will:

- Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry.
- Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food-related causes of ill health.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action

- Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact nutritional value.
- Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learn how to review your work effectively.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment. Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification.

In Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. In addition you will be asked to review your performance and the dishes you have produced in a 3 hour practical exam. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours. (9 hours written work, 3 hours cooking practical exam)

The Level 1/ 2 Technical Award is a level 2 qualification; however, it is graded at:

- Level 1, unit and qualification grades will be Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.
- Level 2, unit and qualification grades will be Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

What skills will I Develop?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Confidence
- Learning independently
- Organisation
- Problem solving
- Research
- Self-discipline
- Stamina
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management.
- Reviewing and self critique

Progression

This Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering complements vocational qualifications including areas such as baking, pastry-making and butchery. You can progress to Technical Certificates and other Level 3 Vocational qualifications such as the Diploma in Professional Cookery or the Diploma in Professional Patisserie or an apprenticeship in a related area of employment.

University course options: Hospitality and Tourism Management, Hotel and Hospitality Management, Hospitality, Tourism and Event Management BA, Events and International Festivals Management.

Careers with Hospitality and Catering?

The hospitality industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities which include:

Chef de partie
Commis chef
Concierge
Executive chef
Front of house manager
Head waiter
Maître d'hôte
Pastry chef
Receptionist

For further information, contact Ms Gibb at agibb@yateacademy.co.uk

GCSE Music (OCR)

If you enjoy performing, composing and listening to many styles of music, then GCSE music could be for you. You will have the opportunity to share your musical skills in the classroom and build on your creativity, independence and confidence in your chosen instrument (or by singing). But the benefits of taking music at KS4 aren't limited to your music GCSE; music benefits learning by activating all areas of the brain: auditory (sound processing); motor (rhythm processing); and limbic (emotions). So, by choosing Music, you could be improving your chances of doing well in other subjects too!

Music involves written, analytical, practical and social/personal skills such as:

- **Independent learning:** having to be disciplined about practising on your instrument or voice
- **Team working:** particularly if you're involved in weekly ensembles and performances
- **Performance and presentation skills** which are useful for any job/career
- **Creativity and self-expression:** helping young people to think differently and harness the power of their imagination

What Will I Learn and How Will I Be Assessed?

30% Composition:

Students use musical techniques to create 2 pieces of music (15% each). Compositions are completed using ICT.

30% Performance:

Students rehearse 2 performances (15% each) - a solo and an ensemble piece - on their chosen instrument.

40% Listening & Analysis:

Students will study a wide variety of musical styles from orchestral to Rock and Pop. They will learn about the features of music across these styles and how to analyse these. This is assessed with a listening exam, though what students learn about in this context is also applicable to composition coursework.

Areas of Study:

1 - My Music

2 - The Concerto Through Time

3 - Rhythms of the World

4 - Popular Music

5 - Film and Video Game Music

Where Could Music Lead?

Increasingly, employers and universities are looking for young people who have skills that are learned through creative subjects: creative thinking, emotional intelligence, adaptability, communication and tenacity to name just a few.

Being a musician isn't the only career in Music – other options include being a **Sound Technician**, **Music Therapist**, **Teacher**, or **Composer**, or a range of careers in the **Music Industry**, in a concert hall or music venue. This might include work in **film, TV, theatre, radio, arts administration, or creative education**.

Music is also highly regarded as an academic subject and so could complement your other studies in leading to a professional career. Music provides skills that will develop a good foundation, whatever path you choose. Students at Yate have gone onto many and varied pathways following studying Music, ranging from performer to Doctor!

For further information, contact Miss M.Grainger-Hull at mgrainger-hull@yateacademy.co.uk

NCFE Music Technology

Why study Music Technology?

NCFE Level 2 First Certificate in Music Technology is perfect for students who are interested in producing music using software such as Ableton and would like to develop their skills and experience of both music and computing. By studying the course, students will gain experience in music production including Studio Recording and Music Sequencing. Students are able to develop their working knowledge of composition, recording, live sound engineering, production and working collaboratively within specifically designed modules that focus on vocational scenarios from the music industry.

What will I learn and how will I be assessed?

The course covers 5 content areas:

1. Introduction to music technology and the music business
2. The digital audio workstation (DAW)
3. Musical elements, musical style and music technology
4. Sound creation
5. Multitrack recording

These are assessed via a non-examined coursework assessment linked to the music industry (60%), and a written exam at the end of Y11 (40%).

Where Could Music Technology Lead?

The skills you develop through studying music technology can open a range of doors, including:

- A career as an **artist, recording engineer, or producer** in the music industry.
- Working in the **film, TV, and video game** industries as a Foley artist, sound editor or soundtrack composer
- Sound engineering for **live sound** - e.g. concerts and festivals.
- Skills related to software development and engineering
- Acoustic design, for example designing spaces like concert halls, theatres, and recording studios.
- Or even something like audio forensics, which involves analysing audio evidence from crime scenes.

For further information, contact Miss M.Grainger-Hull at mgrainger-hull@yateacademy.co.uk

BTEC Tech Award in Sport

Exam Board: Pearson

Why is Sport important and what is in the course?

Do you enjoy participating in a wide variety of physical activities? Do you have sporting aptitude? Are you interested to know how your body works to help you to do this efficiently? Do you know how to improve your performance through training?

All of these areas are covered in this course. The course is interesting and varied and would no doubt benefit those who think they may wish to develop a career in the Leisure Industry or to continue their studies in Sport at Higher Education level. BTEC Sport is an excellent foundation for A Level PE and Level 3 BTEC Sport

How will I learn?

The course is demanding, both physically and academically. You will need to have shown interest and commitment in a range of sporting activities, playing for at least one school team or playing a sport on a regular basis outside of school. Much of your learning will take place in the classroom, developing your understanding of the body, a range of sports, health and fitness. You will then get plenty of opportunities to put this new-found knowledge and understanding into a practical setting.

How will I be assessed?

As well as written coursework and a formal exam at the end of the course you will be expected to produce at least three videos as part of your coursework so you will have to be comfortable performing and also leading groups of students in sports activities.

Component 1: Preparing Participants to take part in sport and Physical Activity- This is assessed in year 10 through an Internally set assignment set by the exam board. You will be assessed in your knowledge and understanding of types and provision of sport and physical activity for different types of participants. Examine equipment and technology required for participants to use when taking part in sport and physical activity. Finally preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity. For this you will be recorded leading a warm up to a group of students.

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance. This is assessed in year 10 through an Internally set assignment set by the exam board. You will be assessed in your knowledge and understanding of how different components of fitness are used in different physical activities. Practically be able to perform in a video recorded session in a sport, in isolated practices and in competitive situations. Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of officials and rules and regulations in sport. Finally demonstrating ways to improve participants sporting techniques by planning and leading a video recorded sports session in a chosen sport.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity. This will be assessed by an external synoptic assessment at the end of the course. You will be assessed against your knowledge, understanding and application in relation to components of fitness, fitness testing, training methods and principles of training.

Students who choose this course need to be fully committed to their PE and Sport. They are seen as ambassadors for the qualification and are expected to take a leading role in Core PE, take the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by assisting with extra-curricular activities. Participation in sport is essential to achieve on this course this could either be through representing school teams and/or playing a sport for a team/club outside of school.

Progression and career opportunities

Studying sport will provide you with essential life skills, such as independent working, team work, leadership and resilience, which are fundamental to any career path. Studying sport at level 2 will ensure you have the necessary knowledge to study sport in sixth form at level 3 and then onto university. At University the study of sport is a massive area with a large number of courses available in areas such as Sport Science, Sports Coaching, Physical Education, Sport & Leisure Management, Sports Analysis. There are vast opportunities for a career in sport; this can include Fitness, Teaching, sport development, Sport Business, the Leisure Industry, Sports Coaching, Health and wellbeing, Elite Sport and Outdoor Education

For further information, contact Mr Revett at srevett@yateacademy.co.uk



Post 16 Options

Here at Yate Academy, we firmly believe that when students join us in Y7 they are starting on a 7-year journey with us to fulfil their potential and achieve the best destinations after leaving us after Post 16. It is our mission that all students have a “better chance of success” at all stages of their education.

A student can continue on a journey of endless possibilities at our Sixth Form. As a school we have a stellar track record of delivering outstanding examination results and a team of dedicated staff. We provide a nurturing environment, where your ambitions take flight! Get used to doors opening for you, be it the halls of the best universities, leading corporations or sought after apprenticeships, we help pave the way for your future success, ensuring every opportunity is in reach. Together, we open doors.

Entry criteria

- For all Level 3 courses, students are expected to have achieved a minimum of 5 GGSEs at grade 9-4 or equivalent.
- For A Levels this should include *both* English and Maths at a grade 4 or above. For Vocational Courses, it should include a 4 in English *or* Maths.
- All students who have *not* achieved a 4 in English or Maths will be required to re-sit that GCSE Course

For more information on subject choices, and how to apply, please visit www.yateacademy.co.uk
For further details, please contact our Sixth Form team.



‘The sixth form environment is calm and disciplined. The teachers understand and wholeheartedly support students in achieving their goals. They are exceptional in their subject knowledge, exam preparation, dedication and kindness. As a consequence my teenagers have blossomed academically and personally. ‘Parent Quote (Year 13 student)