

English

Topics: Fiction reading (diverse short stories); Fiction writing (Sci-fi, dystopian and fantasy writing); 19th Century novel (*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens).

Key knowledge: Conventions of fiction texts and writing; understanding narrative voice and structure; conventions of a novella; understanding of a text being used as a moral message.

Key skills: Reading for meaning; language analysis; extracting evidence; selecting and analysing information from quotes; embedding key knowledge of 19th Century context; writing using narrative voice; writing in descriptive detail.

English language specification:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/changes-for-2022>

English literature specification:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

RE

Topics: Islam – beliefs, teachings, practices and heritage project.

Key knowledge: The significance and importance of various beliefs, issues and practices to Muslims today; how the Qur'an and other sources of wisdom and authority informs a Muslim's understanding of the topics covered.

Key skills: Interpreting religious evidence; comparing and contrasting religious views on an issue or topic; applying religious evidence; justifying views; effectively responding to longer questions; providing arguments.

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-b-2016.html>

Introduction:

This document provides a snapshot of the learning diet for our pupils in each term in Year 9. During this year, all pupils study the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, RE, History, Geography and Spanish. Pupils select two other subjects to study as part of 'mini-options'.



Year 9 Curriculum overview Autumn term

Core PE

Sports: Football / fitness; badminton / table tennis; trampolining; OAA.

Key knowledge: Key components of fitness; rules and regulations; how to challenge the body; map-reading.

Key skills: Power; coordination; passing; shooting; landings; routines; aerobic endurance; muscular endurance; map skills.

PSHE

Topics: Healthy lifestyle; Intimate relationships.

Key ideas: Relationships and sex education, including consent, contraception, the risks of sexually transmitted infections and attitudes to pornography.

Relationships and sex education topics: Searching for love; objectification; controlling our choices; fertility and contraception; marriage; consent; rights and responsibilities.

Maths

Topics: Numbers; Algebra.

Key knowledge: Rounding numbers to given number of decimal places; reasoning; multiplying and dividing decimal numbers; indices; standard form; surds; recognising the difference between a formula and an expression; substituting numbers into a simple formula; expanding and factorising equations; linear and non-linear sequences.

Key skills: Identifying place value; converting between metric measurements; multiplying prime factors together; calculate with negative numbers and terms; substituting into and evaluating expressions; writing simple expressions.

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

Science

Topics: Cell biology; Atomic structure; The periodic table.

Key knowledge: Cell structure; microscopy; cell division; stem cells; movement of substances; atomic structure; models of the atom over time; electronic structure; the periodic table; groups in the periodic table; transition metals (GCSE Chemistry only).

Key skills: Using a microscope; evaluating the use of stem cells; investigating the effect of osmosis; drawing electron structure; calculating relative formula mass; using the periodic table.

Biology specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF>

Chemistry specification:

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specification_s/AQA-8462-SP-2016.PDF

Combined Science specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF>

Spanish

Topics: Celebrating festivals; Describing and comparing where people live.

Key knowledge: Question words; using present and past tense; description of towns/neighbourhoods; positive and negative adjectives.

Key skills: Identifying time frames; applying grammar structures; listening and reading for detail; describing a picture.

PE option

Topics: Components of fitness; Practical (table tennis, handball and football).

Key knowledge: Cardiovascular endurance; speed; strength; fitness tests; reaction time.

Key skills: Speed; strength; agility; balance; coordination.

Business Studies

Topics: Enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Key knowledge: How and why business ideas come about; skills and attributes of an entrepreneur.

Key skills: Assessing risks; assessing rewards.

Computer Science

Topics: Data representation.

Key knowledge: Binary conversions; binary addition; binary codes; how images are represented in binary.

Key skills: Writing binary conventions; drawing and calculating image representation.

Food & Nutrition

Topics: Food safety; Food science.

Key knowledge: Storing food; contamination; food poisoning; food molecules; enzymic browning.

Key skills: Weighing; measuring; testing food; knife techniques; setting mixtures; forming a stable emulsion.

History

Topics: The early 20th Century and World War I.

Key knowledge: Main causes of WWI; nature of war; aftermath of WWI; the Great Depression; Hitler's rise to power; rise of dictators.

Key skills: Key events and figures in chronological order; explanations of past events; analysing and judging sources.



Year 9 Curriculum overview Autumn term

Music

Topics: Grade music theory; Music technology; Loop-based sequences.

Key skills: Reading basic music notation in treble and bass clef; Using Logic Pro X to create contemporary forms of dance music.

Art

Topics: Experimental workshops; Broad and shallow.

Key knowledge: Applying designs to a range of materials; how to record information; other artists' styles.

Key skills: Analysing work of others; observational drawing; experimental drawing; mono printing; watercolour; collage.

Geography

Topics: How do our local actions have a global effect? What can we do to be more sustainable?

Key knowledge: Greenhouse effect; global warming; carbon footprint; Antarctica.

Key skills: ICT; oracy; map skills; secondary research analysis of data; evaluating; drawing conclusions.

Drama

Topics: Drama skills; Performing text.

Key knowledge: DNA – Dennis Kelly.

Key skills: Interpreting text; verbal and non-verbal communication; peer and self review; creation of character; conveyance of narrative; health and safety.

Design & Technology

Topics: Paper and boards.

Key knowledge: Different types of paper and boards; sources and manufacture; joining; mechanisms; packaging.

Key skills: Investigate materials; develop design skills; generate models.

Film Studies

Topics: Introduction to the principles of Film Studies.

Key knowledge: What is CMES?; the four key elements of film; key media theory stereotyping through film; representation of character and culture; aesthetics.

Key skills: Film analysis; applying film theory.

Textiles

Topics: Fashion illustration.

Key knowledge: Key fashion designers; personal illustrations; techniques; fabric manipulation.

Key skills: Design skills through illustration; analysing work of others; using tools and equipment; presentation skills.

English

Topics: Non-fiction writing (community values); Drama text (*Macbeth* or *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare).

Key knowledge: Using real life and current affairs for discussion and extended writing; drama conventions; texts being written for a performance; embedding key knowledge of 16th/17th Century context).

Key skills: Evaluating the features of non-fiction writing; use of role play to develop understanding of 16th/17th Century language; evaluating how techniques are used in drama text to engage an audience.

English language specification:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/changes-for-2022>

English literature specification:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>



Year 9 Curriculum overview Spring term

RE

Topics: Catholic Christianity – beliefs, teachings and practices.

Key knowledge: The significance and importance of beliefs, issues and practices to Catholics today; how the Bible and other sources of wisdom and authority informs a Christian's understanding of the topics covered.

Key skills: Interpreting religious evidence; comparing and contrasting religious views on an issue or topic; applying religious evidence; justifying views; effectively responding to longer questions; providing arguments.

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-b-2016.html>

Core PE

Sports: Handball; basketball / netball; football.

Key knowledge: Tactics; court positions; rules; set plays; positions.

Key skills: Shooting; rebounding; defence; advanced skills (e.g. ball handling and control); leadership.

PSHE

Topics: Setting goals; Peer influence, substance use and gangs.

Key ideas: Learning strengths; career options; goal-setting; healthy and unhealthy friendships; assertiveness; substance misuse; gang exploitation.

Maths

Topics: Graphs, tables and charts; Fractions and percentages; Equations, inequalities and sequences; Angles and trigonometry (higher).

Key knowledge: How to interpret charts; statistical diagrams; time series; scatter graphs; sequences; converting between fractions, decimals and percentages; Higher: angle properties; Pythagoras' theorem; basic trigonometry.

Key skills: Expressing part of a circle as a fraction or percentage; interpreting angles in a circle; interpreting and drawing graphs; calculating mode, median and range; identifying gradients; interpreting pie charts; interpreting sequences; converting between fractions, decimals and percentages; naming polygons; determining angles and lengths of sides in triangles.

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

Science

Topics: Energy; Organisation.

Key knowledge: Energy stores and transfers; specific heat capacity; efficiency; power; energy resources; body organisation; digestive system; circulatory system; lifestyle; plant organs.

Key skills: Calculating using equations; measuring temperature changes; evaluating energy resources; using models of enzyme function; using coloured reagents; measuring rate of reaction.

Biology specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF>

Combined Science specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF>

Physics specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF>

Spanish

Topics: Making arrangements/suggestions; Describing events in three tenses.

Key knowledge: Directions; question words; free time activities; weather phrases; use of present; past and future tense .

Key skills: Maintaining a conversation; conjugating verbs; translation; acting out a role play; applying grammar structures .

PE option

Topics: Principles of training; Optimising training; Practical (table tennis, handball and football).

Key knowledge: Specificity; overload; progression; FITT; training methods; benefits of warming up and cooling down.

Key skills: Practical skills.

Business Studies

Topics: Spotting a business opportunity.

Key knowledge: Market research methods and data; market segmentation; target markets; customer needs.

Key skills: Designing research and analysing the data to make key decisions.

Computer Science

Topics: Creative programming using Python.

Key knowledge: Basic programming constructs; Arithmetic and comparison operators.

Key skills: Problem-solving; logical reasoning.

Food & Nutrition

Topics: Food and nutrition; Food science.

Key knowledge: Macronutrients; micronutrients; eat well guide; health risks; dietary needs; energy needs; nutritional analysis.

Key skills: Planning and preparing dishes; using the oven, grill and hob; evaluate a cooking method.

History

Topics: Second World War and the world post-1945.

Key knowledge: Civilian experience of war including evacuation, changing roles of women and the Blitz; origins of the Cold War; key events from 1945 to 1990.

Key skills: Key events and figures in chronological order; explanations of past events; analysing and judging sources.



Year 9 Curriculum overview Spring term

Music

Topics: Chords trick; Introduction to harmony and tonality.

Key skills: Using Logic Pro X to create contemporary forms of dance music; understanding harmony and tonality.

Art

Topics: Set design.

Key knowledge: Working from a live brief; materials, processes and techniques; painting a stage set and props.

Key skills: Tool and equipment skills; collaboration.

Geography

Topics: How is Earth layered? What is conflict?

Key knowledge: Plate boundaries; earthquakes; tsunamis; volcanoes; scales and causes of conflict; refugees; peace; child soldiers.

Key skills: Enquiry; map skills; decision making; problem solving; design and construction.

Drama

Topics: Practitioners; Styles of drama.

Key knowledge: Naturalistic / non-naturalistic performance; physical theatre; Brechtian and Stanislavskian techniques.

Key skills: Breaking the fourth wall; use of a narrator; use of songs or music; use of technology; use of signs; freeze frames.

Design & Technology

Topics: Set design / props; Woodworking project; Cannon project.

Key knowledge: Wood joints; meeting a design brief; health and safety; metals; electronics.

Key skills: Practical skills; realising intentions.

Film Studies

Topics: Creating a film short.

Key knowledge: How to use specialist equipment; editing software; CMES techniques.

Key skills: Practical skills with apparatus, editing software, green screen and lighting; communication; teamwork; evaluation.

Textiles

Topics: Costume design.

Key knowledge: Working from a live brief; materials, processes and techniques; constructing a wearable outcome.

Key skills: Develop design ideas; tool and equipment skills; creating costumes.

English

Topics: Poetry (Black British poetry); Non-fiction reading (Sports shorts); Spoken language.

Key knowledge: Distilling meaning and developing understanding in poetry; exploring cultural experiences and perspectives in poetry; poetic techniques; poetic form and structure; conventions in non-fiction texts.

Key skills: Analysis of language techniques used in a poem; inference of key information in an extract; analysis and evaluation of a writer's views in an extract; speaking and listening.

English language specification:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/changes-for-2022>

English literature specification:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>



Year 9 Curriculum overview Summer term

RE

Topics: Religious teachings on relationships and families in the 21st Century.

Key knowledge: The significance and importance of beliefs, issues and practices to Catholics today; how the Bible and other sources of wisdom and authority informs a Christian's understanding of the topics covered; how approaches to the issues raised are underpinned by philosophical arguments and ethical theory.

Key skills: Compare and contrast areas of ethics and / or philosophy; interpret religious evidence; compare and contrast divergent religious views; apply religious evidence; justify views; write an effective longer answer; providing arguments.

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/religious-studies-b-2016.html>

Core PE

Sports: Cricket / rounders; athletics; tennis.

Key knowledge: Tactics; athletics techniques; rules; set plays; positions.

Key skills: Trowing; catching; batting; hand-eye coordination; sprinting; long distance running; throwing; serve; shot types.

PSHE

Topics: Respectful relationships; Employability skills.

Key ideas: Families and parenting; healthy relationships; conflict resolution; relationship changes; employability; online presence.

Maths

Topics (Foundation): Angles; averages and range; perimeter, area and volume.

Topics (Higher): Graphs; Transformations and constructions.

Key knowledge (Foundation): Angle problems in triangles; interior and exterior angles with parallel lines.

Key knowledge (Higher): Linear graphs; real life graphs; line segments; quadratic, cubic and reciprocal graphs.

Key skills (Foundation): Identify different types of triangles; knowing that the angles in a triangle add up to 180 degrees; solve angle problems.

Key skills (Higher): Calculating gradients and intercepts; rearranging equations; plotting graphs and coordinates; solving quadratic expressions; drawing 3D shapes; describing translations; drawing to scale.

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/mathematics-2015.html>

Science

Topics: Bonding and properties of matter; Electricity.

Key knowledge: Covalent bonding; ionic bonding; metallic bonding; properties of substances and materials; metals and non-metals; nanoscience (GCSE Chemistry only); basic circuits; current; voltage; potential difference; resistors; energy in circuits; static electricity (GCSE Physics only).

Key skills: Diagram representations of bonds; calculating using equations; recognising graph trends; patterns in circuits.

Biology specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF>

Combined Science specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF>

Physics specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF>

Spanish

Topics: Describing holidays; Festivals and day trips.

Key knowledge: Holiday destinations and activities; past and future tense time phrases; comparisons; details of 'La Tomatina' festival.

Key skills: Conjugating verbs in 3 tenses; oracy; translation; narrating events; using complex structures.

PE option

Topics: Preventing injury; Skeletal system.

Key knowledge: Preventing injury; potential hazards; major bones; functions of the skeleton; types of joint; movement in the joints.

Key skills: Applying principles of training; minimising hazards.

Business Studies

Topics: Technological impact on consumerism.

Key knowledge: Business aims and objectives; impact of technology on consumer habits; the use of e-/m-commerce.

Key skills: Collaborative working; designing website; pitching ideas.

Computer Science

Topics: Cross-curricular project.

Key knowledge: Website design.

Key skills: HTML and CSS.

Food & Nutrition

Topics: Food provenance; Food choice.

Key knowledge: Food sources; farming; genetic modification; food security; food choices; environmental issues; labelling.

Key skills: Evaluating and analysing food sources; filleting fish; jointing chicken; evaluating sensory properties of food.

History

Topics: The world since 1945; Migration project.

Key knowledge: The Vietnam War; collapse of the Soviet Union; the end of the Cold War; migration project (researching and investigating personal histories).

Key skills: Key events and figures in chronological order; explanations of past events; analysing and judging sources.



Year 9 Curriculum overview Summer term

Music

Topics: Film music; Minimalism.

Key skills: Sound effects; background mood music; melodic motifs; creating a piece of music that employs limited or minimal musical materials.

Art

Topics: Camouflage.

Key knowledge: Work of key artists and designers; realising a final outcome.

Key skills: Critical analysis; developing design ideas; experimenting with painting techniques; evaluation.

Geography

Topics: Russia; Field studies.

Key knowledge: Location of Russia; biomes and climates; how people live in Russia; key statistical factors; graph types; collecting and sampling data.

Key skills: Map skills; analysis and inference using graphs; Russian language; fieldwork.

Drama

Topics: Devising; Live performance.

Key knowledge: Creating theatre from a stimulus; Performance techniques; Practitioner techniques.

Key skills: Understanding the nature of the performance; repertoire; presentation and projection; responding to cues.

Design & Technology

Topics: "Let your light shine" project.

Key knowledge: Electronic components and systems; understanding specifications; tools and equipment.

Key skills: Analysis; design; shaping and forming materials; soldering; realising and evaluating outcomes.

Film Studies

Topics: Introduction to the social, cultural and political influences of a film.

Key knowledge: What is culture?, cultural representation in film; how films are influenced; global cinema and Hollywood.

Key skills: Independent research; film analysis.

Textiles

Topics: Trashion and Frills Project – Habitat.

Key knowledge: Effects of the fashion industry on the environment; materials, techniques and processes.

Key skills: Critiquing the work of others; experimenting with techniques and processes; evaluation.