



Year 8 students Humanity subject choice for 2019-2022

Work Hard

Be Kind

Aim High

Show GRIT

Dear Year 8 Student and parent,

we are now at the time where we will be looking at the subjects you will follow next year to help prepare you, as thoroughly as possible, for your final examinations in Y11.

The curriculum model for students in Year 9 remains broad and balanced and there is an increased focus on the core subjects where you will start the GCSEs courses which you will be examined on, in the summer of 2022. There will be nine English, nine Maths and nine Science lessons every two weeks in Y9. Some students will have even more time in the core subjects to help close the gap on any underperformance.

You will continue to study; Physical Education, Drama, Music, Art, Computer Science and Technology. The majority of students will continue to study a Modern Foreign Language.

The majority of Y8 students will take a GCSE Humanity subject through to Year 11. In Year 9 you will need to continue studying **either History or Geography**. You will start the actual GCSE course when you are in your Y9 lessons.

You can **only study one** of these courses.

Read the subject details in this booklet. Discuss this choice with your History and Geography teachers.

The deadline for you to return your completed Form (attached) to your Form Tutor is 29th March 2019

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

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GCSE History

(1 GCSE)

Exam board: Edexcel

Overview

History is a very popular option at GCSE. A new and exciting exam specification will continue to be taught from September 2019, which provides students with the opportunity to study a diverse range of history and develop a broad variety of skills.

Course Content

Medicine Through time (Thematic Study)

This Thematic Study examines continuities and changes in the history of medicine. Students will track the development of medicine from c.1250 all the way to the present day. Students will consider a common set of key questions for each period:

- *What caused people to be healthy or unhealthy?*
- *What caused diagnoses and treatments to remain the same or to change?*
- *How far did new ideas and treatments affect the majority of the population?*
- *What ideas did people have about the causes and treatment of illness and injuries?*

The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-18 (Historic Environment)

Within the Thematic Study, students will complete an enquiry in to injuries and treatments in the World War One trenches.

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939 (Modern Depth Study)

The Modern Depth Study focuses on the reasons for the development of totalitarianism in Germany and its impact. Students will investigate how developments in Weimar Germany led to the rise of the Nazi Party and the emergence of a totalitarian regime, as well as the impact of this regime on the German people and the reactions of different groups and individuals.

The American West c1835-1895 (Period Study)

In this exciting topic students will explore the building of a nation. They will study from the early settlement of the West to the conflict on the plains and the destruction of the way of life of the Plains Indians.

Elizabethan England 1558-88 (British Depth Study)

In this unit students will learn about the main issues facing Elizabeth I during her reign. Students will investigate religious issues, threats to the security of England from home and abroad, and social and economic issues. They will also study England's changing relationship with the wider world, including the first steps towards the creation of a seaborne empire.

Assessment: Graded 9-1

Paper 1 Exam (2 hrs): Thematic Study (Medicine in Britain) and historic environment (30%)

Paper 2 Exam (1 hr 45 mins): Period Study (American West) and British Depth Study (Elizabethan England) (40%)

Paper 3 Exam (1 hr 20 mins): Modern depth study – Weimar and Nazi Germany (30%)

Students will take the external examinations at the end of Year 11. Their progress will be monitored throughout Year 9, 10 and 11 through practice exam questions and project work. It certainly is an exciting time to be studying History and we welcome anyone with an enquiring mind!

Please contact your History teacher if you have any further questions about the subject

GCSE Geography

(1 GCSE)

Exam board: AQA 8035

Overview

Geography is a popular and exciting GCSE to study, exploring a wide range of issues and features in the UK and wider world as part of the new specification. During the course you will develop a wide range of transferable skills (that employees love) which will prepare you for life **as citizens in the global economy and society of the 21st century**. You'll ask questions about real life events taking place **right now** and what they mean for us all, and make **informed decisions** relating to these. These are the reasons why Geography is one of the most sought after further education qualifications that employees look for.

Course Content

A) The Physical Environment (Paper 1)

You will explore a huge variety of physical Geography topics, including: *Tectonic and climatic hazards* (including earthquakes, hurricanes and climate change challenges); *World Ecosystems* focusing on a diverse range of natural environments around the world; and *Rivers and Coasts*.

B) The Human Environment (Paper 2)

As part of this topic area you will explore *Development* around the world including the factors controlling this and implications for the future; *Urban issues and challenges* that affect the way people live today and may live in the future. You will also study *Resource management* and the issues surrounding the supply and consumption of food, energy and water around the world.

C) Geographical Skills/Geographical Investigations (Paper 3)

In this exciting section of the course you will take part in two fieldtrips to both an urban/rural area and coastal/river environment. You will develop and use a range of skills that can be used to investigate environments and interrogate Geographical information. These fieldwork skills will be examined on Paper 3.

Assessment (Graded 9-1)

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: 35% of the GCSE (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: Living with the human environment: 35% of the GCSE (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 3: Geographical applications (including pre-release resource booklet): 30% of the GCSE (1 hour 15 minutes)

All three papers will be sat during the summer of Year 11. Teachers will monitor students' progress during Years 9-11 and support them to achieve their best result in GCSE Geography.

Extra-curricular

You may be given the opportunity to take part in a field study residential trip to an amazing location outside the UK. For the past three years we have offered trips to fantastic places including The Bay of Naples, Italy, Iceland and Tenerife.

Please contact your Geography teacher if you have any further questions about the subject

Y8 student's Humanity subject choice Form 2019-2022

Name: _____

Tutor group: _____

Next year you will start your GCSE learning in EITHER **History** OR **Geography**. Signing this Form shows that you have spoken to your current History and Geography teachers, you have read the details in the booklet provided on each course and you have thought about the progress you are making in each of these subjects.

You can only study one of the two subjects on offer.

Remember to tick the subject which you enjoy and that you know you will make the most progress in.

Choice of Humanity subject		✓
GCSE History	Please tick either History <u>OR</u> Geography in the space provided.	
GCSE Geography		

Student Signature: **Date:**.....

Parent Signature: **Date:**.....

Please hand this form in to your Form Tutor by 29th March 2019

