# Robert Clack School

# Year 9 Options Subject Information

# Year Nine Options 2020 – 2021

Dear Parents,

At each Key Stage of the National Curriculum pupils reach a vital signpost in their lives. As our pupils get older they are faced with increasingly difficult choices which affect their futures.

For the first time in their educational life pupils in their ninth year of full time education have the opportunity, with some guidance to decide for themselves the future pattern of part of their curriculum. Pupils have to choose, from a menu of choices, those subjects that they feel are appropriate for them. These choices will obviously be made in partnership with the school. Together we look at your child's interests, strengths and future pathways in life.

As a school we will endeavour to offer our pupils quality advice. Once choices are made, however, we expect total commitment to those options chosen. This means respect for the rules of the classroom, and the demands of homework and coursework. Excellent attendance and punctuality are, of course, essential if success is to be achieved.

Working together we can make the right choices for your child.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr R Taylor**
**Headteacher**

Choosing the subjects your child will be studying in Year 10 and Year 11 will involve parents and children discussing a number of important questions. It is vital to consider these important choices with your child to ensure that they are able to make an informed and confident decision about their future plans. Having a choice of subjects at this stage in your child's education enables pupils to focus on subjects they enjoy and those they show talent for. As a parent it is your job to guide and advise them to make sensible subject selections.

Some subjects are considered essential for all pupils because they are so important in any future plans your child might have. These subjects are called the **core** subjects which everyone has to take. Students have already started their Religious Studies GCSE course in year 9. Alongside these the school offers a wide range of **option** subjects, some of which will be new to your child. You will find further details about each subject on offer in this options booklet. In addition to these subjects you could take an additional GCSE if you are fluent in another language. You can find out more about this on the **community languages** page.

Students have access to a **personalised online options form** which shows the subjects available to them. These vary from student to student. Please note that some options forms require students to pick from specific subject areas. The options available and any requirements for choices are stated on the pupil's personalised option form. You can find out all about the subjects on offer in this booklet. Our website also has very detailed **curriculum pages** which you can also look at.

## Core Subjects

All students take the compulsory subjects of:

English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education and Physical Education.

**In addition, students take <u>three</u> additional subjects in which they have some choice.**

## Option Subjects

Art
Beauty
Business Studies
Catering
Computer Science
Construction
Dance
Design & Technology
Drama
French
Geography
History
iMedia (ICT)
Music
Psychology
Separate (Triple) Science
Sociology
Sports Studies
Statistics/Further Maths

# English Language and English Literature (AQA)

**What do I study?**

For GCSE English Language students will draw upon a range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction, as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. Students will use this as writing stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts to produce writing for a range of genres, audiences and purposes. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying language skilfully and imaginatively.

For GCSE English Literature students develop knowledge and skills in reading, essay writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written including Shakespeare and Dickens, a modern drama and a range of poetry. Studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure, and provides effective preparation for studying at a higher level.

**How am I assessed?**

Both the GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature qualifications are now assessed entirely through written examination. There is no longer any controlled assessment component.

You will be awarded two separate GCSEs, one in English Language and one in English Literature.

**How will this help me in the future?**

English equips you with a wide range of skills including analysis, interpretation, evaluation, debate, written arguments and independent study skills, all of which are applicable in a wide range of fields including law, advertising and marketing, publishing, film and creative media, politics and advocacy and education.

# Mathematics (Edexcel)

**What do I study?**

All Year 10 and 11 learners follow the Edexcel GCSE (9-1) course which meets the requirements of the Mathematics National Curriculum.

It provides opportunities for learners to develop their skills, consolidate their understanding and be confident in the use of the following areas:

- Statistics
- Probability
- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Processing mathematics in a real-life context

**How am I assessed?**

There are two assessment levels which enable pupils to show their ability in the subject.

| Tier | Grades |
|---|---|
| **Foundation** | **5,4,3,2,1** |
| **Higher** | **9,8,7,6,5,4** |

The subject is assessed at the end of the course by 3 examinations of length 1.5 hours, one non-calculator and two calculator papers.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

**How will this help me in the future?**

The body of knowledge and practice known as mathematics is derived from the contributions of thinkers throughout the Ages and across the planet, of varying nationalities. It gives us a way to understand patterns, to quantify relationships, to solve problems and to predict the future. It helps us to understand the world and the world helps us to understand maths. As a powerful tool for global understanding and communication it allows students to make sense of the world and solve complex and real problems.

GCSE maths is a stepping stone on the mathematicians journey. The course helps students fulfil their mathematical potential and prepares them for the study of A level Mathematics and Further Maths. It complements other subjects such as Science, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers, such as Accountant, Actuary, Economist, Astronomer, Data Analyst, Marine or Mechanical or Civil or Aero Engineer, Teacher, Software engineer, Computer programmer, Researcher, Statistician etc

# Science (OCR)

**What do I study?**

All pupils will begin their Science KS4 at the end of Year 9.

There are two different routes open to pupils studying Science.

- **GCSE Separate Sciences (Triple Science)**
- **GCSE Combined Science**

In **GCSE Combined Science** students study a mixture of Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules. This qualification provides students with two GCSEs at the end of Year 11 with a grade based on the average mark for all of the modules.

The **GCSE Separate Science** which students can choose as an option, allows them to study the same modules as the Combined Science course but each module is slightly longer allowing students to achieve 3 separate GCSEs grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course provides a good grounding for study of the sciences at A Level.

**How am I assessed?**

Both courses are assessed by written examinations which will test student's knowledge of the topics that they have learnt, their ability to apply it to new and different situations and their understanding of how scientists work based on the practical work that they have completed.

All students will be automatically enrolled into the GCSE Combined Science course unless they choose to study GCSE Separate Sciences as an option.

**How will this help me in the future?**

Science, being a core subject, helps students to understand the world around them and how living and non-living systems work allowing them to deal with everyday situation that they will encounter in life. Studying science will give students the opportunity to unlock exciting university courses as well as leading on to a diverse range of careers from astronomy to zoology and atmospheric science to x-ray crystallography.

# Physical Education : Core

**What do I study?**
Physical Education continues to play a crucial role in the development of a pupil's education. The pupils will still follow the National Curriculum, mainly in single sex groupings in core PE and participate in 2 practical lessons per week.

More emphasis will be placed on learning through games activities and students will be given increased opportunity for independent learning.

Curriculum time is supported by our large extra-curricular programme which allows our pupils to enjoy participation in both competitive and non-competitive activities.

**How am I assessed?**
There is no qualification awarded for core PE. Students will be assessed on participation and effort.

**How will this help me in the future?**
It is our departmental aim to promote full participation and to encourage pupils to develop their interests and good habits in physical activity and wellbeing so they are motivated to continue to be active when they have left school.

# Religious Studies (WJEC)

**What do I study?**
Religious Studies is a foundational subject for many other subject areas and particularly works well with English, History, Geography and Sociology. The subject seeks to find answers to "ultimate questions" about the meaning, purpose and origin of life. When dealing with ethical issues students consider different approaches to making moral decisions, looking at student's own responses concerned with issues such as marriage, human rights and life after death. Alongside their own views pupils also explore the beliefs of those who follow Christianity, Islam and Humanism and how these faiths/traditions will respond to the issues discussed in lessons. Pupils are also given the opportunity to expand their study and knowledge of both Christianity and Islam, by investigating and learning about the key beliefs, practices and the roles of both faiths in a modern society.

The main areas three main areas of study are:

**Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical studies in the Modern World**

- Issues of Relationships
- Issues of Life and Death
- Issues of Human Rights
- Issues of Good and Evil

**Component 2: Study of Christianity**

- Christian Beliefs
- Christian Practices

**Component 3: Study of Islam**

- Islamic Beliefs
- Islamic Practices

**How am I assessed?**

Students studying Religious Studies will sit three exams at the end of **<u>Year 10</u>**:

**Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical studies in the Modern World- 2 hours**
**Component 2: Study of Christianity- 1 hour**
**Component 3: Study of Islam- 1 hour**

**How will this help me in the future?**
It is possible for students to do an A/S and A2 (A Level) in Religious Studies at Robert Clack. The sixth form course focuses mainly on Philosophy and Ethics. A Religious Studies qualification is useful for a variety of career options. It is a subject that has close links with many other subjects as many courses and careers have a strong moral element to them. For example, how could someone have a career in Law, Medicine, Politics or the Police force without an awareness of moral issues and understanding the needs of others?

# Community Languages

**Community Languages is an optional additional GCSE which you can take if you are fluent in another language.**

**What do I study?**

There will be no teaching provided by the school for these examinations, so you should already be proficient in all aspects of the language (reading, listening, writing and speaking), and be able to demonstrate that you are willing to make the necessary commitment to completing assignments and doing the appropriate preparation for your exams in your own time.

Each course for every Community Language is different and therefore, you should use the specifications available online via the various exam boards to find out the topics you will cover and the vocabulary you will require.

Examinations can be taken in the following languages at GCSE: (Exam Boards are shown in brackets)
Arabic (EdExcel), Bengali (AQA), Chinese (Mandarin) (AQA), German (AQA), Greek (EdExcel), Gujarati (EdExcel), Italian (AQA), Japanese (EdExcel), Panjabi (AQA), Persian (EdExcel), Polish (AQA), Portuguese (EdExcel), Russian (EdExcel), Turkish (EdExcel), Urdu (AQA), Spanish (AQA)*, French (AQA)*.

*You may be entered for these Languages even if you have not opted to study them for GCSE.

**How am I assessed?**

The assessments you will take will be dependent on the Language. Generally speaking, there are 4 exams in total (Writing, Reading, Listening and Speaking). Preparation for these exams can be done by making use of the hub of resources available via the Community Languages Google Classroom. There are also plenty of past papers available via the exam boards' websites together with mark schemes allowing you to assess yourself and identity areas for improvement. Although no formal teaching of the language is available, we can offer general guidance on exam skills for languages.

**How can this help me in the future?**

We believe that the study of any foreign language enables pupils to develop their skills of speaking, listening and writing which can help them to make progress in many other school subjects. A GCSE in a Community Language can be completed in one year, freeing up time to focus on other subjects. Taking a GCSE in your own Language gives you a formal qualification for the future which is looked upon favourably by many higher education institutions, as well as counting towards your Post-16 choices.

# Art and Design (Edexcel)

**What do I study?**
This subject is important not just for students considering a career in any creative sphere but it is also a subject that educates us in critical thinking which helps us open up and ask harder questions.
A qualification in Art is crucial for careers in Engineering, Animation, Exhibition Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture Design, Theatre Design, Floristry, Hairdressing, Fashion Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Museum/Gallery Curation, Photography, Textile Design and many others.
To succeed in Art, a committed approach is vital. Students can expect to use a range of materials and processes, including: painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, photography, collage and mixed-media.

**How am I assessed?**
Assessment is divided into two parts:
1) Personal Portfolio Unit 1
2) Externally Set Assignment Unit 2

**Personal Portfolio - internally set (60%) Unit 1**
The themes will be selected and developed by the Art department. In order to fulfil the syllabus framework, coursework is structured; however, students are required to develop a personal approach to their work journal and projects. A creative and critical exploration of techniques and concepts is the essence of good coursework. All work completed in class and outside lessons is assessed for the coursework component. Maintaining a personal narrative in sketchbooks is key to exploring ideas, research, experiment and the study of the work of relevant artists and designers in a critical, contemporary and historical context.

**Externally Set Exam (40%) Unit 2**
a) Preparatory Studies/supporting studies
During the period between the distribution of the candidate's paper and the Exam, candidates will work on their preparatory studies, which will amount to eight weeks.

b) Externally Set Exam
The preparatory studies support the main piece of work in the controlled test.
The controlled test must be carried out in a period of 10 hrs.
All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

**How can this help me in the future?**
Studying Art encourages self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity. Creativity can also help with wellbeing and improving health and happiness. Studying Art help to develop critical thinking and the ability to interpret the world around us. GCSE Art can take you onto further study at Sixth Form.

# Beauty Therapy (VTCT)

**What do I study?**

The VTCT NVQ Level 1 course is a vocational qualification teaching practical and theory based skills allowing students several future employment or further study options. We estimate this course to be a very popular choice for students interested in Health and Beauty. This course is primarily practical skills based and gives the students an opportunity to progress onto an NVQ Level 2 course in year 12 – followed by the NVQ Level 3 course in year 13. Please note that is its compulsory for Beauty students to practice on each other weekly. This will include removal of make up for practical lessons and touching of each other's face/body.

**How am I assessed?**

Level 1 NVQ assessments consists of 75% practical assessments, 10% external examinations and 15% theory work. Practical assessments are taken throughout the year after each completed module. This process reduces pressure on the student and allows them to work at a steady pace for maximum achievement. Learning and assessment takes place in one of the two state of the art, no expense spared beauty salons allowing students to study and learn in a realistic salon environment.

**How can this help me in the future?**

This subject is the foundation to advance onto Beauty Level 2 and then Beauty Level 3. Completing all levels could be important to students who wish to pursue a career in not only Health and Beauty but in related subjects such as Hair Dressing, Nursing, Stage/ TV/ Theatre Make Up, Art and Design, Prosthetics, Level 4 Spa Management and other University places to name just a few. This course will develop interpersonal skills as a foundation to any future working with the public. Completing all levels could also allow employment in top Spas such as Champneys and The Sanctuary, allows employment in the best Beauty Salons in the country such as Harrods and Selfridges and top jobs in Beauty Salons all over the world as well as on Luxury Cruise Ships – allowing students to work and see the world at the same time!

# Business Studies (CNAT)

**What do I study?**

Cambridge Nationals in Business and Enterprise are targeted at 14-16 year olds in a school environment. The National Certificate being the equivalent to a Business GCSE. They are both internal and external assessment and meet all styles of learning needs for young people.

This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The Cambridge Nationals in Business and Enterprise provides students with a broad foundation of knowledge required for further study in business.

**How am I assessed?**

| Units | Assessment method |
|---|---|
| Enterprise and marketing concepts | Written paper 1 hour |
| Design a Business Proposal | Coursework |
| Market and pitch a business proposal | Coursework |

**How can it help me in the future?**

- You can enjoy the freedom and excitement of learning about Business Enterprise including the opportunity to plan your own business idea
- Learning valuable skills that will help you in your personal life and which will help you in any job you are involved with in the future
- It's a course that is a clear and easy-to-understand format, making them straightforward to obtain the highest grade.
- Cambridge Nationals provide an ideal foundation for students to progress to more advanced studies Business and Enterprise related careers

# Hospitality & Catering (WJEC Level 1/2 Award)

**What do I study?**

**Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry.** Learners apply their learning by considering all aspects of the vocational sector. They should acquire knowledge of all aspects of the industry and be able to propose new hospitality and catering provision for specific locations. Learners will be able to use their learning of different types of establishment and job roles to determine the best option. They will then apply their learning in relation to front of house and kitchen operations to determine how the proposed hospitality and catering provision will operate efficiently legally and financially viable whilst meeting the needs of their potential market. This unit provides a broad introduction to the vocational sector in a way that is purposeful and develops a range of transferable skills.

**Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action**. Learners apply their learning to safely prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. They will draw on their learning of different types of provision and kitchen and front of house operations in Unit 1, as well as personal safety in their preparations. This extends the learners appreciation of the whole vocational area beyond the kitchen environment.

**How am I assessed?**

**External assessment Unit 1:**

*The Hospitality and Catering Industry will be externally assessed.*

The external assessment will be available in June of each year.

Duration: 90 minutes

Number of marks: 90

Grading: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction

Format: Written exam.

Short and extended answer questions based around applied situations

**Internal assessment Unit 2:**

*Hospitality and Catering in Action is internally assessed:*

For internal assessment, WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering has adopted the principles of controlled assessment.

Practical assessment to prepare and cook a two-course meal for two people.

# Computer Science (OCR)

**What do I study?**

The Computer Science course focusses on software development (computer programming). It delves in deeper into the theories that surround software development. This qualification specialises in Computer Science and software development. This consists of two written exam papers lasting one and a half hours each (80 Marks). Candidates will learn a deeper understanding of software development.

**How am I assessed?**

Unit 1: Externally assessed examination accounting for 50% of overall mark. This unit Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Unit 2: Externally assessed examination accounting for 50% of overall mark . In this unit students apply knowledge and understanding gained in unit 1. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

In this unit students are also given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language.

**How can this help me in the future?**

At Robert Clack, we currently have a lot of courses available at sixth form (Key stage five (KS5). A-Level Computer Science has limited spaces and our IT course at KS5 is extremely popular and has a greater emphasis on vocational 'hands on' learning. Following KS5 courses learners can go on to BTEC High National, Foundation or Degree courses.

IT skills and knowledge are essential to the modern world and most jobs require them. IT developments are continuous and the performance of IT equipment has been doubling every two years. Over the last 10 years, the IT industry was one of the few areas in the workforce that was continually expanding, even during the recession. This has not changed today.

There are many areas of IT where our pupils can choose to develop a career in. Below are some of the most popular areas of IT, pupils will learn elements of the following fields in the IT courses we offer: support, administration, media, graphics, project management, web development and software development.

# Construction (WJEC)

**What do I study?**

The practical work consists of the following:

- Brickwork
- Decorating
- Carpentry and joinery.

**How am I assessed?**

Unit 1: Safety and security in construction (1 hour exam)

Students will learn about health and safety legislation and how this impacts on the day to day running of a busy construction site.

Unit 2: Developing construction projects (Internal assessment)

Students will develop skills such as bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and painting and decorating.

Unit 3: Planning construction projects (2 hour exam)

Students will develop a skill set which allows them to understand the process involved in planning simple construction projects.

**How can this help me in the future?**

To offer students the opportunity to witness the context in which some of the subjects at school relate to an industrial environment, in this instance, **construction**. Examples of this are:

- Interactive workshop where students can work as a team and produce an end product.
- Development of new transferable skills.
- An extension of vocabulary (mitre, bonding, plinth, oversite, architrave, truss, herringbone, wall-ties etc…)
- To build confidence and competence in an industrial environment.
- Promote an understanding of the contribution that Construction and the Built Environment makes to society and the economy.
- Develop awareness that health and safety issues are integral to Construction and The Built Environment.
- Encourage students to develop a positive attitude to sustainable construction and an appreciation of environmental issues
- Prepare students for further learning opportunities, study and training for employment in construction and the built environment sectors and related occupations e.g. architecture, civil engineering, surveying, building services engineering etc……

# Dance (RSL)

**What do I study?**

You will be studying for a RSL certificate. The qualification is a vocational, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic activities that dancers and choreographers would complete in the industry. The course is made up of two units. One is marked internally by your teachers and one is externally marked by the exam board.

**Ensembles Dance Performance**: In this component students will take part in technique classes in Contemporary and Jazz to develop their physical skills and interpretive skills. They will then learn two performances pieces in the first part of the year and perform these in the dance show. After the show students will work in rehearsal to develop their interpretive skills further thus enabling them to communicate the themes and ideas of another longer performance piece based on a professional work. Students will perform this final piece at a Dance event and will be assessed on their performance and a skills development journal that they will keep each week.

**Live Performance:** In this unit student's draw on all of the skills that they have developed so far to create a group piece. The exam board release a stimulus or starting point and the students work together to plan, create and perform a piece based on the stimulus and any other research that links to it that they find inspiring. They are graded externally on how well they have shown their skills, how much contribution they have made as individuals, and how well they have worked with others. At the end of the unit they will submit a written file with all of their planning, ideas and reflections and will perform their final piece

**How am I assessed?**

You will be assessed on your rehearsal discipline, progress made, overall attitude and ability to show skills in final performances. It is important to note that although this is a practical course there is also a very important written element that counts towards your overall grade. Your final grade will be a culmination of your grades from the two units.

**How can this help me in the future?**

The course will provide you with the opportunity for examination success and enable you to access any college or sixth form courses in this subject area. There are many jobs that dance can lead to such as; dancer, choreographer, teacher, journalist, director, lecturer, project manager.

Aside from creative subjects like Dance looking excellent on CVs and university applications, Dance will shape you to be more confident, body aware, assertive and creatively intelligent. It challenges you to be brave and decisive and gives you the chance to inspire others. Above all- if you genuinely enjoy being in the studio creating and learning new choreography then you will enjoy Dance.

# Design and Technology (AQA)

**What do I study?**

The Design and Technology courses explore the use of materials and design through the use of various design processes. Pupils will have the opportunity to design and make products using a variety of skills and materials (eg. wood, metal, plastic, card, foamboard etc.), they will develop skills in designing products using a range of graphical techniques and make their final design using a variety of materials and processes Within the subject area almost every aspect of industrial and commercial design is included, from engineering drawing to package design and the more adventurous graphics of advertising. Computers will feature in almost all areas of work, from computer-aided machines for manufacturing to computer-aided design. Control systems may be included in Design and Technology work.

Students will be involved in developing their own ideas and learn the skills necessary to transform them into reality by using appropriate materials and techniques. The emphasis is very much on 'learning by doing'. Researching, developing, creating and evaluating are important aspects of the work done in all areas. The experience aims to introduce students to crafts, design and technology. At the same time students are also encouraged to feel confident with several different media and a range of tools, machines and equipment.

**How am I assessed?**

**50% of the final grade**

Written exam: 2 hours • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE. Based on

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

**50% of the final grade**

Non-exam assessment (NEA): • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE

**How can this help me in the future?**

This is a practical qualification with a focus on developing practical design and layout skills, learners will have the opportunity to use traditional skills, such as drawing and sketching in 2D and 3D and also modern technologies, including web design.

- Develop a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies
- Develop practical skills to produce high quality functional prototypes and/or products
- Develop decision making skills through both independent, team and collaborative work
- Communicate their decisions effectively to a third party
- Produce, read, interpret and work from drawings, briefs and instructions
- Present ideas and proposals to a near professional standard
- Develop an understanding of quality, and how this can be achieved using a variety of techniques, both traditional and digital
- Use materials efficiently in relation to cost and environmental impact
- Demonstrate safe working practices
- Use key technical terminology related to materials and processes
- Develop the knowledge and understanding to evaluate and refine their own skills
- Develop an awareness of industrial practices and employment opportunities

# Drama (Edexcel)

**What do I study?**

Drama aims to promote creativity and self-discipline and provides the opportunity to work with other students as part of a team. Drama develops performance skills and students must also look at the way actors, directors and designers create work. The course is combines both practical and written assessments.

**How am I assessed?**

**Component 1: Devising Drama: Devise your own play (40%)**

In groups, you will devise a short original performance based on a stimulus you study in class. You will rehearse it over several weeks and perform it as part of your assessment. You will write a portfolio (2000 words) evaluating the process and final performance you created. You will be marked on your contributions, your final performance and your written work.

**Component 2: Performance: Perform in a scripted play (20%)**

In groups you will rehearse and perform in two extracts from a published play. You will perform in front of a visiting examiner. You will be marked on your final performances.

**Component 3: Written exam: 1 hour 30 min (40%)**

There are two sections to the exam:

- **Section A: Bringing Texts to Life** **(45marks)**

**Play: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller**

You will be given an unseen extract from the play and write about it from the perspective of an actor, director and designer based. The exam consists of one question broken into five parts (short and extended responses).

- **Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation** **(15marks)**

The second part of the exam requires you to go to the theatre and analyse and evaluate a play you have seen.

# French (AQA)

**What do I study?**

Our emphasis will be on developing students' ability to use the language effectively for the purpose of practical communication as well as forming a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure.

The GCSE course will offer insights into the culture of French-speaking countries and will aim to develop an awareness of the nature of language and language-learning.

The GCSE is made up of three Themes; Identity and Culture, Areas of Interest and Work and Education. Students will also develop skills in translation both from French to English and English to French.

We strive to encourage positive attitudes and a sympathetic approach by the setting of realistic, relevant and achievable goals.

**How am I assessed?**

The course is a combination of the 4 skills; listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each component is 25% of the final exam in year 11. End of Theme assessments in all four skills are carried out throughout Year 10 and 11 in order to assess students' progress and offer guidance and intervention where necessary.

**How can this help me in the future?**

In our increasingly competitive world, the ability to communicate in a Modern Foreign Language is a true asset. French remains one of the world's most commonly spoken languages in all continents. A qualification in French will provide opportunities for employment, not only in the tourism sector, but in the world of business, law, education, medicine and administration amongst others, as well as the option to study a language at university.

At Robert Clack we also believe that the study of any foreign language enables pupils to develop their skills of speaking, listening and writing which can help them to make progress in many other school subjects.

# Geography (AQA)

**What do I study?**

The course will involve the study of both natural and human geography as well as the relationship between areas of different economic development. Pupils will study actual places from both at home and abroad.

The aims of the course are:

1. To develop a knowledge and understanding of geographical ideas and their relevance to our changing world.
2. To appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments from local to global.
3. To appreciate the differences and similarities between people's views of the world, its environments, societies and cultures.
4. To understand the importance of people's values and attitudes to the development of issues and how they can be resolved.
5. To develop responsibility as a global citizen and to recognise how they can contribute to a sustainable future.
6. To participate in fieldwork and out of classroom learning.
7. To use geographical skills and technology.

**How am I assessed?**

The final grade is based on and three external examinations taken at the end of the course.

**How can this help me in the future?**

Geography GCSE offers an opportunity for students to achieve academic excellence whilst also providing them with skills and a knowledge of our fast changing world. This will enable them to have a better understanding of the global trends that will affect their lives in the future. For example, how to understand the possible implications of climate change and the effects it might have on water supply, flood risks and coastal management.

# History (AQA)

## What do I study?

Year 10 Overview:

1. **Britain, Health and the people: c,1000 to the present day** *Pupils will study the development of Medicine and health from the year 1000 to the present day. They will be looking at medical knowledge, treatment and public health. As students explore the course chronologically, they will also be required to explain which factors have enabled or hindered change.*

**2. America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality** *Pupils will begin by studying the economic boom of 1920s in America before it plummets into the Great Depression of the 1930s. We look at America in the war and the subsequent struggle for Civil Rights. Pupils will track the progress of different social groups within America including women and African Americans and explain the impact of governmental policies on their lives.*

Year 11 Overview:

**3. Elizabethan England, c1568–1603** *Pupils will explore the different challenges facing Elizabeth when she came to the throne in 1558 and further challenges she faced throughout her reign as a female ruler. Themes such as Gender, Marriage and Succession and Foreign Policy will be analysed. One element of the paper is a site study which changes every year.*

**4. Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972** *Pupils will begin by examining the political problems caused in the aftermath of the Second World War and origins of the Cold War. From here pupils will explore the expansion of the Soviet Union in Europe, the* development

## How am I assessed?

Assessment is 100% exam and students are required to combine detailed knowledge with a ride range of historical skills. Students will be required to have an understanding of change and continuity across a large sweep of history. In addition, they will also have to develop in depth knowledge on a particular subject covering a 50-year period.

## How can this help me in the future?

History GCSE offers pupils the opportunity to learn more about the individuals and events that have shaped the modern world. By learning about the past, analysing evidence, and evaluating different historical interpretations, the subject improves both pupils' critical thinking and written skills.

Universities and employers value the skills of a historian. This is because they are thoughtful, critically minded, and articulate individuals, who can consume large amounts of information and communicate it in a clear and concise manner. This is a key skill for careers such as law, consultancy, politics, public relations, advertising, academia, to name but a few. History will open doors and allow you to access a huge range of careers. The skills of a historian are highly valued and makes History a well-respected and popular subject.

# ICT - iMedia (CNAT)

**What do I study?**

The CNAT course combines Media and IT courses. It will also give an insight into website development and graphical production. Additionally, pupils will learn how IT technology has affected the world around them. It will provide them with the tools to understand and solve the complex social and ethical issues we encounter using these systems.

A course in iMedia is particularly suitable for those students who:

- Have an interest in media film and pre-productions processes
- Are interested in developing skills in graphics and game design
- Want to study a course that is practical and based on real world examples.

**How am I assessed?**

The course consists of a one and a half hour exam (25% of your overall grade) and coursework (75% of your overall grade).

The course is spread over four units which are:

- Examination on media pre-production skills
- Creating digital graphics
- Creating a multipage website
- Designing a game concept.

**How can this help me in the future?**

At Robert Clack, we currently have a lot of courses available at sixth form (Key stage five (KS5). A-Level Computer Science have limited spaces and our IT course at KS5 is extremely popular and has a greater emphasis on vocational 'hands on' learning. Following KS5 courses learners can go on to BTEC High National, Foundation or Degree courses.

Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce.

Jobs are very plentiful and can start with minimal experience. There are many ways to develop skills in IT such as industry qualifications and apprenticeships, but going to University and completing a sandwich degree is the most lucrative option.

# Music (OCR)

**What do I study?**

We are surrounded by music. Music at GCSE offers pupils an opportunity to have a better understanding of the various types of music we experience from a day to day basis. Music GCSE is a continuation of work at Key Stage 3. Pupils are given the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity and musical skills as well as demonstrate their understanding of a variety of musical styles from 16th century to the present day. Choosing Music as an option at GCSE will provide a contrast to many GCSE subjects, in that there is no extended essay writing or essay style examination. Coursework time is spent on composing and performing.

The OCR Music syllabus is in three sections:

1. **Practical**
   Pupils will continue to learn how to play an instrument or sing. Voice, rapping and beat boxing are all considered instruments. Qualified visiting peripatetic staff, assist in teaching pupils to play their chosen instrument.
2. **Composing**
   Pupils will continue to compose music using more complex ideas and structures. Pupils do not need to be able to notate music in traditional notation at GCSE. We have a number of computers running software programmes which will play and notate their compositions. This is in line with the examination board's regulations.
3. **Listening**
   Pupils will continue listening to and learning how to identify musical instruments, styles, eras, specific musical characteristics and structures.

**How are am I assessed?**

1. **Integrated portfolio (30% of total marks)**
   Students will record a solo performance on their chosen instrument.
   Students will create a composition to a brief set by the learner.
2. **Practical component (30% of total marks)**
   Students will record an ensemble performance.
   Students will create a composition to a brief set by the exam board.
3. **Listening examination: (40% of total marks)**
   Students will complete a written paper that assesses student's aural skills on various styles, eras and instruments in music.

**How can this help me in the future?**

Music is the 4th largest industry in the UK and the 3rd largest in the World. It is still a major growth industry which needs people with musical qualifications. The skills and disciplines required to succeed in this subject are recognised as being valuable in most other areas of industry.

# Psychology (Edexcel)

**What do I study?**

This course has been designed to enable pupils to have the opportunity to study psychology at an introductory level, yet also gain enough insight into the subject to enable pupils to complete the course with a rounded knowledge of the approaches, processes and issues that have been chosen to illustrate it at GCSE Level. The course is built upon the understanding that psychological knowledge could be treated as being made up of a number of different approaches.

Pupils wishing to study Psychology must have a good memory for names and dates and should not be put off by detailed written work.

**Paper 1 – assessed at the end of year 11**

- Development – How did you develop?
- Memory – How does your memory work?
- Psychological problems – How would psychological problems affect you?
- The Brain and neuropsychology – How does your brain affect you?
- Social influence – How do others affect you?

**Paper 2 - assessed at the end of year 11**

- Criminal psychology – Why do people become criminals?
- The self – What makes you who you are?
- Research methods

**How am I assessed?**

The course is 100% exam.

- Paper 1 – written exam worth 55% of total GCSE. 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Paper 2 – written exam worth 45% of total GCSE. 1 hour and 20 minutes.

**How can this help me in the future?**

Progression to further study from GCSE will depend upon the number and nature of the grades achieved. Broadly, pupils who are awarded mainly grades 1 to 4 at GCSE could either strengthen their base through further study of qualifications at Foundation Level within the National Qualifications Framework or could proceed to Intermediate level. Pupils who are awarded mainly grades 5 to 9 at GCSE would be well prepared for study at AS and Advanced Level within the National Qualifications Framework.

# Separate (Triple) Science (OCR)

**What do I study?**

All students will study **GCSE Combined Science** which is a mixture of Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules. This qualification provides students with two GCSEs at the end of Year 11 with a grade based on the average mark for all of the modules.

As an option, students can choose to study **GCSE Separate Science** in which they will study the same modules as the Combined Science course, but each module is slightly longer allowing students to achieve 3 separate GCSEs grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will be placed into separate classes for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

**How am I assessed?**

At the end of the courses in Year 11 students will be assessed by written examinations which will test their knowledge of the topics that they have learnt, their ability to apply it to new and different situations and their understanding of how scientists work based on the practical work that they have completed.

Students will achieve separate GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

**How can this help me in the future?**

As with combined science, this course helps students to understand the world around them and how living and non-living systems work allowing them to deal with everyday situation that they will encounter in life.

Studying triple science allows students to study every topic in more detail which will deepen their knowledge and provide an excellent grounding for further study of science at A Level or through vocational courses such as BTEC and CTEC.

# Sports Studies (OCR)

**What do I study?**

The OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies is equivalent to 1 GCSE.

The course is completed through the delivery of four units:

- Contemporary issues in sport.
- Developing sports skills
- Sports leadership
- Sport and the media

If you are choosing this course you need to be a confident sports person who would be able to apply your own skills to coaching others.

**How am I assessed?**

Evidence required for attaining the qualification is a mix of coursework, practical assessment and a written exam.

**How can this help me in the future?**

This qualification will provide students with a sound vocational introduction to a potential career in the sport industry. The qualification is also the start of a pathway into the academic qualifications that we offer at the sixth form and potentially on to university thereafter.

# Sociology (WJEC)

**What do I study?**

Everyone is part of society. Society has helped shape who you are and how you experience life – but how much do you understand about it? *Have you ever wondered why people commit crime? Why people are no longer getting married? Why the divorce rate is so high? Why do some people play up at school? Why are girls doing so much better than boys in education? Whether society is fair? Do prisons work?* This is where Sociology comes in – because these are all **SOCIAL** issues. The Sociologist sets off to try and understand our human world a little better. This task is often challenging and controversial but to many it is also fascinating and rewarding. **Sociology, then, is the study of people in society.** By learning how society operates you will be learning how the world works; you will be putting your current life in context and preparing yourself for what society may have in store for you. You will gain the knowledge, analytical, evaluative and debating skills to add your voice to the great popular discussions of our time in areas such as the family, education, domestic violence, antisocial behaviour, video games and violence, teenage pregnancy and crime and punishment.

**How am I assessed?**

**Year 10 topics**

- What is sociology?
- Understanding social processes
- Education
- Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission
- Families
- Sociological Research Methods

**Year 11 topics (with two 90 minute exams at end of year 11)**

- Crime and deviance
- Social Differentiation and Stratification
- Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry

**How can this help me in the future?**

Many students who study GCSE Sociology go on to study **A level Sociology** in the sixth form. It will also help with your study of **Psychology, Law, Media Studies or Politics**. In addition, Sociology is an extremely valued subject for higher education entry and future careers. Sociology students are particularly in demand for 'people centred occupations' and professions that demand an analytical approach based upon weighing up evidence and arguments to reach considered conclusions.

Sociology students have gone on to careers as wide ranging as **media, research**, **law**, **police**, **journalism**, **teaching**, **social and welfare work**, **personnel work**, **business analysts**, **civil service and local government policy making**, **advertising**, **nursing**, **medicine and market research**. A recent study discussed that Social Science graduates 'have the best job prospects' So if you want to study an extremely interesting topic, you want to discover what makes you the person you are, and you want to have excellent job prospects in the future, choose GCSE Sociology.

# Statistics (Edexcel)

**What do I study?**

This is a course that consists of both Further Mathematics and Statistics. The aims and objectives of this qualification are:

- the use of statistical techniques in a variety of authentic investigations, using real-world data in contexts such as, but not limited to, populations, climate, sales etc.
- identifying trends through carrying out appropriate calculations and data visualisation techniques
- the application of statistical techniques across the curriculum, in subjects such as the sciences, social sciences, computing, geography, business and economics, and outside the classroom in the world in general
- critically evaluating data, calculations and evaluations that would be commonly encountered in their studies and in everyday life
- understanding how technology has enabled the collection, visualisation and analysis of large quantities of data to inform decision-making processes in public, commercial and academic sectors, including how technology can be used to generate diagrams and visualisations to represent data

The course covers Statistics in greater depth and breadth placing an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills.

**How am I assessed?**

Our Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Statistics qualification consists of two examined papers at Higher tier.

Students will interpret statistical information and results in context and reason statistically to draw conclusions. Students will assess the appropriateness of statistical methodologies and the conclusions drawn through the application of the statistical enquiry cycle.

**How can this help me in the future?**

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data.

It complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers – from weather forecasting to the biological sciences. Statistics is now a compulsory component of A Level Mathematics. GCSE statistics will bridge the gap between GCSE maths and maths A-level. A high grade in GCSE Mathematics is beneficial and in some cases mandatory for many A level choices. This course helps students fulfil their mathematical potential and prepares them for the study of A level Mathematics. Essential for careers in Medicine, Economics, Accounting, Law, Psychology, Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences

# Further Mathematics (AQA)

**What do I study?**

**Further Maths is part of Statistics. If you are interested in this qualification you need to select the 'Statistics' option.**

The AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics is a level 2 linear qualification for learners who are aspiring to study A-level mathematics in the future. It is well suited to higher achievers in mathematics.

Subject content:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)
4. Calculus
5. Matrix Transformations
6. Geometry

**How am I assessed?**

Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics is linear. Students take two question papers. Both question papers must be taken in the same series. They are both 1 hour and 45 minutes in length.

**How can this help me in the future?**

This qualification fills the gap for high achieving students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth, thus preparing them fully to maximise their potential in further studies at A-level. It offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to GCSE Mathematics.

This qualification places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills. This course helps students fulfil their mathematical potential and prepares them for the study of A level Mathematics. Essential for careers in Medicine, Economics, Accounting, Law, Psychology, Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences.