

St Angela's Ursuline School

GCSE Options 2024



Making my GCSE Option choices in Year 9

**All students will be following a two week timetable.
They will study in KS4 the following subjects.**

English Literature	Mathematics	Science
English Language	Core PE	Religious Education



Students will be guided to choose a Language or BTEC Media Studies

The language choice must be the language they are currently studying at KS3

French
or
German
or
Spanish

or

BTEC
Creative Digital
Media Production



Students will choose 2 subjects from the list below

Art	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Music
Business Studies	Geography	Psychology
Computer Science	Design & Technology <i>Timbers, Metals & Polymers Specialism</i>	Sociology
Drama	History	Textiles
Dance	GCSE PE or Cambridge National in Sport Studies OCR Level 1 / Level 2	ASDAN <i>Personal & Social Development</i>

Please note that PSHE will be taught as a series of drop down days with students off timetable during the course of the year.



Art & Design



GCSE Art is a popular subject with our students achieving at the highest levels.

Many employers actively seek individuals who have studied the arts due to the skills acquired through following a creative subject.

Art students are dedicated and hard working, demonstrating excellent time management and organisational skills. Art enables students to visually communicate concepts, feelings and ideas whilst experimenting with a broad range of media and techniques.

Assessment

Component 1

Personal Portfolio
60%

Component 2

Externally Set
Assignment
40%

Exam Board: Edexcel

Students study 'Fine Art' and will experiment with different art materials and techniques, gaining skills in (for example) :

- Drawing
- Painting
- Print-making
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- 3-D Design



Our students demonstrate high levels of creativity as they develop analytical and problem solving skills. They are required to test out ideas, review and reflect on outcomes and make informed judgements about how to progress in their work. Students' achievements are celebrated every July, at the St Angela's Art Exhibition.

Art can lead to a broad range of careers:

Architecture	Film Production
Fashion Design	Costume Design
Web Design	Photography
Product Design	Graphic Design
Animation	Illustration
Interior Design	and many, many more...



Art is about learning to express yourself effectively and communicate through visual means.



Business Studies



GCSE Business introduces students to how businesses operate and to what degree they can be impacted by society, the wider economy and the competitive environment. In addition, how developments in technology are impacting businesses; students will also investigate various departments within a business such as Marketing, Human Resources, Operations and Finance to determine how they each contribute to the success of business.



This subject should be chosen if you have an interest in businesses; how they function, thrive and grow. An ability to communicate well in written form is desirable as you will have to analyse business situations and make judgements.

Assessment

Theme 1

'Investigating Small Business'

written exam - 1 hr 30mins

Theme 2

'Building a Business'

written exam - 1 hr 45mins

Both exams will be taken at the end of year 11. Each exam is worth 50% of the qualification.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment:

There is no coursework, assessment is 100% exam based. However, we will look at plenty of real businesses during the course and do practical investigations of how businesses work.

Theme 1 - 'Investigating Small Business' topics:

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Making operational decisions
- Understanding the external influences on business

Theme 2 - 'Building a Business' topics:

- Growing a business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions



Business Studies can lead to a broad range of careers including:

Marketing Executive, Accountant, Human Resource Manager, Events Manager, Corporate Banker, or you could start your own business. The subject will help with an awareness of the working environment, but equally contribute towards developing key employability skills such as teamwork, leadership and decision making.



Could you be future Business Woman of the Year?



BTEC Tech Award in Creative Digital Media Production

This course is designed for those wishing to prepare for the world of work in digital media.

Entry level positions in this field include assistant web designer, editorial assistant, junior photographer, assistant game designer, production assistant or games tester.

You will be required to apply skills learnt in a work-related context. This could take the form of

- Independent projects
- Team projects
- Individual controlled assessment



The following are some units that could be taught over this 2 year course.

Some units are mandatory and some are optional. Your teachers will decide on the titles of the units.

- Intro to different media sectors and theories
- Exploring media products
- Developing digital media production skills in print and moving image
- Creating a media product in response to a brief

Assessment

Coursework
60%

Controlled Assessment
40%

Exam Board: Edexcel



This course will prepare you for the world of work in digital media.



Computer Science



GCSE (9-1) Computer Science gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work, how they are used and to develop computer programming and problem solving skills.

Component 01 – Computer Systems

This is a written paper, which has a mixture of short and long answer questions. You will need to explore what makes a computer system, how to calculate data storage and the use of binary within a computer system and the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts that technology has within our lives. It is an examined unit and makes up 50% of the assessment total.

Assessment

OCR Examination

J277/01 Exam

50% - 80 marks

J277/02 Exam

50% - 80 marks

Component 02 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This is a new written exam, focused on computational thinking and algorithms. You will be tested on the elements of computational thinking and logic. You will learn how to write, correct and improve algorithms. Makes up 50% of the assessment total.

Practical Programming Project

Students will be challenged by a range of exciting and engaging programming tasks to problem solve and to apply the programming knowledge and skills learnt.

A Level Computer Science is offered in the sixth form and many top universities and employers value the qualification!

There is a huge demand for Computer specialists and Programmers. Could you invent, or be part of a team, who creates the next BIG Game, App or Website?



Google



Did you know you are a Digital Citizen?
You need to be in the know.



Dance



AQA GCSE Dance Could Be For You!

GCSE Dance will enable you to develop your choreographic, performing and analytical skills in mostly practical based lessons. Participating in dance workshops and attending theatre trips will give you a wider experience of the art form.

Dance enables you to work collaboratively, developing good communication and organisation skills which are transferable.

Assessment

Performance 30%

Choreography 30%

Written Paper 40%

Exam Board: AQA



Performance

You will have the experience of performing in at least two different dance styles.

You will develop your technical and expressive skills and have the opportunity to perform to different audiences.

You will perform:
Solo Set Phrases - 15%
Duet / Trio - 15%

Choreography

You will explore how to choreograph a solo and group dance.

You will choreograph your own dance in response to a set task list.

You will take part in Dance workshops with professional dance artists.

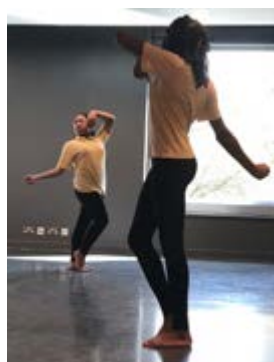
You will then create a:
Solo or Group
Choreography 30%

Appreciation Of Dance

You will study six professional dance works choreographed by established choreographers. These will cover a range of styles including:

- ballet
- urban
- contemporary
- dance from other cultures

You will sit a:
1 ½ hour Written Paper
40%



GCSE dancers are thinking dancers.

Design & Technology

Timbers, Metals and Polymers Specialism

GCSE OPTIONS



Assessment

Unit 1: Written Paper
2 hours

50%

Core questions across the D&T subject and specialist material questions on Timbers, Metal and Polymers

Unit 2: Design & Making
Approximately 45 hours
50%

A single design & make activity in Timbers, Metal or Polymers

Exam Board: AQA

GCSE Design and Technology enables you to:

- Develop as independent learners
- Make decisions, consider sustainability and combine skills with knowledge and understanding to design and make products
- Explore ways which looks at how technical, economic, environmental, ethical and social aspects interact to affect designing and making
- Analyse existing products and produce practical solutions to needs, recognising their impact on quality of life
- Develop evaluation and decision-making skills through individual and team working activities
- Understand that designing and making reflect and influence cultures and societies, and that products have an impact on lifestyle
- Develop skills of creativity and critical analysis through making links between good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge

Why Choose Design and Technology?

- Encourages creativity and originality
- Knowledge of woods, metals, plastics and other materials
- The use of new technologies and ICT is encouraged
- Promotes awareness of sustainability and environmental impact of designing
- Allows credit to be given for innovative work, including projects with CAD/CAM
- Non examined assessment 20 A3 pages, models and final material prototype
- No Higher or Foundation just one single exam for all entries
- Provides an excellent route into Sixth Form Product Design and a future career in a STEM subject.



**"Learn about the value of minor changes and details.
Fall in love with the elegance of simplicity."**

Zorine Pooladian, Furniture Designer



Drama



What do we do?

In GCSE Drama, you will learn to create performances using different performance styles and genres. You will learn how meaning is communicated through drama as well as how to write about drama using appropriate terminology.

How do we do it?

In Year 10, you will devise a performance using a particular genre of theatre. You will produce a portfolio of supporting evidence to document the devising and rehearsal process (coursework) as well as writing an evaluation of the final performance in controlled conditions. The devised performance, supporting evidence and written evaluation are, all together, worth 40% of your final grade. In Year 11, you will rehearse two different extracts from one play to perform to the visiting examiner. You will be assessed on your acting skills (20%). You will also study a different play for the written exam at the end of Year 11 (40%). You will be asked a series of questions on the play and you will be assessed on your ability to explore the play from the point of view of an actor, a designer and a director.

Assessment

Devised performance, supporting evidence and written evaluation (40%)

Performance of scenes from a play (20%)

Written examination (40%)

Exam Board: WJEC (EDUQAS)

Transferable skills... or what can drama do for me?

A qualification in Drama proves your ability to discuss ideas and to think creatively. It proves that you are able to listen well to others and can be sympathetic. Drama also promotes essential life-skills, for example: good organisation, co-operation and effective communication.

Why choose Drama at St Angela's?

The department has an excellent track record with all students achieving at the highest level. Some students then go on to study Drama at A Level and at university; however, more than anything, a qualification in Drama is highly attractive to employers because it proves that you are able to work well alongside others and that you can communicate your ideas effectively.

Fact

The employability of students who study arts subjects is higher and they are more likely to stay in employment (Cultural Learning Alliance: Key Research Findings, 2011).



All the World's a Stage.



Geography

Why study Geography?

'Geography helps make sense of the world around you' Royal Geographical Society.

In geography you will study a range of topics that relate to big issues which affect our world, and get an insight into a variety of the most important and relevant geographical issues. Geography empowers students to become better informed about our world whilst gaining highly valued transferable skills.

You will therefore develop numeracy and literacy skills, data collection and analysis skills, and finally communication and decision making skills.

Assessment

100% Exam

Exam Board: AQA



Geography is a highly respected subject by universities and employers. It is seen as a facilitating subject due to the wide range of skills developed. Universities highly value these skills and critical thinking within the subject for a wide range of degrees. Therefore it gives you a wide range of future opportunities and options. Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of employment, pursuing a wide range of career paths.

Geography takes you places... There are a huge range of direct career paths but as a facilitating subject with highly valued skills it can lead to jobs in finance, business, law and politics.

What will I study?

There are 3 separate exam papers:

Paper 1

Living with the physical environment

(1 hour 30 minutes)

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards
- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes in the UK

Paper 2

Challenges in the human environment

(1 hour 30 minutes)

- Urban Issues And Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management

Paper 3

Geographical applications

(1 hour 15 minutes)

- Issues Evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical Skills

Where will our fieldtrips be?

Fieldtrips are a compulsory part of the GCSE and must include one investigation in an urban environment and one in a coastal environment. We currently visit Stratford and Walton-on-the-Naze but we are always looking for opportunities for other locations to deepen our learning.

Without Geography, you are nowhere.



History

Why study GCSE History?

Historians look at how things have developed over time and connect the dots to understand how we got to where we are today in Britain and the wider world.



You will study

Paper 1 – 30%:

Crime and punishment in Britain c1000 to present:

- Development of different crimes including witchcraft and highway robbery.
- Changing punishments - including the death penalty.
- The investigation of the murders of Jack the Ripper.

Why study GCSE History?

Universities and employers really value students who have studied History. As a result, our students who have studied History have entered a variety of careers/professions including:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| • Law (solicitor/barrister) | • Politics |
| • Marketing/social media | • Journalism |
| • Investment banking | • Curator |
| • Scientific research | • Architecture |
| • Business leadership | • Accountancy |
| • Charities/NGOs | • Social work |
| • Crime scene investigations | |



Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel
Exam: 100%, No Coursework

You will learn how to:

- Explain why events in the past happened and their consequences;
- Make links between different events and the modern day;
- Analyse changes and continuities using a range of data and sources; and
- Debate and defend your judgements.

Paper 2 – 40%:

American West, 1835-1895:

- The development of modern day USA and the devastating impact and genocide of Plains Indians

Henry VIII and his Ministers, 1509-1540:

- Henry's government and life focusing on his loves, rebellions and friendships.

Paper 3 – 30%

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39:

- The events leading to the rise of Adolf Hitler and his impact on Germany.



A Level History is offered at 6th form and is a popular choice among students, many of whom have gone on to study at the best universities in the UK and abroad.



Modern Foreign Languages

GCSE Modern Languages is for you if...

- You love to learn more about other cultures
- You enjoy using technology to help you learn
- You enjoy working with others
- You want to have the tools to help you travel and work abroad
- You want to study a course which is highly regarded by employers and universities alike

GCSE Assessment:

25% Listening

25% Writing

25% Reading

25% Speaking



You will be able to choose either French, German or Spanish as your Modern Foreign Language.

You will have more hours per week for GCSE than you currently have which will help you to make progress and increase your confidence.



We hope to see you in languages next year and that you will join our film clubs and trips in the years to come.

Learning to communicate

Able to work and travel abroad

Necessary for many jobs

Good for business

Up to date with technology

Advantage over other job candidates

Great for making friends

Exploring other cultures

Sharpens the mind



You will be able to study all three of these languages at A Level in our Sixth Form. Some of our previous students have gone on to study International Relations, Marketing, International Law, Fashion and Tourism. Some have even gone to study and live abroad.



Music



Is Music the right subject for me?

If you enjoy:

- Singing or playing an instrument
- Producing your own music through technology or instruments
- Learning about different music genres then GCSE Music is for you.

“What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?”

To succeed in GCSE Music:

- You will be prepared to develop your voice or instrumental skills so that you sing/play with great confidence and excellent technique as both a soloist and as part of an ensemble.
- You are willing to learn the techniques that music producers and composers use to create great music, and apply this to your own musical ideas.
- You should be excited to listen intently to a variety of music genres, and be keen to use music vocabulary to describe this music in depth

Assessment

PERFORMING

(Solo & Ensemble)

30%

COMPOSING

(Two compositions)

30%

APPRAISING

(Listening Exam)

40%

Exam Board:

WJEC (Eduqas)

“What will I learn?”

You will learn:

- How to improve your performance skills
- How music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product
- How to analyse music and understand how it is influenced by its social and historical context

After GCSE

You can continue your Music studies by studying Music A-Level in the Sixth Form. Music A-Level develops your musical and analytical skills even further and prepares you for studying at University.

Careers in Music

Music industry professions include: sound engineering, radio & TV, PR & advertising, recording industry, education, music therapy, publishing, composing, working in/with orchestras or bands.

Music graduates don't all become musicians; there are a wide variety of professions that use musical skills including publishing, editing, media production, broadcasting, and marketing.

Music graduates are also highly valued in professions where people have to take initiative and solve problems, like finance and banking, law and consultancy.



You can progress onto A-Level Music.



Physical Education



Are you ready for the challenge?

If you are serious about sport and physical education and are willing to work hard then AQA GCSE PE could be for you. Throughout this course you will develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of physical education in theory and practical lessons.

You must attend a club regularly and be part of a team inside or outside school with recognised levels of achievement.

Assessment

Written Examination
60%

Practical Performance
30%

Performance Analysis
10%

Exam Board: AQA



Paper 1

The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

You will sit:

75 minutes written paper
30%

Paper 2

Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

You will sit:

75 minutes written paper
30%

Practical performance

In physical activity and sport

- You will be assessed as a player/performer in three different activities
- You will complete a written evaluation of a performance

Internal assessment and external moderation
40%

Physical activities studied could include:

- Football
- Netball
- Trampolining
- Basketball
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Cricket
- Gymnastics
- Badminton



This year we are offering the option of both GCSE PE and the Cambridge National in Sports Studies. Option numbers will determine which of these two courses will run in September 2024.

Rise to the challenge and opt for GCSE PE.



Cambridge National in Sport Studies

OCR Level 1 / Level 2



Assessment

Written Examination
35%

Coursework
65%

Exam Board: OCR

In your lessons you will learn about the fundamental principles and concepts of Sport Studies. You will develop your skills as a performer in two different sporting activities and learn how to lead sporting activity sessions. You will also develop the skills of team working, research and planning and understand that sports performance goes far beyond just the simple physical activity of sport. You will complete two written assignments which will form part of your final assignment.



Exam Paper

Contemporary issues in sport

This is assessed by an exam.

75 minutes written paper 70 marks

By completing this unit you will understand a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including learning about participation levels and barriers to completing sporting activities. You will also learn how participation is impacted by the promotion of values and ethical behaviour, about the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used within sport.

Topics include:

- *Issues which affect participation in sport*
- *The role of sport in promoting values*
- *The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country*
- *The role National Governing Bodies play in the development of their sport*
- *The use of technology in sport.*

Written Coursework

Performance and leadership in sports studies

This is assessed by a set assignment.
OCR moderated 80 marks

In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills. You will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with team mates as well as being in front of an audience when you perform.

Topics include:

- *Key components of performance*
- *Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity*
- *Organising and planning a sports activity session*
- *Leading a sports activity session*
- *Reviewing your own performance in planning and leading a sports activity session.*

Written Coursework

Sport and the media

This is assessed by a set assignment.
OCR moderated 40 marks

In this unit you will understand the different sides of a range of media sources and apply real life examples to show the nature of the relationship between media and sport. You will then develop your ability to evaluate and interpret the different ways in which sport is represented by the media.

Topics include:

- *The different sources of media that cover sport*
- *Positive effects of the media in sport*
- *Negative effects of the media in sport*

This year we are offering the option of both GCSE PE and the Cambridge National in Sports Studies. Option numbers will determine which of these two courses will run in September 2024.

Physical activities studied could include: Football, Netball, Athletics, Badminton.



Psychology



GCSE Psychology is an ever-changing subject which allows students to study human behaviour and the brain. In order to do this, the course has a range of units which provide students with an understanding of how biological, cognitive and environmental factors influence everyday behaviours.



All of the units covered are relevant and can be applied to our student's everyday lives. For example, during the first year of study students will explore the functions of sleep and why we dream. During the second year of study, student's study Criminal Psychology and Psychological Problems such as Depression and Schizophrenia, which provide our students with a better understanding of the world around them.

Assessment

Exam 100%

Exam Board: OCR

Psychology is a multi-faceted subject which develops a range of our student's skills. Their understanding of biological processes is enhanced through studying the brain, their literacy skills are developed through constructing well-structured essays and their mathematical skills are utilised through analysing data. At St Angela's we include a range of practical tasks which build our students research skills, which is an essential skill within the field of Psychology.



2 exam papers

Studies and Applications in Psychology (1)

Criminal Psychology
Development
Psychological Problems
Research Methods



Unit 2: Studies and Applications in Psychology (2)

Social Influence
Memory
Sleep and Dreaming
Research Methods

Psychology is a dynamic subject which will open your mind and develop a range of your academic skills.



Sociology



What is Sociology?

Sociology is the systematic study of society and social groups. It aims to increase our understanding of the social world we live in by looking at how institutions such as the family, education system and criminal justice system can have an effect on our individual behaviour. Sociologists are interested in exploring social processes, such as socialisation and social control. By doing so, we can understand how our society works and examine a variety of social issues, such as poverty, racism and rising crime rates.

As part of the GCSE course, students will be introduced to classical sociological theories such as Marxism, Functionalism and Weberianism. Students will learn the key ideas of classical sociologists including Durkheim, Marx and Weber, referring to their view of the world and their contribution to the development of the discipline. In addition, students will learn about the multitude of ways in which sociologists conduct research in society. For example, through the use of questionnaires, interviews and observations. The course is designed and delivered to nurture thoughtful and motivated young people, who can act responsibly as active citizens, and who believe in their ability to change their community for the better.

Other sociological questions that will be explored during the course are:

- What causes crime in society?
- Why are some groups more likely to experience poverty than others?
- Why is there an over-representation of some ethnic minority groups in the UK prison population?
- Do men and women have equal roles within the family?

Assessment

Paper 1 (Year 10 topics):

- Family
- Education
- Research Methods

Paper 2 (Year 11 topics):

- Crime and Deviance
- Stratification
- Research Methods

Assessment

100% exam

Exam Board: AQA

What skills do you need to study sociology?

- Excellent essay writing skills
- Ability to formulate arguments in debates (critical thinking)
- Open mind and a willingness to look at contemporary issues in detail

There is a clear progression to studying A level Sociology with good links to Psychology, Politics and Health and Social Care.



Sociology - a subject you can really get involved in.

ASDAN Personal and Social Development



What is ASDAN?

The ASDAN Personal and Social Development qualifications (PSD) offer imaginative activities and personal challenges that support young people in becoming confident individuals who are physically, emotionally and socially happy. ASDAN is a charity with awarding organisation status that provides courses to thousands of UK and international schools, colleges and training providers.

The qualification aims to support young people in:

- developing and improving knowledge and understanding of personal and social issues
- developing a wide range of qualities, abilities and achievements
- getting involved with practical tasks
- introducing them to new activities and challenges

This helps students to become confident individuals and responsible citizens who can make a positive contribution to society.



Students can work towards Entry Level 1, 2 and 3; and also Levels 1 and 2 PSD qualifications.

To achieve the PSD Award qualification, students must gain 8 credits by completing Unit challenges and providing evidence to demonstrate the development of knowledge at the appropriate level.

Students can be awarded unit certificates for any units completed.

The Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 modules unit titles are:

- Healthy Living
- Making the Most of Leisure Time
- Managing Money
- Using Technology in the Home & Community
- Personal Safety in the Home & Community
- Working as a Group
- Community Action
- Individual Rights & Responsibilities
- Preparation for Work
- Dealing with Problems in Daily Life
- Environmental Awareness
- Working Towards Goals



Helping students to become confident individuals and responsible citizens who can make a positive contribution to society.

- What subjects do you enjoy the most?



- Do you enjoy subjects where you will have completed some coursework before a final exam?



- Do you know what is expected of you in the subjects you will choose?





Careers

Making your GCSE choices can help you to develop an interest in certain careers. However, most students will not at this stage know what career they want to go into and that is perfectly normal. All GCSEs offer you a chance to develop knowledge and skills that can be applied to a wide range of careers beyond your academic studies.



If you would like to discuss potential careers, then our school's Careers Advisor, Ms Li, is happy to help you. Her role is to inspire you into discovering different careers and then working alongside your teachers to motivate you to achieve those career goals.

She will give you all the information and advice you need to ensure that you have the best chance to achieve your career aspirations. Ms Li can sit down with you and look at all of your options and help you make the right choices for you. She can offer you advice and guidance in the following ways:

- **Year 9 lunchtime drop in clinic**
- **1:1 career guidance appointment**

If you have a career idea you want to follow but you're not sure what subjects you need to study you should seek out advice from your teachers and form tutor, who are always there to help.

The support with careers continues beyond selecting your options. Ms Li can support you when it comes to making well informed decisions about your future, looking at work experience options in Year 10, to your choices at Post-16. The school has contacts with local colleges, apprenticeships and universities. We work closely with businesses to ensure that we have the most up to date information on the job market so that you can get the best start to your future.

Education is the key to success, fulfilling your dreams and helping transform your future. The Careers Advisor is there to support you throughout Year 7-13 in making the right choices, and help inspire you to achieve your goals for Post-16 and your future.

If you would like to book a careers appointment please contact Ms Li who is based in the Ursula Suite or on the email address below:

Hannah.li@stangelas-ursuline.co.uk

My Notes

GCSE OPTIONS



My Notes

GCSE OPTIONS



