

Poole Grammar
School



Compassion Integrity Motivation Respect Team-work Wisdom

GCSE options 2023

To promote and pursue excellence in a **stimulating** and **creative** environment, where all are committed to **lifelong learning**.



Overview

1. The curriculum model for Year 10 & Year 11
2. What are GCSEs like?
3. Issues to consider when choosing GCSEs
4. What next?



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

For September 2023 the curriculum model for Years 10 & 11 (Key Stage 4) is as set out below:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Year 10	7							6					14														5			3		5			5			4		1										
Year 11	7							6					14														5			3		5			5			4		1										
Year 10*	7							6					9									5			3		5			5			5			4		1												
Year 11*	7							6					9									5			3		5			5			5			4		1												

*Double and not triple science chosen

English	Maths	Science	MFL	Art	Drama	Music	DT	Geography	Enrichment
History	RP	ICT	PE/Games	PSHE	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

For September 2023 the curriculum model for Years 10 & 11 is as set out below:

Compulsory subjects

Subject	# lessons	Subject	# lessons
English	7	Religion & Philosophy	3
Mathematics	6	PE & Games	4
Science	9 / 14	Life Skills (PSHE)	1
Modern language	5		

lessons = number of lessons over a two-week timetable cycle

As an academic grammar school, we only offer GCSE qualifications and do not offer any vocational qualifications



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

For September 2023 the curriculum model for Years 10 & 11 is as set out below:

Option (non-compulsory) subjects

Subject	# lessons	Subject	# lessons
2 nd Modern language	5	Electronics	5
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5	Food Prep & Nutrition	5
Art & Design (3D Design)	5	Geography	5
Computer Science	5	History	5
Design Technology	5	Music	5
Drama	5	Physical Education	5

lessons = number of lessons over a two-week timetable cycle



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

The 'average' Poole Grammar School student gains 10 GCSEs

English Language

Science 1

English Literature

Science 2

Mathematics

Option 1

Religious Studies

Option 2

Modern Foreign Lang

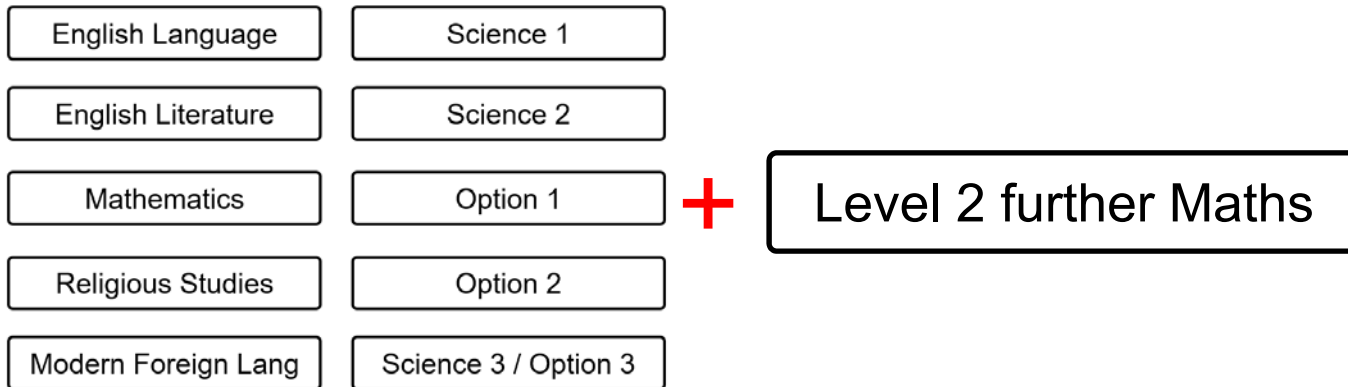
Science 3 / Option 3



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

The 'average' Poole Grammar School student gains 10 GCSEs

Top set maths students will gain the equivalent of 11 GCSEs



Some SEND students may, with the agreement of the SENDCO, study a slightly reduced programme of 9 GCSEs



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

Why does Poole Grammar School make Religion & Philosophy (GCSE Religious Studies) compulsory?

- Religious studies remains a **legal requirement** in all schools in the UK, and Ofsted look that all schools provide a certain amount of Religious Studies in the timetable.
- The national curriculum states the legal requirement that:
'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which: promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. All state schools... must teach religious education... All schools must publish their curriculum by subject and academic year online'.

(National Curriculum in England: Framework Document, DfE, September 2013, p.4)



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

Why does Poole Grammar School make Religion & Philosophy (GCSE Religious Studies) compulsory?

- At PGS, our view is that if students are required to undertake studies in the subject, then they should get a GCSE out of it. As a result, all students undertake the AQA GCSE RS.
- A frequent comment from parents is; ‘but it’s optional at Parkstone...’
- This is true, but the students there **still** have to spend time doing a programme of study. For the GCSE, we only ask that students undertake 3 hours of study **per two week cycle**.
- Other option subjects have **five hours** of study. What this means is that even if we replaced RE with a different option – it wouldn’t have enough time to be successfully taught.



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

Why does Poole Grammar School make Religion & Philosophy (GCSE Religious Studies) compulsory?

- It is also worth noting that the RE GCSE is **very** different to what your experience of the subject was if you were at school prior to 2005!
- It incorporates lots of ethical questions and current events – two of the units are ‘Peace & Conflict’ and ‘Crime & Punishment’ – in this way, it also provides students with an introduction to aspects of A-level study.
- Finally, it’s a subject that PGS students find straightforward, and excel in. Last year (the first ‘proper exams’ year post-COVID) we achieved:
 - **54% Grade 9-7** (National average: 35%)
 - **92% Grade 9-5** (National average: 66%)



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

How to choose between triple science and double science

Triple Science

GCSE Biology
+
GCSE Chemistry
+
GCSE Physics



3 Science GCSEs
2 GCSE options subjects

Double Science

Biology, Chemistry &
Physics topics



2 Science GCSEs
3 GCSE options subjects





The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

How to choose between triple science and double science

Why do you have
to learn about
science?

**SCIENCE
IS.
EVERYTHING.**





The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

How to choose between triple science and double science

Exams

Triple

- Two chemistry, biology and physics exams
- 1 hour 45 minutes long
- 100 marks each
- Long and short answer questions

Combined

- Two chemistry, biology and physics exams
- 1 hour and 15 minutes long
- 70 marks each
- Long and short answer questions



The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

How to choose between triple science and double science

Chemistry topics

Triple

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Structure and Bonding
- Chemical Calculations
- Chemical Changes
- Energy Changes
- The Rate of Chemical Change
- Hydrocarbons
- Chemical Analysis
- The Atmosphere
- Sustainable Development

Combined

- All the same topics
- Chapter 7 and 8 are slightly shorter plus a few small concepts from some of the other topics
- 8 required practicals in triple,
- 6 required practicals in combined.






The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

How to choose between triple science and double science

Biology topics

Triple	Combined
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell biology• Organisation• Infection and response• Bioenergetics• Homeostasis and response• Inheritance, variation and evolution• Ecology• 10 required practicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All the same topics with a few small concepts taken from each topic• 7 required practicals 

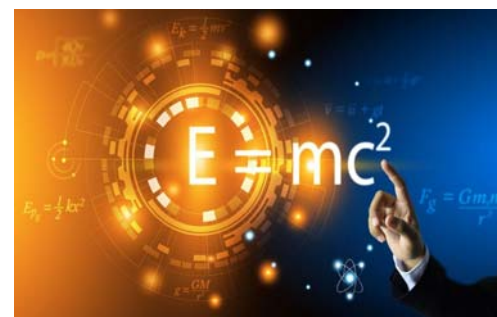


The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

How to choose between triple science and double science

Physics topics

Triple	Combined
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurements• Energy• Particles• Atomic• Electricity• Waves• Forces• Electromagnetism• Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No space topic• A few small concepts taken out of some of the other topics





The curriculum model for Years 10 & 11

How to choose between triple science and double science

A-levels?

You can do A level
Chemistry, Biology
or Physics with triple
or combined GCSE
science

However...

Completing triple GCSE will
give you a wider scope of the
subject.

If you are considering ANY
career in science, it is highly
recommended you complete
triple science.



What are GCSEs like?

GCSEs are an academic qualification that is mostly exam based

GCSE examinations are not based exclusively on the ability of candidates to recall information. Of course, **the acquisition of knowledge is still important**, but it is only one of the components assessed at GCSE.

GCSE examinations will test a range of skills, such as the **ability to use evidence, to evaluate, to draw conclusions, and to understand concepts**. In several subjects, some of the skills tested are essentially practical.

GCSE examinations attempt to assess the ability to **acquire, retain, examine and evaluate concepts**. The candidates who achieve most at GCSE demonstrate a capacity for **independent thought, thorough preparation and organisation**.



What are GCSEs like?

GCSEs make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) was introduced by the Government in 2010. It is not a qualification in itself but is a measure of how well a student has achieved across 6 academic subjects.

English Language

Science 2

Mathematics

Modern Foreign Lang

Science 1

History or Geography

However, Poole Grammar School values all the subjects it offers equally, including Religion & Philosophy and creative arts and design subjects.



What are GCSEs like?

GCSEs are an academic qualification that is mostly exam based

Solely examination assessment

Computer Science
Geography
History
Mathematics
Religious Studies
Science

Some non examination assessment (NEA)

Art & Design (3D Design)
Art & Design (Fine Art)
Design Technology
Drama
Electronics
English
Food Prep & Nutrition
Modern languages
Music
Physical Education

**Key: Subjects that have a
large NEA component**



What are GCSEs like?

GCSEs are an academic qualification that is mostly exam based

Students cannot take both 3D Design and Fine Art

Students should only take **ONE** options subject with a substantial Non-Examined Assessment component but students can only take a **maximum of TWO** if they have a clear career aim that supports them choosing more than one.


Substantial non examination assessment (NEA)


Art & Design (3D Design)
Art & Design (Fine Art)
Design Technology
Drama
Electronics
Food Prep & Nutrition
Music
Physical Education





Issues to consider when choosing GCSEs


A range of issues should be considered when choosing GCSEs


 Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject

 Who the teacher of the course might be

 How choosing the subject, or not, might affect Sixth Form choices

 What other students might be doing the course (friends)

 How choosing the subject, or not, might affect Higher Education and/or careers options

 Which subjects might seem easier



Issues to consider when choosing GCSEs

How choices affect the subjects you could study in Sixth Form

Art (Fine Art)	Drama & Theatre	Geography	Music
Art (3D Design)	Economics	German	Philosophy
Biology	Electronics	Government & Politics	Physics
Business	English Language	History	Product Design (DT)
Chemistry	English Literature	Mathematics	Psychology
Computer Science	Extended Project	Maths (Further)	Sociology
Core Mathematics	French	Media Studies	Spanish

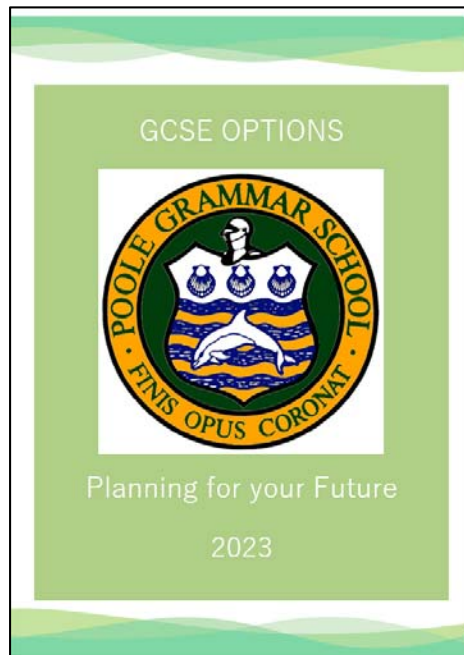
Facilitating subject

An A-level subject that Russell Group universities say keep the widest range of degree course options open



What next?

Next steps in choosing GCSE options



The e-booklet:
GCSE Options – Planning for your future 2023
will be sent out via E-COMMS on Tuesday 17th.

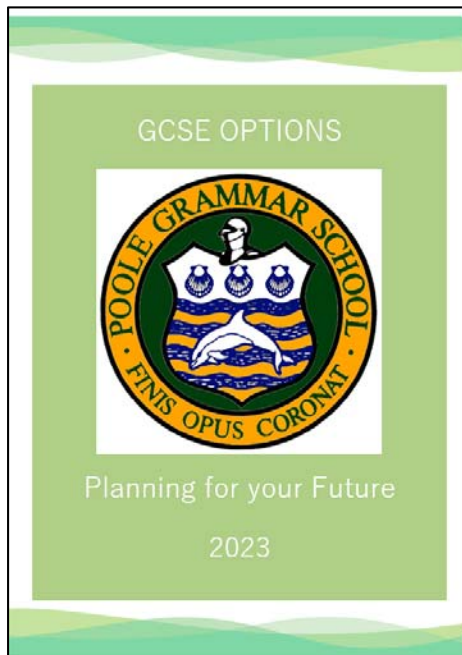
It contains:

- the information covered this evening;
- detailed information on each GCSE subject;
- instructions on how to submit GCSE options choices electronically via the SIMS Apps.



What next?

Next steps in choosing GCSE options



Important information:

There will only be **ONE** GCSE PE class

If a GCSE subject is **over-subscribed**, places will be allocated by **random ballot**.



What next?

Timeline

