Key Stage 4 Options Evening
Welcome

Introduction

Dr C. Nixon

Progress Leader
Year 9









This evening is about…

- Shaping your career and opportunities for your future. Your first real chance to choose the subjects which will move you closer to achieving your goals.
- Recognising that the next two years will present you with greater challenges that will also provide greater rewards.
- Providing you with the understanding of what you will need to commit to in your studies.
- Understanding that this is a team effort between teachers, students and parents alike.

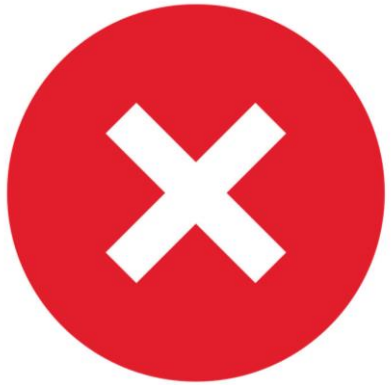
Good reasons to take options:

- Choose subjects that you feel you will do well in and are motivated. By following your natural interests, you are more likely to manage your workload and be successful.

- Think about our future career options, but choose subjects that help to keep options open.

- Choose subjects that suit the way that you work. How much of the grade is exam based? How much is coursework? Consider the strengths you have and how you can build on them.

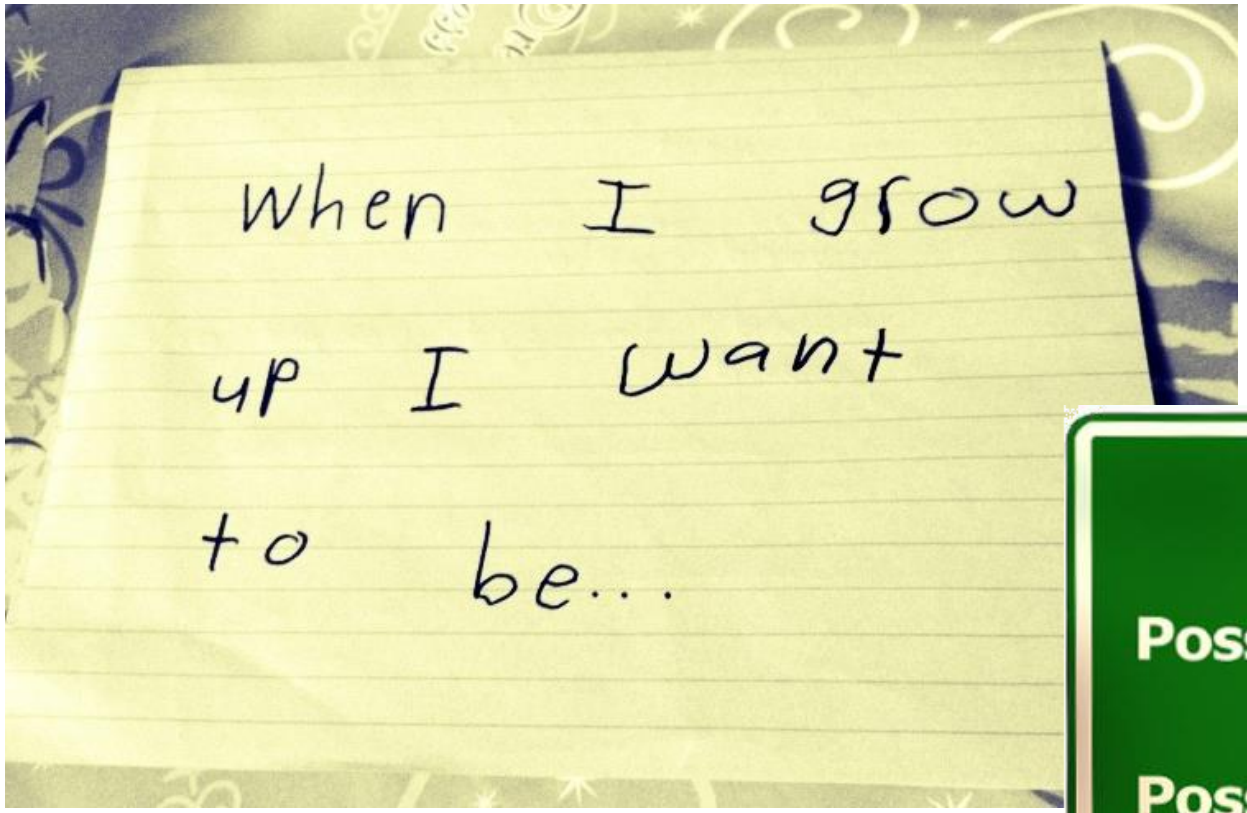
Bad reasons to take options:



- Picking a subject just because your friend is doing it.
- You like the teacher.
- Your parents want you to do it.
- You think it will be easy.

Speak to our older students

- They can tell you what the experience of studying each subject is like.
- They will be honest.
- They will be flattered to be treated as a source of wisdom and guidance!


When I grow
up I want
to be...


Possibilities
Possibility
Possibility
Possibility
Possibility
Possibility

The Options Process

Mr D. Price

Assistant Headteacher

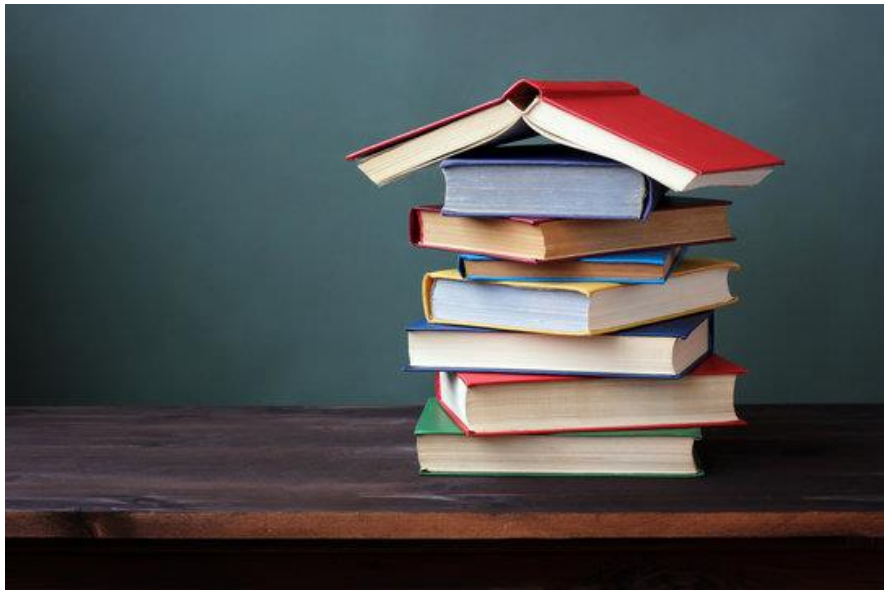
The Core Curriculum

Core GCSEs – 6 qualifications

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Science (Combined)
- Science (Combined)

Humanity Option – 1 qualification

- Geography
- History



Non-Examined Timetable Subjects

- Core PE
- PSHCE

Optional Choice Pathways / Combinations

The English Baccalaureate

Humanity Option CORE
1 qualification

- Geography
- History

Language Option – 1 qualification

- French
- Spanish

With Core Subjects = 7

3

2 More Optional GCSEs

- Art and Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Triple Science (counts as one option)

Optional Choice Pathways / Combinations

The Arts Route

Humanity Option CORE
1 qualification

- Geography
- History

With Core Subjects = 7

Choose from the following

- Art and Design
- Drama
- Music

3

Choose remainder

- Business
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Triple Science (counts as one option)

Optional Choice Pathways / Combinations

The STEM (Science Technology and Maths) Route

Humanity Option CORE
1 qualification

- Geography
- History

With Core Subjects

Choose from the following

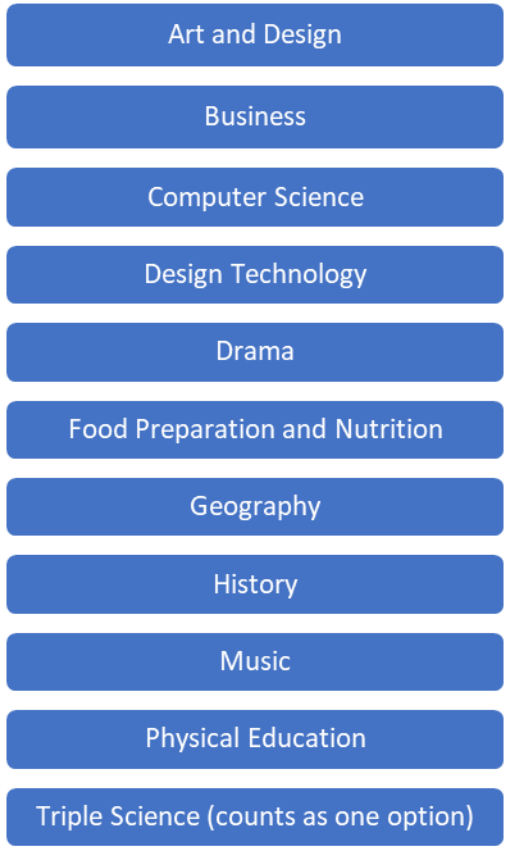
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Triple Science (counts as one option)

Choose remainder

- Art and Design
- Business
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

2 Reserve options

On the Google Form – choose 2 possible reserve options



- ❑ Humanity Option
- ❑ Option 1
- ❑ Option 2
- ❑ Option 3

- ❑ Reserve Option 1
- ❑ Reserve Option 2

What happens if a course is oversubscribed?

- Potential career choices
- Percentage in the subject at the mid year assessment
- Involvement in the wider life of the subject
- Classwork Grade
- Homework Grade
- Behaviour Grade

- This is outlined on page 5 of the Options Booklet

Options Form Completion Date

Friday 23rd February

GCSE English

Mr S. Howell

Curriculum Leader

GCSE English

- Mr. S. Howell – Curriculum Leader for English

English Language & English Literature

- Two discrete GCSEs
- Taught alongside each other
- Crossover in skills but not in content
- Year 10 English Literature
- Year 11 English Language

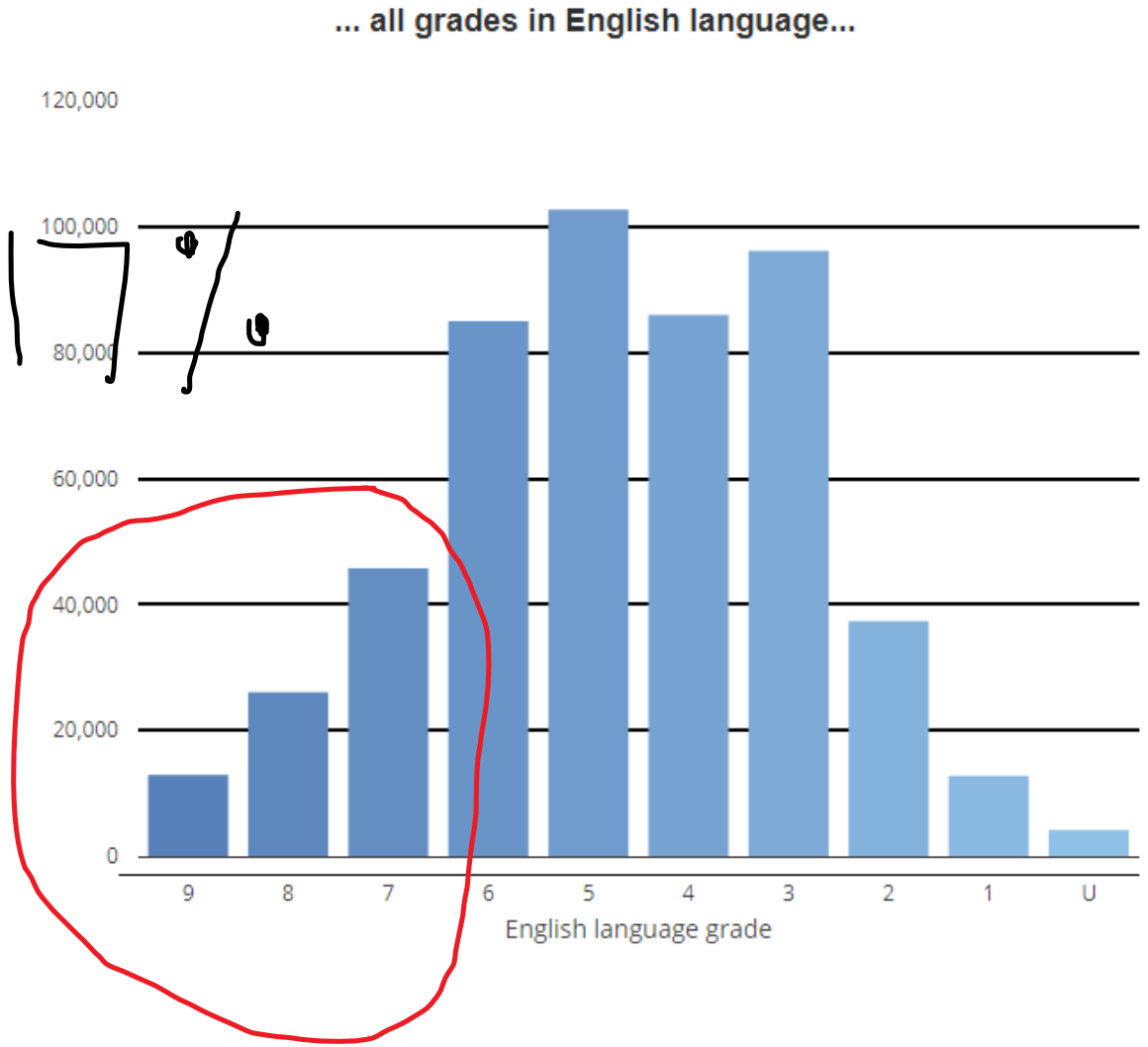
English Literature

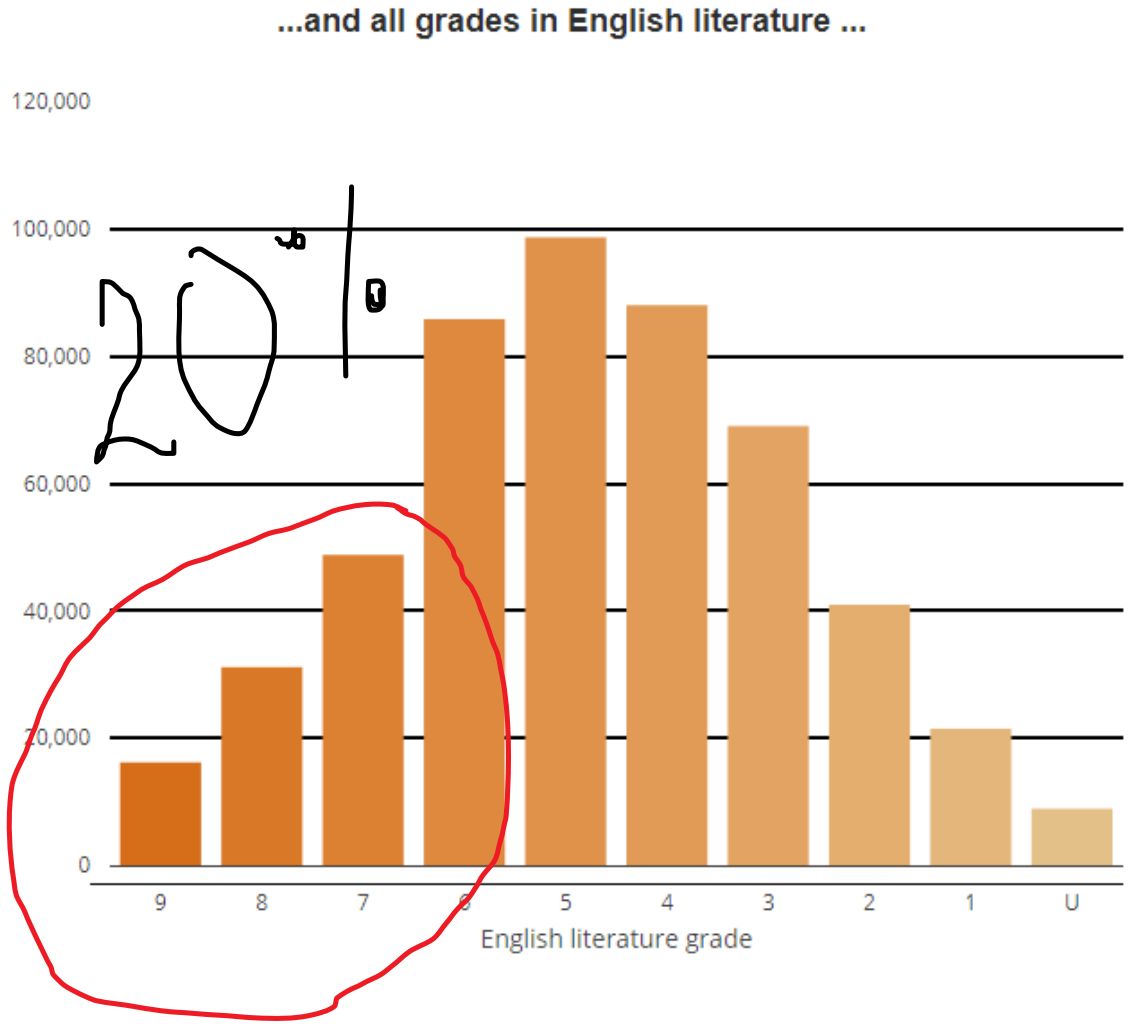
- Content covered in Year 9 and Year 10
- Predominantly reading and analytical skills
- Requirement to know texts well
- Texts provided by school – parental contribution requested
- An Inspector Calls, The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Julius Caesar, Anthology of Poetry: Worlds and Lives
- How can you support?

English Language

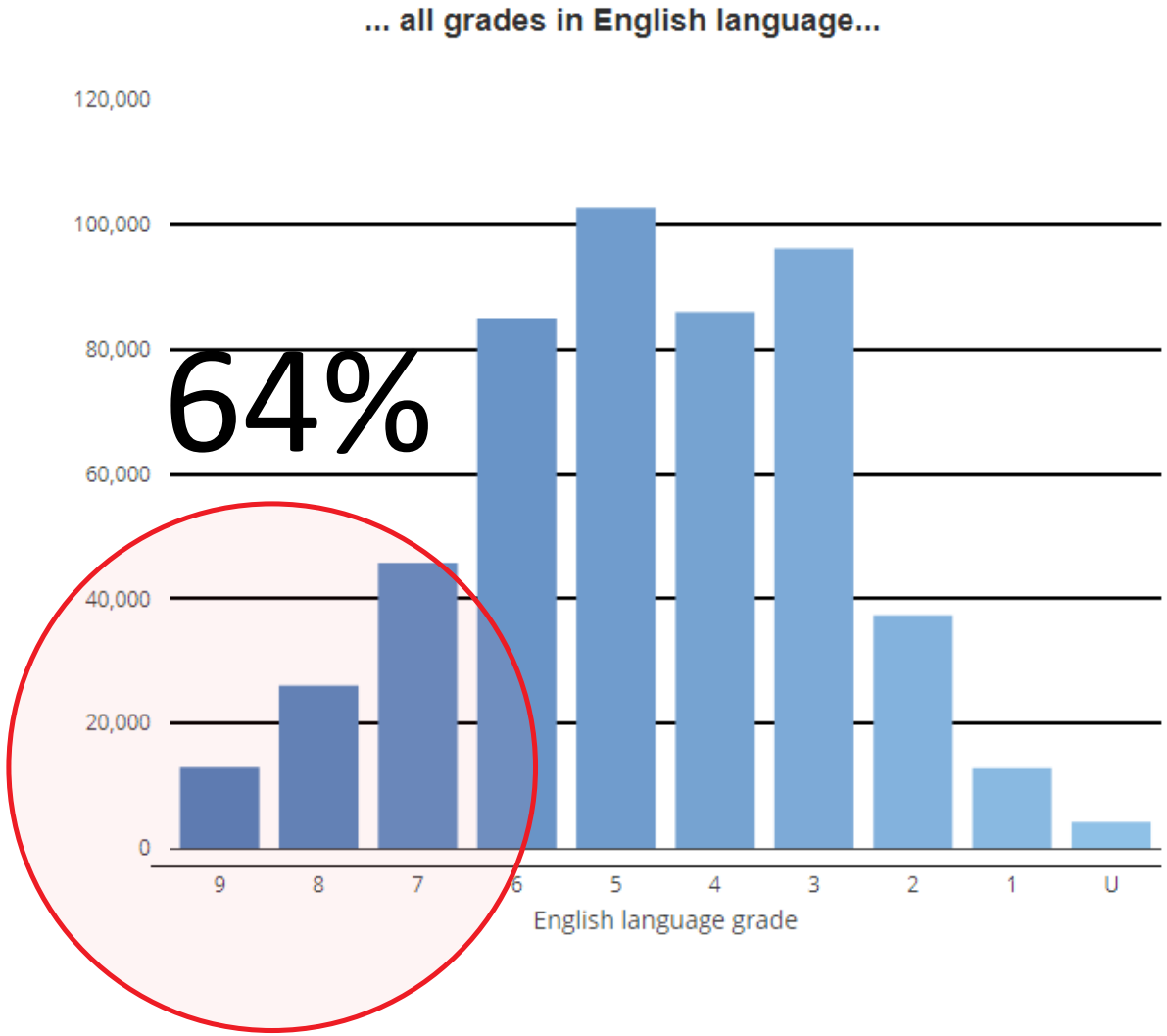
- Entirely skills based
- Reading / analysing unseen texts
- Writing creatively in a range of styles
- Skills have been practised since Year 7 but importantly improved upon
- Refreshed and revisited continuously
- Exam structure and skills covered predominantly in Year 11 (affects grade reporting in Year 10)

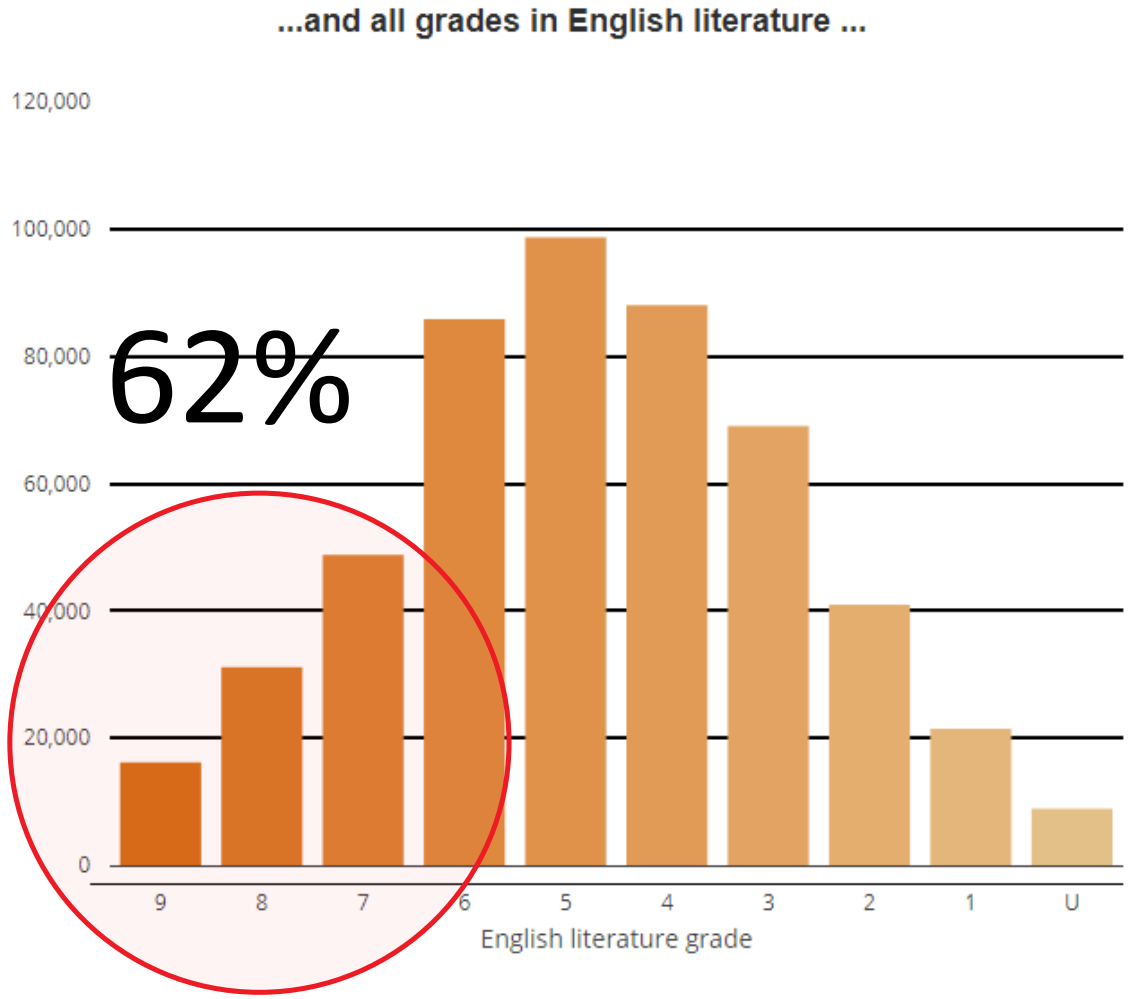
Grade distribution English Language & English Literature Nationally





Grade distribution English Language & English Literature





What are those students doing?

- They have a place to work
- They’re reading every day
- They’re reading widely
- They’re informed about world events and current affairs
- They have a hobby
- They have opinions and attitudes
- They’re watching documentaries, listening to talk radio and podcasts, and watching challenging and thought-provoking movies
- They’re re-reading their set-texts
- They come to school regularly, organised and with their texts
- They do their homework with pride
- They keep their exercise books neat, complete and tidy

What are their parents / carers doing?

- They’re providing a place to work
- They’re reading every day
- They’re reading widely
- They’re talking to their child(ren) about world events and current affairs. And about school!
- They’re challenging and discussing opinions and attitudes
- They’re sharing documentaries, talk radio and podcasts, and thought-provoking movies
- Good luck!

GCSE Mathematics

Mr C. McAvoy

Curriculum Leader









GCSE Mathematics

The mathematical content is defined by the DfE's *GCSE subject content and assessment objectives* document.

Subject area	Foundation Tier weighting	Higher Tier weighting
Number	25% (35%)	15% (17%)
Algebra	20% (17%) nMa : Ma	30% (35%) nMa : Ma No stipulation
Ratio, proportion and rates of change	25% (subsumed in other areas)	20% (subsumed in other areas)
Geometry and measures	15% (28%)	20% (28%)
Probability and statistics	15% (20%)	15% (20%)

Figures in brackets show weightings for the current qualification

(AQA)

All students will prepare for the Higher Tier (Grades 9 – 4)

GCSE Mathematics

Paper 1: non-calculator	Paper 2: calculator	Paper 3: calculator
Content • Content from any part of the specification may be assessed	**Content** • Content from any part of the specification may be assessed	**Content** • Content from any part of the specification may be assessed
Assessment • 1 hour 30 minutes • written exam • 80 marks • $33\frac{1}{3}$ of GCSE	**Assessment** • 1 hour 30 minutes • written exam • 80 marks • $33\frac{1}{3}$ of GCSE	**Assessment** • 1 hour 30 minutes • written exam • 80 marks • $33\frac{1}{3}$ of GCSE

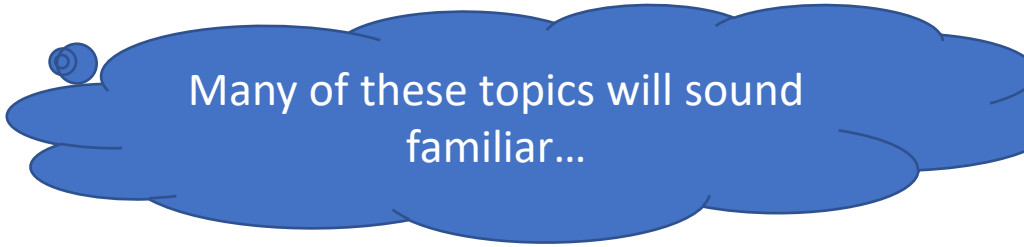
- Students will be required to answer all questions on all papers
- The assessment structure will be the same for both foundation and higher tiers

(AQA)

Number
Consolidation and extension of content covered at KS3; bounds; surds; indices; standard form

Algebra
Equations; expressions; formulae; functions; inequalities; algebraic proof

Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change
Direct and inverse proportion



Geometry & Measures
Area & volume; trigonometry; geometrical properties

Probability
Independent and dependent events

Statistics
Averages and spread; diagrams; comparing distributions

Grade 5

To achieve grade 5, candidates will be able to:

- perform routine single- and multi-step procedures effectively by recalling, applying and interpreting notation, terminology, facts, definitions and formulae
- interpret and communicate information effectively
- make deductions, inferences and draw conclusions
- construct chains of reasoning, including arguments
- generate strategies to solve mathematical and non-mathematical problems by translating them into mathematical processes, realising connections between different parts of mathematics
- interpret results in the context of the given problem
- evaluate methods and results

(OFQUAL)

Grade 8

To achieve grade 8, candidates will be able to:

- perform procedures accurately
- interpret and communicate complex information accurately
- make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- construct substantial chains of reasoning, including convincing arguments and formal proofs
- generate efficient strategies to solve complex mathematical and non-mathematical problems by translating them into a series of mathematical processes
- make and use connections, which may not be immediately obvious, between different parts of mathematics
- interpret results in the context of the given problem
- critically evaluate methods, arguments, results and the assumptions made

(OFQUAL)

These descriptors aren't very different to the ones for Grade 5.

Actual grades are based on the number of marks – that simple!

Maths GCSE -UK (cumulative)

Percentage achieving grade	
Grade	2023
9	3.3
8	9.5
7	17.1
6	27.1
5	42.9
4	60.8
3	77.1
2	89.7
1	97.3

SGS students should be aiming for these grades.

What are those students doing?

- Practising thoroughly in class & with homework
- Learning from - and correcting - mistakes
- Asking/looking things up
- Discussing their Maths with other students
- Additional research (eg Internet)
- Seeking out the more unusual problems and tackling them
- Building the confidence to do all of the above independently

Study Guides? Choose one that works for you, but there are lots of websites, including BBC Bitesize, CorbettMaths and MathsMadeEasy.

AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths

To stretch our most able students

- A qualification designed to stretch and challenge high achieving mathematicians in our Accelerated sets, who are expected to achieve the top grades in GCSE Mathematics or are likely to progress to study A-level Mathematics and possibly Further Mathematics.
- Students are introduced to A Level topics that will help them develop skills in algebra, geometry, calculus, matrices, trigonometry, functions and graphs.

Science Options

Mrs L. Wallis

Curriculum Leader

Science Specification

- We follow the AQA course.
- Practical skills examined in the examinations.
- Terminal examinations.

Compulsory - Combined Science: Trilogy

- Study all 3 science subjects;
  Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- 3 specialist teachers
- 2 x 1 hour 15 min exams for each science
- 6 papers in total (summer Y11)
- Awarded two grades for Science
  (for example 5-5, 7-6, 9-9)

Option - Separate Sciences

- Must study all 3 science subjects:
  - Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- 3 specialist teachers
- 2 x 1 hour **45** min exams for each science
- 6 papers in total (summer Y11)
- Will be awarded 3 separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

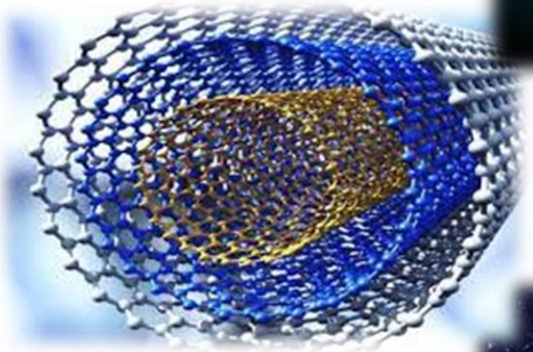
Practical work

- Required practical activities set by examination board
- Combined Science - 21 in total (7 Biology, 6 Chemistry, 8 Physics
- Separate Science – 10 Biology, 8 Chemistry, 10 Physics)

- Covered in lessons
- Assessed on the examinations
- Accounts for at least 15% of the GCSE marks

Additional content present in Separate Science includes:

- The use of antibodies in medicine
- Microbiology
- Nanoscience
- The science of polymers
- Space science
- The behaviour of infrared radiation



Is separate science for you?

Are you considering a science based career or studying a science based course at sixth form or university?

By taking sciences separately at GCSE level you will cover more content, so you will be better prepared if you want to study science post 16.

Are you unsure about what you want to do when you leave school?

Employers are looking for candidates with science-based skills such as being analytical and developing a scientific way of thinking.

Do you enjoy science and have an interest in learning about the physical and natural world around you?

If you love science then you should definitely consider separate science.

Post - 16

A Level courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

You do not have to study separate sciences to progress onto A Level.

Further study of science and health sciences at university.

Subject Talks

ALMOND BUILDING

AL1	PE GCSE
AL2	Geography
AL4	History
AL3	French and Spanish (presented together)
AL5	

EAST CORRIDOR

E1	Business
E2	Drama
E3	Music

ATRIUM

AT1	Design Technology
AT4	Art and Design
AT5	Computer Science
AT7	Food Preparation and Nutrition

TALK TIMES

7-7:20	7:20-7:40	7:40-7:50	8-8:20	8:20-8:40