

CHANGE

Stowe

**GCSE
Courses Guide
2021-2023**

MAKERS

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Foreword

In January your children will embark on their GCSE courses with them taking their GCSE exams at the end of the Fifth Form. We teach a foundation course in the first term of the Third Form to provide a broad range of subjects and an introduction to general academic themes. This is a conscious decision to avoid premature specialisation, before pupils make their GCSE choices. Stoics would be overloaded if they continued with the same number of subjects up to GCSE level and it is important that their effort is not spread too thinly and, therefore, some choices must now be made.

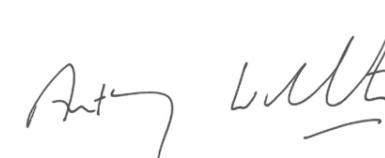
The aim of this Guide is to set out clearly the curriculum options at Stowe and provide some background to our tutorial support and monitoring system. It also contains information about the careers education and guidance that is available to support Stoics throughout this important phase of their education.

GCSEs are an important foundation for subjects studied at a higher level and inculcate a strong work ethic, the beginnings of independent learning and the experience of revising for and taking more challenging external examinations. Many universities, especially the Russell Group of leading UK universities, now look closely at GCSE grades and the breadth of an applicant's interests and achievements.

Each subject offered at Stowe is described in detail in the following pages in order to assist Parents and Stoics to make the right choices. If you have any questions, your Houseparent, Tutor or the relevant Head of Department would be delighted to help. This booklet should be kept for reference throughout the GCSE period.

Academic Progress Grades, together with short subject reports, will be sent to you twice a term with a Tutor's report on your son or daughter's progress. We also have a Fourth Form Parents' Meeting in the Summer Term and a Fifth Form Parents' Meeting in the Lent Term. In addition, members of the Common Room are happy to talk to Parents at any time if you have specific concerns - these are always best tackled immediately rather than waiting for the next report or meeting.

I hope that the first months at Stowe have been fulfilling, with your son or daughter making the most of the many opportunities that Stowe has to offer.



Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head



Choices

Head of Lower School: Thomas Elwell

Stowe's GCSE curriculum provides a broad combination of subjects to cater for all abilities and aptitudes.

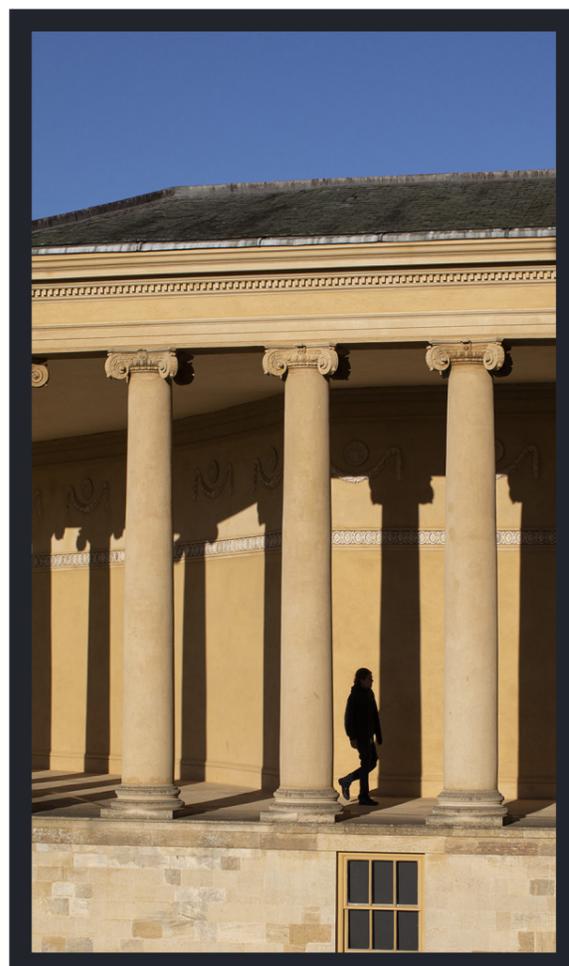
Pupils must choose one subject from each option block, in addition to English, Mathematics, and the Sciences. Whilst English Language is mandatory and will be partly delivered through the study of literature, pupils who wish to study for the separate English Literature GCSE are encouraged to choose it as one of their options. Stoics who show a high aptitude for English may be invited to join a set that aims to complete both the Language and Literature GCSEs within a single timetabled option i.e. in three lessons a week. This option of 'Combined English' should only be chosen after direct consultation with the Head of English.

All Stoics study all three Sciences. All Stoics will study nine periods of Science a week and will be taught the same content. The Science Department will determine whether Dual or Triple Science is best for each individual over the course of the GCSE. This decision will factor in the best potential outcome for each pupil so as to score the best grades possible.

We expect that all pupils will choose at least one Modern Language and at least one subject from the Humanities. The option columns offer a degree of flexibility and breadth to GCSE choices, with many Stoics benefiting from a more practical or creative subject such as Sports Science, Design, Art, Drama or Music.

It is important to note that there is no change in the curriculum. The choice of subjects made now leads to GCSE examinations at the end of the Fifth Form (year 11) and also has important implications for Sixth Form subject choices; please see each subject's page for further information.

Whilst in general it is best for a Stoic to continue with the subjects in which they feel most confident, it is not usually possible to take a subject at A Level which has



not been taken for GCSE (other than those subjects which are provided only at A Level). Furthermore, certain GCSE subjects are prerequisites for entry into some higher education courses and career fields. Stoics are generally advised to keep open as many fields as possible at this stage.

Pupils and Parents should be aware that, at Stowe, there are mandatory entry grade requirements for some A Levels e.g. a grade 7 or higher in the relevant subject(s) at GCSE. Please see the separate table at the back of this booklet for more information.

In the second half of the Michaelmas Term, Third Form Tutors meet with each member of their Tutor group to discuss their provisional GCSE choices and to ensure that the number and balance of GCSE subjects is appropriate for each Tutee. Tutors will also be in regular contact with Parents to answer questions. This allows time for any queries about careers and/or university entrance qualifications to be addressed. Parents are invited to a formal briefing, 'Making Informed GCSE Choices', immediately before the Third Form Parents' Meeting in November, and Stoics are asked to confirm GCSE choices shortly after this event.

GCSE Curriculum

Provisional for 2021-2023

Deputy Head (Academic): Dr Julie Potter

All Stoics follow the Common Core (English Language, Mathematics, and Sciences). In addition, Stoics must choose one subject from each of Options 1 to 4 below, including a Modern Language and a subject from the Humanities.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS PROVISIONAL

Common Core
English Language
(or Combined English)
Mathematics
Science

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Choose one from	Choose one from	Choose one from	Choose one from
Art	English Literature	Art	Art
Design	Geography	Computer Science	Computer Science
French	History	Design	Design
Greek	Latin	Drama	Drama
Music	Religious Studies	History	French
Spanish		Spanish	German
Sports Science		Sports Science	Geography
			Religious Studies

Please note:

- All pupils take the three Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in nine lessons per week. Pupils will be in sets according to levels of attainment and ability in Science and will finish with either two GCSEs (Dual Award) or three (Triple Award) GCSEs in Science, as advised by the Science Faculty.
- All pupils follow a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). This is delivered in separate afternoon lessons, augmented with talks from visiting speakers.
- Whilst English Language is mandatory and will be partly delivered through the study of literature, pupils who wish to study for the separate English

Literature GCSE are encouraged to choose it as one of their options. Stoics who show a high aptitude for English may be invited to join a set that aims to complete both the Language and Literature GCSEs within a single timetabled option i.e. in three lessons a week. This option of 'Combined English' should only be chosen after direct consultation with the Head of English.

- International pupils may take the IGCSE in English as an Additional Language (EAL) as part of their core curriculum instead of the domestic English Language GCSE. Extra support in English will be available by arrangement with the Head of EAL.

Careers Education and Guidance

Head of Careers: Dr Gordon West

Careers Advisor: Luciane Guntner-Jones

Careers Education forms a continuous thread throughout a pupil's time at Stowe.

Careers Education aims to provide a framework within which each pupil can develop the self-awareness and experience necessary to make balanced decisions at each stage during their time at School and, we hope, after they leave.

In the Third Form, during the Michaelmas Term, work is done to raise self-awareness and help decision-making in the build-up towards making GCSE option choices. 'Fast Tomato', an online careers resource, is used with the help of the Careers Advisor to inform GCSE choices.

During the Fourth Form all Stoics continue to use 'Fast Tomato', this time as a Careers Guidance programme, comprising a psychometric assessment test of interests resulting in career and higher education course suggestions, which will assist the eventual choice of A Levels.

In the Fifth Form, all Stoics take a series of tests of aptitude and interest. The Cambridge Occupational Analysts (COA) Profile and Preview results are then explained and discussed at a one-to-one interview with COA Staff in December. A report based on these results is given to each Stoic, together with other information designed to help preliminary decisions about A Level courses. Advice on subject combinations for particular courses is available from the Careers team and Heads of Sixth Form.

Work Experience is an important part of career exploration. Stoics spend some time on this at the end of the Fifth Form, the objective being to relate experience to potential career options.

The Careers Centre is particularly well-resourced with full Internet access, in addition to a comprehensive range of prospectuses and guides. It is open during the daytime every weekday and on Saturday mornings for Stoics to research and explore their interests. Every encouragement is given for regular visits to be made to the Careers Centre during a pupil's time at Stowe and Parents are more than welcome to use the resources, or make an appointment with the Careers Advisor.



Lower School Tutorial System

Head of Lower School: Thomas Elwell

The Tutor's Role

It is a Tutor's responsibility and role to oversee their Tutees' academic and personal development as a whole. As part of this process, a Tutor provides a vital communication link between Houseparent, Teaching Staff, Parents and Stoics.

Building a positive Tutor/Tutee relationship is imperative. Tutors meet with their Tutees twice weekly; planning the week ahead using the VLE and reflecting on achievements or concerns as they arise. Tutees are asked to note important dates including impending academic deadlines, department-based clinics, society meetings and talks from external speakers. As well as this, they must consider sporting commitments, music lessons or drama rehearsals; and are encouraged to attend concerts and plays regularly. Tutors help their Tutees in achieving a healthy balance of academic and extra-curricular activities and in managing their time effectively and efficiently.

Tutors also guide their Tutees through a Tutorial Programme which has been designed specifically to support and develop the positive habits that will better prepare pupils to flourish. Stowe is particularly focused on following the LPA (Learning Power Approach), created by Guy Claxton; we believe that educators can explicitly teach not just content, knowledge and skills, but also the positive habits of mind that will better prepare pupils to flourish both in School and in later life.

Throughout the Lower School, the Tutorial Programme also aims to provide a foundation in Careers education, as previously described.

Tutors are key members of the pastoral support teams in the Houses, providing many opportunities for both formal and informal contact with Tutees through the supervision of prep and social time. Tutors will also attend performances and sports matches where possible to strengthen the bond with their Tutees.

Monitoring Academic Performance

Twice a term, pupils receive Academic Progress Grades (APGs) and brief subject reports from each of their subject teachers, together with either a Tutor or Houseparent report. Regular assessment grades allow potential problems to be noted as they arise and pave the way for discussions between Tutor/Teachers and Tutor/Tutee. Individual action plans are agreed which support and closely monitor further academic progress.

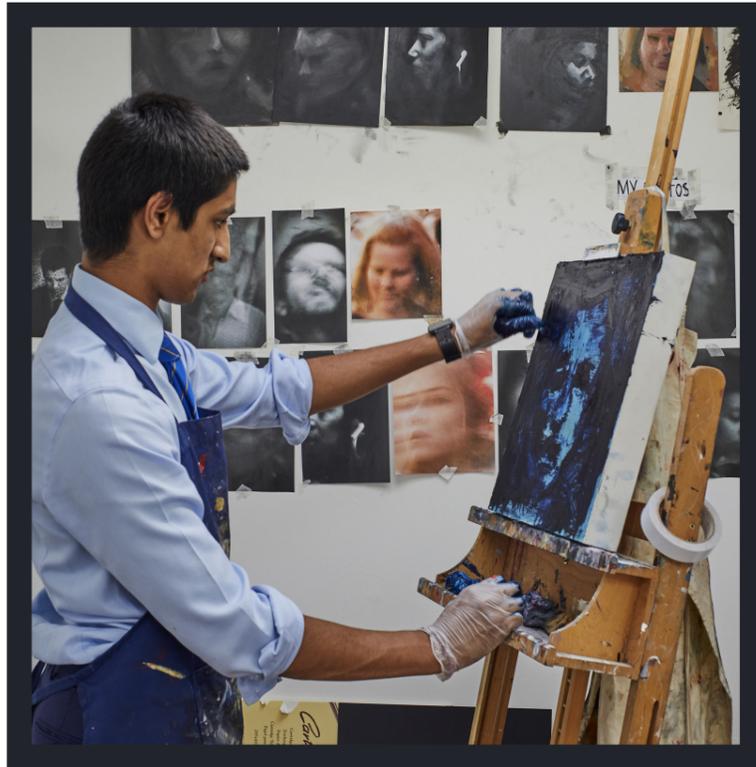
At all levels of the School, we would like Parents to feel involved in their child's education. Please feel welcome to discuss any matter related to your child's progress directly with the Tutor.

A Tutor provides a vital communication link between Houseparent, Teaching Staff, Parents and Stoics.

Art

Head of Department: Daniel Scott

Art GCSE requires open-mindedness, hard work and dedication.



A real passion for the visual world and curiosity about art and artists is very important when studying art. It helps if drawing skills are good, and pupils should have a creative mind and be prepared to experiment with imagery, materials and ideas to produce ambitious and exciting works of art. In addition to formal lesson time, to achieve a top grade, some activity time should be spent in the Watson Art School, and there will be some holiday assignments to complete.

Content

This is an exciting course which guides and supports pupils through a broad range of approaches and techniques including the use of:

- Photography (including digital and darkroom techniques) and the creative use of IT
- Monoprinting and other print techniques, including intaglio and relief printmaking
- Collage, mixed media and mark making with a range of materials, both conventional and alternative
- Three-dimensional construction and relief work in a range of materials
- Acrylic paint, oil paint, watercolour and gouache

The emphasis will be on recording from direct observation and experience in order to analyse or interpret source material. Encouragement is given to develop ideas, personal responses and aesthetic understanding to a high level. The use of sketchbooks is essential to prepare ideas and document the various processes.

A vital and integral part of the course aims to develop knowledge of Fine Art. Visits to galleries will play an important role in helping to make significant connections with the pupil's own practical work.

The GCSE course at Stowe is currently delivered over the three years of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms, starting in the Lent Term of the Third Form.

The Art Department follows the OCR Art specification which requires pupils to create a portfolio of work containing one sustained project and a selection of further work. This allows pupils more time for experimentation in the early part of the course, building skills and confidence, before producing a unit of work for formal assessment in the later stages of the course.

During the Third Form, teachers will set thematic projects which will create a model for the assessed work produced in the Fourth and Fifth Forms. These projects will guide pupils towards the production of exciting personal sheets, sketchbooks and portfolios which also fulfil the assessment objectives.

The Board will issue an 'Externally Set Task' just after Christmas in the Fifth Form, with the Controlled Assessment held just after the Easter holidays. The coursework unit will be worth 60% of the course and the externally set task will be worth 40%.

Classics

Head of Department: Jonathan Murnane

Latin

Content

Latin studied up to GCSE at Stowe concentrates on mastering the language, along with an opportunity to sample a compelling and broad-ranging blend of the literature, art and sociology that underpinned Roman life. The course is specifically designed to be pupil-friendly, with a step-by-step approach to the grammar and a highly accessible syllabus for studying the cultural elements.

Assessment

The course is assessed at the end of the Fifth Form by sitting the WJEC/Eduqas GCSE exams. This qualification comprises three components, assessed by three separate papers and the individual scores are aggregated to form a final overall mark graded 9-1.

Component 1 (Latin Language) involves assessment tested by translation and comprehension including some multiple choice questions. Uncomplicated questions and defined vocabulary lists facilitate accessible and enjoyable language study that offers a highly beneficial linguistic foundation in its own right as well as a solid preparation for Latin beyond GCSE.

Component 2 allows pupils to focus on a particular theme of Roman life through studying prescribed images and brief excerpts of original Latin literature. For example, the theme to be examined in 2021-2023 explores Roman attitudes to superstition and magic, from witches and werewolves, through dreams and augury, to curses and spells.

Component 3 allows pupils to focus on a specific work of prose or verse literature. Brief excerpts of the original Latin are interwoven with short passages of English translation to deliver a continuous narrative, examined via short-answer comprehension questions, longer literary-criticism questions, and a single essay encompassing the whole work. Recent examples included Ovid's poetic tale of Echo and Narcissus or Pliny's account of the eruption of Vesuvius.

Benefits of Latin

Latin pupils continue to be very highly prized by employers who recognise its outstanding benefits in the development of written and verbal communication, critical analysis and persuasive thinking. As well as being an ideal complement to Law, Languages, History, Literature and Philosophy it also offers an excellent foil for both the Sciences and Social Sciences.

Classical Greek

Content

If we inherit most of our culture and language from the Romans, they in turn derived theirs mainly from the Greeks. Within a few centuries the Greeks invented the origins of almost all our western culture. The key to understanding this is through their language and literature.

The elegance, flexibility and precision of the Greek language makes it highly enjoyable and rewarding to learn, while the stories read for GCSE can include some of the popular myths, the exciting adventures of Odysseus' epic voyages, or some part of the turbulent history of Ancient Athens. As with Latin, defined vocabulary lists are provided in advance, so the examination is fully manageable for those prepared to learn.

Assessment

The OCR GCSE Classical Greek specification (J292) comprises three components. The first consists entirely of language work, with translations and comprehensions based on stories from history and mythology. In addition there are two literature components covering a range of prose and verse authors, with texts frequently adapted from the original language to aid accessibility.

Wherever possible, Greek at Stowe is taught on-timetable within the normal School lesson structure; where programming constraints prevent on-timetable delivery, it is instead taught off-timetable both during activity time and before or after lessons.

Benefits of Greek

Classical Greek combines excellently not only with Latin but also with a huge range of other subjects spanning the Humanities, Science and Social Science. Greek at GCSE and A Level lends significant weight to a pupil's academic standing and is an impressive record both on UCAS university applications (where it opens up some of the most highly-respected degrees) and on CVs in later life. Above all, Classical Greek is a highly enjoyable and dynamic subject which will appeal to those who relish intellectual challenge and reward.

Prior Requirements: Latin and Greek

Although it is possible to undertake Latin or Classical Greek GCSE having never studied it before the Third Form, this is an exceptionally challenging undertaking, particularly for Greek, and is therefore not recommended.

Computer Science

Head of Department: Aditya Gupta

Life without computers is almost unimaginable.

Take a look at the world around you. How close to a computer are you? When was the last time you used one? When was the last time you were creative with one? Life without computers is almost unimaginable.

Computer Science is not just about writing code for a computer. There is far more to it than that. Just look at the amazing artwork, or the surround sound and special effects that go into all the multi-million pound video games. The UK is at the global forefront of this industry. Watch any modern film and the special effects will show countless examples of computing in action. The music you listen to has been engineered, compressed and transmitted all thanks to computers. Read any eMagazine and it is obvious that even traditional professions such as journalism have embraced the technological revolution and are using computers to create a new kind of content.

The devices we use to consume a wide range of media, whether it is an Android phone or an iPad, are at the heart of almost everything we do. From Facebook to the latest apps, creativity is central. Stop being a consumer of software and start designing your own. If you can spot a gap in the market, and sometimes think, "I wish I could find an app to..." then maybe you could be the next Mark Zuckerberg.

A GCSE in Computer Science will give you a fantastic set of skills. But even more than this, it will give you the skills you need for any career. If you want to become a Designer, Architect, Engineer, Publisher, Medical Researcher, Sports Coach, Music or Film Producer, the list is endless, then Computing is one of the best points to start from. Don't know what you want to do with your life just yet? Perfect! Most of the jobs that will be available when you leave university have not even been thought of yet!

Why Choose AQA Computer Science (8525)?

Engaging and Contemporary: We have spoken to companies such as Microsoft, BT, Google and Cisco, organisations including Computing At School (CAS), also teachers and academics.

Encourages Mental Versatility: Pupils use their new-found programming skills in coding exercises, develop confidence to perform in their exams and prepare for further study.

Focus on:

Computational Thinking: Looking at programming concepts and paradigms to develop algorithms of the future by applying problem solving skills.

Programming: Develop confidence in basic programming concepts and designing of efficient algorithms, writing code in Python, testing and then applying skills to refine the code.

Computer Systems: Knowledge about various hardware, software, software classification, systems architecture and Boolean logic.

Databases: Understand relational database concepts and fundamentals of Structured Query Language (SQL).

Networks and Cyber Security: Looking at types of networks, addressing, phishing, malware, firewalls and people as the 'weak point' in secure systems, which pupils will study for the first time at this level.

Computational Thinking and Programming Skills (Paper 01)

Written Exam - 50%

- Computation Thinking, Problem Solving
- Programming Concepts
- Designing of Effective Algorithms
- Code Writing & Tracing
- Testing and Refining of Code

Computing Concepts (Paper 02)

Written Exam - 50%

- Computer Systems
- Data Representation
- System Architecture
- Computer Networks
- Cyber Security
- Relational Databases and SQL (Structured Query Language)
- Ethical, Legal and Environmental Impact of Computing

Design

Head of Department: Martin Quinn

The Design Department at Stowe will be offering the Pearson Edexcel GCSE Specification (2017).

Design and Technology (Product Design) (1DT0)

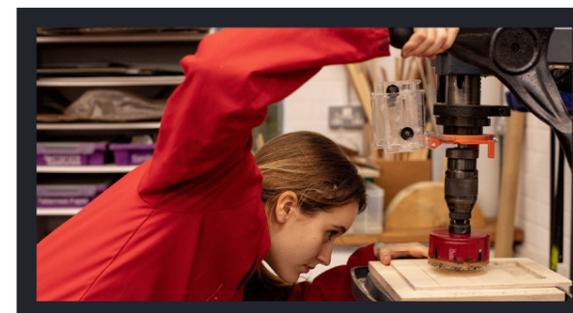
Design and Technology (D&T) is an established, challenging and creative area of the curriculum, where Stoics can forge and maintain close comparisons with the practices and processes found in the world of Product and Industrial Design, Graphics, Architecture and Engineering. The design process is explored from a simple concept sketch on paper through Computer Aided Design (CAD) and on to a developed prototype ready for commercial viability. Design is a subject of application and requires Stoics to apply related knowledge from many disciplines including Art, Mathematics, History (timelines of design and technological development), as well as to generate an awareness of cultural diversity with regard to the designing of products in a world market.

The subject aims to foster this application of knowledge, skills and understanding in order to facilitate the design and manufacture of innovative products that address real needs. In this respect, Design is a unique subject that requires and promotes the combined use of academic, technological and practical skills through a wide range of differing media.

The Department wants Stoics to approach their design work with a divergent and creative state of mind; to realise products that not only function very well, but that also stimulate the emotions in terms of aesthetic appeal.

The course enables Stoics to:

- Apply a range of intellectual, technical and creative skills to solving problems
- Design and manufacture their own innovative products
- Develop a wide range of skills (in both design and manufacture) that can be applied across other subjects and ultimately be applied in the real world of employment
- Analyse, synthesise and improve upon existing designs and products



Component 1:

Principles of Design and Technology

Written Exam: 50% of the total GCSE

Regular theoretical lessons are integrated into the course to ensure that experiences learned in the workshops are supported and extended through formal teaching. Stoics are assessed regularly in order to impart vital examination experiences, as well as gauging the level of knowledge and understanding.

The modern designer must have a good working knowledge of the use of ICT and systems and control technology in the design and manufacture of products. They must also be aware of the important contributions of designers from the past which may provide inspiration for future design. Creativity, diversity and a willingness to challenge existing solutions are all encouraged and pupils will follow a core content with specific extended areas.

Topic 1: All Aspects of Design in Society

Topic 2: Metals

Topic 3: Papers and Boards

Topic 4: Polymers

Topic 5: Systems

Topic 6: Textiles

Topic 7: Timbers

Component 2:

Independent Design and Make Project

Externally Assessed: 50% of the total GCSE

Pearson Edexcel will set a contextual challenge in June of the calendar year preceding the year in which the qualification is to be awarded.

Stoics will then work on a design portfolio (A3) that explores a range of problems. Working through the design process, they will manufacture products, prototypes, models and solutions that address the situation highlighted at the project outset. Ideas are communicated using a variety of drawing techniques that include sketching, rendering, technical drawing, image manipulation, digital film and video, desktop publishing and CAD. Stoics manufacture their products from quality materials in an environment well equipped to meet exacting standards of accuracy and innovation.

The portfolio of work will be assessed under the following four areas:

Part 1: Investigate

Part 2: Designing a Prototype

Part 3: Making a Prototype

Part 4: Testing and Evaluating the Design

Drama

Director of Drama: Rebecca Clark

Drama is a challenging and creative course that requires open-mindedness, dedication and the desire to work collaboratively with others.

The AQA GCSE Drama course balances theory and practice providing opportunities for pupils to participate in the creation of drama as performers and designers, experimenting with a wide range of theatrical conventions and styles. Through practical exploration pupils develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary professional theatre practice, as well as theatre history. As a further component of the course, pupils will enjoy opportunities to attend live theatre performances or watch theatre on demand to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

In addition to formal lessons, pupils are required to devote some activity time to attend rehearsals in preparation for performance. These are often some of the most rewarding and fulfilling aspects of the course as they enable pupils to gain practical experience of creating theatre as part of a company and to develop acting and/or design skills.

The subject aims not only to develop performance and design skills, but to foster a sense of enquiry and innovative thinking. A unique subject, Drama promotes the development of academic, practical and inter-personal skills simultaneously.



Component 1: Understanding Drama 40% of the total GCSE

What is assessed:

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play
- Analysis and evaluation of live theatre

How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book

Component 2: Devising Drama (practical) 40% of the total GCSE

What is assessed:

- Process of creating drama
- Performance of devised drama (pupils may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

How it is assessed:

- Devising log
- Devised performance

Component 3: Texts in Practice (practical) 20% of the total GCSE

What is assessed:

- Performance of two extracts from one play (pupils may contribute as performer or designer)

How it is assessed:

- Performance of extract 1 (20 marks) and extract 2 (20 marks)

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Head of Department: Julie Johnson

Overview

The IGCSE in ESL (English as a Second Language) is a language-focused qualification specifically designed for international pupils. The course provides pupils with an excellent opportunity to refine their written, analytical and comprehension skills, which in turn helps to improve their performance in other GCSE subjects.

Content

The Edexcel IGCSE tests Reading, Writing and Listening skills through two examination papers. It is a single tier examination and assessment takes place in the June examination series. An optional speaking test is endorsed separately.

Paper 1: Reading and Writing 100 marks (Two hours)

Two Thirds of the Total International GCSE

Reading (50 marks)

Passages will be taken from a variety of sources, including fiction, and may include factual information, explanation, opinions and biographical writing.

Part 1: Skimming and scanning skills.

Part 2: Read for both gist and detail.

Part 3: Read for both gist and detail, follow a line of argument or discussion, identify attitudes and opinions in the text.

Part 6: Read for details to be included in the summary writing (see Writing section below).

Writing (50 marks)

Part 4: Short piece of writing in response to a given situation - the writing can take the form of a letter, email or postcard.

Part 5: Factual piece of writing based on own knowledge and interests - the writing can take the form of a report or article.

Part 6: Respond to one or two short texts, approximately 500 words in total, and produce a summary for a given purpose and reader.

Paper 2: Listening 40 marks (50 minutes)

One Third of the Total International GCSE

Part 1: Listening to short extracts; identifying the item, place or event being described.

Part 2: Listening for detailed information.

Part 3: Following a discussion or argument; identifying attitude and opinions of speakers; following instructions.

Part 4: Listening to a complex argument or discussion; understanding the overall message; identifying attitudes and opinion.

Aims

The aim of the Edexcel International GCSE in English as a Second Language (ESL) is to refine English language competence through realistic and contextualised tasks based on authentic texts.

On completion of the Edexcel IGCSE ESL course, pupils should be able to:

- Produce clear, detailed texts on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue, giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
- Understand a wide variety of complex reading texts on both concrete and abstract topics, recognising implicit meaning and adapting their own style and speed of reading to different texts and purposes.
- Write well-structured texts using an appropriate style, highlighting relevant salient issues, expanding and supporting points of view with supporting arguments and showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
- Develop the skills necessary for further study in English.

Relevant pupils may complete this IGCSE subject instead of GCSE English or as an extra qualification to enhance their overall grade profile.

English Language

Head of Department: Allison Puranik

English Language (Core)

All pupils will receive compulsory instruction in English Language. The readings for this course will draw from a wide range of texts and genres in fiction and non-fiction. Reading across generations of writers and styles is the cornerstone of the English Department's mission, therefore pupils will have an in-depth engagement with literature; however, at the end of the course they will only sit GCSE examinations in English Language, and not in English Literature.

English Language Assessment

The English Language GCSE (AQA 8700) is assessed in two written papers, each worth 50% of the overall course. All of the texts in the examination are unseen extracts. The examinations are graded on a scale of 9-1, with 9 being the highest grade. All assessments are by examination only; there is no written coursework element. The new GCSEs are untiered, meaning that the full range of grades (9-1) is available to all candidates (there are not separate Foundation and Higher Tier examinations). There is also an oral component, which is graded and reported separately.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

In Paper 1, the focus is on fiction and creative writing. In the reading section, pupils answer a combination of short and long-form questions about one extract from a piece of literary fiction. The fiction extract will be

from the 20th or 21st Centuries. In the writing section, pupils compose an original piece of creative writing, either descriptive or narrative. Marks are awarded for content, organisation, and technical accuracy.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

In Paper 2, the focus is on non-fiction and persuasive or discursive writing. In the reading section, pupils answer short and long-form questions on two non-fiction texts, one from the 19th Century, and the other from either the 20th or 21st centuries. In the writing section, pupils compose an original piece of writing to present a particular viewpoint. Marks are awarded for content, organisation, and technical accuracy.

Spoken Language Endorsement (Non-Examination Assessment)

In the non-examination assessment, pupils create and deliver an oral presentation, and respond to questions from the teacher. These are teacher assessed and awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction. The grades do not count toward the English Language GCSE, and are reported separately.

[Please see the opposite page for details about how to study for English Language and English Literature GCSEs in a combined course.](#)

English Literature

Head of Department: Allison Puranik

English Literature Options

Both of the options below lead to pupils sitting GCSE examinations in English Literature, as well as the compulsory English Language GCSE examinations.

A GCSE in English Language at grade 6 or above will allow pupils to take the A Level English Literature course in the Sixth Form.

English Literature as an Optional GCSE Subject

English Literature can be studied as a separate, and additional, GCSE subject to the English Language core specification. Selecting English Literature as an optional subject in effect doubles the number of English lessons per week but leads to two GCSEs. The course aims to develop a deep appreciation of a wealth of literature and a sustained focus on the selected texts and skills of analysis assessed in the GCSE English Literature examinations. The texts studied are chosen from a list set by the AQA examination board (details opposite).

OR

English Language/Literature Dual Course

This course guides the Stoic through the two full GCSE specifications - English Language and English Literature - in one option column. This option allows the Stoics to add another full GCSE to their list. Pupils are encouraged to discuss this option with their English teachers.

English Literature Assessment

The English Literature GCSE (AQA 8702) is assessed in two written papers. Pupils are not allowed to have copies of their set texts in the examinations, with the exception of extracts and poems that are printed on the paper.

The following elements are divided across the two papers; all texts are chosen from a list set by the examination board:

- One 19th Century prose text (a novel or novella)
- One 20th Century drama or prose text
- One Shakespeare play
- A collection of 12-15 thematically related poems
- A response to an 'unseen' poem and/or prose extract (there is a comparative element in this task)

Pupils will begin studying one of the set texts in the Third Form, with other elements introduced throughout the course.

Support, Extension and Enrichment

The English Department works closely with the Skills Department, the Library and the ESL Department to deliver an integrated approach to the study of English. We offer an exciting range of enrichment activities, from writing workshops and a cross-curricular day, to the World Book Day quiz and poetry competitions. We also work closely with Arts at Stowe to bring performances and Young Adult writers to Stowe.



French

Head of Department: Emilie Danis

French GCSE aims to develop an awareness of the French-speaking world and French culture.

French GCSE aims to prepare pupils to take their place in a multilingual global society, by providing a thorough yet engaging course where pupils build on their grammar and lexis, and develop an awareness of the French-speaking world and French culture.

All pupils are required to study at least one language at GCSE, as a GCSE language may be a minimum entry requirement to certain universities.

Content

The GCSE course assesses both passive understanding of the language (Listening and Reading) as well as linguistic ability (Speaking and Writing). The main emphasis is placed on communication and linguistic understanding, with the aim to develop pupils' lexical and grammatical knowledge as well as facilitating all further learning.

Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel

French GCSE is a linear course and all assessment therefore takes place at the end of the course. Four skills are assessed in four separate examinations:

Paper 1: Listening and Understanding French

Paper 2: Speaking in French

Paper 3: Reading and Understanding French

Paper 4: Writing in French

The four skills are equally weighted, with each examination accounting for 25% of the final GCSE. All skills are assessed externally but the speaking examination is conducted by class teachers.

The GCSE will be graded 9-1, with 9 the highest, and is available at Foundation and Higher Level. Foundation Level is graded 1-5 and Higher Level 4-9. Candidates are required to take all four skills at the same level.

We expect pupils to enter at Higher Level, although there may be occasions when it is deemed in the candidate's best interests to enter for Foundation Level. Individual cases are discussed with the Head of Department after trial examinations.

All pupils should be able to understand the spoken and written foreign language from contemporary and literary sources. They should also be able to communicate in the spoken and written form, as well as developing a cultural and social understanding of France.

Since communication and authenticity are such a major part of the course, we would recommend that all pupils try to spend some time in the appropriate country during their course. This is essential for any pupil considering taking the language beyond GCSE.

As well as being one of the official languages of the EU, French is spoken by around 200 million people and is the official language in 32 countries. Career opportunities for those with good linguistic ability are rapidly expanding, whatever the profession they may ultimately choose to follow.



Geography

Head of Department: Sarah Murnane

Geography is about trying to make sense of the world we see around us.

The word geography literally means writing about the world. Geography is about trying to make sense of the world we see around us. Why are settlements where they are? How does global trade work? What causes a volcanic eruption? These are all questions in which Geographers are interested. Geography is a broad-based subject that will give you a range of important literary and numerical skills and it is highly valued by universities and employers alike.

Content

The GCSE course will be following the Edexcel IGCSE Exam Board. Outline details are below:

Paper 1: Physical Geography Written Exam: 1 hour 10 minutes 40% of the total GCSE (70 marks)

- River Environments
- Hazardous Environments

Including fieldwork from one of these topics.

The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

Paper 2: Human Geography Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 60% of the total GCSE (105 marks)

Two topics taught from:

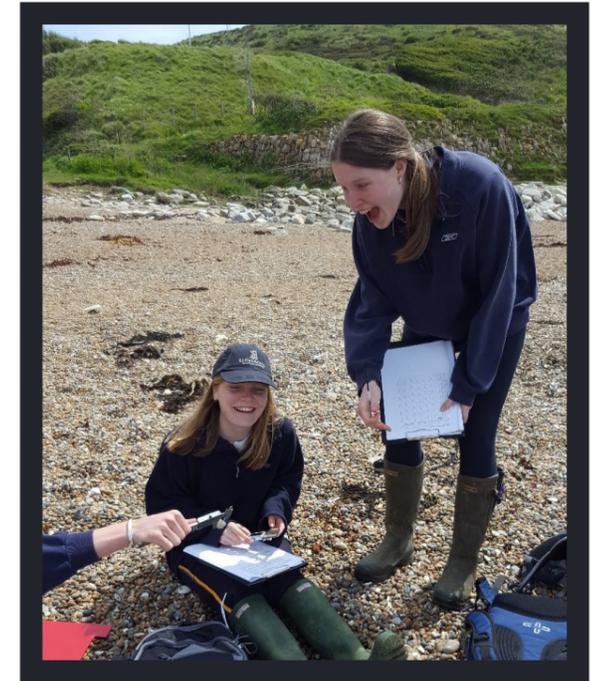
- Economic Activity and Energy
- Rural Environments
- Urban Environments

Including fieldwork from one of these topics.

Also:

- Global Issues: Fragile Environments and Climate Change

The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.



Aims

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable pupils to:

- Apply and build on the fundamental building blocks of geographical knowledge.
- Actively engage in the process of geographical enquiry to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world.
- Develop a framework of spatial awareness in which to appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments at a range of scales.
- Appreciate that people have different views of, and attitudes to, the world, its environments and its issues.
- Acquire, develop and apply practical geographical enquiry skills.
- Undertake geographical investigations that include both primary and secondary data collection, presentation and analysis, drawing conclusions, and evaluating the whole geographical investigation.
- Develop and apply their learning to the real world through fieldwork.
- Develop their awareness of global issues and recognise the challenges of moving towards a sustainable future.

German

Head of Department: Alice Tearle

German GCSE aims to develop an awareness of the German-speaking world and its culture.



German GCSE aims to prepare pupils to take their place in a multilingual global society, by providing a thorough yet engaging course where pupils build on their grammar and lexis, and develop an awareness of the German-speaking world and its culture.

All pupils at Stowe are required to study at least one language at GCSE, as this may be a minimum entry requirement to certain universities.

Content

The GCSE course assesses both passive understanding of the language (Listening and Reading) as well as linguistic agility (Speaking and Writing). The main emphasis is placed on communication and linguistic understanding, with the aim to develop pupils' lexical and grammatical knowledge, as well as facilitating all further learning.

Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel

GCSE German is a linear course and all assessments therefore take place at the end of the course. Four skills are assessed in four separate examinations.

Paper 1: Listening and Understanding German

Paper 2: Speaking in German

Paper 3: Reading and Understanding German

Paper 4: Writing in German

The four skills are equally weighted with each examination accounting for 25% of the final GCSE. All skills are assessed externally but the speaking examination is conducted by class teachers.

The GCSE will be graded 9-1, with 9 the highest, and is available at Foundation and Higher Level. Foundation Level is graded 1-5 and Higher Level 4-9. Candidates are required to take all four skills at the same level.

We expect pupils to enter at Higher Level, although there may be occasions when it is deemed in the candidate's best interests to be entered for Foundation Level. Individual cases are discussed with the Head of Department after trial examinations.

All pupils should be able to understand the spoken and written foreign language from contemporary and literary sources. They should also be able to communicate in the spoken and written form, as well as develop a cultural and social understanding of Germany.

Since communication and authenticity are such a major part of the course, we would recommend that all pupils try to spend at least one week in Germany/Austria during their course. This is essential for any pupil considering taking the language beyond GCSE.

Germany, as well as being a key financial player in the EU, has a population of over 82 million people, and German is spoken natively by 95 million people, making it the most widely spoken native language of the EU. Those with a good linguistic ability are far more employable, especially if their additional language is German.

History

Head of Department: Paul Griffin

Studying GCSE History forms a foundation of skills that are crucial for both future study and for wider development.

Benefits of History

The study of History has a wide variety of benefits for pupils. We aim to develop enjoyment of the subject by following a course that is engaging and relevant. The rich content also provides an excellent platform for A Level studies.

GCSE History is also well-respected for the skills that it develops. Pupils will need to write in depth, explain key events and form an argument. They are assessed over two exams. The longer answers require an explanation of events across extended periods of time so invaluable skills in essay writing and analytical thinking are developed by pupils throughout the course.

Therefore, studying GCSE History provides pupils with an excellent academic qualification, but also forms a foundation of skills that are crucial for both future study and for wider development.

The Department also organises a regular optional trip to Berlin, which provides an excellent foundation for the course.

Course Outline

The History Department follows the Edexcel International GCSE History course.

The content introduces pupils to a range of 20th Century cultures, societies and approaches to History. Social, political, cultural, economic and military histories are all explored and build a good foundation for further study.

Paper 1

50% (90 minutes)

- A World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943-1972
- Development of Dictatorship: Germany, 1918-1945

Paper 2

50% (90 minutes)

- Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905-1924
- Conflict, Crisis and Change: The Middle East, 1919-2012

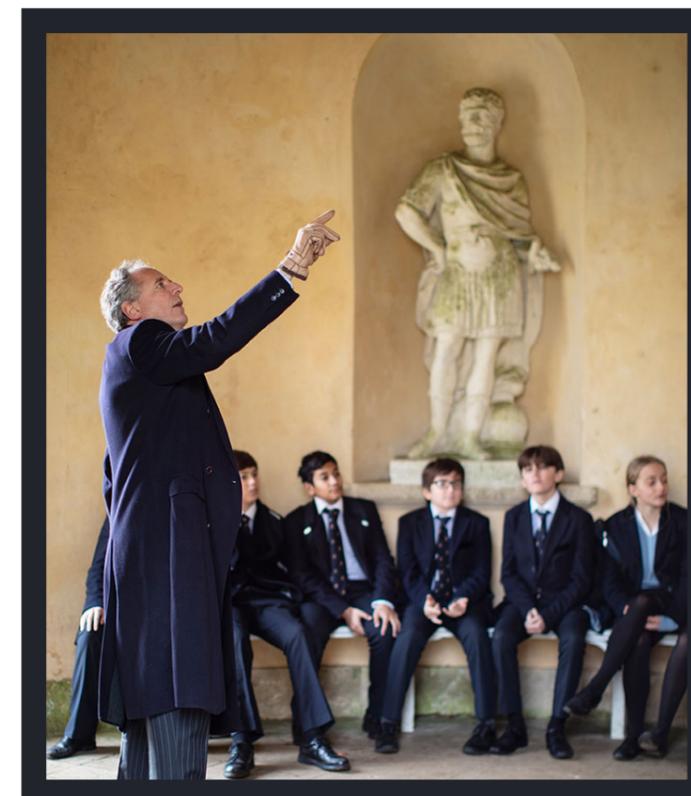
Paper 1 Content

- The problems experienced by Germany after the First World War and the rise of Hitler
- Life in Nazi Germany, the Holocaust and the German experience of the Second World War
- The origins of the Cold War and the development of rivalry throughout the 1950s
- The Thaw, Berlin Crisis, Cuban Missile Crisis, Czechoslovakian Crisis and Détente

Paper 2 Content

- Tsarist rule in Russia and the February Revolution
- The October Revolution and the Bolsheviks
- The tension between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine and the creation of Israel by 1948
- The Arab-Israeli Wars of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973 and subsequent attempts to make peace

Please note that for the International GCSE course pupils do not complete a controlled assessment or coursework.



Mathematics

Head of Department: Mikkel Møller

Mathematics will offer pupils an appreciation of the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.



Content

All Stoics are prepared for the IGCSE syllabus from Edexcel (4MA0).

Assessment

The IGCSE aims to develop a knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques, while providing pupils with a foundation in mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas.

Pupils will enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident in using mathematics to solve problems. It will offer pupils an appreciation of the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

The Mathematics IGCSE is assessed as one final exam split into two papers - calculators are allowed on both papers. All sets will be entered for the Higher Tier (grade range 9 to 3). In some circumstances individual pupils may be entered for the Foundation Tier (grade range 5 to 1).

Papers

Each paper is two hours long and has equal weighting. 100 marks are available in each paper.

Further Mathematics (Extension)

Pupils in the top set will be expected to cover some extension material and will be introduced to the Level 2 certificate in Further Mathematics from AQA. They will have the option of sitting the exam in the summer after completing their GCSE.

This qualification allows the very able pupils the opportunity to follow an extension of topics from GCSE, as well as introducing topics from A Level Mathematics, acting as a valuable bridge between the two. The course is assessed in two papers of equal weight. Each paper consists of 80 marks and is tested in one hour and 45 minutes. Paper 1 is a Non-Calculator paper and Paper 2 is a Calculator paper. Passes are graded from 4-9. This module allows those wishing to do Further Mathematics for A Level to start from a more prepared base, while also allowing those following the single A Level course an introduction into an accelerated course.

Philosophy

Pupils are also encouraged to develop an appreciation of mathematics beyond the IGCSE syllabus. They are introduced to a wide range of topics, including some history of mathematics, through class discussions, problem solving, investigative work and personal research, as well as opportunities to listen to speakers throughout the year to help broaden their view on the applications of mathematics. High attaining pupils and curious mathematicians are encouraged to take part in the Maths Society, 'The Gaussian Group'. In addition to this, a weekly group session is offered to pupils who enjoy working on harder problems. Pupils are given the chance to enter the UKMT Maths Challenges, with other opportunities for further competitions.

Music

Head of Academic Music: Emma Bryden

Our course opens up the world of music.

Our popular and highly inclusive Eduqas GCSE Music course opens up the world of music, to find out why certain songs and pieces are the way they are. Music has always played a significant part in life at Stowe, and many Stoics have gone on to have successful music careers. Old Stoic musicians include Harry Gregson-Williams (the composer of 'Chicken Run' and 'Shrek') and award-winning composer Howard Goodall. Pupils study everything from Music for Film to Rock and Pop and Classical. They also get the opportunity to compose their own music, and develop their skills in performing the music they enjoy.

The course allows for all styles of music to be explored including Classical, Popular and Jazz. It is advisable for pupils wishing to take this GCSE to be at least Grade 3 standard on one instrument before embarking upon the course. Pupils are encouraged to take Grade 5 Theory over the two years.

Unit 1: Performing (30%)

60 marks

Assessment

- One solo piece (of at least one minute)
- One ensemble piece (of at least one minute)
- Internally assessed
- Externally moderated
- Four minutes combined duration

Unit 2: Composing (30%)

60 marks

Assessment

- Two compositions: one to a brief set by Eduqas and another free composition
- Internally assessed
- Externally moderated
- At least three minutes combined duration

Through this unit pupils will develop their skills in composing and/or arranging.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising (40%)

80 marks

Assessment

- Written Paper: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Externally set and assessed

Section A - Pupils will be expected to:

- Answer questions related to the four areas of study
- Complete one short melody or rhythm dictation exercise
- Complete an extended response comparing and evaluating the musical elements, contexts and language of a set work against one unfamiliar piece of music

Areas of Study:

1. Musical Forms and Devices
2. Music for Ensemble
3. Film Music
4. Popular Music



Religious Studies

Head of Department: Colin Bray

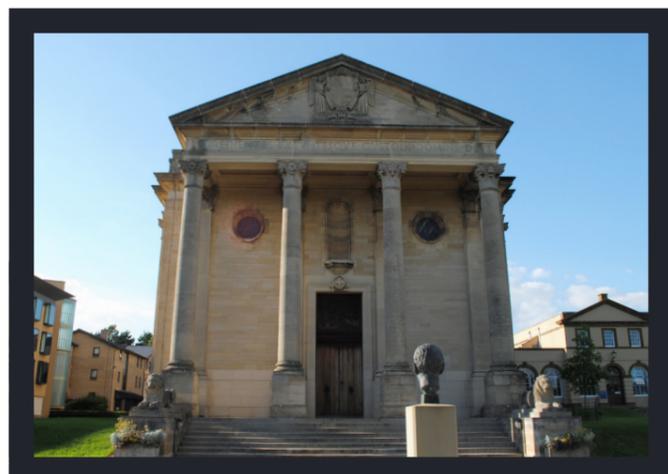
Religious Studies provides an opportunity for pupils to engage with a variety of topical questions around belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth.

Religion and Philosophy have always been, and continue to be for us today, powerful driving forces in society for good and ill. They affect us all, whether or not we are believers. A knowledge of religion is needed to inform our own political and social understanding, to enlighten the subtleties of literature, and to aid our understanding of history. Beyond this, the study of Religious Studies and Philosophy is a fascinating one, interesting for its own sake and useful in that it sharpens the mind and provides an insight into the study of ideas and their accompanying debates. It forces you to examine your own ideas and raises questions where before you thought there were none. The focus on developing analytical skills means that Religious Studies qualifications are held in high regard by universities and employers.

This course provides an opportunity for pupils to engage with a variety of topical questions around belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth.

Pupils will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt. There will be a range of relevant and contemporary themes to study that will promote awareness of modern-world issues and engagement within the classroom.

Pupils will be challenged and inspired, whilst developing valuable skills sought after by universities and employers.



Science

Head of Department: James Tearle

Science is taught at Stowe by subject specialists in modern, well-equipped laboratories, all housed in the purpose built Worsley Science Centre.

The Academic Staff are supported by a full team of technicians and laboratory assistants as a great deal of emphasis is placed on practical work. Extensive use of ICT is made by both teachers and pupils to enhance the delivery of science. Extra support is provided outside of lessons via daily science clinics and a wealth of extra material is available on StoweNet.

All Stoics will continue to study all three Sciences, i.e. a balanced Science course, through to GCSE. The Science Department will decide, based on monitoring and assessment, which pupils would be best suited to taking either Triple Award or Dual Award Science in the Fifth Form. This decision will always be made to maximise the grade potential of each Stoic in the Sciences so as to optimise their overall GCSE grade profile.

Dual Award Science

The Dual Award combined Science course is offered to all Stoics upon entry. Stoics will receive nine full periods per week, (three per subject), this will lead to a Science qualification that is equivalent to two full GCSEs. The syllabus is separated into discrete areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, all of which are taught by subject specialists from these Departments.

The syllabus material in Dual Award Science is the core material from each of the separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics IGCSEs.

Assessment

There is no coursework element. Instead, Dual Award GCSE has required practicals integrated into the course. The skills developed through these and other practicals will be assessed in the examinations.

Summary of Dual Award Science content: (Edexcel IGCSE Double Science Syllabus)

Biology

- Living Organisms
- Nutrition and Respiration
- Movement of Substances
- Co-ordination and Control
- Reproduction and Inheritance
- Ecology and the Environment
- Use of Biological Resources



Chemistry

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Chemical Changes
- Energy Changes
- Chemical Analysis
- The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change
- Organic Chemistry

Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and Electromagnetism
- Particle Model of Matter
- Atomic Structure
- Space Physics

Examinations

There are three examinations, one each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is the same Paper 1 that is sat by those chosen to take Triple Science. Each exam is two hours and worth 110 marks. Questions are multiple choice, short answer, calculations and extended open response.

Those chosen to take the Triple Science Award will sit an additional exam in each Science. These exams are one hour and 15 minutes long and are worth 70 marks.

Dual Award does allow progress on to the A Level Sciences. Pupils wishing to take an A Level Science are required to achieve a grade 7-7 or better in Dual Award.

Stowe follows the Edexcel International GCSE Science syllabus and all exams take place in the Summer of the Fifth Form.

The Sciences

Biology

Head of Department: Louise Carter

Biology is a subject of immense interest to most pupils. Wide ranging in its scope, the subject encourages pupils to ask questions about themselves and the world in which they live.

Amongst the main aims of the Edexcel International GCSE Biology course is the hope that each pupil will develop a concerned and informed awareness of relationships between living organisms, of relationships between organisms and their environment, and the effect of human activities on these relationships.

Above all, the aim is to promote a respect for all forms of life. The course provides a worthwhile educational experience for all and is a suitable preparation for careers which require knowledge of Biology.

This course will provide important foundation material supporting further study of Biology at A Level.

Chemistry

Head of Department: Dr Alexandra Waine

Increasingly, modern Chemistry is focusing on a detailed understanding of the processes at a molecular level, in living systems on the one hand and the structure and properties of exciting new materials on the other.

Knowledge of a wide range of everyday chemicals and materials used in the home, in agriculture and in industry is still required and plenty of practical experience is provided during the course. Calculations based on chemical formulae and equations also form an important part of the Chemistry syllabus.

The Edexcel International GCSE Chemistry provides a stimulating educational journey that pulls together many skills and draws from a wide range of topics. It is good preparation for anyone considering any A Level or degree course that involves Chemistry.

Chemistry occupies a central position between the Physical and Biological Sciences, and is an essential requirement at A Level for many university courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Chemical Engineering and some life sciences.

Physics

Head of Department: Paul Thompson

"In the beginning there was nothing, which exploded." (Terry Pratchett)

The Edexcel International GCSE Physics course is a fascinating introduction to the fundamental study of the universe, matter and interactions. This revised course has removed some of the more outdated content, and replaced it with advanced, relevant and interesting topics that enable pupils to gain a better understanding of our world and the laws of Physics, while also providing a good preparation for A Level for those pupils who are considering this option.

It is easy to be left behind in a technological world that is changing fast. A grasp of basic Physics provides the necessary understanding that will enable active participation in this dynamic world. At Stowe we make full use of the latest applications to make Physics a highly up-to-date and more relevant subject. It is an exciting time, as Physics plays an increasingly important role in our everyday lives.

Applications of Physics are studied in each topic, to ensure relevance in the subject matter. Whether there is a wish to study Physics to a further level or not, pupils acquire a better understanding of the changes that are occurring around them and learn to analyse the beauty of the world and our place in the universe.

"There is no science in this world like Physics. Nothing comes close to the precision with which Physics enables you to understand the world around you." (Neil deGrasse Tyson)



Spanish

Head of Department: Julio Morales-Shearer

Studying Spanish at GCSE gives learners the opportunity to develop their understanding of not only the Spanish language, but also the Hispanic World.

With around 400 million native speakers, Spanish ranks as the world's second most widely-spoken first language, the first being Mandarin Chinese.

All Stoics are required to study at least one language at GCSE. This is because a language GCSE is a minimum entry requirement for some universities.

Content

The demanding GCSE Spanish course assesses both the learners' passive understanding of Spanish (their listening and reading comprehension) and their linguistic ability (their speaking and writing skills). Emphasis is placed on communication and linguistic understanding. The course aims to help learners develop their lexical and grammatical knowledge whilst building a strong foundation for further language study.

Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel

The GCSE is a linear course and all assessment therefore takes place at the end of the course. Four skills are assessed in four separate examinations:

Paper 1: Listening and Understanding Spanish

Paper 2: Speaking in Spanish

Paper 3: Reading and Understanding Spanish

Paper 4: Writing in Spanish

The four skills are equally weighted with each examination accounting for 25% of the final GCSE. All skills are assessed externally but the speaking examination is conducted by class teachers.



The GCSE will be graded 9-1, with 9 the highest, and is available at Foundation and Higher Level. Foundation Level is graded 1-5 and Higher Level 4-9. Candidates are required to take all four skills at the same level.

We expect pupils to enter at Higher Level, although there may be occasions when it is deemed in the candidate's best interests to enter for Foundation Level. Individual cases are discussed with the Head of Department after trial examinations.

Studying Abroad

Learners should be able to understand spoken and written Spanish from a variety of sources and should also be able to communicate in spoken and written forms. In addition, learners should take an interest in Hispanic cultures. Given that the GCSE course focuses on communication and authenticity, a study trip to Spain is usually organised for pupils in the Fifth Form. It is strongly recommended that all GCSE Hispanists spend time in Spain or another Spanish-speaking country. This is essential for any pupil considering taking the language beyond GCSE level.

Sports Science

Head of Department: Victoria Dias

The Sports Science course is designed to enable pupils with a strong interest in physical education and sport to gain a deeper understanding of the subject, both at a practical and theoretical level.

It is hoped that through the enjoyment of taking part in physical activities, pupils will be able to apply this interest in the classroom and potentially future careers.

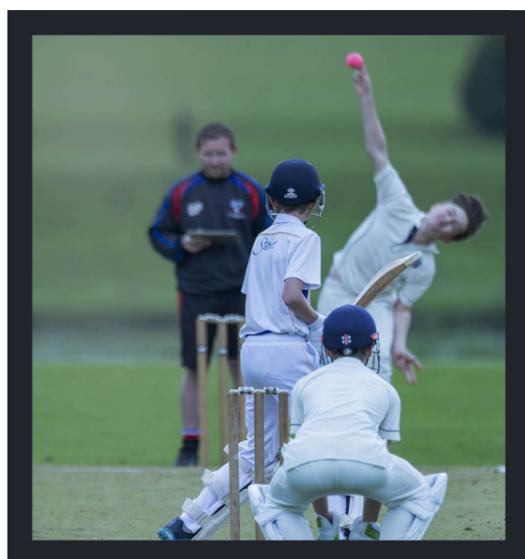
Requirements for GCSE Candidates:

- Pupils are assessed in three different sports, therefore they must play all three sports to a high level and compete regularly.
- Quite often video evidence will be required as part of the candidate's assessment.
- Pupils should have a keen interest in sport generally and want to understand what factors influence elite sporting performance.

AQA Assessment Objectives

The examination will assess ability to demonstrate:

- Physical performance, including an ability to interrelate planning, performing and evaluating whilst undertaking activity.
- Analysis and improvement of their own and others' performance.
- Knowledge and understanding of the factors affecting performance.
- Knowledge and understanding of the health and safety aspects of physical activity, including the advantages and risks associated with a range of training strategies and techniques.
- Knowledge and understanding of the reasons for participating in physical activity.



Assessment

Theory (60%) - Two 78 mark written papers

Both exam papers are made up of multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions.

Paper 1: Human Body and Movement in Sport

Including applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and the use of data.

Paper 2: Socio-Cultural Influences and Well-Being in Sport

Including sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being and the use of data.

Non-Exam Assessment (40%)

Practical performance in three sports and an analysis of performance piece of coursework.

Practical Performance (30%)

Assessment is on performance of three different activities, one of these must be a team sport and one must be an individual sport. The third sport may come from either list.

Team Activity

Football, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Dance, Handball, Hockey, Lacrosse, Netball, Rowing, Rugby, Squash, Sailing, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball or Water Polo.

Individual Activity

Boxing, Athletics, Badminton, Canoeing, Cycling, Golf, Dance, Diving, Figure Skating, Gymnastics, Equestrian, Rock Climbing, Sailing, Rowing, Sculling, Skiing, Snowboarding, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Trampolining or Windsurfing.

Analysis of Performance (10%)

Pupils complete a piece of written coursework in which they need to analyse, understand and correct areas of weakness in their performance in one chosen sport. Pupils have to apply the physiological, psychological and cultural aspects learned in the theory side of the course.

A Level Entry Grades

Required Minimum GCSE Grades for Study at A Level

Subject	Minimum grade requirement
Art	Art 6
Biology	Biology 7 or Dual Award Science 7-7
Business	Mathematics 5, English or other essay writing subject 5 N.B. Many Business degree courses require a 6 in Mathematics
Business BTEC (full A Level equivalent)	Mathematics 4 recommended, English or other essay writing subject 4 recommended
Chemistry	Chemistry 7, or Dual Award Science 7-7, and Mathematics 7
Classics	Latin 7 or Greek 7
Computer Science	Computer Science 7, but those with Mathematics 7 will also be considered
Creative Digital Media Production BTEC	Department's discretion. English or other essay writing subject grade 4
Design	Design 6 or other design related discipline 6
Drama and Theatre Studies	Drama 6 or other drama related discipline 6
Economics	Mathematics 6, English or other essay writing subject 6
Engineering BTEC (full A Level equivalent)	Department's discretion, but a grade 5 in Mathematics recommended
English Literature	English Literature 6, English Language 6
Film Studies	English Language 5 or English Literature OR other essay writing subject at grade 6
French	French 7
Geography	Geography 6
German	German 7
History	History 6 or other essay writing subject 6
History of Art	English Language 6 or other essay writing subject 6
Mathematics	Mathematics 7
Further Mathematics	Mathematics 8
Music	Grade 7 on one instrument, Grade 5 Theory
Physics	Physics 7 or Dual Award Science 7-7 and Mathematics 7
Politics	English 6 or other essay writing subject 6
Religious Studies	Religious Studies 6 or other essay writing subject 6
Spanish	Spanish 7
Sports Science	Sports Science/PE 6 or Science (Dual or Biology) 7
Sport BTEC (full A Level equivalent)	Department's discretion

**We are
Change
Makers**

Stowe

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stowe.co.uk