



Year 9 Options Presentation January 2024



Compulsory Examined Subjects

English Language	English Literature
Mathematics	
Science	
A Modern Foreign Language	



GCSEs

- GCSEs changed between 2015-2018
- Grading system 1-9
- Rigorous curriculum focusing on core skills (numeracy & literacy)
 - English: SPaG moved from 5% - 20%
 - Maths: Learning formulas
 - Science: 20% of questions require Maths skills

9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	E
1	F G



Science Information

Set 1: Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
(Students are awarded **3 GCSE qualifications**)

Sets 2-6: Combined Science – Trilogy
(This is equivalent to **2 GCSE qualifications** covering content from all 3 Sciences)

The current link between Maths and Science sets will cease at the end of Year 9 and will have no impact on GCSE Maths or Science setting.

Students taking Combined Science can access A Level Sciences if they meet the MER.



Year 9 Science Exams

All students in Year 9 will sit Science Exams in the Summer Term.

The results of these exams will determine the Science set that students will be placed into for GCSE.

They will also, therefore, determine the exam pathway that they will follow at KS4; Separate Sciences or Combined Science.

These exams are **extremely important** and students must revise thoroughly in preparation for them.

The dates of these exams in the Summer Term are to be confirmed depending on the GCSE and A Level arrangements.

Any questions about KS4 Science, please speak with Miss Copeman.



Why is a Modern Foreign Language compulsory at Gordon's?

- Academically valued
- Proven to help develop literacy skills
- Careers
- Part of the English Baccalaureate



The English Baccalaureate (EBacc.)

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open many doors in the future. To achieve the EBacc, students must take the following combination of subjects:

Mathematics

English Language

Separate or Combined Science

A Modern Foreign Language

A Humanity – History or
Geography
(both can still be taken)

Studies show that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with:

- Greater opportunities in further education
- Increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in fulltime education
- Improves performance in English and Maths.

We therefore encourage all students to consider following an EBacc pathway to ensure they keep their options open for further study and future careers.



What are the option subjects?

Art and Design	German
Business Studies	History
Business Enterprise (BTEC)	Music
Computer Science	Physical Education (GCSE)
Design and Technology	Photography
Drama	Religious Education
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Spanish
French	Travel and Tourism (BTEC)
Geography	



Business GCSE or Business BTEC?

GCSE Business	BTEC Enterprise (Business)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More academic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More vocational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% Externally marked exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% Externally marked exam • 60% Internally assessed work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better preparation for A Levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better preparation for vocational post-16 qualifications

Please discuss any questions you may have with the course leader, Mr Hamilton.



Travel and Tourism BTEC

A vocational qualification

Good preparation for post-16 vocational qualifications

- 40% Externally marked exam
- 60% Internally assessed work

Please discuss any questions you may have with
the course leader, Mr Mellor.



How to support the options choice – a practical guide

'I've heard it's
easy'

'All my friends
are taking it'

'I like my
teacher'

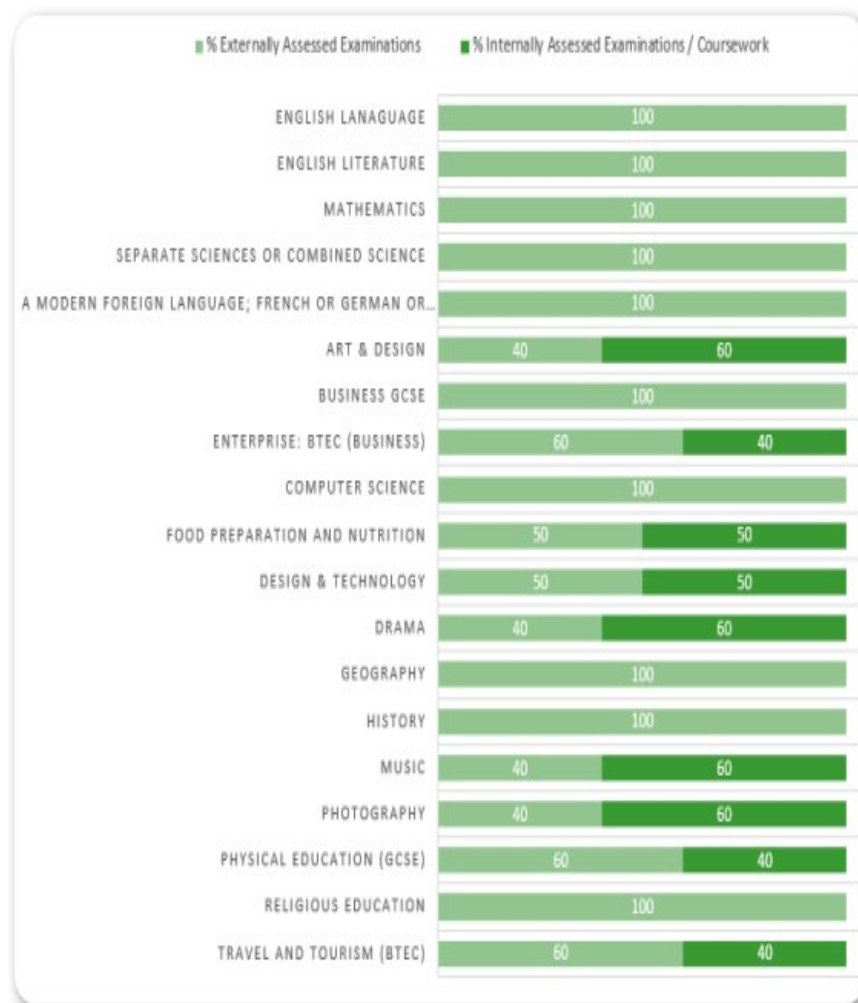
'My parents
want me to take
it'



How to support the options choice – a practical guide

- Discuss the options as a family
- Discuss with teachers and encourage students to ask specific questions
- Review the types of assessment – link to strengths and/or balance

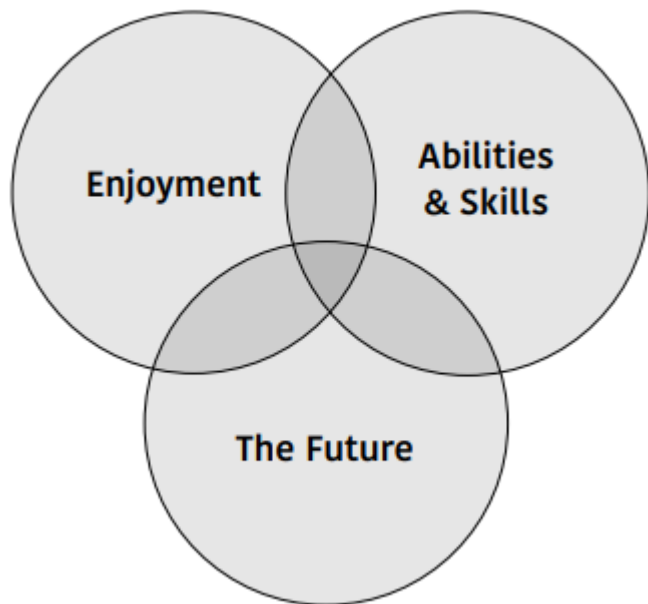
% EXAMINATIONS/COURSEWORK PER SUBJECT





How to support the options choice – a practical guide

Consider the three areas below:



SUBJECT	ENJOYMENT	ABILITIES & SKILLS	THE FUTURE
Art and Design			
Business GCSE			
Enterprise: BTEC (Business)			
Computer Science			
Design and Technology			
Drama			
Food Preparation and Nutrition			
Geography			
History			
MFL: French (as a 2 nd MFL)			
MFL: German (as a 2 nd MFL)			
MFL: Spanish (as a 2 nd MFL)			
Music			
Physical Education GCSE			
Photography			
Religious Education (Full Course)			
Travel & Tourism BTEC			



How to support the options choice – a practical guide

- Have an open mind – we have a wide range of co-curricular activities that supplement our curriculum
- Careers – are the options going to narrow or broaden opportunities in the future? Know what you need.
- Pay attention to the subject entry criteria for Gordon's Sixth Form - these are all found in the Key Stage 4 Options and Academic Guide



Please note

A subject will 'run' based on:

- Student demand
- Staff availability

Students must select 3 option choices and a reserve choice.

They will not be able to change their selections once they have been made, so please encourage your son/daughter to select carefully and thoughtfully!



What happens now?

- Read the Options Booklet.
- Students should advice from their teaching staff and parents over the next few weeks.
- Return options e-form by

Wednesday 7th February