



# GCSE Information Booklet

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2023-2024

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# An Introduction from the Headteacher

*Asalam aleikum warahmatullahe wabarakatuh*

This KS4 guide will inform you and your parents/carers about the curriculum that we offer at HKKGS and hopefully help you navigate your GCSE journey. HKKG provides a well-balanced curriculum, with a breadth of study and a variety of options and opportunities for further study, even if you have not yet decided on your future career and education.

The subjects that you will be studying throughout KS4 will also help to develop your personal and social skills, key life skills, resilience and allow you to master a range of important skills.

## English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate or Ebacc is a performance measure for schools. It is not a certificate or a measure for students. It assesses the number of students who achieve a good pass (grade 5 and above) in 7 GCSEs across five subject areas: English language and English literature, Maths, Sciences, History or Geography and a foreign language. The Department for Education (DfE) has set a target of 90% of pupils to enter the EBaccs by 2025. Alhamdulillah, all our students enter the EBacc.

## All pupils at HKKG study the following GCSE subjects:

1. English Language
2. English Literature
3. Mathematics
4. Biology
5. Chemistry
6. Physics
7. History
8. Arabic as a Modern Foreign Language
9. Religious Studies
10. Art
11. Business Studies

## All pupils study the following non-GCSE subjects:

- Islamic Studies
- Quran Studies
- Physical Education
- PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)

This booklet provides a brief outline of the subjects that our students study. For more details on each subject, please visit our school website, [www.hkkg.bham.sch.uk/curriculum](http://www.hkkg.bham.sch.uk/curriculum), where you can find teaching plans, useful resources, links, and reading lists.

## List of subjects and school contacts

For further details on any of the subjects referred to in this booklet, please speak to your subject teacher.

Subjects	Name of teacher
Arabic	Mrs R. Wakil
Art	Mrs S. El-Mufti
Business studies	Mrs Kausser
Citizenship	Mrs S. Kausser, Miss A. Khan and Miss S. Dudu
English literature and language	Mrs Y. Akhtar and Mrs S. Parveen
History	Mrs H. Begum
Mathematics	Mrs M. Afsheen
Quran studies	Mrs N. Begum
Physical education	Mrs N. Begum and Mrs S. Dudu
Pastoral lead	Mrs H. Begum
Religious studies	Mrs F. Chughtai
Careers and exams officer	Mrs T. Miah
Computer Science	Miss S. Dudu
Biology and Physics	Mrs Y. Ameen
Chemistry	Mrs Y. Ameen and Ms D. Jihar

# English Language and Literature

## AQA GCSE in English Language

The aim of this paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively. Students will study two linked sources from different time periods to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader. Students will produce a written text to a specified audience, purpose, and form.

### Assessments

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

#### Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A: Reading of a literature fiction text

Section B: Descriptive and Narrative Writing

#### Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A: Non-fiction texts

Section B: Writing to present a view

#### Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

## AQA GCSE in English Literature

Students study an entire Shakespeare play (Macbeth) and a 19th Century Novel (The strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde). Students will also study a modern text (drama) and poetry.

15 poems are taken from the AQA poetry anthology, *Poems Past and Present*, written between 1789 and the present day.

To prepare for the unseen poetry section of the exam, students will be exposed to a range of poems to develop their analysis and help them compare key features such as content, theme, structure and use of language.

#### Paper 1: Shakespeare and a 19th-century novel (40%)

Section A: Macbeth

Section B: The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

#### Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60%)

Section A: An Inspector Calls

Section B: Power and Conflict anthology and unseen poetry

For Further Information and Guidance, please visit the AQA pages:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

*Revision materials are shared on Microsoft Teams and on SENECA*

## Subject content

[1 Number](#)

[2 Algebra](#)

[3 Ratio, proportion, and rates of change](#)

[4 Geometry and measures](#)

[5 Probability](#)

[6 Statistics](#)

For more detail on the specification, follow the [link](#).

Maths GCSE has two tiers of entry: Foundation and Higher tier. The foundation tier targets grades 1-5 and the higher tier targets grades 3-9.

## Assessment

Paper 1 (Non-Calculator)	1 hour 30-minute written exam
Paper 2 (Calculator)	1 hour 30-minute written exam
Paper 3 (Calculator)	1 hour 30-minute written exam

*Each paper is worth 80 marks, contributing to 33% of the GCSE assessment each, with a mixture of short, single-mark questions and multi-step problems.*

## The GCSE Exams assess the following Assessment Objectives:

AO1: Use and apply standard techniques.

AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically.

AO3: Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts.

## Suggested revision guides and resources

- Collins GCSE Maths 4th edition Foundation Student Book,
- Collins GCSE Maths 4th edition Higher Student Book

The [parent portal](#) has links to online learning tools and revision sites.

## Separate Sciences

Exam board: AQA

### Subject Content

HKKG offers Separate Sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Some students may be offered the **Combined Science Trilogy** route, which complements the Separate Sciences programmes of study.

As part of the course, students will need to carry out required practicals which will be assessed in the written examinations. The practicals and simulations enable students to learn about use of apparatus, experimental techniques, planning and evaluating experiments. 15% of the marks assess practical skills based on the required practicals and 10-30% of the marks assess Math skills.

Students may sit Foundation or Higher papers. Final Tier decisions will be made by the Science teachers, based on student attainment.

**3 GCSE grades will be awarded. Assessments are broken down in to 2 exam papers per GCSE. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes long, worth 100 marks and accounts for 50% of the GCSE.**

<b>Biology Paper 1</b>
Biology Topics 1–4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
<b>Biology Paper 2</b>
Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
<b>Chemistry Paper 1</b>
Topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
<b>Chemistry Paper 2</b>
Topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.
<b>Physics Paper 1</b>
Topics 1-4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
<b>Physics Paper 2</b>
Topics 5-8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics.

*Questions in paper 2 may draw on understanding of concepts in paper 1.*

### Suggested revision guides and resources

AQA Science: The set of 'accredited textbooks' that follow the specification of AQA

CGP Books: Revision Guide, Question and Answer Book

Collins GCSE Science 9-1 – Required Practicals Lab Book

# History

## Subject content

### Three eras:

- Medieval (500–1500)
- Early Modern (1450–1750)
- Modern (1700–present day)

### On three timescales:

- Short (depth study)
- Medium (period study)
- Long (thematic study)

### On three geographical contexts:

- A locality/ historic environment
- British
- European/wider world settings.

### One thematic study

This enables students to understand change and continuity across a longer period of history over three eras.

### One period study

This allows students to focus on a substantial and coherent time span of at least 50 years. The study will require students to understand an unfolding narrative of substantial developments and issues. The period study can be from any of the specified eras.

### Two depth studies

One British and one European/wider world study. Depth studies enable students to focus on a substantial and coherent short time span. The studies enable students to gain understanding of the complexities of a society or historical situation and the interplay of different aspects within it. Depth studies must cover different eras.

## Assessment

Exam board- AQA

British history forms at least 40% of the assessed content over the full course.

Paper 1 - Understanding the modern world	Paper 2 - Shaping the nation
Section A - Period Study <a href="#">AB Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship</a>	Section A - Thematic studies <a href="#">AA Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day</a>
Section B - Wider world depth studies <a href="#">BB Conflict and tension: The inter-war years, 1918–1939</a>	Section B - British depth studies <a href="#">BC Elizabethan England, c1568–1603</a>

## Suggested revision guides and resources

AQA GCSE History revision guide

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-GCSE-History-Revision-Guide/>



# Religious Studies

## Content

The course allows our students to focus in depth on the study of one religion (Islam) and study of a second religion (Christianity). The course also includes a choice of philosophy and ethics or textual study.

The course explores religion and practice in the 21st century and encourages students to reflect on and engage with fundamental questions.

Students will develop analytical and critical thinking skills to enable them to present a wide range of well-informed and reasonable arguments.

## Assessment

Exam board- Pearson Edexcel

The Religious Studies A course consists of three externally examined papers.

**Paper1: Study of Islam**

**Paper2: Study of Christianity**

Students must then complete one assessment from either:

**Paper3: Area of Study 3–Philosophy and Ethics (Catholic Christianity, Christianity, and Islam)**

**Paper4: Area of Study 4– Textual Studies (Mark’s Gospel or The Qur’an)**

## Suggested revision guides and resources

Edexcel revision cards

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revise-Edexcel-GCSE-9-1-History/dp/1292257385/ref=asc\\_df\\_1292257385/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310941996689&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=13562820521242538103&hvpon=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9045535&hvtargid=pla-611061741970&psc=1&th=1&psc=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revise-Edexcel-GCSE-9-1-History/dp/1292257385/ref=asc_df_1292257385/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310941996689&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=13562820521242538103&hvpon=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9045535&hvtargid=pla-611061741970&psc=1&th=1&psc=1)

SENECA learning and tutor2u

# Arabic

## Content

Arabic (MFL) incorporate cultural elements both in English and through the medium of Arabic.

The GCSE content is organised into five themes, each broken down into topics.

## Five Themes

1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday, travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations study and work
5. International and global dimension.

## Assessment

Exam board – Pearson EDEXCEL

All papers draw upon vocabulary and structures across all five themes.

Students may sit either a Foundation or Higher exams covering the following papers:

**Paper 1: listening and understanding in Arabic**

**Paper 2: Speaking in Arabic**

**Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Arabic**

**Paper 4: Writing in Arabic**

## Suggested revision guides and resources

[The New GCSE Arabic Companion \(9-1\) : Nacef, Chawki: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

[Your Arabic Friend: Arabic GCSE Based on EDEXCEL SPECIFICATION - Heath's Edexcel Bookshop](#)

More links and resources can be found on our website, <https://hkkg.bham.sch.uk/arabic/>.

The creative industry one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK. There are many careers for which Art GCSE is useful. These range from Advertising, Media, Film, Product Design, Engineering and Architecture through to Graphics, Illustration, Fashion, Textiles and Fine Art. Students studying the arts are much more likely to improve in their literacy and numeracy too. <https://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/the-national-plan-for-cultural-education/>

Art syllabus encourages students to actively engage with the creative processes of art and helps them to become reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Students become confident in taking risks and learning from their experiences through exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, materials, and techniques. Observational drawing skills and critical understanding of artwork is developed early to develop necessary skills at GCSE.

## Content

Students will develop knowledge, understanding, and skills relevant to their chosen title through integrated practical, critical, and contextual study that encourages direct engagement with original works and practice. Students will explore different media, sketching, painting, tonal range, and photography.

## Assessment

The GCSE Artwork produced will be internally assessed by the school and externally moderated by AQA. Students are assessed using the 4 AOs throughout KS3 and KS4 to help them develop their planning and evaluative skills.

**Component 1-** Portfolio work: students complete a project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study. The portfolio must show explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. This is worth 60% of the overall marks.

**Component 2-** Externally set assignment: Students will get enough preparation time, and a further ten hours of supervised time to complete final piece. This is worth 40% of the total marks.

## Assessment objective for GCSE Art and Design

**AO1:** Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

**AO2:** Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting, and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques, and processes.

**AO3:** Record ideas, observations, and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

**AO4:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

## Suggested revision guides and resources

A3 Spiral Bound Sketchbook

Art materials; paints, crayons, sketch pencil kit (f – 6B)

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/AQA-GCSE-ART-STUDENT-GUIDE.PDF>

<https://www.studentartguide.com/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6hs34j>

# Business studies

## Course description

The Business Studies course will appeal to students who wish to pursue a career in the business and enterprise sectors. Six units are taught over two years, each unit covering essential aspects of a business. The course will help students understand what it means to be an entrepreneur and how businesses are organised. In addition, it allows our students to develop knowledge of marketing, operations management, finance, and the influences that affect a business. Students will gain business planning skills including research, resource planning and understanding business growth.

## Key skills

Students will develop skills and knowledge; in adapting their own ideas, responding to feedback, evaluating their own work; analysing data, and making decisions essential within the business and enterprise sectors, such as evaluation skills; analysing data; independent work; working to meet deadlines; and efficient use of resources. They will also have a chance to be a part of a school business enterprise, run and led by students.

## Content

1. Business in the real world 2. Influences on business 3. Business operations	4. Human resources 5. Marketing 6. Finance
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## Assessment

AQA GCSE Business Studies will be assessed through written examinations. Students will sit 2 papers at the end of year 11, each weighing 50%.

## Future Career

The knowledge and skills gained through this qualification will be useful for progression into Apprenticeship in Business Administration, into a variety of occupations, available within sectors such as Finance, Marketing or Human Resources. This is an extremely versatile subject that will broaden the opportunities of students' future career plans.

## Recommended Revision books

Newspapers: Economic times, Business News daily, BBC news, The Conversation, Evening Standard

Books: AQA business studies book, AQA revision guide

Online: Bitesize, Tutor2U, Quizlet, Seneca, Revision world

**For more details about the GCSE course please follow the link below**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/gcse/business-8132>

Education is not simply a matter of preparing our students for GCSE. It is about preparing our students for adult life. This is done through a carefully designed Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education (PSHEE) that is embedded throughout the curriculum taught from year 7 to year 11.

PSHEE aims to give pupils the opportunity to help understand themselves as individuals, consider the choices that they will be faced with, and the role that they can play in society, learning about democracy, rule of law, respect and tolerance, developing their character and important life skills, exploring career paths and looking after their physical and emotional wellbeing.

PSHEE is taught through form time (Votes for Schools and Be Internet Citizen programme), citizenship and enrichment days and is embedded throughout the curriculum.

### Enrichment Days

#### 1. Character Development programme

Inspired by the Quran, Prophetic examples, and the Jubilee Centre for Character Education (University of Birmingham)

#### 2. Healthy Relationships

Informed by the AMS syllabus, Islamic studies curriculum and the PSHEE association.

#### 3. Citizenship

Includes culture and diversity, democracy and law, e-safety, the environment, protected characteristics, and rights.

#### 4. Health and Safety

Includes, hygiene, mental health, physical health and nutrition, first aid, online safety, female health and FGM.

#### 5. Economics

Informed by the Barclays Life Skills programme, including money skills, social skills and work skills modules.

## Quran Studies

Our Quran studies curriculum will enable children to become practical based learners through practice, investigating the history of the Quran and developing a chronological understanding. The curriculum also provides opportunity for Interpretation - Source analysis and evaluation.

The curriculum provides an opportunity to learn daily supplications, reflect on their experiences and spiritual well-being through tafsir. They acquire a respect for their own culture and that of others, an interest in others' ways of doing things and curiosity about differences. They develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.

### Content

At HKKG School, it is our intention to provide a high-quality Quran studies education that provides pupils with the foundations they need to recognise the importance of Quran in every aspect of daily life. Students learn to apply tajweed in their recitation, memorise chapters and duas and discuss important lessons learnt from the Quran.

### Assessment

1. Tajweed (practical and written examinations)
2. Tafsir and Quranic Science written examination
3. Memorising set [surahs](#).
4. Reading assessment based on a [5-level assessment grid](#).

Level 1	Students practice letter and vowel recognition, Shaddah and Madd. Teaching is focused on reciting letters from correct articulation points with correct characteristics.
Level 2	Students practice fluency of their reading and how to correctly start and stop on verses. They learn the stop and pause symbols and identify the start and end of Arabic words.
Level 3	Students will read with confidence, applying the basic rules of Tajweed, with focus on characteristics of letters such as tafkheem, ghunnah and qalqalah, rules of Madd and Noon Sakinah rules.
Level 4	Students at this level read independently applying all rules of Tajweed. The focus is on consistency in reading as well as distinguishing between the levels of ghunna, tafkheem and qalqalah, as well as knowing how and when to stop. Students have good theoretical understanding of tajweed rules.
Level 5	Students are advanced reciters and have a strong theoretical understanding as well as practical application of Tajweed rules. They are expected to know different ways of stopping on a word. Students can explain the rules and identifying them in the text.

### Suggested revision guides and resources

Online Quran app and tajweed videos on YouTube .

[Juz 30 \(Juz Amma\) Full | Al Quran | Salah Musally | Beautiful Quran Recitation | English Translation - YouTube](#)

# Islamic Studies

## Content

Student study the SAFAR Publication syllabus, which includes:

1. Aqidah and Islamic Beliefs
2. Fiqh, Rituals and Rulings
3. Seerah and Islamic History
4. Personal Development and contemporary Issues

## Cross Curricular

Islamic Studies overlaps a great deal with the Religious Studies GCSE curriculum, both subjects complement each other. The subject also has strong cross-curricular links with citizenship, Quran Studies, and History, benefiting from collaboration across departments.

## Assessment

Written exams include single-mark questions, multiple-choice questions, and extended essay questions, with emphasis on textual study of the Quran and hadiths.

For details on curriculum plans and content, visit <https://hkkg.bham.sch.uk/islamic-studies/>.