



BELFAST HIGH SCHOOL

GCSE
INFORMATION
BOOKLET

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ART AND DESIGN

Head of Department:	Miss A Herron
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org
Assessment:	60% coursework and 40% externally set assignment

Outline of Course:

This course requires the production of 2 units.

Unit 1: Coursework (60%):

Pupils must produce a portfolio of work developed from a given topic/theme set by the class teacher. Pupils must produce one final outcome. The portfolio should illustrate evidence of a broad range of creative activities, in both 2 and 3 dimensions in fine art, craft and design where possible.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%):

Pupils will receive this paper, set by the examining board, on 1 February in Form 5. All coursework must be completed by this date. The period following this is for producing preparatory work for a 10 hour exam which will take place in April when pupils will produce their final outcome.

GCSE Show:

Pupils will display all of their work, including their exam piece for moderation approximately one week from the completion of the externally set assignment.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Head of Department:	Mrs D Millar
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk/business_studies/
Assessment:	25% controlled assessment and 75% examination

General Information

In today's economic climate, Business Studies is an important and worthwhile qualification. No matter what you decide to do when you leave school, the chances are you will be involved in some way in a business. Business Studies helps you to understand more about how and why businesses operate in the way that they do.

Why study Business Studies?

In studying this course you will:-

- have an understanding of what is happening in the news;
- learn about the perspectives of different stakeholders in business and economic activities;
- understand the changing use of ICT in business and economic activities; and
- gain a knowledge of business that will provide a basis for possible further study

What will I study?

Unit 1

Business Start-up

This unit will cover the 3 following themes:

Business Start Up:

You will study how a business starts up and the importance of the role of the entrepreneur. You will also learn about the sources of finance.

Production:

You will study the types and methods of production; quality assurance models and health and safety.

Marketing:

You will learn about customers' needs and wants. You will study: methods of market research and sampling; competition that a business may face; and the marketing mix (the four Ps – Price, Product, Promotion and Place).

Unit 2 - Business Development

This unit will cover the four following themes:

Finance:

You will have the opportunity to use ratio analysis to interpret final accounts. You will also use management accounting techniques to help you make decisions.

Managing People:

You will learn about recruitment and selection; and developing people through training, motivation and appraisal.

Business Growth:

You will study why a business succeeds or fails; and why it may grow. You will also study international business and E-Commerce.

Business Plan:

You will learn about the content of business plans and the reasons for developing them. You will also have the opportunity to construct and to evaluate a business plan.

How will I be assessed?

There are two external assessments worth 35% and 40% respectively and one controlled assessment worth 25%.

Business Studies theory Unit 1

Unit 1 will be a written examination of 1 hour 20 minutes duration and will have structured questions. This examination paper is worth 35% of the overall GCSE qualification.

Business Studies theory Unit 2

The written examination for Unit 2 will be of 1 hour 40 minutes duration and will have 3 structured questions with an incline of difficulty.

Controlled Assessment

This examination paper is worth 40% of the overall GCSE qualification. You will complete one task from a range of tasks which CCEA will issue to centres. This is worth 25% of the overall GCSE qualification.

How can you find out more?

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about Business Studies. These include:

- Speaking to either Mrs Millar, Miss Foster or Ms Cochrane
- Speaking to students who have already studied the subject
- Visiting the CCEA microsite www.ccea.org.uk/business_studies

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Head of Department: Mrs I Bredin

Exam Board: AQA

Website: http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/his_rel/new/cls_civ_overview.php

Assessment: 25% controlled assessment

The purpose of GCSE Classical Civilisation is to introduce and develop some knowledge and understanding of the civilisations of the Greeks and the Romans.

Pupils are given an opportunity to learn about societies which differed from ours in many ways, and yet were very influential in shaping our world. As a result, we should understand our own society better. Many of the skills learnt in History are also important in this subject, particularly the use and evaluation of evidence. Literary skills, similar to those used in English and English Literature, are also taught and used.

Classical Civilisation is a valuable source of background information for those who are studying Latin and Greek, but it has a much wider appeal. Over the last number of years the vast majority of those who have studied the subject have not been studying a classical language at the same time. Many have chosen Classical Civilisation because they enjoyed the work done in third form, and wanted to continue. The Classics Department trips to Italy and Greece give all pupils in the school the opportunity to see many of the ancient sites studied in their courses.

The two year syllabus is made up of four topics which can be a combination of literature and history. Three of the topics are examined, while the fourth topic is a compulsory controlled assessment, or coursework, done under teacher supervision. Greek and Latin literature is studied in translation; most of the works set have a story element, such as Roman mythology, the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer, the Aeneid of Virgil and Ovid's Metamorphoses. The other topics relate to some aspect of Roman or Greek history, such as life in Rome or Athens, the Spartans, the emperor Nero, Pompeii or the Olympic Games.

Classical Civilisation at third form level is not needed for GCSE, nor is GCSE needed for A level. The subject is open to any pupil with reasonable writing skills, and it tends to appeal particularly to those with an interest in History or Literature. Our pupils have an excellent record of winning top places at GCSE and A Level and they have gone on to study a variety of courses and subjects at university such as Accountancy, Business Studies, Classical Civilisation, Criminology, English, History, Languages, Law, Politics, Psychology and Theatre Studies. We will be using the AQA syllabus for GCSE.

CLASSICAL GREEK

Head of Department:	Mrs I Bredin
Exam Board:	OCR
Website:	www.ocr.org.uk/classicalgreek/newgcse/
Assessment:	100% examination

Classical Greek can be taken as an extra GCSE by interested and able pupils. The course is similar to that of GCSE Latin and tends to be taken by pupils also studying Latin. Those pupils who take Greek will have demonstrated high achievement in Latin or another language and will be personally interested in Greek civilisation, literature and society. Pupils who are interested in Religious Studies or Theology are also often attracted to the study of Greek. The syllabus and final examination consist of four units, two of which are language and two of literature. Any additional vocabulary not studied in the Word List will be given to pupils in the language units. There is a Greek civilisation option available as an alternative to one of the literature modules.

The subject is timetabled outside the main GCSE options and will be studied on a limited allocation of four periods a week. This means that the pupils need to be highly motivated and be able to work independently to succeed.

Although the class is normally small, achievement is always extremely high with the great majority of our pupils over the years gaining an A* or A grade in the subject. In 2006 our pupils gained 1st place at A level in the UK in Greek and 1st and 2nd places at GCSE in Northern Ireland with the AQA syllabus. We now use the OCR syllabus; OCR does not publish placements for their exams.

Past pupils have taken a variety of career paths, from Classics and Law to Accountancy, Mathematics, Medicine and Theology. They have found the study of Classical Greek to be a rewarding challenge and a useful and interesting literary and linguistic achievement.

ELECTRONICS

Head of Department: Mrs D McNeill

Exam Board: WJEC

Website: www.wjec.co.uk/index.php?subject=49&level=7/

Assessment: 75% examination and 25% controlled assessment

This is a pilot subject and the number of pupils taking it will be strictly limited. It extends the knowledge of electronics from KS3 Technology and Design and may suit students who enjoy Technology & Design but do not have strong enough graphical or manufacturing skills to follow this route. Students must have a good understanding of Maths and Science to undertake this course. **Any student considering this course must speak to both Mrs McNeill and Mr Currie.**

Why study Electronics?

This specification encourages the investigation and study of electronics in a variety of contexts – home, school, recreation, community, business and industry. Students will have the opportunity to analyse and evaluate situations, design and make electronic products and then evaluate their performance.

Assessment

Unit 1: Discovering Electronics (35%) - 1 hour examination

Topics covered:

- Electronic Systems
- Electronic Subsystems
- Circuit Concepts
- Components in Sensing Circuits
- Designing Sensing Circuits
- Output Circuits
- Switching Circuits
- Applications of Diodes
- Combinational Logic Systems

Unit 2: Applications of Electronics (40%) - 1 hour examination

Topics covered:

- Timing Circuits
- Sequential Circuits
- Interface Circuits
- Analogue Communications
- Programmable Control Systems

Unit 3: Electronic System Design and Realisation (25%) – controlled assessment

On completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Define a problem
- Draw up a specification
- Design appropriate electronic solutions
- Select the most appropriate solution
- Manufacture selected circuit on PCB
- Test and evaluate completed electronic product
- Write a detailed report on the development of the product.

ENGLISH and ENGLISH LITERATURE

Head of Department: Ms E Miller

Exam Board: CCEA

Website: www.ccea.org.uk/english

Assessment: Language: 40% examination and 60% controlled assessment

Literature: 75% examination and 25% controlled assessment

English Language

GCSE Revised specification

Unit 1 Personal writing and Reading Multi Modal Texts

This is assessed through **external examination**. It lasts 1½ hours and is worth 20%.

Unit 2 Functional writing and Reading Non Fiction

This is assessed through **external examination**. It lasts 1½ hours and is worth 20%

Unit 3 Speaking and Listening

This is assessed through **controlled assessment** and is worth 20%

Unit 4 Studying Spoken and Written language creatively

This unit is assessed through **controlled assessment**. It is worth 40% and comprises 3 tasks which are set by CCEA.

English Literature

Unit 1 The Study of Prose

External assessment - Assessed by a one hour written paper

Unit 2 The Study of Drama and Poetry

External assessment - Assessed by a 2 hour written paper

Unit 3 **Controlled Assessment** based on the study of 2 texts

FRENCH

Head of Department:	Mrs M Patterson
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk/languages/
Assessment:	60% controlled assessment and 40% examination

Outline of course:

In studying this course you will:

- develop knowledge of the language and language learning skills;
- develop an understanding of French in a variety of contexts;
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in French;
- develop awareness and understanding of French-speaking communities; and
- gain a basis for further study and practical use of French.

What you will study

The Individual

- relationships (families and friends)
- the local environment
- daily routine and leisure activities
- health and lifestyle

Citizenship

- environmental and social issues
- travel and tourism
- media and communications
- festivals and customs

Employability

- school life
- part time jobs
- future plans

How you will be tested

Unit 1 Speaking – 30%

Controlled assessment

You will prepare and complete 2 tasks under supervision. Teachers mark the assessments and they are sent to CCEA for moderation.

Unit 2 Writing – 30%

Controlled assessment

You will prepare and complete 2 tasks under supervision. CCEA marks these assessments.

Unit 3 Listening

External assessment – 20%

You will sit one externally assessed written paper lasting 45 minutes (Higher Tier). You will hear stimulus material in French, recorded by native speakers, and your responses will include selection, gap filling and answering some questions in English.

Unit 4 Reading

External assessment -20%

You will sit one externally assessed written paper lasting 50 minutes (Higher Tier). There will be stimulus material of various lengths on a range of topics in French and your responses will include selection, gap filling and short answers in French, and some answers in English.

The CCEA microsite for Languages provides lots of advice and information including recordings of sample speaking tests. The address is www.ccea.org.uk/languages/.

GCSE FRENCH WITH A VOCATIONAL PATHWAY SPORT AND LEISURE

Head of Department:	Mrs M Patterson
Exam Board:	Edexcel
Website:	www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/mfl/french
Assessment	60% controlled assessment and 40% examination

Outline of course:

In studying this course you will:

- develop knowledge of the language and language learning skills;
- develop an understanding of French in a variety of contexts;
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in French;
- develop awareness and understanding of French-speaking communities; and
- gain a basis for further study and practical use of French.

What you will study

- The topic of Sport and leisure with a vocational focus.
- 4 Common Topic Areas – assessed in listening and reading:
 - Out and about
 - Customer service and transactions
 - Personal information
 - Future plans, education and work

How you will be tested

Unit 1 Speaking

Controlled assessment - 30%

You will prepare and complete 2 tasks under supervision. Teachers mark the assessments and they are sent to CCEA for moderation. You must demonstrate the ability to use the French language for different purposes and in different settings, and will be assessed on two speaking activities chosen from the following task types: an open interaction, a picture-based free-flowing discussion or a presentation with discussion following. Each activity must last for 4-6 minutes and marks should be submitted from each student that relate to two different task types.

Unit 2 Writing

Controlled assessment - 30%

You will prepare and complete 2 tasks under supervision related to the topic of Sport and Leisure. Edexcel marks these assessments.

Unit 3 Listening

External assessment - 20 %

You will sit one externally assessed written paper lasting 40 minutes (Higher Tier). This unit draws on vocabulary and structures from across the four specified common topic areas. You will be tested on your ability to understand spoken French. Testing is through a variety of tasks which require a response, written or non-verbal, to demonstrate understanding.

Unit 4 Reading

External assessment - 20%

You will sit one externally assessed written paper lasting 50 minutes (Higher Tier). This unit draws on vocabulary and structures from across the four specified common topic areas. You will be tested on their ability to understand written French. Testing is through a variety of tasks which require a response, written or non-verbal, to demonstrate understanding.

The Edexcel website for Languages provides lots of advice and information including recordings of sample speaking tests. The address is www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/mfl/french

GEOGRAPHY

Head of Department:	Mr K Morrison
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk/geography
Assessment:	25% controlled assessment (1 fieldwork report) 75% examination (2 written theory papers)

Turn on your TV almost any day and you will see coverage of events such as flooding, storms or earthquakes and hear about issues such as sustainability and global warming. These events and issues are at the very heart of Geography. By studying Geography you will gain an awareness of your own responsibilities and how you can contribute to a future that is sustainable and inclusive. In studying this course you will:

- take part in fieldwork collecting data at first hand;
- explore the interrelationships between people and their environments;
- investigate how physical and human resources are managed;
- consider interdependence between places and the need for cooperation to tackle global issues;
- have opportunities to use geographical skills including appropriate technologies such as GIS (Geographical Information Systems)

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

You will study 2 main theory units each comprising 3 themes. You will also complete a third unit which is a personal project completed under controlled assessment conditions.

Unit 1

- Dynamic Landscape (rivers and coasts);
- Our Changing Weather and Climate (weather systems affecting us and the causes and effects of climate change);
- The Restless Earth (plate tectonics and earthquakes).

Unit 2

- People and Where They Live (population and settlement);
- Contrasts in World Development (the differences between LEDCs and MEDCs);
- Managing our Resources (sustainable solutions).

Unit 3

This unit will be a controlled assessment task. You will collect primary data during fieldwork and write up a personal report based on the results obtained. You will be given comprehensive guidance on how to complete your report.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED?

Geography Theory Unit 1

Unit 1 is a written exam and will be 1 hour and 30 minutes long. There will be 3 multi-part questions. Each question will focus on one of each of the themes. The questions will have resource material and some parts will require extended writing. This examination is worth 37.5% of the overall GCSE qualification. This examination will be completed at the end of Year 11, in June.

Geography Theory Unit 2

The written exam for Unit 2 will be 1 hour and 30 minutes long. There will be 3 multi-part questions. Each question will focus on one of each of the themes. The questions will have resource material and some parts will require extended writing. This examination paper is worth 37.5% of the overall GCSE qualification.

Unit 3 – Fieldwork Report

This is the controlled assessment task and you will be required to complete a report of no more than 2000 words based on fieldwork. The fieldwork will be conducted in June of Year 11 or September of Year 12 and the final report will be completed by early November in Year 12. This task will be worth 25% of the overall GCSE qualification.

Further details can be obtained from the CCEA Geography Microsite:

www.ccea.org.uk/geography

GERMAN

Head of Department:	Mrs M Patterson
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk/languages/
Assessment:	60% controlled assessment and 40% examination

Outline of course:

In studying this course you will:

- develop knowledge of the language and language learning skills;
- develop an understanding of German in a variety of contexts;
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in German;
- develop awareness and understanding of German-speaking communities; and
- gain a basis for further study and practical use of German.

What you will study

The Individual

- relationships (families and friends)
- the local environment
- daily routine and leisure activities
- health and lifestyle

Citizenship

- environmental and social issues
- travel and tourism
- media and communications
- festivals and customs

Employability

- school life
- part time jobs
- future plans

How you will be tested

Unit 1 Speaking - 30% Controlled assessment

You will prepare and complete 2 tasks under supervision. Teachers mark the assessments and they are sent to CCEA for moderation.

Unit 2 Writing - 30%**Controlled assessment**

You will prepare and complete 2 tasks under supervision. CCEA marks these assessments.

Unit 3 Listening - 20%**External assessment**

You will sit one externally assessed written paper lasting 45 minutes (Higher Tier). You will hear stimulus material in German, recorded by native speakers, and your responses will include selection, gap filling and answering some questions in English.

Unit 4 Reading - 20%**External assessment**

You will sit one externally assessed written paper lasting 50 minutes (Higher Tier). There will be stimulus material of various lengths on a range of topics in German and your responses will include selection, gap filling and short answers in German, and some answers in English.

The CCEA microsite for Languages provides lots of advice and information including recordings of sample speaking tests. The address is www.ccea.org.uk/languages/.

HISTORY

Head of Department: Mr R Ewart

Exam Board: OCR (Syllabus B: The Modern World)

Website: www.ocr.org.uk/download/kd/ocr_9976_kd_gcse_spec.pdf/

Assessment: 25% Controlled Assessment
75% examination (Paper 1: 45%, Paper 2: 30%)

Why study History

History is regarded by the Russell group of 20 leading universities as an approved subject for the purposes of university entrance. Pupils who wish to study this subject at A Level in Belfast High School need to pursue it at GCSE.

Outline of syllabus

Assessment will involve answering **two** exam papers and **one** controlled assessment assignment. The examination topics assessed are:

1. Aspects of International Relations: The Inter-War Years, 1919 - 1939
2. A Study in depth: Germany, 1918-1945
3. British Depth Study: How did British society change, 1890 - 1918

Themes 1 and 2 will be assessed in Paper 1 (2 hours). Theme 3 will be assessed in Paper 2 (1½ hours). Both exam papers will test knowledge and understanding as well as the ability to handle (unseen) source material.

Outline of controlled assessment

Controlled assessment is a compulsory element of the GCSE History syllabus. Pupils will be required to write **one** assignment based on a unit of study on **The Cold War, 1945-1965**. The maximum length of the completed assignment is 2,000 words.

Timetable

The controlled assessment assignment will be taught over 8 weeks during which pupils can undertake their own research. When this time has elapsed pupils will be given the assignment question. From this point no new material can be used to answer the assignment. Pupils will then have **8 hours** to write up their assignment under controlled conditions in which they will have access to all notes and resources used during the 8 week teaching session. Work will be done in the Easter term of Year 12.

Marking

The controlled assessment task will be marked and moderated within the History Department. However, marks may be subject to change as external moderation is undertaken by OCR.

HOME ECONOMICS (Food and Nutrition)

Head of Department: Mrs M Lorimer

Exam Board: CCEA

Website: www.ccea.org.uk/home_economics/

Assessment: 40% Examination (Unit 1)
60% Controlled Assessment (Unit 2 = 40%, Unit 3 = 20%)

Outline of GCSE Course

The GCSE Home Economics specification is a unitised specification, which allows students the opportunity to complete any of the 3 units in the first year of teaching. The course offers opportunities to build on skills and capabilities developed through the KS3 Curriculum in NI. It allows students to progress from KS3 to A Level Home Economics and other subject related courses. The course is assessed through one written examination and 2 controlled assessment tasks. The content of Unit 1 is divided into 2 components - Diet and Health and Consumer Awareness. Topics included in the unit are:

Diet and Health

- What's on the plate?
- What's in food?
- What's on the label?
- Ages and stages
- Dietary disorders
- Special diets
- The facts behind the issues
- Keeping food safe
- Creativity and food

Consumer Awareness

- Being an effective consumer
- What influences shopping
- Money matters
- Wiser buyer

Unit 1 is assessed externally by a 1 hour 30 minute examination.

The examination has 2 sections, Diet and Health and Consumer Awareness. Short answers, structured and extended response questions are included in both sections. All questions are compulsory. There is a single tier entry. The unit carries a weighting of 40%.

Unit 2 comprises of a Controlled Assessment Task (similar to the old Coursework Assignment), which is assessed internally. It carries a weighting of 40%. It involves a planning activity, a practical activity and an evaluation activity.

Unit 3 comprises of a Controlled Assessment Task (similar to the old Coursework Assignment), which is assessed internally. It carries a weighting of 20%. It involves identification of issues, research-based activity, a primary investigation, conclusions and evaluation.

HOME ECONOMICS (Child Development)

Head of Department: Mrs M Lorimer

Exam Board: CCEA

Website: www.ccea.org.uk/home_economics/

Assessment: 40% Examination (Unit 1 - 20% and Unit 2 - 20%)
60% Controlled Assessment (Unit 3 - 40%, Unit 4 - 20%)

Outline of GCSE Course

The GCSE Home Economics: Child Development specification is a unitised specification, which allows students the opportunity to complete a unit in the first year of teaching. The course offers opportunities to build on skills and capabilities developed through the Key Stage 3 Curriculum in NI. It allows students to progress from Key Stage 3 to A Level Home Economics and other subject related courses at a more advanced level.

The course is assessed through two written examinations and two controlled assessment tasks. The written papers are worth 40% of the overall marks. They are made up of short answer, structured, stimulus response and free-response questions. The controlled assessment tasks (coursework tasks) are worth 60% of the overall marks.

The content of **Unit 1 is Parenthood, pregnancy and childbirth**

- Parenthood and responsibilities
- Pregnancy
- Healthy diet and lifestyle
- Birth

It is assessed externally by a one hour examination. It carries a weighting of 20%.

The content of **Unit 2 is Child Development (0-5 years)**

- The newborn baby
- Physical development of the child up to five years old
- Intellectual development of the child up to five years old
- The social and emotional development of the child up to five years old
- Childcare provision
- Sources of support available
- Safety, first aid and childhood diseases
- Choosing clothing and shoes for young children
- Weaning and dietary needs of the child

It is assessed externally by a one hour examination. It carries a weighting of 20%.

Unit 3 comprises of a Controlled Assessment Task, which is assessed internally. It involves a task analysis activity, research-based activity, planning and carrying out primary investigation and evaluation activity. It carries a weighting of 40%.

Unit 4 comprises of a Controlled Assessment Task, which is assessed internally. It involves a research-based activity, planning activity, practical activity and evaluation activity. It carries a weighting of 20%.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Head of Department:	Mrs E Addis
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk/ICT
Assessment:	60% controlled assessment

This CCEA GCSE (Full Course) specification aims to encourage students to:

- become independent and discerning users of ICT who can make informed decisions about its use and are aware of its implications for individuals, organisations and society;
- acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT in a range of contexts;
- develop ICT-based solutions to solve problems;
- develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and the social and commercial impact of these technologies;
- develop their understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental issues raised by ICT;
- recognise potential risks when using ICT, and develop safe, secure and responsible practice;
- develop the skills needed to work collaboratively; and evaluate ICT-based solutions.

Assessment takes the form of 1 written examination paper which is worth 40% of the overall marks and 5 practical Controlled Assessment Tasks, which are set by CCEA. The assignments are worth 60% of the total marks. Students will complete the following units:

- **Unit 1: Tools and Applications** which includes the use of a Relational Database, Spreadsheet and design of a Multimedia Production
- **Unit 2: Using Multimedia and Games Technology** which includes the design of a Games programme and the creation of a Website
- **Unit 3: Theory:** Understanding ICT Systems in Everyday Life and Its Implications for Individuals, Organisations, Society and the Wider World

LATIN

Head of Department:	Mrs I Bredin
Exam Board:	OCR
Website:	www.ocr.org.uk/latin/newgcse/
Assessment:	100% examination

The GCSE Latin course is a continuation of the Cambridge Latin Course which is studied in Years 8 - 10. The aims of the GCSE course are to

- Develop skills in the Latin language;
- Read, understand and make a personal response to selected works of Latin literature in prose and poetry by Roman authors such as Caesar, Pliny, Tacitus and Virgil;
- Develop an awareness of the influence of the language, culture and history of the Romans on our own languages and civilisation today.

Vocabulary and grammar which are learned in Years 8 - 10 form the basis of GCSE work; most of the GCSE word list will have already been learned and further grammar work in Years 11 and 12 will raise pupils' skills to GCSE standard.

Pupils will learn to approach language and literature in a sensitive and appreciative way. In addition the customs, achievements and significance of Roman civilisation will be studied within the selected texts, enabling pupils to evaluate evidence and draw comparisons between the ancient world and later times. Texts are chosen by the OCR exam board which will interest pupils. For example, in 2009 - 2011, possible texts which can be studied include the last night of the Trojan War, as told by Virgil in his poem The Aeneid, and "Passions and Poisons", stories about the Roman emperors and other badly-behaved Roman men and women.

There are four units in the syllabus and the final examination consists of four papers, two of which test language skills, and two which test the set texts that have been studied. Any vocabulary not learned directly in class will be given to pupils in the language units. A Roman civilisation topic is also available as an alternative for one of the set texts. There is a clear progression to AS/A2 Latin.

There are many careers pathways for pupils who take Latin GCSE. Our pupils have followed university courses in Classics, Chemistry, Computing, Dentistry, English, History, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Modern Languages, Nursing, Philosophy, Physiotherapy, Political Studies and Computing. Some have found Latin to be an advantage in their university applications.

Pupils taking the subject at GCSE and A Level have achieved much success. In 2005 pupils from Belfast High School gained 1st place in Northern Ireland at A Level and 2nd place in Northern Ireland at GCSE, under the AQA syllabus. We now use the OCR syllabus which does not publish placements in their exams.

MATHEMATICS

Head of Department: Mrs K Sherwin

Exam Board: CCEA

Website: www.ccea.org.uk

Assessment: 100% examination

- A relevant, up-to-date and stimulating course, providing a sound basis for further study of Mathematics and related study at a more advanced level.
- All pupils follow the High Level course in the recently introduced 2-Tier GCSE which allows students to achieve grades A* to D.
- The course is assessed through 2 written papers which cover Using and Applying Mathematics, Number, Algebra, Shape, Space & Measures and Handling Data. The Completion paper contains non-calculator work.
- One module is examined at the end of Year 11 and the Completion Paper is in June of Year 12.

Additional Mathematics

The Additional Mathematics syllabus is intended to broaden the experience of those students who are capable of working beyond the limits of GCSE Mathematics and who are keen to study Mathematics or Physics at A Level.

The course enables pupils to develop mathematical skills by considering and solving problems related to the world around them. It enhances their appreciation of the interrelationship between different areas of mathematics and allows them to gain a greater understanding of the principles on which mathematical topics are based, developing their ability to reason logically, to classify, to generalise and to prove.

Assessment takes the form of 2 written papers:

Paper 1 covers Pure Mathematics such as algebraic manipulation, matrices, logarithms, trigonometry and calculus.

Paper 2 covers Mechanics and Statistics such as vectors, Newton's Laws, moments, motion of connected bodies, probability, Time Series and Bivariate analysis.

A limited number of pupils are given the opportunity to study Additional Maths as a 10th subject. There is also a class for those who will choose it as one of their 9 GCSEs.

MOTOR VEHICLE AND ROAD USER STUDIES

Head of Department:	Mrs S Seffen
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk/mvrus
Assessment:	60% Controlled Assessment (Investigative study 30%, Practical Activity 30%)

General Information

Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies helps you to develop as an informed and responsible road user. It provides you with the opportunity to progress to vocational training and employment. It also helps you to prepare for driver training and the driving test.

Why Study Motor Vehicle and Road Users Studies?

- Gain an interest in and appreciation of the motor vehicle.
- Develop an awareness of the interaction of the road user, the environment and the vehicle.
- Develop a respect for the safety of road users.
- Learn to act decisively and positively at the scene of an accident.
- Acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the use of a powered vehicle.
- Develop an understanding of the mathematical, scientific and technological principle of motor vehicles.
- Acquire a range of manipulative and communicative skills.

What Will I Study?

Vehicle Control and Road User Behaviour

This unit explores the driver and pedestrian's safe use of the road and demonstrates how this is a combination of many factors.

Legal Requirements

This unit covers the important legal requirements of driving and owning a vehicle.

Road Transport and its effect on Society

This unit explores the background to modern road systems and traffic law.

Motoring Mathematics

This unit addresses the financial implications of owning and driving a motor vehicle.

Accident Procedures

This unit deals with the procedures recommended in the event of a road traffic collision.

Motor Vehicle Technology

This unit explores a motorist's responsibility for maintenance and care of a vehicle. You will gain basic knowledge of vehicle systems and safety precautions. You will be able to recognise component parts of vehicle systems and understand and know the checks and safety precautions you need for safe road use.

How Will I Be Assessed?

There is one external assessment worth 40% and 2 controlled assessment tasks each worth 30%.

Type of Assessment

Motor Vehicle and Road User Theory

Foundation Tier: 1 hour 30 minutes examination paper

Higher Tier: 2 hours examination paper

This external assessment is worth 40% of the overall GCSE qualification.

Investigative Study

The study will involve about 10 hours work and a maximum of 2000 words. It will include an investigation and collection of data, the preparation of analysis and interpretation of results and a conclusion. This controlled assessment is worth 30% of the overall GCSE qualification.

Practical Moped Riding

This will allow you to demonstrate your skills of vehicle control and road craft. This controlled assessment is worth 30% of the overall GCSE qualification.

More Information

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies. These include:

- CCEA Microsite - www.ccea.org.uk/MVRUS
- Speak to Mrs Seffen

MUSIC

Head of Department:	Mr S Cairns
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk/music
Assessment:	60% controlled assessment

Outline of course:

Composing and appraising:

Students must create **2** contrasting compositions and keep a composition log for each. **One** of these will be related to the core or an optional area of study.

Weighting: 30%

Performing and appraising:

Students will prepare for one solo and one ensemble performance. For solo performance the highest marks are available to students performing music of Grade 4 standard or above.

Weighting: 35%

Listening and appraising:

Core Area of Study: Repeated Patterns in Music

Optional Areas of Study (2 out of the 3 are studied):

1. Musical Traditions in Ireland
2. Incidental Music
3. Vocal Music

Weighting: 35%

Students will work on developing compositional skills throughout Years 11 and 12.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Head of Department: Miss S Moffett/Mr M Rainey

Exam Board: AQA

Website: www.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/science/new/phy_edu_overview.php

Assessment: 60% Controlled Assessment and 40% examination

The GCSE PE course follows on from the KS3 Physical Education programme of study by providing students with exciting opportunities to lead a healthy and active lifestyle by choosing from a variety of roles and activities in which to participate in physical activity.

The content of this GCSE Physical Education specification is designed to enable the students to enjoy and understand the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle; to provide a route to Further Education awards such as A levels or the new diplomas and to Higher Education in PE as well as to related career opportunities.

This exciting specification in PE will offer a Single Award course that will be followed by all pupils in Year 11. Some pupils may then have the opportunity in Year 12, after consultation with the PE staff to extend this into a Double Award exam.

The style of the question paper in the full course has been designed to include a mixture of multiple choice questions, some structured questions and extended written answer questions set in response to a pre released scenario. We believe this will be accessible and appealing to all students.

Practical Section

Students can be examined in a range of practical activities including

Hockey	Rugby	Golf	Tennis
Netball	Lifesaving	Badminton	Basketball
Cricket	Football	Squash	Table Tennis
Swimming	Gymnastics	Dance	Canoeing
Athletics	Trampolining	Cycling	Horse Riding Skiing
Orienteering	Cross Country	Hill walking	

(many others are also available in the syllabus)

Pupils must participate in at least one school sport as part of this section

They may choose from the following ways to participate:

Player/Performer

Organiser

Leader/Coach

Choreographer

Official

Theory Section

- **Health, Fitness and a Healthy Lifestyle**
- **Aspects of Training** – principles, environment, diet and the training year
- **School Influences to Sport** – Healthy Eating, Physical Activities and Extra Curricular provision
- **Emotional Health and Wellbeing**
- **Cultural and Social Factors** – Leisure Time, Social Groupings and Social Responsibility
- **Opportunities for Becoming or Remaining Involved in Physical Activities**
- **International and Other Factors** – The Media, Sponsorship and Competitions
Health & Safety, Science & ICT and Role Models.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Full Course

Head of Department:	Mrs J Barkley
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk (RS microsite)
Assessment:	100% examination

Pupils will study 2 modules.

There will be no coursework.

ASSESSMENT:

Two externally assessed written papers, 1 hour 30 minutes each.

MODULES:

Christianity through a Study of Matthew (text based)

and

An Introduction to Christian Ethics

Short Course

One paper: Ethics

This is completed in one period a week by the whole Year group.

SCIENCE

Heads of Department: Biology: Mr I Campbell
Chemistry: Dr M Jordan
Physics: Dr K Gibson

http://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/support/spec-changes/gcse/gcse_sciences.asp

It is compulsory in Belfast High School for all pupils to study Science up to GCSE. The options available are as follows:

DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE (Modular)

Examination Board: CCEA
Website: www.ccea.org.uk

- Worth 2 GCSEs. Pupils will be able to receive 2 different grades in their double award qualification, such as AB or BC.
- 9 periods per week (3 for each subject)
- Modular (3 x 1 hour modules taken in Year 11 - 33% of GCSE). Terminal examinations (3 x 1 hr 15 mins examinations taken in Year 12 - 42% of GCSE).
- Controlled Assessment (two tasks from different subject areas within the specification – 25%).
- AS and A2 Science possible if good grades are achieved.

SUBJECT CONTENT

BIOLOGY (DA)

Biology Unit 1: Investigating Ecology; Classification, Biodiversity & Populations

Ecological, Relationships and Energy Flow; Human Activity and Its Effects on the Environment; Photosynthesis and Plants; Nutrition and Health; Digestion; Breathing and Respiratory System; Nervous System and Hormones;

Biology Unit 2: Osmosis and Plant Transport

Osmosis and Plant Transport; Circulatory System; Micro-organisms; Defence against Disease, Medicines and Drugs, Micro-organisms; Drugs; Chromosomes, Genes and DNA; Cell Division and Genetics; Reproduction, Fertility and Contraception; Applied Genetics, Variation and Selection,

CHEMISTRY (DA)

Chemistry Unit 1 (C1): Structures, Trends and Chemical Reactions.

Hazard symbols; Elements, Compounds and Mixtures; Periodic Table; Water, Solubility and Solubility Curves; Atomic Structure, Bonding and Structures; Equations; Acids, Bases and Salts; Electrolysis.

Chemistry Unit 2 (C2): Further Chemical Reactions, Organic Chemistry and Materials.

Reactivity Series of Metals; Rusting, Oxidation and Reduction; Hard and Soft Water; Quantitative Chemistry; Rates of Reaction; Energetics; Non-Metals and Non-Metal Compounds (Hydrogen, Carbon, Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen and Ammonia, Oxygen and Sulphur); Organic Chemistry.

PHYSICS (DA)

Physics Unit 1 (P1) - Forces and Motion, Energy, Moments and Radioactivity

Motion, Mass, weight and density, Momentum, Forms and resources, efficiency, work and power, Principle of moments, centre of gravity, Structure of the atom, types of radiation, Nuclear fission and fusion.

Physics Unit 2 (P2) - Waves, Sound and Light, Electricity and Earth and Universe

Waves, Sound, Light, Electromagnetic, Spectrum, Statics, Electric Circuits, Ohm's Law, Household electricity, Electromagnetic Induction, Generation and Transmission of Electricity, Solar System, Stars, Gravitation, Universe, Big Bang, Structure of the Earth

Double Award Science is recommended for those who want to keep the A-level door open but are not certain if they will proceed to A level.

SINGLE SUBJECTS/TRIPLE AWARD (Non-modular) eg Biology, Chemistry, Physics

- Worth one GCSE
- Individual grades eg Chemistry A, Biology A, Physics B
- 5 periods per week of each subject
- AS and A2 definitely possible

BIOLOGY Content

As for Double Award with some topics extended slightly and an additional section on Microbiology.

Examination Board: CCEA

Website: www.ccea.org.uk

- Two Written Examinations:- One 1 hour 30 mins (35% of GCSE) and one 1 hour 45 mins (40% of GCSE) in Year 12
- Controlled Assessment (one task – 25% of GCSE) in Year 12

CHEMISTRY Content

As for Double Award with some topics slightly extended and additional sections on Ion Identification and Volumetric Analysis.

Examination Board: CCEA

Website: www.ccea.org.uk

- Two Written Examinations:- One 1 hour 30 mins (35% of GCSE) and one 1 hour 45 mins (40% of GCSE) in Year 12
- Controlled Assessment (one task – 25% of GCSE) in Year 12

PHYSICS Content

As for Double Award with some topics slightly extended and additional sections on Lenses, Electromagnets and Magnetism.

Examination Board: CCEA

Website: www.ccea.org.uk

- Two Written Examinations:- One 1 hour 30 mins (35% of GCSE) and one 1 hour 45 mins (40% of GCSE) in Year 12
- Controlled Assessment (one task – 25% of GCSE) in Year 12

GCSE ADDITIONAL APPLIED SCIENCE

Exam Board AQA

Website: www.sciencelab.org.uk/resourcezone/additionalapplied.php

This is a single award vocational GCSE which includes aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in an applied setting. Applied science does not allow progression to A levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics but is a good foundation for A level Applied Science.

2 Units of work:

1. Science at work

Written paper 1 hour worth 40%. The topics covered are

Following standard procedures

Health and Safety at Work

The use of science in maintaining health and fitness

The use of science to develop materials for specific purposes

The use of science in food production

The use of science in analysis and detection

2. How Scientists use Practical Techniques

A controlled assessment based on 2 assignments worth 60%. This is investigating the work of scientists and how they use science.

SPANISH

Head of Department:	Ms A Cochrane
Exam Board:	CCEA
Website:	www.ccea.org.uk/spanish
Assessment:	60% controlled assessment and 40% examination

Outline of course:

In studying this course you will:

- develop knowledge of the language and language learning skills;
- develop an understanding of Spanish in a variety of contexts;
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in Spanish;
- develop awareness and understanding of Spanish-speaking communities; and
- gain a basis for further study and practical use of Spanish.

What you will study

The Individual

- relationships (families and friends)
- the local environment
- daily routine and leisure activities
- health and lifestyle

Citizenship

- environmental and social issues
- travel and tourism
- media and communications
- festivals and customs

Employability

- school life
- part time jobs
- future plans

How you will be tested

Unit 1 Speaking

Controlled assessment

You will prepare and complete 2 tasks under supervision. Teachers mark the assessments and they are sent to CCEA for moderation.

Unit 2 Writing

Controlled assessment

You will prepare and complete 2 tasks under supervision. CCEA marks these assessments.

Unit 3 Listening

External assessment

You will sit one externally assessed written paper lasting 45 minutes (Higher Tier). You will hear stimulus material in Spanish, recorded by native speakers, and your responses will include selection, gap filling and answering some questions in English.

Unit 4 Reading

External assessment

You will sit one externally assessed written paper lasting 50 minutes (Higher Tier). There will be stimulus material of various lengths on a range of topics in Spanish and your responses will include selection, gap filling and short answers in Spanish, and some answers in English.

The CCEA microsite for Languages provides lots of advice and information including recordings of sample speaking tests. The address is www.ccea.org.uk/languages/.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

Head of Department: Mrs D McNeill

GCSE Exam Board: CCEA

Web link: www.ccea.org.uk/technology/

Assessment: 40% examination and 60% controlled assessment

This subject continues the work which you have been doing at KS3, increasing your knowledge of systems and control and developing your graphical and manufacturing skills. You do not have to have studied Technology & Design in Year 10 to choose it as a GCSE subject and you can continue to study this subject through to AS and A2 level.

Why study Technology & Design?

Do you want to:

- create your own working product
- work with tools and machines
- use graphics, and other methods to communicate your design ideas
- make links between products and the impact they have on daily life
- develop your decision making skills
- gain insight into related sectors such as manufacturing and engineering and the career paths they have to offer

Students studying Technology and Design can go on to study in the fields of engineering, medical technology, teaching, design, architecture, graphic design and DTP.

Assessment

Year 11

Unit 1 – Technology and Design Core – one hour examination assessing manufacturing, electronics, mechanical control systems, computer control systems and pneumatic systems and control. (Weighting = 20%)

Unit 4 – Controlled Assessment - Design Assignment – 8 hours to complete preparation and research into a theme set by CCEA, followed by 5 hours, in class, to complete their design work on a maximum of four A3 design sheets. (Weighting = 20%)

Year 12

Unit 2 – Systems and Control – one hour examination assessing Electronic and Microelectronic Control Systems. (Weighting = 20%)

Unit 5 – Design Project – Controlled Assessment – Design Project – 5 hours to complete preparation and research, followed by 12.5 hours to produce a design portfolio and 12.5 hours to produce their manufactured product or system. (Weighting = 40%)

CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

During 2011-13 GCSE students, as well as preparing for examinations, will also be completing Controlled Assessments in a majority of their subjects.

Controlled Assessments are formal internal assessments which contribute to the final GCSE result. These will take place within the normal teaching timetable under the formal supervision of your child's teacher. Controlled assessments are therefore different from the minority of subjects which continue to do coursework, as coursework is often undertaken at home without formal supervision.

It is imperative that your son/daughter attends the scheduled Controlled Assessments and observes all regulations while completing assessments. Belfast High School has to abide by the regulations established by the relevant awarding bodies.

The school has a discrete website for Controlled Assessment which can be accessed via the 'Parents and Pupils' section of the main school website (www.belfasthigh.co.uk) or by using the following web address: www.bhs.typepad.com/controlled_assessment . This website contains a summary of Controlled Assessment, the school's Controlled Assessment policy, links to the exam boards, frequently asked questions and, importantly, an overview at the start of each month of which Controlled Assessments will be taking place in school during the month. I would advise you to access the website on a regular basis. Heads of Subjects within school will also be sending out relevant information about specific Controlled Assessments in their subject a few weeks in advance of the tests.

A calendar outlining the likely times of Controlled Assessments for each subject is enclosed. Please note that this calendar remains provisional and times may have to be altered if circumstances necessitate this.

Mrs L F Gormley
Principal



Belfast High School Provisional GCSE Controlled Assessment Calendar

**As Controlled Assessments will be scheduled during class time, attendance is very important.
All Controlled Assessments should be completed using black ink unless otherwise indicated by the teacher.**

Subject	Controlled Assessment?	Course-work?	Timing of Controlled Assessment / Coursework
Additional Mathematics (CCEA)	No	No	Not applicable.
Applied Science (AQA)	No	Yes	Throughout the 2 years of the course
Art & Design (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Years 11 and 12: Core Portfolio – throughout year (60%) Year 12: Working to a Stimulus - from January to April (40%)
Biology (CCEA)	Yes	No	TBC **
Business Studies (CCEA)	Yes = 25%	No	Year 12 from January - March
Chemistry (CCEA)	Yes	No	TBC **
Child Development (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 in May and June Year 12 from October - February
Classical Civilisation (AQA)	Yes = 25%	No	Year 12 in December
Double Award Science	Yes	No	TBC **
Electronics (WJEC)	Yes = 25%	No	TBC
English Language	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 in October - November and April.
English Literature (CCEA)	Yes = 25%	No	Year 12 in December
French (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 Writing in May Year 11 Speaking in June Year 12 Writing in January Year 12 Speaking in February - March
Geography (CCEA)	Yes = 25%	No	Year 12 in November
German (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 12 Writing in September - October and March Year 12 Speaking in November/December and April
Greek (OCR)	No	No	Not applicable.
History (OCR)	Yes = 25%	No	Year 12 from January - April
Home Economics (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 in May and June Year 12 from October - February
ICT (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 ICT in October, November and March
Latin (OCR)	No	No	Not applicable.
Mathematics (CCEA)	No	No	Not applicable.
Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 from January - April Year 12 from January - April
Music (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 in January Year 12 from October - December
Physical Education (AQA)	Yes = 60%	No	Throughout the 2 years of the course
Physics (CCEA)	Yes	No	TBC **
Religious Studies (CCEA)	No	No	Not applicable.
Spanish (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 Speaking in March Year 12 Writing in October and February Year 12 Speaking in December and March
Technology & Design (CCEA)	Yes = 60%	No	Year 11 in January and February Year 12 from November- March

** at the time of writing the Science specifications for GCSE for September 2011 have yet to be approved by the Joint Curriculum and Qualifications Authority.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please consult the School's Controlled Assessment Policy in the Resources section of the Controlled Assessment website for a comprehensive overview of arrangements, processes and procedures.

What is Controlled Assessment?

It is a formal internal assessment which will count as part of the final GCSE result. Levels of control have been set for each assessment stage (task setting, task taking and task marking) and have been defined by QCA (the Qualification and Curriculum Authority) for all examination boards. Controlled Assessment tasks have a time guidance which should be adhered to.

All examination boards have issued time guidance for the completion of Controlled Assessments. These will be scheduled into class time and therefore attendance is very important. Key dates and deadlines will be sent home to parents / guardians. If your child is ill and is likely to miss a Controlled Assessment, it is important that school is notified on the first day of illness using the school absence hotline 028 90 867126.

When will Controlled Assessments be delivered?

Each subject has planned the delivery window or dates when Controlled Assessments in their subject will take place. These have been staggered across the three terms to minimise pressure on your child as much as possible. The calendar can be found in the Resources section of this website. Upcoming Controlled Assessments can be found on the Monthly Calendar page of this website. Please note that the Controlled Assessment calendar remains provisional and times may have to be altered if circumstances necessitate this.

Where will Controlled Assessments take place?

Controlled Assessments are designed to take place in school within the normal timetable.

What is the Controlled Assessment process?

The Controlled Assessment process has three stages in each subject:

- task Setting
- task Taking
- task Marking

For each of the above stages, different levels of control are possible. These are defined as:

- high
- medium
- low / limited

What about the use of ICT and the security of pupils' work?

The use of ICT is at the discretion of each Head of Subject. If ICT use is permitted during Controlled Assessments, pupils are not permitted to access their work between Controlled Assessment sessions. Pupils are not permitted to save work on USB devices and to bring these home. Breaches of these regulations can be interpreted as cheating and pupils will be informed of the possible consequences.