

Option Choices in Year 10 Commencing June 2017



How have GCSEs changed?

Changes made by the Government which affect students

- GCSEs have been reformed with new courses and a new grading system (9-1 with 9 being highest have replaced A*-G grades)
- Maths, English Language and English Literature were reformed in 2015, most other courses in 2016, and the final two subjects (Technology & Business) in 2017
- The new courses are more demanding, and most have more examinations at the end of the course (replacing controlled assessments and coursework in some - not all - cases)

Which qualifications count?



English

Double-weighted*



Maths

Double-weighted



EBacc qualifications

(sciences, computer science, geography,
history and languages)



'Open group'

**Remaining EBacc qualifications and
other approved qualifications**

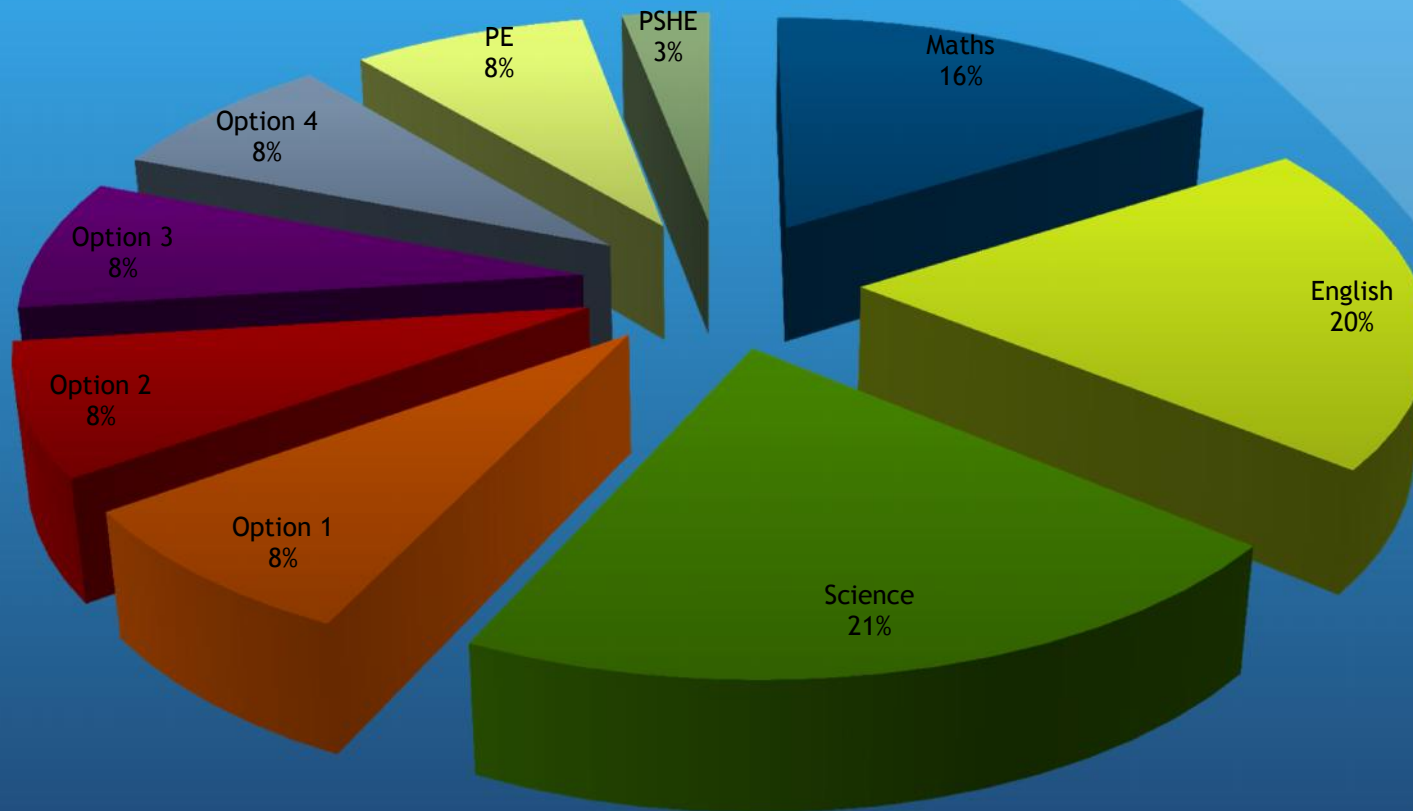
(GCSEs and other approved academic, arts or vocational
qualifications)

**Higher score of English Language or English Literature
double-weighted if a student has taken both qualifications*

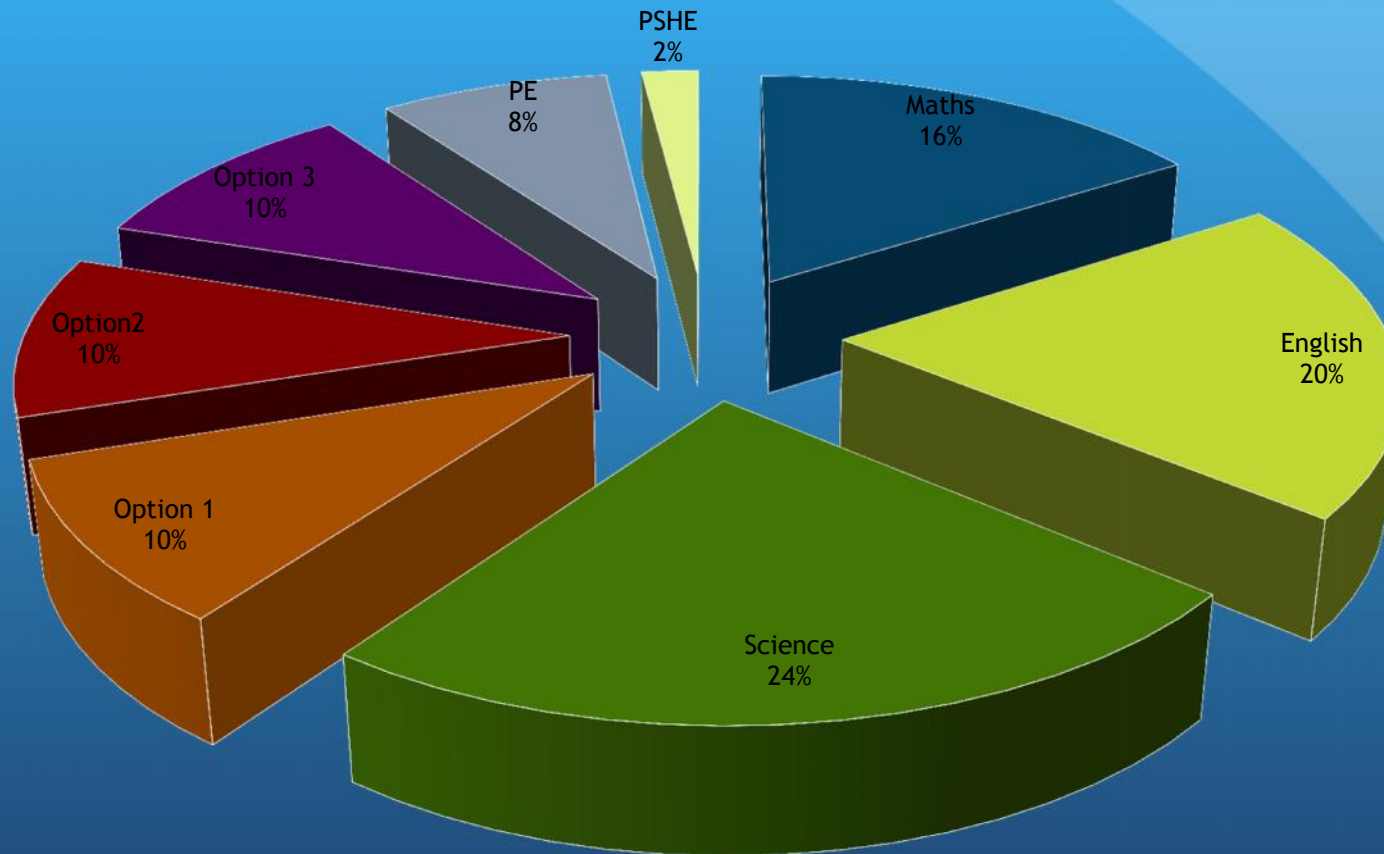
**Since 2016 students have
taken 3 option subjects
(previously they took 4
with less time allocated to
each subject)**

**Allocating 25 hours per
week between subjects...**

Curriculum Time: 2015-2017



Curriculum Time: 2016 and beyond



How have exams changed?

	2016		2018	
Subject	Exam Papers	% of total marks	Exam Papers	% of total marks
Maths	1 x 1½ hours 1 x 2 hours	100%	3 x 1½ hours	100%
English Lang	2 x 1 hour	60%	1 x 1¾ hours 1 x 2 hours	100%
English Lit	2 x 2 hours	75%	1 x 1¾ hours 1 x 2¼ hours	100%
Physics	3 x 1 hour	75%	2 x 1¾ hours	100%
Chemistry	3 x 1 hour	75%	2 x 1¾ hours	100%
Biology	3 x 1 hour	75%	2 x 1¾ hours	100%
History	1 x 2 hours 1 x 1½ hours	75%	2 x 1¾ hours	100%
PE	2 x 1 hour	50%	2 x 1 hour	60%
Drama	0 hours	0%	1 x 1½ hours	40%
Geography	2 x 1¼ hours 1 x 1½ hours	75%	3 x 1½ hours	100%
Total	22 papers 28 hours	66%	21 papers 34¼ hours	90%

Progression opportunities in the Sixth Form

Progression to A Level

- 48% of all the A Level options taken in 2015 were core subjects (English, Maths and Science)
- 13% of all the options taken in 2015 were in subjects not offered at GCSE level (e.g. Psychology, Sociology)
- 9% of all the options taken in 2015 were in subjects where previous study of the course was not a prerequisite
- So, **70%** of all the A Level subjects taken in 2015 were NOT dependent on GCSE option choices

**Quality over quantity...
How many GCSEs do you
actually need...?**

Changes over time...

1981 Gateshead

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Drama

Geography

History

Computing

Religious Studies

8 O Levels

2003 - many schools

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Science

Science

French

Technology

Art

BTEC Health/Social

12 GCSEs or equivalent

2016 Gosforth

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Biology

Physics

Chemistry

French

History

Geography

Textiles

10 GCSEs

2015 (2016 data not published until 19th Jan)	Low Attainers Ave GCSEs taken	Middle Attainers Ave GCSEs taken	Higher Attainers Ave GCSEs taken
QEHS	7.4	9.0	10.2
<i>Average Grade</i>	E-	C+	A-
WBHS	8.7	8.8	9.5
<i>Average Grade</i>	D	C	B+
All Saints Academy	N/A	10.6	11.5
<i>Average Grade</i>		C-	B
Emmanuel College	8.3	10.5	11.6
<i>Average Grade</i>	D+	C+	B+
Carmel College	7.8	10.4	10.7
<i>Average Grade</i>	D-	C+	B
QEHS 2017-2019	8	8.5	9

How much choice....?

2015 RGS		2017 QEHS	
English Language		English Language	
English Literature		English Literature	
Maths		Maths	
Biology		Biology	
Chemistry	Option subjects (students choose three)	Chemistry	
Physics	Ancient History	Physics	
Language	Art	E-Bacc subject	
Choice from	Design and Technology	Choice from	
Choice from	Drama	Choice from	
Choice from	Economics		
10 GCSEs	Geography		
	German		
	Greek		
	History		
	Latin		
	Music		
	Spanish		

Option Subjects	E-Bacc Options
Art and Design: Fine Art	
Art: Graphic Communication	
Art: Textile Design	
Business	
Computer Science	
Dance	
Design and Technology	
Drama	
Geography	
Health and Social Care	
History	
IT: Certificate in Digital Applications	
Languages: French	
Languages: German	
Languages: Latin	
Languages: Spanish	
Music	
Performing Arts	
Physical Education	
Religious Studies	
Sport	

Making the right choices

Timeline

Date	Event
15 th December 2016	Presentation to students to explain the process & listen to the experience of other students
12 th January '17	Options evening (parents only) at 7.30pm
13 th January '17	Year 9 reports published
8 th - 16 th March	Individual interviews for each student & their parents
5 th June	Start of Year 10 and new timetable

The curriculum in Years 10 & 11



Option choices

E-Bacc Options: you must choose at least one of these	Other option subjects: you can choose a maximum of 2 of these subjects	
Computer Science	Art: Fine Art	Health & Social Care
French	Art: Graphic Communication	IT
Geography		Music
German	Art: Textiles	Performing Arts
History	Business Studies	PE (GCSE)
Latin	Dance	Religious Studies
Spanish	Design & Technology	Sport
	Drama	

A word about:

- Food Technology
- Design and Technology

What should students think about when making their choices?

- Their strengths and interests
 - See the January report
 - Think about how the course is assessed (exams/coursework)
- Future plans
- Progression into the 6th form
 - A Levels have been reformed too - students take 3 subjects in the sixth form now
 - Entry onto many 6th form courses will depend on the average grade achieved across your 8 or 9 subjects so students should choose the subjects they will enjoy and do best at

Case Studies

Student 1		Student 2		Student 3	
English Lang	5	English Lang	4	English Lang	8
English Lit	4	English Lit	5	English Lit	9
Maths	4	Maths	7	Maths	6
Combined Sci	4	Biology	6	Combined Sci	5
Combined Sci	4	Chemistry	6	Combined Sci	5
Art	8	Physics	6	French	8
Geography	6	German	7	Religious Stud	8
French	3	H&SC	Dist	Performing Arts	Dist*
		PE (GCSE)	7		
APS	4.75	APS	5.5	APS	6.4

Option Blocks

There are 5 blocks and you must choose one subject in each block

Choices	Option A	✓	Option B	✓	Option C	✓	Option D	✓	Option E	✓
Choose 1	English								English	
Choose 1	PE (Core)		PE (Core)				PE (GCSE Practical)		PE (Core)	
Choose at least one (you can choose more than one if you like)	History		French		Computer Science		French		Geography	
			Geography		French		Geography		History	
			German		German		History			
			History		Geography		Spanish			
			Latin		History					
Choose to complete remaining option blocks	Fine Art		Business		Dance		Business		Fine Art	
	PE (GCSE Theory)		Design & Technology		Design & Technology		Design & Technology		PE (GCSE Theory)	
			Drama		Graphic Communication		Drama			
			Graphic Communication		Health & Social Care		Fine Art			
			IT		PE (GCSE Theory)		Music			
			Music		Religious Studies		Religious Studies			
			Performing Arts		Sport					
					Textile Design					

Making appropriate choices: Questions I have asked the students

- Do you know the differences between the three art subjects?
- GCSE PE or OCR Sport - what is the difference? Can you take both?
- Performing Arts, Music, Dance, Drama or more than one?
- Have you read enough about the new subjects on offer (Business Studies, Health and Social Care)?
- Which language? French, German, Spanish or Latin
- Which Humanity - Geography, History, Religious Studies or more than one?

I have asked the students to:

- Read the brochure carefully
- Talk with their parents
- Look at their Year 9 report on e-portal
- Read the assessment section on the options pages carefully and think about whether they want:
 - Breadth - 3 different subjects
 - Specialisation - 2 or 3 similar subjects, playing to their strengths
 - Coursework and practical work in their option subjects
- They *must* look at the option form prior to their interview and make some provisional choices