



**TRINITY  
ACADEMY**

## **Your Passport to the Future**

### **Choosing your GCSE Subjects**





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# Our Mission

**Our mission at Trinity is to create a world-class school. As such, we expect that all members of our community seek to become the best version of themselves, developing Head, Heart and Soul. Our students will ultimately be successfully and happily employed in a career with prospects, as well as being citizens with a burning passion to serve their communities.**

We are so proud of the achievements of our students and believe that they have a very strong foundation of learning from which to make their GCSE choices. GCSEs are clearly important for the mission of the school and for the life-chances of your child. We want our students to make ambitious choices and to achieve +1 outcomes – this means getting a grade higher than if they were attending an 'average' school – and to ultimately have access to the sixth form courses of their choice, the most prestigious universities and highest quality apprenticeships as a result.

As we continue to care for your child, we will fully support them as they make their decisions and start public examination courses.

**Mr E Bailey**  
Headteacher  
[ebailey@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:ebailey@trinityacademybristol.org)



## About our curriculum

In Years 10 and 11, all students will continue to study towards the English language, English Literature and Mathematics GCSEs. Students will also work towards either the Combined Science (worth two GCSEs) or Triple Science GCSEs. Students do not elect which science course they study – instead it is through a consultation between home and school, led by the Science Department. A further four GCSE subjects are selected from the two GCSE blocks shown below:

### Block One – Choose **one** from...

Geography

History

### Block Two – Choose **three** from...

Art & Design

Computer Science

Dance

Design & Technology

Drama

Food Technology

Geography

History

Music

Religious Education

Spanish

Sport Science

## Options evening

Making informed decisions is crucial to the GCSE options process.

On **Thursday 13th January 2022** we will host our Year 9 Options Evening – where parents can discuss options with members of Trinity staff. Details of this event will be circulated to parents in due course. This will be followed by a parents' evening on **Wednesday 9th February 2022** – where parents and

students can discuss choices further with class teachers. Final option choices will need to be submitted by **Friday 18th February 2022.**

**Dr W Nottingham**  
Deputy Headteacher  
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# General Guidance for Choosing GCSEs

Helping your child choose the right GCSE options can feel overwhelming and it is not always obvious what options your child should take. Here is our helpful guide we use to direct students to make the right decisions:

- Don't rush and choose your options early. We have deliberately given students several weeks to consider and discuss the possibilities.
- Don't choose your subjects based on a career your child thinks they want to do. Our GCSE offer is ambitious and we only offer high-quality GCSEs that are recognised by all employers. There is no combination of subjects that will make you less employable.
- Don't choose subjects you think a university is looking for. All universities recognise the GCSEs we offer. There is no combination of subjects that are more attractive to a university than others.

- Choose the subjects that interest your child. Interest and engagement in a subject is a key feature of success.
- Know what taking a subject entails. Find out what topics the subject covers and how it is assessed.

## **Mr J Mckenzie**

*Deputy Head of Phase*

*[jdavis-mckenzie@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:jdavis-mckenzie@trinityacademybristol.org)*



A photograph of several students in a classroom. In the foreground, a girl with long dark hair and a purple school tie is looking down at a book. Next to her, a girl wearing a black hijab and a grey school jacket is also looking at a book. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at their books and others looking towards the camera. The classroom has large windows in the background showing trees outside.

# English Language

## Exam Board

AQA

## Assessment

**Paper 1:** Fiction – Reading and Writing – 50%

**Paper 2:** Non-Fiction – Reading and Writing – 50%

**Paper 3:** Spoken Language Qualification (stand alone non-examined assessment)

## Head of Department

**Robin Rudd**

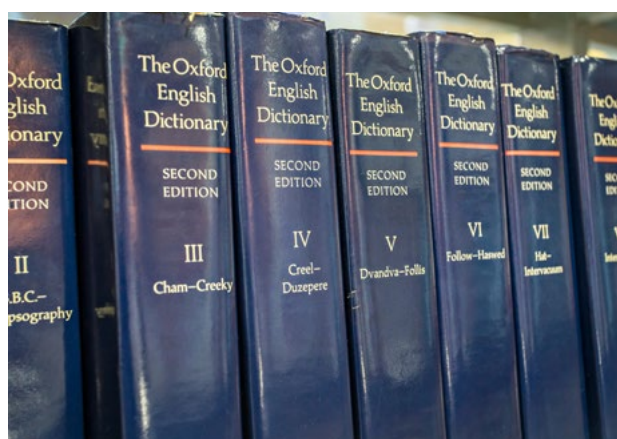
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The English Language GCSE course is designed to ensure that students are able to read and understand a range of complex texts – including fiction and non-fiction. These are skills that are vital for them, both at A-Level and beyond.

The course goes further than this, however – encouraging students to think deeply and critically about their reading, so that they can analyse and evaluate the extent to which what they have read is reliable and/ or effective.

As a result, students are able to develop their own skills as writers and as speakers. This is something that will not only improve their success at A-Level, but will be vital for a productive and fulfilling life.



A photograph of three students in a classroom. A girl in the background is smiling at the camera while holding a pink pen. Two boys in the foreground are focused on writing in their notebooks with blue and red pens respectively. They are seated at wooden desks with papers and books.

# English Literature

## Exam Board

AQA

## Assessment

**Paper 1:** Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel – 40%

**Paper 2:** Modern Texts and Poetry – 60%

**Paper 3:** Spoken Language Qualification (stand alone non-examined assessment)

## Head of Department

**Robin Rudd**

[rrudd@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:rrudd@trinityacademybristol.org)



The English Literature GCSE course is designed to ensure that students have studied a range of texts, including poetry, prose, and drama.

In doing so, students will think about themes like love and death, war and conflict, science, religion, and justice. They'll think about how and why people's attitudes to these and other themes may have changed over time, and how this is shown in their writing.

As a result, they'll not only develop their analytical skills, but they'll also develop the ability to empathise with others (which is key to success in life). In addition, they'll develop their ability to articulate their thoughts and opinions logically and persuasively both through written essays and debates in class.







# Mathematics

## Exam Board

Edexcel

## Assessment

**Paper 1:** Non-calculator – 33.3%

**Paper 2:** Calculator – 33.3%

**Paper 3:** Calculator – 33.3%

## Head of Department

**Cat Potter**

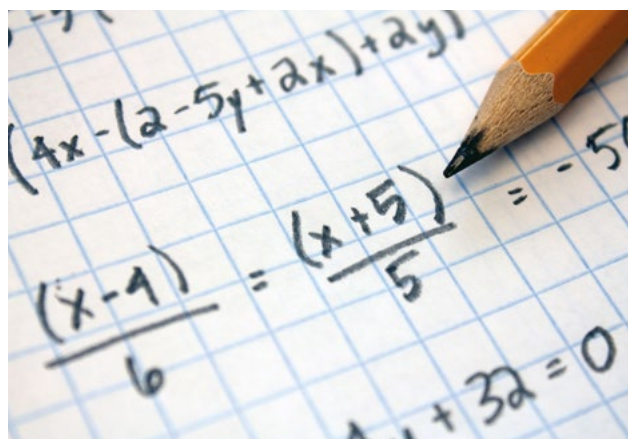
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The GCSE Mathematics course encourages students to deepen their understanding of arithmetical processes for which it is easy to see immediate relevance in our daily lives – ratio and proportion, compound interest, ease with percentages and the like. However, this is only the beginning of the journey we embark upon.

Mathematics at its best, as Einstein once said, is the poetry of logical ideas. The course encourages students to sharpen their skills in mathematical reasoning and more general abstract understanding of mathematical concepts in the main areas of algebra, geometry, statistics and probability and number.

It is a challenging but extremely rewarding course, which equips students very well for future learning opportunities and career choices.







## Combined Science

### Exam Board

AQA

### Assessment

Six equally weighted science papers  
(two from each scientific discipline)

### Head of Department

**Ben Millett**

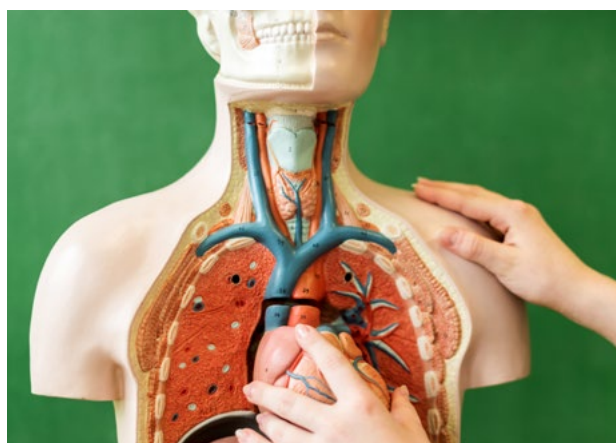
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Combined Science offers a deep knowledge of science through studying the core units of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This will give students a firm foundation from which they can go on to study science subjects at A-level and beyond.

The course features many of the major theories of science, presented in a way that will encourage young people to appreciate their significance. Students explore the key science explanations which help us to make sense of our lives. In order to respond to scientific information presented in the media and everyday situations, it is also important to understand how this information is obtained, how reliable it is, what its limitations are, and how it is used.

For topic details, please refer to the individual science GCSE pages.





# Biology

## Exam Board

AQA

## Assessment

Biology Paper 1: 50%

Biology Paper 2: 50%

## Head of Department

**Ben Millett**

[bmillett@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:bmillett@trinityacademybristol.org)



GCSE Biology is a study of living things. The topics studied include:

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

As with Combined Science, the course introduces major science theories and explanations, helping students to make sense of the world around them.





# Chemistry

## Exam Board

AQA

## Assessment

Chemistry Paper 1: 50%

Chemistry Paper 2: 50%

## Head of Department

**Ben Millett**

[bmillett@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:bmillett@trinityacademybristol.org)



GCSE Chemistry is a study of matter. The topics studied include:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

As with Combined Science, the course introduces major science theories and explanations, helping students to make sense of the world around them.







## Physics

### Exam Board

AQA

### Assessment

Physics Paper 1: 50%

Physics Paper 2: 50%

### Key Contact

**Ben Millett**

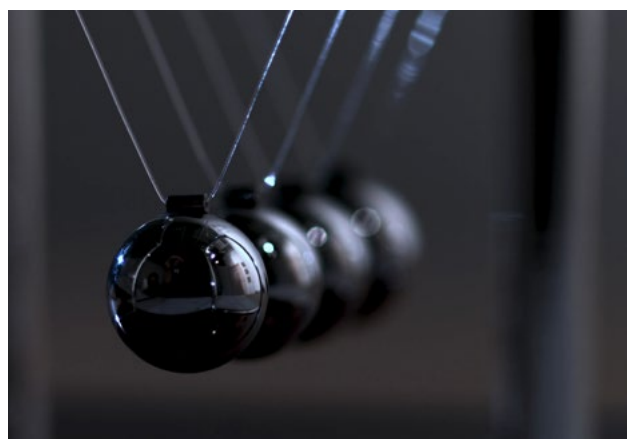
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GCSE Physics is a study of how matter interacts in the universe. The topics studied are:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space physics

As with Combined Science, the course introduces major science theories and explanations, helping students to make sense of the world around them.





## Art & Design (Fine Art)

### Exam Board

AQA

### Assessment

**Component 1:** Portfolio (sustained project and further work) – 60%

**Component 2:** Externally set assignment (Year 11 from January, including 10 hours of unaided supervised work) – 40%

### Key Contact

**Hamish Young**

[hyoung@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:hyoung@trinityacademybristol.org)



Exploring the broad genres of figurative and landscape, this Fine Art course is concerned with the development of ideas through to a final conclusion and requires an enthusiasm for experimentation and exploration.

The course aims to explore various artistic media, with an emphasis on drawing, through developing ideas, experimentation and risk taking, observational study and critical awareness of contemporary and historical art to support students in realising a personal artistic response.





## Computing

### Exam Board

OCR

### Assessment

**Paper 1:** Computer Systems  
(non-calculator paper) – 50%

**Paper 2:** Computational Thinking,  
Algorithms and Programming  
(non-calculator paper) – 50%

### Key Contact

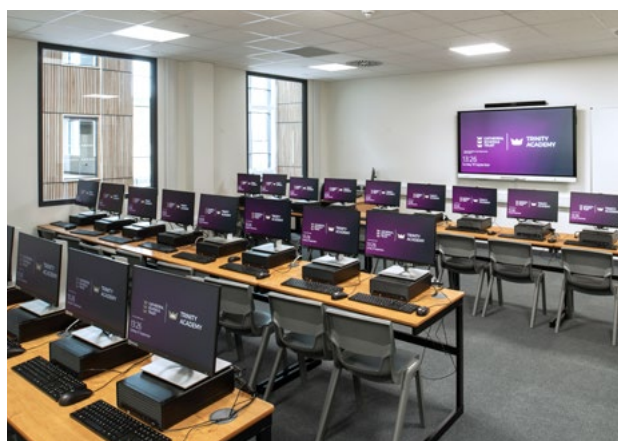
**Hamish Young**

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GCSE in Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

The course introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science. Students also develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.







## Dance

### Exam Board

AQA

### Assessment

**Performance (practical):** 30%

**Choreography (practical):** 30%

**Dance Appreciation (practical):** 40%  
(written exam)

### Key Contact

**Rachel Taylor**  
[rtaylor@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:rtaylor@trinityacademybristol.org)



Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, building upon their previous experience in the subject.

This GCSE course recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and students will study a range of dance styles and style fusions. Apart from one performance, they can choose any style in which to perform and choreograph. The study of the anthology of professional works will develop their ability to critically appraise professional dance works and provide a springboard for engaging in practical tasks.





## Design and Technology

### Exam Board

Eduqas

### Assessment

**Paper:** Design & Technology in the 21st Century (written exam of 2 hours), – 50%

**Design & Make Task:** A sustained task, carried out in lesson time, based on a challenge set by the exam board in June – 50%

### Key Contact

**Julie Haslam**

[jhaslam@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:jhaslam@trinityacademybristol.org)



In studying Design & Technology, students will identify and solve real problems. They will design solutions and learn how to put ideas into production. Students will work creatively, and develop a number of core skills including practical expertise, planning and decision making.

Students will study the technical principles of design and technology as it affects our daily life in the 21st Century, from social/cultural influences to environmental and economic factors. Through practical sessions in the multi-materials, textiles and computer aided design & manufacture workshops, as well as in theory lessons, students will develop an understanding of materials, systems and processes.

It is a challenging but rewarding course which incorporates and builds on the knowledge and expertise students have gained in other subjects such as Science and Art.





## Drama

### Exam Board

AQA

### Assessment

**Understanding Drama**  
(written exam) – 40%

**Devising Drama,  
Devising Log and Devised  
Performance** (practical) – 40%

**Texts in Practice** –  
Performance of 2 extracts from plays  
(practical) – 20%

### Key Contact

**Elisa Amesbury**  
[eamesbury@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:eamesbury@trinityacademybristol.org)



The drama GCSE engages and encourages students to become confident performers and designers with the skills they need for a bright and successful future. There is significant opportunity for students to do what they like best – participate in performance.

All students explore a set text, learning about how playwrights, theatremakers, and performers create and convey meaning to an audience. All students devise drama, developing their own creative ideas to a finished performance. All students explore texts practically and work on two text-based performances.

Students can be sure to gather many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable. This subject is particularly geared towards developing communication and collaboration skills, as well as allowing students to develop their confidence and creativity.







## Food Preparation and Nutrition

### Exam Board

Eduqas

### Assessment

Written exam on the principles of food preparation and nutrition 50%

Two practical assessments based on a choice of tasks given by the exam board. One is a scientific investigation (8 hours) and the other is to prepare, cook and present a menu (12 hours) 50%

### Key Contact

**Julie Haslam**

[jhaslam@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:jhaslam@trinityacademybristol.org)



A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips students with the knowledge and understanding required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. They will learn to apply this knowledge to the practice of cooking and develop sound technical skills relating to food preparation and nutrition. The six main areas of study are:

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

In addition, students will learn skills such as time management, risk assessment and evaluation techniques. There is a significant practical component to this course, but also substantial theory content.





## Geography

### Exam Board

AQA

### Assessment

**Paper 1:** Living with the Physical Environment – 1hr30min (35%)

**Paper 2:** Challenges in the Human Environment – 1hr30min (35%)

**Paper 3:** Geographical Applications – 1hr15min (30%)

### Key Contact

**Jack Harty**

[jharty@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:jharty@trinityacademybristol.org)



Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.





## History

### Exam Board

Edexcel

### Assessment

**Paper 1:** Migrants in Britain, c800-present and Notting Hill, c1948-c1970

**Paper 2:** Depth Study - Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

**Paper 2:** Period Study - Conflict in the Middle East, 1945-95

**Paper 3:** The USA, 1954-75:

### Head of Department

**Ashley Pearson**

[apearson@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:apearson@trinityacademybristol.org)



The history course will introduce you to fascinating periods, locations and topics, including the history of migration to the UK, the struggle for civil rights in the USA, Elizabethan England and conflict in the Middle East. You will learn about key events, periods and societies while developing skills of critical thinking, historical investigation, use of primary evidence and understanding of historians' interpretations.

You will become more aware of why people, events and developments are seen to be historically significant and you will learn how to communicate your historical knowledge and understanding effectively. You will be taught by a dedicated team of History specialists, who will work with care to make sure that your lessons are engaging, drawing on a range of resources to help you gain the knowledge that you need for success. Feedback from your teachers will help you to improve your knowledge, skills and understanding and to develop both as a student of History and as a citizen of the modern world.





## Music

### Exam Board

Edexcel

### Assessment

#### Performance

(non-examination assessment) – 30%

#### Composition

(non-examination assessment) – 30%

#### Listening and Appraising

(written exam) – 40%

### Head of Department

**Naomi Charatan**

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GCSE Music consists of a performance, where students will complete a solo recording of instrument and voice. Students will complete a second recording where they sing or play as part of an ensemble. For composition, students will write two of their own pieces of music, using music technology. For the listening and appraising part of the course, students will study eight set works from a variety of musical genres – from J.S Bach to Queen. They will be assessed on their musical understanding, analytical and listening skills in a listening paper at the end of the two year course.





# Religious Studies

## Exam Board

Edexcel

## Assessment

### 1. Religion and Ethics:

Christianity (50%)

### 2. Religion, Peace and Conflict:

Islam (50%)

## Head of Department

**Ashley Pearson**

[apearson@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:apearson@trinityacademybristol.org)



The Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics) GCSE gives students the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of philosophical questions such as: Is there a God? Where did the world come from? What happens after death? We will debate ethical issues such as the use of animals in scientific research, the morality of war and human sexuality. In examining these issues, we will investigate many different viewpoints. This will include religious views, with a focus on the Muslim and Christian perspectives.

While studying the course, students will be encouraged to develop essential skills involved with debate and discussion, essay writing, leadership and teamwork. The course asks students to examine all issues from many different viewpoints, an approach which provides invaluable preparation for both university study and professional work.







## Spanish

### Exam Board

AQA

### Assessment

**Unit 1** – Listening (25%)

**Unit 2** – Speaking (25%)

**Unit 3** – Reading (25%)

**Unit 4** – Writing (25%)

### Head of Department

**Katie Lockett**

[klockett@trinityacademybristol.org](mailto:klockett@trinityacademybristol.org)



The GCSE Spanish course aims to further develop students' language skills, explore themes introduced in Years 7, 8 and 9 and enable them to express ideas and opinions in spoken and written form. Areas of study include friends, family, free time, technology, festivals, home and town, holidays, social issues, the environment, school, jobs, and future plans.

Students will build on their knowledge of language patterns and so increase their understanding of Spanish-speaking countries across several continents. Students' ability to understand and communicate in Spanish will be assessed in a variety of ways, including role plays, short conversations and responding to short messages and longer texts. This develops communication, strong literacy skills and an appreciation of different cultures – some of the most sought-after skills by employers and universities.







## Sport Science

### Exam Board

To be confirmed

### Assessment

To be confirmed

### Head of Department

To be confirmed

We are hoping to offer a Sports Science GCSE as part of the options process. The GCSE is likely to include a mixture of theory and practical. The theory will include learning about human physiology and anatomy and how the body responds to physical activity and the socio-cultural influences sport has. The GCSE will also include a practical performance in three different physical activities. The GCSE is therefore suited to those who play a number of sports to a good level.





## Community Languages

### Exam Board

Varies

### Assessment

**Unit 1** – Listening (25%)

**Unit 2** – Speaking (25%)

**Unit 3** – Reading (25%)

**Unit 4** – Writing (25%)

### Head of Department

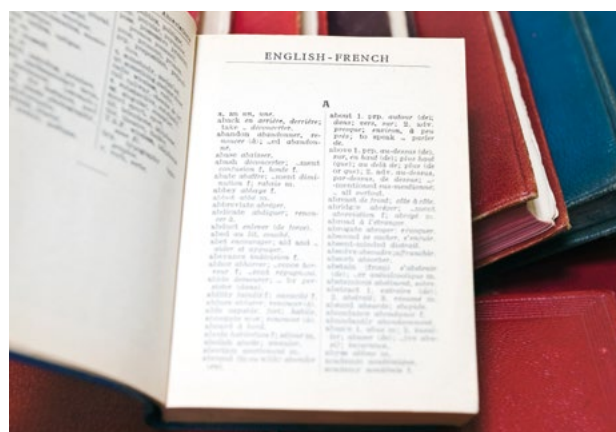
**Katie Lockett**

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For students who are native speakers (or near native) in a language other than Spanish, there is an opportunity to take a GCSE in that language to gain a qualification in addition to the normal options. In order to take a GCSE in an additional language, a student must already be fluent and literate in this language as they will not be taught this language as part of lessons at school. Students taking a community language will need to familiarise themselves with any exam-specific content and prepare independently.

One of the best ways to prepare to take a GCSE in a community language is to also take GCSE Spanish. This is because the format of the exam is the same for all languages, so studying Spanish formally in class will prepare a student well to take an exam in another language.





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