



The
Ladies' College
Guernsey

Upper Four (I)GCSE Options

For study from September 2019

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How to use this booklet

Your course of study at (I)GCSE level comprises two elements:

- Core Subjects
- Optional Subjects.

The details of the core subjects, which are a compulsory component of your study, are presented on pages 6 and 7. In addition to these examined subjects, all students will also have a one-hour Citizenship and Careers lesson, one and a half hours of Physical Education and will spend a further half hour with their Tutor.

You will be required to choose a further four subjects, one of which *must* be a Modern Foreign Language.

Students receiving Learning Support may want to discuss their choices with Miss Alison Coubrough-Barnett.

When choosing your subject options, you need to consider

- your favourite subjects
- your future career plans
- the method of study and examination technique most suited to you.

Details of the subject options are presented on pages 8 - 21.

References to GCSE mean that the syllabi and examinations follow the courses set by the main UK examination boards AQA, Edexcel, OCR and the Welsh board. References to IGCSE mean that the syllabi and examinations follow the international examination boards CIE and Edexcel. The two qualifications rank equally in respect of higher education although, in some areas, their emphasis differs.

The Ladies' College conducted a thorough review of the Curriculum in 2015/6, including taking feedback collected from parents/students from the previous three years and comparing with other schools, and these changes have been implemented to support students. The initial presentation will include an overview of the curriculum and Mr Barnes will be available should you have any further questions.

(I)GCSE Options Evening

During the evening, we will explain how the options process works and provide additional information relevant to the next two years. There will be opportunities for you to have any questions answered on the options process, subject choice and pastoral support.



You will need to choose up to four subject presentations to attend. Each presentation will last approximately five minutes with a further five minutes for the subject specialists to answer any specific queries that you may have about their subject.

Our advice is to prioritise the subject staff in those subjects you are unsure about.

Additional information on each subject can be found on the subject pages on the College website www.ladiescollege.com

Careers guidance in Upper Four

Students in Upper Four have dedicated lessons covering option subjects available, different subject combinations, identifying students' skills and abilities and basic career pathways.

Students will also visit the Guernsey Careers Fair at the end of the Lent term and parents are welcome to attend the evening session.

Useful websites

www.careers.gg

www.guernsey.careersevents.co.uk

www.careerpilot.org.uk





<http://www.bestcourse4me.com/>

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/home>



Reference books

The following books are available in the College library –

-  The Penguin Careers Guide (Philip Gray)
-  Do what you Are (Tieger, Barron, Tieger)
-  What Color is your Parachute? for teens (Carol Christen)
-  I'm Good at Career Guides series (Richard Spilsbury)

Further careers advice or resources are available from the Library or can be provided by contacting Miss E Johnson.

Contact Information

PSHEE, Careers and Citizenship Coordinator, Miss Elena Johnson -
ejohnson@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Director of Studies, Mr H Barnes –
hbarnes@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Year Coordinator, Mrs Carrie Gribbens -
cgribbens@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Head of Learning Support, Miss Alison Coubrough-Barnett –
acoubrough-barnett@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Details of the support offered by the Learning Support Department can be found at
<http://www.ladiescollege.com/information/learning-support>

Core Subjects



English Language & English Literature

“Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind.”

Rudyard Kipling

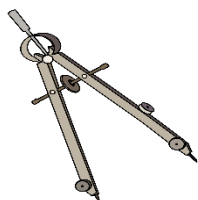
English Language and English Literature are taught together, the course leading to two separate IGCSEs. Work is based on the study of literary and non-literary texts.

In English Language (Specification A), the aim is to develop proficiency in speaking and listening and reading and writing. There is one examination. This consists of reading and responding to non-fiction/media texts, as well as a written task. In addition, students are required to complete coursework tasks.

English Literature involves the study of a range of 20th century and pre-20th century texts in prose, poetry and drama, including exploration of historical and social influences and cultural contexts. There is one written examination assessing students’ knowledge of both prose and poetry texts. There is also a coursework element.

Exam board: Edexcel

Website link: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/english.html>



Mathematics

Following on from our practice in the first three years of school, Mathematics is taught in sets by ability. All sets will study for the Higher Level papers of the IGCSE syllabus. The grades attainable, at the Higher Level, range from 9 to 3.

Whilst girls in the upper sets will go directly to the Higher Level paper taken in May of their Upper Five year, girls in the lowest set may take a Foundation Level paper earlier in their Upper Five year with those gaining a grade 5 allowed to progress to the Higher Level paper. There will be an opportunity to re-sit the Foundation Level paper for those who do not gain a grade 4 or 5 at their first attempt. Girls in the highest set may also be taught an additional GCSE in Statistics which they will take at the end of their Upper Five year.

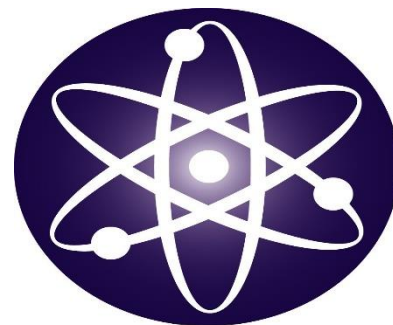
Students wanting to study Mathematics beyond IGCSE should aim to obtain a grade 6 or better.

Exam board: Edexcel (A)

Website link: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-mathematics-a-2016.html>

Science

Most girls study each of the three separate Science subjects for five periods a week (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), and gain one IGCSE in each after two years.



For some students it will be more appropriate to be given more support in a smaller set, and study a reduced amount of content across the three Sciences that will enable them to take the IGCSE Double Award in Science (two IGCSEs representing their combined performance across all three Sciences), and hence achieve at a higher level than would otherwise be the case. These students will also have four periods of directed teaching for each Science a week, leaving three supervised periods across the week to support their studies in all subjects including the Sciences. Parents of students who would benefit in this way will be contacted later in the year.



Students receive regular feedback through teacher assessed pieces of work, tests and the opportunity for students to reflect on their own progress. It is important that these opportunities are utilised effectively and action taken as appropriate



All the Science IGCSE courses are designed to contain the depth of knowledge required for future Advanced Level studies and a large number of girls continue on to study the Sciences with great success. There is no coursework or internal assessment of practical activities although there will be plenty of opportunities for hands-on practical work throughout the course.

The final examinations, in the summer term of the Upper Five year, are preceded by revision to ensure that girls are well equipped to do justice to themselves in the examinations.

Exam board: Edexcel

Website link: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates.html>

Optional Subjects

Art & Design – Fine Art

The GCSE in Art and Design is designed to be a general course, encompassing Art, Craft and Design, to enable students to explore a range of 2 or 3 dimensional approaches and to encourage students to develop an adventurous and enquiring approach to Art and Design. The focus is to nurture an enthusiasm for Art, Craft and Design through a broad programme, to develop critical, practical and theoretical skills that enable students to gain a holistic understanding of a range of practices and contexts in the visual arts, crafts and design fields.



Work produced for this qualification will demonstrate the use of formal elements and creative skills, and give form to thinking, feeling, observation, design and ideas. Students will show evidence of trying to extend their own and others' ways of seeing the world.

Fine art may be defined as work which is produced as an outcome of students' personal experiences, rather than that which is created exclusively for a practical function or that which is the outcome of a tightly prescribed brief. Disciplines will include painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture and alternative media.

Careers

There are many relevant career opportunities and pathways within the Art and Design field. At The Ladies' College, we offer access to an Advanced Level GCE in Art and Design. Art and Design is relevant to all careers where it is useful to have excellent visual skills. Careers may be in design or art related careers such as architecture, fine art, interior or special design, fashion and advertising to name a few.

Portfolio - 60% (120 marks)

The Portfolio provides opportunities for students to explore and cultivate important skills, knowledge and understanding through a variety of experiences. Students complete one unit within the portfolio in the two years. A unit is defined as a body of artwork, which includes sketchbooks and larger supporting studies, which shows the development of ideas leading to final outcomes. During the course, students will be encouraged to experiment, collaborate, make informed creative decisions and innovate. Careful consideration of the selection and presentation of their work, their imaginative powers and their ability to express their ideas will be encouraged. The primary purpose of the portfolio is to develop a confident approach that will support the students' creative journey. Four assessment objectives must be covered equally and in full.

Externally set assignment – 40% (80 marks)

The Externally Set Assignment materials consist of a series of assignments based on themes, visual stimuli and written briefs set by WJEC/EDUQAS. Students are required to select one of the set assignments and develop it in the form of:

- a personal response
- a specific design brief
- or another suitable approach.



Students will develop their response over a preparatory period. Responses must take the form of critical, practical and contextual preparatory work and/or supporting studies, which will inform the resolution of these ideas in a sustained focus study. Following the preparatory study period, students will be allocated a period of 10 hours sustained focus study to realise their response unaided and under supervised conditions. The final realisation, a work journal, and preparatory study must show evidence of the four assessment objectives, already familiar to students through their work on the coursework stages.

Entry Information

This is an open entry subject with no higher/lower tiers. All students will be required to take the timed test. Different grades levels are awarded by assessment of outcome. In choosing this course, students must be prepared to commit to the considerable sustained dedication required to complete coursework successfully.

Exam board: (WJEC) EDUQAS

Website link: <http://wjec.co.uk/>

Design & Technology: Resistant Materials

Design & Technology gives students an excellent opportunity to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools to produce a made product. Students gain technical and design awareness and develop skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and problem solving. They also develop the communication skills central to the design process.

Design & Technology also provides an ideal basis for further study and equips students with technical knowledge and practical designing and making skills for the world of work or further education.



There are many D&T related careers across a wide range of industries including engineering, architecture, fashion and product design. Skills such as understanding the limitations and properties of materials, using manufacturing (CAM) processes and developing concepts using CAD software are in great demand.

The Cambridge IGCSE Design & Technology exam (0979) consists of:

- **Two written exams**, each of which provide 25% of the final IGCSE exam mark
 - Paper 1 – Product Design 1hr 15 mins
 - Paper 3 – Resistant Materials 1 hr
- **Practical Task** that provides 50% of the final IGCSE exam mark. For the Practical Task, students must design and make an item of their choice. Students will research their chosen context, design and develop a range of concepts and manufacture their final outcome to a high standard. The product must be completed within a time limit specified by the exam board. All the practical work is supported by an A3 portfolio of work.

Resistant Materials will allow students to work with Metal, Wood and Plastics including the use of more traditional methods of manufacture combined with new technologies such as the laser cutter and 3D printing.

Exam board: Cambridge

Website link: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/414506-2020-2022-syllabus.pdf>

Drama



The GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances, travelling either to London or Stratford Upon Avon, to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members, and to participate in a theatre workshop with professional actors/directors.

It is a highly creative course during which students are given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others' drama, developing their creative, analytical and organisational skills.

Students will investigate theatre practitioners and genres of drama, work collaboratively to develop ideas to communicate meaning and experiment with dramatic conventions, forms and techniques to produce and realise pieces of original theatre. These are assessed internally and moderated by the examination board.

They are also able to work as actors or designers participating as a resourceful group in the performance of an extract from a play text, which is assessed by a visiting examiner.

Students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama, including their ability to interpret texts for performance, and analyse live performances, in a written examination. In preparation for this assessment, students study their set text practically as a performer, designer and director and are encouraged to see as much live theatre as possible in order to hone their analytical skills and provide material for the review section of the written examination.

There are no previous learning requirements for this course and it provides a suitable foundation for the study of Drama, History or English at A-level.

As well as working in the theatre sector, studying drama is ideal for students wishing to take up careers in Psychology, Law, Teaching, Historical research, Librarianship, Theatre Studies, Management, Design and Social Work.

Component 1: Devising Theatre: In small groups students devise a piece of original theatre in response to a stimulus, using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner **or** the characteristics of a genre of drama.

Component 2: Performing from a Text: Students participate in a performance from a text allowing them a deeper understanding of how to interpret a text for performance and realise artistic intentions.

For both Component s 1 and 2, students may choose to be assessed on either acting **or** design. (Costume, lighting, set design)

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre: Written paper: This component requiring students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed through the study of one performance text and through responding to live theatre.

Exam board: WJEC (EDUCAS)

Website link: <http://educas.co.uk>

Modern Foreign Languages

Studying any language shows that you have good communication and inter-personal skills which are highly valued by employers and universities. Language learners are considered to be well-organised and disciplined, with good higher-order thinking skills and are always admired by people who have not had the chance to study other languages. You should choose the language or languages which you enjoy and that you feel confident about.

Communicating with people in their own language is a valued skill in many fields of employment with an international aspect and there are often opportunities available for employees to work in one of the international branches of larger employers. Developing skills in one or more languages aids in learning other languages as well as developing good written and verbal communication skills. Specific careers involving languages include Translators and Interpreters, Diplomatic/European Officials, Overseas and Tourism representatives, Marketing Managers and Foreign Correspondents.

French

French is spoken on all five continents and is one of the official languages of the United Nations, the European Union, the International Red Cross and the International Olympic Committee. There are approximately 200 million speakers of French around the globe.



Additionally, it makes sense to study this language because of our proximity to France and our shared history with our nearest neighbour. Anybody wishing to follow a legal career would be well advised to study French, but it is a useful asset for many other jobs. A deeper knowledge of French will also offer you insights into the culture of France and the other Francophone countries.

The IGCSE French syllabus builds on the foundations laid in Remove, Lower and Upper Four and you will have the opportunity to revise what you already know, as well as exploring the topics in more detail. You will be encouraged to make the most of any opportunities that you have to spend time in France in order to become confident about using your skills.

The IGCSE course deals with topics such as lifestyle, leisure, the media, holidays, the environment, education and childhood and the world of work. You will be assessed at the end of the two years in all four skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Website link: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html>

German

Learning German gives you a stimulating and important skill for life. It is a major European language, spoken by approximately 180 million people in Europe alone, and is a great asset for anybody wishing to work in a business, or finance, capacity. Anybody with an interest in science would also find that German is a useful subject.



The Edexcel IGCSE German course is similar to the other modern language syllabuses. You will be assessed at the end of the two year course in all four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. The topic areas dealt with include lifestyle, leisure, the media, home and abroad, the environment, childhood and work and education.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Website link: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html>



Spanish

Spanish is truly a world language with approximately 500 million speakers across the globe! It is one of the most important languages in international communication and therefore we are keen to give you the opportunity to study Spanish at IGCSE level.



We have a partnership with an exchange school near Zaragoza in Northern Spain and you will have the opportunity to visit the school and stay with a family during your time in Lower and Upper Five. This will increase your confidence for the speaking test and give you an insight into the culture of this beautiful country.

This is an intensive course since we cover the whole syllabus within a short time, but it is fun and worthwhile for committed linguists to be able to add such a useful language to their repertoire. We build on the language learnt in Upper Four and you will make huge progress very rapidly.

The Edexcel IGCSE Spanish course is similar to the other modern language syllabuses. You will be assessed at the end of the two year course in all four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. The topic areas dealt with include lifestyle, leisure, the media, home and abroad, the environment, childhood and work and education.

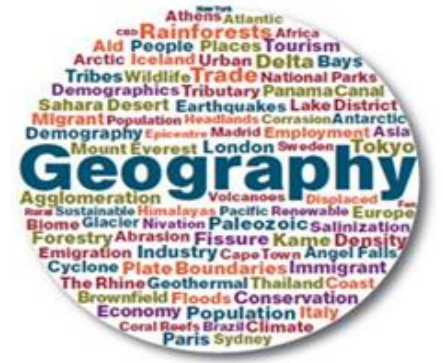
Exam Board: Edexcel

Website link: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html>



Geography

Do you want to learn more about the world we live in? Are you inquisitive and interested in finding out about why places are different and how the world is changing? Do you enjoy programmes like Blue Planet or Earth: The Power of the Planet?



If so, Geography GCSE would stimulate that interest and teach you many useful skills.

This relevant AQA course includes a variety of human and physical geography topics. Students will be exploring case studies from the UK, newly emerging economies such as Brazil and lower income countries.

Topics of study include tectonic and atmospheric hazards, climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and resources.

Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. The course aims to make us more aware of our responsibilities to other people, the environment and the sustainability of the planet.

This is a two-year linear course. The three external examinations, one on Physical Geography, one on Human Geography and an examination on Geographical Applications, will be taken at the end of Upper Five.

Why study Geography?

Geography prepares for the world of work; geographers, with their skills of analysis are highly employable.

Students who study Geography can use their skills in a wide variety of careers, including environmental consultants, international aid workers, transport planners, meteorology and in the tourism and travel industries.

There will be an optional trip to Iceland for GCSE and A-level students every two years.

What qualities do I need to study GCSE Geography?

*You should have a keen interest in the world around you.

*You should be prepared to work hard and research some topics by yourself.

Unit 1 Physical Geography (35%)

The first unit of the course covers natural hazards (including earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK and climate change), coasts, rivers, tropical rainforests and hot deserts.

Unit 2 Human Geography (35%)

The second unit covers world population growth, the growth of cities, sustainable urban living, and economic development, the importance of tourism to a low income country, globalisation and the management of water, food and energy resources.

Unit 3 Geographical applications (30%)

The third unit consists of two parts.

The skills developed from our two local field trips will be used to answer questions in the examination.

There is also an Issue Evaluation which involves critical thinking and problem solving based on a pre-release booklet available in March of Upper Five.

This will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate geographical skills and apply their knowledge and understanding of a particular issue from the syllabus.

**“Geography is the subject which holds the
key to our future”**
Michael Palin

Exam Board: AQA

Website link: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography>

History

History is a valuable and well-respected subject. IGCSE History enables students to develop skills such as, critical analysis and effective written communication, which are highly prized in many academic and professional disciplines.



The course itself covers some fascinating aspects of modern world history from the question of how a man like Hitler could come to power in a democracy and then unleash such savage policies on both his own nation and Europe, to how developments in antiseptics, anaesthetics and antibiotics have revolutionised our expectations of health care.

The IGCSE course also acquaints students with important concepts such as the left-right political spectrum, the ways in which information can be manipulated as propaganda by governments and others with vested interests, and the impact of changing times on people's everyday lives.

History develops skills in researching and evaluating information and is particularly relevant to archaeology, museology, lawyers and political researchers.

Course of Study for Edexcel IGCSE History

In the Lower Five we study "Russia and the Soviet Union 1905-24" and "Development of Dictatorship: Germany 1918-1945".

In the Upper Five we study "Medicine through Time c.1848-c.1948" and "The World Divided: Superpower Relations 1943-1972"

There are two examinations at the end of the course, each of which is 90 minutes and covers two topics. In other words, there is 45 minutes of equally-weighted examining on each of the four topics above.

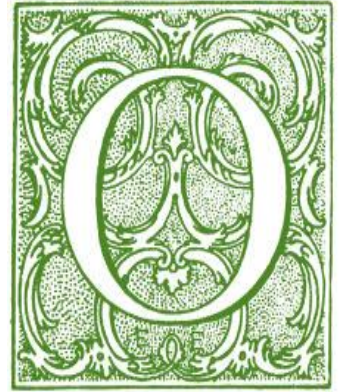
Exam board: Edexcel

Website link:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/History/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/INT_GCSE_History-specification.pdf

Latin

Are you willing to stick out from the crowd? Do you want your C.V. to look a little unusual? Do you want people to assume that you are intelligent (whether or not that is true!)? Do you want to impress employers, now and in the future? Do you want to study language, medicine, law, literature or history? Do you want to be a writer yourself? If your answer to any of these questions is 'yes' then you have an extrinsic motive for doing Latin at IGCSE.



The course follows on from the work you have been doing over the past three years; you will complete your knowledge of morphology, and learn more about the structure of sentences. With an increased understanding of the language you will be able to read some of the key documents of European literature. While these are all available in translation, no translator can successfully reproduce the effects of word order, rhythm and sound which Latin achieves especially in poetry, but also in prose. The structure and vocabulary of Latin prose means adopting a different way of thinking which has nevertheless profoundly influenced European thought. By studying Latin, you will acquire the same 'furniture' in your mind as any European writer/thinker up to 1900; this will make the history, philosophy, novels, plays and art of Europe more accessible to you. You will also increase your command of English vocabulary, and make the study of Romance languages easier.

The study of Latin opens many different avenues. There are, of course, A-levels and university courses about the classical world; moreover, the study of Latin is a good preparation for the tests for lawyers and doctors which the first class universities now demand. In addition, the exactness, precision and logical thought in which you will be trained by Latin will serve you well in courses as varied as engineering and computer science.

At the end of the two-year course, you will face two examination papers. The first, on language, includes a translation and a comprehension section; you will learn a vocabulary list for this paper. The second, on literature, consists of questions on the two texts you will be studying, one prose - a speech of Cicero's- and one verse – part of Virgil Aeneid book 6.

Exam board: CIE

Website link: <http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-latin-0480/>

Music

GCSE Music is suited to students who are already learning a musical instrument (including singing), and who wish to build on their existing skills. It is not necessary to have passed Grade Five on an instrument/voice in order to start GCSE Music, but it is an advantage if the student is able to perform pieces of an equivalent standard by the end of their Upper Fifth year. Classical and popular styles are equally valid.



The GCSE includes research and analysis in popular, classical and world music as well as performance and composition. In addition, students will be encouraged to perform regularly taking part in events in and out of the college.

- **Performing:** students perform individually and as part of a group. The performances are marked internally and moderated by the exam board. There are regular opportunities to practise performing throughout the course.
- **Composing:** students will develop compositional skills throughout the duration of the course based on the areas of study.
- **Appraising:** During the course students learn about many musical genres and styles, and study how composers have created finished pieces from their initial ideas. At the end of the course the students take a written paper in which answer questions on pieces of music which are played to them on a CD.

Areas of study

1. My Music	A study of the capabilities and limitations of the students' instrument.
2. The concerto through time	Analysis of the concerto from 1650 – 1910 including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baroque Solo Concerto • Baroque Concerto Grosso • Classical Concerto • Romantic Concerto
3. Rhythms of the world	Study the traditional rhythmic roots from four geographical regions - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India and Punjab • Eastern Mediterranean and Middle east • Africa • Central and South America

4. Film music	Analysis of music composed specifically for films, music from the Western classical tradition that has been used within a film and music that has been composed specifically for a video game.
5. Conventions of pop	A study of popular music from the 1950's to the popular day including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock 'n' roll for the 1950's and 1960's • Rock anthems of the 1970's and 1980's • Pop Ballads of the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's • Solo artists from 1990 to the present day

Assessment

Content overview	Assessment	
Performance on the students chosen instrument. Composition to a brief set by the student	Integrated portfolio	30% of the total GCSE
Ensemble performance Composition to an OCR brief	Practical component	30% of the total GCSE
Listening and appraising paper with CD	Listening and appraising paper	40% of the total GCSE

Entry to A-level Music is not dependent on having taken GCSE Music, but it is certainly an advantage as it introduces many of the key skills which form the core of the A-level syllabus.

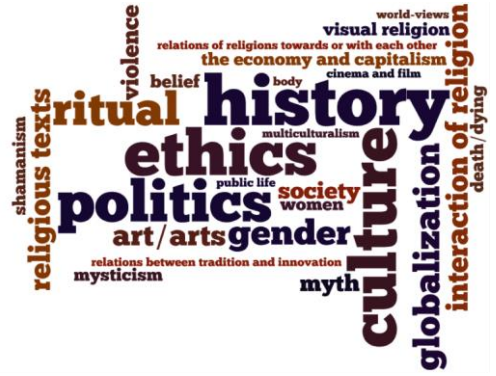
In summary, GCSE Music is a wide-ranging qualification which offers students the opportunity to respond to many different musical styles. And, equally importantly, it is a lot of fun too!

Exam board: OCR

Website link: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-music-j536-from-2016/

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is about living in the world and responding to its problems, which means it is relevant to all students, regardless of the kind of career they are considering.



The course is designed to encourage students to think about Christian and Islamic beliefs and practices as well as examining a wide range of issues including relationships, marriage, divorce, contraception, abortion, euthanasia, war, peace, crime and prejudice on grounds of race, religion or gender.

The course will help you understand more about the Christian traditions and values that have shaped our culture. The study of Islam, another Abrahamic faith, provides an excellent opportunity to learn in depth about another world religion, its ideologies, practices and current impact on Western society.

Students are required to develop skills in evaluating a range of arguments and points of view and in formulating their own position on all material covered. These skills are transferable and relevant to a wide range of careers, such as lawyers, barristers and business managers, in addition to those with a direct theology link.

The exam board for Religious Studies is Edexcel. The students are required to study 'Religion and Ethics: Christianity' and 'Religion, Peace and Conflict: Islam' from specification B.

There is no coursework for this GCSE. The students will sit two examinations at the end of Upper Five.

Exam board: Edexcel

Website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-b-2016.html>

Learning Support



We are currently investigating the possibility of offering learning support in the place of one of the four GCSE subject choices.

This would create some 'free' time in a student's timetable that would be divided into group sessions, looking at study skills, and independent learning sessions where a member of staff will be on hand to offer help and support where needed.

If you feel this may be an option you'd like to consider, please contact Miss Coubrough-Barnett to discuss further.

Miss Coubrough-Barnett can be contacted at acoubrough-barnett@ladiescollege.ac.gg

One-to-one support

If you are already receiving regular learning support, this can continue in Lower Five and Upper Five if you would like it to.

If you are not currently receiving one-to-one support but feel that you would benefit from some extra help, this can be arranged through Miss Coubrough-Barnett or by speaking to your form tutor or Year Co-ordinator. Support sessions take place once a week, for half an hour, and can cover any topics/areas that are of concern.

Exam Access Arrangements

Exam access arrangements are granted in accordance with strict guidelines by JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications). There must be evidence of need for such arrangements due to 'persistent and significant' difficulties. An assessment or request from a relevant health professional is required before any arrangement can be put in place. Any assessment relating to exam access arrangements has to have been carried out no earlier than Year 9 (Upper 4). We have an assessor that comes into College once a term.

If you already receive any exam access arrangements, Miss Coubrough-Barnett will have already made the necessary arrangements to ensure that you have an up-to-date assessment and that we have the relevant evidence in place.

Full details regarding policy and procedures for exam access arrangements at The Ladies' College can be found on the college website at:

<http://www.ladiescollege.com/information/examinations>

Details of all exam access arrangements, as governed by JCQ, can be downloaded from their website at:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration>

Timeline for choosing (I)GCSE options

DECEMBER

Discussion about choices and careers takes place during PSHEE lessons.

(I)GCSE options handbook is updated.

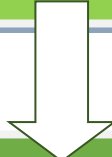


JANUARY

Staff speak to students, in lessons, about studying their subject at (I)GCSE.

Upper Four Parents' Evening on **9th January 2019**

Options handbook is issued along with an invitation to the Upper Four Options Evening on **13th February**.



FEBRUARY

Meeting for parents and students takes place on the **13th February 2019** and individual letters are distributed containing login details for accessing choices website.

Students make their choices by **Friday 1st March 2019**. These are used to design the Options blocks and you may be asked to make final choices from these blocks subsequently.

Changes to the grading system for (I)GCSE subjects

Following a review of subject content and grading by Ofqual, new specifications were developed for all subjects at both GCSE and A-level. These changes have been introduced over 3 years and all the changes will have been introduced by the time your daughter starts her (I)GCSE courses. New grades were given for the first time in the 2017 examination results, for reformed subjects that first started teaching in September 2015. By the 2019 examination results, all GCSE and most IGCSE results will be using the new system.

Key changes

There is a greater emphasis on numeracy and literacy. Coursework has been removed unless considered essential e.g. Art, Music, Drama and DT.

New GCSEs will be graded 9–1, rather than A*–G. Grade 9 is the highest grade, set above the current A*. The new system is intended to help provide more differentiation, especially among higher achieving students.

Statistical predictions will be used to ensure:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- around 20% of all grades at 7 or above will be a grade 9

The government's definition of a 'good pass' will be set at grade 5 for reformed (I)GCSEs. The Department for Education does not expect employers, colleges or universities to raise the bar to a grade 5 if a grade 4 would meet their requirements. The following page contains a table showing a comparison of the grades.

Other changes

Changes have also taken place with A-levels and examinations at the end of the first year of A-level. AS taken at the end of Lower Sixth no longer count towards the final A-level grades, so universities will take a greater account of (I)GCSE grades when making offers for further study. As a result of this many schools and colleges, including The Ladies' College, are not offering AS examinations and using the additional teaching time to support students in achieving their A-levels.

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	D
1	
U	E
	F
	G
	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

It should be emphasised that these changes do affect all students and so no students will be disadvantaged as a result. We will continue to review and offer advice as required. Should you have any queries, please contact us to discuss.

The Ladies' College website contains all the latest information and news including our inspection report and copies of the ILEX magazine.