



Key Stage 4 Options 2025-2027

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ACHIEVEMENT ● CARE ● EXCELLENCE

Welcome



Key Stage 4 at GWA

- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Ambitious and aspirational curriculum
- Diverse and coherent curriculum choices
- Confident, independent, life-long learners

GCSE Number Grades

GCSEs are graded 1-9, with 9 the highest.

Grade 7 and above would be the equivalent to the old A-A* grades.

Grade 4 is roughly equivalent to the old grade 'C', considered to be a 'pass'.

All courses are 'linear' – exams take place at the end of the course.

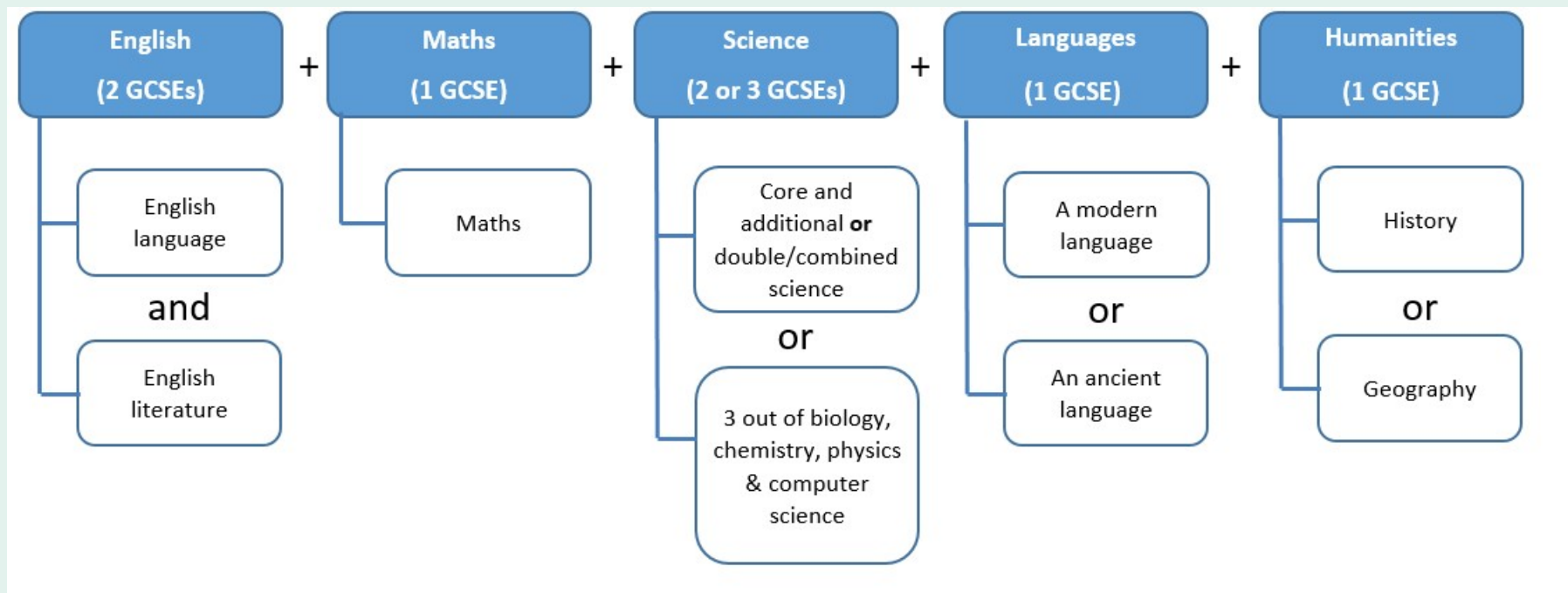
A small number of courses have non-examined assessment (NEA). This is assessed internally by teachers and then submitted to exam boards to count towards the final grade alongside exam result.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc comprises the core academic subjects that the vast majority of young people should have the opportunity to study to age 16.

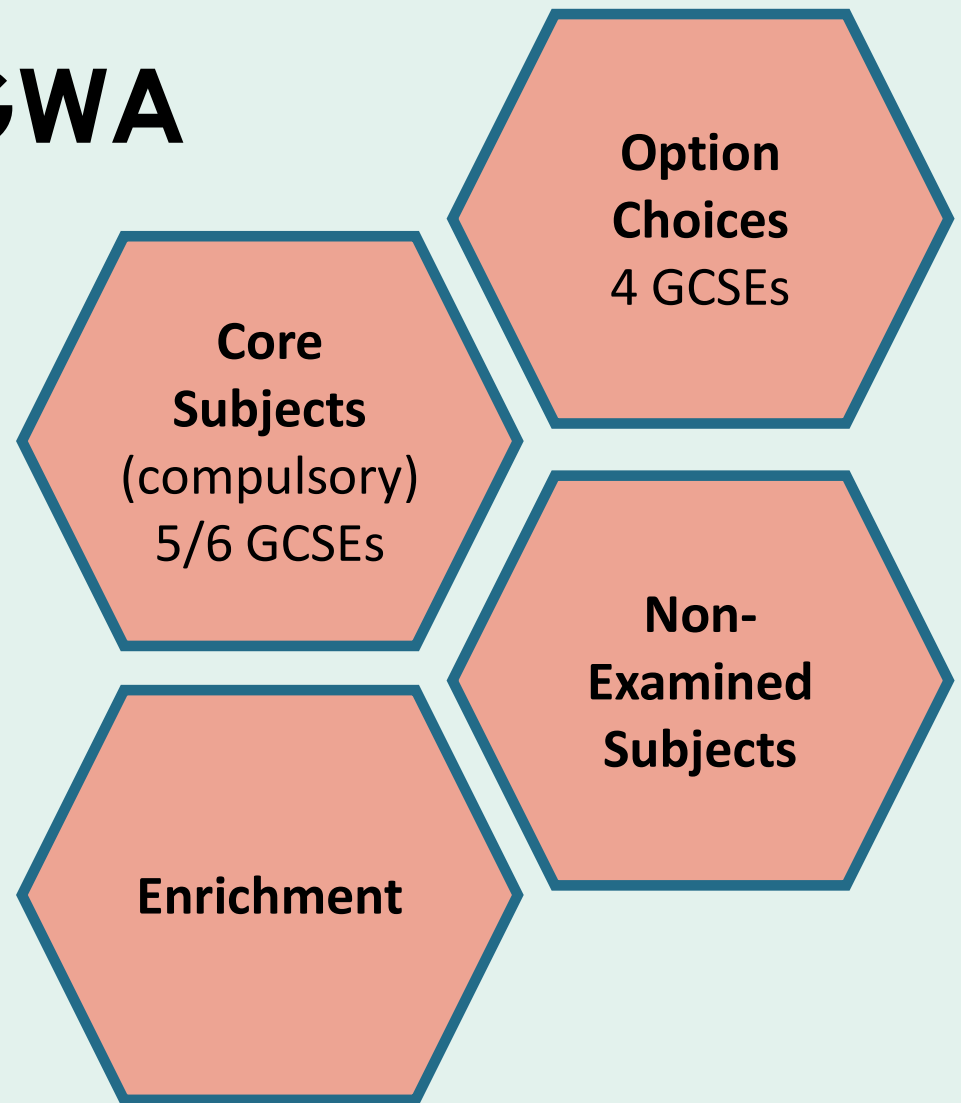
Studying EBACC subjects at GWA is not compulsory, but it is highly recommended.



KS4 Curriculum at GWA

In KS4 students will study towards 9 or 10 GCSEs or vocational qualifications depending on their pathway.

Part of the curriculum is compulsory and part allows for students to choose the subjects they wish to study.



Core Curriculum at GWA

All students follow the core curriculum until the end of year 11. The courses, the qualifications that they lead to and the teaching time are shown below. The core curriculum gives all students the opportunity to achieve up to 6 GCSEs.

Subject	English	Maths	Science	PE	PSE
Periods per week	5	5	5	2	1
Qualifications	2 x GCSEs	1 x GCSE	2/3 GCSEs	Not accredited	Not accredited

Core Curriculum at GWA

In English students will study both GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language. This means all students will achieve 2 GCSEs in English.

In science students will study towards either the GCSE Combined Science qualification or separate science qualifications.

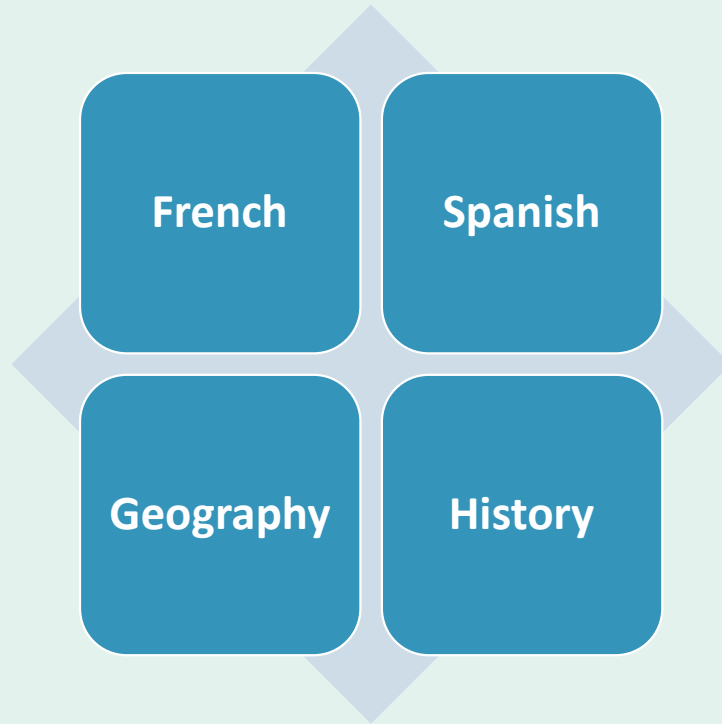
In GCSE Combined Science students will achieve a double grade worth 2 GCSEs.

In GCSE Biology, Chemistry & Physics students will achieve a separate grade for each qualification, so achieve 3 GCSEs.

The Science Faculty will enter students onto the courses they are best suited to – there is no option for students to make this choice.

Options Curriculum at GWA

All students will make **FOUR** options choices...
Students **MUST** choose at least ONE from:



Students could choose more than one from the above, or indeed all 4...

Options Curriculum at GWA

Students *MUST* then choose their remaining (maximum 3) choices from*:

French

Religion and Philosophy

Art and Design

Dance

Spanish

Business Studies

Textile Design

Drama

History

Computer Science

Design Technology

Physical Education****

Geography

Music

Creative iMedia**

Hospitality & Catering***

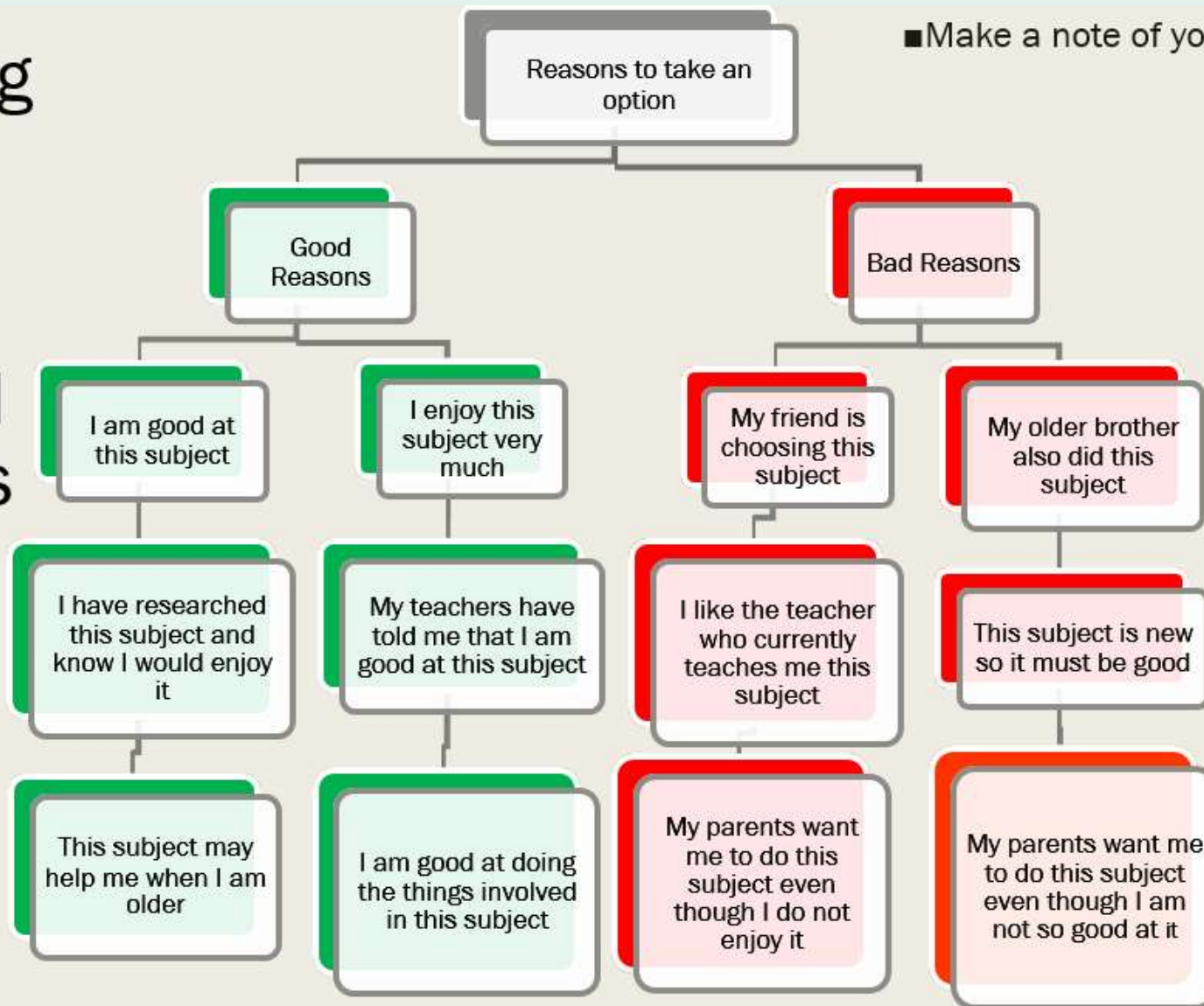
*a small number of learners will study the ASDAN course by invitation, leaving them with three remaining options choices

** Creative iMedia is an 'OCR National' qualification, but carries the same level 2 value as a GCSE

*** Catering & Hospitality is a Vocational Award and carries the same level 2 value as a GCSE

****In Physical Education we will run either or both of GCSE PE and BTEC Level 1/2 Sport, numbers depending

Choosing your options: Good and Bad Reasons



How Do I Make My Choices?

Students will be sent a link to a Microsoft Form.

Please think carefully before making option choices:

- do you/your child know what the GCSE course is like – watch the videos!
- have they spoken to their teachers about their choices?
- are they making the choice for the right reasons?
- have they thought about Post-16 options – what will their GCSEs enable them to do when they are 16?

Use the form to indicate your choices, including your reserve choice (question 6)

Key Stage 4 Options Form 2023

Students have had an introductory assembly and information has been provided to parents at the Options Parents Information Evening and within the Options Booklet. Further information can be found on the website: <https://www.owacademy.co.uk/y9options>.

If students or parents would like any more advice before completing this form please speak with form tutors, current subject teachers, or contact Mr Greenish.

Please complete the form by Friday 27th January 2023.

Hi, Rupert. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

* Required

1. First Name *

Enter your answer

2. Surname *

Enter your answer

3. Student Tutor Group *

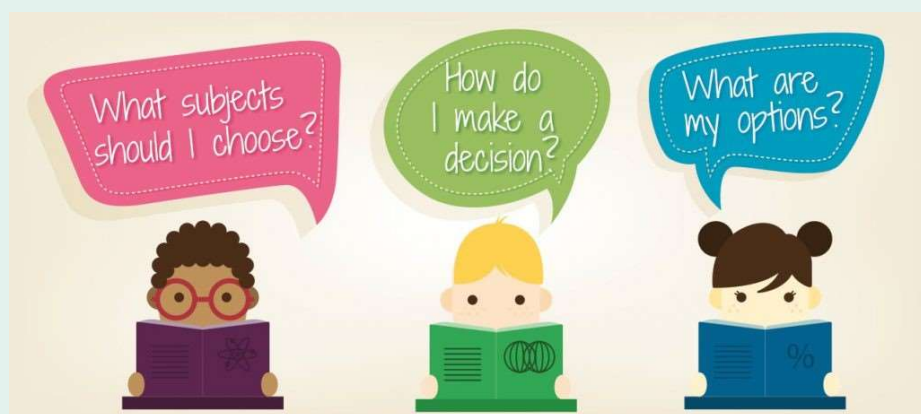
Select your answer

4. Start by choosing one of these subjects *

Select your answer

5. Now choose any three from these subjects. Do not choose the subject you have already chosen above, otherwise there are no other restrictions *

Who Can I Ask For Help?

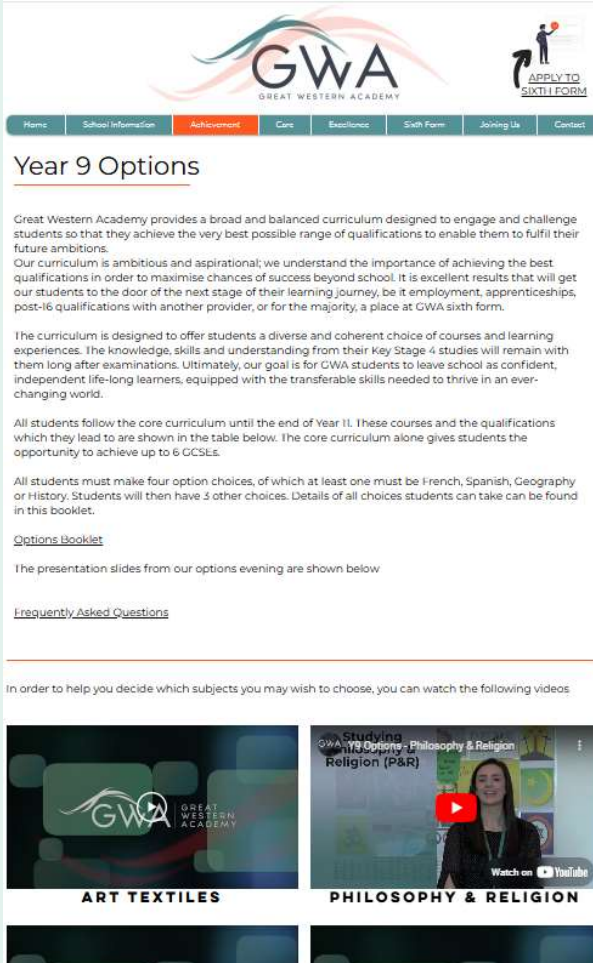


Reassurance – **we are here to support you...**

- Mr Greenish: the options process...
- Your teachers: subject information – use the parents evening to help find out more and watch the subject videos
- Your tutors: they can give an overview of your strengths
- Mrs Lloyd: careers advisor – ask her any questions about where a GCSE course might lead
- Mr Smith: Assistant Principal (Head of Sixth Form) – ask him any questions about which A Levels your GCSEs may lead to
- Ms Wallace – SENDCo: ask her about any SEN related questions

Where Can I Go For Help?

- School website:
<https://www.gwacademy.co.uk/y9options>
- Career Pilot Picking your options - This page gives you a range of information on how to pick your GCSE subject options.
- Unifrog Students have a login, there is a lot of information about GCSE options and this term's lessons are focussed on making informed decisions for Key Stage 4.



The screenshot shows the Great Western Academy (GWA) website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, School Information, Achievement, Care, Excellence, Sixth Form, Joining Us, and Contact. The main heading is "Year 9 Options". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining that GWA provides a broad and balanced curriculum designed to engage and challenge students, aiming for the best possible range of qualifications. It mentions that the curriculum is ambitious and aspirational, and that students will have four option choices, with at least one being French, Spanish, Geography, or History. There are also links for "Options Booklet" and "Frequently Asked Questions". At the bottom, there are two video thumbnails: "ART TEXTILES" and "PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION".

What Happens Next?

Wednesday 15th January – KS4 Options Assembly for Year 9 students

Thursday 16th January – KS4 Options Evening for Year 9 parents & students / options form shared

Tuesday 28th January – Year 9 Subject Evening

Friday 14th February – Deadline for completing option forms

Term 3/4 onwards – Follow up advice and guidance interviews for some students