

Key Stage 4 Options 2025

ions



AIMS

- To summarise GCSE and Level 2 qualifications and explain the options available
- To present guidance for parents and carers about progression routes
- To explain how to submit your option choices
- To offer guidance about the process and provide any necessary support



GCSE Qualifications

- Grading system with 9 to 1 (not A* to G)
- No controlled assessment for non-practical subjects
- Written examination element in most subjects.
- Linear examinations with maths, science and languages offering tiered papers ("higher" grades 9 to 4 / "foundation" 5 to 1)



GCSE grading structure

Strong pass

Standard pass

New Grading Structure 6 U

A level requirement



BTEC courses

These involve assessed tasks that take place in assessment windows. These can be regular submissions throughout the course, and/or involve long 10-hour assessments.

Grades include pass, merit and distinction

These are not easier than GCSE subjects, they are simply assessed differently.

Be aware that the ongoing assessed work means students need to organised and resilient throughout the course.



EBacc (English Baccalaureate)

Some universities, colleges and employers use this as a gauge of performance in a range of key academic subjects, and as such students should consider choosing options that will allow them to achieve the English Baccalaureate.

It consists of the following subjects:

- English (language and literature)
- Mathematics
- the Sciences (combined or separate)
- Geography or History
- a foreign language (at Wootton this is French or Spanish)

To achieve the Ebacc, you will need to achieve a grade 5 or above in these subjects.



Core Curriculum

All students follow these subjects to GCSE:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (double award)

As well as:

- PE (non-examined)
- Philosophy, Religion & Ethics PRE (non- examined)
- PSHE/Careers (non-examined)



Option Subjects

Students are asked to choose 4 subjects

At least one of these choices must be **Geography** or **History** (although you may do both).

If you wish to follow Separate Sciences (separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics) then you will need to select this as one of your 4 choices.

Option Subjects

Wootton Upper School

- Geography
- History
- 3D Design (Art and Design) *
- Art *
- Graphics *
- Textile Design *
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

- Business
- Computer Science
- IT (BTEC)
- Creative Media (BTEC)
- Food
- French
- PE
- Philosophy, Religion & Ethics PRE
- Separate Science
- Spanish *
- * Students may only select one of these subjects
- * Students should have followed this in Year 9 or have a good understanding of the language



Option Subjects

Separate Science - this is for our most able students who wish to pursue Science to a higher level. You can still follow A-Level sciences without taking Separate Science.

The Maths content is significant in Physics and Chemistry papers. If you follow this you will have a significant number of Science lessons (Core lessons + 1 option) – To take this option, you need to be competent at Maths (you should be in Maths sets 1, 2 or 3) and have achieved a high score in your recent Science assessment

Computer Science - challenging programming concepts and problem solving - need to be competent at Maths (in Maths sets 1, 2 or 3)



Subjects and class sizes

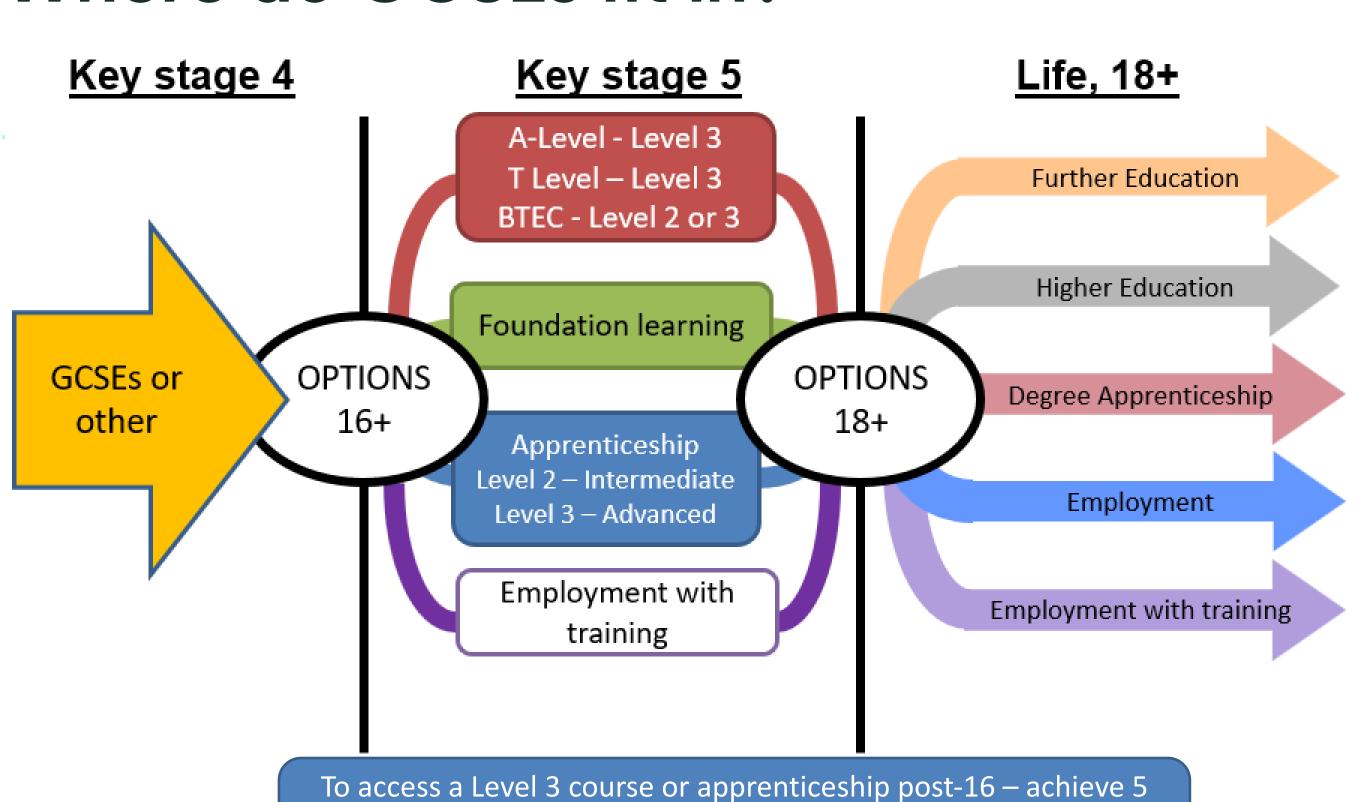
Maximum class sizes – there is a limit on the class sizes that we will allocate students to. Some classes are restricted by health and safety (e.g. DT), by the equipment available or a maximum group size.

Course selection – if a class has too few people selecting it then we may be unable to run it.

If a class has too many students selecting it, then we will initially use the subject priorities that <u>students have ranked their choices by</u>.

We will have a limited number of places/classes in some subjects.

Where do GCSEs fit in?



GCSEs grade 5 or above (minimum) including both English and

Maths





How to choose your subjects?

Get as much advice as you can

Talk to your teachers

Talk to your parents

Talk to older students who have been through this process in the past

Do research into any possible career paths you may be considering

Choose subjects which will help you progress into post 16 education and onto university or employment

Choose subjects in which you have an interest

Choose subjects in which you are successful

Choose a balanced group of subjects

Do not choose a subject because your friend is taking it!

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Selecting your options

Options choices will be submitted using an online system

You will need to select ONE subject from each block.

- One of your choices must be Geography or History
- Only one of: 3D Design, Art, Graphics and Textile Design may be chosen as a main subject.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C	Option Block D
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	History
3D Design	Art	Business	3D Design
Art	Business	Creative Media (BTEC)	IT (BTEC)
Business	Creative Media (BTEC)	Food	PE
Computer Science	Computer Science	French	Separate Science
Dance	Drama		
Drama	Food		
Graphics	Graphics		
IT (BTEC)	Music		
PE	PRE		
PRE	Textile Design		
Spanish			



Option Blocks A-B are timetabled for the whole year group at the same time.

Option Blocks C-D are timetabled for half the year group at the same time, hence the need for less subjects/classes in these blocks



Selecting your options



You will need to choose 4 main subjects

You will need to select ONE subject from each block.

- One of your choices must be Geography or History
- Only one of: 3D Design, Art, Graphics and Textile Design may be chosen as a main subject.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C	Option Block D
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	History
3D Design	Art	Business	3D Design
Art	Business	Creative Media (BTEC)	IT (BTEC)
Business	Creative Media (BTEC)	Food	PE
Computer Science	Computer Science	French	Separate Science
Dance	Drama		
Drama	Food		
Graphics	Graphics		
IT (BTEC)	Music		
PE	PRE		
PRE	Textile Design		
Spanish			

You will then need to put these in priority order

Main choices (Only one subject from each option block)

Rank Order	Block	Subject
1		
2		
3		
4		







You will need to choose 4 main subjects and then 4 reserves

You will need to select ONE subject from each block.

- One of your choices must be Geography or History
- Only one of: 3D Design, Art, Graphics and Textile Design may be chosen as a main subject.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C	Option Block D
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	History
3D Design	Art	Business	3D Design
Art	Business	Creative Media (BTEC)	IT (BTEC)
Business	Creative Media (BTEC)	Food	PE
Computer Science	Computer Science	French	Separate Science
Dance	Drama		
Drama	Food		
Graphics	Graphics		
IT (BTEC)	Music		
PE	PRE		
PRE	Textile Design		
Spanish			

Main choices (Only one subject from each option block)

Rank Order	Block	Subject
1		
2		
3		
4		

Reserve choices (Only one subject from each option block)

Rank Order	Block	Subject
1		
2		
3		
4		

You will also need to put these in priority order

Using the online system - Registering



Students will need to log onto their school email account - www.office.com

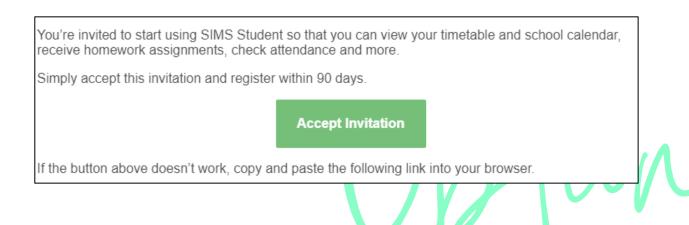
Load up Outlook



They should have received an invitation from 'noreply@sims.co.uk'



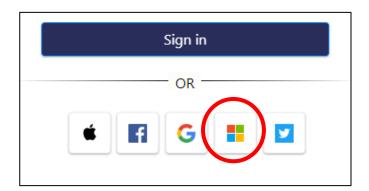
Click on the message and then click on Accept Invitation



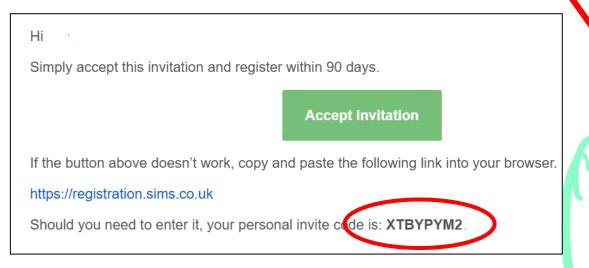
Using the online system - Registering

Make sure you click "Register with an External Account" which is the bottom blue box, (DO NOT enter your email address and click Next)

Click on the Microsoft icon



You will then need to copy and paste the Invitation Code from the email into the required box



You will also be asked to enter your date of birth



SIMS	
Activate Your Account	
So that we can confirm your identity, please enter your email address and personal invitation code.	ı
Username	
Email address	
Invitation Code	
CRJR9643CG	
Next	
Alternatively you may complete the registration using an External	
Register with an External Account	
Secured by SIMS ID ESS Hosted Services: Check Service Status	

Using the online system - Registering

Wootton Upper School

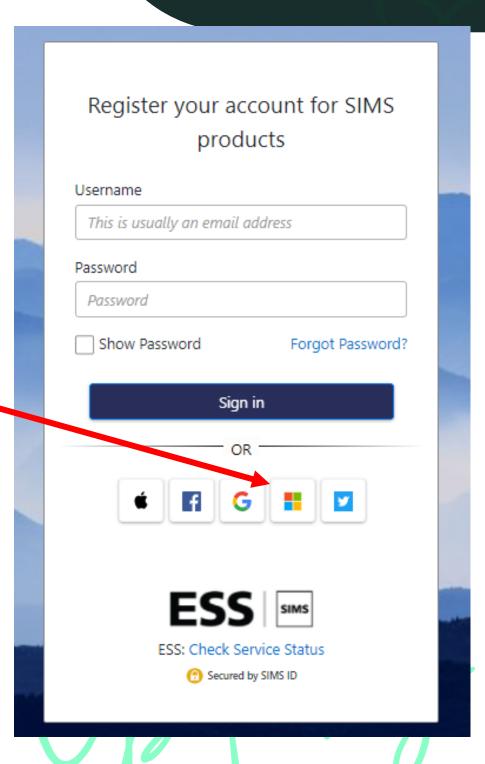
You will only need to do this process once If you need to log in again (or are asked to re-log in)

Please click on the Microsoft logo

If you wish to access the system again, go to www.sims-options.co.uk

Email address: <u>username@wootton.beds.sch.uk</u>

Password is the same as you use in school





ou have chosen 0 of 1 courses and	0 of 1 reser	rves from this list			
Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Business GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
1 This course is also available in Block B		1 This course is also available in other lists.		1 This course is also available in Block B	
Dance GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
		1 This course is also available in Block B		1 This course is also available in other lists.	
Graphics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	IT BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
1 This course is also available in Block B		1 This course is also available in other lists.		1 This course is also available in Block E	
3D Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	PE GCSE GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	PRE GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
1 This course is also available in Block E		1 This course is also available in Block E		1 This course is also available in Block B	
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve				
Block B					
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My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 0)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

No courses selected.

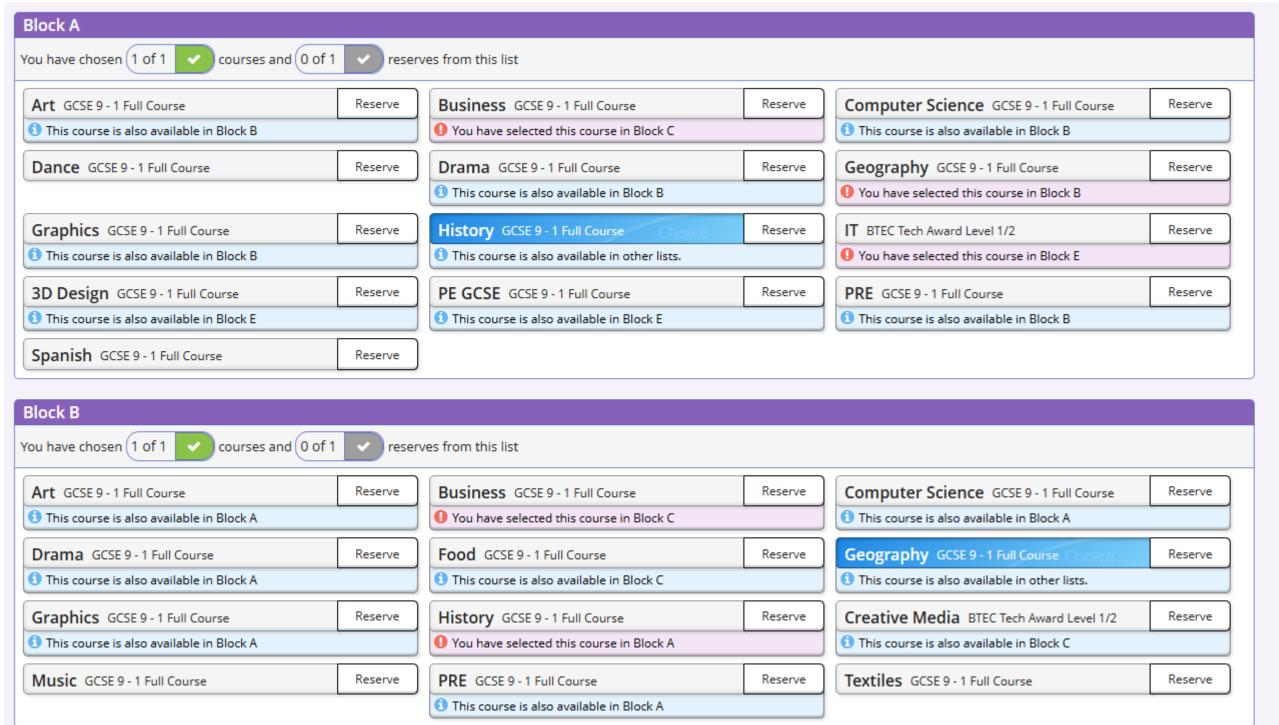
My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 0)

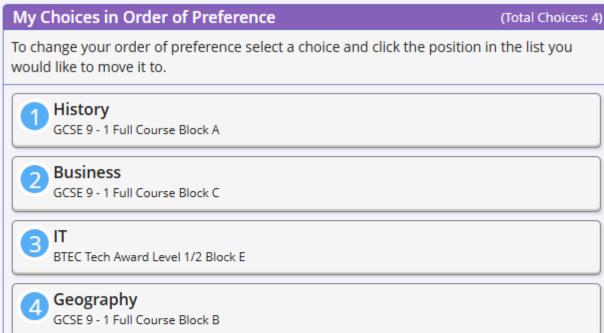
To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

No reserves selected.

Click on the subjects
you wish to select.
They will appear in the
'My Choices/ section on
the right

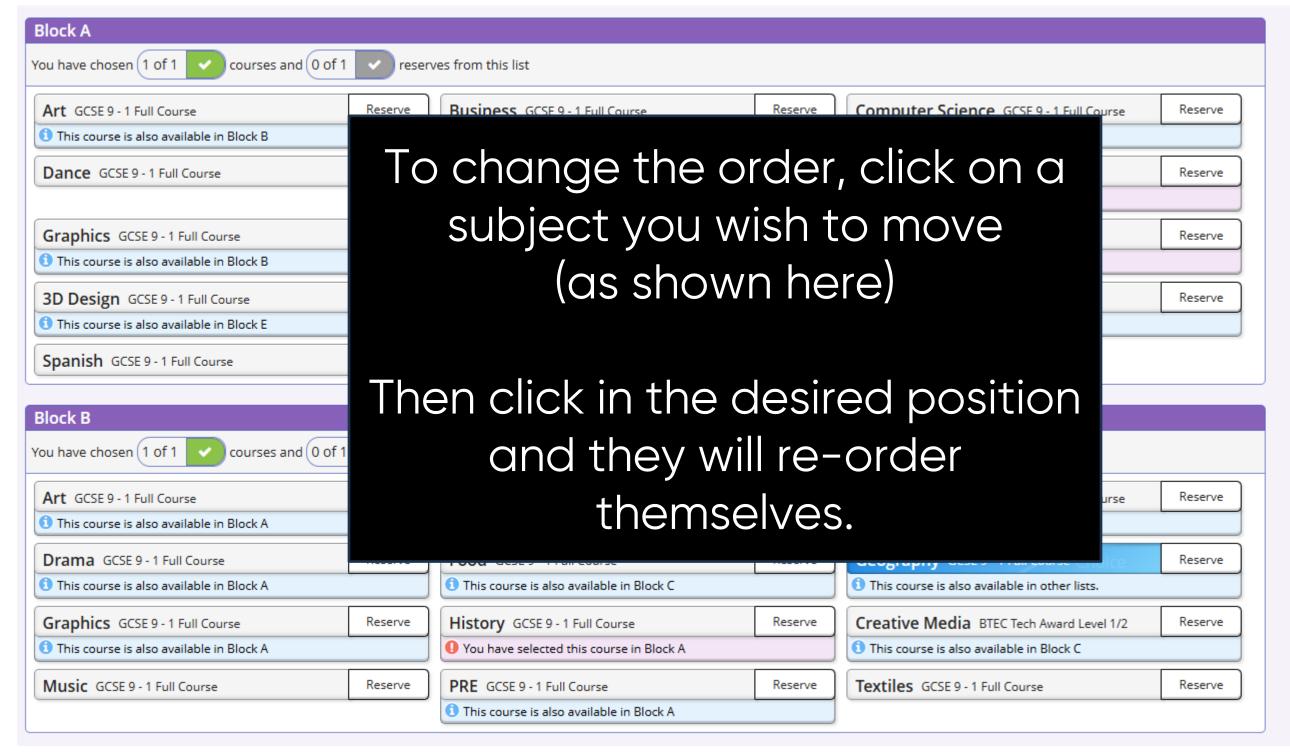


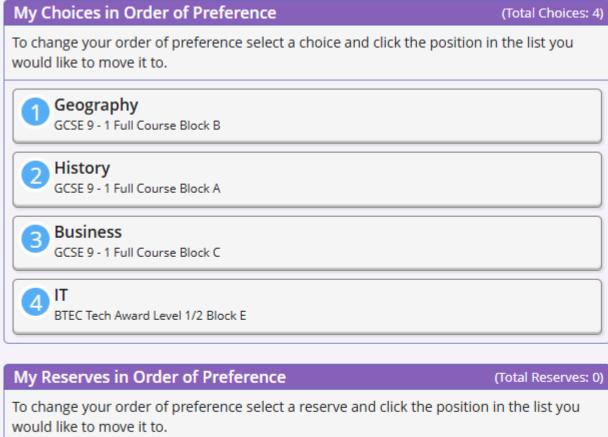




You can now change the priority order



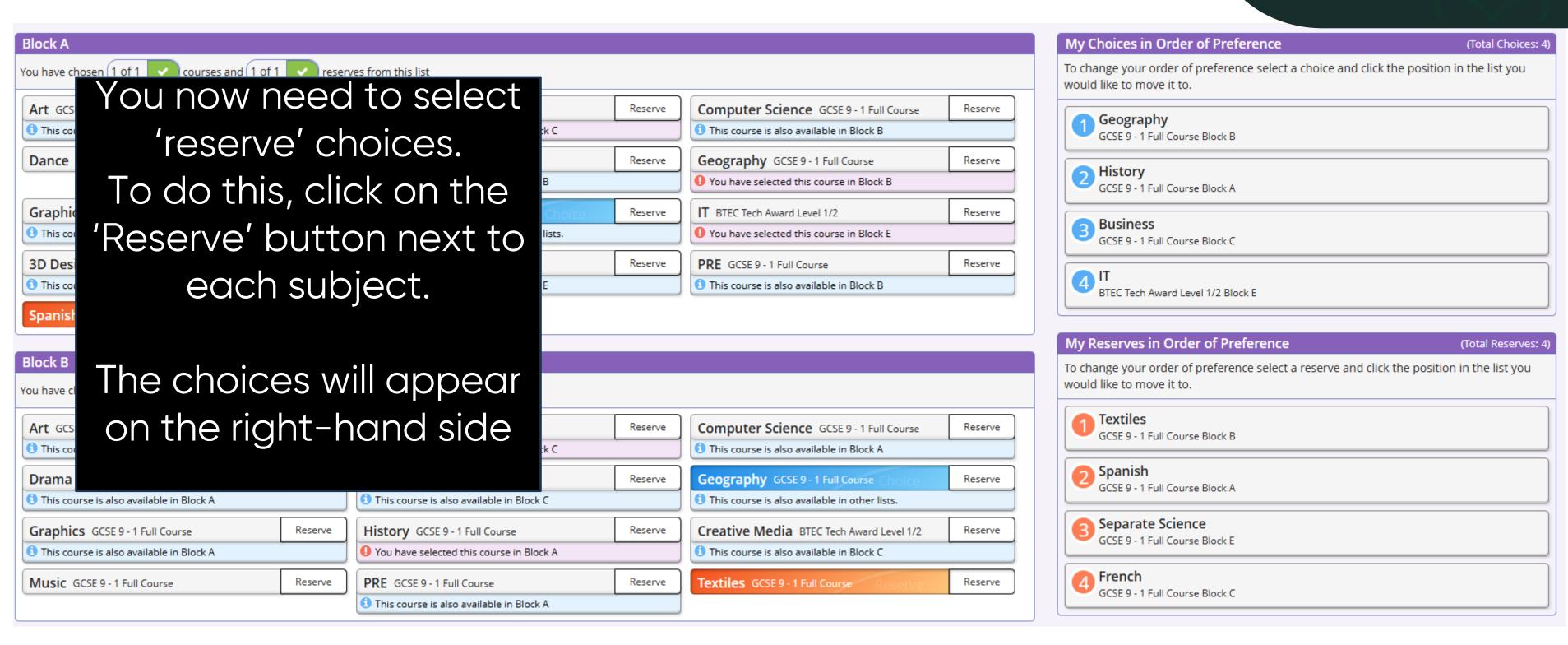




No reserves selected.









You may only select each subject once

If you have selected a subject as a main choice, it will not allow you to select

it as a reserve

If it appears like this:

You have selected too many subjects in a block

You have chosen 2 of 1 Courses and 1 of 1 reserved

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

This course is also available in Block B

Check you are happy with the selection (and order) and then click Save

Deadline: Monday 3rd March





What's next?

Information evening

Parents/carers consultation

Deadline for completion of options (online)

- Thursday 6th February

- Thursday 13th February

- Monday 3rd March

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Where do I find out more information?

- Parents/carers consultation evening:
 - Speak to teachers (appointments now open)
 - SLT drop in
- Form Tutors
- Parents
- School website options and subject information



Wootton Upper School website

The **Options Information booklet** contains information about the options process, advice about choosing options, and detailed information about all the courses on offer. We would encourage you to read all the information contained in the booklet and discuss it as a family over the coming weeks to ensure that you are well-informed when making choices, and also so that you have time to ask any questions you might have

The **Subject Information booklet** contains information about all of the subjects to help you decide the way forward. If you would prefer to read about subjects individually then please see the links below.

Options Information Booklet



Subject Information Booklet

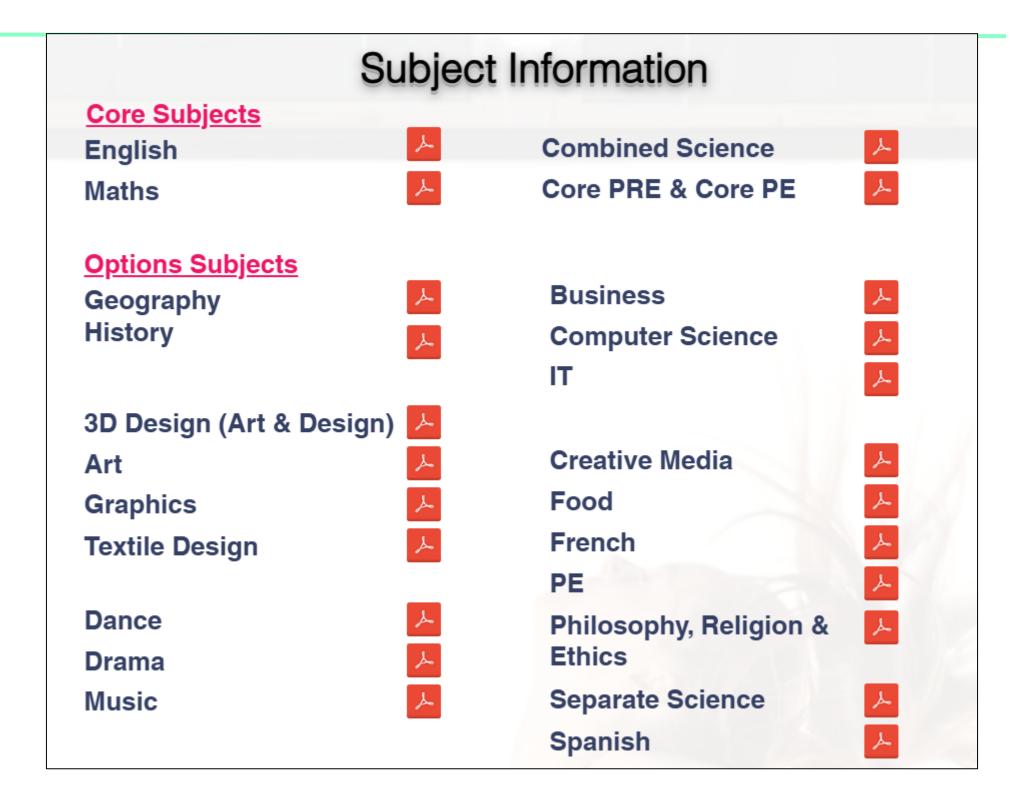


Options Form

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Subject information sheets



FRENCH

COURSE OVERVIEW

Modern foreign languages focus on phonics, vocabulary and grammar while developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Language learning broadens horizons and enables greater global understanding through exposure to the culture, traditions and history of the language being studied.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us.

The course builds on work completed in Year 9. Students will continue to develop the four key skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking and will have the opportunity to work with the French Assistant.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

The course will give you cultural knowledge whilst developing your language skills. By the end of Year 11, you will be able to:

- Follow and understand clear standard speech and written texts across a range of contexts;
- Take part in a short conversation, asking and answering questions, and exchanging opinions;
- Produce clear and coherent extended written work to present facts and express ideas and opinions.

Speaking another language makes you stand out from the crowd and helps you gain many transferable skills such as problem-solving, the ability to work in a team, flexibility and greater awareness of other cultures. You will also develop your communication, critical thinking, Qualification: GCSE Awarding Body: AQA

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The assessment is split into 4 paper

- 25% Writing examination
- 25% Speaking examinat
- 25% Listening examina 25% - Reading examin

This is a tiered entry subject. Foundation Tier - Grades 5 Higher Tier – Grades 9 - 3 pregramming languages at the code behind the software

POST 16 OPPC AND CAREER Computer Science is a practical subject where learners to real movid combinence in the an intencess.

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Software, you will also learn how to create, update and

Computer Science is a practical subject where learners in the

creative subject that involves invention and excitement

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protocos, encreption and even security, etnics and the

how computers work at a fundamental level

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COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE OVERVIEW Mether its milions of lines of code of clower zip design. Computer to millions of lines of code of clears with contract of c Computer scientists are the architects of our centre lines our centre lines above an amount of computer science involves bow computer from the above all rannonnents than beautiful to the second tensor of The study of computer science implies how computer to the same and energy sign components (hardware)

Qualification: GCSE Awarding Body: AQA

ASSESSMENT METHOD

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Can spoly the knowledge and some learned in the state of Written Paper Worth Stric Competitional thinking and problem solving = 1 hear 30 minutes exam.

The Content of this paper will be where your programming Written paper worth 50% - Theoretical knowledge = 1 POST 16 OPPORTIMITE AND CAREERS



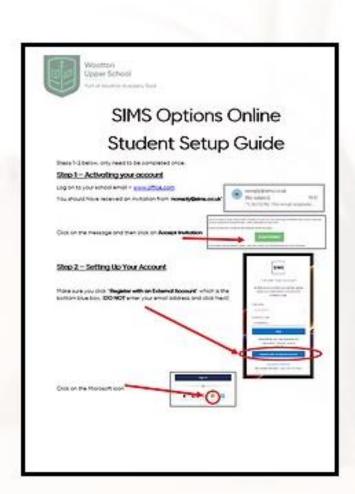
How to complete your options

Completing Your Options

Submission of option choices will be made using the online system - www.options-online.co.uk

Please use the guide to the right to take you through this process.

The deadline for completing these is Monday 3rd March





Thank you