



Year 11: Curriculum Overview



“Exam & Future Ready”

Year 11 serves as the crucial period for **synthesising two years of knowledge into structured, sophisticated arguments and calculations**. It is the year where students take their conceptual understanding of power, morality, and complex systems and translate it into high-stakes, technically precise, and strategically executed examination performance. It is analogous to an architect taking five years of design theory, material science, and building codes and using that integrated knowledge to successfully complete a final, comprehensive structural inspection. In other words, it's the year when all of the hard work pays off and pupils realise their full potential, bringing their knowledge and skills to fruition in the formal national examinations. The Year 11 curriculum is overwhelmingly defined by a focus on **exam mastery and strategic revision**, while thematically subjects deepen their critical analysis of **global power structures, complex ethical dilemmas, and interconnected physical/biological systems**, supporting pupils to prepare for the fundamental conceptual problems we are faced with in the real world.

1. Strategic Mastery and Holistic Revision for Examination

The most dominant trend across all subjects is the transition into full examination mode, requiring students to consolidate knowledge from previous years and apply strategic techniques to maximize performance.

- **Targeted Revision and Mock Examinations:** Maths (both Foundation and Higher tiers) dedicates significant time to **Catch Up, Mocks and Revision**, focusing on content based upon the needs of learners and feedback from assessments. English Language and Literature also employ the **‘walking talking mock’ methodology** to strategically address individual gaps and refine exam technique.
- **Strategic Structuring:** English instruction explicitly focuses on learning how to **structure a response for all language questions across both papers**. Sport Studies emphasizes mastering **exam technique** to maximize marks, including practicing structuring answers using the **PEEL technique** (Point, Explanation, Evidence, Link).
- **Course Consolidation:** Geography has a **meta-cognitive focus, dual coding and revision of all of the course content for the geography GCSE**. History units are dedicated to **Revision, Retention and Recap**. RE concludes the year by dedicating time to **Revision and Exam Skills**, including completing three GCSE exam papers.

2. Critical Examination of Power, Conflict, and Historical Inequality

The curriculum continues the critical study of power dynamics, focusing on conflict, dominance, and the historical impact of national systems.

- **Power and Manipulation:** English Language centers a unit on **‘Power Play’**, examining how writers establish dominance, manipulate the reader, or challenge existing hierarchies within a text. English Literature revisits **Macbeth**, analyzing the psychological descent driven by ambition and guilt, linking the play’s thematic concerns to the **Jacobean context**.
- **War, Morality, and Social Duty:** English Language addresses the theme **‘Call of Duty’**, requiring transactional writing (article/speech) to explore responses around **social responsibility, morality, and war**. History focuses on major 20th-century conflicts, examining the opposition groups who challenged the Nazis, how Germany moved to **Total War**, and the differing experiences of occupied countries (Netherlands and Poland).
- **The Making of Modern Nations:** History studies **The Making of America**, including the causes and aftermath of the **US Civil War**, the move to the Plains, the growth of slavery, and the rise of **big business**. Geography contributes with a detailed focus on economic development in the **Changing Economic World** through case studies of Kenya, India, and the UK.

3. Ethical and Societal Systems Inquiry

Year 11 curriculum strongly emphasizes ethical dilemmas and the structures that govern life and morality, often considering non-religious perspectives alongside religious ones.

- **Life, Death, and Morality:** Religious Education (RE) focuses heavily on **Ethics**, particularly **Life and Death** (covering non-religious perspectives on world creation, the sanctity of life, and quality of life). It also examines philosophical questions concerning the **origins and nature of good & evil**.
- **Human Relationships and Identity:** RE includes a unit on **Relationships**, exploring the importance of human relationships and different religious attitudes towards them. English Language explores **‘The Making of Me: Childhood and Identity’** to study narratives around personal development and formative years.
- **Participation and Values in Sport:** Sport Studies focuses on major societal issues related to athletics, including **issues impacting participation** (barriers for different groups) and how sport promotes **positive values and ethics** (respect, fair play, tolerance).

4. Deepened Study of Environmental, Planetary, and Abstract Scientific Systems

Scientific subjects and Geography focus on complex global systems, environmental threats, and abstract, invisible forces.

- **Climate Change and Planetary Resources:** Geography focuses on **Natural Hazards** and extensively covers **climate change** (causes like deforestation, evidence, and evaluation of impact). Science dedicates units to **Chemistry and the Atmosphere**, covering its evolution, the mechanism of **global warming** by greenhouse gases, and the effects of atmospheric pollutants. Science also looks at **sustainable resource use**.
- **Invisible Biological and Chemical Processes:** Science delves into highly specialized internal systems, such as **Homeostasis and Response** (nervous and endocrine systems, control of body temperature and blood glucose), **Genetic Inheritance** (DNA, protein synthesis, natural selection), and **Rate and Extent of Chemical Change** (dynamic equilibrium, bond energies).
- **Abstract Physics and Energy:** Physics units cover the **Motor Effect** and **Fleming's left hand rule**, **Nuclear Radiation** (fission and fusion, half-life), and **Force, Mass, and Acceleration** (velocity-time graphs, terminal velocity).

5. Final Linguistic Application

In Languages, the curriculum is structured to ensure comprehensive coverage of all thematic contexts required for the final exams.

- **Comprehensive Thematic Review:** French focuses on mastering content across **all 5/6 thematic contexts** (Personal World, Studying and my future, My neighbourhood, Travel and tourism, Lifestyle and well-being).
- **Advanced Grammar and Fluency:** Students apply advanced grammar such as the **conditional tense** to discuss ideal holidays and practice complex translations and speaking exam components.