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Eckington School

Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

Name:

Tutor Group:

Part of
LEAP
Multi Academy Trust

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Introduction



A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

In September 2021 you will begin key stage 4. In key stage 4 you will follow a curriculum that has core subjects (those studied by all students) and options subjects. Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to choose your options subjects. This will allow you to personalise your learning so that you can begin planning for your future after you leave Eckington School.

At Eckington School we believe that it is important for students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum. This means that students should make options choices that will allow them to follow a range of subjects in a variety of different areas. From September 2021, you will get the opportunity to choose four option subjects. We are encouraging you to choose a range of subjects: from the humanities, modern languages, performing and expressive arts and technology.

As part of the Government's emphasis on an academic curriculum, we do ask all students to choose at least one subject from geography, history, French or German. These subjects form part of the English Baccalaureate or EBacc. The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself, but it recognises students who have secured a 'good' GCSE grade across a core of academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a modern language. The subjects included in the EBacc are designed to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed to them for future progression.

You should not make any choices until you have spoken to your parents/carers, subject teachers, form tutor and anyone else you think can help you make a decision. There will be an opportunity to do this at the Online Key Stage 4 Options Event on Tuesday 2 February 2021.

Your options form is due in on Tuesday 2 March 2021.

C Horsfield – Assistant Principal

An Overview

<p>The Core: Everyone must study these subjects:</p>	
<p>English (GCSE English language & literature) Mathematics (GCSE) Science (GCSE) Character education (non-examination) Physical education (non-examination)</p>	
<p>The Options: You must choose ONE subject AND ONE RESERVE from each of the mixed option blocks. All courses are GCSE unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>REMEMBER: One of your options MUST be Geography, History, French or German.</p>	
<p>Block A</p> <p>Art & Design: Fine Art Construction (L1/2 Award) Drama Modern Languages: German Health & Fitness (VCERT) Health & Social Care (BTEC) History Media Studies Physical Education</p>	<p>Block B</p> <p>Art & Design: Fine Art Business Geography Modern Languages: German Health & Fitness (VCERT) Health & Social Care (BTEC) History Media Studies Physical Education</p>
<p>Block C</p> <p>Art & Design: Photography Business Design & Technology Modern Languages: French Geography Hospitality & Catering (L1/2 Award) iMedia (Cambridge National Certificate) Music (RSL) Religious Studies</p>	<p>Block D</p> <p>Art & Design: Photography Business Modern Languages: French Geography Hospitality & Catering (L1/2 Award) iMedia (Cambridge National Certificate) Media Studies Music (GCSE) Travel & Tourism (BTEC)</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Students cannot pick the following combinations:

Design & Technology and Construction, GCSE Music and RSL Music, Physical Education and Health & Fitness

Eckington Sixth Form Course Entry Requirements

The information provided below is the course entry requirements for A Level and Level 3 BTEC courses. We have provided this information to help you choose your option subjects and prepare for study in Years 12 and 13.

Subject	Course Entry Requirements
Art, Craft and Design	Grade 6 in GCSE Art & Design.
Photography and Lens-Based Media	Grade 6 in GCSE Photography. Students with a grade 6 Art & Design may only take up the course with the agreement of the Performing Arts leadership team and will need to complete a two week induction programme before final approval.
Drama and Theatre Studies	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama, Level 2 Pass in BTEC Performing Arts or Grade 5 in GCSE English. Students who have not studied Drama at GCSE can still take A Level Drama.
Music	Grade 5 in GCSE Music or Level 2 Merit in RSL Music.
Digital Film and Video Production	5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including GCSE English and mathematics.
Product Design	Product Design Grade 6 in GCSE Design & Technology. Any student not having studied Design Technology at GCSE may only take up the course with the agreement of the Design Technology / ICT leadership team and will need to complete a two week induction programme before final approval.
English Language	Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.
English Literature	Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.
Film Studies	Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature or a grade 6 in Media Studies.
Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
French	Grade 6 in GCSE French.
German	Grade 7 in GCSE German.
Physical Education	Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education or equivalent and a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE Science.
Sport and Physical Activity	Grade 5 in GCSE Physical Education or equivalent and a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE Science.
Applied Science	Two grade 5s in GCSE Science, a grade 5 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.
Biology	Two grade 6s in GCSE Science, a grade 6 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.
Chemistry	Two grade 6s in GCSE Science; a grade 6 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics is preferable.
Physics	Two grade 6s in GCSE Science; a grade 6 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics is preferable.
Business	Grade 6 in GCSE Business and GCSE Mathematics. Students that have not studied GCSE Business can study the course but will need grade 6 in English.
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography, as well as grade 6 in GCSE English, Mathematics and Science.
Geology	Grade 5 in GCSE English, Mathematics and Science. Grade 5 in GCSE Geography would be beneficial but not essential.
Health and Social Care	Grade 4 in GCSE English and Science.
History	Grade 5 in GCSE History. Students that have not studied GCSE History will be considered if they have a range of grade 5 in similar academic subjects.
Law	A range of grade 5s in academic subjects, especially English and History.
Psychology	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Science
Sociology	Grade 5 in English Language
Religious Studies	Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies and English Language or English Literature. Students that have not studied GCSE Religious Studies should have grade 5 in similar subjects e.g. History or Geography.

There are no entry requirements for any of the GCSE or equivalent courses you can study in Years 9, 10 and 11. You can choose any of the ones on offer.



Courses

The Core

English Language

Brief Outline

GCSE English Language is a vital qualification. During this course you will:

- Read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts critically to develop an understanding of the author's craft and the effect of language and structure.
- Write for different audiences and purposes, including a creative response to an image and a persuasive, opinion piece.
- Engage in discussion and an individual spoken presentation based on themes and ideas suggested by your teacher, but made personal to yourself or your group.

Course Content

- Reading a variety of challenging fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Different writing styles to suit different audiences and purposes.
- A variety of different speaking and listening tasks including group tasks and individual presentations.

How will I be assessed?

External exam - 100%

Why Study English?

- A grade 5 in English is the essential qualification for further and higher education as well as the key requirement of major employers, a significant number of training schemes or apprenticeships.
- It is a fascinating study of how society and individuals are influenced by language and how they use it.
- You will practice speaking and listening skills which are very important in further education, higher education, employment and life.

Leaders of teaching and learning:

L. Little

H. Burton

English Literature

Brief Outline

You will read more challenging texts for enjoyment but also for critical evaluation. An important part of the course is developing your own essay writing skills and considering writer's methods and intentions. The syllabus covers texts from the 1600s to the present day.

Course Content

- Reading prose
- Reading plays
- Reading poetry
- Learning how to identify, explain and even evaluate writers' methods.
- Learning how to explore how a writer was influenced by their own life and time and of writing.
- Learning how to make sophisticated comparisons between texts of similar and different genres.

How will I be assessed?

External exam - 100%

Leaders of teaching and learning:

L. Little and H. Burton

Why Study English Literature?

- Reading texts helps you improve your literacy skills.
- Reading texts develops your understanding of the world we live in and improves your ability to empathise with others.
- They provide you with a key skill required for most employment and further and higher education. Many university courses value English Literature as an indicator of academic excellence and a highly valued companion subject to the Humanities.

Mathematics

Brief Outline

The GCSE mathematics course will allow students to develop their understanding of mathematics by working individually, in pairs or in groups. Many different teaching and learning styles support the learning, including discussion, thinking time and questioning for deeper understanding. Staff use interactive whiteboards with a range of programs and presentations to model work for students. In lessons, students will be pushed towards 'Extra Challenge' activities to develop perseverance, thinking and problem solving skills.

Course Content

The syllabus code for the qualification is Edexcel 1 MA1.

GCSE mathematics has two tiers of entry. Students sit either the **higher** papers (grades 4 to 9, grade 3 allowed in exceptional cases) or the **foundation** papers (grades 1 to 5).

The content of the papers will focus on the following areas: number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics and there is an emphasis on applying the mathematics, particularly in the higher tier.

Students will sit three terminal papers in May/June of year 11. The first paper will be non-calculator. A calculator is used in the following two papers. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.

How will I be assessed?

Final examination - 100%

Why Study Mathematics?

- Mathematics is an essential life skill.
- Studying GCSE mathematics develops a student's analytical, problem solving, research and logic skill as well as number ability and confidence; all desired by many employees.
- Students will use the skills they develop in mathematics in all other lessons and everyday life.
- Whether it is the planning of what to do at the weekend, using a computer or phone, watching the television, checking the weather, traveling, going shopping or going to the bank, mathematics plays a part.
- You may not use all the mathematics you learn. You may not use algebra when you go shopping, but the architects who designed the shop did, likewise the builders who built it, the engineers who designed the tills, and the shop assistants who served you!
- Resilience is a key characteristic, developed by the study of mathematics and this is a highly desirable quality in the modern work place.

Leader of teaching and learning:

A. Burton

Combined Science

Brief Outline

Science is a compulsory part of the national curriculum for all students up to the end of year 11 and does not need to be chosen as an option.

Science helps us to develop an understanding of ourselves and the world around us, as well as developing skills such as investigating, analysing and critically evaluating evidence. Science also develops many transferable skills including literacy, numeracy and ICT. During year 9 all students complete a foundation year in Science, at the end of year 9 the pathway each student follows is decided on (combined science or separate sciences).

Course Content

We follow the AQA Combined Science Trilogy specification (code 8464) – found at <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>.

This is a course which gives students experience in the main themes of biology, chemistry and physics, along with developing skills needed to 'work scientifically'. The AQA specification says, "We have included all the parts of what good science is at GCSE level: whether it be investigating, observing, experimenting or testing out ideas and thinking about them. The way scientific ideas flow through the specification will support you in building a deep understanding of science".

How will I be assessed?

- 100% exam at the end of Y11.
- A minimum of 15% of the marks will come from practical assessment questions, based on 21 required practical activities.

- A further minimum of 20% of the marks will come from questions that test applications of mathematics in science.
- Total assessment time is 7.5 hours, based on six 1 hour and 15 minutes exams.
- The papers are tiered; foundation grades 1-5 and higher grades 4-9. This leads to two grades known as a linked grade.

Why Study Science?

- GCSEs in science demonstrate a wide range of skills to employers/colleges. It would be an expected qualification for all young people, including those wishing to become an electrician, or beautician, and is also essential for any student who wishes to study science A levels, or to have a career in areas such as teaching, nursing, engineering, laboratory analysis, physiotherapy, medicine and veterinary science.
- Grade 66 or above in GCSE combined Science is required for further study at Eckington in science at A level. Grade 5's would be acceptable onto most BTEC level 3 courses.

Leader of teaching and learning:

H. Streets

Separate Sciences

Brief Outline

Studying separate sciences is not a compulsory part of the national curriculum. Students are invited to study separate sciences based upon their target grades, current progress and attitudes to learning. Students following this pathway will study three GCSE qualifications in the time allocated for Combined Science. It is therefore suited to students who are self-motivated, willing to work at pace in lessons and have a record of completing homework and lesson prep work to the best of their ability, in a timely manner.

Course Content

We follow the AQA separate sciences in biology (code 8461), chemistry (code 8462) and physics (code 8463) – found at <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>. Please follow the link to the AQA website for further details.

How will I be assessed?

- 100% exam at the end of Y11.
- A minimum of 15% of the final grade will come from practical assessment questions in the final exams; there are 10 required practical activities for biology, 8 for chemistry and 10 for physics.
- A further minimum of 10% of the marks will be based on questions that test applications of mathematics in biology, 20% in chemistry and 30% in physics.
- For the separate science GCSEs students will have two 1 hour and 45 minute exams per subject (3.5 hours per subject).
- This leads to one separate grade for each subject.

Why Study Separate Sciences?

- The separate science GCSEs go into a deeper understanding of science and its application than in combined science.
- It would be recommended for any student who wishes to study science A levels. However, it is not essential to study separate sciences in order to study science A levels.
- Two GCSEs in separate science at grade 6 or above are required for further study in science at A level, although all students who opt for separate sciences will of course study three separate subjects.

Leader of teaching and learning:

H. Streets

Character Development

Brief Outline

In Key Stage 4 you will develop and strengthen your personal character during Character Development lessons once per week, key areas include:

- Health Education
- Relationships and Sex education
- Careers education
- Religious Education
- Financial and Citizenship education

Character Education will be taught during:

- PIXL lessons
- Weekly Character Education lessons
- Flexible Learning days
- Extra Curricular activities
- Work experience and engagement opportunities

Course Content

You will learn about:

- Different types of healthy relationships, signs of abuse and bullying, consent and power.
- Manage risks and stay safe, how to lead a healthy and well balanced lifestyles.
- Managing your own mental resilience, self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Recognise triggers and coping strategies to manage stress and anxiety.
- Issues of diversity, equality and tolerance, and your rights and responsibilities in the world, and how to tackle extremism and racism

- Becoming an active citizen and the many ways that you can impact on the world around you; British Values and Democracy and democratic process, and environmental issues, and financial education.
- You will learn to articulate your skills and attributes, and be fully aware of the many different careers pathways open to you.

How will I be assessed?

Through the PIXL EDGE programme you will actively engage in opportunities to develop your employability skills of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication (LORIC).

Why Study Character Education?

By participating in Character Education we hope that you will be well prepared to contribute positively to your community, and have fulfilling and meaningful relationships with others.

Leader of teaching and learning:

L. Moor

Physical Education

Brief Outline

Core physical education is designed to encourage physical activity and a healthy lifestyle and help you to develop a positive attitude to all aspects of physical activity. You will receive a single lesson each week in year 10 and 11. Throughout the key stage you will be given opportunities to participate in regular activities to help you achieve a healthy lifestyle.

Course Content

Throughout the year you will have some involvement in the decision making process of what activities you would like to do based on the facilities your class has been allocated.

There will be at least 2 occasions when you will be timetabled outside.

When making your choice, you should consider the following very carefully:

- Which activities will you be most successful in?
- If you are doing GCSE physical education which activities do you need to practise and know more about to improve your grade?
- In which activities would you like to develop your ability and knowledge, so that you can take part in them outside of school?
- Are there any new activities you would like to try?
- Do you need to improve your fitness? Which activities will help you to do this?

Leader of teaching and learning:

S. Clarke



Courses

Mixed Options

Fine Art

Brief Outline

You will develop your skills in drawing, practical experimentation, designing, research, discussion and analysis of your own and other artists' work. Each unit of coursework and the final examination will involve completing preparation work followed by a more ambitious final piece.

Course Content

- Introductory workshops in a range of media including painting, printing, design, drawing, Photo-editing and mixed-media.
- Pop Art project: exploring artists who have been inspired by popular culture. This will involve exploration of the visual elements.
- Ordinary & Extraordinary: A mixed-media project which gives you the opportunity to explore different materials to create art work which transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary.
- Expressive portraits: Large-scale painting project influenced by the work of artists that have used the portrait to express their emotions.
- Identity: Exploring imaginative ways artists communicate the theme of identity and selecting materials and techniques to communicate a personal response.
- Develop skills in writing for annotation and using key vocabulary
- There will be an emphasis on drawing from observation to support the development of your ideas in art.

Transferable skills you will learn:

- A create approach to problem solving
- Consider & develop original ideas
- Analyse critically your own and the work of others
- Express individual thoughts and choices
- Take risks, experiment and learn from your mistakes

For the final examination you will be set a question paper with different themes to choose from. You may work with a material of your own choice. You will have seven weeks to prepare for this followed by ten hours to complete the final piece.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 40%

Controlled assessment - 60%

Why Study Art & Design: Fine Art?

- Art and design is everywhere: from the furniture we sit on, to the video games we play and the clothes we wear. Because of its importance in the modern world, training in art and design can open up opportunities in many careers.
- The skills developed in art and design, e.g. creativity, self-expression, presentation, can be applied to all your subjects and in employment.
- You can continue to study art and design at level 3, and the subject is widely recognised by colleges and universities.

Leader of teaching and learning:

H. Partridge

Photography

Brief Outline

You will develop your photographic and digital processing skills, research and analysis of your own and other photographers' work. Each unit of coursework and the final examination will involve preparation work, followed by a more refined series of final prints.

Course Content

- Introductory workshops exploring experimental camera, Photoshop and lighting techniques
- Surreal project: You will take photographs, research artists and use Photoshop to manipulate images which explore the imaginative world of dreams.
- Red project: You will take photographs, research artists and film makers and use Photoshop to manipulate images which explore symbolism
- CD project: You will explore stop motion, long exposure and drawing with light to create CD cover designs
- Vintage project: You will research the work of artists and use this influence to create your own vintage style photographs using a digital camera and Photoshop.
- Reflections project: You will explore how to create reflections with in camera experimentation, post-production experimentation and physical editing techniques
- Develop skills in writing for annotation and using key vocabulary.

Leader of teaching and learning:

H. Partridge

Transferable skills you will learn:

- A creative approach to problem solving
- Consider & develop original ideas
- Analyse critically your own and the work of others
- Express individual thoughts and choices
- Take risks, experiment and learn from your mistakes.

For the final examination you will be set a question paper with different themes to choose from. You work may take various forms, from studio to outdoor photography and image manipulations using computer software. You will have seven weeks to prepare and this preparation will form part of the assessment followed by ten hours to complete a final piece.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 40%

Controlled assessment - 60%

Why Study Art & Design: Photography?

- The impact of photography on our daily lives is huge. We are all influenced in what we buy by the power of advertising and packaging. Due to this ever-growing market, the career possibilities in this area are endless.
- The skills developed in art and design, e.g. creativity, self-expression, presentation, can be applied to all your subjects and in employment.
- You can continue to study art and design at level 3, and the subject is widely recognised by colleges and universities.

Brief Outline

In Business you will learn to develop an enterprising mind. Business is an engaging and inspiring course which reflects the demands of a fast paced and dynamic business environment. You will learn about real businesses and how they compete and stay competitive by regular use of up to date case studies and video clips.

You will learn essential business terminology and theories and then apply them to solve business problems. In class Business students regularly work in teams to solve problems and present research and ideas.

Course Content

Two key themes will be explored:

Theme 1 - Investigating small business, and
Theme 2 - Building a business

- What is involved in being an entrepreneur and how to start your own business
- How to spot a business opportunity and how to successfully put it into operation
- How to make your business start-up effective
- How to manage your business through effective marketing, sound financial control, staff management and efficient production
- How your business can be affected by events outside of your control

How will I be assessed?

100% examination. The paper will consist of calculation questions, short answer and extended answer questions.

Why Study Business?

- Business skills are employability skills. All aspects of business will help you with the 'world of work' in the future.
- Everyone is involved in businesses, either as a customer or as an employee, or perhaps as an owner!
- If you want to set up your own business. Are you are the next Lord Alan Sugar!
- GCSE Business provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers such as accountant, personnel work, marketing, merchandising, banking, business management, advertising or the leisure industry.
- This is a successful course. The past exam results speak for themselves.
- With GCSE Business you will easily be able to go on to study A level Business at Eckington in the post 16 centre.

Leader of teaching and learning:

L. Moor

Construction & the Built Environment

Brief Outline

This course allows you to study construction and the built environment, giving you the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the industry. You will develop skills such as interpreting and analysing information, identifying the infrastructure required for safe and efficient work and in understanding how client needs can shape building design. The course will give you the opportunity to learn about one of the most important sectors of the UK economy: one that is expected to grow in the coming years.

Course Content

The course will enable you to:

- Develop a theoretical and practical knowledge of the built environment.

Develop some practical skills in construction and design such as:

- Carpentry
- Brickwork
- Plumbing
- Electrical principles
- Develop mathematical and scientific principles that underpin the construction industry.
- Explore the impact of design through research
- Apply your own ideas in response to a design brief.

Taught Units:

The taught units cover the fundamental knowledge, skills and understanding required in construction technology and design. There are 3 taught units. All students must cover the three mandatory units which are:

- Safety and security in construction
- Developing construction projects (Practical projects throughout 3 years)
- Planning construction projects

How Will I Be Assessed?

- You will carry out tasks/assignments throughout the course. Your teacher will mark these, and so you will receive feedback as to how you are getting on.
- The assessment for Unit 1: Safety and security in construction and Unit 3: Planning construction projects, are tests which are sent away to be marked.

Why Study Construction And The Built Environment?

This course is ideal for students wanting to progress to further study at level 3 in construction and the built environment, engineering or design, or to apprenticeships.

Leader of teaching and learning:

C. Hendzell

Design & Technology

Brief Outline

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment.

Course Content

Practical application of:

- Core technical principles
- **Specialist technical principles (Timber based products)**
- Designing and making principles

Task(s): Substantial design and make task. Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence

Assessment criteria:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

How Will I Be Assessed?

Examination - 50%

Coursework - 50%

Why Study Design & Technology?

- Design and Technology will prepare you for tomorrow's rapidly changing world. You will be encouraged to think creatively and provide solutions that will improve our quality of life.
- Design and Technology builds on your ability to work successfully as an individual or as part of a team.
- Finally, the practical skills gained in Design and Technology – along with the creative element of the subject - will open up a number of vocational pathways after key stage 4

Leader of teaching and learning:

C. Hendzell

Drama

Brief Outline

You will develop performance skills through practical workshops. You will learn how to successfully devise plays and perform scripts. You will also experience a wide range of live theatre. In addition to this there is a large emphasis on written work in both exam and coursework formats. Therefore students will be required to explore their ideas practically and then learn how to write down their ideas in essay format.

Course Content

You will study:

- Devising drama – Students will create a piece of drama from a stimulus and complete a piece of reflective writing evaluating their practical process and final performance.
- Scripted play – Students will rehearse and perform a scripted piece of drama for a live audience and a visiting examiner.
- Blood Brothers: a scripted play explored practically and assessed in a written exam.
- Written Evaluation of live performances assessed in a written exam.

How Will I Be Assessed?

- **Examination: 40%** (written examination)
- **Devised Practical Coursework: 10%** (internally marked and externally moderated)
- **Devised Written 30%** (internally marked and externally moderated)
- **Scripted Performance 20%** (External examiner visits school)

Why Study Drama?

- There are specific jobs in the performance industry such as set designer, theatre administrator, make-up artists, as well as acting itself.
- To develop life skills, such as self-confidence, resilience and co-operation, needed in any job.
- To develop your communication skills. You will learn how to communicate your ideas - verbally and written. These are highly valued by employers, sixth forms or further education colleges.
- Improves your literacy skills.

Leader of teaching and learning:

K. Needham

Geography

Brief Outline

Geography will involve you studying the processes that help form the human and physical environment around us and across the world. To do this you will learn evidence of case studies about real places where you will become aware of the decisions that affect the lives of real people, including yourself! You will have the opportunity to experience a range of teaching and learning styles and you will frequently use a variety of information sources including the internet, interactive whiteboard software, text books and working in groups to develop fieldwork skills. The skills developed within geography are some of the broadest of any subject you could study. An important part of the course will be to undertake multiple fieldwork opportunities in contrasting environments analyse the data and sit an exam that requires you to reflect on your findings and experiences. A charge of approximately £35 is required to cover the cost of transport for the fieldwork visits during the course. A revision guide to cover the whole subject is available and will be required to complete the course. This can be purchased through school.

Course Content

Our new specification is an exciting opportunity to study geographical concepts that enhance our understanding of how the world around us works. We cover:

- Natural hazards such as tropical storms, earthquakes and climate change.
- The living world including rainforests and deserts
- Coastal and river landscapes in the UK
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world, including international trade
- The challenge of resource management, including water, food and energy.
- Geographical fieldwork in multiple environments
- A range of scientific, mathematical and statistical techniques to analyse data

How Will I Be Assessed?

Examination - 100%

Why Study Geography?

- Studying geography helps develop an awareness of what really matters in the world today and tomorrow. It will help you to understand what is in the news and to appreciate the causes of changes which affect us and others.
- These are skills valuable to employers, trainers and those in further and higher education. Geography has been rated as one of the top qualifications that employers are looking for. As a result the range of jobs and careers you could enter into is wide, including information technology, financial management & banking, planning, transport, retail, travel and tourism, environment and energy conservation. Your teacher will link the different topics you cover to future employment opportunities in that area.
- There has never been a better time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you can study. Geography students hold the key to the world's problems!
- Geography is a very successful subject at Eckington, with growing number of students achieving 8 and 9 grades each year. A significant number of our GCSE students stay with us for A Level Geography which is a successful subject at A Level. With a high number that go to university to study related subjects. We have a strong track record of sending A Level students to the top Geography departments in the UK.

Leader of teaching and learning:

B. Jessop

Health & Fitness

Brief Outline

This course is taught both in theory lessons and through practical application. The NCFE level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness is a vocational equivalent of GCSE qualifications. The course is appropriate for learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands on experiences and through content which is concrete and related directly to those experiences.

The NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness is a level 2 equivalent of GCSE qualifications.

Course Content

Unit 1 - Introduction to body systems and the principles of training - Externally assessed (40%)

This unit provides learners with the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for health and fitness. Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of key body systems. Learners will know and understand the short- and long-term effects that health and fitness activities can have on the body. Learners will know and understand the components of fitness and the principles of training.

Unit 2 - Preparing and planning for Health and Fitness - Internally assessed portfolio of work/evidence (60%)

This unit provides learners with the knowledge and understanding to be able to prepare and plan for health and fitness. Learners will know and understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness and be able to apply health and fitness analyses to set goals. Learners will know and understand how to test and develop components of fitness. Learners will know and understand how to structure a health and fitness programme and how to prepare safely for health and fitness activities.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Unit 01 - 40% Weighting - Externally assessed: written examination (externally marked)

Unit 02 - 60% Weighting - Internally assessed: synoptic project (externally quality assured)

Please note:

Students can choose a preferred course from GCSE Physical Education and VCERT Health & Fitness. A final decision about which course individual students follow will be decided by the Leader of Teaching and Learning for PE and will be based upon assessments to determine the most appropriate course to achieve greater success for the individual.

Leader of teaching and learning:

S Clarke

Health & Social Care

Brief Outline

If you are interested in working in the health and social care sector, or want to care for and help others this may be the course for you. This course gives you the background knowledge and skills needed by anyone considering a career working with people.

The BTEC Tech Award is an introduction to vocational learning. The Awards give you the opportunity to build skills that show an aptitude for further learning both in the health and social care sector and more widely.

Course Content

You will:

- Learn through investigation.
- Develop knowledge and understanding about health, social care and early years.
- Complete practical work, assignments and one exam.
- Learn about and understand the world you live in.
- Be able to design a health and wellbeing improvement plan.
- Research occupations you may want to work in.

Taught Units

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development:

This unit helps you understand how people grow and develop throughout their lives and to investigate the factors that affect this growth and development. You will go on to consider how these factors are interrelated.

Unit 2: Health and Social Care Values: In this unit you will gain an understanding of how care values are applied in health and social care settings, and their importance to work in the sector.

Unit 3: Health and Wellbeing: In this unit you will study the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators and how to design a health and wellbeing improvement plan.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Coursework 50% - 4 assignments in total – Unit 1 and Unit 2 External examination 50% - Unit 3

Why Study Health & Social Care?

This course is ideal preparation for progression to more detailed study of Level 3 Health and Social Care. After this course you can continue your studies in one of the following ways:

- An A Level course
- A BTEC National qualification.
- A 14-19 Diploma in Society, Health and Development.
- An apprenticeship in a health and social care setting.

Leader of teaching and learning:

J. Trueman

History

Brief Outline

Sometimes working in teams, in pairs or individually, history will involve a range of learning methods to help you learn information about the past. You will develop important skills such as effective note-making, making sense of lots of information and structuring extended answers and evaluating historical sources. This will allow you to understand historical argument and form your own opinions supported with evidence. This course will be of interest to those wishing to study history either because they find history interesting, or because they wish to build a portfolio of academic subjects at examination level. It is **important** for **ALL** potential GCSE students to realise that they must be ready and willing to do **a lot of reading and writing**. If you positively **do** enjoy this kind of work, then you will find GCSE History to be a rewarding experience. History is, at the end of the day, a **written** subject.

Course Content

This course is diverse and, therefore, there should be something for everyone. It builds upon both the skills and content of our KS3 course. Around 50% is on British History: a thematic study of Britain over time from the medieval period to the modern day and a depth study on the Restoration Period. One part of this will include a site study – a castle or stately home or something similar. Another element is international history in the 20th century: the causes of World War II. In addition, there will be a study of American History in the 20th century. Students who have enjoyed the content of their history lessons in Y7 and Y8 will probably enjoy this course.

How Will I Be Assessed?

100% examination

Why Study History?

- History is a very successful subject here at Eckington. In 2019 39% of candidates received a Grade 7 or higher. That is the equivalent of an A* or A grades.
- History is taught by subject specialists who are completely reliable in terms of expertise and commitment. The entire curriculum from Y7 to Y13 works as a whole and, thus, students begin working towards their GCSE grade on day 1 of Year 7. As a result, we have a 100% pass rate for students who take History further than GCSE and continue to a full A Level.
- A BBC survey suggested that history develops the exact skills employers are looking for: communication in writing and speech; team work; analyse and make sense of different information.
- These qualities are highly valued and will open doors for careers in law, journalism, the media, the civil service, business management, social work and public services.
- It is highly valued by further and higher education institutions because it develops a strong academic foundation to build upon.

Leader of teaching and learning:

E. Bell

Hospitality & Catering

Brief Outline

This exciting and creative course focuses heavily on the practical aspect of food. The students will be taught a wide range of skills including all the cake making methods, range of pastries including choux, rice and pasta based dishes, filleting fish and cutting chicken for sauté. They will study all aspects of the hospitality and catering industry including businesses that provide food, beverages and accommodation. They will get to run a restaurant at school and be involved in catering events.

Course Content

You will learn:

- The skills necessary to enable you to prepare, cook and store a range of different foods using a variety of methods.
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The structure of the hospitality and catering industry.
- How hospitality and catering businesses operate
- Health and safety including food bacteria

How Will I Be Assessed?

Examination Controlled assessment - 40% Controlled assessment - 60%

The controlled assessment is based around a brief provided by the examination board. The student will suggest dishes appropriate for the brief and research the nutritional value of the foods. They will select two dishes with accompaniments and produce a time plan and cook the foods in a 3 hour session.

Why Study Food Preparation And Nutrition?

- It encourages creative thinking and is ideal for young people with a passion for creating food of all different types.
- It provides a strong foundation for a career in either catering or the food technology industry.
- It teaches and gives students opportunities to learn essential life skills.

According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with the majority of new roles falling within the 18-24 age group.

Important To Note

Please note with this course students are required to bring in the ingredients for practical lessons that will be carried out on a regular basis. As the course develops and they become more experienced they may be making more than one product. **When considering this subject parents/carers must take into account that we need your support in providing these ingredients.** Students cannot achieve unless they carry out the necessary practical tasks.

Leader of teaching and learning:

C. Hendzell

Creative iMedia

Brief Outline

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will equip students with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as planning and reviewing, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

The learner will have the opportunity to work with creative multi-media packages developing websites and graphics.

Course Content

- Creating digital graphics
- Pre-production and planning skills
- Computer systems
- Creating interactive multimedia products
- Fundamentals of ICT security
- Planning, design and development of websites
- Using action script

How Will I Be Assessed?

Examinations: 25%

Non-Exam Assessment: 75%

Why Study iMedia?

- Learn about how computers work rather than just how to use them.
- Preparation for AS/A2 computing and a career in ICT.
- You will be encouraged to unlock your creativity and design skills.
- You will learn how to plan projects, analyse problems and come up with solutions.
- Create media packages for animation and stop motion
- There is a substantial amount of independent work.

Leader of teaching and learning:

C. Hendzell

Media Studies

Brief Outline

The current AQA GCSE Media Studies course attracts a large number of students every year because it makes learning interesting, challenging and creative. This subject has a close link to English and will help you develop your writing and analysis skills during each topic. A practical element also features heavily in media and here we hope to develop your design skills and your ability to use Photoshop. You will also be expected to take your own photographs as part of your design work.

Course Content

Media is part practical and part analytical and you will be required to produce your own media products as well as analysing existing ones.

Your Y9 studies will include:

- An introduction to media through the topic of advertising:
 - Learning practical production skills through design;
 - Analysing existing print and TV adverts;
- The appeal of online and social participatory media
- The film industry and how different genres of film are presented
- The music industry and the promotion of an artiste.

In Y10 you will study a variety of topics such as:

- Magazine and newspaper production
- The world of TV
- Analysing the promotion of video games

As it stands, the coursework topic is pre-released in Year 10; you will spend the final term of Year 10 researching, planning and creating your design products. In Y11 you will study a range of Close Study Products to prepare you for the two exam papers you will sit at the end of the course.

How Will I Be Assessed?

External examination: 70%

Controlled assessment: 30%

Why Study Media Studies?

- It helps to develop an appreciation and critical understanding of the role of the media in daily life.
- It combines practical and theoretical knowledge and skills through opportunities for personal engagement and creativity.
- It encourages an understanding of how to use key media concepts to analyse media products and their various contexts.
- It prepares students to study other media-related subjects at level 3.

Leader of teaching and learning:

B Lewis

R Mabbs

French/German

Brief Outline

In GCSE French or German, you will continue to develop your skills in speaking and writing and also in understanding both written and spoken language. Similar to Key Stage 3, lessons will include lots of practice of these skills in the foreign language but as you become more confident, you will learn to speak and write more accurately, with greater spontaneity and at greater length. In addition, you will become more confident with dealing with foreign language texts and conversations which are longer and more complex.

Course Content

Theme 1: Identity and culture.

Theme 2: Local area, holiday and travel.

Theme 3: School.

Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work.

Theme 5: International and global dimension.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Listening: - 25% Understand and respond to spoken language.

Speaking: - 25% Communicate and interact in speech.

Reading: - 25% Understand and respond to different types of written language and translate to English.

Writing: - 25% Communicate in writing and translate to French.

Pupils will be fully assessed through **external assessment**.

Why Study French or German?

- The English Baccalaureate - though not a qualification in itself - is a measure of success in core academic subjects; specifically English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language. These are subjects most likely to be preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most doors open.
- You will discover so much! Not only will you be more open to a whole new culture, you'll be able to meet thousands of other people thanks to your extra language. No one knows where life will take us, and knowing an extra language might just make your life completely different.
- Even a little language knowledge might improve the quality of your future life. There are countless opportunities in an almost limitless range of jobs for people with language skills at all levels.

Leaders of teaching and learning:

French: D. Close

German: L. Staley

Brief Outline

You will learn about basic musical composition and be expected to create and write your own music. You will study music notation and use this or tab to notate your work. You will be expected to complete 2 full compositions, one of which you will have to evaluate under exam conditions, and will need to be able to read and write music. You will also be required to submit one solo performance and one ensemble performance and perform in concerts or assemblies. You must be up to grade 2 standard instrumentally due to these performance requirements. As well as the practical aspects of the course you will study the history of music and different genres around the world in preparation for the listening exam.

Course Content

You will study:

- Ensemble and solo performance skills.
- Composition techniques.
- Music theory, The Western Classical Tradition, Popular Music of the 20th and 21st Century and World Music.
- A written appraisal based on a set work (Western Classical tradition 1650-1910 Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A major, 3rd movement, Rondo, and Paul Simon – Graceland, specifically looking at the following tracks: Graceland, Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes & You Can Call Me AI).

You will record 1 solo piece and 1 ensemble piece for assessment, and you must write 2 pieces of music. This is why students must be up to grade 2 standard and be able to read and write music.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Examination - 40%
Performance - 30%
Composition - 30%

Why Study Music?

- Music allows you to develop skills such as self-confidence and creativity. You will demonstrate that you can work independently as well as a member of a group.
- It is an excellent way to further your instrumental ability and creative skills.
- A qualification in music is essential if you wish to study music technology or music at A Level.

Important Information

Students can choose a preferred course from GCSE Music and RSL Music. A final decision about which course individual students follow will be decided by the Leader of Teaching and Learning. This decision will be based upon the most appropriate course to achieve greater success for the individual. For GCSE Music, students **MUST** be able to read and write music and be a minimum of grade 2 standard with an instrument due to the way in which GCSE Music is assessed. Students not at this standard **WILL NOT** be allowed to study GCSE Music.

Leaders of teaching and learning:

K. Needham

J. Marriott

Music

Brief Outline

RSL level 2 focuses on developing students' skills as a musician in line with what is relevant to the music industry. It allows students to develop their own style and skills in a way which is personalised to their own goals as a musician. Students will study a range of skills that are relevant to gaining employment in the current music industry through practical modules that mirror industry standard practice.

Course Content

You will study:

- Performance skills.
- Instrumental and vocal skills.
- Composition techniques.
- Recording studio techniques.
- Developing and improving musicianship.
- Exploring and undertaking tasks in line with industry standard practice.

How Will I Be Assessed?

100% coursework.

The course consists of six coursework modules that focus on different aspects of music performance and music technology. These will be assessed through live performance, submission of recorded work and written evidence to support their practice.

Why Study Music?

- Music allows you to develop skills such as self-confidence and creativity. You will demonstrate that you can work independently as well as a member of a group.
- It is an excellent way to further your instrumental ability and creative skills.
- A qualification in music is essential if you wish to study music technology or music at a higher level.

Important Information

Students can choose a preferred course from GCSE Music and RSL Music. A final decision about which course individual students follow will be decided by the Leader of Teaching and Learning. This decision will be based upon the most appropriate course to achieve greater success for the individual. For RSL Music, students **MUST** be actively playing an instrument. The modules for the course will be finalised in relation to the cohort to ensure that the course best reflects their interests.

Leaders of teaching and learning:

K. Needham

J. Marriott

Physical Education

Brief Outline

The course is taught through both practical and theory lessons. A wide range of teaching and learning methods will be used such as presentations, videos, worksheets, and internet sources. During the course you will also develop your understanding and ability in a range of sports; you will be assessed performing practically in these activities

Course Content

Component 1: Physical Factors Affecting Performance - Examined Unit

You will look at the way in which the parts of the human body work and function during physical activity and the long and short term effects of training and diet on these systems

You will also study the principles of training, why we train in different ways and how training plans can be made to optimise results.

You will need to collect and use data

Component 2: Socio-cultural Issues and Sports Psychology - Examined Unit

Socio-cultural issues to include: how sport is organised, how and what factors affect participation, strategies to improve participation, commercialisation of sport, drugs in sport, violence in sport, ethics in sport.

Sports Psychology factors to include classification of skill, what is skill, goal setting, mental preparation, guidance and feedback.

Health, fitness and well being to include what is meant by health, fitness and well being, diet and nutrition.

Component 3: Performance within Physical Education

Part 1: Practical Performance of three sports or activities, one team, one individual and one free choice

from either list. **Students MUST be regularly competing/performing in at least 1 sport outside of school.**

Part 2: Performance analysis of a sport or activity. This does not have to be the same sport or activity that was undertaken in part one, although it can be. You will need to look at your strengths and weaknesses in one sport and produce an action plan to improve performance.

This component is assessed by class teacher but externally moderated.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 Examination 30% | hour exam

Component 2 Examination 30% | hour exam

Component 3 Practical coursework 40%

Why Study Physical Education?

- The course will benefit you if you are considering careers in teaching, coaching, the armed forces or uniformed services, physiotherapy, personal training or sports technology.
- The course gives you the opportunity to develop physically and academically.
- The practical lessons serve as a stress release and the opportunity to develop personal fitness levels.

Please note: Students can choose a preferred course from GCSE Physical Education and VCERT Health & Fitness. A final decision about which course individual students follow will be decided by the Leader of Teaching and Learning for PE and will be based upon assessments to determine the most appropriate course to achieve greater success for the individual.

Leader of teaching and learning:

S. Clarke

Religious Studies

Brief Outline

Do you have opinions on abortion and euthanasia? Do you agree with blood sports or the hunting of animals for their fur, horns or tusks? Why do people commit crimes? Should a life sentence mean life? Should we defend our country with nuclear weapons? Could you argue for and against the death penalty? "Senior citizens are the most valuable members of society". What do you think? Do you believe in marriage? "Teenagers under 16 years of age should not be given contraception." Do you agree? Would you like to debate the issues above and many more? If so then you should opt for Religious Studies GCSE.

Interesting Issues and Questions.

Religious Studies provides you with the chance to study issues and questions that matter. In studying religion you will be able to develop your own thoughts and ideas about moral and ethical issues and questions of belief. This is why some people call RS the, 'Science of life'. In RS you will study how beliefs affect almost every aspect of human life, from the moment of our birth to the time of our death and maybe beyond. How beliefs affect fashion and our attitudes towards sex, how beliefs affect the food we eat and what we drink. Even our attitudes towards justice and equality affect the way we treat and behave towards others.

Course Content

The course involves a study of the two most influential religions on the planet today. Christianity and Islam. In both Religions you will study their main beliefs and their impact upon individual and collective behaviour, attitude and lifestyle. Beliefs, festivals and rituals are studied using role play, art/craft work, symbolic foods and games.

- The beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam.
- The use and abuse of animals in the 21st century.
- The exploitation and conservation of Earth's resources.
- The role of the family and community.

- Issues concerning the sanctity and quality of life.
- Religious attitudes towards crime and punishment.
- Religious attitudes towards war and peace.
- Beliefs in life after death.
- Medical ethics and the issues raised by new medical technologies.

How will I be assessed?

Examination 100%

Why Study Religious Studies?

In the world of work employers look for someone with an enquiring mind, an appreciation of different viewpoints, an ability to come to clear balanced decisions. These skills all develop through RS. If you want to work with people, in caring work, teaching, journalism, publishing, law policing, with children, health, catering, leisure and tourism or to work abroad or in a cosmopolitan setting, RS will give you plenty to think about and valuable expertise. Religious Studies is simply a fascinating subject.

Employees say

Metropolitan Police Recruitment Office "It shows that a person has some understanding of the beliefs and values of others."

Journalist "Religious Studies is a way of broadening your understanding of the world and of people. In this job you have to meet people from all walks of life, and a huge range of cultural backgrounds."

Retail Management "I'm not particularly religious; it was something that I took because it did give me a broad spectrum, and I work with a lot of different kinds of people."

City Personnel Firm "I have worked in manufacturing, construction, mining, the car industry and accountancy. A religious understanding of life and affairs has always been of value in making judgements at and about work."

Leader of teaching and learning:

R. Savage

Travel & Tourism

Brief Outline

Do you love travel? Did you know that you could make a career out of it in the dynamic, diverse and expanding Travel & Tourism industry? The course is designed for students who want to acquire knowledge and skills through work-place contexts: by exploring the aims of different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer requirements, and the influences on global travel and tourism. If you enjoy learning through practical, work-related activities and completing assignments based on realistic workplace situations, then the BTEC Travel and Tourism course is for you.

Course Content

You will gain:

- knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as the appeal of different tourist destinations to different types of customer; and the factors that influence travel and tourism
- skills such as researching different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, and the products and services available to meet the needs of different customers
- attitudes that are considered to be very important in the travel and tourism sector; including how to develop tourism while respecting the environment and local communities.

Taught units:

- **Component 1:** Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations
- **Component 2:** Influences on Global Travel and Tourism
- **Component 3:** Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism

How will I be assessed?

External assessment

40% - Unit 2 Completed in Year 11

Internal assignments

60% - Unit 1 and 3

Why Study Travel & Tourism?

- There are a wide range of tourism and management-related Level 3 courses available, as well as Marketing, Event Management and Hospitality courses.
- You could progress to an apprenticeship in the travel and tourism industry.
- The leisure industry is expanding rapidly. There are employment opportunities with a variety of UK and worldwide employers.
- Travel and Tourism also teaches you a range of transferable skills, including teamwork, research and organisation skills.

Leader of teaching and learning:

D Needham

What Happens When?

Key dates for your diary

Options Programme 2021

Tuesday 2 February 2021

Year 8 Options Online Assembly.

Key Stage 4 Options Booklet issued.

Online Options Information Event

On demand

- Essential information from Mr Horsfield about the options process.
- Subject presentations.

4:30pm-6:30pm

- Subject staff will be available via email to answer any of your subject queries.
- Mr Horsfield will be available via email to answer any of your options queries.
- David Holloway, an independent careers adviser, will be available via email to answer any questions related to careers such as course progression, further study or employment.

Tuesday 2 March 2021

Deadline for return of option forms to Mr Horsfield via form tutors.

Wednesday 31 March 2021 (target date)

Students and parents to be informed of final option allocations.

Year 8 Options Choices Sheet - Example

Name: A Learner Form: 8AA

**Step One: Choose a first and reserve choice from each option block.
At least one of your first choices must be Geography, History, French or German.**

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Photography
Construction	Business	Business	Business
Drama	Geography	Design & Technology	French
German	German	French	Geography
Health & Fitness	Health & Fitness	Geography	Hospitality & Catering
Health & Social Care	Health & Social Care	Hospitality & Catering	iMedia
History	History	iMedia	Media Studies
Media Studies	Media Studies	Music (RSL)	Music (GCSE)
Physical Education	Physical Education	Religious Studies	Travel & Tourism
Block A first choice	Block B first choice	Block C first choice	Block D first choice
Drama	History	French	Hospitality & Catering
Block A reserve choice	Block B reserve choice	Block C reserve choice	Block D reserve choice
fine Art	Business	iMedia	Travel & Tourism

Remember: Students cannot pick the following combinations:

Design & Technology and Construction
GCSE Music and RSL Music

Physical Education and Health & Fitness

Step Two: Confirm which subject you have chosen as part of the English Baccalaureate and which option block it is in.

EBacc subject	Geography	History	French	German
Option block		B		

Please hand this completed sheet into your form tutor by registration on: **Wednesday 2nd March 2021**
Any late returns might mean that you do not get your first choice.

Signature of Student: A. Learner
Signature of Parent/Carer: B. Parent

Date: 24 February 2021

Notes



A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes, spanning the width of the page.



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