

PE Pathway

(GCSE PE & BTEC Sport)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I select a specific PE course?

A: Students will select the PE Pathway course on their options form. The PE department will then review every student looking at what we already know of the student, their grades so far in Maths, English, Science and PE as well as their potential to offer three practical sports. We will then decide on the course which will be more appropriate for the student.

Q: Is BTEC Sport seen as a lesser course?

A: Absolutely not. Both courses equate to one GCSE grade and are accepted at all local Sixth Forms. Students wanting to progress onto A Level PE will need to be scoring a Merit or Distinction in order to access a few courses at the more selective Sixth Forms.

Q: What is the main difference between GCSE PE and BTEC Sport?

A: There biggest difference between GCSE PE and BTEC Sport is the method of assessment. GCSE PE is assessed by two final exam papers where students have to recall all the knowledge they have learned over the past two year. This accumulates to 60% of their final grade. In BTEC Sport, students are assessed in majority by written coursework across 3 of the 4 units. This written coursework can be completed at the own pace of the student as long as they meet the deadline. There is one Online Computer Exam for BTEC Sport which equates to 25% of the final grade. This can be repeated in order to improve the grade.

Both courses have an element of practical sport. For GCSE PE students are expected to be playing and competing in sport outside of school and will be assessed in their 30% either by video footage filmed in their own time or on a live moderation day competing in front of an examiner and moderator. For BTEC Sport students complete the Practical Sports unit and will demonstrate skills in two chosen sports. Assessment in this is not on the standard of play but rather the capability to be able to play.

Q: Why does the GCSE PE criteria look at the Maths, English and Science grades?

A: In the GCSE PE exam, students need to be able to recall a huge amount of subject knowledge and be able to apply them. In the 6 different units, four of them have element of science within them, one of these units being Anatomy and Physiology. In this unit students will look into the workings of the body and how it effects and is affected by sporting performance. This unit goes into more detail on many of the scientific elements than the GCSE

Science course. In addition, there is one unit looking at Movement Analysis which involves a strong element of Mechanics linking to Maths. All units are also linked with Data Analysis and use of graphs and tables to review the data. Finally, a strong English grade is needed as 70% of the course is written and relies heavily of students being confident in their written English in order to describe, explain, analyse and justify. There is a 1500-word coursework element in addition to the four extended answer exam questions which will make up for almost 25% of their final exams.

Q: What will I learn on the GCSE PE course?

A: On the GCSE PE course you will cover 6 main theory units. In Component One you will look at Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis and Physical Training. In Component Two you will cover Health, Fitness and Well-being, Sport Psychology and Socio-cultural influences. This will be taught through mainly classroom lessons with the occasional practical lesson where the theory concepts will be put into practice.

The course has a 30% practical assessment in addition to the theory part of the course. Due to time constraints and the amount of theory information that needs to be covered for the two exams – the practical assessment part of the course will be covered at student's own sports training and matches or at after-school practical sessions.

Q: What will I learn on the BTEC Sport course?

Over the duration of the course, BTEC Sport students will study 4 Units:

- Unit 1: Fitness for Exercise and Sport – pupils will be examined on the different components of fitness, fitness tests and methods of fitness training.
- Unit 2: Practical Performance in Sport – pupils will study two different sports' rules, regulations and scoring systems and then compare the different officials in these sports. This is followed by being practically assessed in two sports before finally reviewing and analysing sports' performance.
- Unit 3: Applying the principles of personal training – pupils will apply their knowledge from Units 1 and 2. Pupils are expected to plan, implement and then review a personal training programme targeted at improving their fitness for their sport.
- Unit 6: Leading Sports Activities – pupils will explain what comprises an excellent sports leader before planning and leading a sports activity session for a group themselves. Pupils will then review their leading and set targets for future development.

Q: How is the GCSE PE course assessed?

A: There are three main elements to being assessed in GCSE PE.

- 1) Component 1 Written Exam Paper (36%) and Component 2 Written Exam Paper (24%).
- 2) Written Coursework (10%)
- 3) Three practical sports (10% each – totally 30%).

To look at the GCSE PE Specification in more detail please [click here](#).

To look at the GCSE PE Practical Specification, including a list of sports which are accepted [click here](#).

To look at Sample Assessment Materials [click here](#).

Q: How is the BTEC course assessed?

A: Pupils will be assessed across 4 different units. Most of these units are internally assessed (teacher marked) through assignments with one unit being externally assessed.

1. One External examination (25%)
2. Three units comprised of different assignments including written and practical tasks (75%)

Q: If you take BTEC Sport would it mean you do more active lessons?

A: This would depend completely on which unit is being taught and which assignment currently being undertaken. A few assignments are more practically based and therefore lessons would reflect this. However, many of the assignments take the form of written tasks and therefore will be done in the classroom.

Q: Will I still do Core PE even if I do GCSE PE/BTEC Sport?

A: All students in year 10 and 11 will have two double periods a fortnight of Core PE (like in year 7-9). If a student selects to do the PE pathway then they will have an additional three double periods a fortnight of either GCSE PE or BTEC Sport.