



Urmston Grammar - GCSE Course Information

The following information has been provided to assist parents/carers in guiding their son/daughter through their GCSE courses. Please note that:

- This information is for Y10s starting their GCSEs in Sept 2025. For other year groups the information is likely to be largely the same though there may be some differences regarding exam boards.
- NEA stands for 'Non-examined assessment' and essentially means coursework.
- The only subjects which have higher and foundation tiers of entry are Maths, Sciences and Modern Foreign Languages. Decisions regarding tiers of entry are made in the spring term of Year 11.

Core Subjects

GCSE Maths	
Exam Board	Edexcel
Specification	Link Here
How is this subject assessed?	Three exams sat in the summer of Year 11: Paper 1 non calculator 90 minutes (33.3%) Paper 2 calculator 90 minutes (33.3%) Paper 3 calculator 90 minutes (33.3%) Students can be entered for Higher or Foundation Tier
Resources for Independent Study	Dr Frost Maths, Corbett Maths, Maths Genie, 1 st Class Maths, On Maths, Maths folders in Student SharePoint. YouTube – 'Bicen Maths'

GCSE English Language	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link Here
How is this subject assessed?	Two exams sat in the summer of Year 11: Paper 1: 1h 45m (50%) Paper 2: 1h 45m (50%)
Resources for Independent Study	BBC Bitesize, English Language folders in Student Sharepoint, Mr Bruff's you tube channel

GCSE English Literature	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link Here
How is this subject assessed?	Two exams sat in the summer of Year 11: Paper 1: 1h 45m (40%) Paper 2: 2h 15m (60%)
Resources for Independent Study	BBC Bitesize, English Language folders in Student Sharepoint, Mr Bruff's you tube channel

GCSE Biology (Triple)	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link: Here
How is this subject assessed?	Two exams sat in the summer of Year 11 Paper 1 - 1hr 45mins (50%) Paper 2 - 1hr 45mins (50%) Students will also complete a range of key experiments in order to pass the required practical component. Students can be entered for Higher or Foundation Tier
Resources for Independent Study	We recommend Educake as a valuable revision tool to use regularly and in small chunks. Kerboodle Science and Biology folders in Student Sharepoint are also available.

GCSE Chemistry (Triple)	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link: Here
How is this subject assessed?	<p>Two exams sat in the summer of Year 11</p> <p>Paper 1 - 1hr 45mins (50%)</p> <p>Paper 2 - 1hr 45mins (50%)</p> <p>Students will also complete a range of key experiments in order to pass the required practical component.</p> <p>Students can be entered for Higher or Foundation Tier</p>
Resources for Independent Study	<p>We recommend Educake as a valuable revision tool to use regularly and in small chunks.</p> <p>Seneca, FreeScienceLessons on YouTube, Physics and Maths Tutor and Chemistry folders in Student Sharepoint</p>

GCSE Physics (Triple)	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link: Here
How is this subject assessed?	<p>Two exams sat in the summer of Year 11</p> <p>Paper 1 - 1hr 45mins (50%)</p> <p>Paper 2 - 1hr 45mins (50%)</p> <p>Students will also complete a range of key experiments in order to pass the required practical component.</p> <p>Students can be entered for Higher or Foundation Tier</p>
Resources for Independent Study	<p>We recommend Educake as a valuable revision tool to use regularly and in small chunks.</p> <p>Seneca, FreeScienceLessons on YouTube, www.physicsandmathstutor.com and Physics folders in Student Sharepoint</p>

GCSE Combined Science	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link: Here
How is this subject assessed?	<p>Six exams sat in the summer of Year 11 which contribute to TWO GCSE grades.</p> <p><i>These two grades will always either be the same, or will differ by one. For example 7-7 is a grade higher than a 7-6. An 8-7 is a grade higher than a 7-7. Students will never be awarded grades which are further apart, e.g. grade 8-6.</i></p> <p>Biology Paper 1 - 1hr 15mins (16.67%) Biology Paper 2 - 1hr 15mins (16.67%) Chemistry Paper 1 - 1hr 15mins (16.67%) Chemistry Paper 2 - 1hr 15mins (16.67%) Physics Paper 1 - 1hr 15mins (16.67%) Physics Paper 2 - 1hr 15mins (16.67%)</p> <p>Students will also complete a range of key experiments in order to pass the required practical component.</p> <p>Students can be entered for Higher or Foundation Tier</p>
Resources for Independent Study	<p>We recommend Educake as a valuable revision tool to use regularly and in small chunks.</p> <p>Kerboodle Science, Seneca, FreeScienceLessons on YouTube, www.physicsandmathstutor.com and Science folders in Student Sharepoint.</p>

GCSE French	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link HERE
How is this subject assessed?	<p>Four exams sat in the summer of Year 11</p> <p>Paper 1: Listening - 25% (35 mins Foundation/45 mins Higher)</p> <p>Paper 2: Speaking (NEA - conducted by teachers then submitted to exam board) 25% (7-9 mins Foundation/10-12 mins Higher). These will be completed before the main exam period.</p> <p>Paper 3: Reading - 25% (45 mins Foundation/60 mins Higher)</p> <p>Paper 4: Writing - 25% (1hour 10 mins Foundation/1 hour 15 mins Higher)</p> <p>Students can be entered for Higher or Foundation Tier</p>
Resources for Independent Study	<p>Kerboodle, Language-Gym, Linguascope, Vocabulary lists on Quizlet</p> <p>GCSE Bitesize: Here</p> <p>Various French folders in Student Sharepoint</p>

GCSE German	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link HERE
How is this subject assessed?	<p>Four exams sat in the summer of Year 11</p> <p>Paper 1: Listening - 25% (35 mins Foundation/45 mins Higher)</p> <p>Paper 2: Speaking (NEA - conducted by teachers then submitted to exam board) 25% (7-9 mins Foundation/10-12 mins Higher). These will be completed before the main exam period.</p> <p>Paper 3: Reading - 25% (45 mins Foundation/60 mins Higher)</p> <p>Paper 4: Writing - 25% (1 hour 10 mins Foundation/1 hour 15 mins Higher)</p>
Resources for Independent Study	<p>Kerboodle, Linguascope.com, BBCBitesize, German folders in Student Sharepoint</p>

GCSE Religious Studies	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link Here
How is this subject assessed?	Two exams sat in the summer of Year 11 Paper 1: Islam & Christianity Beliefs & Practices. 1h 45m. (50%) Paper 2: Thematic Studies. 1h 45m. (50%)
Resources for Independent Study	Seneca: Here All students are linked to a class. https://boost-learning.com/ . All GCSE students have been sent a log on. BBC Bitesize: Here

Option Subjects

GCSE Geography	
Exam Board	OCR
Specification	Link Here
How is this subject assessed?	Three exams sat in the summer of Year 11 Paper 1 – Physical Geography. 1h 30m (35%) Paper 2 – Human Geography. 1h 30m (35%) Paper 3 – Mixed. 1h 30m (30%)
Resources for Independent Study	BBC Bitesize: Here Geography folders in Student Sharepoint

GCSE History	
Exam Board	Edexcel
Specification	Link Here
How is this subject assessed?	Three exams sat in the summer of Year 11: Paper 1 - Medicine in Britain (30%) Paper 2 - Norman England and 'Superpower Relations 1941-90' (30%) Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany (40%)
Resources for Independent Study	Seneca: Here

GCSE Art, Craft & Design	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link HERE
How is this subject assessed?	Component 1 - 60% (coursework from Year 10 - Jan Year 11) Component 2 - 40% (Year 11 exam Jan-May)
Resources for Independent Study	Pinterest for inspiration ideas

GCSE Textile Design	
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	Link: HERE
How is this subject assessed?	Component 1 - 60% (coursework from Year 10 - Jan Year 11) Component 2 - 40% (Year 11 exam Jan-May)
Resources for Independent Study	Pinterest for inspiration

GCSE Design & Technology	
Exam Board	Edexcel
Specification	Link: edexcel design technology gcse specification - Search
How is this subject assessed?	NEA Project - (50%) One Paper – 1h 45m (50%)
Resources for Independent Study	Edexcel Textbook and Hodder revision notes D&T resources for exam (PG) and NEA project in Student Sharepoint.

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition	
Exam Board	Eduqas
Specification	Link: Here
How is this subject assessed?	NEA (50%) composed of NEA1 15% and NEA2 35%. One Paper - 1h 45m (50%)
Resources for Independent Study	SENECA LEARNING, Departmental Revision Resources, FPN folders in Student Sharepoint

GCSE Business Studies	
Exam Board	Edexcel
Specification	Link Here
How is this subject assessed?	Two exams sat in the summer of Year 11: Paper 1: 1h45m (50%) Paper 2: 1h45m (50%)
Resources for Independent Study	Student Sharepoint - Topic Worksheets & Past Paper Exam Questions, Both by topic and complete papers. YouTube Channels - Bizconsesh, BizWizard, Two Teachers. Websites - www.businessed.co.uk for theory notes, activities.

GCSE Computer Science	
Exam Board	Edexcel
Specification	Link HERE
How is this subject assessed?	Two exams sat in the Summer of Year 11: Paper 1: 1h 30m (Principles of Computer Science Written Paper) Paper 2: 2h (Application of Computational Thinking, On screen exam)
Resources for Independent Study	https://smartrevise.online Students will be given an account for this resource. Home - time2code

GCSE PE	
Exam Board	Edexcel
Specification	Link Here
How is this subject assessed?	Paper 1 – 1h30m (36%) Paper 2 – 1h15m (24%) NEA 1 - focussing on three physical activities (30%) NEA 2 – Personal Exercise Programme (10%)
Resources for Independent Study	Edexcel Assessment Resources: Here

GCSE Drama	
Exam Board	Edexcel
Specification	Link Edexcel GCSE Drama (2016) Pearson qualifications
How is this subject assessed?	<p>Component 1 - Devising (NEA) 40%</p> <p>Component 2 - Performance from text (Performance Examination - External Examiner) 20%</p> <p>Component 3 - Theatre Makers in Practice (Written Examination) 1 hour 45 mins 40%</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section A: Set Text (45 marks)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section B: Live Theatre (15 Marks)</p>
Resources for Independent Study	<p>The Royal Exchange; Resources Here.</p> <p>GCSE Drama (Edexcel) Student Text Book: Here</p> <p>BBC Bitesize; https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zkvm2sg</p> <p>National Theatre; https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/home/</p>

GCSE Music	
Exam Board	OCR
Specification	Link: Here
How is this subject assessed?	<p>Performing coursework (30%)</p> <p>Composing coursework (30%)</p> <p>Listening and Appraising Exam (40%)</p>
Resources for Independent Study	<p>CGP OCR GCSE Listening Guide (provided by department); Ms J Langham's YouTube channel: Here</p>