

Penryn College 2024 GCSE Options



Hello and welcome to the Spring
Term Year 9 GCSE options.

Showbie code: **Z7E9D**

Timings for this evening talks

- ▶ 5.30pm and 6.30pm: Modern Foreign Languages and English Baccalaureate
- ▶ 5.45pm and 6.45pm: Technical Awards
- ▶ 6.00pm: Top up, Science pathways and RE Fast Track

WHY STUDY A LANGUAGE?

75% of the global population speak no English!

Stand out from the crowd

Improve your communication skills

Sharpen your memory

Develop your problem solving abilities

Gain an insight into different cultures

See the world



WHY OPT FOR A LANGUAGE?

It will challenge you

By taking you out of your comfort zone it will build your confidence

It will develop your understanding of the English language

It will help you learn other languages

It is an academically rigorous qualification

It is part of the Ebacc series of subjects

Colleges and universities recognize its difficulty and value it



WHY MFL GCSE AT PENRYN?

Taught by subject specialists with decades of experience

GCSE examiners in the team to give expert guidance + feedback

A wide range of apps/websites to support learning

Builds on the 7 skills needed to be an expert in KS3

Already covered 3/8 modules in Year 9

French and Spanish assistants to develop spoken confidence

Opportunity for travel: Roscoff in Y9/10 (FRE) and Alicante in Y10 (SPA)



THIS IS A BRAND NEW GCSE

Designed to be more accessible and less stressful

Vocab reduced from around 2500 words to 1200 (F) / 1700 (H)

No unknown vocab/grammar in exams

No assumption of knowledge/prior learning

All exam explanations / rubrics are in English not French

Listening exam: played 3 times not twice

Speaking exam: students choose topic in advance of exam + only 1 conversation not 2

4 exams each /50 and worth 25% of final grade



EBacc

What does it all mean?

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBacc)

- **5 standard passes (at Grade 4) or 5 strong passes (at Grade 5) in all of GCSE English, Mathematics, two Sciences, History or Geography, and a Language.**

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. (DfE Dec 2018)

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBacc)

These subjects are often referred to as “Facilitation” subjects, subjects which keep future opportunities available before you really must choose a career path.

Remember – employers, further and higher education providers want the highest possible grades in all your subjects.

Is it worth doing the EBacc? / EBacc impact

- ▶ Studies have shown that **students who study EBacc subjects are more likely to have success in higher education.** The EBacc represents a set of GCSE subjects that will ensure young people have plenty of options for their further education and future career. 3 Jan 2022
- ▶ A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc **provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.** 20 Aug 2019

Do Russell Group universities require EBacc? / Do Oxford look at GCSEs?

- ▶ Do I need to have passed the English Baccalaureate to get into a Russell Group university? The English Baccalaureate includes academic subjects highly valued by the Russell Group but **it is not required for entry to any Russell Group university.**
- ▶ Oxford, like most universities, do take GCSE results into account in its admissions process, and having a high proportion of 7, 8, and 9 grades at GCSE does make your application more competitive.

What subjects do Oxbridge prefer? / Do you need EBacc for Oxford?

- ▶ Consider Oxbridge's preferred subjects

They are History, Geography, English Literature, modern and classical languages, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths/Further Maths. Cambridge's Trinity College requires two of these just to get accepted into the college

- ▶ While it is not compulsory for students to study the EBacc subjects, it is highly recommended if you can.

Technical Qualifications

What does it all mean?

Is a BTEC / Cambridge National the same as a GCSE?

Each Technical Qualification is equivalent to one GCSE and is recognised by higher education institutions.

They tend to offer the chance to get more practical, 'hands-on' learning opportunities, including work experience, to prepare students with transferable skills for future employment.

WHAT IS IT ALL WORTH ?

Old GCSE Grades	New GCSE Grades	Level	Technical Qualification Overall Grade	Technical Award Points	
				OCR Cam Nat/BTEC TECH AWARDS	BTEC FIRST/WJE C AWARDS
A*	9	Level 2	L2 Distinction*	8.5	8.5
A	8		L2 Distinction	7	7
B	6		L2 Merit	5.5	5.5
C	5		L2 Pass	4	4
D	3	Level 1	L1 Distinction	3	
E	2		L1 Merit	2	
F	2		L1 Pass	1.25	
G	1				1.75
U	0		Unclassified	0	0