

Penryn College 2024 GCSE Options



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

Showbie code: **Z7E9D**

BREADTH & BALANCE



“Keep your choices broad, don’t specialise in just one area. Having different subjects from different areas of the curriculum will maximise your future opportunities and chances”.

Remember:

The Options Booklet and The Technical Guide are available to help in this process.

<https://penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk/students/year-9-options-booklet/>

KEY STAGE 4

THE CORE

What do you HAVE to do?

- English [Language and Literature] (2 GCSEs)
 - Mathematics (1 GCSE)
 - Science [Combined] or [Triple("Top up")] (2 or 3 GCSEs)
 - At the very least, one of,
Geography, History, French or Spanish (1 GCSE)
- Totaling = (6 - 7 GCSEs)**

COMPLEMENTARY CORE

- ▶ Physical Education*
- ▶ Religious Studies*
- ▶ Life Skills
 - ▶ Work Related Learning including Careers Education & Work Experience
 - ▶ PSHE with Citizenship

(*possible “top up” to “full” **GCSE** or **CAM NAT.**)

Totaling = (7 - 8 GCSEs)



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)

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.

HOW MANY OPTIONS DO I GET?

- 1 Everyone gets Combined Science; unless you choose to “Top up” to Triple Science.
(Your Science teacher will help you.)
- 1 of : French or Geography or History or Spanish;
- 2 of : Any other subjects from the whole list
(including 2 reserves);
- 1 of : Triple Science, PE or RE, that you want to turn into a full qualification, (plus one reserve)



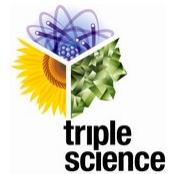
Totaling = (9 - 10 GCSEs)

SCIENCE PATHWAYS

COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY (6x1h15)

- Worth 2 GCSEs in the core scientific elements.
- Science and Additional Science for all pupils.

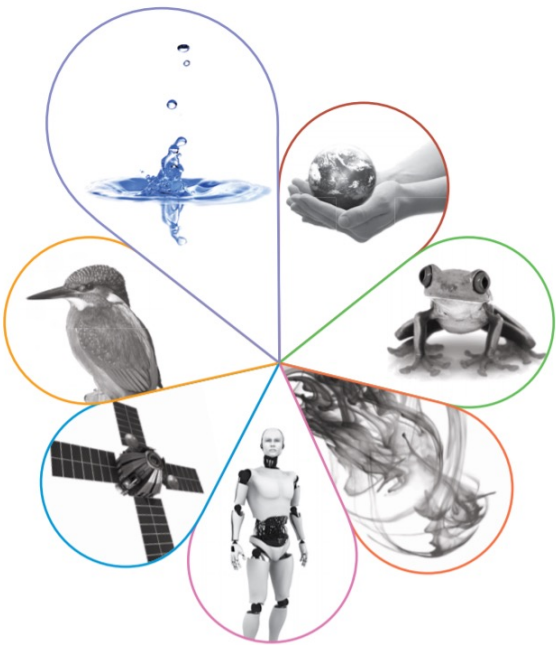
TRIPLE SCIENCE* (6x1h45)



- Worth 3 GCSEs in Biology, Physics, Chemistry.
- More content at a higher level.
- Students who perform well in Science.

(*Target grades in Science of at least a 7, Eng/Maths grades of at least a 6.)

Combined Science: Trilogy	Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics
2 x GCSE qualifications	3 x GCSE qualifications
Study all three sciences	Study all three sciences
Taught by one or two teachers.	Taught by three teachers, one for each subject.
Grades awarded are an average of all three sciences.	Grades are awarded separately for each science.
Can achieve up to a grade 9	Can achieve up to a grade 9



Combined Science: Trilogy

4 Biology subject content

- 4.1 Cell biology
- 4.2 Organisation
- 4.3 Infection and response
- 4.4 Bioenergetics
- 4.5 Homeostasis and response
- 4.6 Inheritance, variation and evolution
- 4.7 Ecology
- 4.8 Key ideas

5 Chemistry subject content

- 5.1 Atomic structure and the periodic table
- 5.2 Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- 5.3 Quantitative chemistry
- 5.4 Chemical changes
- 5.5 Energy changes
- 5.6 The rate and extent of chemical change
- 5.7 Organic chemistry
- 5.8 Chemical analysis
- 5.9 Chemistry of the atmosphere
- 5.10 Using resources
- 5.11 Key ideas

6 Physics subject content

- 6.1 Energy
- 6.2 Electricity
- 6.3 Particle model of matter
- 6.4 Atomic structure
- 6.5 Forces
- 6.6 Waves

Triple Science: Biology

4 Subject content

- 4.1 Cell biology
- 4.2 Organisation
- 4.3 Infection and response
- 4.4 Bioenergetics
- 4.5 Homeostasis and response
- 4.6 Inheritance, variation and evolution
- 4.7 Ecology
- 4.8 Key ideas

Triple Science: Chemistry

4 Subject content

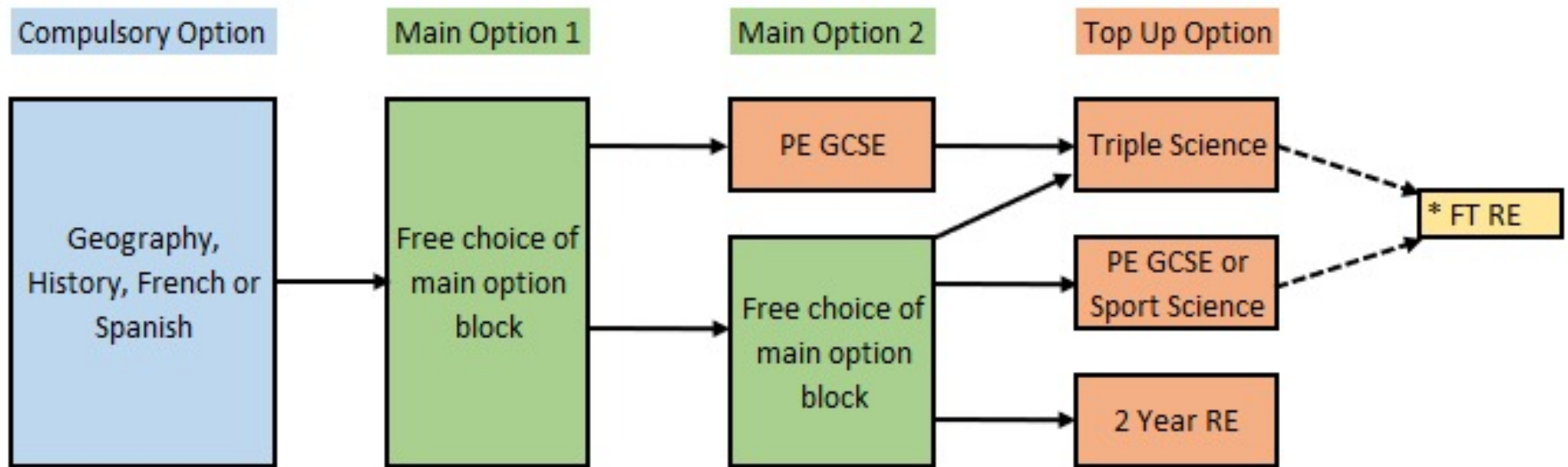
- 4.1 Atomic structure and the periodic table
- 4.2 Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- 4.3 Quantitative chemistry
- 4.4 Chemical changes
- 4.5 Energy changes
- 4.6 The rate and extent of chemical change
- 4.7 Organic chemistry
- 4.8 Chemical analysis
- 4.9 Chemistry of the atmosphere
- 4.10 Using resources
- 4.11 Key ideas

Triple Science: Physics

4 Subject content

- 4.1 Energy
- 4.2 Electricity
- 4.3 Particle model of matter
- 4.4 Atomic structure
- 4.5 Forces
- 4.6 Waves
- 4.7 Magnetism and electromagnetism
- 4.8 Space physics (physics only)
- 4.9 Key ideas

The “Top up” Option



Remember, more qualifications are not always the answer, higher grades across a range of subjects gives you better **“Breadth and Balance”**.

How to choose your options

- ▶ Because you enjoy the subject,
- ▶ Because you have researched the subject and you think you will be good at it,
- ▶ Because the subject interests you,
- ▶ Because they may link to future career ideas,

How NOT to choose your options

- ▶ Because you like the teacher.
- ▶ Because you think it will be easy.
- ▶ Because your brother/sister took the subject.
- ▶ It is a new subject and you don't really know what it involves.
- ▶ Because your friends are taking the subject.

Points to remember!

- ▶ You don't have to specialise now. If you haven't picked a particular course at 14, no one will say you can't do that, when you are 16, when you have to leave us and go into Post 16 after Year 11.
- ▶ Keep your Options as wide as possible, which is why we always say, **"Breadth and Balance"**.
- ▶ Be open minded, these are your choices, you have to be happy with the decisions you make.

MAIN OPTIONS

- Art, Craft & Design
- Art & Design: Textiles Design
- Enterprise & Marketing
- Computer Science
- Creative Media Production
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Digital Graphics: iMedia
- Drama/(Drama)
- Engineering
- French*
- Food Prep & Nutrition
- Geography*
- Health & Social Care
- History*
- Music GCSE and BTEC
- Spanish*
- Art & Design: Photography
(new course)

*E Bacc

Purple indicates a **Technical** Award
e.g. BTEC Tech Award/OCR Cam Nat/oe.

THE OPTION PROCESS

The option process involves using a complicated programming system to obtain the best match of students' options choices with the least number of clashes.

Occasionally there are clashes and a reserve is used. Very occasionally some courses are under subscribed and do not run – students need to review their choices and we support them in this process with advice and guidance.

Students must make reserve choices so that the next best alternative allocations can be quickly found.

Please pick reserves that you are happy to study.

HOW DO I ACCESS THE FORM?

- ▶ Once registered, log in to www.sims-options.co.uk
or Students click the button on your iPad titled Options.
(The registration email is now redundant).
- ▶ You will be prompted to enter your details again to securely log in.
- ▶ Your child's form will now automatically appear.
- ▶ Every form is unique and the offer is personalised for every student.

WHAT DOES THE FORM LOOK LIKE?

As soon as we go live on Tues 16 Jan, the forms will automatically load and your name should appear in the top right hand corner. You can then start to make your choices.

Welcome to the Penryn College 2024 Year 9 options process.

Please use this online form to make your choices and let us know which option subjects you would like to study in Year 10 in September 2024. Remember you are studying **English**, **Maths** and **Science**. You must also study **RE**, **PE** and **Life Skills**, which includes **Citizenship** and **Careers**.

It is very important that you have a **broad and balanced** selection of subjects, which does not restrict the choices available to you when you leave Penryn College.

PRIORITIES & RESERVES

Main Options Block

You have chosen 2 of 2 ☒ courses and 2 of 2 ☒ reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Design Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	Enterprise & Marketing Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Engineering GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Food & Nutrition GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Digital Graphics: iMedia Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Health & Social Care BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Music Btec BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	Creative Media Production BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	Dance BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve	Textile Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve

i This course is also available in Compulsory Option

**Choices
made
correctly.**

**Click the
SUBJECT as a
main choice.
[BLUE]**

**Click Reserve
to select an
[ORANGE]
reserve choice.**

**Remember
to press
SAVE.**

HOW DO I KNOW IT'S RIGHT?



- 1 of : French or Geography or History or Spanish;
- 2 of : Any other different subjects from the whole list (including 2 reserves);
- 1 of : Triple Science, PE or RE, that you want to turn into a full qualification (including 1 reserve);

If the box turns **green** you've got it right, **red** is wrong and **orange** is not enough choices made yet.

Don't be afraid to leave a message in the comment box, telling us why you want to study a certain subject.

TELL US WHY

- ▶ Use the Comments boxes at the bottom of the form to tell us why you want to pick certain courses; there is a **Student** box as well as a **Parent** box.
- ▶ There is also a **Parent/Carer Approval** tick box. Please use this, as it confirms to us that you approve of the choices your child has made.

COMBINATION RULES

We use these rules to ensure that students are not taking too many subjects or overlapping similar content.

Consideration: Avoiding picking all of the Creative Performing Arts; e.g. Drama and Dance. *How much time do you have after school is an important factor to consider with both of these subjects. The same could also be said for portfolio subjects that require a significant amount of extra work outside of the classroom.*

Rules: *Certain combinations of subjects cannot be taken together as the qualification/content is the similar.*

- You cannot pick both Art, Craft & Design and Textiles Design (both are GCSE Art and Design);
- You cannot pick both Design Technology and Engineering,
- You cannot pick both Creative Media and Digital Graphics,
- You cannot pick both Music Qualifications.

EXTRA SUPPORT IN CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS

Students must choose options that fit with their career aims, their strengths and skills, and the subjects that they enjoy.

The parent or the student can speak to the following members of staff for help with their choices:

- Their tutor;
- Their subject teacher;
- The Head of Department for the subject;
- Mr Lushington or a member of the options team;
- Careers Advisor.

**Contact – Mrs Snowden on 01326 372379 ext 1268
or e-mail careers@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk**

WHO TO CONTACT?

The Careers team for any advice on careers or general questions:

careers@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk

The options team for any general registration issues or Option page login problems:

options@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk

ICT for any general technical iPad questions:

icttech@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk

SHOWBIE CODE FOR STUDENTS **Z7E9D**

KEY DATES

Launch week	8 th January
Research, discussions and consultation	8 th January onwards
Options evening (5 – 7pm)	16 th January
Option choices on the system by	31 st January.
We will inform pupils of their option allocations by	24 th May

Changes will only be considered in extreme circumstances, once we have started the courses in September we don't really like you switching.

Please choose carefully.



Thank you

