

# Year 8 Subject Understanding and Skills

## Art

Investigate/ Research	Research ideas and find inspiration: look into different artists, themes, or techniques.
Skills/ Techniques	Use tools, materials, and art methods. Develop strong practical skills and control over different artistic techniques.
Observe/ Record	Look at and record the world around them with accuracy. Draw from life, take photos, or make notes that show careful observation.
Communicate/ Visual Language	Express ideas through images. Choose colours, shapes, composition, and other visual elements to communicate meaning.

## Biology

Subject Knowledge	Understanding biological scientific concepts and being able to apply them to examination questions
Scientific Literacy	Communicate ideas clearly, using correct scientific vocabulary.
Problem Solving	Apply subject knowledge, for example - to find mathematical solutions to problems.
Working Scientifically	Combining Biology subject knowledge and practical skills to demonstrate or prove hypotheses, analyse data, and draw conclusions.

## Chemistry

Subject Knowledge	Understanding chemical scientific concepts and being able to apply them to examination questions
Scientific Literacy	Communicate ideas clearly, using correct scientific vocabulary.
Problem Solving	Apply subject knowledge, for example - to find mathematical solutions to problems.
Working Scientifically	Combining Chemistry subject knowledge and practical skills to demonstrate or prove hypotheses, analyse data, and draw conclusions.

## Computing

Knowledge	Understand core computing ideas, computer systems & their impact on society.
Application	Create purposeful & well-structured code using text-based programming tools.
Problem Solving	Find, understand & evaluate digital information & use digital tools to design solutions or create content.
Responsibility	Know how to safely, responsibly & appropriately use digital technologies for communication, collaboration & creativity.

## Drama

Scripted	Characterise a range of different roles through their acting skills
Devised	Create performance work that meets their aims and intentions in an original and engaging way
Direction	Make directorial interpretations to create effective performance pieces
Evaluation	Analyse their work and the work of others to make judgements about how to make improvements to their skills.

## Design Technology

Design	Come up with creative ideas that solve real problems and meet people's needs.
Make	Use tools, materials, and techniques to turn their ideas into real, well-made products.
Evaluate	Tests and judges how well their ideas and products work, and suggests how to improve them.
Technical Knowledge	Understands how materials, systems, and processes work, and can apply that knowledge to make and explain design decisions

## English

Reading	Comprehend a range of texts, analyse the writers' use of language and structure, and explain own perspectives on those texts, using evidence to support ideas.
Writing	Produce writing in a range of styles, genres and forms, organising on a sentence, paragraph and whole-text level, and using a range of methods for deliberate effect.
Oracy	Communicate ideas in individual and group settings, using formal or Standard English as appropriate; build confidence in group and class discussions to challenge and evaluate ideas.
Accuracy	Spell, punctuate and organise written texts accurately, using a range of challenging vocabulary and grammatical structures to shape work with confidence.

## French

Vocabulary	Demonstrate good knowledge of vocabulary, and write extended paragraphs up to 90 words accurately.
Grammar	Use two time frames and conjugate reflexive verbs; apply noun and adjective agreement rules with a reasonable level of grammatical accuracy.
Speaking	Apply sound rules and clear pronunciation to spoken French and present information accurately and confidently.
Comprehension	Understand written and spoken extracts and infer meaning.

## Geography

Knowledge	Recall and describe geographical facts such as locations, places, processes and environments.
Understanding	Explain how those facts connect, how concepts work, and how places, environments and processes

	relate to each other.
Skills	Use a range of skills accurately (different types of maps including OS maps, graphs) and apply them appropriately.
Extend	Answer extended 6 or 9 mark questions in a concise but detailed manner. Apply accurate knowledge and understanding to explicitly answer the question.

## History

Knowledge	Understand facts, people and events from history.
Understanding concepts	Understand key concepts such as causation, consequence and significance
Using evidence	Evaluate evidence and asking sound questions about the past. Investigate historical topics using a range of sources.
Organisation & communication	Clearly present historical arguments. Produce extended writing which communicates coherently, using correct terms.

## Maths

Methods	Know mathematical steps, rules and techniques and be able to use them confidently.
Accuracy	Work carefully, checking answers, and ensuring calculations are correct.
Reasoning	Explain thinking, connecting ideas, and showing why something is true.
Problem-Solving	Apply maths to new or unfamiliar situations and choose an effective approach.

## Music

Technical	Show competence in controlling sound (instrumental, vocal or with music technology) and use a communication system, such as staff notation or guitar tab
Constructive	Know the musical elements / interrelated dimensions of music. Know the components of composition
Expressive	Musical quality and expression, musical creativity and exploration (improvisation, autonomy and imagination) and knowledge of musical meaning across the world and time (culture and history)
Evaluative	Judge quality and effectiveness of performance and/or composition. Use evidence to support opinions. Identify what worked well and what could be developed further in future musical work or study.

## Physical Education

Physical	Perform core skills more consistently and adapt movements to different game situations.
Cognitive	Apply developing tactics and use feedback to improve understanding of exercise and performance.
Social	Work cooperatively with others, showing respect, willingness to take part, and early resilience when faced with new or challenging tasks.

Extra Curricular	Increase participation and consistency in chosen activities, showing greater confidence, reliability, and willingness to contribute to school teams and clubs.
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## Physics

Subject Knowledge	Understanding scientific concepts related to Physics and being able to apply them to examination questions
Scientific Literacy	Communicate ideas clearly, using correct scientific vocabulary.
Problem Solving	Apply subject knowledge, for example - to find mathematical solutions to problems.
Working Scientifically	Combining Physics subject knowledge and practical skills to demonstrate or prove hypotheses, analyse data, and draw conclusions.

## Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE)

Substantive Knowledge	Students develop a secure understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, recognising their diversity, how they change over time, and how people live them out in different contexts.
Disciplinary Knowledge	Students investigate big questions using the tools of theology, philosophy, and the human and social sciences, building strong analytical skills and learning to engage thoughtfully with different perspectives.
Personal knowledge	Students learn to reflect on their own viewpoints, experiences, and identities, understanding how these shape their interpretations and enabling them to make meaningful connections between their learning and their own lives.
Communication (oracy & literacy)	Students develop the ability to express ideas clearly, discuss and debate respectfully, and interpret texts and sources with precision, using strong literacy and oracy skills informed by thoughtful reflection.

## Spanish

Vocabulary	Demonstrate good knowledge of vocabulary, and write extended paragraphs up to 90 words accurately.
Grammar	Use two time frames and conjugate reflexive verbs; apply noun and adjective agreement rules with a reasonable level of grammatical accuracy.
Speaking	Apply sound rules and clear pronunciation to spoken French and present information accurately and confidently.
Comprehension	Understand written and spoken extracts and infer meaning.