

# Year 9 Subject Understanding and Skills

## Art

Investigate	Explore and research ideas and sources so that creative intentions are grounded in meaningful investigation.
Experiment	Explore and refine media, materials, techniques and processes to develop and improve work.
Record	Capture ideas, observations and insights as the work progresses so the journey is visible and intentional.
Realise	Create a personal outcome that fulfils intentions and shows understanding of visual language.

## Biology

Subject Knowledge	Understand scientific concepts and be 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	Combine subject knowledge and practical skills to demonstrate or prove hypotheses, analyse data, and draw conclusions.

## Chemistry

Subject Knowledge	Understand scientific concepts and be 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	Combine subject knowledge and practical skills to demonstrate or prove hypotheses, analyse data, and draw conclusions.

## Computer Science

Knowledge	Understand basic computing concepts.
Application	Solve problems, analyse algorithms & code effectively.
Creativity	Design & build digital products.
Responsibility	Know how to use technology safely, legally, & ethically, & can consider its impact.

## Drama

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

## Design Technology

Design	Develop creative ideas that solve real problems and meet people's needs.
Make	Use tools, materials, and techniques to turn ideas into real, well-made products.
Evaluate	Test and judge how well ideas and products work, and suggest how to improve them.
Technical Knowledge	Understand how materials, systems, and processes work, and can apply that knowledge to make and explain design decisions.

## English Language

Reading	Comprehend a range of texts, analyse the writers' use of language and structure, and explain their 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 the required vocabulary in KS3, and write extended paragraphs up to 90 words accurately.
Grammar	Reference three time frames; conjugate verbs in present, past and future tenses accurately, apply noun and adjective agreement rules with grammatical accuracy.
Speaking	Apply sound rules to read aloud in French, participate in a role play, and undertake an unprepared conversation spontaneously with clear pronunciation.
Comprehension	Understand written and spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar covered this year, as well as inferring 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.

## German

Vocabulary	Demonstrate good knowledge of the required vocabulary in KS3, and write extended paragraphs up to 90 words accurately.
Grammar	Reference three time frames; conjugate verbs in present, past and future tenses accurately, apply noun and adjective agreement rules with grammatical accuracy.
Speaking	Apply sound rules to read aloud in German, participate in a role play, and undertake an unprepared conversation spontaneously with clear pronunciation.
Comprehension	Understand written and spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar covered this year, as well as inferring meaning.

## 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 ask 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 the rules, formulas, and techniques and be able to use them accurately.
Reasoning	Show clear Mathematical thinking—explain why something works or how you reached an answer.
Interpretation	Understand what a question is asking, using diagrams or information correctly, and expressing maths clearly.
Problem-Solving	Apply maths to unfamiliar situations, break down complex problems, and choose the right 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	Demonstrate fluent and reliable skills under pressure, combining techniques effectively in full game situations and show growing physical confidence and fitness.
Cognitive	Apply more advanced tactics and analyse performance with accuracy, showing an understanding of key training principles and how they influence improvement.
Social	Show independence and empathy in leadership roles, demonstrating strong organisation, responsibility, and resilience within group and competitive settings.
Extra Curricular	Commit to regular participation, supporting peers, and showing emerging leadership, while using extra-curricular opportunities to refine skills remain active.

## Physics

Subject Knowledge	Understand scientific concepts and be 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	Combine subject knowledge and practical skills to demonstrate or prove hypotheses, analyse data, and draw conclusions.

## Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE)

Substantive Knowledge	Develop a secure understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, recognise their diversity, how they change over time, and how people live them out in different contexts.
Disciplinary Knowledge	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	Reflect on viewpoints, experiences, and identities, understand how these shape their interpretations and enable them to make meaningful connections between their learning and their own lives.
Communication (oracy & literacy)	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 the required vocabulary in KS3, and write extended paragraphs up to 90 words accurately.
Grammar	Reference three time frames; conjugate verbs in present, past and future tenses accurately, apply noun and adjective agreement rules with grammatical accuracy.
Speaking	Apply sound rules to read aloud in Spanish, participate in a role play, and undertake an unprepared conversation spontaneously with clear pronunciation.
Comprehension	Understand written and spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar covered this year, as well as inferring meaning.