



GCSE Parent Guide 2026-2027

Allowing parents to support their children
through GCSE Examinations





About this guide

The aim of this booklet is to offer you subject-specific guidance for supporting your child to prepare for their exams.

As a parent there is lots you can do to help your child revise for their exams, from reminding them to attend after-school revision sessions to encouraging them with praise and rewards. There are also various things you can do to support your child with their individual subjects. In this guide you will find practical tips and ideas from each of our subject areas.

Exams, particularly important public exams, are stressful for students and probably even more so for their parents. It goes without saying that all children are different, so it follows that there is no single approach to how parents can help, but here are some suggestions.

Students who do best in exams:

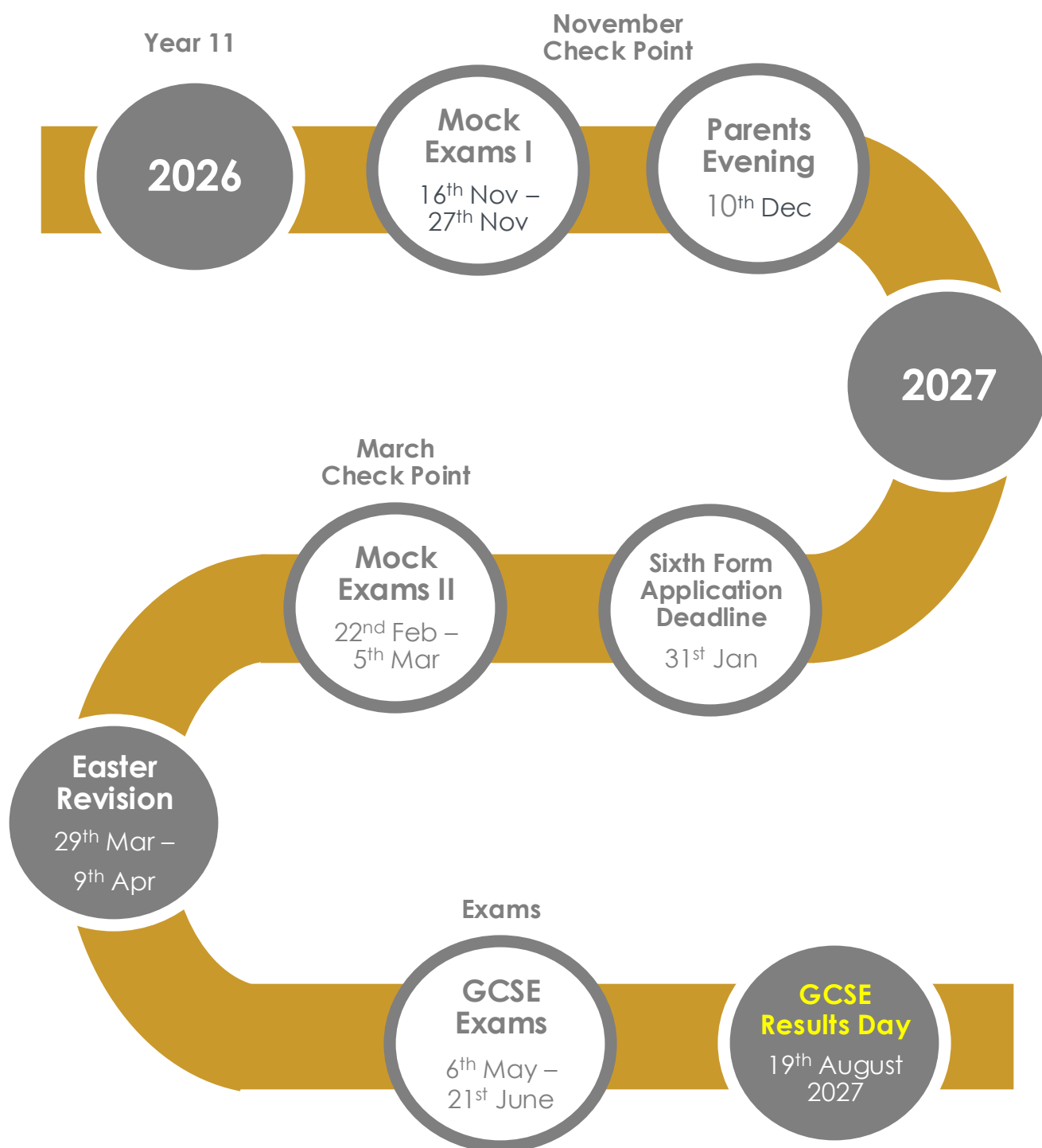
- have revised thoroughly and carefully.
- feel confident.
- have parents who take an interest in their revision.

We wish all our Year 11 pupils the best of luck in their GCSE examinations. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions about exam preparations.

Mr P Blackburn

Assistant Headteacher - Learning and Teaching

Year 11 Road Map



Creating a space for revision



How to make your home a revision-friendly environment

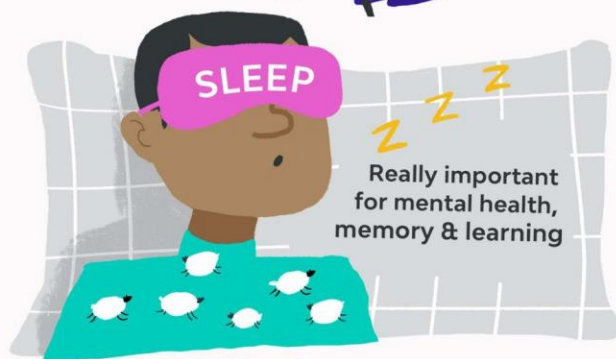
Their own study space



Adjust their tech

Because it's really distracting!

Use do not disturb mode; no desktop notifications (if they're using computer for revision; study without phone)



Really important for mental health, memory & learning



Encourage breaks

10-15 mins off every hour helps concentration



Keep talking



Teen & parents - so teen can voice their feelings & worries about anything & you, the parent, can help & comfort them



Online resources

The following websites and applications can be used to support your child's revision:

satchel:one

Satchel:One

Online platform for homework



SENECA LEARNING

Explains materials and generates tests



QUIZLET

Electronic flashcards and testing

Sparx Maths

SPARX

Personalised maths homework

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Pearson | Edexcel

AQA
Realising potential

eduqas

EXAM BOARDS

Past papers and mark schemes



Microsoft Teams

MICROSOFT TEAMS

Resources shared by teachers

BBC Bitesize

BBC BITESIZE

Revision guides and quizzes

Mental health and wellbeing



The following websites can be used to support your child's mental health during the exam period:



KOOTH

<https://www.kooth.com>



PAUSE HUBS

<https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause>



THE WELLBEING CREW

<http://thewellbeingcrew.co.uk/wellbeing-of-children.html>



CHILDLINE

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/assessment-stress/>



NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>



YOUNG MINDS

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

Supporting learners with SEND



Children with SEND will need more support structuring their revision than their non-SEND counterparts. The cognitive load of simply deciding what and how to revise can negatively impact children with SEND.

We encourage you to sit with your child and help them decide what to revise when they do so:

Children with SEND may need to overlearn topics by revisiting them over and over again.

Encourage your child to "chunk" their revision into smaller topics, so that it is less overwhelming.

Children with SEND may need extra breaks as they process their learning.

You may want to participate in revision with your child, letting them explain ideas to you verbally first and then writing these down.

Children with SEND may need to be reminded about what exams they have.

Your child may feel anxious about their exams, they will benefit from support and confidence building at home.

The importance of attendance



Attendance vs. Attainment

96% - 100%

Average Grade (2019)
6.5+

90% - 95%

Average Grade (2019)
5+

Below 90%

Average Grade (2019)
3.9+



	Lost Learning		
	Short Term	Academic Year	School Career
100%	Full attendance	None	None
95%	Half a day off per fortnight	2 weeks	10 weeks
90%	A day off a fortnight	1 month	Half a year
PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM			
85%	A day and a half per fortnight	A half term	The equivalent of missing the whole of Y11
80%	A day off per week	Over a half term	A full year

'PERIOD 7' Intervention

(January 2027 onwards)
3.30pm – 4.20pm



Week 1	
Monday	Geography & History *
Wednesday	English
Thursday	Science
Week 2	
Monday	Maths
Wednesday	Religious Education & Languages **
Thursday	Open Pot ***

* Additional ASDAN cope sessions with Mr Hughes.

** For those pupils who do not study a language, Mrs Darby will run an additional English intervention.

*** This includes Art, Business, Computer Science, Health & Social Care, Food Technology, Music Technology & Photography.

Homework Timetable

Year 11 pupils are expected to complete a **60 minutes** of homework each evening in the following subjects (combined):

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Biology				Physics
French / Punjabi	English	Chemistry	English	Geography / History / ASDAN *
Food*	Maths	RS	Maths	
Music Tech*	Business*	Computer Science*	Health & Social*	Photography *

* GCSE options subjects will vary from pupil-to-pupil.

English Language



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
English Language Paper 1: Monday, 24 May AM 1h 45m English Language Paper 2: Tuesday, 8 June AM 1h 45m Each paper is worth 80 marks	• Watch walk-throughs of questions on these Youtube channels: Mr Bruff/ Mrs Whelan's English • AQA Website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700	Paper 1 (Fiction): • Question 2 (language analysis) • Question 3 (structure analysis) • Question 4 (evaluation) • Creative writing Paper 2 (Non-fiction): • Question 2 (synthesis) • Question 3 (language analysis) • Question 4 (comparison) • Non-fiction writing- articles, speeches, letters etc
Exam Question Guidance	Section A: Reading Questions: • There are 4 questions in Section A of each paper • Each question has a different process and mark scheme. You must learn the process for each question. • You must learn the timings and how long you should spend on each question. Creative writing: • You will need to write a description or a story. • Spend at least 5 minutes planning. • Be creative with your ideas. Write something to surprise or delight the examiner. Plan the structure of your writing and include a variety of features. • If you are writing a story, choose a short and simple plot. Describe a key moment in detail rather than trying to cover a long period of time. Non-fiction writing: • Read the task carefully and work out the form, audience and purpose. • Spend at least 5 minutes planning. • Come up with an argument and try to persuade the reader. • Use a range of devices in your writing.	

English Literature



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
English Literature Paper 1: Wednesday, 12 May AM 1h 45m 64 marks English Literature Paper 2: Wednesday, 19 May AM 2h 15m 96 marks	- Youtube videos: www.youtube.com/mrbruff - AQA Website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700 www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize www.senecalearning.com	Paper 1: - Macbeth - Jekyll and Hyde Paper 2: - An Inspector Calls - Worlds and Lives poetry - Unseen Poetry For each of these topics, you must use your check list to revise every character and every theme. You must also practise essay writing.

Exam Question Guidance	Essay writing guidance: - Start essays with an introduction and a thesis - Start each paragraph with a topic sentence - In each paragraph, include analysis of the writer's techniques (AO2) and context (AO3) - Include references, which can be quotations or paraphrasing. Try to use a range of references and don't always use the most obvious ones. - Make sure you are always answering the question Macbeth Analyse Shakespeare's language in detail; link to Shakespeare's universal ideas. 4 marks available for spelling and grammar (AO4) Jekyll and Hyde Address Stevenson's big ideas and purpose (AO3). Use contextual ideas throughout your essay. An Inspector Calls Analyse dramatic techniques and effects; remember it is a play. 4 marks available for spelling and grammar (AO4) Worlds and Lives Choose a relevant poem; explain how the poems address the theme. Unseen Be confident and creative; give your personal interpretation; for question 2, <u>only</u> write about methods and their effect – how do the methods help the poet communicate their ideas?
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Mathematics



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Friday 14th May 2027 Paper 1 (Non-calculator) Thursday 27th May 2027 Paper 2 (Calculator) Monday 14th June 2027 Paper 3 (Calculator) Each paper is worth 80 marks and you will have 1.5 hours to complete each exam.	Corbett Maths: www.corbettmaths.com Sparx Maths: www.sparxmaths.uk Maths Genie: www.mathsgenie.co.uk Dr Frost: www.drfrust.com Revision Maths: www.revisionmaths.com Maths Made Easy: www.mathsmadeeasy.co.uk Physics and Maths Tutor: https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/maths-revision/gcse-questions-edexcel/ Mr Morley Maths: https://www.mrmorleymaths.co.uk	Topic checklists are best found on the Corbettmaths website or in the CGP revision guides. Higher: https://corbettmaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Edexcel-Higher-Checklist.pdf Foundation: https://corbettmaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Edexcel-Foundation-Checklist.pdf Most topics can appear on both the calculator and non-calculator paper; however, some topics are more likely to appear on a non-calculator paper. Please speak to your maths teacher for more information.

Exam Question Guidance	Tips - Before the Exam Create a revision plan Test yourself regularly – make a list of weaknesses Ask for help – revise in a group sometimes Practice under exam conditions Practice using your calculator Tips – During the Exam Come equipped Show working clearly If you need to cross anything out, just put a single line through it Make sure answers are realistic If you get stuck on a question, move on The marks awarded indicate how many steps the question usually requires (including the answer) Avoiding Common Mistakes Always read the question – highlight key words, draw a diagram to help Accuracy (decimal places, significant figures) and Rounding (don't round during your working) Write in the space provided, never go below the line Check you've answered the question Topic Based Mistakes Simultaneous Equations – usually nice answers Reverse Percentages – does your answer make sense? Probability – answers must be between 0 and 1 Mean – answer must lie between the highest and lowest values within the data Cumulative Frequency Graphs – plot CF against the Upper Bounds Solving Quadratics – when it says round to sf or dp USE THE QUADRATIC FORMULA Pythagoras Theorem – are you using the formula correctly (+ or -) Angle Questions – Remember to include reasons for each angle!
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Biology



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Tuesday 11th May 2027 PM Paper 1 final examination 1 hour and 45 minutes Thursday 10th June 2027 AM Paper 2 final examination 1 hour and 45 minutes	AQA website: (specification, past papers & mark schemes) https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461/assessment-resources?f.Sub-category%7CF=Sample+papers+and+mark+schemes Revision Videos: Paper 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKYQ-K23Mr4 Revision Videos: Paper 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uqti-xPnT-8 Revision notes & questions: https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/biology-revision/gcse-aqa/ https://cognitoedu.org/course/b2-gcse-aqa-h-t	Paper 1 • Cell Biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics Paper 2 • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology
Exam Question Guidance	Exam structure: The course content is divided into two papers with each being an hour and 45 minutes in length. Both papers are out of 100 marks and count for 50% of the overall GCSE Biology grade. Question types: Each paper will contain a combination of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses. Approximately 10% of each paper will require students to apply their maths skills. Approximately 3 questions per paper will be extended response questions in which students will be expected to write coherently and will be assessed on the quality of their written communication. Required practicals: Students will have completed 10 required practicals throughout the course. Associated practical skills will be assessed in both papers.	

Chemistry



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Monday 17th May 2027 Paper 1 final examination 1 hour 45 mins (Both tiers) Tuesday 15th June 2027 Paper 2 final examination 1 hour 45 mins (Both tiers)	AQA website: (specification, past papers & mark schemes) https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462 SENECA Learning: https://app.senecalearning.com/login Revision notes and questions: https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/chemistry-revision/gcse-aqa/ Chemistry revision videos: https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiddqqlGKox7WeOKVGHxcd69kKqtwrKI8W	Paper 1 • Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding and structure • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes Paper 2 • Rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using resources

Exam Question Guidance	Exam structure: There are 2 papers, both are 1 hour and 45 minutes, and examine 5 topics (see checklist). Question types: Each paper consists of multiple-choice questions, structured closed short answer questions and open long answer questions; which are worth 6 marks. Approximately 20% of each paper will be of mathematical requirements such as applying formulae, graph skills, calculating averages. Required practicals: There are 8 required practicals which are examined in either paper, this includes and is not limited to: the methodology, analysis of a set of results given or using results to justify a conclusion.
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Physics



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Tuesday 25th May 2027 AM Paper 1 final examination 1 hour 45 mins (Both tiers) Friday 18th Jun2 2027 AM Paper 2 final examination 1 hour 45 mins (Both tiers)	AQA website: (specification, past papers & mark schemes) https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463 SENECA Learning: https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/ Exam questions for each topic: https://mathsmadeeasy.co.uk/gcse-physics-revision/gcse-physics-exam-questions-by-topic/ Physics revision videos: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqbOeHaAUXw9II7sBVG3_bw GCSE Physics (9-1) – YouTube Physics Tutor: AQA GCSE (9-1) Physics Revision – PMT	Paper 1 • Energy • Electricity • Particle model • Atomic structure Paper 2 • Forces • Waves • Magnetism and electromagnetism • Space
Exam Question Guidance	Exam structure: There are two external exams that are both 1 hr 45mins. Both papers are out of 100 marks and count for 50% of the overall GCSE Physics grade. Question types: Each paper will contain a combination of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses. Required practicals: Students will have completed 10 required practicals throughout the course. Associated practical skills will be assessed in both papers. All sample assessment material provided by the exam board has included a question requiring the students to give a detailed method for one of the required practicals.	

Combined Science



Key Dates

All 1 hour 15 minutes

Biology

Tuesday 11th May 2027 PM

Paper 1 final examination

Thursday 10th June 2027 AM

Paper 2 final examination

Chemistry

Monday 17th May 2027 AM

Paper 1 final examination

Tuesday 15th June 2027 AM

Paper 2 final examination

Physics

Tuesday 25th May 2027 AM

Paper 1 final examination

Friday 18th June 2027 AM

Paper 2 final examination

Useful Websites

AQA website: (specification, past papers & mark schemes)

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/assessment-resources?f.Sub-category=F=Sample+papers+and+mark+schemes&sort=title&num_ranks=10

SENECA Learning:

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Revision notes and questions:

<http://www.docbrown.info/page17/2016-0-index.htm#AQA>

Required practical videos:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVJCKCPmZH_P7OIjyMjrQolZRJSzCKril

Topic Checklist

Biology:

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry:

Atomic structure and the periodic table

Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter

Quantitative chemistry

Chemical changes

Energy changes

The rate and extent of chemical change

Organic chemistry

Chemical analysis

Chemistry of the atmosphere

Using resources

Physics:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

Exam Question Guidance

There are 6 papers each 1 hour and 15 minutes (see topic checklist above) Attempt every question.

Each paper consists of multiple-choice questions, structured closed short answer questions and open long answer questions; which are worth 6 marks.

Handwriting must be legible to achieve marks, if it cannot be read it will achieve zero marks.

Make sure you read every question and look at how many marks are awarded to see the depth to include. Always show working out.

Approximately 20% of each paper will be of mathematical requirements such as applying formulae, graph skills, calculating averages

Geography



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
March 2027 Pre-release materials for Paper 3 Tuesday, 18 May 2027 Geography paper 1 AM (1 hr 30 mins) Wednesday, 26 May 2027 Geography paper 2 PM (1 hr 30 mins) Thursday, 10 June 2027 Geography paper 3 PM (1 hr 30 mins)	AQA Website (Specification and specimen papers/mark schemes): https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035 Time for Geography: https://timeforgeography.co.uk/ Seneca Learning: https://www.senecalearning.com BBC Bitesize AQA GCSE Geography: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc	Paper 1 – 88 marks (35%) • The challenge of natural hazards • The living world • Physical landscapes in the UK Paper 2 – 88 marks (35%) • Urban issues and challenges • The changing economic world • The challenge of resource management Paper 3 – 76 marks (30%) • Issue evaluation (using pre-release materials) • Geographical Skills - Theoretical Fieldwork For more detailed breakdown of individual topics on Papers 1 and 2 see the revision checklist in your exercise books.

Exam Question Guidance	Question type: Each section will feature a range of questions: multiple choice, short answers (1-3 marks), levels of response (4 or 6 marks) and extended prose (9 marks). Command words: Read these carefully and ensure your answer remains focused on the demands of the question. For more information on the meaning of command words see https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/gcse/geography/teach/command-words Time management: a good rough guide is to work through the papers at roughly a mark per minute. The 6- and 9-mark questions account for the majority of the marks, so aim to allow a little extra time for these if possible; consider starting with these questions to avoid spending too long on the shorter questions. Choice: Do not answer questions you do not need to! On three occasions you will be required to choose the right question for which you have been prepared, as follows: • Paper 1 Section B Living world select hot deserts (not cold environments) • Paper 1 Section C Physical landscapes of the UK select Coastal landscapes and River landscapes (not glacial landscapes) • Paper 2 in Section C The challenge of resource management, select Question 4 'Food' (not question 5 'Water' or question 6 'Energy').
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History



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Thursday 20th May 2027 Conflict and Tension 1918-1939 America: Opportunity & Inequality (2 hrs) Friday 28th May 2027 Elizabethan England c.1568-1603 Migration, Empires and the People (2 hrs) Easter Revision Dates: TBC	There is a wealth of student resources, provided by NHSB staff through Microsoft Teams. Weekly quizzes have been set through www.Seneca.com Textbook and lesson resources are available through OneDrive and are linked to Microsoft Teams. BBC Bitesize GCSE pages are a useful place to research key events https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxjk4j6	USA 1920-1973: - American people & the Boom - American people & the Depression - WW2 & Post War America Conflict & Tension 1918-1939: - Peacemaking - The League of Nations - The origins of WW2 Elizabethan England - Court and Parliament - Life in Elizabethan times - Troubles at home and abroad - Site study (The Spanish Armada). Empire, Migration & the People - How are empires made? - Why do empires collapse? - Why do people migrate? - How is identity formed?
Exam Question Guidance	Questions types: Each section of the exam has a particular set of question stems that students can expect to encounter. These do not change each year, and students should practice these. Advice on how to tackle each question style can be found inside student exercise books and on Teams. In addition, there is 1 lesson per week dedicated to exam question practice. Timing: This is key to success in the history paper. Aim to spend the following amount of time; 4-mark questions: 5 minutes 8-mark questions: 10 minutes 12-mark questions: 15 minutes 16-mark questions: 20 minutes Legible handwriting: Remember handwriting must be legible to achieve marks, if it cannot be read it will achieve zero marks!	

Religious Studies



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Monday 13th May 2027 Sikhism Paper (1 hr 45 mins) Tuesday 7th June 2027 Christianity Paper (1 hr 45 mins) Revision sessions: - Directed revision club at lunch time starting from 15th September. <u>Pupils selected will be expected to attend.</u> (please note all pupils will have the opportunity to attend) - There is a lack of revision guides with the current exam board however you can use the AQA Christianity and Sikh revision guide: Christianity & Sikhism Revision Guide - AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (9-1) By Ann Clucas, Peter Smith, Marianne Fleming	Edexcel website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-b-2016.html BBC Bitesize: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zm9pd6f. Revision videos (YouTube): https://www.youtube.com/user/MrMcMillanREvis Quizlet: Create your own revision/flash cards. There are some ready-made revision resources available that you can also use. Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies Revision Quizlet	Christianity Paper: - Section 1 – Christian beliefs and teachings - Section 2 – Philosophy and teachings - Section 3 – Living the Christian life - Section 4 - Equality Sikh Paper: - Section 1 – Sikh beliefs and teachings - Section 2 – Marriage and family life - Section 3 – Living the Sikh life - Section 4 – Matters of life and death. Note: Each section contains 4 topics – see specification on Edexcel website (shown to the left) for full details of each topic which include the key words and knowledge.
Exam Question Guidance	Each paper is out of 102 marks – it contains four sections of the following type of questions: Guidance on 3-mark questions – These should be completed in three minutes and only require students to write three full simple sentences – bullet pointing is not accepted. Guidance on 4-mark questions – These should be completed in four minutes and require students to write two small paragraphs including a Point and Analysis structure in each paragraph. Guidance on 5-mark questions – These should be completed in five minutes and requires Point, Evidence and Analysis and should also include at least one quote from scripture for full marks. This quote must be relevant to the question Guidance on 12/15 mark questions – These should be completed in 12 or 15 minutes – students are tested on Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation out of 3 marks if is a 15-marker. Students should aim to write 2-4 paragraphs using Point, Evidence, Analysis, Stick structure. Analysis should include a discussion of influence on the faith and whether the argument given is strong or weak. This question must have a clear conclusion which is based on evidence and reason, not just opinion.	

French



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Listening exam: Wednesday 26th May 2027 Reading exam: Wednesday 26th May 2027 Writing exam: Tuesday 8th June 2027 Speaking exam: April 2027 - specific dates TBC	AQA Website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658 Languagenut: pupil have their own password to access the website. SENECA Learning: https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/ Languages Online: https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/index.html I Jour I Actu: https://www.ijourlactu.com	• Family, friends and relationships • Free time, celebrity culture and technology • Festivals, food and celebrations • Town and region • Holidays and travel • Work and future plans • School life • Environmental issues (not in November mock)
Exam Question Guidance	Listening: During reading time, highlight key words in the questions. Predict trigger words and words you are expecting to hear. First listen, listen to the whole thing. Store information and make notes in French/ English. Second listen, focus on the information you missed. Reading: Skim - key words in question Scan - find the key words in the text Zoom - read and translate the whole sentence before you answer 3Cs if you get stuck: cognates/ compare/ context Writing: Photocard: 4 short simple sentences. 1 piece of information per sentence 40 words: cover all bullet points. Present tense. Variety of opinions/reasons 90 words: cover all bullet points. 3 tense. PORE structure 150 words: first BP- advantages and disadvantages. 2nd bullet point- past event. Translation: check tenses/ verb agreement/ adjective endings.	

Punjabi



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Listening exam: 27th May 2027 Reading exam: 27th May 2027 Writing exam: 11th June 2027 Speaking exam: April 2027 - specific dates TBC	AQA website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/lan guages/gcse/panjabi-8683 Punjabi University (Patiala): http://www.learnpunjabi.org iLanguages: http://ilanguages.org/punjabi.php Sikh Ville: www.sikhville.org	Theme 1: Identity & Culture: • Me, my family and friends • Relationships with family and friends • Marriage / partnerships • Technology in everyday life • Social issues • Mobile technology • Free time activities • Music • Cinema and TV • Food and eating out • Sports • Customs and festivals • Countries / communities Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest: • Home, town, neighbourhood and region • Social issues • Charity work • Healthy and unhealthy living • Global issues • The environment • Poverty / homelessness • Travel and tourism Theme 3: Current and future study and employment • My studies • Life at school / college • Education post-16 • Jobs, careers and ambitions
Exam Question Guidance	Listening: During reading time, highlight key words in the questions. Predict trigger words and words you are expecting to hear. First listen, listen to the whole thing. Store information and make notes in French/ English. Second listen, focus on the information you missed. Reading: Skim - key words in question Scan - find the key words in the text Zoom - read and translate the whole sentence before you answer 3Cs if you get stuck: cognates/ compare/ context Writing: Photocard: 4 short simple sentences. 1 piece of information per sentence 40 words: cover all bullet points. Present tense. Variety of opinions/reasons 90 words: cover all bullet points. 3 tense. PORE structure 150 words: first BP- advantages and disadvantages. 2nd bullet point- past event. Translation: check tenses/ verb agreement/ adjective endings.	

Business Studies



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Wednesday 12th May 2027 (PM) "Investigating Small Business" Theme 1 Paper 1 hour 45 mins Friday 21st May 2027 (PM) "Building a Business" Theme 2 Paper 1 hour 45 mins	Edexcel website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html Tutor2U: https://www.tutor2u.net/business BBC Bitesize: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z98snbk SENECA: www.senecalearning.com MICROSOFT TEAMS: https://teams.cloud.microsoft	Topic 1.1: Enterprise and entrepreneurship Topic 1.2: Spotting a business opportunity Topic 1.3: Putting a business idea into practice Topic 1.4: Making the business effective Topic 1.5: Understanding external influences on business Topic 2.1: Growing the business Topic 2.2: Making marketing decisions Topic 2.3: Making operational decisions. Topic 2.4: Making financial decisions. Topic 2.5: Making human resource decisions.
Exam Question Guidance	Theme 1 paper – 90 marks Theme 2 paper – 90 marks Both papers consist of 3 sections: Section A - 35 marks (non-context) 40 minutes Section B - 30 marks (case study) 35 minutes Section C - 25 marks (case study) 30 minutes Questions on both papers: 1 mark - Multiple choice questions 1 mark - State question 2 marks - Calculation / Outline 3 marks - Explain 6 marks - Discuss/Analyse 9 marks (x 2) - Justify one option 12 marks (x 1) - Evaluate	

Computer Science



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Monday 10th May 2027- AM Component 1 (1 hour 45mins) Wednesday 19th May 2027- PM Component 2 (2 hours)	BBC Bitesize (Eduqas): https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/znywvk7 Teach ICT: http://teachict.com Isaac Computing: https://isaacomputerscience.org/?examBoard=all&stage=all CSnewbs: https://www.csnewbs.com Note: All resources and videos are available via Microsoft Teams.	Component 1: • Hardware • Logical operators • Networking & cybersecurity • Data representation & storage • Data organization • Operating Systems • Principles of programming • Algorithms and construct • Software development • Programme construction • Impacts of digital technology on wider society. Component 2: • Investigation • Design • Implementation • Testing • Refinement

Exam Question Guidance	Component 1 - 100 marks (50%); Component 2 - 80 marks (practical test on screen; 50%)			
	AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of computer science			
	AO2 Apply knowledge and understanding of key concepts and principles of computer science			
	AO3 Analyse problems in computational terms: • to make reasoned judgements • to design, program, evaluate and refine solutions The table below shows the weightings of each assessment objective:			
		AO1	AO2	AO3
	Component 1	30%	15%	5%
	Component 2	0%	25%	25%
	Total	30%	40%	30%

Health & Social Care



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
May 2027 (Date TBC) Coursework submission deadline - Students are continuing to complete their coursework throughout Year 11. Monday, 10 May 2027 R032 Principles of care in health and social care settings. (1 hr 15 mins)	OCR Website: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j801-j811/ Microsoft Teams https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/log-in Please note: Students have the link to the revision guide also or have purchased this already.	LO1: Rights and beliefs of service users and how to maintain them. LO2: Values of care in health, social care and early years. LO3: Legislation and how it supports individuals' rights. LO4: Safety and security in health, social care and early years settings.
Exam Question Guidance	Identify questions: Students should ensure that they revise and can recall all the content from the knowledge organisers, in preparation for the exam. This will help, particularly with the 'identify' questions. It is important to remember that no other wording is to be used, other than that used on the knowledge organisers. 'Describe' and 'explain' questions: Where possible, students should answer synoptically by linking in other relevant content from the different learning outcomes (LO's in the checklist above).	

Music



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Friday 12th February 2027 Coursework submission deadline Thursday 27th May 2027 Written examination (Approx. 1 hr 15 mins)	Specification (NCFE): https://www.ncfe.org.uk/media/2vs1xzt/0/603-7008-7-qualification-specification-version-1-3.pdf Music Theory: https://www.musictheory.net/exercises Ear Training: https://trainer.thetamusic.com/en/content/music-training-games	AoS1 – Musical Forms and Devices Set work: <i>Badinerie</i>, J.S. Bach AoS2 – Music for Ensemble AoS3 – Film Music AoS4 – Popular Music Set work: <i>Africa</i>, Toto Elements – melody, articulation, dynamics, texture, structure, harmony, instrumentation, rhythm, tempo, tonality

CI Performing 30%	C2 Composing 30%	C3 Appraising 40%
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Exam Question Guidance	Structure of the exam: - A listening paper of 96 marks: eight questions, two on each area of study. - Two questions are on the set works, <i>Badinerie</i> and <i>Africa</i>; the rest use unfamiliar music. - Question types include multiple-choice, short-answer, melodic and rhythmic dictation, and extended responses. - Each extract is played several times; the number of plays is printed on the paper.	Answering questions: - Always look at the number of marks per question; if it asks for one answer but awards up to two marks, it wants a point and a reason. - Make sure to use musical terminology. The word 'beats' is only acceptable when talking about time signatures. - Read through the question carefully and highlight the important information before the music starts. - Use the first play to get the overall feel, then fill in the detail on later plays.
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Fine Art



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
EST 10-hr exam: Early Spring Term(dates tbc) Coursework hand-in: End of Autmn Term in Yr11	• BBC Bitesize Art and Design: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zds7tcw • Artist Directory https://www.makersandfounders.com/ • Artist Directory https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/a-z • Photographers Directory https://www.all-about-photo.com/photographers/A-Z-photographers.php	All 3 projects must include: 1. Title page/ Mindmap 2. Moodboard 3. 4 x artist research pages 4. Observational drawings & Primary images/ photographs 5. Experimental artworks 6. Variety of different medias 7. Development ideas in relation to reseach 8. Further experimentation of styles and media 9. Annotations & analysis 10. Initial ideas/ Design range in relation to research using mixed media and styles 11. Final ideas developed in relation to best ideas 12. Final piece & evaluation

Exam Question Guidance	GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art (J171) Component 01: Portfolio 60% Students produce a portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to a set starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus. The portfolio may be presented in appropriate formats for the specification title they are following and chosen area of study, including sketchbooks, digital presentations, mounted sheets, maquettes, prototypes, animated work, scale models or illustrated written work. This is completed in Year 10. The portfolio must provide evidence that the student has met all four assessment objectives. Component 02: Externally set task 40% Students respond to one of five themes/ exam questions, each with a range of written and visual starting points and stimuli. Students research, plan and develop ideas for their response to the option they have chosen, which they must then realise within the ten-hour supervised time period. This is completed in Year 11 Spring Term. The exam project must provide evidence that the student has met all four assessment objectives.
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Citizenship



Key Dates	Useful Websites	Topic Checklist
Thursday 10th May 2027 Paper 1 Thursday 18th June 2027 Paper 2 Both papers are 1 hour and 45 mins.	Citizenship in the UK https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdqmsbk Democracy and justice https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zckw6sg Identity and diversity https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8j2n39 Rights and responsibilities https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8j2n39 <i>Citizenship revision guide, Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE. £9.99</i>	Paper 1 (*Paper code: 1CS0/01) Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification 80 marks. • Section A questions are focused on specification Theme A: Living together in the UK. • Section B Questions are focused on specification Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK. • Section C Questions are focused on specification Theme C: Law and justice. • Section D Extended-response questions related to two or more of specification Themes A–C. Paper 2 (*Paper code: 1CS0/02) Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification 80 marks. • Section A Questions relate to the students' own citizenship action, as specified in specification Theme E: Taking citizenship action. • Section B Questions require students to comment on others' actions and relate to specification Theme D: Power and influence. • Section C Questions are focused on specification Theme D: Power and influence. One question will also link to content in one of Themes A–C.

Exam Question Guidance	1-mark –These questions are either multiple choice or a question that requires a brief answer. (AO1) 2- mark – These questions require brief knowledge and understanding (AO2) 3 – mark – These questions Are like the one-mark question where pupils are required to write 3 things in brief. (AO1) 4 – mark - These questions are based on knowledge and understanding and require a little more depth in understanding reasons why something has taken place e.g reasons why the Magna Carta was commemorated. (AO2) 6 Mark – normally source based. Pupils are required to show analytic skills in understanding and interpreting information within the source along with some wider subject knowledge. (AO3) 12mark – This is based on a source. Pupils are usually asked to state which source they agree with the most. (This is a 10-mark question in paper 2) (AO3) 15 – mark –This is an analysis and evaluation question based on a statement (AO3) <i>AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of citizenship concepts, terms and issues.30%</i> <i>AO2 Apply knowledge and understanding of citizenship concepts, terms and issues to contexts and actions. 30%</i> <i>AO3 Analyse and evaluate a range of evidence relating to citizenship issues, debates and actions, including different viewpoints, to develop reasoned, coherent arguments and make substantiated judgements. 40 %</i>
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& spiritually,
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