

YEAR 11
GUIDE TO
GCSE EXAMS

2021 – 2022

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September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Your involvement as a parent during the crucial exam years can make all the difference between success and failure.

Parental support can be up to eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than anything else.

You do not have to be an expert in the GCSE subjects that your child has chosen to be able to make a real difference. You just need to know how best to spend your time at each stage of the GCSE process to support their learning.

The hardest demand of our Year 10 and 11 students is that of understanding the long term importance of achieving the best they possibly can. Some short term sacrifices may need to be made to ensure they are truly successful.

The aim of this booklet is to provide you the parents with key points to support the GCSE process, alongside a timetable of events for each GCSE subject offered in the school to aid planning and revision.

If you have any other questions regarding specific subjects which are not outlined in the booklet please contact the school for further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Druce', written in a cursive style.

Mr Matthew Druce
Assistant Headteacher

Good exam results....

Good exam results are not based on what happens on the day of the exam. Many feelings will go through the minds of yourselves and the student alike. Are they in the right frame of mind? Will they remember what they have revised? Will they get the right question?

The results of your child's exams are generally determined before they sit the final exam. There are 3 broad stages in the process of achieving good exam results. Exam success is about getting things right at each stage of the process and remembering what can go wrong!

STAGE 1: Learning the subject content first time round

- The process of revision (looking at something again) makes the assumption that the learning of each subject has taken place already – every lesson does count!

STAGE 2: Revision

- Even a student who has attended every lesson of the course and paid attention needs to revise to achieve their full potential. Everyone needs to complete revision using techniques that are effective for them.

STAGE 3: The exam

- Even if a student has learnt the subject content and revised thoroughly things can still go wrong on the day of the exam. There are several skills that need to be used during the exam...
 - Knowing the subject matter
 - Organisational Skills
 - Exam technique
 - Time management

What can you do as a parent....?

- Encourage and praise your child. Show an interest by talking to them about what they have been learning in their different subjects and the homework/coursework they have been set.
- Ensure that your child attends school every day if possible. Even one lesson missed means that key information could be missed that may appear in an exam. For the majority of subjects, lesson content can only be covered once within the new GCSE structure due to the volume of work needing to be covered.
- Help your child plan a revision timetable and support them in sticking to it. It needs to be realistic!
- Encourage your child to see the big picture! A two year course will seem like a lifetime away for a teenager, but help them to put the time into context for the desired end result.
- Provide a suitable work area for study ensuring that all the materials that they require are there.

- Display key dates and deadlines in the house so that you can support before any panic can set in.
- Let your child's subject teacher or form tutor know if you feel your child is experiencing difficulties with any element of their personal life or school life. The school is here to help and support and will be as flexible as possible if difficulties arise.
- Agree on a balance between school work and social life and talk about any issues if you feel your child is struggling in any way. You will often come up with solutions together and remember the school is here to help.

The 9-1 GCSEs

In all GCSE subjects Year 11 students are studying the 9-1 GCSE qualifications.

The move to the 9-1 GCSE qualifications included changes in the type and volume of course content – with more content in some subjects and more challenging content also introduced. They also involved a move from the previous grade scale (based on A*-G or U) to a numerical scale based on 9-1 (9 is the highest grade).

How does this grade scale compare with the old one?

The table below shows how the 9-1 grade scale compares with the old one (based on A*-G):

Previous GCSE grades	New GCSE grades
A*	9
A	8
	7
B	6
	5
C	4
	3
D	2
E	
F	
G	1

The government's benchmark for achievement for students in English and Maths also moved upwards. While the previous 'good' grade was seen to be a C grade or above, a student achieving a Grade 4 in these subjects (equivalent to a C grade) is now said to have achieved a 'standard pass'. A Grade 5 or above is deemed a 'strong pass'. A Grade 4 or above will remain the level that students must achieve in order not to be required to re-sit English and Maths post-16. The government have also stated that 20% of students who would, in the past, have achieved grades A or A* are awarded the top grade (Grade 9).

Year 11 Mock Exams

The introduction of the 9-1 GCSE qualifications involved a significant amount of change. This was in terms of the amount of content to be covered; the level of challenge and the style of the examinations. One of the changes we made in response to these new GCSEs has been to run two sets of mock exams in English and maths.

The aim of putting on these additional mock exams is to provide our students with more practice in answering questions under exam conditions in these two key subjects. They also help to familiarise the students with the length and style of the final exam papers as well providing further information on how well they are progressing.

The key mock periods for the current academic year are shown in the table below:

Dates	Subjects
15-19 November	Maths & English only
10 - 26 January	All Subjects (except Maths, English & Art)
28 February - 4 March	Maths & English only

Please see page 34 for a more detailed list of exams this year.

Changes to the gcse exams and Non-examined Assessment (nea) for 2022

In response to the impact of the global pandemic on students studying for GCSE and A-Level qualifications, Ofqual (the organisation which regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England) has made some significant changes to the exams and non-examined assessment arrangements for summer 2022.

1. Confirmed adjustments to grading

The use of teacher assessment to determine GCSE and A Level grades in 2020 and 2021 has resulted in higher grades for many students than was the case when public examinations were last taken in 2019. Ofqual have announced that in 2022 they will aim for the final grades to reflect a midway point between 2021 to 2019 (with the intention to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023). They expect results overall in 2022 to be higher than in 2019 but not as high as in 2020.

2. Confirmed changes to GCSE examinations

The government have decided that there will be changes to assessment in a number of subjects:

a) *Optional topics and content*

- There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English Literature, history and geography.

Subject	Exam Board	Changes to exam content and structure
English Literature	AQA	<p>Ofqual has decided that the changes which were in place for the 2021 exams (if they had taken place) will also apply to 2022.</p> <p>All students will be assessed on a play by Shakespeare and on 2 of the 3 remaining areas of content: poetry; 19th Century Novel; or fiction/ drama from the British Isles from 1914.</p> <p>In the case of our students, they will study:</p> <p>Romeo and Juliet Jekyll and Hyde An Inspector Calls Unseen Poetry</p>
Geography	AQA	<p>Paper 1 Living with the physical environment</p> <p>No changes</p> <p>Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment</p> <p>All candidates have to answer questions on the Urban issues and challenges topic in Section A.</p> <p>There will now be a choice of either answering questions on The changing economic world topic or the challenge of resource management topic.</p> <p>Our Year 11s have studied the challenge of resource management topic in Year 10 so this is the optional topic which they will study – so they will not study The changing economic word topic.</p> <p>Paper 3 – Geographical Applications</p> <p>The questions on the students’ own fieldwork will be removed from the paper.</p>

History	Edexcel	<p>Ofqual have stated that all students will complete the Non-British Depth Study (For our students – Paper 3: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad).</p> <p>They will also then complete 2 out of 3 of the following:</p> <p>Thematic study with historic environment (Paper 1: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.)</p> <p>British depth study (Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88)</p> <p>Period study (Paper 2: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91)</p> <p>In the case of our students we will study:</p> <p>Paper 2: Period study and British depth study</p> <p>Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes</p> <p>64 marks (32 for the period study and 32 for the British depth study)</p> <p>British depth study option: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88</p> <p>Period study option: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91</p> <p>Paper 3: Modern depth study</p> <p>Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes</p> <p>52 marks</p> <p>Modern depth study: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad.</p>
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b) **Practical work in science**

- Centres will be allowed to deliver practical work in GCSE biology, chemistry, physics and combined science by demonstration. This means that the assessment arrangements that the exam boards have in place for these elements in their specifications will not change.

c) **Changes in art & design**

- Students taking GCSE art & design will be assessed on their portfolio only (no exam unit).

d) **Publication of advance information relating to exam content**

- The exam boards will provide advance information about the content of the exams for all GCSEs (except GCSE English Literature, history and geography for the summer 2022 exams). This

information, which is designed to support revision, will be provided by 7th February 2022 at the latest.

e) Formulae sheet in mathematics

Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics in summer 2022. The exam boards will provide copies of the formulae sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the formulae sheet will be provided in the exams.

f) Formulae sheets in physics and combined science

Students will be given a revised equation sheet for GCSE physics and combined science in summer 2022, covering all the equations required for the subject content. The exam boards will provide copies of the formulae sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the formulae sheet will be provided in the exams.

3. Confirmed changes to Non-examined assessment and fieldwork

There will also be changes to the non-examined assessments students are required to complete:

Subject	Change
Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are required to complete one solo performance rather than two. ● Students must perform in a duo/trio for 2 minutes. ● Choreography - students will complete either a solo of at least one and half minutes or group dance of at least two minutes.
Design Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The exam boards will accept mock-ups and/or clear and detailed intentions of prototypes. ● The exam boards will permit the demonstration of using machinery, tools and/or processes
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The exam boards will permit the performance statement to be satisfied through streamed or recorded performances. ● Monologues are permitted for both the devised and scripted options. ● In terms of the devised performance, the exam boards are permitted to accept alternative evidence to illustrate the intended final piece, the students' contribution to the creation and development of ideas, and their analysis and evaluation of their own work, as appropriate to the task. ● In terms of the text-based performance, the exam board will permit evidence to include either a complete and unedited audio-visual recording of the text based performance and/or presentation of each discrete aspect/each student's individual contribution.
English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● While the students will need to complete their spoken language assessment this will not have to be recorded.

Food Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NEA1 has been removed and the NEA2 task will be released earlier than normal. • This may mean that students might not be able to demonstrate all of the skills and techniques listed in the subject content. • The requirements for NEA2 have been reduced to 2 dishes to be completed within 3 hours to allow for students to use complex processes such as baking, lamination, making ice-cream and to accommodate public health restrictions.
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will not be required to complete geography fieldwork and the fieldwork section from Paper 3 will be removed from the paper.
MFL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam boards will not have to include vocabulary that is not on the vocabulary lists for assessments in GCSE modern foreign languages. • Students will be required to complete the speaking elements of the course. • Exam boards have been permitted to include an additional optional question in the writing assessment which will allow students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.
Music	<p>Performance assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform 1 or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 1.5 minutes (if all solo performance) or 2 minutes (if including performances as part of an ensemble). • There will not be a requirement to perform as part of an ensemble. <p>Composition assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compose one or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 2 minutes. • Compositions may be in response to an exam board set brief and/or be freely composed, with no requirement to do both.
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exam boards are allowed to reduce the requirement to 2 activities rather than 3 and they can both be individual or they can both be team sports (or one individual sport and one team sport). • The exam boards are being permitted to explore the relaxation of requirements for provision of evidence (e.g. the type and quality of videoed evidence and the evidence of participation in competitive sport).

4. Possible proposal relating to what could happen if the exam do not run next summer?

At the time of writing, the government is currently consulting on what the plans will be for a situation where exams do not run next summer. They are proposing that a system based on teacher assessment could be used again if this was the case. We will let you know as soon as we have more information. Their proposals include:

- Schools should put in place a schedule for assessments (e.g. end of topic tests and mock exams) which could be used as evidence
- These assessments should cover the full range of topics taught.
- The schedule is likely to include assessing students three times (e.g. Term 2, Term 3 and early term 5).
- The assessments could include whole exam papers or part of papers.
- The assessments should be conducted under 'exam conditions' and access arrangements should be provided wherever possible.
- Students should be told before they take the assessment that it would be used to inform a teacher assessed grade if exams were cancelled.
- The work will be marked by teachers and they will provide feedback to their students (e.g. marks or comments) but not the teacher assessed grade.
- The original student work will be kept by your teachers although they can provide you with copies of the work.

As the government's proposals on this have only just come out (and have not been confirmed yet) we are only in the early stages of planning although all subjects are already required to assess you regularly (including through the formal sets of mocks). We will update students and parents as soon as we have more information regarding the final decisions and how we will respond to them.

A Parent/Carer's guide to surviving exams

How can you help now?

- Encourage your son/daughter to complete coursework on time.
- Check he/she is doing her homework and sign planner.
- Make sure he/she is at school every day and on time.
- Ensure the balance of work and play is right.

Revision

- Devise a revision timetable.
- Keep his/her books and notes organised.
- Keep sessions to no longer than half an hour or an hour at most, and then a short break before starting another subject.
- Revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once.
- Start each session by tackling the most difficult bits first.
- Revisit each subject several times.
- Use different revision methods such as mind maps, notes, pictures and spider diagrams.
- Work with a friend on occasion to allow them to test each other and talk about the work.
- Use revision guides from school or bookshops. Some are available online, and there are websites such as BBC Bitesize at www.bbc.co.uk/education/revision
- Study no more than two subjects a night.
- Listen to quiet background music if it helps.

Please ensure that your son/daughter

- Has somewhere to study.
- Eats properly and drinks plenty of water.
- Doesn't listen to television and loud music when revising.
- Is supported by parents/carers who are positive and reassuring to build confidence.
- Is not distracted by mobile phones, Facebook, emails etc.

When the actual exams arrive

- Make sure your son/daughter continues to attend lessons up to the examination in each subject.
- Give your son/daughter time, space and peace while he/she works before and between exams.
- Emphasise the need for plenty of sleep, especially the night before an exam.
- Don't let him/her work herself into a state of exhaustion – encourage him/her to take regular breaks.

On the day of an exam

- Ensure he/she gets up on time and is in school at least 15 minutes before the exam is due to start.
- Ask if he/she has everything he/she needs.
- Tell him/her to switch off mobile phone and leave it off until after the exam, or better still, leave it at home.
- Wish him/her good luck as he/she leaves!

What we do

In addition to the teaching in lessons, which continues up to the day of the exam, we

- Run structured revision programmes. Departments will usually organise these, often at lunchtimes and after school.
- Run revision and Study Skills sessions through our tutor programme to help your son/daughter revise effectively.
- Target students who have been identified as having particular needs.
- Ask subject staff to be available to discuss problems with individuals.
- Offer exam stress sessions and support to cope with the demands of the GCSE studies.

There are a team of people who are here to help your son/daughter through the year.

- The Form Tutor
(Please contact via the House base number for ease of communication. We encourage email correspondence between parents and tutors to ensure we can support each other).
- The Head of House
- Examinations Officer: Mrs Farman on 01491 636843
- Assistant Headteacher Student Progress: Mr Matthew Druce.
- Deputy Headteacher of Curriculum: Dr Newbold.

Post 16 Education, Training and Employment

Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

All students are required to continue in education or training until at least the end of the academic year in which they turn 18.

- Full-time education, such as a school with a Sixth Form or college.
- An Apprenticeship.
- Full-time employment or volunteering with part-time education or training alongside.
- An Apprenticeship
- Full-time employment or volunteering with part-time education or training alongside.

What to study?

These links are an excellent starting point to research courses offered at colleges/universities. If you have a specific interest you can then back track what you require at degree level and in some cases what A levels subjects and grades you will need to get on that course. Again, this might influence what you do as a post 16 course.

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/what-qualifications-are-there-16-18-year-olds>

<https://www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/thinking-about-uni>

Transition between GCSE and Post 16 - Things to consider

1. A Level, Vocational, [T Levels](#) or [Apprenticeship](#)?
2. Sixth Form College or School with Sixth Form?
3. Apprenticeship through a college or through a company with training?

Next Steps

1. Access the websites for all the post 16 providers in the local area and identify the course on offer and the entry requirements. Your son/daughter should complete the 'Preparing for making choices after Gillotts School worksheet'. It has been sent to Y11 via the Y11 Careers Google Classroom.
2. Adviza Careers Appointments <https://www.adviza.org.uk/>
 - a. If you require another meeting with our careers adviser from Adviza, please see Mr Bull to book an appointment.

- b. If you would like to attend the meeting with your son/daughter, please contact Mr Bull. He will then liaise with Adviza and make a suitable time.
3. Attend college/sixth form providers open days and evenings – some do require booking so please continually check websites. Additional dates might also be added.
4. Support your son/daughter when completing application forms and writing a personal statement (if required)

Guidelines for writing a personal statement

You have a good set of GCSE grades, but so do all the other students applying for post 16 courses. What gives you the edge?

- I. Why have you chosen these subjects?
 - Has there been a specific topic of interest you have studied at GCSE?
 - Have you read a book relating to a subject/topic?
 - Is it for a specific career?
 - If you are picking a new subject you need to describe what you know about it
- I. Talk about yourselves (Always link to competences/skills eg communication, resilience, leadership)
 - Part time work, work experience, hobbies, volunteer work etc.
 - Responsibilities held e.g. House captain
 - Examinations/Qualifications e.g. Music grade V Clarinet or Dance
- I. Why are you applying tosixth form school/college?
 - Siblings attend there.
 - Transport.
 - Enrichment activities etc.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality are key because:

When you are late for lessons you miss the teacher's instructions and the induction to the lesson. You may feel embarrassed at having to enter the classroom late but that won't be half as embarrassing as not getting the grades you wanted on results day because you didn't turn up.

Minutes lost per day during the school year.	Equals day's worth of teaching lost in a year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
25 minutes	20.7 days

Students are required to attend school for 190 days per year. Students who miss a lot of school achieve less.

Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Which is approx.. weeks absent	Which means this no. of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	288 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	338 lessons

If attendance and punctuality are poor, this could affect your son/daughter getting on the course of his/her choice.

Revision Guides and Resources

S-Cool – www.s-cool.co.uk

GSCE.COM – www.gcse.com

Lumosity – www.lumosity.com

Revision Centre – www.revisioncentre.co.uk

Revision World – www.revisionworld.co.uk

Mind Explosion – <http://www.mindexplosionbook.com>

SUBJECT	INFORMATION	RESOURCE
ART	<p>The nature of the artwork produced during the course is varied, including a range of media; ideas and images taken from a broad spectrum of art, craft and design.</p> <p>For this year, Art will be assessed on Unit 1 only, making it worth 100% of the marks. No Unit 2 paper will be issued in January and students will not sit the 10 hour exam.</p> <p><i>Component 1: Portfolio:</i> Students must complete at least one substantial project, meeting all of the Assessment Criteria, and a selection of other work. We anticipate the majority of students will have two completed projects to submit as part of their portfolio, but will review the impact of Covid on an individual basis to determine the best approach for each student.</p> <p>Students will need to spend time out of lessons working</p>	<p><i>Exam Board -AQA</i></p> <p>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/specification-at-a-glance</p> <p>Useful for inspiration and research</p> <p>http://uk.pinterest.com/ http://www.artchive.com/ http://www.artcyclopedia.com/ https://artsy.net/ http://www.besthistorysites.net/index.php/art-history</p> <p><i>Students are able to receive work back from the end of October. Work must be retained by the school until this point as an exam board requirement. An email will be sent out to all parents via schoolcomms with details of when students can collect work (with a January deadline).</i></p> <p><i>In exceptional cases (where students need portfolios for interview) they can collect work then return it to the school until the end of Oct.</i></p> <p><i>If the deadline of January is not met and students have not collected their work by this time then we are at no obligation to retain it.</i></p>

	<p>on their personal projects and would benefit from having basic drawing and painting materials at home. They should make use of the after school sessions every Wednesday 3.30 - 5pm in A2.</p>	
ENGLISH	<p>In Year 11, students have begun preparation for their examinations:</p> <p>English Language:</p> <p>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Writing and Reading</p> <p>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</p> <p>English Literature:</p> <p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel</p> <p>Paper 2: Modern Texts and Unseen Poetry</p>	<p>Students can gain access to specimen papers, mark schemes and examiner reports on the AQA English Language and English Literature websites.</p> <p>Students should make use of revision guides:</p> <p>York Notes: An Inspector Calls, Romeo and Juliet, Jekyll and Hyde - AQA Specification</p> <p>Philip Allan Literature Guides – Romeo and Juliet</p> <p>Spark Notes - online revision sight</p> <p>Youtube revision tutorials</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff</p> <p>Students can use the following sites to help them improve spelling, punctuation and grammar:</p> <p>http://www.grammar-monster.com/</p>
DANCE	<p>Throughout Year 11 there will be end of topic tests/assessments during the year ensuring your child is aware of their current grade and also of target topics. This also allows for both staff and students to evaluate how well they have grasped/understood a topic and what needs to be done to improve on this. There will also be a mock in January - after which a breakdown of how well your child did will be handed out. All students have access to a revision folder on google drive from year 10 this includes past papers/practice papers, quizzes, links to videos and interviews of professional dance works. Past papers are available in this revision folder too - as well as from the staff teaching the subject.</p>	<p>Students can gain access to specimen papers, mark schemes and examiner reports on the AQA.</p> <p>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236</p> <p>A dance revision folder has been shared with each student on google drive which contains links to specific videos and interviews with choreographers etc. and some revision resources from Artspool.</p> <p>Students will be practising Exam questions in an online assessment booklet which they are also encouraged to use for revision purposes.</p> <p>The students will also be given a booklet on exemplar material for answering 12 mark questions.</p>

	<p>All students will have a copy of the topics studied and they can use this as a checklist when revising for exams. Revision/catch up/student support sessions are also be available to your child every Monday 3-4pm after school, please encourage them to attend these on a regular basis.</p>	
<p>DRAMA</p>	<p>In Year 11 the students will begin the year completing unfinished sections of Component 1. This will include their written portfolio of supporting evidence and the written evaluation in exam conditions. Students should be encouraged to collect as much information as possible such as poems, photographs, newspaper articles to help with their devising and portfolio.</p> <p>Students will then work on Component 3 with focus on DNA for the written exam. This will include working towards a full performance of the play to ensure that students know text and characters really well and can write about them in an exam.</p> <p>The students will then go on to their performing component in the Spring term. The students are assessed solely on their final performance of a scripted piece of work. Support students with their line learning at home and character development.</p> <p>The final term in Year 11 will return to focusing on the written paper, this time with a focus on Section B - an evaluation of a live theatre</p>	<p>Exam Board Eduqas</p> <p>Set Text -DNA - Dennis Kelly</p> <p>DNA Exam Revision Practice workbook by EHD Ltd. (https://www.ehdLtd.co.uk/gcse-drama-new-2016/key-stage-four-drama/wjec-eduqas-new-gcse-drama-pre-order-resources/gcsedramarevision.html)</p> <p>Students should use a wide variety of sources, such as the internet, libraries, museums, newspapers to help research for their devised project and help with character development for scripted work.</p> <p>Students may also log on to Digital Theatre Plus using the home log ins provided so that they can rewatch Things I Know to Be True in preparation for Component 3.</p>

	<p>performance. Students will be given a variety of questions to write practice essays on and will also have to learn a wide range of drama terminology from the information they will be given in class.</p> <p>It is encouraged that students see as much live theatre as possible throughout this year to provide them with inspiration for their practical and written exams.</p>	
GEOGRAPHY	<p>We are following the GCSE Geography AQA specification</p> <p>http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035</p> <p>Revision Booklets Students have all been given a copy of a revision booklet for each of the three exam papers. They have been using their notes during the course to complete these booklets. This has helped them to develop a set of structured revision notes.</p> <p>Revision Flashcards Students have all been given a set of flashcards for each topic. These cover the key knowledge and concepts which they need to know and understand for each of the three papers. They should use these to test themselves - and also get a parent or friend to test them too on a regular basis.</p> <p>Revision Guides A revision guide written specifically for this course is available to buy (for £5) in Student Services. This is a really good starting point for revision particularly for students who may be</p>	<p>GCSE Pod https://www.gcsepod.com</p> <p>BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc</p> <p>GCSE Revision Guide (available in Student Services for £5) https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-9-1-Geography-Revision-Guide/dp/0198423462/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1541600598&sr=8-4&keywords=aqa+gcse+revision+guide+geography</p> <p>GCSE Textbook https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-Geography-AQA-Student-Book/dp/0198366612/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1541600637&sr=8-1&keywords=aqa+gcse+geography</p> <p>Exam Practice Workbook https://www.amazon.co.uk/Grade-Geography-Practice-Workbook-Revision/dp/178294611X/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1541600662&sr=8-6&keywords=aqa+gcse+geography</p> <p>GCSE pod for video clips</p> <p>Textbook - AQA GCSE Geography A - Simon Ross, Nicholas Rowles, David Holmes and Bob Digby - Oxford University Press</p> <p>CGP New grade 9-1 GCSE Geography AQA Revision Guide and Exam Practice workbook</p>

	<p>struggling with the volume of material to learn. If they learn and understand everything in here they should be well on the way to a Grade 5 or 6 - although they will need to supplement it with their own notes and other revision resources (particularly if they are aiming for a Grade 7 or above.)</p> <p>Exam Practice The saying 'practice makes perfect' really does apply to approaching revision in GCSE Geography. While it is important to learn the key knowledge for each topic and to understand the key concepts, it is really important to practise answering exam questions on a regular basis as part of revision. We have provided the students with many exam questions and papers and they will receive more in the run up to the final exams. We will also provide them with the opportunity to buy packs of exam papers (charge to cover photocopying costs) after the mock exams.</p>	
HISTORY	<p>There is a great deal of historical information to absorb. Revise throughout the course and ask your peers and parents to test you regularly. Practice papers and a range of revision resources are available to students on Google Classroom.</p> <p>The GCSE history units of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad • Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91 	<p>Edexcel GCSE History https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html</p> <p>All necessary materials are produced by us and put on Google classroom for students to download.</p> <p>Additional textbooks and revision guides should not be required, but we can pass on details if requested.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88 <p>Edexcel have announced that we are to remove a unit from the 2020/21 examination. We will <u>not</u> deliver the following paper this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches 	
<p>MATHS</p>	<p>There will be frequent assessments during the year ensuring your child is aware of their current grade and also of target topics. There will be a mock in November and also in March to the same end. To improve their grade, students need to get plenty of active practice of questions to do well in maths. Past papers will be made available, but are readily available on the www. Papers should be completed one at a time and target topics worked on before another paper is attempted.</p> <p>Encourage students to use web resources as these facilitate independent learning.</p> <p>We recommend the Edexcel Target revision guides and these will be available from student services at a reduced rate. It is important to buy the correct target grade so please ask your son/daughter to talk to their teacher before they order one.</p> <p>Please encourage your son/daughter to identify the topics they need to work on from assessments and homeworks and then to use one of the many websites available to go through the</p>	<p>Key Websites https://hegartymaths.com/ (video clips with topic quizzes and general recall quizzes) https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/ (GCSE questions sorted by topic and grade, model answers and videos explaining the topic) www.corbettmaths.com (GCSE questions divided into topics, 5-a-day test yourself questions) https://mathsbot.com (GCSE exam style questions)</p> <p>Other Websites www.bbc.co.uk www.counton.org www.easymaths.com www.learn.co.uk www.sosmath.com www.schoolsnet.com www.projectgcse.co.uk www.s-cool.co.uk www.revise.it www.gcsemaths.fsnet.co.uk</p>

	<p>topic. If they are unsure of how to find the most appropriate resources, then please ask them to speak to their teacher.</p> <p>Contact your child's teacher if you have concerns.</p>	
<p>MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE</p>	<p>Building a bank of vocabulary is essential for success in the listening and reading exams (66% of the marks this year) and for these exams all the students have to do is be able to recognise words and deduce meaning. All Ks4 students are now subscribed to an online tool called Vocab Express. This has proved very successful in increasing the range of vocabulary that students are able to recognise. All students have individual logins that were given to them in Year 10 (the login is the same as the login for the school computer network). If they have forgotten their password they should see their languages teacher as soon as possible in order that it can be reset. The website can be found at www.vocabexpress.com and there is also an App available to download. Students are expected to practise vocabulary for at least 10 minutes every day. As for the writing examinations (33% of the marks this year), preparation is key. Students should be encouraged to spend time building up a bank of phrases in different tenses (Past, Present, Future) as well as regularly going through the questions provided by the class teacher. Speaking will be endorsed as a separate element this year. It will not count towards the 9-1 grade, but will instead be given its own certification: pass, merit or distinction. This</p>	<p>www.bbc.co.uk/revision www.bbc.co.uk/languages www.languagesonline.org.uk www.wildfrench.co.uk (French) www.klar.co.uk (German) + any French / German or Spanish website is excellent for reading (and potentially) speaking skills! The Smartphone app www.vocabexpress.com</p> <p>FRENCH Revision Guide - 978-1782945376 Exam Practice Workbook - 978-1782945383</p> <p>GERMAN Revision Guide - 978-1782945529 Exam Practice Workbook - 978-1782945536</p> <p>SPANISH Revision Guide - 978-1782945468 Exam Practice Workbook - 978-1782945475</p>

	<p>will be decided through teacher assessment based on classwork and homework speaking tasks.</p> <p>The AQA Revision guides and Revision work books will be essential in providing students with practise in all skill areas.</p>	
PE	<p>Students must revise throughout the course and ask your peers and parents to test you regularly. Practice papers and a range of revision resources are available on Google classroom.</p> <p>To support us please ensure that your son/daughter is aware of the topics they do not understand at all (using the learning outcomes on Google classroom and in exercise books) (which they need to RE-LEARN with input) and those which they are not 100% secure on (which they therefore need to PRACTISE) and key terms they do not know (which they therefore, need to learn off by heart).</p> <p>Students should be attending all extra curricular practices on a regular basis to support their practical grades.</p>	<p>Past paper questions can be found at www.ocr.org.uk GCSE PE Revision Guide</p> <p>https://www.theeverlearner.com/dashboard</p> <p>The above site is called everlearner - each student in GCSE PE has their own individual log in to this</p>
RS	<p>If possible, support pupils with practising exam questions. The criteria for answering questions, is at the front of pupils exercise books.</p> <p>Additional questions/resources can be emailed by subject staff, upon request.</p> <p>Revision booklets will be supplied to students from their teachers - which they need to use to revise from. These also have practice exam questions, which should be completed.</p>	<p>www.reonline.org.uk www.bbc.co.uk/religion</p> <p>Useful Revision guide:</p> <p>https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422830/ref=pd_lpo_2?pd_rd_i=0198422830&psc=1</p>

<p>SCIENCE</p> <p>Combined and Triple Science</p>	<p>GILLOTTS SCIENCE RESOURCE WEBSITE https://sites.google.com/gillotts.org.uk/gillottsscience</p> <p>Revision Guides</p> <p>The recommended revision guides for both combined and separate science courses can be bought through the school (Mrs Michael will arrange this) or off the internet. Students should have these resources already.</p> <p>We recommend the CGP revision guides (links are shown opposite).</p> <p>Students have, and will continue to be, assessed after each unit is completed and should revise for these tests using their exercise books, revision guides and online resources.</p> <p>Effective Revision Methods</p> <p>In preparation for their mock exams and final exams- students should practice <i>effective</i> revision techniques (flashcards, revision notes, educake, mind maps and past paper exam questions).</p> <p>Resources can be found on the Gillotts Science Resource website (link at the top of the page).</p> <p>The links opposite will take students to the specification for each course which can be used to track and monitor revision of topics.</p> <p>In School Revision</p> <p>There are lunchtime revision sessions running in science for both triple and combined students of which information has been emailed to parents.</p>	<p>CGP Combined Science revision guide https://www.amazon.co.uk/d/Books/New-Grade-9-1-GCSE-Combined-Science-Revision/1782945644/ref=pd_sim_14_3?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=7RH3MFKZXH6ZQHNM45B8</p> <p>CGP Biology revision guide https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Grade-9-1-GCSE-Biology/dp/178294561X/ref=pd_sim_14_4?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=GT5R66KGZ8S18CTWVR3Q</p> <p>CGP Chemistry revision guide https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Grade-9-1-GCSE-Chemistry/dp/1782945628/ref=pd_bxgy_14_img_2?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=48NSXX0R0M6KVOCH9DN5</p> <p>CGP Physics revision guide https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Grade-9-1-GCSE-Physics/dp/1782945636/ref=pd_bxgy_14_img_2?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=FHFV9K2C59V3VHP4MWQZ</p> <p>Additional revision resources</p> <p>Combined Specification https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GF1urj7P7HVFEAN8NoI-KB3z5LQnwTBM?usp=sharing</p> <p>Biology Specification https://drive.google.com/file/d/14P7PZINOJ1Rnqwb0eA9AF0yCqqZ2kA75/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Chemistry Specification https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MwgGibqh5O4Fwm7FjqbION0-y58yYSme/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Physics Specification https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YUPz9vPY_ElygAuohUBxZTeO5jfS4_Dn/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>GCSE Pod- https://www.gcsepod.com/ Quizlet app- https://quizlet.com/ Gillotts science twitter- @gillotts_sci</p>
<p>SOCIOLOGY</p>	<p>Sociology is assessed by two exams at the end of Year 11,</p>	<p>Eduqas GCSE Sociology https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab_overview</p>

	<p>each accounting for 50% of the final grade. Students need to regularly be quizzed by peers and parents on the key concepts for all topics throughout the year.</p> <p>Practice papers and a range of revision resources are available to students on Google Classroom.</p> <p>Students will be examined on the following topics: Component 1: Understanding social processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key concepts and process of cultural transmission • Family • Education • Sociological research methods <p>Component 2: Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social differentiation and stratification • Crime and deviance • Applied methods of sociological enquiry 	<p>All necessary materials are produced by us and put on Google classroom for students to download.</p> <p>Additional textbooks and revision guides should not be required, but we can pass on details if requested.</p>
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Introducing GCSE Pod, a new online revision tool

Gillotts School has recently subscribed to GCSE Pod, an online tool which supports teaching and learning across a wide variety of subjects. The main way it can be used is by accessing online 'pods' which are 4-5 minute films on a range of topics. Teachers can also set questions which students can complete. Where these questions are multiple choice ones, GCSE Pod will mark these automatically and suggest booster playlists, enabling students to further study the areas in which they're less confident. Where questions require longer answers, your teacher will need to mark them.

GCSE Pod can be accessed from PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile phones at www.gcsepod.com Pods can be downloaded onto tablets and phones for viewing offline. Your child should log in with their school email address and the password Gillotts123, which they can change once logged in. Although GCSE Pod does some sorting of each subject, it is important that your child chooses the correct course code for each subject when selecting pods. Unfortunately this matter has been complicated a bit by the fact that the GCSEs have been changing. Your child should have been shown how to do this during an assembly and emailed some instructions by Dr Newbold. Please contact the school if you would like another copy of these.

Equipment for Examinations

For all exams bring:

RULER, PENS, PENCILS, RUBBER, Calculator – in a see-through plastic bag or container.

SUBJECT	EQUIPMENT
BUSINESS STUDIES	Calculator
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	Black fine liner pen, pencil, rubber, colouring pencils and ruler Calculator (electronic Products and Systems and Control)
ENGLISH	Highlighters Pencils Pens
GEOGRAPHY	Calculator, protractor, pencil and coloured pens
MATHEMATICS	Protractor/Angle measurer Pair of compasses Scientific Calculator (no phone allowed) - scientific calculators are available from student services Pencil sharpener Highlighter pens x 3 colours
MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES	No dictionary to be used
SCIENCE	Calculator Protractor, compass Pencil, ruler Highlighter pens – at least one

Year 11 Examinations and Important Dates

September 2021 - At present the final GCSE exam dates have not yet been published, we will update you as soon as the final dates are confirmed

Date	Subject
15 October	Food Technology & Nutrition Mock Practical Exam
18-22 October	MFL Mock Speaking Exams - 1st Set
15-19 November	Maths & English Mock Exams - 1st Set
1 & 2 December	Mock Art Exam
10 January - 26 January	Mock Exams (All Subjects except Art, Maths & English)
31 January - 4 February	MFL Mock Speaking Exams - 2nd Set
28 February - 4 March	English & Maths Mock Exams - 2nd Set
25 & 28 March	Final GCSE Food Practical Exams
Mid March	Drama Performance Exam
Mid March	Dance practical Moderation
Late April	Final GCSE MFL Speaking Exams
Late April	Final GCSE PE Moderation
Dates to be Confirmed - provisional dates 16 May - End of June	GCSE Final Exams

June 2022 Exams – Students will be issued with an individual timetable in February 2022

GCSE Information

Subject	Exam Board	Course Code	Spec Code
Art & Design	AQA	8202	–
Biology	OCR	J257	B 21st Century
Business	Edexcel	1BS0	
BTEC Children’s Play, Learning & Development	Edexcel	BHXBI	–
Chemistry	OCR	J258	B 21st Century
Dance	AQA	8236	–
Design Technology	Edexcel	1DT0	-
Drama	WJEC	3690QS	–
English Language	AQA	8700	–
English Literature	AQA	8702	–
Enterprise & Marketing	OCR	J819	
Food Preparation & Nutrition	AQA	8585	–
French	AQA	8658	–
Geography	AQA	8035	–
German	AQA	8668	–
History	Edexcel	1HI0	–
Maths	Edexcel	1MA1	–
Music	Edexcel	1MU0	-
PE	OCR	J587	–
Physics	OCR	J259	B 21st Century
Religious Studies	AQA	8062	A
Combined Science	OCR	J260	B 21st Century
Sociology	Educas	C200QS	–
Spanish	AQA	8698	–

Year 11 Revision Timetable

Example

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor Time					
Lunch time					
After school					
Session 1 Revision 30 minutes					
Session 2 Revision 30 minutes					
Session 3 Revision 30 minutes					
Coursework					
Extras					