



A joint Catholic & Church of England Academy

Key Stage Four Information Evening

Examination Advice, Information, and Guidance Booklet



Maths – Year 11

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

Revision should start as soon as possible.

Learn key formulas by writing them on post it notes and sticking them up at home.

Use the revision guide books as they summarise content into manageable chunks.

Complete practice examination questions from the revision guide or from exercise books.

Complete your homework using both Active Learn and paper homework given to you by your teacher.

Use the Pixl Maths App.

Attend Lunchtime or afterschool intervention. Ask your Teacher when they are available.

Create mind maps nearer to the final examination, particularly on topics that you find difficult.

Remember aim for the most marks you can.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Work effectively and steadily over the duration of the course.

Remember that you are completing a 2 year GCSE, so start revising now, by learning key formulas and by re-visiting the topics studied last year.

Complete any past papers, also your teacher can provide you with topic specific exam questions.

To achieve an A* grade you need to aim for at least 170 marks.

To achieve an A grade you need to aim for at least 140 marks.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work steadily over the duration of the course.

Remember that you are completing a 2 year GCSE, so start revising now, by learning key formulas and by re-visiting the topics studied last year.

Complete any past papers, also your teacher can provide you with topic specific exam questions.

To achieve a C grade, on the higher paper you need to aim for at least 75 marks, however aiming for 100 marks is more likely to achieve you a secure C grade, or possibly a B grade.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

Make sure you practice papers often and use the mark schemes as they will help you to see what examiners expect in your answers.

You need to be working towards achieving the most marks you are capable of.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Maths – Year 10

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

Revision should start as soon as possible.

Learn key formulas by writing them on post it notes and sticking them up at home.

Use the revision guide books as they summarise content into manageable chunks.

Complete practice examination questions from the revision guide and workbook or from exercise books.

Complete your homework using both Active Learn and paper homework given to you by your teacher.

Use the Pixl Maths App.

Attend Lunchtime or afterschool intervention. Ask your Teacher when they are available.

Create mind maps nearer to the final examination, particularly on topics that you find difficult.

Remember aim for the most marks you can.

What do I need to do to achieve a Grade 9/8?

Work effectively and steadily over the duration of the course.

Remember that you are completing a 2 year GCSE, so start revising now, by learning key formulas and by re-visiting the topics studied last year.

Complete any past papers, also your teacher can provide you with topic specific exam questions.

What do I need to do to achieve a Grade 4/5?

Work steadily over the duration of the course.

Remember that you are completing a 2 year GCSE, so start revising now, by learning key formulas and by re-visiting the topics studied last year.

Complete any practice papers, also your teacher can provide you with topic specific exam questions.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

Make sure you practice papers often and use the mark schemes as they will help you to see what examiners expect in your answers.

You need to be working towards achieving the most marks you are capable of.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



English Language –Year 11

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key to being successful in this examination is to regularly practise examination style questions.

Timing is also very important. When practising examination questions, time yourself and make sure that you are able to answer the questions in the given time.

Make yourself familiar with the mark scheme. Identify your strengths and weaknesses and then challenge yourself to perfect your weaker skills.

Discuss your performance in your Controlled Assessments with your teacher. Be proactive in improving your grade by attending all intervention sessions.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Regularly read a range of suitable material – non-fiction texts and a range of articles. You can find these on the internet.

In order to achieve the higher marks, familiarise yourself with the skills to achieve Band 4 using the mark scheme. Pupils who achieve an A/A* give detailed and perceptive responses to the Reading Section of the examination. To achieve the higher grade in the Writing Section, pupils demonstrate that they can write in a compelling way and engage the reader throughout. Look at how a range of professional writers do it and attempt to emulate some of their techniques.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Regularly read a range of suitable material – non-fiction texts and a range of articles. You can find these on the internet.

In order to achieve a Grade C, familiarise yourself with the skills to achieve Band 3 using the mark scheme. Pupils who achieve a C are able to make clear and relevant responses to the Reading Section of the examination. To achieve a C in the Writing Section, pupils demonstrate that they can write in a detailed way that engages the reader. Look at how a range of professional writers do it and attempt to emulate some of their techniques.

Where can I get past papers?

Look on the AQA Website. They have past papers and the corresponding mark schemes. You can also check the grade boundaries for previous years.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



English Literature – Year 11

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key to being successful in this examination is to know the texts you have studied, the play, novel and poems from the anthology, in depth. You need to know about the ideas, themes and characters and revise key sections and quotations so you are prepared to answer the questions in the exam.

Make yourself familiar with the mark scheme. Identify your strengths and weaknesses and then challenge yourself to perfect your weaker skills.

Discuss your performance in your Literature Controlled Assessment with your teacher. Be proactive in improving your grade by attending all intervention sessions.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Study key scenes, ideas and themes in depth, re-reading important sections and exploring the texts in a more conceptual way. For the play and the novel you will be expected to show understanding of the whole text by making links between sections and offering perceptive interpretations of key events.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

You need to show clear understanding of the texts, characters, themes and ideas. Ensure your controlled assessment is of a good quality and attend intervention sessions.

In the exam, you are expected to write extended responses about the texts you have studied. You need to prepare for this by reading and re-reading the texts you have studied, identifying important sections and key quotations so that you are ready for whatever question you are given in the exam.

Where can I get past papers?

Look on the AQA Website. They have past papers and the corresponding mark schemes. You can also check the grade boundaries for previous years.



English Language & Literature –Year 10

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key to being successful in English is to regularly read texts that challenge you, both fiction and non-fiction, new and old.

You also need to ensure your writing is accurate, varied and interesting. You will be asked to write for a variety of purposes and audiences and you must become confident in checking the accuracy of your own work to eliminate careless errors.

Make yourself familiar with the mark scheme. Identify your strengths and weaknesses and then challenge yourself to perfect your weaker skills.

Discuss your performance in your end of your unit assessments with your teacher so that you understand how to improve.

What do I need to do to achieve the top band?

Regularly read a range of suitable material – literary fiction, non-fiction texts and a range of articles. You can find these on the internet and in your local library.

In order to achieve the higher marks, familiarise yourself with the skills to achieve Band 4 using the mark scheme. Pupils who achieve the top band give detailed and perceptive responses to the Reading Section of the examination. To achieve the higher grade in the Writing Section, pupils demonstrate that they can write in a compelling way and engage the reader throughout. Look at how a range of professional writers do it and attempt to emulate some of their techniques.

What do I need to do to achieve a Band 3?

Regularly read a range of suitable material – fiction, non-fiction texts and a range of articles. You can find these on the internet and in your local library.

In order to achieve a Band 3, familiarise yourself with the skills to achieve Band 3 using the mark scheme. Pupils who achieve a Band 3 are able to make clear and relevant responses to the Reading Section of the examination. To achieve a Band 3 in the Writing Section, pupils demonstrate that they can write in a detailed way that engages the reader. Look at how a range of professional writers do it and attempt to emulate some of their techniques.

Where can I get past papers?

This is a new specification and there are no past papers available. As resources become available these will be shared with students by their class teacher.



Chemistry

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking a large amount of content down into manageable chunks; you will have 3 exams in each of the Sciences at the end of Year 11 (9 in total).

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each ‘chunk’. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to 5 or 6 mind maps per examined unit – much less stressful.

Use the revision guides as a summary of the main points and for tips to support your revision.

Work through past paper questions and attend all intervention sessions and drop-ins that you can.

Complete whole papers under timed conditions to pace yourself during the examination.

Read examination questions carefully and complete those that you can do confidently before returning to those that you need to think about for a bit longer.

Always ask when you need extra support.

Listen to your teachers’ advice.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the Controlled Assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate precise knowledge and detailed understanding of chemistry. They demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the nature of chemistry, its laws, principles and applications and the relationship between chemistry and society. They understand the relationships between scientific advances, their ethical implications and the benefits and risks associated with them. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately and consistently showing a detailed understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space. They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical, technical and observational skills, knowledge and understanding effectively in a wide range of practical and other contexts. They show a comprehensive understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations and make effective use of models, including mathematical models, to explain abstract ideas, phenomena, events and processes. They use a wide range of appropriate methods, sources of information and data consistently, applying relevant skills to address scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses.

Learners analyse, interpret and critically evaluate a broad range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They evaluate information systematically to develop arguments and explanations, taking account of the limitations of the available evidence. They make reasoned judgements consistently and draw detailed, evidence-based conclusions.



What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the controlled assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant Scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate secure knowledge and understanding of chemistry. They demonstrate understanding of the nature of chemistry, its laws, principles and its applications and the relationship between chemistry and society. They understand that scientific advances may have ethical implications, benefits and risks. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately, showing understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space. They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical, technical and observational skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of practical and other contexts. They show understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations and use models, including mathematical models, to describe abstract ideas, phenomena, events and processes. They use a range of appropriate methods, sources of information and data, applying their skills to address scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses.

Learners analyse, interpret and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They understand the limitations of evidence and use evidence and information to develop arguments with supporting explanations. They draw conclusions based on the available evidence.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

Also look at the mark schemes for each paper – they will help you to know what the examiners are looking for. Look at the grade boundaries to see what grade you would have got.

Your teachers can help you by providing past papers and by showing you how to get them.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Biology

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking a large amount of content down into manageable chunks; you will have 3 exams in each of the Sciences at the end of Year 11 (9 in total).

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each ‘chunk’. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to 5 or 6 mind maps per examined unit – much less stressful.

Use the revision guides as a summary of the main points and for tips to support your revision.

Work through past paper questions and attend all intervention sessions and drop-ins that you can.

Complete whole papers under timed conditions to pace yourself during the examination.

Read examination questions carefully and complete those that you can do confidently before returning to those that you need to think about for a bit longer.

Always ask when you need extra support.

Listen to your teachers’ advice.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the Controlled Assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate precise knowledge and detailed understanding of biology. They demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the nature of biology, its principles and applications and the relationship between biology and society. They understand the relationships between scientific advances, their ethical implications and the benefits and risks associated with them. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately and consistently showing a detailed understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space. They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical, technical and observational skills, knowledge and understanding effectively in a wide range of practical and other contexts. They show a comprehensive understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations and make effective use of models, including mathematical models, to explain abstract ideas, phenomena, events and processes. They use a wide range of appropriate methods, sources of information and data consistently, applying relevant skills to address scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses. Learners analyse, interpret and critically evaluate a broad range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They evaluate information systematically to develop arguments and explanations taking account of the limitations of the available evidence. They make reasoned judgements consistently and draw detailed, evidence-based conclusions.



What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the controlled assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant Scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate secure knowledge and understanding of biology. They demonstrate understanding of the nature of biology and its principles and applications and the relationship between biology and society. They understand that scientific advances may have ethical implications, benefits and risks. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately, showing understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space. They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical, technical and observational skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of practical and other contexts. They show understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations and use models, including mathematical models, to describe abstract ideas, phenomena, events and processes. They use a range of appropriate methods, sources of information and data, applying their skills to address scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses.

Learners analyse, interpret and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They understand the limitations of evidence and use evidence and information to develop arguments with supporting explanations. They draw conclusions based on the available evidence.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

Also look at the mark schemes for each paper – they will help you to know what the examiners are looking for. Look at the grade boundaries to see what grade you would have got.

Your teachers can help you by providing past papers and by showing you how to get them.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Physics

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking a large amount of content down into manageable chunks; you will have 3 exams in each of the Sciences at the end of Year 11 (9 in total).

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each ‘chunk’. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to 5 or 6 mind maps per examined unit – much less stressful.

Use the revision guides as a summary of the main points and for tips to support your revision.

Work through past paper questions and attend all intervention sessions and drop-ins that you can.

Complete whole papers under timed conditions to pace yourself during the examination.

Read examination questions carefully and complete those that you can do confidently before returning to those that you need to think about for a bit longer.

Always ask when you need extra support.

Listen to your teachers’ advice.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the Controlled Assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate precise knowledge and detailed understanding of physics. They demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the nature of physics, its laws, principles and applications and the relationship between physics and society. They understand the relationships between scientific advances, their ethical implications and the benefits and risks associated with them. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately and consistently showing a detailed understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space. They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical, technical and observational skills, knowledge and understanding effectively in a wide range of practical and other contexts. They show a comprehensive understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations and make effective use of models, including mathematical models, to explain abstract ideas, phenomena, events and processes. They use a wide range of appropriate methods, sources of information and data consistently, applying relevant skills to address scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses.

Learners analyse, interpret and critically evaluate a broad range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They evaluate information systematically to develop arguments and explanations taking account of the limitations of the available evidence. They make reasoned judgments consistently and draw detailed, evidence-based conclusions.



What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the controlled assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant Scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate secure knowledge and understanding of physics. They demonstrate understanding of the nature of physics, its laws, principles and applications and the relationship between physics and society. They understand that scientific advances may have ethical implications, benefits and risks. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately, showing understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space. They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical, technical and observational skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of practical and other contexts. They show understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations and use models, including mathematical models, to describe abstract ideas, phenomena, events and processes. They use a range of appropriate methods, sources of information and data, applying their skills to address scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses.

Learners analyse, interpret and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They understand the limitations of evidence and use evidence and information to develop arguments with supporting explanations. They draw conclusions based on the available evidence.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

Also look at the mark schemes for each paper – they will help you to know what the examiners are looking for. Look at the grade boundaries to see what grade you would have got.

Your teachers can help you by providing past papers and by showing you how to get them.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Core Science

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking a large amount of content down into manageable chunks; you will have 3 exams in each of the Sciences at the end of Year 11 (6 in total).

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each ‘chunk’. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to 5 or 6 mind maps per examined unit – much less stressful.

Use the revision guides as a summary of the main points and for tips to support your revision.

Work through past paper questions and attend all intervention sessions and drop-ins that you can.

Complete whole papers under timed conditions to pace yourself during the examination.

Read examination questions carefully and complete those that you can do confidently before returning to those that you need to think about for a bit longer.

Always ask when you need extra support.

Listen to your teachers’ advice.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the Controlled Assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate precise knowledge and detailed understanding of science. They demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the nature of science, its laws, its applications, and the influences of society on science and science on society. They understand the relationships between scientific advances, their ethical implications and the benefits and risks associated with them. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately and consistently, showing a detailed understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space. They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical and technological skills, knowledge and understanding effectively in a wide range of practical and other contexts. They show a comprehensive understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations and make effective use of models to explain phenomena, events and processes. They use a wide range of appropriate methods, sources of information and data consistently, applying relevant skills to address scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses.

Learners analyse, interpret and critically evaluate a broad range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They evaluate information systematically to develop arguments and explanations taking account of the limitations of the available evidence. They make reasoned judgments consistently and draw detailed, evidence-based conclusions.



What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the controlled assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant Scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate secure knowledge and understanding of science. They demonstrate understanding of the nature of science, its laws, its applications and the influences of society on science and science on society. They understand how scientific advances may have ethical implications, benefits and risks. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately, showing understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space. They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical and technological skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of practical and other contexts. They recognise, understand and use straightforward links between hypotheses, evidence, theories, and explanations. They use models to explain phenomena, events and processes. Using appropriate methods, sources of information and data, they apply their skills to answer scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses.

Learners analyse, interpret and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They understand the limitations of evidence and develop arguments with supporting explanations. They draw conclusions consistent with the available evidence.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

Also look at the mark schemes for each paper – they will help you to know what the examiners are looking for. Look at the grade boundaries to see what grade you would have got.

Your teachers can help you by providing past papers and by showing you how to get them.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Additional Science

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking a large amount of content down into manageable chunks; you will have 3 exams in each of the Sciences at the end of Year 11 (6 in total).

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each ‘chunk’. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to 5 or 6 mind maps per examined unit – much less stressful.

Use the revision guides as a summary of the main points and for tips to support your revision.

Work through past paper questions and attend all intervention sessions and drop-ins that you can.

Complete whole papers under timed conditions to pace yourself during the examination.

Read examination questions carefully and complete those that you can do confidently before returning to those that you need to think about for a bit longer.

Always ask when you need extra support.

Listen to your teachers’ advice.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the Controlled Assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate precise knowledge and detailed understanding of science and its applications, and of the effects and risks of scientific developments and its applications on society, industry, the economy and the environment. They demonstrate a clear understanding of why and how scientific applications, technologies and techniques change over time and the need for regulation and monitoring. They use terminology and conventions appropriately and consistently.

They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical and technological skills, knowledge and understanding effectively to a wide range of practical contexts and to explain applications of science.

They apply a comprehensive understanding of practical methods, processes and protocols to plan and justify a range of appropriate methods to solve practical problems. They apply appropriate skills, including mathematical, technical and observational skills, knowledge and understanding in a wide range of practical contexts. They follow procedures and protocols consistently, evaluating and managing risk and working accurately and safely.

Learners analyse and interpret critically a broad range of quantitative and qualitative information. They reflect on the limitations of the methods, procedures and protocols they have used and the data they have collected and evaluate information systematically to develop reports and findings. They make reasoned judgements consistent with the evidence to develop substantiated conclusions.



What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Make sure that you do your best in the controlled assessments.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant Scientific words.

This is what the syllabus says:

Learners recall, select and communicate secure knowledge and understanding of science. They demonstrate understanding of the nature of science, its laws, its applications and the influences of society on science and science on society. They understand how scientific advances may have ethical implications, benefits and risks. They use scientific and technical knowledge, terminology and conventions appropriately, showing understanding of scale in terms of time, size and space.

They apply appropriate skills, including communication, mathematical and technological skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of practical and other contexts. They recognise, understand and use straightforward links between hypotheses, evidence, theories, and explanations. They use models to explain phenomena, events and processes. Using appropriate methods, sources of information and data, they apply their skills to answer scientific questions, solve problems and test hypotheses.

Learners analyse, interpret and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative data and information. They understand the limitations of evidence and develop arguments with supporting explanations. They draw conclusions consistent with the available evidence.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

Also look at the mark schemes for each paper – they will help you to know what the examiners are looking for. Look at the grade boundaries to see what grade you would have got.

Your teachers can help you by providing past papers and by showing you how to get them.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



BTEC SCIENCE

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking a large amount of content down into manageable chunks; you will have 1 exam in Principles and Applications of Science during Year 11.

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each ‘chunk’. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to 5 or 6 mind maps per examined unit – much less stressful.

Use the revision guides as a summary of the main points and for tips to support your revision.

Work through past paper questions and attend all intervention sessions and drop-ins that you can.

Complete whole papers under timed conditions to pace yourself during the examination.

Read examination questions carefully and complete those that you can do confidently before returning to those that you need to think about for a bit longer.

Always ask when you need extra support.

Listen to your teacher’s advice.

What do I need to do to achieve an Distinction or Distinction*

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your assignments.

Make sure that you read and understand the criteria for getting a Distinction or Distinction* and complete every assignment to this standard.

Meet the hand in deadlines to make sure that you have the opportunity to improve.

What do I need to do to achieve a Pass?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your assignments.

Make sure that you read and understand the criteria for getting a Distinction or Distinction* and complete every assignment to this standard.

Meet the hand in deadlines to make sure that you have the opportunity to improve.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

Also look at the mark schemes for each paper – they will help you to know what the examiners are looking for. Look at the grade boundaries to see what grade you would have got.

Your teacher can help you by providing past papers and by showing you how to get them.



French

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

When preparing controlled tasks in both speaking and writing (60% of final grade), reflecting and redrafting are key to success and weekly intervention sessions are available to support students to work well independently to strive to achieve their target grade in every piece. All students have a GCSE controlled assessment booklet detailing mark schemes and providing opportunities for both peer and self-assessment.

However, as the listening and reading exams are terminal (40% of final grade), all students have been given the core vocabulary booklet provided by Edexcel. It is imperative that revision is little and often in order to be effective. All students now have access to www.thisislanguage.com which enables them to access native French videos on a range of GCSE topics with accompanying vocabulary and task sheets, using a range of GCSE question styles to best prepare them for their final exams.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

The requirement is to produce at least 300 words in each externally assessed written controlled task, including more sophisticated linguistic structures such as subordination, comparative & superlative expressions, preceding direct object pronouns and “If” clauses with correct use of tenses. Spelling, punctuation and overall grammar should be almost perfect. In speaking, students must be able to deliver presentations and hold conversations for up to 6 minutes, again including a broad range of language including sophisticated linguistic structures and several different tenses.

A higher tier of entry in both listening and reading provides students with access to a grade A* and to achieve this grade, they must demonstrate a solid understating of all core vocabulary by providing detailed answers to questions in English as well as completing some with a non-verbal response. Students will be challenged by lengthier texts and audio extracts in the higher tier.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

The requirement is to produce at least 200 words in externally assessed written controlled task, including 3 tenses, opinions and connectives with a good level of accuracy in terms of spelling and punctuation. In speaking, students must be able to deliver presentations and hold conversations for a minimum of 4 minutes, again including 3 tenses, opinions and connectives.

A foundation tier of entry in both listening and reading provides students with access to a grade C and to achieve this grade, they must demonstrate a good understating of core vocabulary such as numbers, dates, times, personal & physical descriptions, places in town, leisure activities, opinions about school and details of holidays amongst others. The majority of questions require a non-verbal response whilst a select few will require a lengthier response in English. Texts and audio extracts are generally brief.

Where can I get past papers?

Please go to www.edexcel.com to access past papers. The most recent papers are restricted by Edexcel for school use but papers most other papers since 2010 are available.



Spanish

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

When preparing controlled tasks in both speaking and writing (60% of final grade), reflecting and redrafting are key to success and weekly intervention sessions are available to support students to work well independently to strive to achieve their target grade in every piece. All students have a GCSE controlled assessment booklet detailing mark schemes and providing opportunities for both peer and self-assessment.

However, as the listening and reading exams are terminal (40% of final grade), all students have been given the core vocabulary booklet provided by Edexcel. It is imperative that revision is little and often in order to be effective. All students now have access to www.thisislanguage.com which enables them to access native Spanish videos on a range of GCSE topics with accompanying vocabulary and task sheets, using a range of GCSE question styles to best prepare them for their final exams.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

The requirement is to produce at least 300 words in each externally assessed written controlled task, including more sophisticated linguistic structures such as subordination, comparative & superlative expressions, preceding direct object pronouns and “If” clauses with correct use of tenses. Spelling, punctuation and overall grammar should be almost perfect. In speaking, students must be able to deliver presentations and hold conversations for up to 6 minutes, again including a broad range of language including sophisticated linguistic structures and several different tenses.

A higher tier of entry in both listening and reading provides students with access to a grade A* and to achieve this grade, they must demonstrate a solid understating of all core vocabulary by providing detailed answers to questions in English as well as completing some with a non-verbal response. Students will be challenged by lengthier texts and audio extracts in the higher tier.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

The requirement is to produce at least 200 words in externally assessed written controlled task, including 3 tenses, opinions and connectives with a good level of accuracy in terms of spelling and punctuation. In speaking, students must be able to deliver presentations and hold conversations for a minimum of 4 minutes, again including 3 tenses, opinions and connectives.

A foundation tier of entry in both listening and reading provides students with access to a grade C and to achieve this grade, they must demonstrate a good understating of core vocabulary such as numbers, dates, times, personal & physical descriptions, places in town, leisure activities, opinions about school and details of holidays amongst others. The majority of questions require a non-verbal response whilst a select few will require a lengthier response in English. Texts and audio extracts are generally brief.

Where can I get past papers?

Please go to www.edexcel.com to access past papers. The most recent papers are restricted by Edexcel for school use but papers most other papers since 2010 are available.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Religious Education – Edexcel

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

You will sit two exams at the end of Year 11, so **recycle your revision!** Lots of key teachings from Year 10 can be used again in Year 11, eg Sanctity of Life and Quality of Life can be used for euthanasia, organ transplant and capital punishment.

Know your **key words inside and out** – they are worth 10 per cent of the exam. Focus on spelling and grammar – the examiner gives you an extra five per cent.

Chunk your revision to keep on top of it. Remember Shenaz from Positively Mad? You can create mind maps and other revision materials for free at <https://getrevising.co.uk/>

Lastly, **stick this sheet on your fridge** so you always see it every time you get a snack!

What do I need to do to get an A*/A?

This is an RE exam, so the more religion you use, the better. However, do not throw in quotes without explaining how they apply to the question.

Answers at A*/A need to be **concise and to the point** – do not ramble, especially in the b) and d) questions that ask for your opinion.

When you refer to God in an answer, **make sure you say which one!** So in Islam, make sure you use the word Allah. This shows the examiner you can use correct religious vocabulary.

What do I need to do to get a C?

Show the examiner that you know that not all followers of the same faith think the same thing about life’s big issues. **This is the big difference between C grade and D grade candidates.**

To help you show this, use phrases like ‘Some Christians, such as Roman Catholics, think... but other Christians, such as the Church of England, say...’

The c) questions are worth most marks and often ask for four reasons why Christianity or Islam has a particular view on life’s issues. A great tip to achieve grade C is to remember the four reasons as **Book, God, Founder and Modern Leaders**. Then you simply add more information to each of the reasons to fill out the answer.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com Look for Units 1 and 8.

You can use the mark scheme to show you what the examiners expect you to know. Read through the Examiner’s Report for the two units – it is full of top tips to score full marks and shows you where candidates make common mistakes.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Religious Education - WJEC

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

You will sit two exams at the end of Year 11 (one on Unit 1 and one on Unit 2). You will only need to learn **six key words for each topic**, so make sure you know them **inside and out** – they are worth up to 25 per cent of the exam. Focus on spelling and grammar – the examiner gives you almost five per cent extra.

Chunk your revision to keep on top of it. One of the best ways to do this is to create mind maps – you can do this and make other revision materials for free at <https://getrevising.co.uk/>

Lastly, **stick this sheet on your fridge** so you always see it every time you get a snack!

What do I need to do to get an A*/A?

This is an RE exam, so the more quotes from religion you use, the better. However, do not throw in quotes without explaining how they apply to the question.

Answers at A*/A need to be **concise and to the point** – do not ramble, especially in the e) question which asks for your opinion.

When you refer to God in an answer, **make sure you say which one!** So in Islam, make sure you use the word 'Allah'. This shows the examiner you can use correct religious vocabulary.

What do I need to do to get a C?

Show the examiner that you know that not all followers of the same faith think the same thing about life's big issues. **This is the big difference between C grade and D grade candidates.**

To help you show this, use phrases like 'Some Christians, such as Roman Catholics, think... but other Christians, such as the Church of England, say...'

The e) questions are worth most marks and often ask for two thoroughly developed points, with quotes, examples and opposing viewpoints from the two religious traditions studied.

Where can I get past papers?

www.wjec.co.uk Look for Units 1 and 2.

You can use the mark scheme to show you what the examiners expect you to know. Read through the Examiner's Report for the two units – it is full of top tips to score full marks and shows you where candidates make common mistakes.



Geography

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

Command words used in exam questions: Describe, explain, analyse, evaluate, draw, annotate, label, evaluate.

Top Tips for Success:

- Learn case studies for each of the topics. Without a case study you cannot get the higher level marks.
- GCSE Bitesize is useful for case studies and abbreviated notes.
- Create revision cards on small post cards no more than 6 cards for each topics.
- Attend weekly revision sessions on Thursdays after school. (After Christmas this session will be repeated on a Tuesday dinner time.
- Practice exam questions and use past paper to get used to the different questions.
- Act on feedback given to you by your teacher and ensure all class work is completed.

Useful Websites:

- <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/content.php?r=2992-GCSE-geography>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/>
- <http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/GCSE/AQA%20GCSE.htm>

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Case studies are the key to the exams as typically the longest questions ask for case studies and have the most marks to be awarded. With this said, I would recommend to firstly make a list of all the case studies you need for a given topic. Essentially write up the information that you need to know for a given case study on a separate sheet of paper. Alternatively you can just buy the CGP revision guide (make sure it is for the AQA specification!) and it will clearly display all the information about the case studies you need to know.

Use the available resources

It costs the exam board a lot of money to produce maps, photographs and diagrams for the exams. They do it for a reason! Make sure that you use them to help you show what a good geographer you are. Look at the resources carefully and use the information from them in your answers - for example, *Photograph A shows that a series of groyne have been built along the seafront at Swanage where the building density is high.*

Practising papers is key to getting your timing right in the exam. Have a go at answering past papers and I highly recommend using the mark schemes to mark your work. By using mark schemes, you can see what the examiner wants from your answer: you can really comprehend the rubric. When it comes to answering 8 markers you need to make 8 substantial points- if you are finding them hard then use your notes for the first few attempts. Underline the key words in the question, find the relevant sections in your notes, highlight/pick out 8 key points which answer the question and write them up. Again if you're finding this hard write your 8 points into long bullet points on a sheet of paper, read through what you have written, make any changes you need to and write up into a continuous answer onto the past paper. Your 8 marker needs to contain things like figures and key terms (e.g. 'multiplier effect'). Remember that your 8 mark answer does not need to be a work of English/how you would write an English essay, having said this you do need to ensure that the points you are making flow from idea to idea. Make sure you are being strictly relevant to what the question is asking and remember to include examples and or refer to a case study (if asked for one). With 8 markers you may find it helpful to look at the mark scheme you can find model answers on AQA's website which you can compare your answer to. I would advise you have a fresh pair of eyes mark your work (perhaps a parent but preferably a teacher) as if you mark your own work you may be too generous in the marks you give yourself or be overly self-critical, also your teacher can tell you how to improve.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



What do I need to do to achieve a C?

- Read the question carefully. What is it asking you for? A 2 mark question will only require a brief answer. Whereas an 8 mark question will require a much more detailed answer often covering a case study.
- Every year, very able students waste valuable time explaining something, when the COMMAND WORD simply asks them to describe something. Make sure you know what your COMMAND words mean.
- If you are asked to describe a graph you must use dates and data taken from the graph to support your answers.
- You need to revise your case studies as they are worth a high proportion of the marks on your paper. If the question suggests to use an example you have studied, then put one in.
- It costs the exam board a lot of money to produce maps, photographs and diagrams for the exams. They do it for a reason! Make sure that you use them to help you show what a good geographer you are. Look at the resources carefully and use the information from them in your answers - for example, *Photograph A shows that a series of groynes have been built along the seafront at Swanage where the building density is high.*

Where can I get past papers?

You can get past paper from:

- Your class teacher.
- AQA student zone <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/content.php?r=2992-GCSE-geography>
- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-a-9030/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>
- <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/>



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



History – Year 10

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

It is important not to leave all the revision for your subject until the last moment. Plan revision, and start revision early. Topics covered in year 10 need to be revisited frequently. It is a mistake to wait 2 weeks before exams to try and cram all the knowledge and skills taught over a two year period. Useful revision sites are

<http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/>

<http://www.johndclare.net/>

<https://www.samlearning.com/>

<http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/revision/>

<http://www.mrallsophistory.com/>

<http://www.gcsepod.co.uk>

Draw up and keep to a revision timetable. Consider the following methods of revision: revision cards, mind maps, spider charts, lists, acronyms, model answers and practice questions, traffic lighting, revision in pairs and groups, testing each other. What else suits you? Visit the above revision sites to vary your revision. Know the timing and specific techniques needed for differing question styles. Paper 1 requires precise and detailed knowledge and understanding. BUT read the question twice and ensure you answer THE question. Paper 2 requires the use of multiple sources on an issue, and specific own knowledge.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Candidates recall, select, organise and deploy their detailed knowledge accurately, effectively and with consistency to show thorough understanding of historical periods, themes and topics studied. They communicate their ideas using historical terms accurately and appropriately. Candidates demonstrate their understanding of the past through developed, reasoned and well substantiated explanations and perceptive analyses of key concepts, features and characteristics of the periods studied, and the inter- relationships between them. Candidates evaluate and use critically a wide range of sources of information in an historical context to investigate historical questions, problems or issues independently to reach reasoned and substantiated conclusions. They recognise and provide reasoned comments on how and why events, people and issues have been interpreted and represented in different ways, and provide a well-developed consideration of their value in relation to their historical context.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Candidates recall, select, organise and deploy their historical knowledge with accuracy and relevance to show sound understanding of historical periods, themes and topics studied. They communicate their ideas using historical terminology appropriately. Candidates demonstrate their understanding of the past through structured descriptions and explanations of the main concepts, features and characteristics of the periods studied. Their descriptions are accurate and explanations show understanding of relevant causes, consequences and changes. Candidates evaluate and use critically a range of sources of information in an historical context to investigate historical questions, problems, or issues, with some limited guidance to reach reasoned conclusions. They recognise and comment on how and why events, people and issues have been interpreted and represented in different ways, and provide an appropriate consideration of their value to the historical context.

Where can I get past papers?

Papers can be gained from the AQA web site at www.aqa.org.uk and search for History specification History B9415 /specimen papers.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



History – Year 11

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

Revision is the key to examination success. This should be started early and should be frequent. It will not help trying to revise two years worth of knowledge in the last two weeks nor fail to revise for monthly tests and mock examinations. Draw up and keep to a revision timetable. Consider the following methods of revision: revision cards, mind maps, spider charts, lists, acronyms, model answers and practice questions, traffic lighting, revision in pairs and groups, testing each other. What else suits you? Visit the recommended revision sites to vary your revision. Know the timing and specific techniques needed for differing question styles. Paper 1 requires precise and detailed knowledge and understanding. BUT read the question twice and ensure you answer THE question. Paper 2 requires the use of multiple sources on an issue, and specific own knowledge.

www.schoolhistory.co.uk/revision

<http://www.revisegcsehistory.co.uk>

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/

www.youtube.com/watch?v=58KCS5ipAK4

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Candidates recall, select, organise and deploy detailed historical knowledge effectively and with consistency. They show a thorough understanding of the historical periods, themes and topics studied. They communicate their ideas using historical terms accurately and appropriately. They demonstrate their understanding of the past through developed, reasoned and well substantiated explanations. They make perceptive analyses of the key concepts, features and characteristics of the periods studied, and the interrelationships between them. They evaluate and use critically a wide range of sources of information in an historical context to investigate historical questions, problems or issues independently, and to reach reasoned and substantiated conclusions. They recognise and provide reasoned comments on how and why events, people and issues have been interpreted and represented in different ways, and provide a well-developed consideration of their value in relation to their historical context

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Candidates recall, select, organise and deploy historical knowledge with accuracy and relevance. They show sound understanding of the historical periods, themes and topics studied. They communicate their ideas using historical terminology appropriately. They demonstrate their understanding of the past through structured descriptions and explanations of the main concepts, features and characteristics of the periods studied. Their descriptions are accurate and their explanations show understanding of relevant causes, consequences and changes. They evaluate and use critically a range of sources of information in an historical context to investigate historical questions, problems or issues and, and with some limited guidance, to reach reasoned conclusions. They recognise and comment on how and why events, people and issues have been interpreted and represented in different ways, and provide an appropriate consideration of their value in the historical context.

Where can I get past papers?

Past examination papers can be found at the past papers finder by searching www.ocr.org.uk



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Law

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

- Revision summary posters
- Mind maps
- Summary tables of key words and definitions
- Que cards for key words and phrases
- Past papers: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/law/gcse/law-4160/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>
- <http://www.tutor2u.net/law/index.html> (For quizzes and testing your knowledge)
- <http://www.lawmentor.co.uk/courses/aqa-gcse-law/the-english-legal-system/people-in-law/>

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Candidates recall, select and communicate detailed knowledge and thorough understanding of legal structures, processes and issues. They use terminology accurately and appropriately. They apply relevant knowledge and understanding accurately in a range of contexts. They recognise, describe and examine in detail legal issues or debates and select appropriate arguments. They recognise and systematically analyse the links between legal structures, processes and issues, to produce substantiated analyses and explanations, and reach valid and reasoned conclusions. They identify, select and use a wide range of appropriate methods, sources, information and data to investigate questions or issues, and justify their selection. They analyse and interpret accurately and appropriately information and data presented in a variety of forms. They critically evaluate the relevance of evidence to construct valid

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Candidates recall, select and communicate a sound knowledge and understanding of legal structures, processes and issues. They use appropriate terminology. They apply a sound knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts. They recognise and describe relevant legal issues or debates and select arguments to examine issues. They identify some straightforward links between legal structures, processes and issues to produce partial analyses and explanations and reach broadly relevant conclusions. They select and use a range of methods, sources, information and data to find out about legal issues or topics. They examine the main elements of legal issues or debates. They handle a variety of information and data, and evaluate their evidence in relation to the arguments to make reasoned judgements and present plausible conclusions that are supported by evidence.

Where can I get past papers?

Unit 1 and Unit 2 past papers available from:

- Resources 2.8
- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/law/gcse/law-4160/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Sociology

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

- Learn your definitions – look, read, write, repeat – these will be crucial to your understanding of question requirements and ensuring you get maximum marks in all answers. If you cannot understand a question, how can you answer it?
- Use mind-maps / topical posters to help condense each topic into one visually friendly sheet – this will give you more of a chance at understanding the breadth of topics.
- Practice exam questions – exam technique is crucial, use the online mark schemes for past papers to help you understand the requirements of the larger questions and structure your answers.
- Always remember – “If you fail to prepare, prepare to fail” – Preparation is key, start your revision early and do things in small chunks.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Provide a well written coherent answer. Ensure you address the needs of the question fully, having explicitly directed your answer towards the command words. E.G. if the question requires you to outline, you should be providing an overview of the subject matter, ensuring all key points are addressed. If the question asks you to explain and evaluate you should be providing a detailed explanation of the subject matter, including relevant research to support your statements and providing a full evaluation (possibly cause and effect style discussion). You will utilise key words and concepts throughout, demonstrating a holistic level of knowledge. Your answer will always link back to the question, drawing upon a range of theories and pieces of research throughout.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Provide a well written and coherent answer. You will address the needs of the question, directing your answer towards the command words. E.G. if the question requires you to outline, you should be providing an overview of the subject matter, ensuring key points are addressed. If the question asks you to explain and evaluate you should be providing a detailed explanation of the subject matter and providing an evaluation (possibly cause and effect style discussion). You will utilise key words and concepts, demonstrating a good level of knowledge. Your answer will link back to the question, considering different perspectives in sociology and potentially relevant research.

Where can I get past papers?

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/specification-4190/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

1. www.aqa.org.uk
2. Using navigation pane at the top of the website screen select: Subjects – Sociology
3. Using navigation pane at the right of the website screen select : Past papers and mark schemes



Psychology

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

- Learn your definitions – look, read, write, repeat – these will be crucial to your understanding of question requirements and ensuring you get maximum marks in all answers. If you cannot understand a question, how can you answer it?
- Use mind-maps / topical posters to help condense each topic into one visually friendly sheet – this will give you more of a chance at understanding the breadth of topics.
- Practice exam questions – exam technique is crucial, use the online mark schemes for past papers to help you understand the requirements of the larger questions and structure your answers.
- Always remember – “If you fail to prepare, prepare to fail” – Preparation is key, start your revision early and do things in small chunks.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Candidates recall, select and communicate relevant knowledge to produce substantiated analyses and explanations of a variety of structures, models or processes of psychology, including contemporary contexts. They show precise understanding of, and apply accurately, appropriate concepts, terms and theories. They analyse links between structures, processes and issues. They recognise and explain appropriate issues or debates, and substantiate these with evidence and reach valid conclusions. They identify and use appropriate methods, sources, information and data for a particular purpose and justify their selection. They interpret information and data presented in a variety of forms, critically evaluate its reference in relation to the arguments and reach substantiated conclusions. They use concepts, terminology and conventions accurately and appropriately.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Candidates recall, select and communicate their knowledge to describe and give a partial analysis of a variety of structures, models or processes of psychology, including contemporary contexts. They show understanding of, and apply a variety of, concepts, terms and theories. They recognise and describe relevant issues or debates and select appropriate arguments in relation to the issues, theories and evidence. They make straightforward links between structures, processes and issues. They use a range of methods, sources, information and data to find out about issues or topics and can indicate why they were chosen. They handle and evaluate information and data to make reasonable judgements, and present plausible conclusions that are supported by relevant evidence. They use concepts, terminology and conventions appropriately.

Where can I get past papers?

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-4180/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

4. www.aqa.org.uk
5. Using navigation pane at the top of the website screen select: Subjects – Psychology
6. Using navigation pane at the right of the website screen select : Past papers and mark schemes



Computer Science

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

There are 6 topics to revise for the 2 hour Unit 1 exam in June. To help you revise these topics, use mind maps to break down new information from the revision guide (Zig Zag GCSE Computer Science – Revision Guide). Ensure you keep a log of key words and their meaning. It is essential you read around the subject, so try to support your revision by accessing the online tutorials and presentations on Doodle. Practice makes perfect, so ensure you practice by completing past papers and time yourself. Marking your own work helps you identify gaps in your knowledge. Planning your time is key to helping you organise what needs to be revised and when. Your homework timetable for the year is now published on www.showmyhomework.com. Use this to organise your revision time.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Ensure you are confident in problem solving, programming, data, computer hardware & software, communication and emerging technology. Follow technology news groups on Twitter or BBC. 6 mark questions need to include your point, along with a detailed explanation (reasons) and examples. Try to include as many suitable key words into your answer.

Make certain you have completed any homework or classwork missed due to absence and attend the Programming and Revision sessions held each Thursday in GM3. It is important you ask your teacher if you don't understand something.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant computer science words.

Finally, practice calculating binary addition and any coding you have learnt during the course, such as assembly language, SQL, HTML and CSS.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.org.uk

>Our Qualifications

>GCSE

> Computer Science (2013)

>Course Materials > Exam Materials



GCSE ICT

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

There are 6 topics to revise for the Unit 1 exam Living in a Digital World in May 2016. These topics are: Personal Digital Devices, Connectivity, Operating Online, Online goods and Services, Online Communities and Issues. To help you revise these topics, use mind maps to break down new information from the revision guide (Revise Edexcel GCSE ICT – Revision Guide). Ensure you keep a log of key words and their meaning. It is essential you read around the subject, so try to support your revision by accessing the online tutorials and presentations on Doodle. Practice makes perfect, so ensure you practice by completing timed past papers. Marking your own work helps you identify gaps in your knowledge. Planning your time is key to helping you organise what needs to be revised and when. Your homework timetable for the year is now published on www.showmyhomework.com. Use this to organise your revision time.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Ensure you are confident in the 6 topics of theory mentioned above. Follow technology news groups on Twitter or BBC. Practice 6 mark questions and ensure you include your point, along with a detailed explanation (reasons) and examples. Try to include as many suitable key words into your answer.

Ensure you have completed all aspects of the controlled assessment to the best of your ability paying attention to detail. Be thorough in your evaluations and make sure your sources table has a wide selection of primary and secondary sources.

Make certain you have completed any homework or classwork missed due to absence and attend the Intervention sessions and Revision sessions held each Thursday in GM3. It is important you ask your teacher if you don't understand something.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your controlled assessment and revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Attend intervention sessions to improve your controlled assessment to the best of your ability. This is worth 60% of your overall mark.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant ICT words.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.org.uk

>Our Qualifications

>GCSE

> ICT

>Course Materials > Exam Materials



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Business Studies

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

There are 5 topics to revise for the Unit 1 (45 minutes) and Unit 3 (90 minutes) exams in June. To help you revise these topics, use mind maps to break down new information from the revision guide (Business Studies, Pearson – Revision Guide). BBC Bitesize is also a useful resource with short tests for each topic. Ensure you keep a log of key words and their meaning. It is essential you read around the subject, so try to support your revision by accessing the online tutorials and presentations on Doodle. Practice makes perfect, so ensure you practice by completing past papers and time yourself. Marking your own work helps you identify gaps in your knowledge. Planning your time is key to helping you organise what needs to be revised and when.

The exam topics can be found at <https://frog.hopeacademy.org.uk/>

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Ensure you are confident in practical skills, such as time management, personal organisation and action planning. Having interpersonal skills, i.e. communication and working in a group will also support your progression. Follow business news groups on Twitter or BBC. 6 mark questions need to include your point, along with a detailed explanation (reasons) and examples. Try to include as many suitable key words into your answer.

Make certain you have completed any homework or classwork missed due to absence and attend the Business Revision sessions held each Thursday in GM1/3. It is important you ask your teacher if you don't understand something.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps etc. contain relevant words related to Business Studies.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.org.uk

>Our Qualifications

>GCSE

> Business

>Course Materials > Exam Material

Your teacher will provide you with past papers. These can be accessed on the Academy network.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Physical Education

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

Practical Activities: Pupils should attend extra-curricular clubs to improve their chances of achieving a high mark in the practical activities.

Theory: Revision should start as soon as possible. Learn key definitions by writing them on post it notes and sticking them up at home. Learn a definition a day. Use the revision guide books as they summarise content into manageable chunks. Complete practice examination questions from the revision guide or from exercise books. Do homework. Create mind maps nearer to the final examination, particularly on topics that you find difficult.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Practical activities: You must achieve at least 9 out of 10 in all 4 of the practical activities.

Theory: Start revision now by learning key definitions and by re-visiting the topics studied last year. Practice the 3,4 and 6 mark questions as scoring well on these questions is vital in securing high marks on the examination paper. Learn to write developed statements when tackling the 6 markers using “because” and “so that” in your answers. Always give clear practical sporting examples in answers. Practice past examination papers.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Practical activities: You must achieve at least 8 out of 10 in all 4 of the practical activities. Make sure your PEP is completed to a good standard.

Theory: Start revision now by learning key definitions and by re-visiting the topics studied last year. Practice the 3 and 4 mark questions using developed statements. Use “because” and “so that” in your answers to these questions. Use the revision workbook and the revision guide as these summarise the work into manageable chunks and use good sporting examples.

Where can I get past papers?

www.edexcel.com

You should also be completing examination style questions in your theory lessons. Make sure you practice papers often and use the mark schemes as they will help you to see what examiners expect in your answers.



Media Studies

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

Insert information here

You will explore a range of media types and will have a specific topic to revise for the exam. Depending on the topic (e.g. crime drama; music magazines) you will need to become familiar with the conventions of the given genre by seeing and analysing as many examples as possible.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Insert information here

You need to show a high degree of understanding of how media texts are constructed and how they appeal to audiences. In production responses, being able to use and adapt conventions in a sophisticated, thoughtful way is essential. In analysis, precise and subtle comments about how texts appeal to target audiences is necessary to achieve high marks.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Insert information here

You will need to display clear understanding of how codes and conventions are used in media texts. In production responses, this means you are able to construct texts that clearly match the purpose and audience of your chosen genre. In your analytical responses, you show clear understanding of the ways meaning is created through the use of codes and conventions and are able to articulate your ideas clearly and thoughtfully, using evidence and giving reasons for your choices.

Where can I get past papers?

Insert information here

The exam topic changes each year and past papers are of limited use to students. The faculty provides a revision booklet each year with revision materials for the topic being studied.



Child Development

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

Key words are in the glossary given out in class to be held in your file. Aim to learn each keyword and definition for ten words a week.

Create a scrapbook or a revision roll to record each topic, use colour, mind maps, post it note pictures. These are usually easier to remember than full paragraphs

Create index cards with the main bullet points on for each topic

Ask family and friends to ask you questions using the revision guide

Use power point on the curriculum drive

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

It is essential that your controlled assessment is the best it can be. Take pride in what you do, follow instruction and refer to the specification given to you. Meet deadlines and always give 100%. Take advice and make sure any suggested adjustments are completed. Look at examples of good practice. Attend intervention and use the time the class teacher offers after school.

Complete all homework to the best of your ability, focus on your own knowledge and understanding making sure you feel confident about each topic covered. If you don't please ask for help, there is no need to struggle.

Make good use of past papers and concentrate the big mark questions.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Make sure your controlled assessment has all the required components. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. Complete homework. Focus on key terms and definitions

Where can I get past papers?

Past papers are on the AQA website also on the Curriculum drive under Child Development Passed Papers
Papers are printed off in Env 3



Music

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

When revising for music, the key to good progress is to do little but often as this helps to keep it fresh. By listening to as much varied music as possible, it helps to get used to hearing a wide range of instruments and styles of playing. If possible, each night spend 10/15 minutes listening to a piece of music at random and write some comments down about it, such as: the instruments that are playing; what the rhythm is doing; whether it is major or minor; what the dynamics are doing etc. These skills apply to all four units of the GCSE course.

All students are encouraged to spend a lot of their time composing, this includes in their free time outside of school as they will likely have their most creative ideas in a space where they feel relaxed (i.e. at home). It is therefore important that they keep a record of all their composition progress both in and out of school. This will also support them in working towards their solo and ensemble performances as they will be more familiar with their chosen instrument.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

There are several requirements:

Firstly students must complete a 1 hour listening test scoring a minimum of 55 out of 80 which tests the student’s ability to remember all the key words and recognise them when heard in several pieces of music. Their knowledge of intervals, rhythm and melody must be excellent.

Secondly, they must write 2 compositions, the first of which is open to the student’s choice, the second is in a set-style. They must also write a detailed appraisal of the second composition. Both compositions will need to be imaginative and musically stimulating, demonstrating excellent theory skills and use of articulation and dynamics.

Thirdly, they will also be required to demonstrate the successful and imaginative creation of musical ideas in relation to the areas of study selected. There must be a sense of completeness in the music and the writing for instruments, voices and sounds are idiomatic.

Finally they will be required to perform their instrument both as a solo performance and as an ensemble. Both performances must be done to a high standard with very few or no mistakes. They must demonstrate perfect accuracy, good interpretation and a high-level of communication with their audience.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

The completion of a 1 hour listening test, demonstrating the ability to identify most of the keywords when they are heard in several pieces of music. Students must also be familiar with intervals, rhythm and melody.

Their composition must be largely effective and demonstrate some understanding of the musical ideas in relation to the areas of study selected. There must be a competent handling of the musical ideas and the writing for the instruments and voices, demonstrating some understanding of the techniques required.

The performances may consist of slips or inaccuracies which possibly tend to disrupt the flow of the music however there is nevertheless a sense of character in the music.

Where can I get past papers?

Past papers are available from www.aga.org.uk however audio CDs must be either hired or purchased. Students can loan both past papers and audio CDs from the Music Department if they would prefer.



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Drama

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The GCSE Drama Course is split into three assessed units of study:

Units 1 and 2 focus on exploring a theme or topic and a full play text over a series of assessed workshops. The practical assessment will take place over a number of weeks during lesson time. It is important that you make detailed notes on your work as these will be used to complete an evaluation under controlled conditions. Attendance throughout the practical workshops is vital and you must act upon feedback from your teacher for both the written and practical elements.

Unit 3 is an externally assessed performance by a visiting examiner. This must take place before the 31st May during their final GCSE year. It is vital that you attend rehearsals and work collaboratively with your group. You must develop a piece that shows off your skills as a performer- listen to advice from your teacher and use a range of drama strategies to help develop your character and performance.

GCSE Bitesize has a range of resources to support you with both the written and practical units.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

During the practical workshops you must consistently demonstrate a creative and collaborative involvement in all tasks using a range of drama skills and techniques imaginatively. Remain committed and focused at all times, taking a leading role during practical tasks. Offer answers and share your ideas using correct drama terminology.

To reach top grades your written work must also demonstrate an in-depth evaluation of the practical sessions, using correct drama terminology appropriately.

When preparing for your Unit 3 exam you must attend after school rehearsals with your group, and act upon feedback and advice from your teacher when developing your performance piece.

Think outside the box- be imaginative!

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

During the practical workshops you must consistently demonstrate a committed and focused involvement in all tasks using a range of drama skills and techniques appropriately. You will follow direction from others, sometimes suggesting ideas. Offer answers and share your ideas using correct drama terminology. Written work must be of a good standard.

When preparing for your Unit 3 exam you must attend after school rehearsals with your group, and act upon feedback and advice from your teacher when developing your performance piece.

Where can I get past papers?

Exemplar written material and examples of past performances will be provided by the teacher. Details of the course specification and assessment criteria can be found on www.edexcel.com



Working together to inspire excellence, guided by Christian Values

Respect

Courage

Ambition



Art

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

Revision, as such, is not a requirement. However, it is likely that you will need to re-work into pieces of artwork that you have previously submitted. In this way you will be able to significantly improve the quality of your practical work. Producing beautiful, skilful, imaginative pieces of artwork is essential. You should spend hours each week working in your sketch book or working on your final pieces. You always have more work to do - there is never a time when your coursework is 'finished' – only a deadline when you have to stop and submit it all.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

For your portfolio:

A substantial amount of highly competent, imaginative work in your sketch book, demonstrating your ability to skilfully use a range of different methods, materials and techniques.

At least six final pieces showing a range of skills developed to a high degree of technical expertise.

This work will include evidence of critical studies, original ideas and development of those ideas, which results in the production of your final pieces of artwork.

For your exam:

At least one final piece together with a body of preparatory work which will include evidence of critical studies, original ideas and development of those ideas, which results in the production of your final pieces of artwork. This piece must show that you have employed a range of skills developed to a high degree of technical expertise.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

For your portfolio:

A substantial amount of competent work in your sketch book.

Around six final pieces showing a range of skills.

This work will include evidence of critical studies, original ideas and development of those ideas which results in the production of your final pieces of artwork.

For your exam:

At least one final piece together with a body of preparatory work which will include evidence of critical studies, original ideas and development of those ideas which results in the production of your final pieces of artwork.

Where can I get past papers?

Past papers are of limited value for Art GCSE. Examples are available in the Art department so that you can see the format of the paper, however the subject matter changes each year.



Photography

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The single most important thing students have to do is take lots and lots of photographs. Plan and prepare your photo-shoot thoroughly. Have clear aims for your photo-shoot and evaluate your work. Then take lots more photographs that improve the quality of your work.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

For your portfolio:

A substantial amount of highly competent, imaginative work in your sketch book, demonstrating your ability to skilfully use a range of different photographic techniques.

A number of imaginative final photographic images developed to a high degree of technical expertise.

This work will include evidence of critical studies, original ideas and development of those ideas, which results in the production of your final photographs.

For your exam:

A photographic project which will include evidence of critical studies, original ideas and development of those ideas, which results in the production of your final photographic images. This work must show that you have employed a range of skills developed to a high degree of technical expertise.

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

For your portfolio:

A substantial amount of photographic work in your sketch book.

A number of final photographic pieces relating to these projects.

This work will include evidence of critical studies, original ideas and development of those ideas which results in the production of your final photographic pieces.

For your exam:

A number of final photographic images together with a body of preparatory work which will include evidence of critical studies, original ideas and development of those ideas which results in the production of your final photographic pieces.

Where can I get past papers?

Past papers are of limited value for Photography GCSE. Examples are available on the photography shared area so that you can see the format of the paper, however the subject matter changes each year.



Resistant Materials

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking a large amount of content down into manageable chunks; you will have one final 2-hour exam in Resistant Materials at the end of Year 11. Your coursework will be a 20-page A3 folder and a completed practical piece based on a theme given to you by Miss Houghton.

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each Resistant Materials section. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to roughly 10 pages – which is much less stressful.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Work effectively and steadily over the duration of the course. Remember that you are completing a 2 year GCSE and we will look at a number of A* examples along the way. Stay on top of your revision material – for each revision section mind map your key points. Use the ‘Positively Mad’ session you had in October to help you with this. Remember each section may take a couple of hours to collate and that will add up to a large amount of time as the exams approach. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. To reach top grades, you will need to prepare fully for possible 6 mark questions – your lesson ‘Connect’ activities are based on actual AQA exam questions. Work roughly on a mark a minute!

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps, etc, contain relevant information based on the different elements of Graphics. You will also need to be able to look at the design task you have chosen and ensure you have fulfilled the criteria for the Research, Design ideas and Development sections.

Where can I get past papers?

You can Google search the following: AQA Resistant Materials past papers or use this link:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-resistant-materials-4560/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

Also look at the mark schemes for each paper – they will help you to know what the examiners are looking for. Look at the grade boundaries to see what grade you would have got.



Graphic Products

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking a large amount of content down into manageable chunks; you will have one final 2-hour exam in Graphics at the end of Year 11. Your coursework will be a 20-page A3 folder and a completed practical piece based on a Graphics theme.

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each Graphics section. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to roughly 10 pages – which is much less stressful.

What do I need to do to achieve an A*/A?

Work effectively and steadily over the duration of the course. Remember that you are completing a 2 year GCSE and we will look at a number of A* examples along the way. Stay on top of your revision material – for each revision section mind map your key points. Use the ‘Positively Mad’ session you had in October to help you with this. Remember each section may take a couple of hours to collate and that will add up to a large amount of time as the exams approach. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding. To reach top grades, you will need to prepare fully for possible 6 mark questions – your lesson ‘Connect’ activities are based on actual AQA exam questions. Work roughly on a mark a minute!

What do I need to do to achieve a C?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps, etc, contain relevant information based on the different elements of Graphics. You will also need to be able to look at the work of 6 different designers (Alberto Alessi, Harry Beck, Robert Sabuda, Wally Olins, Jock Kinneir and Margaret Calvert).

Where can I get past papers?

You can Google search the following: AQA Graphics past papers or use this link:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-graphic-products-4550/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>.

Also look at the mark schemes for each paper – they will help you to know what the examiners are looking for. Look at the grade boundaries to see what grade you would have got.



V Cert Food and Cookery

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking the content down into manageable chunks; the course is split into four units of work:

- Preparing to Cook
- Understanding Food
- Exploring Balanced Diets
- Plan and Produce Dishes in Response to a Brief

You will also have one final exam at the end of Year 11. Your coursework will be a final design folder and completed practical pieces based on different Food and Cookery techniques that cover each unit.

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each Food and Cookery section. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to roughly 10 pages – which is much less stressful.

What do I need to do to achieve Distinction*/Distinction?

Work effectively and steadily over the duration of the course. Remember that you are completing a 2 year VCERT and we will look at a number of Distinction* examples along the way. Stay on top of your revision material – for each revision section mind map your key points. Use the ‘Positively Mad’ session you had in October to help you with this. Remember each section may take a couple of hours to collate and that will add up to a large amount of time as the exams approach. To reach top grades, you will need to prepare fully for possible exam questions – your lesson ‘Connect’ activities will be based on VCERT exam questions.

What do I need to do to achieve a Pass?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps, etc, contain relevant information based on the different elements of Food and Cookery.

Where can I get past papers?

Google search **VCERT Food and Cookery** or follow this link:

<http://www.ncfe.org.uk/qualification-search/ncfe-level-2-certificate-in-food-and-cookery-2019.aspx>

This is the link to a practice external examination for this course:

<http://www.ncfe.org.uk/media/822895/l2-food-and-cookery-external-assessment-practice-paper.pdf>



V Cert Graphic Design

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

The key is breaking the content down into manageable chunks; the course is split into four units of work:

- Understand Graphic Processes, Materials and Techniques
- Research Sources of Ideas in a Graphic Design Context
- Develop Ideas and Graphic Solutions
- Plan, Produce and Present Final Graphic Design Work

You will also have one final exam at the end of Year 11. Your coursework will be a final design folder and completed practical pieces based on different Graphic techniques that cover each unit.

A good revision tip is to put together mind maps or question and answer cards at the end of each Graphics section. By doing this effectively, you can reduce your revision notes to roughly 10 pages – which is much less stressful.

What do I need to do to achieve a Distinction*/Distinction?

Work effectively and steadily over the duration of the course. Remember that you are completing a 2 year VCERT and we will look at a number of Distinction* examples along the way. Stay on top of your revision material – for each revision section mind map your key points. Use the ‘Positively Mad’ session you had in October to help you with this. Remember each section may take a couple of hours to collate and that will add up to a large amount of time as the exams approach. To reach top grades, you will need to prepare fully for possible exam questions – your lesson ‘Connect’ activities will be based on VCERT exam questions.

What do I need to do to achieve a Pass?

Work consistently over the duration of the course. Stay on top of your revision material. Use past papers to fine tune your understanding.

Make sure your revision notes, mind maps, etc, contain relevant information based on the different elements of Graphics.

Where can I get past papers?

Google search **VCERT Graphic design** or follow this link:

<http://www.ncfe.org.uk/qualification-search/ncfe-level-2-certificate-in-creative-studiesgraphic-design-370.aspx>

This is the link to a practice external examination for this course:

<http://www.ncfe.org.uk/media/824231/l2-graphic-design-external-assessment-practice-paper-1.pdf>



V Cert ICT

Key Words; Good revision techniques for your subject

As there are no exams for this qualification, it is important that you use keywords and ICT terminology throughout all of your coursework.

A good way of doing this is every time a new term is used in a lesson, add it to your own ‘ICT Dictionary’. You will have a chance to check your understanding of this word through the lesson content and by conversations with the teacher / peers. Once you fully understand it, you can add it to your dictionary and it will be there for your future reference.

What do I need to do to achieve a Distinction*/Distinction?

Apply yourself consistently over the duration of your course (two years) and work towards each unit’s assessment criteria.

All of the work completed during the two years will be placed into your portfolio so be sure to maintain high standards throughout.

Your teacher will let you know exactly how to achieve the Distinction* / Distinction grades – you must make sure that you pay attention to feedback and improve your work based on this.

What do I need to do to get a Pass?

Work quickly to ensure you don’t fall behind with your work; be careful not to sacrifice the quality of your work though.

If there is a problem in class with regards to finding something difficult or not understanding a concept, get help – your teacher is there to support you!

Complete tasks on time and make sure you do all of your homework; it complements what you are doing in each coursework unit.

Where can I get past papers?

Not Applicable.

