

Welcome

Preparation for GCSE Mock Examinations

Supporting Your Learning at GCSE

“Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.”
Lighting the path to excellence through Christian vision and values.



Which is more effective?

Student A

- Does 15 hours of study two days before the exam
- All of it reading through and highlighting class notes

• Student B

- Does 10 hours of study spaced out over several weeks:
 - ✓ 2 hours making flashcards
 - ✓ 2 hours making mind-maps
 - ✓ 3 hours testing self with flashcards
 - ✓ 2 hours answering the hardest exam questions they could find
 - ✓ 1 hour relaxing with friends!

"Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path."

Lighting the path to excellence through Christian vision and values.



Get your revision space organised!



Make sure you have:

- A tidy, undisturbed place to work.
- A comfortable, upright chair and a table.
- Plenty of natural light and air circulation and a table lamp.
- All the books & resources you need – school notes, revision guides, knowledge organisers, topic overviews etc.
- Pens, pencils, paper, post it notes, flash cards and highlighter pens.

Try to avoid:

- Having your phone nearby – put it in another room!

Using a revision planner

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
9-11	SCIENCE	SCIENCE	SCIENCE	SCIENCE	SCIENCE		
11-1	CHEM	BIOL	CHEM	CHEM	CHEM		
1-3	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS		
3-5	GEOS	CHEM	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS		
5-7	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS		
7-9	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS		
9-11	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS		
11-1	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS	PHYS		

- **List** all the topics you need to revise for each subject.
- Block out areas of the timetable where you already have commitments e.g. sports matches, music lessons etc. You need to keep a balance in your life, you can't work all the time.
- Plan for **at least 2 hours** revision per evening and at least double this at the weekend. This can easily be fitted into an evening and still allow you time for other things.
- Get into a **revision routine**. It will help you to stay on track.
- Plan your revision in **25 minute chunks** and have a short 5 - 10 minute break before changing subjects. Do something different in your break: relax, make a cup of tea, or get some fresh air. When you have done 2 or 3 chunks give yourself a longer break.
- You need to **prioritise**, some subjects and topics will need more revision than others. However, you must ensure that you slot in revision for all your subjects, not just the ones you like don't plan an evening where you are revising all the subjects you dislike!
- **Stay motivated!** Remember to build in leisure time and give yourself rewards.
- **Plan** your next week's revision at the end of the week and make sure that you stick to your timetable. If you stay focussed in your revision time this will help you to enjoy your free time.

How to use a weekly planner:

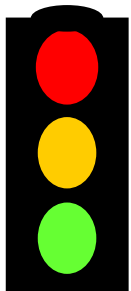
	4.00- 4.30	4.30- 5.00	5.00- 5.30	5.30- 6.00	6.00- 6.30	6.30- 7.00	7.00- 7.30	7.30- 8.00	8.00- 8.30	8.30- 9.00	9.00- 9.30	9.30- 10.30
Monday			Sport									
Tuesday					T						TV / Relaxation	
Wednesday					e	Sport						
Thursday					a							
Friday							Free time					

1. For each day, shade out your regular activities – meals, clubs, job etc.
2. Don't forget to leave some time for rest and relaxation.

How to use a weekly planner:

	4.00-4.30	4.30-5.00	5.00-5.30	5.30-6.00	6.00-6.30	6.30-7.00	7.00-7.30	7.30-8.00	8.00-8.30	8.30-9.00	9.00-9.30	9.30-10.30
Monday			Sport									
Tuesday					T						TV / Relaxation	
Wednesday					e	Sport						
Thursday					a							
Friday								Free time				

1. Decide on what exam preparation you need to do this week.
2. Allocate sufficient time to cover all subjects, concentrating on areas you struggle with.
3. Tick off each block as you revise it. This will help you to visualise your progress.



Red = Maths, Science and Technology

Amber = History, Geography and RE

Green = English and Spanish

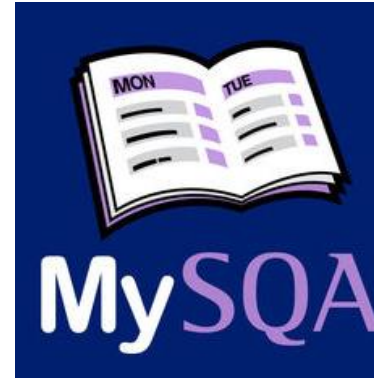
Don't forget the weekend!

	8-9am	9-10am	10-11am	11-12pm	12-1pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	4-5pm	5-6pm	6-7pm	7-8pm
Saturday			Work					Free time				
Sunday												

- It is fine to have a part time job but keep things in balance!
- A number of students will take time off part time work in the lead up to exams.

Revision apps

SQA My Study Plan



This app helps you create your own personal study plan based on the times of your exams, the priority of your exams and when you want to study. When the plan has been created, it can be edited and customised easily to reflect individual needs, and can be shared with your friends.



Six Strategies for Effective Learning

Retrieval Practice – flash cards and self quizzing. **Active revision!**

Spaced practice – organise study time and space out practice.

Dual coding – using words and diagrams.

Interleaving – mixing topics up

Elaboration - ask questions of the material they have learnt. Why did that happen? What does this tell me? Why is it in this order?

Concrete examples – link abstract ideas to real examples.



Year 11 Mathematics

Mock Exam Dates

Maths P1 non-calculator - Monday 2nd December

Morning - 1hr 30 mins

Maths P2 calculator - Tuesday 3rd December

Morning - 1hr 30 mins

AQA Maths GCSE

Topic Area	Foundation Tier (%)	Higher Tier (%)
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and Statistics	15	15

AQA Maths GCSE

The Maths GCSE is assessed through the completion of 3 exams towards the end of Year 11. Each paper being 1 hour and 30 minutes in length.

- Paper 1 is non-calculator
- Paper 2 calculator
- Paper 3 calculator



We recommend investing in a good quality geometry set in addition to a scientific calculator.

The upcoming Mock examination will be:

Paper 1 – non-calculator

Paper 2 - calculator

Useful Websites

The best way to revise Maths is to watch help videos or work through examples and then.....DO MATHS!

Useful websites:

AQA website – search AQA Maths - Specification 8300

MyMaths (Puffin Academy APP)-detailed lessons & online homeworks which are immediately marked.

GCSE Pod

Kesh Maths

Corbett Maths

Hegartymaths

Mathsbot – puzzles + worksheets

BBC Bitesize – lessons & exercises

Additional support

- **Revision Guides +
Workbooks are available
at a cost of £3 per book at
both Higher & Foundation**

Year 11 Science

Mock Exam Dates

Biology - Tuesday 26th November

Chemistry - Friday 29th November

Physics - Wednesday 4th December

Mock Exams

Combined Science:

- 3 exam papers of 1 hour 15 minutes
- Paper 1 topics to be revised - see handout

Separate Sciences:

- 3 exams of 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 1 topics to be revised - see handout

Preparation

- Have and be able to use a scientific calculator
- Make use of their revision guide and workbook
- Know the equations, how to re-arrange them and the units that go with them

Resources



Students have their own log in and passwords on stickers in their planners. They can set themselves tests on this to assess their own subject knowledge

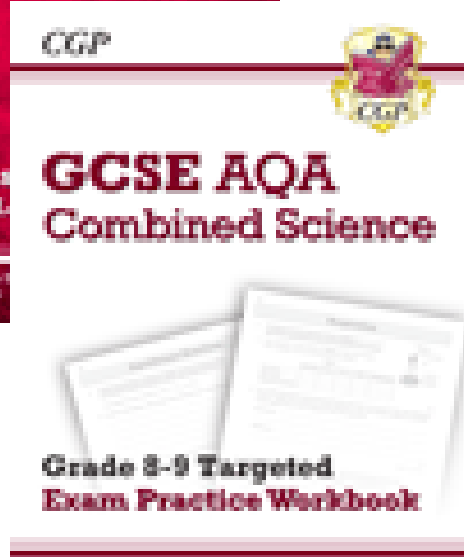


Students can log onto this using their school log in details. Here they will find knowledge organisers, equation help sheets and command word examples.

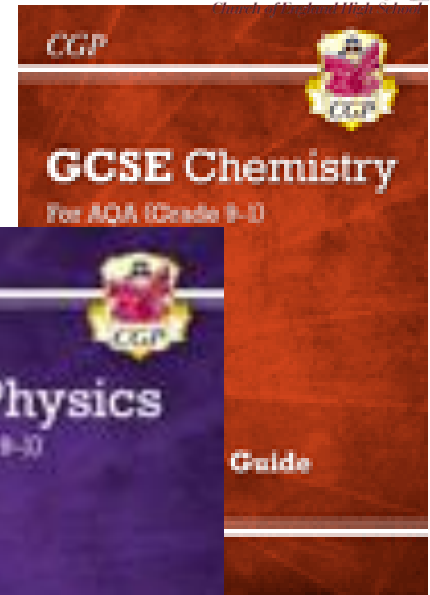
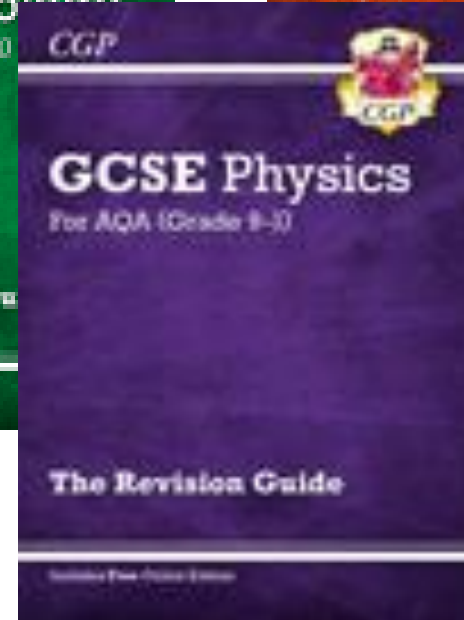


Students all have the same log in details. They can use this for help with required practicals.

Revision Guides



£12.00

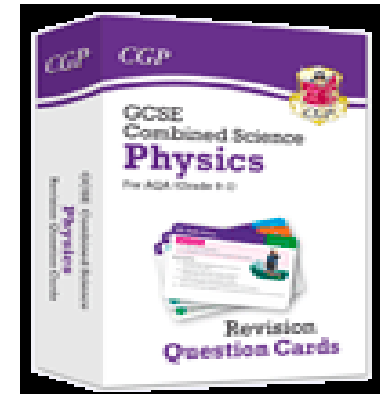
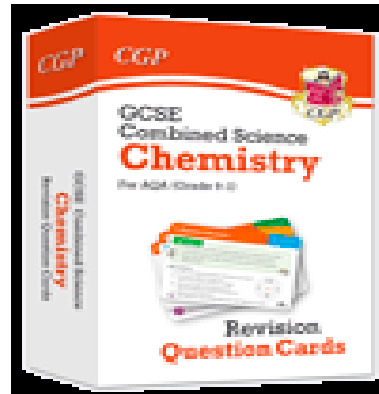
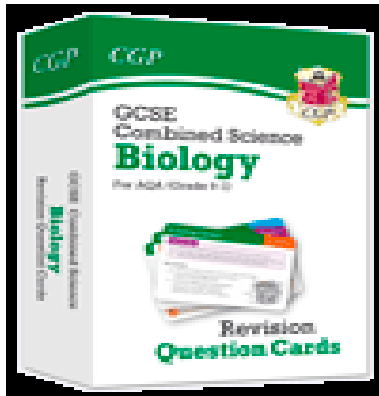


£18.00

Available to buy from the downstairs Science prep room

Revision Cards - optional

- £11 for Combined Science (set of 3)
- £14 for Separate Science (set of 3)



Autumn 2019

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

*Preparing for 'Mock' and
actual GCSEs.*



Year 11 English

GCSE English Language

2 Papers

Mock exam in November will be a past/ sample paper 2.

Mock Exam Dates

English Language - Monday 25th November

Morning - 2 hours

English Literature - Wednesday 27th November

Morning - 1hr 30 minutes

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of qualification

Section A (20%) – Reading
One extract (about 80-100 lines) of literature from the twentieth century

Section B (20%) – Prose Writing
One creative writing task drawn from a selection of four titles

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing

Written examination: 2 hours

60% of qualification

Section A (30%) – Reading
Two extracts (about 900-1200 words in total) of high-quality non-fiction writing from the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries

Section B (30%) – Writing
Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of qualification

Section A (20%) – Reading
One extract (about 80-100 lines) of literature from the twentieth century

Section B (20%) – Prose Writing
One creative writing task drawn from a selection of four titles

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing

Written examination: 2 hours

60% of qualification

Section A (30%) – Reading
Two extracts (about 900-1200 words in total) of high-quality non-fiction writing from the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries

Section B (30%) – Writing
Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks

Section A -Reading (40 marks)

- This section will test through structured questions the reading of two high-quality unseen non-fiction texts (about 900-1200 words in total), one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century. Non-fiction texts may include, but will not be limited to: letters, extracts from autobiographies or biographies, diaries, reports, articles and digital and multi-modal texts of various kinds from newspapers and magazines, and the internet.

Section B – Writing (40 marks)

- This section will test transactional, persuasive and/or discursive writing through two equally weighted compulsory tasks (20 marks each). Across the two tasks candidates will be offered opportunities to write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and to real-life contexts in, for example, letters, articles, reviews, speeches.

Example Section B task:

- Your local council is considering hosting the 'Iron Man' event in your area, which will involve over five hundred athletes taking part over twelve hours and several road closures.
- ***Write a letter to your councillor, stating your views on the idea.***

Does punctuation matter?

As well as counting for 8 out of 20 marks in Section B, accurate spelling and punctuation make your writing and expression clear.

Incorrect punctuation can change the meaning of a sentence...

- *“Most of the time, travellers worry about their luggage.”*
- Now delete the comma after the fourth word to totally change the meaning of this sentence:
- *“Most of the time travellers worry about their luggage”*

Autumn 2019

GCSE English Literature



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours
40% of qualification

- **Section A (20%) Shakespeare**
Romeo and Juliet; Othello, OR Macbeth;
One extract question and one essay question based on the reading of a Shakespeare text from the above prescribed list.
- **Section B (20%) Poetry from 1789 to the present day**
Two questions based on poems from the WJEC Poetry Anthology, one of which involves comparison.

Component 2: Post-1914 Prose/ Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes
60% of qualification

- **Section A (20%) Post 1914 Prose/Drama**
An Inspector Calls (Priestley) OR *Lord of The Flies*
One source based question
- **Section B (20%) 19th Century Prose**
A Christmas Carol (Dickens)
One source based question on this 19th century prose text.
- **Section C (20%) Unseen Poetry**
Two questions on unseen poems, one of which involves comparison.

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Component 1: :Shakespeare and Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours
40% of qualification

- **Section A (20%) Shakespeare**
Romeo and Juliet; Othello, OR Macbeth;
One extract question and one essay question based on the reading of a Shakespeare text from the above prescribed list.
- **Section B (20%) Poetry from 1789 to the present day**
Two questions based on poems from the WJEC Poetry Anthology, one of which involves comparison.

Component 2: Post-1914 Prose/ Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes
60% of qualification

- **Section A (20%) Post 1914 Prose/Drama**
An Inspector Calls (Priestley)
One source based question
- **Section B (20%) 19th Century Prose**
A Christmas Carol (Dickens)
One source based question
- **Section C (20%) Unseen Poetry**
Two questions on unseen poems, one of which involves comparison.

Preparing for English Literature exams

1. **Do you know the book/ play well enough? Re-read if necessary.**
2. Map out the plot. Ideally you should know your text – whichever it is – as a series of episodes. You should then be able to pick the most suitable for a question.
3. Learn key quotations for each theme and character. These will overlap and cross reference.

Tips for learning quotations

1. **Choose carefully!** Short, effective and snappy quotations are the easiest to remember and will enable deeper language analysis.
2. **Remember, remember... rhymes and mnemonics.** Creating little rhymes and mnemonics is a classic strategy for memorising quotations. It draws upon a few memory principles. First, repetition. We remember the rhythms and patterns of speech and song more easily.
3. **Spaced repetition of quotations.**
4. **Flashcards and quizzing..**
5. **Build the 'memory palace' of quotations.** The *'memory palace'* is a strategy that is thousands of years old. You create a palace, or a humble house, with multiple rooms. You then compartmentalise the rooms and start to allocate different quotations to different rooms, linking quotes to objects.
6. **Chronological order** – will also help with the plot.
7. **Use sticky notes and colour.**

Careers help for Year 11

So far we have;

- Taken all of Year 11 to Runshaw
- Offered half of the year visits to the World of Work
- Hosted a Careers event including talks by experts in careers
- Presentation by Preston's College
- The Army day

Careers help for Year 11

In the future;

- Halfway through Mock Interviews with professionals
- Apprenticeship assembly and workshop
- One to one guidance to students who want it


Careers help for Year 11

- Look on the Careers section of the website for lots of useful links. (Parent Portal)
- Apprenticeship pack, please take one





What can students do to help themselves?

- Maximise your attendance
 - If in doubt over illness – get to school
 - Be punctual- late arrivals miss key lesson starters
 - Exam tips from teachers can make all the difference
 - Home study and independent learning at home is vital
 - Using Bedrock to support your vocabulary development
 - Log in to GCSEPod and start using it as well as other online GCSE support
 - Test yourself frequently
 - Plan ahead and space out your study of key topics over a series of days and weeks rather than cramming it into one the night before!
 - Take responsibility for your own success
 - Less screen time – SLEEP!
- 

Managing your time, getting everything done ...and claiming back your 'weekend'!

Make a list of the tasks and events that you have over the next week!

- - at home - at school **These need to include the things you like... and the things you dread!**
- **'One off'** (e.g. deadlines, hospital appointment, concert, friend over for tea, birthday party)
- If it **has to be done** at a **specific day/time** – **make a note of that! Managing your time, getting everything done ...and claiming back your 'weekend'!**
- **weekly commitments** e.g. school, maths homework, intervention, clubs, visit to nan, family dinner, favourite TV show
- If it **has to be done** at a **specific day/time** – **make a note of that!**
- Think about **imminent deadlines** ...**don't put off the things you don't like!**

Finally.....

- The key to your son/daughters success is our three way partnership....
- Please give us your feedback tonight on the questionnaire and put it in the box on the way out.

