

2020-2021 Revision Guide

**GCSE:
PREPARING FOR SUCCESS**

YEAR 11

NAME:

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GL53 8QF

The Virtual Learning Environment - VLE

The VLE is an online extension of the classroom, which can be accessed by students, parents and staff, and aims to share information and resources in a simple, clear and intuitive way. Any device which has internet access can view the site at the following address: balcarras.fireflycloud.net

The system, called Firefly, allows the opportunity for personalised learning for students and the ability for them to become increasingly independent and responsible for their learning and self-organisation. It also enables parents and guardians to support them at home, by viewing their homework, resources, attendance and potentially see their progression through the school. This has been designed to be as simple and easy to navigate as possible. To log on, new parents should visit the site address, and activate their account, using the email address the school holds on record as part of your contact information. Current parents should have their children added to their account already.

In September, every new student will be allocated a username and password to access this site and this is their normal student network login. When logging in from outside of school, students must include the last part of their email address that follows their username (####@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk).

There are also mobile apps available for both parents and students, which can be downloaded from the appropriate app store. These are called Firefly for Parents and Firefly for Students, and are free. When logging in for the first time, the same username and password must be used and the school code: **balcarras**, to link successful with our system.

School Network

Students can access the school network shared area (known as the **R: drive**) and download electronic resources provided by their teachers. They can also access their personal network area (known as the **H: drive**). This is available by either clicking on the Network link at the top of the school website homepage (www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk) or by selecting the Network option located on the dashboard of the VLE (balcarras.fireflycloud.net). Users will be directed to the FoldR website and students need to use their school username and password to log in. FoldR (By Minnow IT) is also available as an app for Android and iOS devices.

Online Safety

The school has a well-established ICT Code of Conduct. All pupils will be allowed access to the internet. Gaming and downloading games is not allowed. Pupils who break the code of conduct, which is monitored by our network manager, will have their network access revoked.

It is essential that you monitor computer, smart phone and tablet use at home.

Social network sites have often caused problems amongst friends. Please be aware that some sites have age restrictions e.g. Facebook—recommendation is 13 years.

CURRICULUM-RELATED QUESTIONS

Should you have any curriculum-related questions, please contact the relevant Head of Department. You can do so by emailing Balcarras School at admin@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk and request that your query be directed to the relevant Head of Department and your son/daughter's Head of House.

Departments

Art

Business Studies

Computer Science & Dig. App

Design Technology: Product Design

Design Technology: Food & Nutrition

Design Technology: Textiles....

Drama

English.....

Geography.....

Health & Social Care

History

Mathematics.....

Modern Languages.....

Music.....

Physical Education

Philosophy & Ethics.....

Science.....

Heads of Departments

Mr D Hazael

Mr L Perry

Miss A Hinton

Mrs J Swanepoel

Mrs C Saunders

Mrs A Kinch

Mr A Bennett

Mr D Sharkey

Mrs E Cullis

Mrs J Corinaldi

Mr M Stoker

Mr S Critchley

Mrs J Hockenhull

Mrs H Chong

Mr M Harvey

Mrs H Ebanja

Dr S Jones

September 2020

Dear Member of Year 11,

The next few months will be the most important in your school career. In what will feel like an incredibly short amount of time you will be taking your GCSE exams and they will have a major impact on your future options.

One of the keys to exam success is having a revision strategy. Successful pupils will be well organised and highly skilled in revision techniques. The good news is that being effective at revision is something that can be learnt.

The aim of this booklet is to help you get organised, give you some tried and tested tips on revision and advise you on how to make the most of the opportunities you have. One of the most important things to do is plan your time effectively and the centre pages of this booklet set out the controlled assessments that will take place over the year to help you keep on track.

If you require any additional help or advice please speak to your teachers, who will be only too happy to help you and answer any questions.

The very best of luck.



Mr Gary Towers
Assistant Headteacher

Advice for Parents and Guardians

Making a Difference

Helping your daughter or son prepare for their GCSEs

General things you can do to help

- Provide a quiet place for study.
- Encourage the rest of the family to help by not disturbing revision.
- Praise hard work.
- Emphasise the need for plenty of sleep.
- Encourage planned relaxation time (too much study is not helpful).
- Help your daughter/son to forget about each exam as it is finished.
- Remind your daughter/son that the exam period will soon be over and that there will be a good break from school when she/he will be able to catch up on what they have been missing!

Every department offers additional lunchtime and after school provision to help you achieve. You need to be pro-active in organising your commitments as some subjects may clash. If you have any concerns please contact your subject teacher.

Useful revision tips

You can help your daughter/son by helping them to follow these tips:

- Plan for half-hour sessions or an hour at most.
- In the evenings after school, plan to revise one or two subjects only. Leave some time for relaxation.
- Plan to revise specific topics in each subject, *not* everything at once.
- Ensure that each session starts with tackling the most difficult topics first.

Exam Dates

All GCSE written exams take place between Friday 14th May and Tuesday 22nd June 2021.

There are no exams during the week of the bank holiday, when schools are normally on half-term break. In 2021 this will be the week beginning Monday 31st May 2021.

W/C 10TH MAY 2021 (WEEK 2)

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS BEGIN

NOTES

W/C 19TH APRIL 2021 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 26TH APRIL 2021 (WEEK 2)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 3RD MAY 2021 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
BANK HOLIDAY			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

Advice during the spring term

- Get your daughter/son to check that they have all notes and books for revision. Get them to talk to their teacher if they are missing any.
- Check that they have a revision timetable which includes the dates and times of the examinations in May and June. Include any important dates (such as birthdays) when you want them to take some time off from revision.
- Include in the timetable a plan for revision.
- Spread revision out evenly so that subject demands match to the exam timetable.

School Contacts

Keeping in touch with school can be extremely important when seeking advice in preparation for exams.

Listed are the names of staff who will help should any issues occur during the exam period.

During the exam period

Try to ensure that:

- Your daughter/son gets a good night's sleep before exams.
- They have all the equipment for the day.
- They know the start times of each exam for the day and plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before.
- You wish them well and tell them that they have worked hard and that they can only do their best.

GCSE Contingency Day

Please be aware that students taking GCSE exams next summer need to be available up to and including the Contingency Day, 29 June 2021. This date has been set by the exam boards in case of national or local disruption during the GCSE exam period.

Heads of Houses

Foley: *Mrs J Corinaldi*
 Graveney: *Mrs S Winterbottom*
 Ottewell: *Mr P Amor*
 Selvey: *Miss A Niblett*

Examinations Officer
Ms. Christine Paris-Johnstone

Head of Individual Learning
Mrs Louise Young

***And when it's all over . . .
 tell your daughter/son to relax and forget about study for a while. Enjoy the summer break!***

ORGANISATION / TIME MANAGEMENT

- Start early
- Spend 'quality working time' in a quiet and organised environment
- Plan each session with specific outcomes, decide what you are going to achieve from each activity - ask parents to monitor and reward you
- Keep intensive time periods relatively short, eg divide up an hour into 5 minutes' planning, two 20 minute sections with 10 minutes for review. Then break and repeat
- Use a variety of strategies and techniques to keep things fresh
- Write things down on paper - you will remember them more clearly - summarise notes using headings
- Learn and remember what you have written, then test to check
- Invest in some highlighter pens and file dividers
- Keep a balance between work and relaxation - reward good revision
- Plan your timetable and stick to it
- Try your best and develop confidence as you build up your knowledge

The countdown to your GCSE



your **TEACHERS** are a valuable resource -
and seek out the advice of your **MENTORS**

W/C 15TH MARCH 2021 (WEEK 2)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 22ND MARCH 2021 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 29TH MARCH 2021 (WEEK 2)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			

EASTER HOLIDAYS 6TH—19TH APRIL 2021

W/C 22ND FEBRUARY 2021 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 1ST MARCH 2021 (WEEK 2)

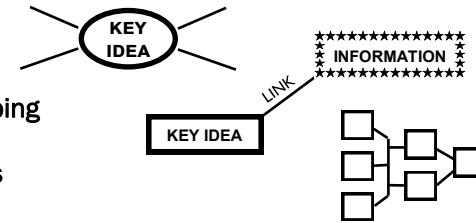
DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 8TH MARCH 2021 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

REVISION STRATEGIES

- Brainstorming
- Concept mapping
- Flow diagrams
- Reduce information onto revision cards
- Convert text material into diagrams
- Focus on key terminology and concepts/ideas
- Test learning regularly - use each other - teamwork
- Begin with model answers - *'this is what I am aiming for'*
- Draft answers before you begin
- Review and check answers *'what could I have included to make it better'*
- Organise material logically
- Focus on areas of weakness - turn them into strengths
- Look at past papers and mark schemes



KEY-WORD	DEFINITION	KEY-WORD	DEFINITION
FOLD	FOLD	FOLD	

Good Luck!



that you must put these into effect NOW. It is planned and systematic ACTION that delivers results, NOT talk of good intentions

ART

SYLLABUS AQAC **40% exam / 60% coursework**
(Coursework runs through Year 10 and Year 11)

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: The Art department feel that the best kind of support we can offer the GCSE students is that from September the Art department will be running workshops and catch up sessions for those students who would like to take advantage of extra studio time. All art students are welcome. The sessions will run on Tuesday afternoons until 5pm. (Check with your teacher) Please feel free to take advantage of this extra tuition. The department have also provided all art students with a week by week guide on how to achieve the best results with the preparation for the forthcoming mock examination.

BUSINESS STUDIES

SYLLABUS WJEC **100% exam**
62.5% Theory Exam (no tiers) / 37.5% Data Response Exam (no tiers)

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Students will be issued with a revision guide at the start of Year 11 which is very useful and presents key information in a student friendly way. Students will also be issued with a past paper booklet with the relevant mark scheme to help build key exam skills.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Syllabus OCR
Exam Paper 1 - Computer Systems - 1.5 hrs -50% of total
Exam Paper 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming - 1.5 hrs - 50% of total

Programming Project - 20 hours non exam assessment
Advice on revision guides: The main focus at the start of the year is the programming project. Pupils can extend their Python knowledge and skills by completing tasks set at www.codacademy.com and using the OCR Programming Workbook, available in the school's Resources folder. Pupils will continue to use their PG Online textbook, with the addition of the CGP revision guide and workbook. They will also have access to past papers and mark schemes as well as the OCR produced sample papers, in the run up to their exams. The current specification can be found at:
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>

CREATIVE I MEDIA

SYLLABUS: OCR **25% exam / 75% coursework**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: The exam for this course is sat during Year 10, so there is no exam in year 11 unless there are special circumstances for the pupil to resit. In which case, booklets, online resources and past papers will be provided.

During Year 11 students will work on two further units, which are both 100% coursework. They will be using the Adobe suite but are not expected to have this at home although they can practice using free graphic design software. Both units will have a 10 hour controlled assessment which is then sent off to OCR for moderation.

w/c 25TH JANUARY 2021 (WEEK 2)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

w/c 1ST FEBRUARY 2021 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

w/c 8TH FEBRUARY 2021 (WEEK 2)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

HALF TERM MONDAY 15TH - FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2021

W/C 4TH JANUARY 2021 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 11TH JANUARY 2021 (WEEK 2)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 18TH JANUARY 2021 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY : PRODUCT DESIGN ROUTE

SYLLABUS AQA 50% exam / 50% coursework

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Specific D&T revision guides and workbooks are available from the design and technology department at a cost of £6.00. Students should see their D&T teacher if they wish to purchase one. Past papers are available from their D&T teacher on request. There are a number of revision resources available on the VLE, GCSE page.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY : TEXTILES ROUTE

SYLLABUS AQA 50% exam / 50% coursework

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Exam board specific revision books are available to purchase from the design and technology department at a cost of £6. In addition, students will be given a revision pack with past papers and worksheets before they break up for exam leave. The D&T Textiles page on the VLE is also full of lots of support materials for the NEA and the exam.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY : FOOD AND NUTRITION

SYLLABUS: EDUQAS

50% exam / 50% CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT (2 PIECES BOTH COMPLETED IN YEAR 11)
ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: There will be a digital textbook which will be available to all students through the school's VLE. In addition, a revision guide and workbook can be purchased through school in Year 11. Students will be given many revision aids and help sheets and our VLE pages will provide numerous support materials, example questions and other useful resources.

DRAMA

SYLLABUS CAMBRIDGE IGCSE 40% written exam
60% practical coursework

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Practical assessments continue in autumn/winter until late January of Year 11. We will also focus on the written exam. Homework activities include writing notes, practice exam questions, line-learning and seeing shows. During Year 11 students present a scripted monologue, plus a scripted and /or improvised group piece. The board release materials for the written exam in autumn/winter of Year 11—this paper then becomes our main focus, including a practical project developed solely for the written assessment. Candidates can develop responses in their working notebook.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE**SYLLABUS AQA****100% exam**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: The GCSE English Language course culminates in two 1 hour 45 minute exams. The first of these (English Language Paper 1) will test students on their ability to analyse unseen literary fiction and will also require them to produce a short piece of creative writing; the second (English Language Paper 2) will test students on their ability to analyse unseen non-fiction and will also require them to produce a short piece of functional writing. In Year 11, students will have separate English Language lessons which will deal thoroughly with all aspects of the exam, although the analytical skills learned in both Language and Literature lessons are crossover skills and can be applied across both subjects.

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english>

ENGLISH LITERATURE**SYLLABUS AQA****100% exam**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: The GCSE English Literature course culminates in two exams: the first of these (English Literature Paper 1) lasts for 1 hour and 45 minutes and will require students to answer questions on a Shakespeare play (Macbeth) and on a nineteenth century novel (A Christmas Carol). The second exam (English Literature Paper 2) lasts for 2 hours and 15 minutes and will require students to answer questions on the play *An Inspector Calls*, the *Power and Conflict* poetry and on two previously unseen poems. There are CPG revision guides available on the Power & Conflict poems (www.cpgbooks.co.uk) and a wide range of book and internet based revision material on all the other texts. In Year 11, students will study Macbeth and will revise the texts done in Year 10. <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english>

FRENCH**SYLLABUS AQA****100% exam**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Most students will have purchased the Grammar and Translation workbook and this will prove extremely useful when students wish to revise independently at home. In addition to the Grammar and Translation workbook, an AQA Revision workbook will be available to purchase. This workbook offers a wide range of activities on the 4 skills to prepare the students for the final examination. Past papers are also available on the R drive/VLE. Further listening and reading activities will be available on the VLE in the French GCSE section. Students should continue to use the www.pearsonactivelearn.com website independently or completing tasks set by their teachers. Students will continue to find the following websites helpful: www.languagesonline.co.uk - grammar section www.linguascope.co.uk - intermediate vocabulary section.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION**SYLLABUS AQA****60% exam / 40% coursework**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Revision guides are available at £3 each from the sports hall office. Additional support material available on the VLE under physical education, including links to GCSE Bitesize.

RUSSIAN**SYLLABUS: EDEXCEL****100% exam**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: An extensive range of revision materials can be found on the Russian GCSE section of VLE. Here students can access the core vocabulary list, grammar notes and practice exercises. There are also past papers with mark schemes and an online version of our GCSE revision guide. The following website may also be useful: <http://www.russianforeveryone.com/>

SCIENCE**SYLLABUS: AQA COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY****100% exam**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Students were issued a published CGP revision guide for the course in Year 10. This covers all the content from Year 9 to Year 11. In addition to this, students will be given a revision pack, produced by the department, at Year 11 parents evening. This contains a glossary of key words, quiz questions, past paper questions and model answers. The course contains a number of 'required practicals' that need to be revised for the examinations in Year 11. Students will be given their required practical booklet after the completion of the final practical. Additionally, Malmesbury school have produced some excellent videos of the GCSE required practicals, that are helpful for revision: search for 'Malmesbury science' on YouTube. The Balcarras VLE contains the summary front sheets for each topic along with the resources used for each lesson. Students can access these if they miss a lesson or for revision. There is also a 'revision quiz' for each topic on the VLE. Additionally there is a 'GCSE Science revision' page on the VLE with lots of past papers and markschemes. Other websites suitable for revision are as follows: <https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/z8r997h> <http://freesciencelessons.co.uk/> <https://www.senecalearning.com/> The GCSE specification we follow can be found at the website below: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

SPANISH**SYLLABUS AQA****100% exam**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Most students have purchased the Grammar and Translation workbooks and these will prove extremely useful when students wish to revise independently at home.

In addition to the grammar and translation workbooks, AQA Revision workbooks will be available to purchase as well as the vocabulary books, which some students may have already purchase in year 10. Past papers are also available on the R drive/VLE.

Students will also find the following websites helpful: www.languagesonline.co.uk - grammar section / www.linguascope.co.uk - beginners and intermediate sections.

MATHEMATICS

SYLLABUS: EDEXCEL

100% exam

Three exam papers each 90 minutes long. One non-calculator paper and two calculator papers

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Pupils can use www.vle.mathswatch.com Pupils should speak to their teacher for login information. Further support is available via www.methodmaths.com where electronic versions of past papers can be found. We also recommend the Pearson target revision guides and the CGP practice exam papers. Both of which can be purchased from their maths teacher.

MUSIC

SYLLABUS: WJEC EDUQAS

40% Appraising - exam / 30% Performing / 30% Composing

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Textbooks are available to borrow from the department and resources are uploaded on the VLE under Music GCSE. Two revision guides are currently available. The Illuminate Publishing Music Revision Guide by Jan Richards is made available to students in Year 11. A second WJEC & EDUQAS GCSE Music Revision Guide by David Ventura, published by Rhinegold Education, is available online if students wish to purchase their own copies. (Please note that the Listening Tests provided by the same publishers will be used in class and it is not necessary for students to purchase this.) Please note when looking at information online, it is **WJEC Eduqas**—there are differences from the WJEC Music course.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES—PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

SYLLABUS: OCR

100% exam

2 hours Philosophy & Ethics / 1 hour Christian beliefs & practice / 1 hour Buddhist philosophy, beliefs & practice

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:

The textbook we will be using during the Christianity and Philosophy aspects of the course is: OCR GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies by Lorraine Abbott, Steve Clarke, Gordon Kay

The textbook we will be using during the Buddhist philosophy aspects of the course is: Buddhism by Steve Clarke

A good revision guide is: My Revision Notes OCR GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies by Lorraine Abbot.

GEOGRAPHY

SYLLABUS: AQA

100% exam

Examination—3 papers, 2 for content (70%) & 1 for skills and fieldwork techniques (30%)

Content and skills for the examination is taught across the years in 10 and 11 with compulsory fieldwork making up elements to prepare for paper 3 as well as a session learning about pre released material in April. The fieldwork will consist of one 'human' fieldwork day in an urban area of Bristol and one 'physical' day within a river locality. We recommend that pupils use the specification breakdown sheets provided throughout the topics as quick revision overviews and then make revision cards as they go through the topics as it is taught.

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Throughout all of the topics studied pupils will be given past paper questions and we would advise them to review the feedback on these for revision purposes too. The department will offer revision sessions in the summer term.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

SYLLABUS: OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

25% exam / 75% coursework

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Towards the end of Year 10 students started work on the examined unit which they will sit in January of Year 11. Students should have now purchased a revision guide from school and they be using them each week to revise and prepare for their exam. Students will also be submitting unit R022 in January which is a coursework unit based on communication. After January students will finish unit R027 (creative activities) and complete unit R023 (understanding body systems).

HISTORY

SYLLABUS: AQA HISTORY (8145)

100% exam

Paper 1- Germany 1890-1945/ The Cold war 1945-1972 (studied in Yr 10)

Paper 2- Restoration England 1660-1685. Migration, Empires and People, AD790- to the present day (studied in Year 11)

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: Revision guides for the new GCSE (Grade 9-1) have been published that include some but not all of the topics we study. The department have created revision guides and resources for both paper 1 and paper 2 topics and students will be given copies of these (also available on the VLE). Students will also find useful materials on BBC Bitesize for Germany, Conflict & Tension and the Migration topics. Students will also be directed to Seneca which covers the majority of our topics.

Students and parents are advised to talk to the class teacher for any further advice on revision resources.

Coursework / Exam Timetable

Coursework / Exam Timetable