



## 2018-2019 Revision Guide

**GCSE:  
PREPARING FOR SUCCESS**

**YEAR 10**

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### **Baccarras School**

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Charlton Kings  
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GL53 8QF

## Parents' Guide to how to use the Online Resources

Various resources are available that will enable your son/daughter to revise and organise their studies effectively.



### VLE (Virtual Learning Environment)

This is the place where students will find resources such as past papers, online texts and even their exam timetables. Homework and revision sessions will be scheduled here and are specific to each individual student.

Visit [balcarraslearning.com](http://balcarraslearning.com) to gain access to the VLE and help monitor and support your child progress. You can set up a parental account simply by logging in using the email address the school already holds for you and creating a memorable password.

### Network

Students can gain access to all departmental resources, including worksheets, presentations and quizzes whilst in school. These can also be accessed at home through either the VLE, school website or using the FoldR website. FoldR can be downloaded as an app and used on mobile devices too.

### Also on the website

There will be regular updates in the run up to the GCSE exam period advertising morning, lunchtime and afterschool revision sessions for a variety of subjects. In many cases students will be formally advised that their attendance is expected, although students who voluntarily attend will always be welcome.

## 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](mailto: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

### Heads of Departments

Art .....	Mr D Hazael
Business Studies .....	Mr L Perry
Computing.....	Miss A Hinton
Design Technology: Product Design	Mrs J Swanepoel
Design Technology: Food & Nutrition	Mrs C Saunders
Design Technology: Textiles...	Miss J Ferguson
Drama .....	Mr A Bennett
English.....	Mr D Sharkey
Geography.....	Mrs N Lambert-Masters
Health & Social Care .....	Mrs J Corinaldi
History .....	Mr M Stoker
Mathematics .....	Mr S Critchley
Modern Languages.....	Mrs J Hockenhull
Music.....	Mrs H Chong
Physical Education .....	Mr M Harvey
Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics	Miss H Ebanja
Science.....	Dr S Jones

## NOTES

**SCIENCE****SYLLABUS: AQA COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY** **100% exam in Year 11**

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** The science department will issue students a published CGP revision guide for the course in Year 10 that will cover all the content from Year 9 to Year 11. In addition to this, students will be given a revision pack, produced by the department when revision starts in Year 11. This contains a glossary of key words, quiz questions, past paper questions and model answers. They will also be issued with a published CGP exam practice workbook full of exam-style questions.

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. Required practicals are also covered in the revision guides. 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.

Other websites suitable for revision are as follows:

<https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/z8r997h>

<http://freesciencelessons.co.uk/>

<https://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse>

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:** Students will find the following websites helpful:

[www.languagesonline.co.uk](http://www.languagesonline.co.uk)

- grammar section

[www.linguascope.co.uk](http://www.linguascope.co.uk)

- intermediate section

An AQA GCSE Spanish Revision Workbook, Vocabulary book, and Grammar and Translation book will be available for students to purchase. Letters will be sent home with further details once these resources are available. Please see your Spanish teacher for a letter. We highly recommend that all pupils buy at least one of these resources from the MFL department.

September 2018

Dear Member of Year 10,

I hope that you have made a good start to your GCSE studies. The next two years will be very important ones for you and will have a large impact on your future options.

We want every student to achieve to the very highest level possible and we want to give you all the support we can. Every year we provide this booklet to students in Year 10 so that you are fully informed about each of your GCSEs and to give you some useful hints on exam preparation.

There will be a full set of mock exams in the summer term and in some subjects there will be controlled assessments during the year.

Much of the hard work needed to achieve good GCSE grades takes place in Year 10 so I would encourage all students to give their absolute best this year.

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*

*These tips will be more relevant when your child is in Year 11 but this is advance warning!*

#### 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!

#### 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.
- Encourage that all resources are at hand.

#### Exam Dates

All GCSE written exams take place between Monday 13th May and Friday 14th June 2019.

There are no exams during the week of the bank holiday, when schools are normally on half-term break. In 2019 this will be the week beginning Monday 27th May 2019.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SYLLABUS: AQA

60% exam / 40% practical 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.

## RELIGION—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:** Pupils should look at the VLE in the topic areas, the revision area, extend your learning area and hints and tips to see regularly updated resources and revision material. Due to this being a new course there are no past papers available. However, your teacher will have issued you with exam style question booklets in lessons for all three exams that you can use.

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: OCR GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies by Lorraine Abbott, Steve Clarke, Gordon Kay ~

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

## RUSSIAN

SYLLABUS: EDEXCEL

100% exam

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** There are no formal revision guides for this subject, however, an extensive range of revision materials can be found on the VLE. Here students can access grammar notes and practice exercises, an online version of the GCSE textbook and past papers with mark schemes.

The following website may also be useful: [www.gcserussian.co.uk](http://www.gcserussian.co.uk)

## HISTORY

**SYLLABUS: AQA HISTORY (8145)** 100% exam

Paper 1- Germany 1890-1945/ The Cold war 1945-1972

(studied in Year 10)

Paper 2- Migration, Empires and People, AD790- to the present day/

Restoration England 1660-1685 (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 the paper 1 topics and students have been given copies of these (also available on the VLE).

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

## MATHEMATICS

**SYLLABUS : OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL** 100% exam

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** Pupils can use [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk).

Login: balcarras Password: radius

Further support is available via [www.vle.mathswatch.com](http://www.vle.mathswatch.com)

Login with **username@balcarras** then use your mymaths password with BAL in front to access support from level 1-9 at GCSE.

## MUSIC

**SYLLABUS: WJC 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 will be 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.

## 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.**

### Heads of Houses

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

### Examinations Officer

*Ms Christine Paris-Johnstone*

### Head of Individual Learning

*Mrs C Williams*

***And when it's all over . . .***

***tell your daughter/son to relax and forget about study for a while. Enjoy the summer break!***

**ART****SYLLABUS: AQA****40% exam / 60% coursework**

**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.

Please feel free to take advantage of this extra tuition.

**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 cgp revision guide in the run up to the exam 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 marks scheme to help build key exam skills.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE****SYLLABUS: OCR****100% exam + 20 hour project**

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** The course is split into two components, with two separate exams for each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. The first component covers the theoretical aspects of computer systems, with the second covering computational thinking, algorithms and programming. Both sat at the end of Year 11. Pupils are loaned textbooks for the duration of the course and also have access to the full resources via the VLE. A revision booklet with past paper example questions is given later in the year for mock exam revision. They will be coding in Python, which is a free to download programming language and can extend their skills by using websites such as [www.codacademy.com](http://www.codacademy.com), ready for their Year 11 project.

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

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** Students should log onto the VLE and complete all exercises in the Key Stage 4 section. Activities can also be found on the Activelearn website. All students have been told the login and password in class. Students will also find the following websites helpful: [www.languagesonline.co.uk](http://www.languagesonline.co.uk) - grammar section [www.linguascope.co.uk](http://www.linguascope.co.uk) - intermediate section.

Lastly an AQA GCSE French Revision Workbook, Vocabulary book, and Grammar and Translation book will be available for students to purchase. Letters will be sent home with further details once these resources are available. Please ask your French teacher for a letter. We highly recommend that all pupils buy at least one of these resources from the MFL department.

**GEOGRAPHY****SYLLABUS: AQA GEOGRAPHY****100% exam**

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** There will be a range of textbooks used throughout the year as well as resources to supplement the teaching of the content. Pupils will also be given a specification sheet for each topic to act as a 'tick sheet' for what needs to be known for the exam. Pupils will be given a past paper question booklet for each topic to practice exam skills throughout the course. There will be an opportunity at the start of the course to buy a textbook to supplement pupils notes and help with revision before exams. We would recommend buying the following revision guide to assist with the course - *CPG revision guide New Grade 9-1 GCSE Geography AQA Complete Revision & Practice (with Online Edition)*.

**HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE****SYLLABUS: OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE****25% exam / 75% coursework**

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** In Year 10, work is 100% internally assessed via coursework which is written from research and class notes. Towards the end of Year 10 students start work on the examined unit which they will sit in January of Year 11. Revision guides are available to purchase from school during the summer term.

## DRAMA

**SYLLABUS : CAMBRIDGE IGCSE 60% practical coursework/40% written exam**

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** *Practical assessments* are on-going throughout the course until January of Year 11. There will also be some preparation for the written exam. During Year 10 students develop skills and do assessed pieces, some of which will be counted for final marks alongside a project in autumn of Year 11. Key homework activities will include writing up notes, line-learning and seeing shows. During Year 10 students will present scripted and improvised group performances.

NB: Materials for the written exam are published late autumn/winter of Year 11—when this paper becomes our focus, including a practical project developed solely for the written assessment. Candidates can develop response in their working notebook throughout both years.

## 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 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 will test students on their ability to analyse unseen non-fiction and will also require them to produce a short piece of functional writing. Throughout Years 10 and 11 specific periods will be devoted to preparing for these exam units, but students will also acquire valuable analytical skills through their study of the literature units and these will enhance their ability to explore the unseen texts in the English Language exam. The New GCSE English Language AQA Revision Guide for the 9-1 course is a practical guide to what is required: [https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books\\_gcse\\_english.productSearch.book\\_ENAR41](https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books_gcse_english.productSearch.book_ENAR41)

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

**SYLLABUS: AQA 100% exam**

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** The GCSE English Literature course culminates in two exams: the first of these 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 lasts for 2 hours and 15 minutes and will require students to answer questions on the play *Blood Brothers* and on a range of 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century poetry both seen and unseen. There are CPG revision guides available on the Power & Conflict poems ([www.cpgbooks.co.uk](http://www.cpgbooks.co.uk)) and a wide range of book and internet based revision material on all the other texts. In Y10, students will study *Blood Brothers*, *A Christmas Carol* and the Power & Conflict poetry anthology. Students are advised to wait for their teacher to tell them exactly what texts their individual GCSE group is studying before purchasing any revision materials.

## CREATIVE MEDIA

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

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** The exam is based on the pre-production skills unit. It is a written paper that lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes and is sat at the end of year 10. It is based on the pre-production skills required in industry, which include client briefs, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques. They will be provided with a course booklet as well as a revision booklet with past exam questions.

The other unit covered in Year 10 is creating digital graphics. Pupils learn the theory and skills of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector. They will be using the Adobe suite but are not expected to have this at home. They will have a booklet to complete as part of their coursework and a final 10 hour controlled assessment which involves creating digital graphics for a specific brief.

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: FOOD PREPARATION 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 in Year 11. Students will be given many revision aids and help sheets. The food pages of the VLE will provide numerous support materials, example questions and other useful resources.

## 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: Edexcel 50% exam / 50% coursework**

**ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES:** Please purchase the, 'Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology Student Book'. Published in 2017 from Pearson Education, Mark Wellington (Author), Andrew Dennis (Author), Trish Colley (Author), available on Amazon and also from Waterstones. Past papers are available from Miss Ferguson on request and revision resources will be uploaded to the VLE.

**Coursework / Exam Timetable**

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