



2018-2019 Revision Guide

GCSE: PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

YEAR 11

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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 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 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
Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics
Science.....

Heads of Departments

Mr D Hazael
Mr L Perry
Miss Abi Hinton
Mrs J Swanepoel
Mrs C Saunders
Miss J Ferguson
Mr A Bennett
Mr D Sharkey
Mrs N Lambert-Masters
Mrs J Corinaldi
Mr M Stoker
Mr S Critchley
Mrs J Hockenhull
Mrs H Chong
Mr M Harvey
Miss H Ebanja
Dr S Jones

September 2018

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 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.

W/C 22ND APRIL 2019 (WEEK 1)

DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
BANK HOLIDAY / END OF EASTER HOLIDAYS			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

W/C 29TH APRIL 2019 (WEEK 2)

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

W/C 6TH MAY 2019 (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.

Heads of Houses

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

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 18TH MARCH 2019 (WEEK 2)

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

W/C 25TH MARCH 2019 (WEEK 1)

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

W/C 1ST APRIL 2019 (WEEK 2)

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

EASTER HOLIDAYS 8TH—19TH APRIL 2019

W/C 25TH FEBRUARY 2019 (WEEK 1)

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

W/C 4TH MARCH 2019 (WEEK 2)

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

W/C 11TH MARCH 2019 (WEEK 1)

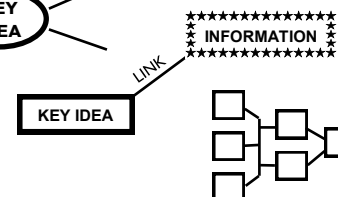
DAY	DATE	LUNCHTIME SESSION	AFTER-SCHOOL SESSION
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

REVISION STRATEGIES

- Brainstorming



- Concept mapping



- Flow diagrams

- Reduce information onto revision cards

KEY-WORD	DEFINITION	KEY-WORD	DEFINITION
FOLD	FOLD	FOLD	

- 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

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 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. 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 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****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/>

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY : FOOD AND NUTRITION**SYLLABUS EDUQAS 50% exam / 50% controlled assessment (2 pieces in Y11)**

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.

W/C 28TH JANUARY 2019 (WEEK 2)

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

W/C 4TH FEBRUARY 2019 (WEEK 1)

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

W/C 11TH FEBRUARY 2019 (WEEK 2)

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

HALF TERM MONDAY 18TH - FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2019

W/C 7TH JANUARY 2019 (WEEK 1)

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

W/C 14TH JANUARY 2019 (WEEK 2)

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

W/C 21 JANUARY 2019 (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 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.

DIGITAL APPLICATIONS

SYLLABUS Edexcel CiDA

75% coursework / 25% exam

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: In Year 11, the focus is on the Developing Web Products examination. Pupils prepare for a 2 hour and 30 minutes exam. They learn how to create a website using Adobe Dreamweaver, enabling them to understand the functions of HTML code and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). They also utilise the skills they acquired during Year 10 to digitally manipulate any required images. Pupils are not expected to purchase this software due to its cost and have the option of using the computer rooms, before school, during lunch or after school, on request so we can ensure staff can be available to help. Homework will be based on theory which can be researched using the Internet. Workbooks may be provided with a breakdown of the topics and criteria so that pupils and staff can ensure they are staying on track and covering all the required components that will likely be in their exam. There are many tutorials on YouTube which can help learn the basics of building a website without needing to use the software. The current specification can be found at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/digital-applications-cida-dida/cida-dida-l2-2014.html>

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 late 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 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

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 19th, 20th and 21st century poetry both seen and unseen. 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.

FRENCH

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 workbooks, students will also find the following websites helpful:

www.languagesonline.co.uk - grammar section
www.linguascope.co.uk - beginners and intermediate sections

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: 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.

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. They will also be issued with a published CGP exam practice workbook full of exam-style questions in Year 11. 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: 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 workbooks, 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

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES Pupils can use www.mymaths.co.uk.

Login: balcarras

Password: radius

Further support is available via 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: 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 Religion, Philosophy and Ethics **100% exam**

2 hours Philosophy and Ethics / 1 hour Christian beliefs and practice

1 hour Buddhist philosophy, beliefs and 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

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' write up following a fieldwork day in Bristol and one 'physical' day after a visit to a river. 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. We also recommend that pupils purchase the revision guide *CPG revision guide New Grade 9-1 GCSE Geography AQA Complete Revision and Practice* to support their revision.

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 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 of Year 10 and the autumn term of Year 11.

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 each topic and students will be 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.

Coursework / Exam Timetable

Coursework / Exam Timetable