



2021-2022 Revision Guide

**GCSE:
PREPARING FOR SUCCESS**

YEAR 10

NAME:

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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 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	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...	Mrs A Kinch
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 Hockenhill
Music.....	Mrs H Chong
Physical Education	Mr M Harvey
Philosophy & Ethics.....	Mrs H Ebanja
Science.....	Mr A Spring Wallis

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.

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://app.senecalearning.com/login>

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

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

<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 - grammar section

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 2021

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
Deputy 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.

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:

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 Abbott.

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/>

HISTORY

SYLLABUS: AQA HISTORY (8145)

100% exam

Paper 1 - Germany 1890-1945/ The Cold War 1945-1972 (studied in Year 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.

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 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 L Young

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**
(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.

BUSINESS STUDIES

SYLLABUS Eduqas **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 **100% exam**

Advice on revision guides: The course is split into two components with two separate exams, 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 exams are 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.w3schools.com

FRENCH

SYLLABUS: AQA **100% exam**

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: An AQA Grammar and Translation workbook and a Vocabulary 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 the Grammar and Translation workbook from the MFL department.

Students should also log onto the VLE and complete the activities in the GCSE French section. Further activities can also be found on the www.pearsonactivelearn.com website. All students have been told their login and password details in class. Students will also find the following websites helpful:

www.languagesonline.co.uk - grammar section

www.linguascope.co.uk - intermediate vocabulary section.

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 range of resources to supplement pupils notes and help with revision before exams.

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 most of the course until the run up to final written exams in Year 11. There will also be some preparation for this written exam in Year 10 as students develop skills and insights during assessed practical pieces. Some Year 10 performances may well be counted for final marks alongside projects in 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 in Year 11 - when this paper increasingly becomes our focus. Candidates can develop their responses 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 (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. 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 CPG website has a full list of revision guides which cover all the different sections of the exams : <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english>

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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 & Conflict anthology poetry and two unseen poems. There are CPG revision guides available on the Power & Conflict poems (<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english>) and a wide range of book and internet based revision material on all the other texts. In Y10, students will study *An Inspector Calls*, A Christmas Carol and the Power & Conflict poetry anthology.

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% NON EXAM ASSESSMENT (TWO PIECES COMPLETED IN YEAR 11)

ADVICE ON REVISION GUIDES: All pupils have a GCSE food textbook, they also have access to a digital textbook 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.

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 will be available to purchase from the design and technology department at the beginning of Year 10. In addition, students will be given a revision pack with past papers and worksheets in Year 11. The D&T Textiles page on the VLE is full of lots of support materials for the NEA and the exam.

Coursework / Exam Timetable

Coursework / Exam Timetable