

Year 11 Examination Preparation

Key Information for Parents and Students

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Year 11 December PPEs

The year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) are scheduled for 24th November to 11th December. These exams are designed to closely replicate the conditions of the final exams next summer and provide an opportunity for our students to experience the process.

To support students in preparing effectively, subject leaders will post guidance on Arbor outlining specific topics to focus on and recommended revision strategies. This preparation is important, as it helps students identify the revision techniques that work best for them and pinpoint areas for improvement ahead of the summer exams.

Students must bring their own equipment to each exam in a **clear pencil case**. Whilst we have a supply of stationery to lend if necessary, the expectation is that students arrive **fully prepared** for every exam. It is important that students develop and maintain good habits by using equipment they are familiar with. They must bring the following items:

- A black pen (we recommend bringing a spare or two)
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A protractor
- A pair of compasses
- A scientific calculator

Students may take a clear water bottle into the exam hall, but it must be **label-free** with no writing or volume marks visible. Bottles that do not meet these requirements will not be permitted.

During the PPE weeks, the school schedule will be adjusted slightly, particularly with regard to the lunch break. The lunchtime period will be **shortened** to accommodate exam administration and ensure an orderly process. Afternoon exams will begin at **1:30 p.m.**, allowing ample time for students to complete their exams without rushing. While the lunch break will be shorter, we will ensure that students have sufficient time to eat and rest.

To help with this adjustment, we suggest that students consider packing a **nutritious, easy-to-eat lunch**, or buying food during the morning break to enjoy at the start of lunchtime. Students entitled to free school meals can collect their food at break time as well.

We thank you for your understanding and continued support during this period as we guide students through these crucial Pre-Public Examinations.

Make us your Post-16 Plan

THE
SIXTH
FORM
at Northampton School for Girls

What do we offer you?

Subjects that open doors – a wide range of courses designed to take you wherever you want to go next.

A Professional Futures Programme that sets you apart – because post-18 success needs more than grades, our Professional Futures Programme gives you the experiences, skills and confidence that universities and employers look for in an area that *you* are interested in

Real leadership opportunities – shape the school, make a difference, and be part of something bigger.

A Sixth Form that inspires – you become the role models of the school, setting the standard and leading the way.

Expert guidance for your future – UCAS, apprenticeships, careers support and a track record of outstanding destinations. Nearly 80% of students receive offers from their first-choice university, with many progressing to the UK's top institutions.

Specialist pathways – dedicated Oxbridge, Medical Futures and Legal pathway groups for students aiming for the highest-level courses and careers.

A team that knows you – experienced Sixth Form staff who support, challenge and champion you throughout your journey.

A community where you belong – a close-knit Sixth Form where students know each other, get involved, compete, celebrate and make memories together, at the heart of the wider school community.

Your own Sixth Form Centre – a focused, purposeful space designed for the way you study and learn best.

Support that adapts to you – whether you fly from day one or hit bumps along the way, we're with you at every step to help you achieve your best.



Use the QR code to find out more information on the Sixth Form and our courses



THE
SIXTH
FORM
at Northampton School for Girls

Our Vision

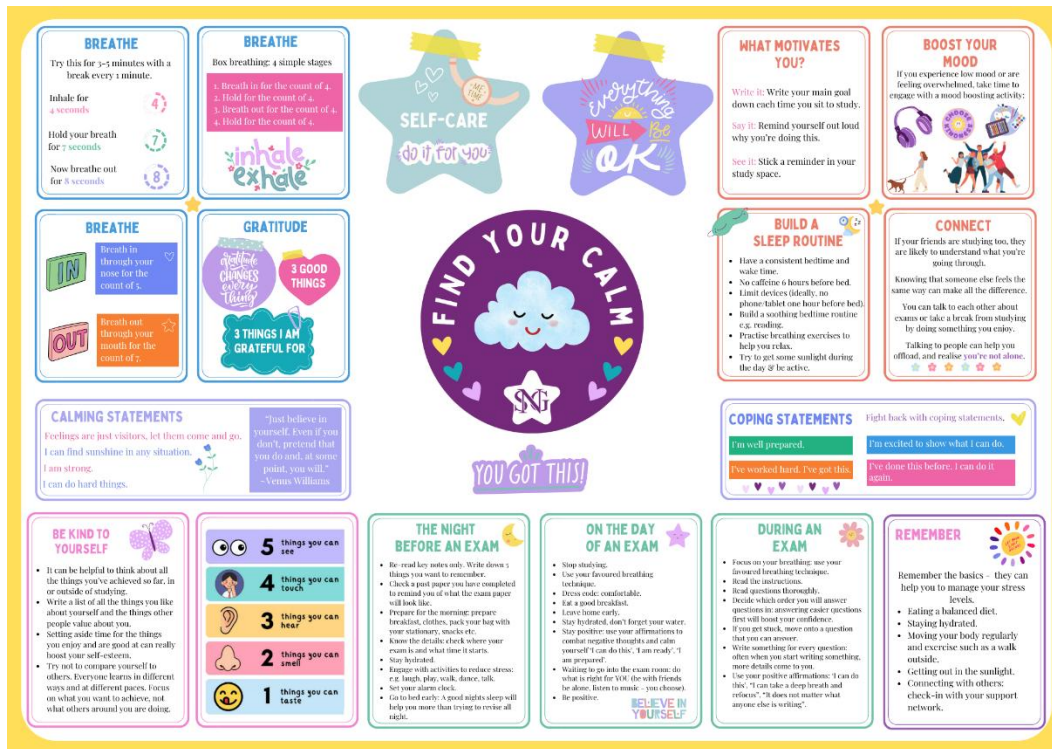
Our Sixth Form students **INSPIRE**: taking ownership of their futures, challenging themselves, and shaping the world around them.

I	Independent TAKE OWNERSHIP
N	Next Steps PLAN YOUR FUTURE
S	Scholarly SEEK EXCELLENCE
P	Passionate PURSUE WHAT INSPIRES YOU
I	Integrity DO WHAT IS RIGHT
R	Resilient OVERCOME CHALLENGES
E	Empowered MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Wellbeing

There are lots of great tips about managing exam stress on the "PSHE & Wellbeing Hub":

<https://sites.google.com/nsg.northants.sch.uk/nsgpshehub/information-advice/how-to-deal-with-exam-stress?authuser=0>



Students can attend the Wellbeing Café on Wednesday lunchtimes in the Theatre Foyer.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IN SCHOOL (MHST)

MHST can support with:

- Anxiety and worries
- Low mood
- Sleep difficulties
- Exam stress
- Building coping strategies



nhft.nhs.uk/children

As part of our partnership with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST), we are able to offer additional support for students experiencing difficulties with their mental health and wellbeing.

Students can be referred to MHST for additional support, including 1:1 or small group CBT-based sessions. Speak to your child's **Head of Academic Standards** or **Pastoral Officer** to find out more.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
#wearNHFT

Northamptonshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Art

Exam board: AQA

Course components: Portfolio 60% (completed by January). Externally Set Assignment 40% (January to April, culminating in a 10hour practical examination run over two days).

Assessment Criteria:

AO1- developing ideas through investigations and analysis of artists, cultures and contexts.

AO2- exploring media and techniques to refine ideas.

AO3- recording ideas through observation, drawing, photos and annotations.

AO4- presenting a personal and meaningful final response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Revision tips

- Keep up to date with research- complete work regularly outside of lessons.
- Make good use of *every* lesson- be prepared with a plan, resources and ideas.
- Use the afterschool sessions when possible.
- Ask for help and guidance if necessary- teachers are *always* willing to help!
- Always show skill- do not rush through a 'to do' list.
- Make sure all the assessment criteria are covered- use the checklist.
- Use feedback to help drive ideas and quality.
- Meet all submission deadlines in order to receive timely feedback.

Recommended resources or websites

<https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/south-kensington>

<https://www.theartstory.org/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjymp9q>

Biology, Chemistry and Physics – Triple Science

Exam board: AQA

This qualification is worth three separate GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Exam papers: 6 papers of length 1hr 45 (2x Biology, 2x Chemistry, 2x Physics)

Revision tips

- Complete past papers and use the mark schemes to self-assess. Ask your class teacher to look at the papers if there is anything that you are unsure of. This will help to improve your exam technique and develop your ability to apply knowledge to exam questions. As you get closer to the exam, complete them closed book and timed to replicate exam conditions. Make a "fix it" list of questions that you got wrong so you can focus your revision
- As well as applying your knowledge, you need to be able to recall facts. There is a lot of content to memorise in science, so use the course specification and a revision guide or resources like BBC Bitesize to review the content. Make condensed notes or flash cards and use them to test yourself. The important thing is not to spend lots of time producing notes or flash cards, it's how you use them to test your knowledge that is important.
- Watch revision videos. It is important that you don't sit passively whilst you do this. Pause the video and write down what you remember. Test yourself on the content afterwards.

Recommended resources or websites

AQA Specification: Biology (<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/gcse/biology-8461>), Chemistry (<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/gcse/chemistry-8462>) and Physics (<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physics/gcse/physics-8463>)

GCSE AQA Biology, Chemistry and Physics Revision Guides

BBC Bitesize: Triple Biology (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpgcbk7>), Triple Chemistry (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb>) and Triple Physics (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm>)

Freesciencelessons - Revision videos: <https://www.youtube.com/freesciencelessons>

Required practical videos: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MalmesburyEducation>

Century - Online platform using AI for personalise learning: <https://app.century.tech/login/>

Kerboodle online GCSE textbook: <https://www.kerboodle.com/app>

GCSE Science Paper Vault Googleclassroom (Class code: cdez5pj)

Practice past exam questions (physics and maths tutor): physicsandmathstutor.com

Practice past exam questions (studymind): <https://studymind.co.uk/resources/>

Combined Science

Exam board: AQA

This qualification is worth two GCSE and will be awarded as a double grade e.g. 5-4.

Exam papers: 6 papers of length 1hr 15

Biology paper 1 and 2, Chemistry paper 1 and 2, Physics paper 1 and 2

Revision tips

- Complete past papers and use the mark schemes to self-assess. Ask your class teacher to look at the papers if there is anything that you are unsure of. This will help to improve your exam technique and develop your ability to apply knowledge to exam questions. As you get closer to the exam, make sure that you are completing them closed book and timed so that you are replicating exam conditions. Make a "fix it" list of questions that you got wrong and focus your revision on those areas.
- As well as applying your knowledge, you need to be able to recall facts. There is a lot of content to memorise in science, so use the course specification and a revision guide or resources like BBC Bitesize to review the content. Make condensed notes or flash cards and use them to test yourself. The important thing is not to spend lots of time producing notes or flash cards, it's how you use them to test your knowledge that is important.
- Watch revision videos. It is important that you don't sit passively whilst you do this. Pause the video and write down what you remember. Test yourself on the content afterwards.

Recommended resources or websites

Exam board specification for AQA Combined Science: [GCSE Science 8464 | Specification | Specification At A Glance | AQA](#)

GCSE AQA Combined Science Revision Guides

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h>

Freesciencelessons - Revision videos: <https://www.youtube.com/freesciencelessons>

Required practical videos: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MalmesburyEducation>

Century - Online platform using AI for personalise learning: <https://app.century.tech/login/>

Kerboodle online GCSE textbook: <https://www.kerboodle.com/app>

GCSE Science Paper Vault Googleclassroom (Class code: cdez5pj)

Practice past exam questions (physics and maths tutor): physicsandmathstutor.com

Practice past exam questions (studymind): <https://studymind.co.uk/resources/>

Computer Science

Exam board: OCR

Exam papers:

Paper 1: Computer Systems (1hr 30m, 50%)

Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming (1hr 30m, 50%)

Revision tips

- Use OCR Revision checklist to identify topics that you are less confident on.
- Revise those topics by reviewing your notes, Paul Long textbook, Craig'n'Dave videos, Isaac CS, and Ada.
- Make condensed notes or flashcards, mind maps or any other method that works for you.
- Test your knowledge by using SmartRevise and check the analytics to identify areas you have mastered and those that need more focus.
- Use the past exam questions, that have been organized by topic, to test your ability to apply your knowledge.
- Practice algorithms in pseudocode.
- Complete coding challenges on edabit.
- Attend after-school revision sessions for topics you find challenging.
- Regularly review your checklist, so you are focusing your time on the right topics.

Recommended resources or websites

All resources can be found in the Teams module linked [here](#)

OCR Spec: <https://ocr.org.uk/gcsecomputerscience>

Craig'n'Dave: <https://www.youtube.com/craigndave> in specification order [link](#)

Isaac CS: <https://isaacomputerscience.org>

Ada: <https://adacomputerscience.org>

SmartRevise: <https://smartrevise.online>

edabit: <https://edabit.com/challenges>

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zmtchbk>

Dance

Exam board: Edexcel Pearson - BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Performing Arts (Dance)

Exam papers: There are no exam papers in this course. Instead, in Component 3, we complete three final write-ups under controlled conditions in a computer room and students will also take part in a practical performance.

Revision tips

Revision Tips for BTEC Tech Dance (Component 3)

- **Know the key terminology** - Make sure you understand and can use dance keywords (e.g. choreography, rehearsal process, performance skills, strengths and ways to improve). Using correct terminology helps you access the higher marks.
- **Practise written answers** - Since the final write-ups are done under controlled conditions, practise answering questions on a computer within a time limit. This will help you feel more confident and organised on the day. Remember...you can take in your notes to help you.
- **Use the Google classroom** - Look back at examples of strong answers on the Google classroom. This helps you understand what examiners are looking for.

Recommended resources or websites

Google classroom, class notes and power points: These are the most important resources, as they are directly linked to the course content.

Pearson BTEC resources: Use official Pearson BTEC Tech Award revision guides, student books, and sample assessment materials if available.

BBC Bitesize – Dance: Helpful for understanding performance skills, choreographic ideas, and general dance knowledge.

Teacher support: Ask your teacher for support

Drama

Exam board: AQA

Exam papers: 1 paper of length 1 hr 45 mins

Component 1 - Understanding Drama

Revision tips

Set Text: *Around the World in 80 Days* - Make notes/flashcards on the following points:

1. Know the Story - Revise the **full journey** around the world and the **order of events**. Re-read the play.

- Know the **key characters**:
- Phileas Fogg, Passepartout, Mrs Aouda, Detective Fix, Mr Naidu
- Understand how characters **change** during the play.
- And know who all the minor characters are.

2. Design & Technical Elements- Use **drama vocabulary** and explain **why** your choices help tell the story for each element:

Set – levels, entrances, fast scene changes, **Lighting** – location, mood, time of day,
Sound – travel, atmosphere, transitions, **Costume** – multi-roling, status, quick changes, **Props** – practical and symbolic use

3. Style of the Play - Understand these and make sure your notes show understanding of **movement, energy/space**, and **clear storytelling for the audience**.

Physical theatre, Ensemble work, Multi-roling, Direct address. Comedy and exaggeration. Fast-paced transitions.

4. Exam Writing Tips for longer questions - Theatre Review and 12, 20 Marker

- Do lots of practice answers using **Point – Evidence - Analysis - Link**. Be **specific**.
- Revise the structures and try them out on all the example questions.
- Embolden your **drama terminology** in your practice answers.

Recommended resources or websites

BBC Bitesize – AQA GCSE Drama <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

AQA GCSE Drama Specification <https://www.aqa.org.uk>

Digital Theatre+ / Drama Online (*school access*)

YouTube (teacher-approved content)

Search: *AQA GCSE Drama written exam* or *Around the World in 80 Days GCSE Drama*

Design and Technology - Textiles / Paper & Board

Exam board: Edexcel

50% of grade gained from Non Exam Assessment (NEA), **50%** of grade gained from written exam.

Non Exam Assessment deadline: Friday 13th February 2026

Exam papers: 1 written exam paper of length 1hr 45

Textiles paper reference 1DT0/ 1E

Paper and Board paper reference 1DT0/ 1B

Revision tips

- Practice past papers that will be placed onto the google classroom. This will help to become familiar with the styles of questions that are included.
- Remember Maths revision will help with DT as the written paper contains Maths questions based on DT scenarios. Familiarise yourself with the types of Maths questions that tend to be included.
- Ensure you know the key property terms for each material that will be questioned within the CORE content section of the paper e.g. ductility, durability etc
- Take notice of materials around the house that are used for different items with different purposes. Use these to help you revise material properties in a way that links them to a specific use. Questions about materials in the written paper will link to real life objects.

Recommended resources or websites

Revision guide

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-Pearson-Technology/dp/1510480501>

Google classroom

There are many helpful resources placed onto our google classroom.

BBC bitesize - select Edexcel exam board

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zb6h92p>

English Language

Exam board: AQA

Exam papers:

Language Paper 1- Explorations in creative reading and writing

Language Paper 2 - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Duration of both papers - 1 hr 45 mins

Revision tips

- Complete practice papers under timed conditions
- Know the structure of the exam and what each question is assessing
- Create detailed plans of your responses as a revision task
- Learn key language and structural features you may encounter in an extract
- Read a range of high quality fiction and non-fiction and consider how the writer has used language and/or structure to engage the reader
- Revise spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Practise creating similes, metaphors and personification that you could use in a piece of descriptive writing
- Practise using persuasive techniques such as rhetorical questions, emotive language and tricolons
- Refer to model answers provided by your teacher

Recommended resources or websites

BBC Bitesize

Seneca Learning

Century Tech

The AQA website for official past papers and mark schemes

Mr Bruff on YouTube

English Literature

Exam board: OCR

Exam papers:

Literature Paper 1- Exploring Modern and Literary Heritage Texts

Literature Paper 2 - Exploring Poetry and Shakespeare

Duration of both papers - 2 hrs

Revision tips

- Complete practice papers under timed conditions
- Know the structure of the exam and what each question is assessing
- Create detailed plans of your responses as a revision task
- Use flashcards, mind maps or posters to learn quotations
- Learn the key language and structural features within the quotations you choose to learn
- Practise using the quotations you are learning to answer past questions
- Refer to model answers provided by your teacher
- Make mindmaps of the key themes of each text
- Watch a performance of Macbeth to make sure you are confident with the characters and the plot
- Research the context of Macbeth and A Christmas Carol. Create information sheets and practise applying context to your analysis.

Recommended resources or websites

BBC Bitesize

Seneca Learning

Century Tech

The OCR website for official past papers and mark schemes

Mr Bruff on YouTube

Ethics and Philosophy

Exam board: AQA

Exam papers: AQA Religious Studies A

Two papers

Paper 1 - Religion (Christianity and Buddhism)

Paper 2 - Ethics (Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Religion, crime and punishment and Religion, human rights and social justice)

Revision tips

- Past papers - Working in timed conditions is often the best practice for EP. We work at a rate of a mark a minute. If practising a six mark question allow six minutes etc.
- Discussion - Debate EP topics at the dinner table, on the bus, argue with yourself.
- Revision poster for each topic - remember how useful pictures can be.
- Teachings - you must know topic specific teachings, you could use flash cards, leave them around your house etc.

Recommended resources or websites

AQA revision guide Religious Studies A (9-1) Christianity and Buddhism. ISBN 978-0-19-842285-3 This book will be provided to all students after February half term.

YouTube

Mr Finlayson - has a whole series of revision videos based on our course.

Ben Wardle - also has a series of revision videos. More detailed but longer!

BBC Bitesize - be careful that you revise the correct sections e.g. Christian Beliefs, Christian Practices, Buddhist Beliefs, Buddhist Practices, Relationships and Families, Religion and Crime, Religion and Social Justice and Religion and Life

Past papers can be found here. <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/rs-religious-studies/past-papers/aqa-gcse-rs-past-papers>

Film Studies

Exam board: Eduqas

Exam papers:

Component 1- Key Developments in US Film

Component 2 - Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style

Component 3 - Non-exam assessment (coursework)

Duration of both exam papers - 1 hr 30 mins

Revision tips

- Complete practice papers under timed conditions
- Know the structure of the exam and what each question is assessing - remember that the two papers are different!
- Create detailed plans of your responses as a revision task
- Learn your film terminology - you should be able to identify all areas of film form!
- Refer to model answers provided by your teacher
- Ensure that you have access to the set films to rewatch them in preparation for the exam. You need to be confident in your knowledge of what happens!
- Use key sequence booklets provided by your teacher and revise the notes you have made. Add to them if you have missed any lessons.

Recommended resources or websites

Search for "Farrand on Film" on YouTube. These videos are helpful in breaking down the exam papers.

Search for "EDUQAS Film Studies GCSE Factsheets" on the EDUQAS website for clear, concise information on each film.

Search for "Paper 1 GCSE Film Question Bank" and "Paper 2 GCSE Film Question Bank" on your Google Drive (make sure you're logged into your school account!) to find all of the past questions in one place.

Search for "Studio Binder" for coursework and screenplay writing support.

Access your Google Classroom to see all of the resources that your teacher has uploaded over the past two years.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Exam board: AQA

Exam paper: 1hr 45

Topics: Food Science, Food Safety, Food Choice, Food Provenance (where food comes from)

The exam is divided into **two** sections, which are:

Section A (20 marks): Consists of 20 multiple choice questions

Section B (80 marks): Consists of 5 questions, both short and long answer, covering the topics above.

Revision tips

- **Complete past papers** and use the mark schemes to self-assess. Ask your class teacher to look at the papers if there is anything that you are unsure of. This will help to improve your exam technique and develop your ability to apply knowledge to exam questions. As you get closer to the exam, make sure that you are completing them closed book and timed so that you are replicating exam conditions.
- **Mind Maps** – Ideal for linking ideas, e.g. Nutrients → Functions → sources → health effects.
- **Revise through real-life examples** – Food & Nutrition is practical and applied, e.g. Link nutrients to real meals, e.g. lifestages; food allergies or intolerances.
- **Use current issues** (e.g. sustainability, ultra-processed foods)
- **Make condensed notes or flash cards** and use them to test yourself. The important thing here is not to spend lots of time producing notes or flash cards, it's how you use them to test your knowledge that is important.
- **Watch revision videos.** It is important that you don't sit passively whilst you do this. Pause the video and write down what you remember. Test yourself on the content afterwards.

Recommended resources or websites

Exam board specification for AQA Food Preparation & Nutrition:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food-preparation-and-nutrition/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585/assessment-resources>

Online Textbook (used in school): <https://illuminate.digital/aqafood/>

BBC Bitesize for Food AQA: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3fpv4j/revision/2>

Food knowledge and skills: <https://www.savemyexams.com/gcse/food-and-nutrition/aqa/food-preparation-and-nutrition/16/revision-notes/>

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition AQA Revision Guide, workbook, question cards (bundle)

French

Exam board: AQA – Tiered

Exam papers: 4 skill-based papers per Tier of varying length

Listening - 25% of GCSE - 40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier)

Speaking - 25% of GCSE - 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time

10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time

Reading - 25% of GCSE - 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier)

Writing - 25% of GCSE - 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier)

Revision tips

- Revise vocabulary every week and create a bank of idioms/authentic expressions to elevate your speaking and writing skills.
- Create a grammar book in which you will list the areas you feel less confident then quiz yourself online: it is very easy to find various tests online (BBC Bitesize for example). Practice makes perfect!
- Print a copy of the syllabus and as you go through each topic, create revision cards/mind maps. You need to break things down into ordered targeted small sections.
- Check, study and complete past papers to improve your work. Get accustomed to the type of questions and language in the exam. Use and become familiar with AQA mark schemes.
- Read the examiners' report for all skills. The exam boards make public a document written by examiners in which they state what they like to read and give examples of what not to do.
- Get as much "contact time" with the language as you can. You can watch language films, Netflix, videos on YouTube, listen to podcasts or Spotify. Also, you can switch your favourite English TV shows into French or Spanish audio or with/out subtitles.
- Speaking practice with your friends or family: agree you will only speak the language of study together at lunch every day. Even 15 minutes a day, that's over an hour of extra practice.
- Watch the news, social media and take note of events in the countries where the language of study is spoken. Set up Google alerts for key news articles straight to you Gmail account. Stay in touch with what is happening in the Francophone and Hispanic world.

Recommended resources or websites

AQA specification <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-8652>

Memrise account - <https://www.memrise.com>

<https://www.frenchverbpractice.com>

www.languagesonline.org.uk

<https://quizlet.com>

<https://www.languageut.com>

<https://conjuguemos.com/>

BBC Bitesize for AQA French <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z9dqxb>

Century - Uses AI to personalise learning to your needs <https://app.century.tech/login/>

Geography

Exam board: AQA

Exam papers: 3 papers

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment. *1 hour 30 minutes – 35% of GCSE*

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. *1 hour 30 minutes – 35% of GCSE*

Paper 3: Geographical Applications. *1 hour 30 minutes – 30% of GCSE*
(Includes fieldwork and an unfamiliar resource booklet)

Revision tips

- Complete past papers regularly and use the mark schemes to self-assess. In Geography, marks are gained by applying knowledge to unfamiliar questions, not simply memorising content. Ask your class teacher to review answers you are unsure about to improve exam technique, particularly for extended responses (6–9 marks). As exams approach, complete questions closed-book and timed to build confidence and accuracy.
- Students should make full use of the Geography course guide, which includes personalised learning checklists to help identify strengths and gaps, as well as practice questions for all three exam papers. These checklists are most effective when revisited regularly rather than used once. On Google Classroom, students will find a dedicated revision topic containing links to multiple revision guides, exam-style questions and model answers to learn from. There is also a practice question topic with ready-made questions covering all papers, topics and command words, allowing students to practise little and often.
- Case study knowledge is essential. Students should revise named examples, locations and key statistics, using concise notes, flash cards or mind maps to support recall. Watching revision videos, particularly those created by NSG teachers, should be active: pause, recall information, and test understanding rather than watching passively.

Recommended resources or websites

AQA GCSE Geography specification ([Full course content and exam requirements](#))

BBC Bitesize - [AQA GCSE Geography](#)

Seneca Learning - [Interactive, exam-board-specific revision](#)

Physics & Maths Tutor (PMT) - [Past exam papers, mark schemes, wider reading articles and revision resources](#)

NSG Geography Google Classroom

Health and Social Care

Exam board: OCR Cambridge National in Health and Social Care Level 1/2

Exam papers: R032: Principles of Working Practice (70 marks, 1 hour 15 minutes)

Revision tips

- It is important that you are able to define key terms and subject specific terminology for each topic: rights, values, communication and safety.
- Remember specific examples of how these principles are upheld in health and social care settings.
- Use past papers to practice questions, including 6 and 8 mark answers.

Recommended resources or websites

Specification and past papers:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835/assessment/>

Revision lessons on Youtube- JustLearnIt

<https://www.youtube.com/@justlearnit6>

Recommended revision guides:

My Revision Notes: Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Health & Social Care: Second Edition- Judith Adams

<https://www.hachettelearning.com/health-and-social-care/my-revision-notes-level-1-level-2-cambridge-national-in-health-social-care-second-edition>

Cambridge National Level 1/ Level 2 Health and Social Care Revision Guide and Workbook- Rebecca Baker

<https://www.cambridgebookshop.co.uk/products/sale-cambridge-national-health-and-social-care-revision-guide>

History

Exam board: Edexcel

Exam papers: 3 papers

Paper 1 – 1 hour 20 minutes - 11: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Paper 2 – 1 hour 50 minutes - B4: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 AND P3: The American West, c1835–c1895

Paper 3 – 1 hour 30 minutes - 33: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad.

Revision tips

- Revise in a way that's related to how you'll be assessed. Using exam questions as prompts and linking your revision to exam questions is helpful. For example: for the American West, questions focus on consequences, importance and narrative accounts. Use the specification to check what you need to know and then revise by thinking about how you'd answer those questions. For Medicine, questions are often about the reasons for, or extent of, change and continuity, so use exam questions to explain why there was change in a particular time period, or how much change there was within or between periods. For both the Early Elizabethan England and Medicine on the Western Front units there are short 'describe one feature' questions – practise these for everything on the specification. For the 16 mark questions for Medicine and Elizabethan England, practise reaching judgements using clear criteria and supporting them with detailed evidence.
- Use the specification to identify strengths and areas for development. If you categorise each aspect of each topic as Red/Amber/Green depending on your area of confidence, you can start by trying to turn the 'Red' aspects to 'Amber', then the 'Amber' to 'Green'. You can do this using your work from lessons, the revision guides, watching videos or using Seneca. You can make flashcards, mindmaps, revision notes or timelines to help with this.

Recommended resources or websites

Pearson Revise Online - <https://reviseonline.pearson.com/school/nsgnorthants> - you can 'Log in with Google' using your school account details. Online copies of the exam board revision guides available her.

Seneca Learning - <https://senecalearning.com/> Online courses for all of the exam units as lots of quizzes and activities. Excellent for independent revision and if you have missed content.

Edexcel GCSE History specification -

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-history-specification.pdf> Use this to check what you need to know.

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zw4bv4j> Podcasts, videos and other useful materials.

Mr O'Toole History revision - <https://www.youtube.com/@gerardotoolegcsehistoryrev16> These revision videos, focused on the Edexcel GCSE History course, have been found useful by many students in previous years.

iMedia

Exam board: OCR (J834)

Exam papers:

R093 Creative iMedia in the media industry (1hr 15m) – 40%

NEA units make up the remaining 60% of the course

Revision tips

- Use the provided Revision checklist to identify topics that you are less confident with.
- Revise those topics by reviewing your notes, the topic PowerPoints and YouTube videos.
- Make condensed notes or flashcards, mind maps or any other method that works for you.
- Test your knowledge by using the eRevision resources and check the tracking map to identify areas you have mastered and those that need more focus.
- Use the past exam questions, that have been organized by topic, to test your ability to apply your knowledge.
- For each pre-production document, make sure that you know:
 - What it is used for
 - What elements you would expect to find on one
 - Who is the target audience
- Regularly review your checklist, so you are focusing your time on the right topics.

Recommended resources or websites

All resources can be found on the Google classroom

OCR Spec: Creative iMedia (J834) [link](#)

eRevision activities at erevision.uk

YouTube: Creative iMedia R093 exam revision by @Teaching group

YouTube: Creative iMedia in the Media Industry by KnowItAllNinja

Past exam papers, organized by topic. On Google classroom

Book: PGOOnline Clear Revise OCR Creative iMedia (J834) ISBN: 978-1-910523-27-8

Mathematics

Exam board: Edexcel

Exam papers: 3 papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes.

All papers assess content from across the full GCSE specification.

Paper 1: Non-calculator, Paper 2 & 3: Calculator

Revision tips

One of the most effective ways to revise maths is by completing past exam papers. Use the Edexcel mark schemes to self-assess your work and identify where marks are gained or lost. If you are unsure why you lost marks, ask your class teacher to go through the question with you. Make sure that you practice showing clear, logical working even if you can do parts mentally and the answer seems obvious. GCSE maths rewards both **accurate methods** and **clear communication**. Make sure that you use correct mathematical notation and answer questions in the context given (especially worded and problem-solving questions). Practise common exam command words such as *show that*, *calculate*, *estimate* and *explain* so you know exactly what is being asked.

- Rather than just rereading notes, use active revision methods that make you think. Watch revision videos. It is important that you don't sit passively whilst you do this. Pause the video and have a go at the questions taking time to write down what you remember.
- Use your QLA sheets from PPEs to create a list of topics or question types you struggle with and prioritize these in your revision.

Recommended resources or websites

Edexcel GCSE Mathematics specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

Corbett Maths – videos, practice questions and 5-a-day: <https://corbettmaths.com/>

Maths Genie – exam questions by grade and topic: <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/>

Dr Frost Maths – full course content, videos, online tasks and self-marking exam papers: <https://www.drfrost.org/login>

Use these platforms regularly to practice skills, revisit misconceptions and receive feedback.

Music

Exam board: EDUQAS

Exam papers: 1 paper - 1 hour 15 mins (approx)

Revision tips

- Complete past papers and use the mark schemes to self-assess. Ask your class teacher to look at the papers if there is anything that you are unsure of. This will help to improve your exam technique and develop your ability to apply knowledge to exam questions.
- Learn the Areas of Study : You must be confident with Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music, Popular Music
- For each area, revise:
 - Typical instruments
 - Common structures (e.g. ternary, rondo, strophic)
 - Stylistic features (e.g. ostinato, riffs, leitmotifs, walking bass)
 - Use accurate musical vocabulary. Practice describing music by referring to the elements of music (Melody, Harmony, Rhythm & Tempo, Texture, Structure, Timbre / Sonority & Dynamics).
- Practice the extended question, always:
 - Refer directly to the set work
 - Use specific musical examples
 - Include accurate terminology
- Structure tip: Make a clear point, Support it with musical detail, Link it back to the question.

Recommended resources or websites

Bitesize : <https://bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Past Papers : <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/music-gcse-revision/music-gcse-past-papers/eduqas-gcse-music-past-papers>

Music GCSE Revision Content : <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/music-gcse-revision>

GCSE Music Revision Tools (Includes revision notes, flashcards, mock exams, past papers and selfassessment tools suited to GCSE Music).

<https://www.savemyexams.com/gcse/music/>

Knowt – Eduqas GCSE Music Flashcards : <https://knowt.com/exams/GCSE/view/GCSE-Music/Eduqas-flashcards>

Study Mind – GCSE Music Revision Notes

Notes on theory, terminology and musical concepts to help brush up on basics.

<https://studymind.co.uk/revision-notes/gcse-music/>

Teoria – Music Theory Practice (Great for practicing basic **music theory** skills like clefs, rhythm, melodic dictation and more) : <https://www.teoria.com>

YouTube – Eduqas GCSE Music Videos - <https://youtube.com> and search for EDUQAS GCSE music.

Spanish

Exam board: AQA – Tiered

Exam papers: 4 skill-based papers per Tier of varying length

Listening - 25% of GCSE - 40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier)

Speaking - 25% of GCSE - 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time

10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time

Reading - 25% of GCSE - 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier)

Writing - 25% of GCSE - 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier)

Revision tips

- Revise vocabulary every week and create a bank of idioms/authentic expressions to elevate your speaking and writing skills.
- Create a grammar book in which you will list the areas you feel less confident then quiz yourself online: it is very easy to find various tests online (BBC Bitesize for example). Practice makes perfect!
- Print a copy of the syllabus and as you go through each topic, create revision cards/mind maps. You need to break things down into ordered targeted small sections.
- Check, study and complete past papers to improve your work. Get accustomed to the type of questions and language in the exam. Use and become familiar with AQA mark schemes.
- Read the examiners' report for all skills. The exam boards make public a document written by examiners in which they state what they like to read and give examples of what not to do.
- Get as much "contact time" with the language as you can. You can watch language films, Netflix, videos on YouTube, listen to podcasts or Spotify. Also, you can switch your favourite English TV shows into Spanish audio or with/out subtitles.
- Speaking practice with your friends or family: agree you will only speak the language of study together at lunch every day. Even 15 minutes a day, that's over an hour of extra practice.
- Watch the news, social media and take note of events in the countries where the language of study is spoken. Set up Google alerts for news articles straight to you Gmail account. Stay in touch with what is happening in the Francophone and Hispanic world.

Recommended resources or websites

AQA specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/spanish/gcse/spanish-8692>

Memrise account - <https://www.memrise.com>

www.languagesonline.org.uk

<https://quizlet.com>

<https://www.languagegenut.com>

<https://conjuguemos.com/>

BBC Bitesize for AQA Spanish - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgpg2p>

Century - Uses AI to personalise learning to your needs <https://app.century.tech/login/>

Sport

Exam board: Pearson

Internally Assessed Controlled Assessment:

Component 2 - Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

Exam papers:

Component 3 - Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (1 hour 30 mins)

Revision tips

Component 2 focuses on the components of fitness and how they are used in different types of sport; practical participation in sport and the rules and regulations in sport and ways to improve other participants' sporting performance through planning and delivery of sports drills and conditioned practices. A non-exam internal assessment is delivered through Pearson-set Assignments. These assignments are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 4 hours of supervised assessment. It is out of 60 marks

Component 3 includes a mixture of:

Multiple Choice questions (recall and definitions)

Short-answer questions (recall and definitions)

Application questions (using knowledge in a scenario)

Longer extended-writing questions (explaining, justifying, analysing)

Focus your revision on the main theory sections:

A. Principles of Training - Create flashcards with each principle + an example for a specific sport.

B. Components of Fitness - Practice writing **sport-specific examples**, e.g. *"A gymnast needs balance to maintain control during a beam routine."*

C. Training Methods - Know what each training method involves, what it develops, and an example: Draw a table: *method – description – fitness component – sport example*.

D. Fitness Testing - Know: What the test measures / Protocol / Equipment / Advantages / Limitations. Test yourself by matching the test to the fitness component.

E. Short-Term vs Long-Term Training Effects - Be able to explain changes to: Heart rate / Stroke volume / Muscle strength / Recovery / Flexibility / Body composition

Recommended resources or websites

The official specification / course materials page for BTEC Tech Award Sport. - [Specification - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport 2022 Issue 4](#)

REVISE BTEC Tech Award Sport, Activity and Fitness Revision Guide (from the official publisher) - [Sport \(2022\) | BTEC Tech Award | Pearson qualifications](#)

The EverLearner – [Home :: The EverLearner](#)

Study Rocket – [Free Level 2 Sport BTEC Revision Content — Study Rocket](#)

PE Tutor – [PE TUTOR](#)

You Tube Videos - [BTEC SPORT Component 3](#) / [BTECTechAwardSport - YouTube](#) / [BTEC Tech Award 2022 Component 3 - YouTube](#)

