

# Year 11

# GCSE Handbook

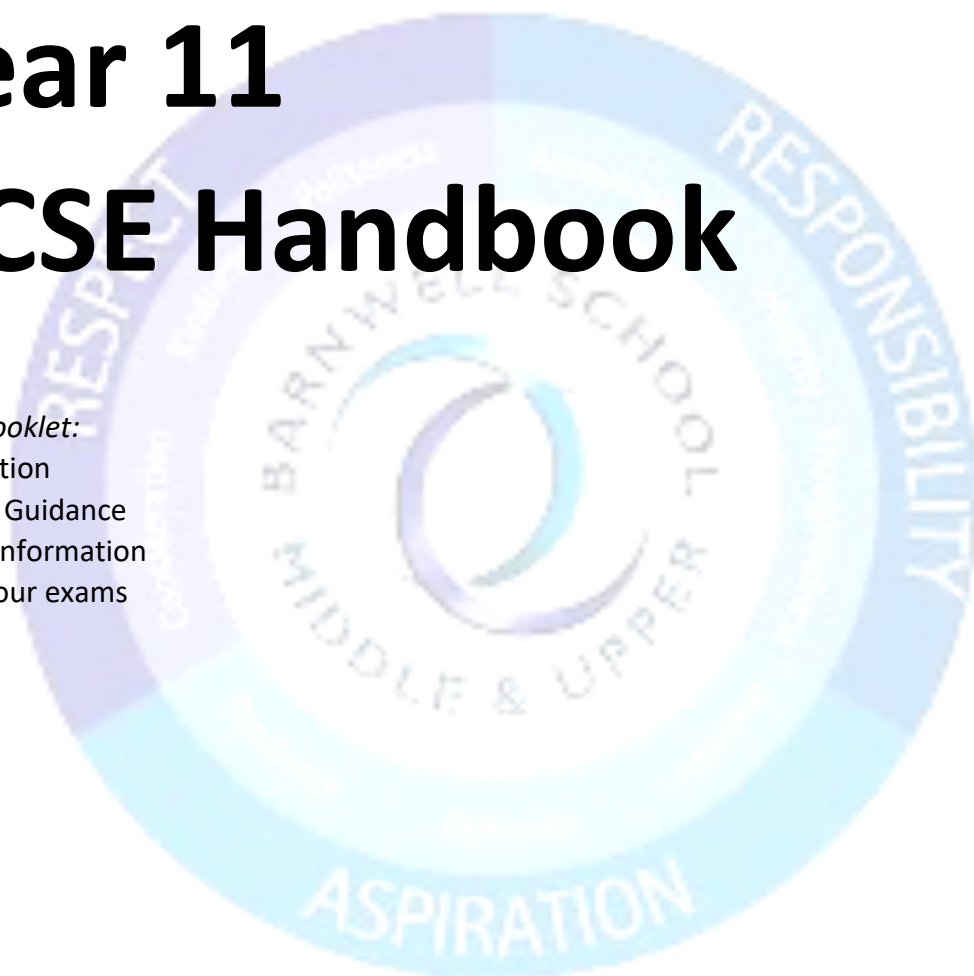
*In this booklet:*

Introduction

Revision Guidance

Subject Information

Sitting your exams



## Introduction

Dear Parent/Carers,

The aim of this booklet is to offer subject specific guidance to support students and parents as we move closer towards your child's external examinations.

As a parent, we would ask that you continue to support your child with encouragement and praise and remind them to carry out regular revision using their teacher's advice. This booklet provides parents with key information about Year 11.

Here are some suggestions of how you can support your child:

### Students who do best in exams:

- have worked hard throughout the two years
- have kept up to date with their homework
- have revised thoroughly, carefully, and efficiently
- feel confident
- have parents who take an interest in their child's revision

### What can parents do?

Here is some general advice:

#### Do

- Make sure your child is in school every day, maintaining 100% attendance and fully equipped for school.
- Make sure that you get your child to show you their homework and make sure that they can access the homework tasks on SMHW.
- Discuss with your child what will be involved during the revision period and what your role could be.
- Use flash cards your child has made to test them on their knowledge.
- Provide the environment necessary for success. Students need a place to work and revise which is quiet, calm, and comfortable (*probably the most important need is quiet*).
- Respond positively when asked for help and give plenty of praise and encouragement. Ask exactly how you can help and if you cannot help immediately, say when it is convenient.
- Point out what your child has done well when you look at their work. Do not dwell on errors, emphasise the positives.
- Keep your child supplied with healthy food and drinks.

- Be prepared to listen when your child wants to talk about issues as everything becomes more emotional and heightened during the examination period.
- Encourage morning revision when the brain is more receptive and discourage studying right up to when they go to bed.
- Encourage your child to plan in time to rest and to do other things outside of revising and studying.

### **Don't**

- Make comparisons with brothers, sisters, friends and so on.
- Unintentionally add to their worries by constantly mentioning the exams.
- Relate too much to when you were sitting exams at school or how you revised or prepared.
- Worry if their revision techniques seem strange or unusual.
- Let students listen to music when doing revision. If students do, ensure it is music without lyrics as there is conclusive research that music with lyrics deters effective revision.
- Distract them unnecessarily.
- Overload your child with chores or other responsibilities when they have revision to complete.
- Expect them to study all the time, as taking some time out to relax will have a positive effect on their work.
- Join in the general anxiety - stay calm, serene, and confident.

### **In Summary**

There is a great deal you can do as a parent. You cannot revise for them and however much you would like to you cannot take the examinations for them, but you can be invaluable in making the process smooth, calm, and successful.

Please remember we are here to support you and your child. Please do not hesitate to contact the school for help and advice.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C. Francis

**Deputy Headteacher (Interim) – Quality of Education**

## Revision Guidance

*Making your revision count*

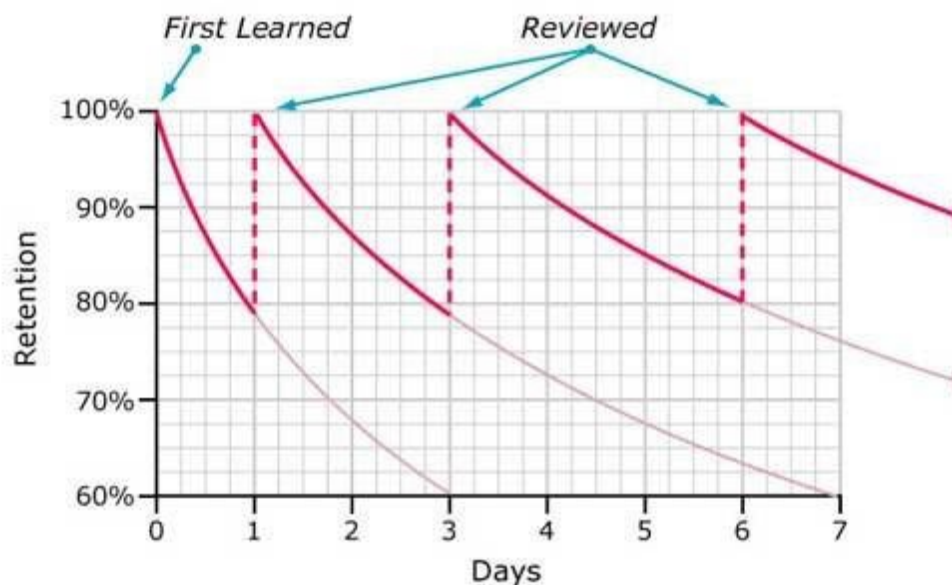
### What is Revision?

Revision means 'looking again.'

### Revision involves:

- Finding out what you know & understand (and what you do not)
- Building on what you know & understand
- Finding out what has slipped your memory
- Working on ways on retaining information
- Practising answers
- Preparing to show what you have learned

### Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



### Psychological research suggests that:

- When we learn something, we rapidly forget much of it. This is shown by the graph above
- When we re-visit something we have learned repeatedly, we remember it better and we forget less.

### Revision Planning

*Which revision strategies work best?*

Research has identified that some revision strategies are more effective than others. The table below shows you the differences in some common techniques.

Technique	Effectiveness	Description of Technique
Practice Testing	High	Self-testing is any retrieval practise. This could be using revision cards, practise exam questions or any way of practising the retrieval of knowledge.
Distributed practice	High	Developing a schedule of revisions /learning activities over time.
Elaborative Interrogation	Moderate	Thinking about 'why' you have answered a question or creating an explanation for a response.
Self-explanation	Moderate	Linking new information to known information or using applied questions (problem-based learning)
Interleaved Practice	Moderate	Developing a schedule that mixes different techniques during a period of study.
Summarisation	Low	Writing summaries of concepts /area of study.
Highlighting	Low	The use of highlighters of underlining while reading or rereading.
Keyword Mnemonic	Low	Use of key terms/ acronyms / images to associate with concepts to be learned.
Imagery	Low	Attempting to form mental images of materials while reading.
Re-reading	Low	Revisiting a text that has already been read.

As you can see above, rereading and highlighting are not highly effective ways to revise. Revision techniques like practice testing, (testing what knowledge has been learnt through self-testing, quizzes, or past exam questions) and distributed practice, (developing learning activities and a schedule of revision over time) are the most effective ways of revising.

The subject information pages will give guidance on each subject and key information on the exam as well as other useful information about the course. The school website also has detailed guidance on revision resources for each subject. Some of the most effective revision strategies are detailed below.

## Effective Revision Strategies

### 1. Using Flash cards or Revision cards effectively

Flashcards or revision cards are a common revision strategy but crucially, however, too many students fail to use them effectively for self-testing. Students need to design effective revision flashcards.

Making informative notes by selecting the most significant facts, concepts or terms needed for that topic and then making self-testing flashcards. It is crucial that students incorporate self-testing in this model as a way of retrieving key knowledge.

### 2. Practise testing

This is a tried and tested method of students testing themselves using practice questions. The effect of exploring worked examples or exam answers, as well as writing their own, helps students process, practice and refine their revision to improve their chances of exam success.

There are many ways practice testing can occur. This can be through your child or you as a parent testing your child using their revision cards, students going through past exam papers or students using educational apps available for revision in certain subjects. Practice testing is the best way for students to know and further cement what knowledge has moved into their long-term memory, whilst also identifying what knowledge has not.

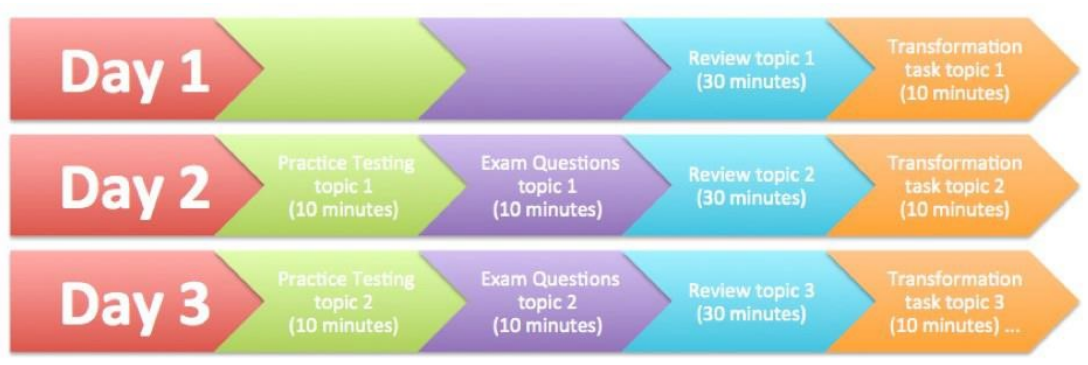
### 3. Spaced Practice or Distributed practice

This is where students space their revision over several revision sessions rather than the more commonly used mass practice where students study one topic at a time. Massed practice is more commonly used although it is less effective and is often done when students 'cram' for exams. The main reason students are often forced into massed practice is that they start revising too late and are forced to cram as they have no real alternative.

**Spaced practice** means students might revise several topics and switch between topics rather than learning one thing at a time. This is more challenging and means students do not study one topic for too long (it should be noted students should gain a decent understanding of one topic before moving to the new one) – for example in History students learn about Henry VIII's government on Monday. In the evening they would review and make notes on this topic using one of the effective revision strategies. They would then review this topic on Wednesday but also switch in another topic e.g. Why Henry wanted an annulment

and then again on Friday students would review both topic and look at a new topic. This also allows for effective interleaving and retrieval of the knowledge students need.

Distributed practice works well with many revision techniques and is shown to be highly successful in helping with recall ability. The diagram below shows how you could structure this technique:

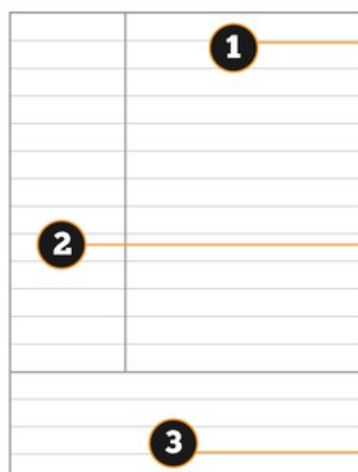


#### 4. The Cornell Method

This strategy is a well-known note-taking approach: this strategy gets students thinking metacognitively, asking questions, noting key terms, and summarising the content being revised.

This is effective (unlike where students are just reading and highlighting text or randomly writing out information) and gets students to actively engage with their work. A summary of what this looks like is on the diagram below:

#### The Cornell Method



##### Notes

This is the section where you should take your notes during the course of the lecture. Use bullets, sentences, short-hand, etc.

##### Cues

Questions, main points, visual clues, and other clues that jog your memory go here. Fill this section in after class.

##### Summary

Most important points and main ideas go here. Fill in this section after class when you are in the reviewing process.

CollegeThrive.com

## Subject Information

3D Design

Art

BTEC Sport

BTEC Tech Award

Business

Citizenship

Combined Science

Computer Science

Dance

Drama

English Language

English Literature

Food and Nutrition

French

Geography

German

History

Mathematics

Media Studies

Music

Photography

Psychology

Spanish

Textiles

Triple Science

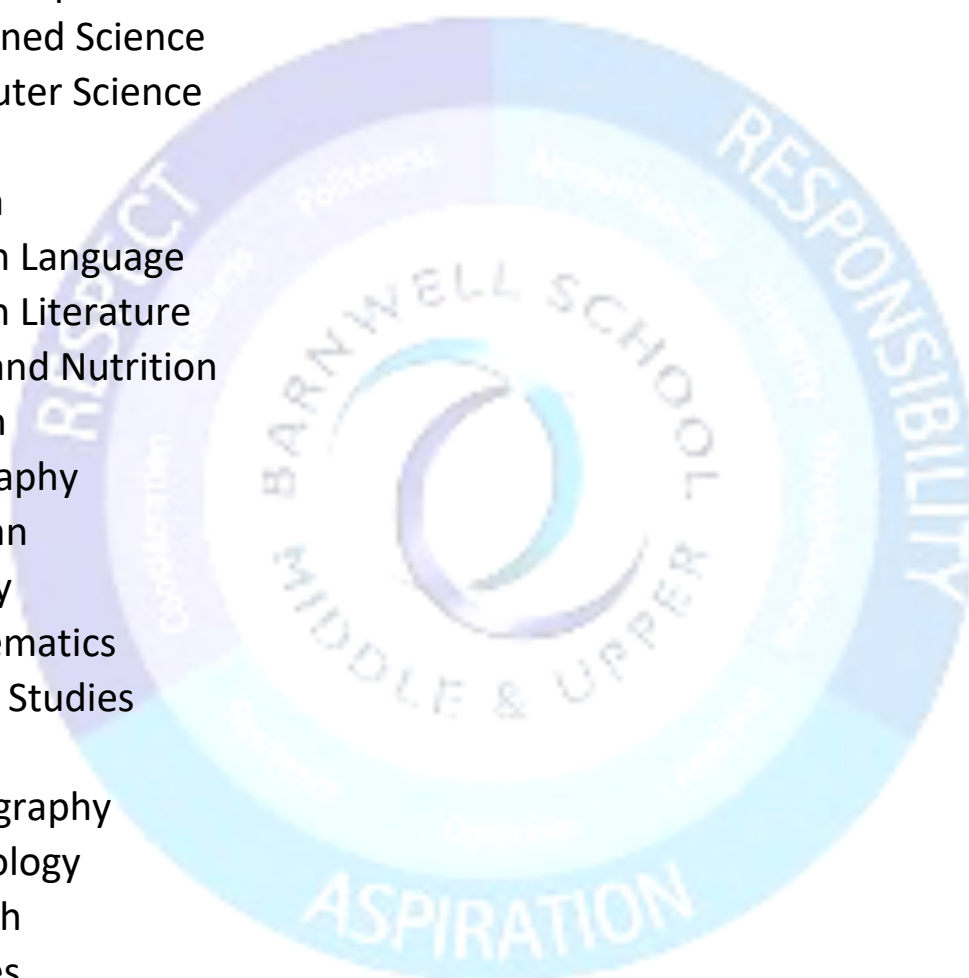
*For each subject:*

Examination Board

Number of Papers

Length of Examinations

Advice for students on preparing for Summer Examinations





## 3D Design

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Units:** 2

Unit 1 (coursework worth 60%)

Unit 2 (worth 40%)

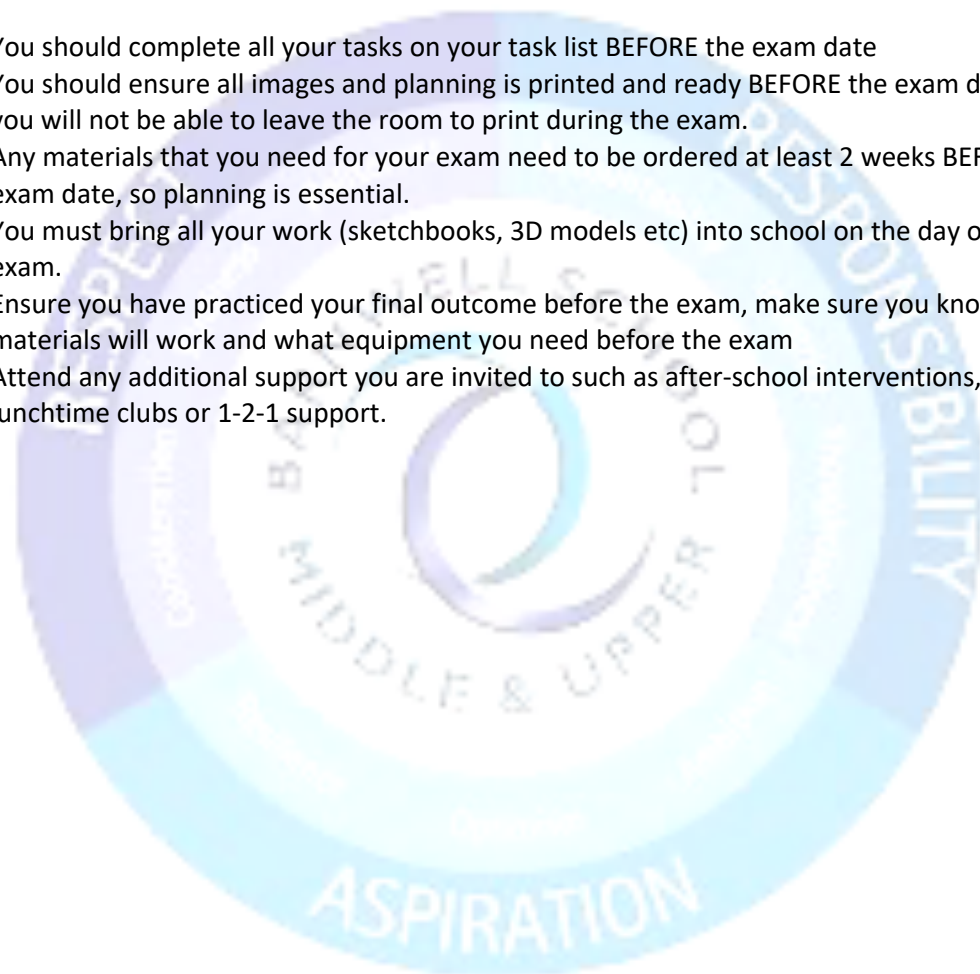
**Length of Examinations:**

Unit 1: No exam

Unit 2: 10hr exam

### Advice on preparing for Mock Exams and Summer Examinations

- You should complete all your tasks on your task list BEFORE the exam date
- You should ensure all images and planning is printed and ready BEFORE the exam date as you will not be able to leave the room to print during the exam.
- Any materials that you need for your exam need to be ordered at least 2 weeks BEFORE the exam date, so planning is essential.
- You must bring all your work (sketchbooks, 3D models etc) into school on the day of your exam.
- Ensure you have practiced your final outcome before the exam, make sure you know which materials will work and what equipment you need before the exam
- Attend any additional support you are invited to such as after-school interventions, lunchtime clubs or 1-2-1 support.



## Art

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Units:** 2

Unit 1 (coursework worth 60%)

Unit 2 (worth 40%)

**Length of Examinations:**

Unit 1: No exam

Unit 2: 10hr exam

### **Advice on preparing for Mock Exams and Summer Examinations**

- You should complete all your tasks on your task list BEFORE the exam date
- You should ensure all images and planning is printed and ready BEFORE the exam date as you will not be able to leave the room to print during the exam.
- Any materials that you need for your exam need to be ordered at least 2 weeks BEFORE the exam date, so planning is essential.
- You must bring all your Artwork (sketchbooks, canvases, models etc) into school on the day of your exam.
- Ensure you have practiced your final outcome before the exam, make sure you know which materials will work, what size canvas/paper, medium and equipment you need before the exam
- Attend any additional support you are invited to such as after-school interventions, lunchtime clubs or 1-2-1 support.

## **BTEC Sport Award**

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

### **Number of Papers: 1**

Paper 1 – Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity

### **Length of Examinations:**

1hr 30mins

### **Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Candidates have 2 opportunities to sit the exam for component 3
- It is a terminal exam, so must be the final component entry
- The January series is the first opportunity for students to attempt the exam and students will continue to study component 3 to prepare for the summer entry
- Students **cannot** bring notes into the exam as they are permitted to in controlled assessments
- Students should bring a calculator into the exam

### **Revision tips**

- Practise responding to the common command verbs: describe; evaluate; explain; identify; complete table
- Higher tier questions require students to use sports specific examples in order to access the top marks
- There will be synoptic questions, meaning you will need to apply your knowledge from components 1 and 2 and so should revise this content too

## **BTEC Tech Award DIT**

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Papers:** 1

Component 3 – Effective digital working practices

**Length of Examinations:**

1hr 30mins

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- You should complete all your homework before the deadline. Teachers will use your homework to find out what you need help with.
- You should create revision cards on each part of the course as we study them. You can then use these to revise.
- Attend any additional support you are invited to.

Exam technique:

- Read all questions thoroughly, identify the tier 2 (command) word so you can plan your response to include the correct content.
- Read the scenario for each question and relate your answers to the business context it describes.
- Revisit the keywords we have focused on in the lessons. Try to use keywords (technical language) in your answers.

Revision sources:

- Lesson notes on Teams
- Online book: [ActiveLearn \(pearsonactivelearn.com\)](https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com)
- Revise BTEC Tech Award Revision Guide which you have been provided with
- Know it all ninja: [KnowItAllNinja](https://www.knowitallninja.com) (Do not use this as your sole revision source)

## **Business**

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Papers:** 2

Paper 1 – Investigating Small Business

Paper 2 – Building a Business

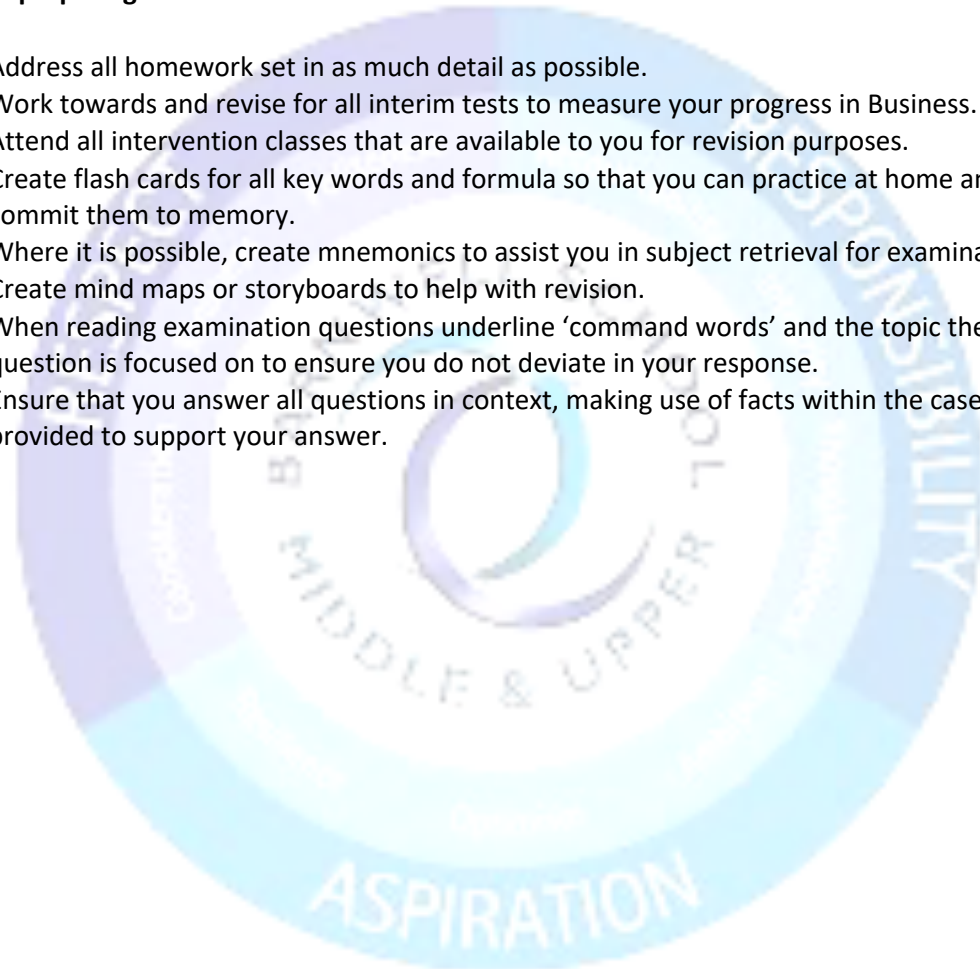
**Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 - 1hr 30mins

Paper 2 - 1hr 30mins

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Address all homework set in as much detail as possible.
- Work towards and revise for all interim tests to measure your progress in Business.
- Attend all intervention classes that are available to you for revision purposes.
- Create flash cards for all key words and formula so that you can practice at home and commit them to memory.
- Where it is possible, create mnemonics to assist you in subject retrieval for examinations.
- Create mind maps or storyboards to help with revision.
- When reading examination questions underline 'command words' and the topic the question is focused on to ensure you do not deviate in your response.
- Ensure that you answer all questions in context, making use of facts within the case studies provided to support your answer.



## Citizenship

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

### Number of Papers: 2

Paper 1

Themes A: - Living together in the UK.

Theme B: - Democracy at work in the UK

Theme C:- Law and Justice

Paper 2

Theme D:- Power and influence

Theme E:- Taking Citizenship Action

### Length of Examinations:

Paper 1 – 1hr 45mins

Paper 2 – 1hr 45mins

### Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:

- You should complete all homework tasks and respond to feedback on homework tasks.
- You should practice exam questions in timed conditions to get used to the pace that questions must be answered at.
- Create flashcards for key words with definitions for each theme to familiarise yourself with citizenship words.
- When practising 6-mark source questions, always quote directly from the source to help you make your points.
- When practising 10, 12 or 15 markers, use the IRAC structure to help make your arguments.
- Attend any additional sessions that are offered to you such as intervention or revision sessions.

## Combined Science

**Examination Board:** AQA – Synergy Specification

### Number of Papers: 4

Paper 1 & 2– Life and Environmental Sciences (Building blocks; Transport over larger distances; Interactions with the environment and Explaining change)

Paper 3 & 4- Physical Sciences (Building blocks for understanding; Interactions over small and large distances; Movement and interactions and Guiding Spaceship Earth towards a sustainable future)

Full break down of topics for the papers is shared on the Combined Science teams' area.

### Length of Examinations:

Paper 1 – 1hr 45mins

Paper 2 - 1hr 45mins

Paper 3 - 1hr 45mins

Paper 4 - 1hr 45mins

### Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:

- You should use the shared teams' area for direct access to revision links and resources.
- When answering questions ensure you identify the command word in the question to ensure you are answering what is being asked of you.
- Get to know your calculator – this is a key piece of equipment in science exams, so you need to understand how it works properly and what the display means.
- Use the personalised topic checklists for each paper so you have a clear understanding of what you could be tested on for each paper.
- Know the required practical's studied, they will come up. There is a PowerPoint with resources on each in your teams' area.

## Computer Science

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Papers:** 2

Paper 1 - Principles of computer science.

Paper 2 – Application of computational thinking.

**Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 – 1hr 30mins

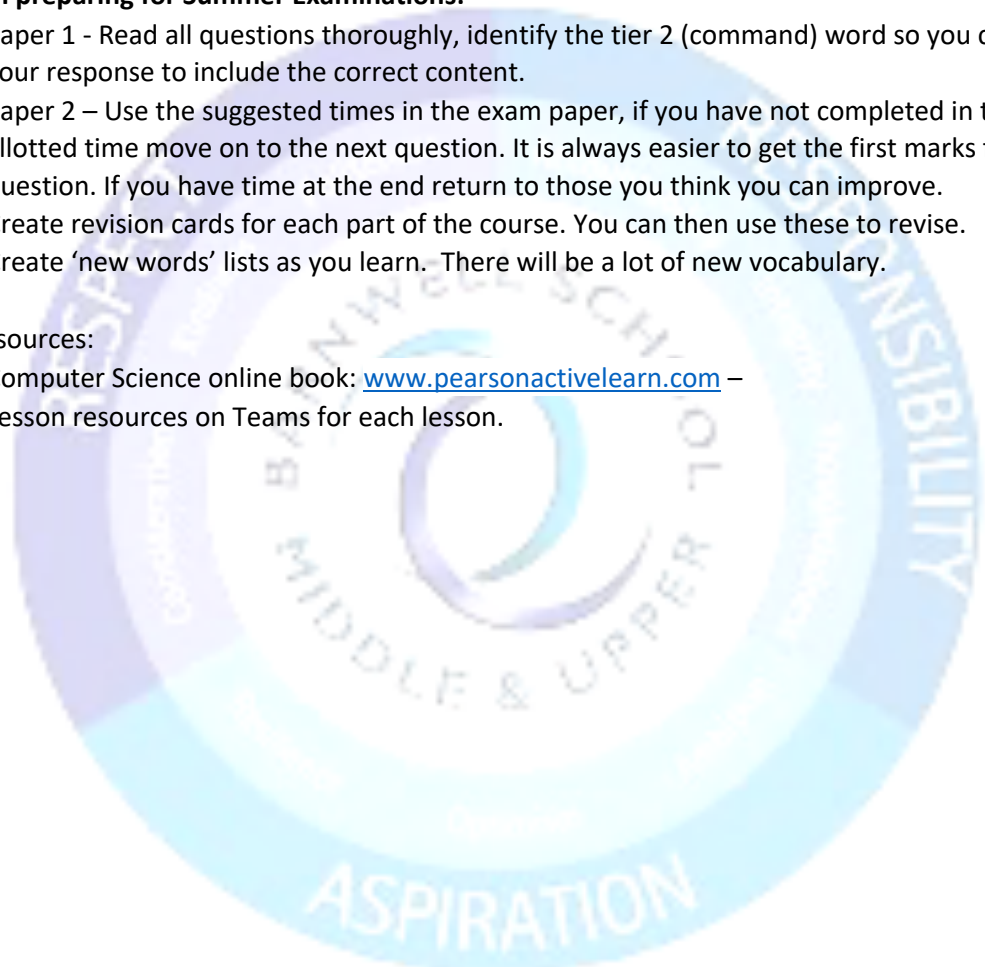
Paper 2 – 2hrs

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Paper 1 - Read all questions thoroughly, identify the tier 2 (command) word so you can plan your response to include the correct content.
- Paper 2 – Use the suggested times in the exam paper, if you have not completed in the allotted time move on to the next question. It is always easier to get the first marks for each question. If you have time at the end return to those you think you can improve.
- Create revision cards for each part of the course. You can then use these to revise.
- Create 'new words' lists as you learn. There will be a lot of new vocabulary.

Revision sources:

- Computer Science online book: [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://www.pearsonactivelearn.com) –
- Lesson resources on Teams for each lesson.





## **Dance**

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Number of Papers:** 1

Component 2 - Dance Appreciation

**Length of Examinations:**

1hr 30mins

### **Advice on preparing for Mock Exams and Summer Examinations**

- You should complete all your homework before the deadline. Teachers will use your homework to find out what you need help with so can cater future homework tasks to your needs if homework is completed efficiently.
- You should create revision cards on each part of the paper; Section A - Hypothetical Choreography & Performance Skills. Section B – Critical Appreciation of your own work. Section C – Critical Appreciation of Professional Works. You can then use these to revise.
- When doing practice questions make sure you read them carefully and only use knowledge that is relevant to the question.
- When answering the 6-mark questions in Section B, you should refer to precise evidence from your own practical work and back this up by linking these examples to the physical skills.
- When answering the 12-mark questions in Section C, you should utilise the P.E.E method. Make your point, give evidence from the professional work, and explain. The explain portion of your answer should also include opinionated analysis.
- Create 'new words' lists as you learn. There will be a lot of new vocabulary.
- Attend any additional support you are invited to such as after-school interventions or 1-2-1 support.

## Drama

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Papers:** 1

Paper 1 – Theatre Makers in Practice

**Length of Examinations:**

1hr 30mins

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Re-read DNA by Dennis Kelly
- Remind yourself about the structures required for each question.
- Look at the aspects of Live Theatre that you will write about when answering the Live Theatre review question in preparation for watching the play after Easter.



## English Language

**Examination Board:** AQA

### **Number of Papers:** 2

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 50% of final award

Four questions on a literature fiction text (language and structure) and one extended descriptive/narrative writing question.

Assesses both reading and writing skills.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 50% of final award

Four questions comparing and analysing non-fiction texts and one extended persuasive writing question.

Assesses both reading and writing skills.

### **Length of Examinations:**

Both 1hr 45mins

### **Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Practice past papers in timed conditions by hand. Use the scaffolding put on SMHW by your teachers so you revise what goes in each question. Make flashcards of this. Practice shorter questions in shorter bursts – e.g.: 10 minutes for a question 2

Learn PETAL Acronym

- Point
- Evidence
- Technique
- Analysis
- Link to the question/historical context

Or WHW Acronym

- WHAT does the author intend to convey?
- HOW do they do so?
- WHY is this significant?
- Make flashcards of techniques (both structural and language)
- Practise identifying them in any fiction or non-fiction text.
- Explain the effect – 'This makes the reader \_\_\_\_\_'
- Learn the AFORESTMAP Acronym as a checklist to use in your extended writing tasks.
  - Alliteration
  - Figurative Language/Facts
  - Onomatopoeia/Opinions
  - Rhetorical Question/Repetition
  - Emotive Language
  - Simile/Statistics
  - Triplet
  - Metaphor
  - Anecdote
  - Personification

## English Literature

**Examination Board:** AQA

### Number of Papers: 2

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-Century Novel – 40% of final award

- Students answer on Macbeth and A Christmas Carol or Jekyll and Hyde
- Students analyse both an extract and the text as a whole

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry – 60% of final award

- Students answer on a choice of An Inspector Calls, the Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology and analysis and comparison of Unseen Poetry

### Length of Examinations:

Paper 1 – 1hr 45mins

Paper 2 – 2hrs 15mins

### Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:

- Do not just learn quotations! You also need to revise:
  - How the characters and themes are presented
  - Where in the text the quotation comes from and how this affects meaning
  - Key points of context and writers' purposes
  - Techniques used and reader/audience response.
- Make mind maps/revision cards of the main characters and themes for each text, these are what the questions will be centred around. Practise writing your thesis statements.
- Use only high-quality online content - CPG online revision guides, BBC Bitesize Literature section, Lit Charts, Mr. Bruff/Mr Salles YouTube videos
- Use Seneca little and often and revise all texts equally.

## Food and Nutrition

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Number of Papers:**

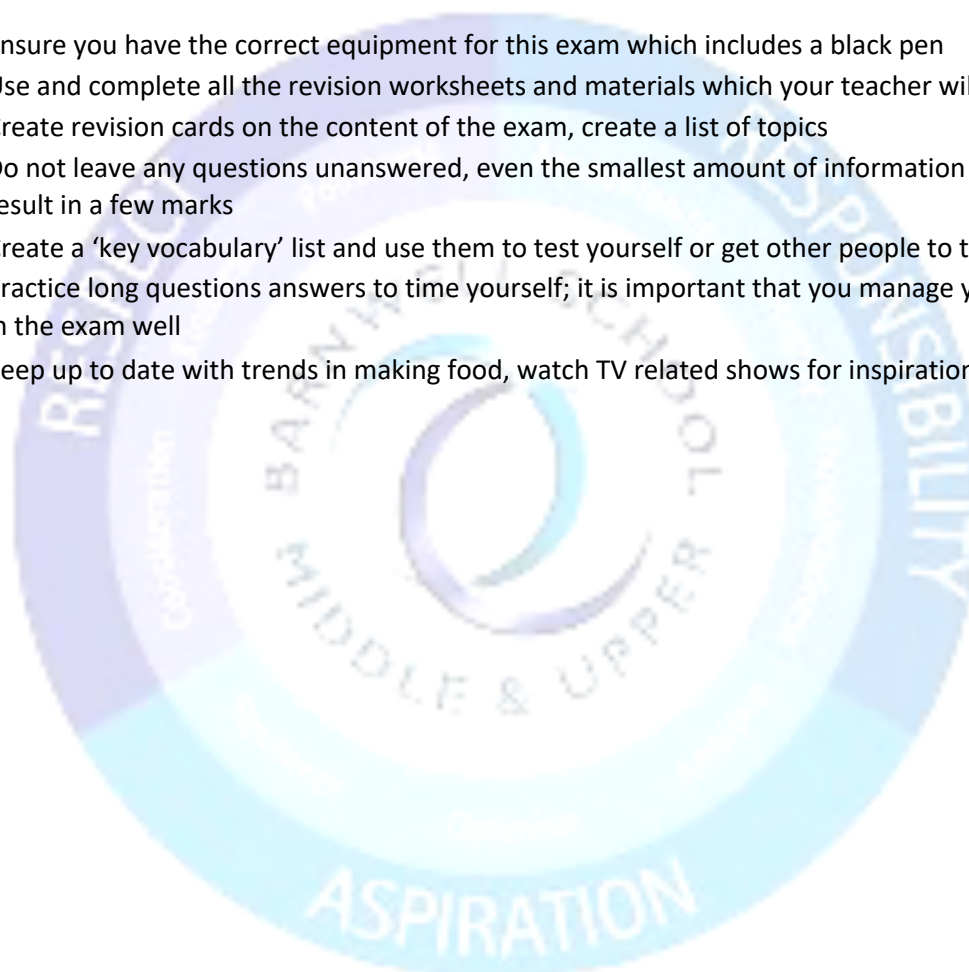
1 (NEA 1 and NEA 2 are written / practical exams)

**Length of Examinations:**

1hr 45mins

### Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations

- Ensure you have the correct equipment for this exam which includes a black pen
- Use and complete all the revision worksheets and materials which your teacher will give you
- Create revision cards on the content of the exam, create a list of topics
- Do not leave any questions unanswered, even the smallest amount of information may result in a few marks
- Create a 'key vocabulary' list and use them to test yourself or get other people to test you
- Practice long questions answers to time yourself; it is important that you manage your time in the exam well
- Keep up to date with trends in making food, watch TV related shows for inspiration



## French

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Number of Papers:** 4

Paper 1 – Listening

Paper 2 – Speaking

Paper 3 – Reading

Paper 4 – Writing

**Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 – Listening 35mins(F), 45mins(H)

Paper 2 – Speaking 7-9mins(F), 10-12mins(H)

Paper 3 – Reading 45mins(F), 1hr(H)

Paper 4 – 1hr(F), 1hr 15mins(H)

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations**

- Complete all homework given, they are designed to ensure you are using exam skills
- Create mind maps of each topic to consolidate key vocabulary
- Practise asking and answering each Key Question with a friend to develop fluency/automaticity
- Use more complex synonyms in your Speaking and Writing, try not to repeat yourself
- Practise writing in 4 tenses: Past, Present, Future, Conditional. Include a variety of time phrases
- Use your CGP revision guides, revision folders and knowledge organisers to review key language and structures for each topic

## Geography

**Examination Board:** Edexcel B

### **Number of Papers:** 3

Paper 1 – Section A (Tropical Cyclones, Tectonics, Climate Change), Section B (Development and India Case study) and Section C (Challenges of an Urbanising World and Mumbai Case Study).

Paper 2 – Section A (Geology, Coasts and Rivers), Section B (UK Human Landscape and London Case Study) and Section C (Rivers Fieldwork and Urban Fieldwork).

Paper 3 – Section A (People and the Biosphere), Section B (Forests Under Threat), Section C (Consuming Energy Resources) and Section D (Making a Geographical Decision).

### **Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 – 1hr 30mins

Paper 2 – 1hr 30mins

Paper 3 – 1hr 30mins

### **Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Use the number of marks as an indication as to how much time to spend on the questions e.g., 4 marks = 4 minutes.
- For 8-marker questions where you will be awarded SPAG, you must write in paragraphs.
- To access Level 3 of an 8-marker, your answer must be balanced!
- For Paper 2 Section C – Please answer the section on Rivers NOT Coasts and Urban Areas NOT Rural Areas. You must read!
- Always green pen all GCSE Exam Practice questions that you answer so you know how to maximise marks when looking over to revise.
- Attend any additional support you are invited to such as after-school interventions or 1-2-1 support.

## German

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Number of Papers:** 4

Paper 1 – Listening

Paper 2 – Speaking

Paper 3 – Reading

Paper 4 – Writing

**Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 – Listening 35mins(F), 45mins(H)

Paper 2 – Speaking 7-9mins(F), 10-12mins(H)

Paper 3 – Reading 45mins(F), 1hr(H)

Paper 4 – 1hr(F), 1hr 15mins(H)

**Advice on preparing for Mock Exams and Summer Examinations**

- Complete all homework given, they are designed to ensure you are using exam skills
- Create mind maps of each topic to consolidate key vocabulary
- Practise asking and answering each Key Question with a friend to develop fluency/automaticity
- Use more complex synonyms in your Speaking and Writing, try not to repeat yourself
- Practise writing in 4 tenses: Past, Present, Future, Conditional. Include a variety of time phrases
- Use your CGP revision guides, revision folders and knowledge organisers to review key language and structures for each topic



## History

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Papers:** 3

Paper 1 – Medicine in Britain c1250 – present and the British sector of the Western front, 1914 - 1918: Injuries, treatment, and the trenches.

Paper 2 – Henry VIII and his Ministers 1509 -1540 **and** The American West c1835 -95.

Paper 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918 – 39.

**Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 – 1hr 15mins

Paper 2 – 1hr 45 mins

Paper 3 – 1hr 20mins

**Advice on preparing for Mock Exams and Summer Examinations**

- You should complete all your homework before the deadline. Teachers will use your homework to find out what you need help with.
- You should create revision cards on each part of the course as we study them. You can then use these to revise.
- When doing practice questions make sure you read them carefully and only use knowledge that is relevant to the question.
- When explaining in exam answers you should make sure you explain how your evidence answers the question.
- When using sources and interpretations, always make sure you use your own knowledge to fact-check them.
- Create 'new words' lists as you learn. There will be a lot of new vocabulary.
- Attend any additional support you are invited to such as after-school interventions or 1-2-1 support.

## Mathematics

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Number of Papers:** 3 – 1 non calculator, 2 calculator

**Length of Examinations:**

3 x 1hr 30mins

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

The best preparation for the maths exams is completing past exam papers. These can be found on the exam boards website.

- When attempting questions make sure that you are in a quiet space, have access to the Mathswatch or Corbett maths website, a calculator, protractor, ruler, compass, and rubber.
- If you do not understand a question, you can type key words into the search bar on Mathswatch or scroll down the contents list on Corbett maths.
- You should then watch the related video before attempting the question again.
- The AQA website also provide access to the mark schemes so if you are still unsure you can look at the mark scheme to see how the question is being marked.
- It is also a good idea to highlight this area as needing further practice. Both Mathswatch and Corbett maths provide additional worksheets with all their videos.
- You can also make use of the Mathswatch 6-week revision schedule that is in the extras section of their website.
- Additional advice can be sought from your classroom teacher. This could be by asking for help on a 1-2-1 basis, bring a question to a lesson or by emailing them

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300/assessment-resources>

<https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

<https://corbettmaths.com/contents/>

## Media Studies

**Examination Board:** OCR

**Number of Papers:** 2

Paper 1 – Television and Promoting Media

Paper 2 – Music and News

**Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 – 1hr 30mins

Paper 2 – 1hr 15mins

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Ensure that you have re-watched the selected episode from Cuffs and The Avengers and that your notes are up to date.
- Go through your notes from last year regarding The Lego Movie and Game and Newspaper.
- Use the revision booklet shared with you on Teams earlier this year.
- Look at the Harry Styles episode on The Live Lounge and remind yourself about the BBC's values and ethos.
- Look at past copies of the music magazine MOJO and what the front cover is trying to suggest.



## Music

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Papers:** 3

1 Listening Exam

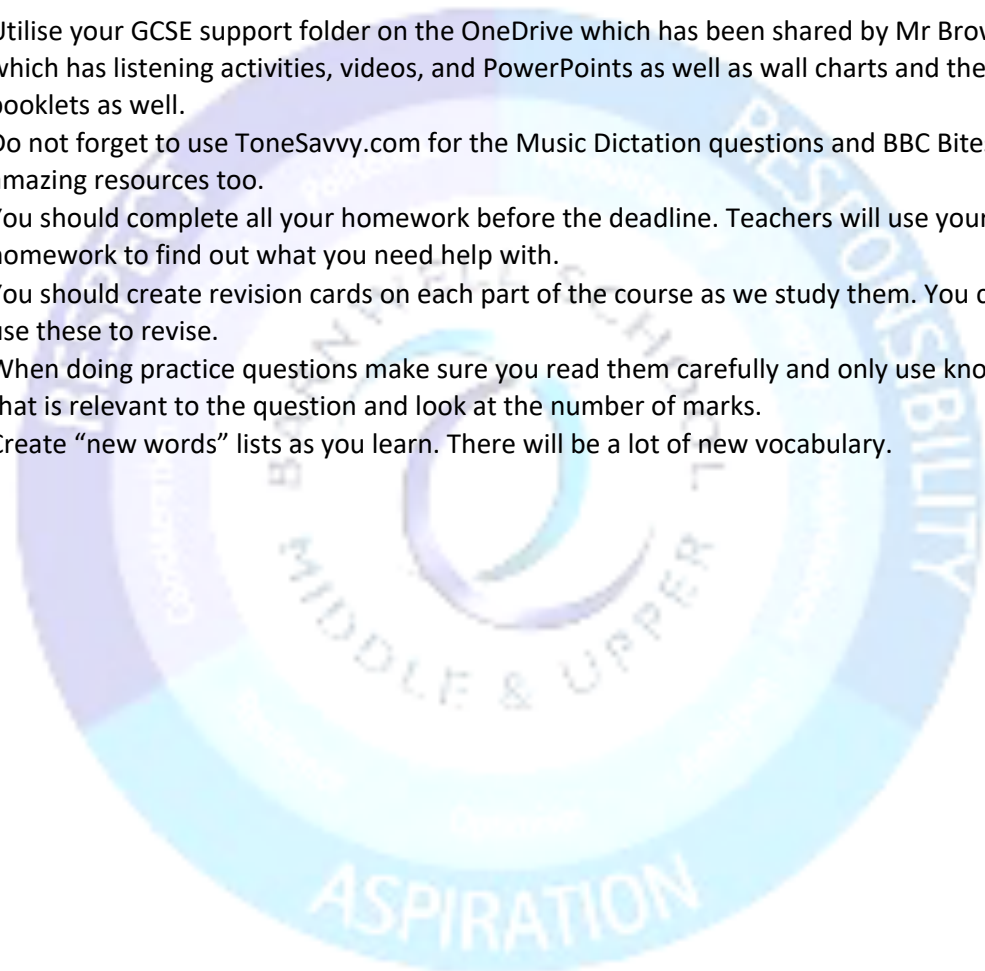
2 controlled assessments for composition and performance

**Length of Examinations:**

1hr 45mins for external exam

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Utilise your GCSE support folder on the OneDrive which has been shared by Mr Brown, which has listening activities, videos, and PowerPoints as well as wall charts and the set work booklets as well.
- Do not forget to use ToneSavvy.com for the Music Dictation questions and BBC Bitesize has amazing resources too.
- You should complete all your homework before the deadline. Teachers will use your homework to find out what you need help with.
- You should create revision cards on each part of the course as we study them. You can then use these to revise.
- When doing practice questions make sure you read them carefully and only use knowledge that is relevant to the question and look at the number of marks.
- Create “new words” lists as you learn. There will be a lot of new vocabulary.



## Photography

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Units:** 2

Unit 1 (coursework worth 60%)

Unit 2 (worth 40%)

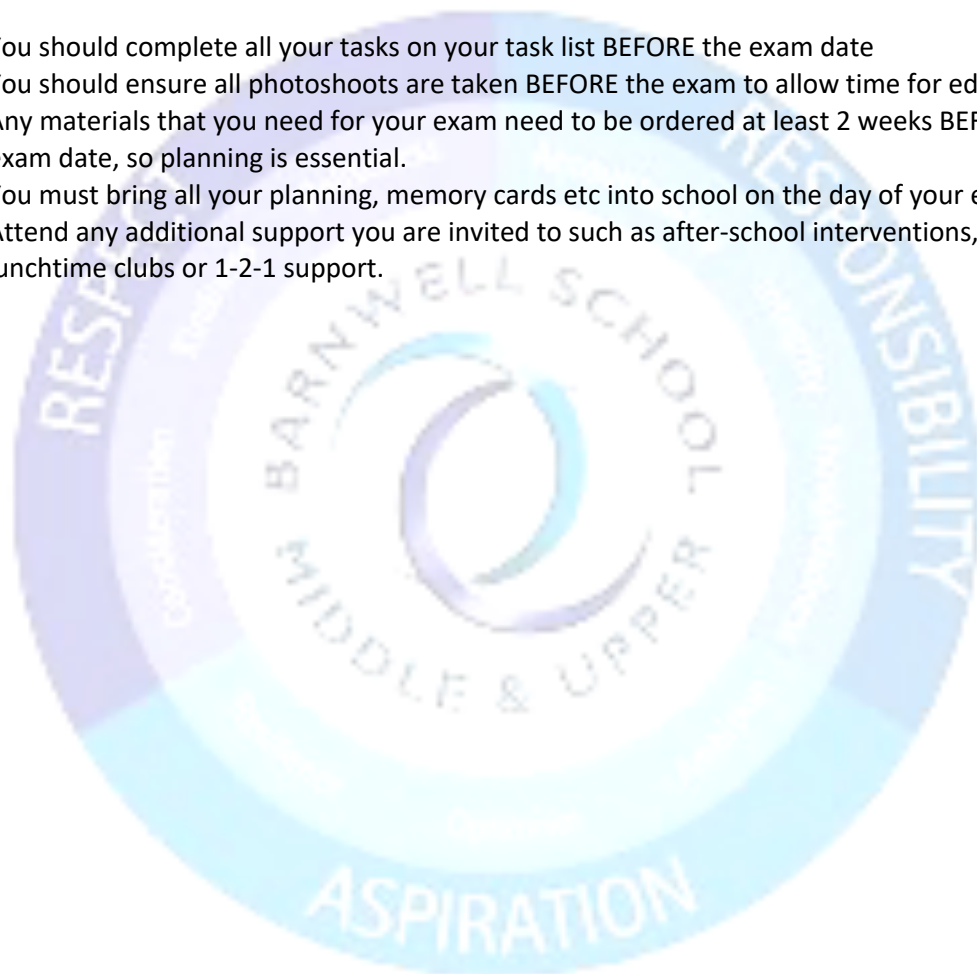
**Length of Examinations:**

Unit 1: No exam

Unit 2: 10hr exam

### Advice on preparing for Mock Exams and Summer Examinations

- You should complete all your tasks on your task list BEFORE the exam date
- You should ensure all photoshoots are taken BEFORE the exam to allow time for edits.
- Any materials that you need for your exam need to be ordered at least 2 weeks BEFORE the exam date, so planning is essential.
- You must bring all your planning, memory cards etc into school on the day of your exam.
- Attend any additional support you are invited to such as after-school interventions, lunchtime clubs or 1-2-1 support.



## Psychology

**Examination Board:** OCR

### **Number of Papers: 2**

*Paper 1 – Studies and Applications in Psychology 1 – Criminal Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Psychological Problems and Research Methods*

*Paper 2 – Studies and Applications in Psychology 2 – Memory, Sleep and Dreaming, Social Influence and Research Methods*

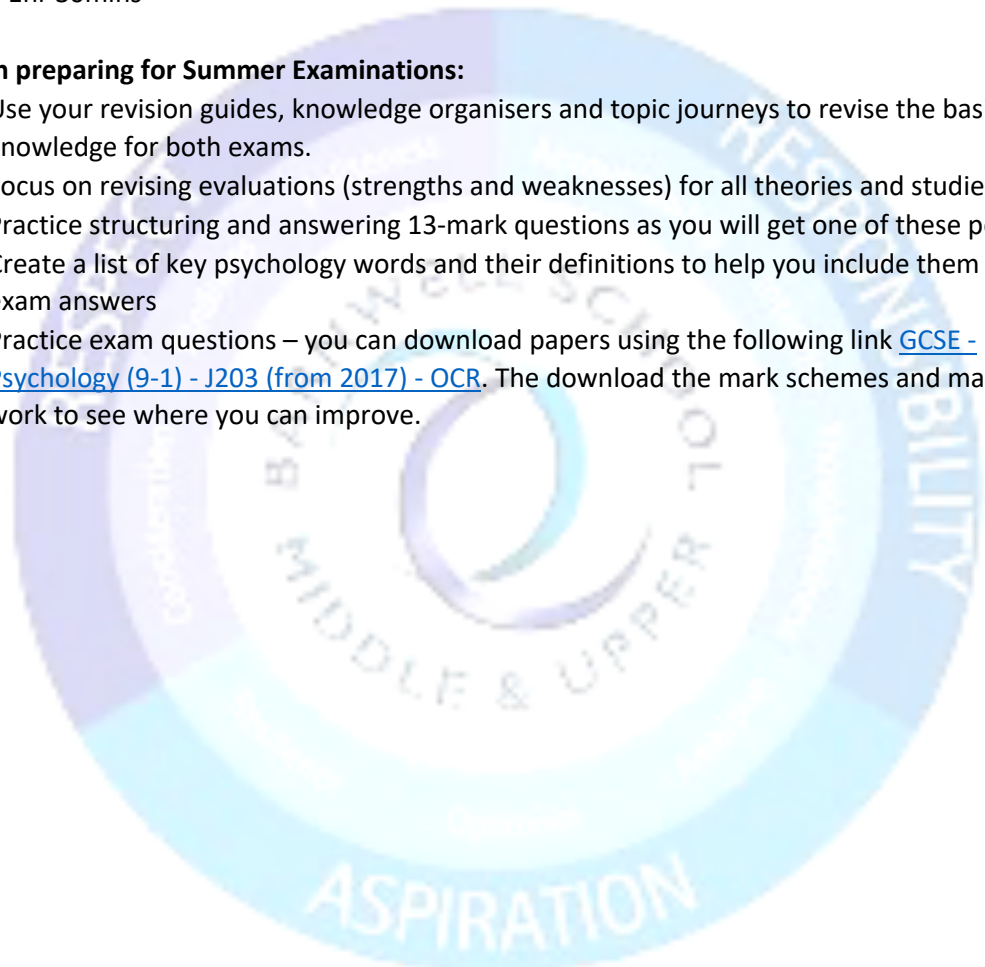
### **Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 – 1hr 30mins

Paper 2 – 1hr 30mins

### **Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- Use your revision guides, knowledge organisers and topic journeys to revise the basic knowledge for both exams.
- Focus on revising evaluations (strengths and weaknesses) for all theories and studies.
- Practice structuring and answering 13-mark questions as you will get one of these per paper
- Create a list of key psychology words and their definitions to help you include them in your exam answers
- Practice exam questions – you can download papers using the following link [GCSE - Psychology \(9-1\) - J203 \(from 2017\) - OCR](#). The download the mark schemes and mark your work to see where you can improve.



## Spanish

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Number of Papers:** 4

Paper 1 – Listening

Paper 2 – Speaking

Paper 3 – Reading

Paper 4 – Writing

**Length of Examinations:**

Paper 1 – Listening 35mins(F), 45mins(H)

Paper 2 – Speaking 7-9mins(F), 10-12mins(H)

Paper 3 – Reading 45mins(F), 1hr(H)

Paper 4 – 1hr(F), 1hr 15mins(H)

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations**

- Complete all homework given, they are designed to ensure you are using exam skills
- Create mind maps of each topic to consolidate key vocabulary
- Practise asking and answering each Key Question with a friend to develop fluency/automaticity
- Use more complex synonyms in your Speaking and Writing, try not to repeat yourself
- Practise writing in 4 tenses: Past, Present, Future, Conditional. Include a variety of time phrases
- Use your CGP revision guides, revision folders and knowledge organisers to review key language and structures for each topic

## Textiles

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Units:** 2

Unit 1 (coursework worth 60%)

Unit 2 (worth 40%)

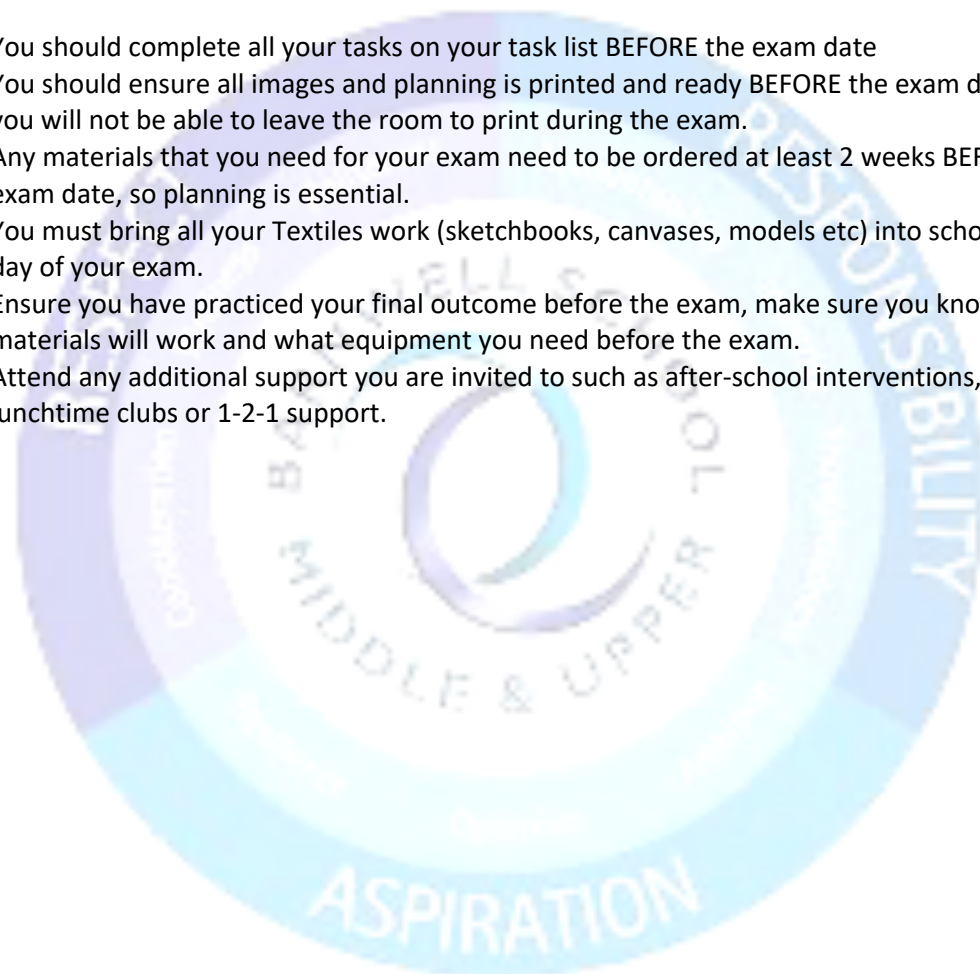
**Length of Examinations:**

Unit 1: No exam

Unit 2: 10hr exam

### Advice on preparing for Mock Exams and Summer Examinations

- You should complete all your tasks on your task list BEFORE the exam date
- You should ensure all images and planning is printed and ready BEFORE the exam date as you will not be able to leave the room to print during the exam.
- Any materials that you need for your exam need to be ordered at least 2 weeks BEFORE the exam date, so planning is essential.
- You must bring all your Textiles work (sketchbooks, canvases, models etc) into school on the day of your exam.
- Ensure you have practiced your final outcome before the exam, make sure you know which materials will work and what equipment you need before the exam.
- Attend any additional support you are invited to such as after-school interventions, lunchtime clubs or 1-2-1 support.





## Triple Science

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Number of Papers:** 2 per Science

Biology:

Paper 1 - Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics

Paper 2 - Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation, and evolution; and Ecology

Chemistry:

Paper 1 - Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes

Paper 2 - The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Physics:

Paper 1 - Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and atomic structure

Paper 2 - Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics

*Questions in paper 2 may draw on an understanding of energy changes and transfers due to heating, mechanical and electrical work, and the concept of energy conservation from Energy and Electricity.*

**Length of Examinations:** For each Science

Paper 1 – 1hr 45mins

Paper 2 - 1hr 45mins

**Advice on preparing for Summer Examinations:**

- You should use the shared teams' area for direct access to revision links and resources.
- When answering questions ensure you identify the command word in the question to ensure you are answering what is being asked of you.
- Get to know your calculator – this is a key piece of equipment in science exams, so you need to understand how it works properly and what the display means.
- Use the personalised topic checklists for each paper so you have a clear understanding of what you could be tested on for each paper.
- Know the required practical's studied, they will come up. There is a PowerPoint with resources on each in your teams' area. Questions linked to the required practical work will account for at least 15% of the overall grade.

## Sitting your exams

### The night before

- Only attempt light revision from your revision notes, not any new revision.
- Get all the equipment you need (4 black pens, 2 pencils, ruler, rubber, calculator, protractor, pair of compasses and a clear water bottle with the label removed) ready the night before. The last thing you want is to be rushing around looking for stuff in the morning.
- Try to get a good night's sleep – no computer games or late-night TV!

### On the day

- Get up in plenty of time.
- Make sure you have everything you need before you leave home.
- If you want to, do some last-minute revision by flicking through your notes.
- Make an agreement with your friend not to talk about the exam.

### Use your time wisely

- Work out how much time you can devote to each question or section. Your teacher would have told you this already.
- As you take the exam you may find yourself falling behind schedule – do not panic just work a little faster.
- Do not fall into the trap of spending most time answering the questions you know least about. Give them a go but do not be afraid to move on. It is important that you try and answer all the necessary questions as in some exams the final questions carry the most marks.

### Tackling the questions

- Read every question at least twice.
- Think about the question before you get into your answer.
- Work out how long and detailed the answer needs to be by looking at the space you are given and the number of marks available.
- For essay-type questions outline the main points you intend to include in your answer. Without an outline you are likely to stray from the point or forget important points.
- Remember to stick to what the question is asking.