



Buckler's Mead

Academy

Keys to Success

2023-2024

Contents

Headteacher's Welcome	Page 3
Seneca Learning	Page 4
Period Six	Page 5
Exam Equipment	Page 6
Subject Information	Pgs 7-23
Revision Guidance	Pgs 25-29
Support for Parents	Pgs 30-31
Useful Websites	Page 32



Dear Parents/Guardians

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. This is intended to provide all the key information you and your child will need over the Year 11.

Our key message at this time of year is to 'make every day count!' Whilst the exams seem like a distant landmark in the future, the reality is that they come around very quickly! Students will also be completing formally assessed components across the year, meaning they should make the most of every opportunity to maximise their success.



In 2023 Buckler's Mead Academy celebrated the best set of results in the school's history, making it one of the best schools in the local area. This was based on the hard work of students along with an outstanding package of support on offer throughout the year. This included the hugely successful Period 6 provision, Seneca Premium, our in school targeted interventions and the Exit Timetable used in the final exam period. We hope that your child will make full use of these opportunities.

We appreciate that for parents and students this period can seem like a stressful and challenging time. I hope that this booklet will provide you with some information, advice and guidance to navigate your way through some of these and alleviate the worry. However, please feel free to contact the academy if you have any further questions or require support. Our student support team and the Year 11 team are always at hand to offer guidance and support in the first instance.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and myself, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish the students all the best of luck for what will be a successful year ahead.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lawrence', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark Lawrence (Headteacher)

Guidance on how to access Seneca Premium

Seneca Learning enables students to understand and learn all of their subjects whilst at school or when revising for exams at home. Seneca is an adaptive learning platform, based on neuroscience, written by experts and academically proven to **double students' outcomes**.

Seneca also has a free parent platform. With this free parent account, you can support your child's studies, monitor their learning and identify their weaknesses and strengths in each subject. Parental engagement has a significant positive effect on learning outcomes. We highly encourage you to sign up. Please see the following useful links to get started and get in touch if you need any assistance.

Seneca Parent Platform:

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/parents>

2-Minute Video Tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aUGBuKDoYE>

Step-by-step Tutorial:

<https://help.senecalearning.com/en/articles>

</3990859-how-to-connect-my-parent-account-to-my-child-s-account>

What will Seneca Learning do?

- Provides subject knowledge and questions to check understanding
- Allows misconceptions to be identified
- Allows teachers to target intervention based on individual student progress
- Can be used flexibly for home learning and learning in advance of lessons
- Provides access to specific resources for the specification being taught
- Can be accessed by students through google classroom
- Seneca Premium offers predicted exam paper questions, hyper learning activities and night before the exam tasks

Teachers and departments will also set students tasks and activities to complete as part of the independent learning. Please encourage your child to use this as often as possible as part of exam preparation.



Period Six

As you are aware, your child will be taking their exams alongside thousands of other students nationally. Many of these students will receive additional support to help ensure the best outcomes. These will include Personal Tuition (2019 21% of students nationally had tuition and 40% in the London area), Saturday School, extending the school day, evening sessions and holiday programmes of study. We want to ensure that your child is not disadvantaged in relation to their peers and have already put in place several provisions to close this gap. The addition of Period Six will provide your child with an opportunity to receive additional targeted support and an independent study environment three days a week.

Following the 2015 reforms to GCSE examinations and alternative qualifications, courses have been revised to cover more subject content. Students are now expected to know subjects in greater breadth and depth. This means that your child will have to be able to recall and apply large amounts of information and knowledge in their final exams. Studies around the science of learning and memory, show that students learn and remember most effectively when content is revisited and recapped several times over a prolonged period of time. Our provision will provide a structure for students to do this with the guidance and support of teachers.

Student feedback from previous Year 11 groups have indicated that many students struggle to work independently at home. Often they say home study lacks structure, students are easily distracted, they struggle to concentrate or find it challenging to find a sensible space to study. This was also confirmed by last year's Year 11, who feedback that independent revision at home was limited and lacked focus. The after school provision will provide students with a calm, quiet and purposeful environment where students can study the right content at the right time guided and supported by teachers.

Often parents feedback on the challenges they experience around supporting home learning too. These include the lack of knowledge of the courses, they are unsure about what their child is supposed to revise, the revision techniques they should be using or what tasks are constructive and support learning. The Period Six provision will provide students with guidance, resources and support to help and make sure that study is purposeful and effective in school or at home.

Finally, the Period Six has been run in a number schools across the country with proven impact on student outcomes. A number of schools in 2022 used this provision as part of a wider approach to preparing students for exams, and as a consequence, students achieved nearly half a grade higher across 8 GCSE subjects in their final exams. We have seen that the additional time spent in school last academic year has had similar benefits and want this to continue for your child.

What are the arrangements for Period Six?

Students will be escorted to the main hall, where they will be registered and key messages will be shared by senior staff. Following this, students will be taken to targeted sessions by subject teachers or will be able to work independently in either a computer suite or quiet writing room, supervised by members of staff. There will also be a provision to carry out work on course assignments e.g. Art or Photography. All sessions will finish at 4pm.

Examination Equipment

All students will be expected to arrive at examinations with the following equipment.

Clear Pencil Case



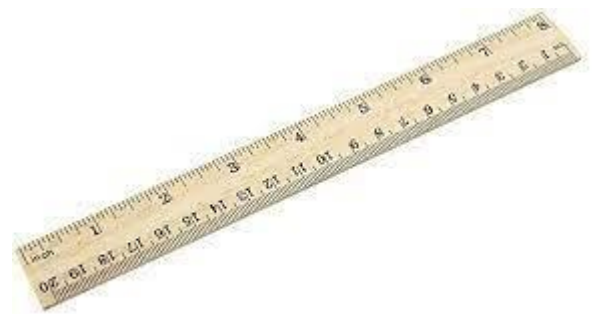
3 Black Biros or Ball point pens



A highlighter



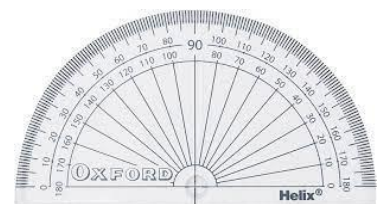
A ruler



A scientific calculator



A Protractor



A Compass



HB Pencils



GCSE AQA 9-1 Geography

Overview

Three exams in total

Paper 1- Physical Geography 1 hour 30 mins

Paper 2- Human Geography 1 hour 30 mins

Paper 3- Pre Release and Unseen Fieldwork 1 hour

Suggested Revision Resources

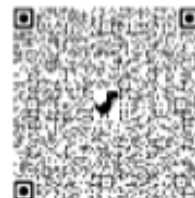
Revision Book



Revision Exam Practice 7-9



Revision Exam Practice 7-9



Useful Websites

Internet Geography



Geography Hawkes Youtube



Key Information

Paper 1 complete all of the questions in Sections A and B. In Section C you complete all questions on **Rivers and Coasts**.

Paper 2 complete all of the questions of Section A, Section B. In Section C you complete all question in Questions **3 and 4**.

Paper 3- Answer all questions- read through the pre-release booklet.

Know specific facts and figures from your case studies for all three papers.

BUG all exam questions, focusing on the command and key words.

Remember to check your SPAG in the questions that have marks given.

Remember to take a calculator, pencil, ruler and rubber as well as pens.

GCSE AQA 9-1 French & German

Overview

Four papers in Total

Speaking Examinations

12 mins preparation time for the speaking exams- exam lasts approx 7-9 mins Foundation and 10-12 mins Higher

Listening, Reading and Writing Examinations

German & French listening- Foundation 35 mins Higher 45mins

German & French reading- Foundation 45 mins Higher 1 hr

German & French writing- Foundation 1hr Higher 1hr 15 mins

Revision resources

Quizlet is useful for vocab revision. You could also make your own cards to help you to prepare for your chosen speaking conversation. www.quizlet.com

'thislanguage' – you need to ensure that you are completing regular listening activities (approx. 15 mins a day) on this site. It is also useful for regular vocab practice and grammar consolidation/revision

linguscope- **username bucklers password sprsum321** This is particularly useful for basic vocabulary revision but if you want more of a challenge, use the intermediate section

Kerboodle is a very useful resource for all elements of the exam. (students have logins- institution code yh2)

You can also purchase the CGP French or German GCSE Complete revision and Practice guide (with either the CD in the back or the online listening resources)

Key Information

You will have a choice of 3 questions for the 90 word writing and the 150 word writing. There will be one choice on each of the 3 themes. Only complete ONE 90 word writing question and ONE 150 word question. Make sure you clearly address each of the bullet points and include accurate past and future tenses. Add some "wow phrases" to impress the examiner.

For the listening paper, you will have 5 mins reading time BEFORE the test starts. Start from the back of the paper and work to the front making notes of key vocab and highlighting any question words and the language you are required to answer the question is. Give enough detail in your answers to achieve the marks.

Translations- don't leave any blanks. Watch out for the little words.

Reading paper- watch for the tricks and don't leave any blanks!

Speaking- make sure you have thoroughly prepared your chosen topic and some answers from each of the other two themes. Use the 12 mins preparation time carefully for the role play and photo card- remember PALMS.

EDEXCEL 9-1 Mathematics GCSE 9-1

Overview

BOARD: Edexcel
SPECIFICATION: 1MA1
PAPER 1 – Non-calculator
PAPER 2 – Calculator
PAPER 3 – Calculator

Revision support

Personalised **MET reports**: each with outstanding topics are emailed to both students and parents – please utilise these when assisting your child with revision and exam preparation; they contain QR codes that support understanding and demonstrate techniques

MathsWatch:

Students have their own personal logins in order to access personalised specific teacher set tasks

Google classroom:

Past papers and predicted papers can be found in the Year 11 classrooms. Additional resources are uploaded regularly

Other sites:

Corbett Maths, Dr Frost, MME (Maths Made Easy), Mr Barton Maths, youtube, Maths Genie, Khan Academy (be careful; this is an American site so not all of it is relevant at GCSE), ExamSolutions

Preparing well

Students should have the following equipment for each exam:

Black pen x 2
Pencil, HB x 2
Ruler, at least 15cm long
Protractor
A pair of compasses
Eraser
Sharpener
AND

A scientific calculator for papers 2 and 3 (this is really important; students must demonstrate an understanding of how to use a calculator to solve more complex problems)

WJEC Level 1/ Level 2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award)

Overview

Two exams in total

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry - written examination 1 hour 30 minutes. 40% of total grade

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action – controlled assessment involving a series of tasks, including practical work, applying your knowledge. 60% of total grade

Suggested Revision Resources

WJEC Hospitality and Catering exam board have a selection of exam style questions and resources available to revise from. <https://questionbank.wjec.co.uk/my-paper>

A comprehensive series of informative followed by short videos and tests for each topic <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvtx47h/revision/1>

Topic Tests for WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering: Unit 1. An extensive selection of topic tests to check knowledge and understanding of each topic within the syllabus. including answer sheets.

Kahoot: Food labelling. <https://create.kahoot.it/share/food-labelling/b8ce66f4-f419-49e0-9704-8f2ae255c704>

Factors affecting food choice

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/factors-affecting-food-choice/29ee069b-ed80-4226-b6e8-a0718d9f4e61>

Seneca Learning

WJEC: Hospitality and Catering Specification from 2022

[wjec_11-2-vocaward-hospitality-and-catering_spec-e-09-01-2023.pdf](https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/1122/vocaward-hospitality-and-catering_spec-e-09-01-2023.pdf)

Key Information

Unit 1: Written examination - Answer all questions

Know specific facts and Laws from your revision and case studies.

BUG all exam questions, focusing on the command and key words.

Remember to check your SPAG in the questions that have marks given.

Unit 2: Controlled Assessment.

The total time that you will have to complete the unit 2 Assessment is 12 hours. This time will be broken down in to Assignment tasks:

Assignment task 1: The importance of Nutrition - A written response 1 hour

Assignment task 2: Menu Planning

Part a) Evidence you must produce: A written report 1 hour

Part b) A production plan 2 hours

Assignment task 3: The techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes, including and observation record 3 ½ hours

Assignment task 4: Evaluating cooking techniques

Part a) A written report of assessment of dishes 1 ¾ hours

Part b) A written report review of performance in the production of dishes 1 ¾ hour

GCSE AQA Combined Science 9-1

Overview

Combined Science: Six 1 hour 15 minute exams

Separate Science: Six 1 hour 45 minute exams

Biology Paper 1

Chemistry paper 1

Physics paper 1

Biology Paper 2

Chemistry paper 2

Physics paper 2

Suggested revision resources

Revision guides <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science>

MNSP Science Workbooks (uploaded onto google classroom)

Websites:

<https://www.gcsephysicsonline.com/> (We have a log in, details found on google classroom)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4>

Youtube channels:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Freesciencelessons>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Cognitoedu>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/fuseschool>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/myGCSEscience>

Key Information

Refer to the detailed PowerPoint on google classrooms to see details about the topics covered in each paper

You will need a scientific calculator for all the exams

GCSE AQA English Language 9-1

Overview

Two 1 hour 45 minute exams in total

Paper 1- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2- Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives

Suggested revision resources

Your child has had a wealth of revision resources posted on google classroom. There are also packs of mock papers you can collect from your child's teacher. These have been posted to google classroom. The following revision guide might also be useful:



Key information

- Make sure you spend fifteen minutes reading and annotation the extracts
- Make sure you leave enough time to spend on Q4 and Q5 (a mark a minute)
- Make sure you spend five minutes planning Question 5
- Answer question five including a variety of punctuation and grammar

GCSE AQA English Language 9-1

Overview

Two examinations in total

Paper One- Macbeth & A Christmas Carol

Paper Two- An Inspector calls, Power & Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry

Suggested revision resources

Your child has had a wealth of revision resources posted on google classroom. There are also packs of mock papers you can collect from your child's teacher. These have been posted to google classroom. The following revision guide might also be useful:



Power & Conflict



A Christmas Carol



Macbeth



An Inspector Calls

Key information

A Christmas Carol and Macbeth will each have an extract included for you. Spend five minutes reading and annotating your extract before 5 minutes of planning your response.

You must discuss the wider text as well, not just what is in the extract

Check your SPAG- you will be given marks for this

Consider carefully the focus of the poetry question and choose an appropriate comparison

GCSE 9-1 AQA History

Overview

History Paper 1 America 1920-73 and Conflict & Tension in Asia

History Paper 2 Health and the People, Elizabethan England

Both papers 2 hours long

Suggested revision resources

Links to suggested revision guides.



Health & the People



America



Conflict & Tension



Elizabethan England

Key Information

Attempt all questions.

Be careful with time management: 1½ minutes per mark available

E.g.

4 marks = 6 minutes

8 marks = 12 minutes

12 marks = 18 minutes

16 marks = 24 minutes

The 16 mark question also assesses Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, and is worth an additional 4 marks; so bare this in mind whilst answering

Sociology EDUQAS WJEC

Overview

Two exams in total

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes - Written examination (100 marks) : 1 hour 45 minutes
(Key concepts and processes of Cultural Transmission, Families, Education, Sociological research methods)

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures - Written examination (100 marks): 1 hour 45 minutes
(Social differentiation and stratification, Crime and deviance, Applied methods of sociological enquiry)

Suggested Revision Resources

Exam Specification:	Suggested Revision Guide Search for best value	Interactive Revision Resources	WJEC specific Youtube Channel
			
https://www.wjec.co.uk/umbraco/surface/blobstorage/download?nodeId=9122	https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/product/wjec-eduqas-gcse-sociology-revision-guide-revised-edition	https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/SearchResources.aspx	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmwzgvRxfGU&list=PLZA1J-rBdYIDvfdgPWI40yrRKCXvwP-v&index=24

Key Information to be aware of before the exam

On both Papers:

Answer all questions closely. Look specifically at what is being asked.
Stronger answers show a detailed knowledge of sociological theories and concepts
Always use sociological terms, theorists and laws to reach higher mark bands.

Paper 1: Understanding Social Processes

For 12 and 15 mark questions, discuss the relative strengths of different arguments,
eg 'is a strong argument because it is based on high quality research'
or *'this is a weak argument as it fails to take into account the diversity of modern secular society.'*

Paper 2: Understanding Social Structures

On the 9 mark questions, use lots of evaluative language and a short conclusion.

GCSE Design & Technology 9-1

Overview

One exam of 2 hour duration. This will test your knowledge of designing and making as well as your technical knowledge of materials and their properties

You will also have coursework assignment to complete in Autumn Term 2023

Suggested preparation resources

In addition to using Seneca and Bitesize you may find <http://technologystudent.com/> to be a useful website.

Additionally, you were given 2 revision books and a pack of revision flash cards. Use these to revise and test yourself. Ask your friends and family to quiz you.

You have been given some exam paper sections to practise. Please complete these. Firstly using your current knowledge in exam conditions and then by researching answers you are unaware of. Write these answers in purple pen please to identify where you need to further revise. We will use exam marksheets in class to discuss the answers.

Key Information

Remember 15% of the written exam is designed to test your maths and science knowledge. Apply the same principles to these questions that you would in a mathematics exam. Don't forget to take your scientific calculator with you to the exam.

Your coursework is a huge part of the final mark. Make sure you keep up with the deadlines and complete the portfolio and practical elements to the best of your abilities.

NCFE Level 1 /2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years

Overview

One written exam in June 2024 - 9am 11th June 2024

1 hour and 30 minutes.

80 marks in total.

Students can only attempt this exam once. This is worth 50% of the overall GCSE.

The paper contains a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.

Students will be completing their NEA (non-exam assessment) throughout the Autumn term.

This is worth 50% of the overall GCSE.

92 marks

The completion time for the NEA is 14 hours plus 2 hours preparation and research time.

The NEA will assess the learner's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole vocational area.

Suggested Revision Resources

My Revision Notes - NCFE CACHE by Hodder Education:

Level 1/ 2 Technical Award Child Development and Care in the Early Years

£10.99 on Amazon.

All our teaching resources are available on Google Classroom:

- Lesson resources used throughout year 10 and 11
- Knowledge organisers
- Word mats

Key Information to be aware of before the exam

Your **exam paper** will be testing you on all content areas so it's essential that you use our PLC (Personal Learning Checklist) to review your knowledge and understanding.

Remember:

- BUG all exam questions, focusing on the command and key words.
- To check your SPAG in the questions that have marks given.
- Answer all questions in context (about the case study provided).
- Focus on how to structure your extended answers, identify what is expected from the case study provided.

Your **NEA** also focuses on all content areas 1-9 so it's essential that you are completing the weekly revision tasks on Google Classroom to help prepare for the tasks we will be completing in lessons. You are **NOT** allowed to use any textbooks/revision guides whilst working on your NEA, you can only use the notes you have produced in lessons.

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise

Overview

One written exam in June 2024 - 9am 6th June 2024

1 hour 30 minutes.

Students can only attempt this exam once. This is worth 40% of the overall GCSE.

Students will be completing their NEA (non-exam assessment) throughout the Autumn term.

This is worth 60% of the overall GCSE.

120 marks in total.

The completion time for the NEA is 21 hours plus 2 hours preparation and research time. This is only completed during lesson time.

The NEA will assess the learner's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole vocational area.

Suggested Revision Resources

Complete the weekly Seneca revision activities and exam questions that are being set.

My Revision Notes - NCFE CACHE by Hodder Education:

Level 1/ 2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise

£10.99 on Amazon.

We will be providing a copy of this revision guide for all students very shortly.

Use BBC Bitesize and use the topics from the Edexcel page:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z98snbk> or scan the QR code:



Your NEA booklet is available on Google Classroom to review and consider what theory topics you need to revise at home.

Key Information

Your **exam paper** will be testing you on all content areas so it's essential that you use our PLC (Personal Learning Checklist) to review your knowledge and understanding.

Remember:

- BUG all exam questions, focusing on the command and key words.
- To check your SPAG in the questions that have marks given.
- Answer all questions in context (about the case study provided).
- Focus on how to structure your extended answers, identify what is expected from the case study provided.

Your NEA also focuses on all content areas so it's essential that you are completing the weekly revision assignments to help prepare for the tasks we will be completing in lessons. You are NOT allowed to use any textbooks/revision guides whilst working on your NEA, you can only use the notes you have produced in lessons.

Cambridge National Level 1/2 in Creative iMedia

Overview

One 1 Hour 15 Minute Written Exam Paper

Total marks possible: 60 - this accounts for 40% of your total grade.

You will also have 2 coursework assignments to complete 60% of your final grade.

Suggested revision resources

OCR J817 Revision Guide – Paper Copy - available for all pupils.

Student RAG PLC's - available on Google Classroom.

Hodder My Revision Notes Text Books - available in Class during lesson time.

Study iMedia website – Revision notes/flashcards and quizzes - link available on Google Classroom

<https://studyimedia.co.uk/>

Key Information

Ensure that you are aware of and fully read and understand the scenario that will be at the beginning of the exam paper. The questions that follow will all need you to then apply your understanding to this particular scenario.

Prepare – do this well in advance and get a set time and day when you will revise iMedia.

Use past exam questions – these will help you to see what questions might be asked and how the questions might be asked.

Use your resources – Google Classroom has a variety of different documents/websites to use or to quiz yourself on. You also have access to the revision booklets handed out to you in class which feature knowledge checks and questions.

Computer Science GCSE 9-1

Overview

Paper 1 Computer Systems - Calculators not allowed

Paper 2 Programming and Algorithmic Thinking - Calculators not allowed

Suggested revision resources

CGP Revision book

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/computer-science/cos42-gcse-computer-science-ocr-complete>

There are also Knowledge Organisers and Revision booklets on Google Classroom

Walking Talking Mocks are available in Classrooms

Key Information

Paper 1 use 1000 bytes in KB - 100KB in MB etc

Paper 2 now asks for written high level language in some questions. (Writing actual Python Code)

Please ensure you read carefully the type of response required.

Content Overview

J277/01: Computer systems

This component will assess:

- 1.1 Systems architecture
- 1.2 Memory and storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols
- 1.4 Network security
- 1.5 Systems software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

This component will assess:

- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Assessment Overview

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes
50% of total GCSE
80 marks

This is a non-calculator paper.

All questions are mandatory.

This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes
50% of total GCSE
80 marks

This is a non-calculator paper.

This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections.

All questions are mandatory.

In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using **either** the OCR Exam Reference Language **or** the high-level programming language they are familiar with.

NCFE Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness

Overview

1 externally assessed written exam (worth 40% of your final grade)

1 hour 30 mins - Maximum mark is 80

Tuesday 4 June 2024

1 internally assessed synoptic project - to be completed in school from January-March 2024
(worth 60% of your final grade)

Suggested Revision Resources

[My Revision Notes: NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness, Second Edition](https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/ncfe-fitness-textbook)
[Boost eBook \(hoddereducation.co.uk\)](https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/ncfe-fitness-textbook)

<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/ncfe-fitness-textbook>



Key Information

The exam will be split into 4 sections. Section A is worth 22 marks. Section B and C are worth 20 marks each. Within each of these sections there will be multiple choice questions and short answer questions. In section D there will be 2 longer answer questions both worth 9 marks.

- Answer all the questions.
- You may do rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not wish to be marked.
- Read through the paper completely before answering any questions.
- Attempt the 9 mark questions first to give yourself enough time to get maximum marks.
- BUG all exam questions, focusing on the command and key words.
- Remember to check your SPAG in particular key terminology of bones and muscles.
- Remember to have a calculator, pencil, ruler and rubber as well as pens.

GCSE Fine Art 9-1

Overview

Portfolio 60% of the final grade. This is a sustained project and selection of further work. Students will complete this element by Christmas 2023.

External Set Assignment 40% - This is issued in January, students need to produce their own project in response to an externally set Exam paper. They will have around 12 weeks preparatory time and 10 hours of supervised work, conducted under exam conditions. The exam will form part of the exhibition which will be assessed both internally by school staff and by a moderator from the AQA board.

Suggested preparation resources

Students need to be working in their sketchbooks in the four key areas in preparation for the sit down 10 hour of supervised time.

Developing ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

Refining work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to your intentions as work progresses.

Presenting a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Key Information

You will complete your coursework component of the course by Christmas.

You will do a 10 hour supervised exam in the summer. Students will be complete all preparatory work for this exam from January onwards.

GCSE Photography 9-1

Overview

Portfolio 60% of the final grade. This is a sustained project and selection of further work. Students will complete this element by Christmas 2023.

External Set Assignment 40% - This is issued in January, students need to produce their own project in response to an externally set Exam paper. They will have around 12 weeks preparatory time and 10 hours of supervised work, conducted under exam conditions. The exam will form part of the exhibition which will be assessed both internally by school staff and by a moderator from the AQA board.

Suggested preparation resources

Students need to be working in their digital sketchbooks in the four key areas in preparation for the sit down 10 hours of supervised time.

Developing ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

Refining work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to your intentions as work progresses.

Presenting a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Key Information

You will complete your coursework component of the course by Christmas.

You will do a 10 hour supervised exam in the summer. Students will be complete all preparatory work for this exam from January onwards.

GCSE Music 9-1

How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

1 Listening examination which is 1 hour 15 minutes long.

The exam is worth 40% of the GCSE. The remaining 60% are split across performance and composition. Please speak to Miss Powell in music for more information about the coursework.

Suggested Revision Resources

Your child has had a wealth of revision resources posted on google classroom. Past papers along with audio files) have also been posted to google classroom.

Students can also use Focus on Sound <https://portal.focusonsound.com/> which is connected to their google classroom accounts to practise their listening skills.

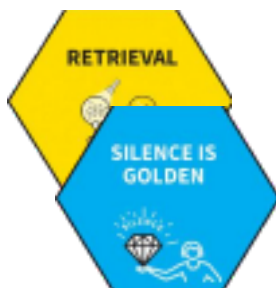
Key Information to be aware of before the exam

The exam comprises of 8 questions, 2 on each area of study:

- AoS 1 Musical Forms and Devices (including a set work*)
- AoS 2 Music for Ensemble
- AoS 3 Film Music
- AoS 4 Popular Music (including a set work*)

*A set work is a piece of music which everybody has to learn about. There is one short classical piece called 'Badinerie' by JS Bach, and one Rock/pop song called 'Africa' by Toto. In lessons, you will learn to play/sing parts of them to help you learn the details.

What does effective revision look like?



Lots of testing – also known as retrieval practice – done in **silence**, is the best strategy when revising. How can you make this even more effective? Read on...
walkthrus.co.uk Ideas and resources from www.innerdrive.co.uk

Retrieval practice

Retrieval is trying to remember information you have previously learned, so you can access it easily at a later date. When we are asked a question, our brain makes connections to other things we know. By repeating the question regularly, those connections are strengthened, and eventually the information transfers to our long term memory.



What does the research say?

This is one of the most extensively researched areas of learning - dating back to Ebbinghaus in 1885. **If we only learn something once, we are more than likely to forget it;** we need to force ourselves to remember and re-learn the information if we want to cement it in our long term memory. Look back at the study on the previous page – **those students who self-tested 3 times before the exam were far more successful than those who just re-read the text.**



Spacing

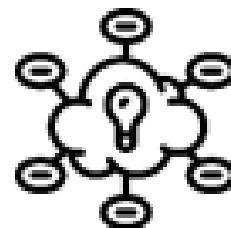
Cutting up your revision into smaller chunks and **spacing them out** over a period of time is much more beneficial than cramming an entire subject in a day. An hour of Physics each day for 5 days is much more effective than 5 hours in one day.

Interleaving

To improve your results further, also consider interleaving. This is where you **mix up the subjects and topics you revise**: 30 minutes of Shakespeare, 30 minutes of algebra, 30 minutes of Poetry, 30 minutes of Ratio - rather than an hour of English and an hour of Maths.

A 2007 study (Rohrer and Taylor) found that students who spaced out their revision over a week, compared to one sitting, achieved a much higher average mark in their final exams.

In a second study, students were given a mock test after blocking or interleaving and another test a week later. Even though blocking was effective in the mock test the next day, the students who used interleaving did considerably better a week later in the final exam.





Brain dump

Choose a topic and write down as much as you can remember, without referring to your notes. Check your notes and see what you missed then try to fill the gaps without the notes. Check your notes a third time and add the missing information.



Flash cards

Write flashcards for each topic, in all subjects, then mix them up for the most effective revision. Check out the Leitner System for effective spacing and interleaving. Keep your flashcards simple – one question, one answer per card.



Map it out

Take an essay question or writing question and map out your answer, without writing a full response. Look at the mark scheme and decide if your plan meets the criteria. Do this for a number of questions, then choose one and write the full response.



Past papers

Ask your teacher for practice questions or exam papers. Complete them without notes in exam conditions, then check your answers and identify the gaps in your knowledge, so you can target your revision.



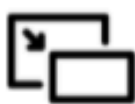
Quizzes

Write a set of questions and answers and ask someone else to test you. It's important to either write or say your answers aloud. Reading through quizzes in your head can give you a false sense of security.



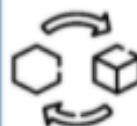
Practise introductions

For essay subjects, take a past exam question and practise writing effective introductions and conclusions. Look back at your notes and remind yourself of the important things to remember. Practise for different topics, texts and papers.



Thinking hard: reduce

Read a section of your notes then put them aside and reduce what you read to 3 bullet points, each one no more than 10 words. Look back at the notes and decide if you missed anything important. Hide the notes and write a fourth bullet point.



Thinking hard: transform

Read a paragraph from your notes or a text book and transform it into a diagram, chart or sketch – no words allowed. Look at a diagram in Science, for example, and transform it into a paragraph of explanation.



Thinking hard: connect

For each subject, consider the exam papers and group together questions that require the same technique to answer. Write down the requirements of each type. Find a previous example you've completed and identify where you've met the criteria.



Key vocabulary

For a particular topic, make a list of key vocabulary, then do the following: define each word; use each term in a sentence; create a question where the key word is the answer; identify other words which connect to each of the words in your list.

5

Step Study Plan

It's never too late to plan your revision!

This simple plan from @KateJones_teach & @Inner_Drive is a great place to start. 



Make a list

What do you need to know? Break it down into topics and units. When you can retrieve it without effort, cross it off the list. It might help with motivation and organisation to have a 'to do' and 'have done' list.



Timetable a spaced schedule

Look back at the notes about spacing and interleaving. Study each topic little and often and mix up subjects and topics so you are revising a mixture each day. Be sure to leave yourself enough time to cover everything.



Use effective study strategies

That's what this booklet is all about. Keep re-reading and highlighting to a minimum. Highlight what you need to learn – but that won't make you learn it. Test yourself, using retrieval strategies. Think twice before loading up your favourite playlist!



Identify the gaps in your knowledge

Having used the retrieval strategies, where are the gaps? What are you confident with? What do you need to go back to? What do you need to study more? Be honest with yourself – don't just focus on what you *do* know.



Close the gaps

Repeat the third and fourth steps of the plan until you are confident with everything. Some parts will be difficult, but don't give up. The harder you have to think, the more likely you are to remember in the end. 'Memory is the residue of thought.' (*Dan Willingham*)

What else helps?

Get some Sleep



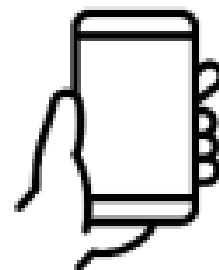
Get some sleep. How many hours of sleep do you get each night? On average, teenagers claim to get 6-7 hours a night, when they should really be aiming for 9-10 hours. If you are only getting 6-7, you are depriving yourself of over 1000 hours of sleep each year. You must be exhausted!

What does the research say?

Put very simply, we experience two types of sleep: deep sleep, which helps our body to recover; and REM, which helps restore our mind. Without enough REM sleep, you are much more prone to anxiety, stress, lack of concentration, mood swings and poor decision making. A 2009 study (van der Helm and Walker) found a 40% reduction in memory when sleep deprived. Not only that, but you are more likely to forget positive memories when tired, just recalling and retaining negative memories. **Excessive sleep loss therefore impacts on our mental health and stress levels.**

Limit your screen time

Mobile phones can be great tools for learning but are they having a negative impact on your learning? Catching up with friends, social media, movies and box sets is great – but when is the best time to do these things?



What does the research say?

A 2014 study (Thornton et al) found that just having a mobile phone nearby can lead to a 20% reduction in attention, concentration and performance. Another study in 2013 (Wood et al) found that the glare from phones and iPads tricks our brain into thinking it is daytime, therefore stopping melatonin (the sleep hormone) being triggered. **Two hours on your phone or iPad at night results in 20% less melatonin being released. At the very least, dim your screen prior to bedtime - or better still, don't use it at all.**

Look after yourself

Being kind to yourself each day can have a big impact on your performance during revision and exams. **Take a break and get some exercise.** Aim to start the day with cereal or toast – but be sure to treat yourself later on in the day. Find time to do the things you love. **Reward yourself for your hard work.**

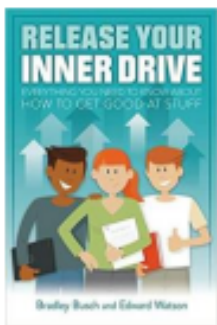
What does the research say?

A range of studies in 2016 (Miller and Krizen) found that students who took a 12 minute walk reported a 20% increase in happiness, attentiveness and confidence, compared to those who spent that time sitting down. Even taking a 5 minute walk resulted in similar benefits. Break up your study sessions with a quick stroll and see for yourself.

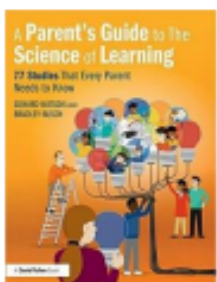
Reading and Resources



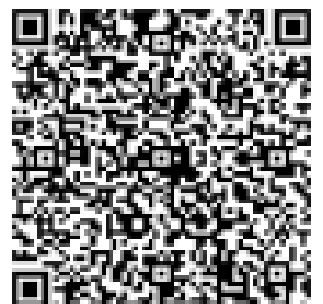
Don't fancy writing out flashcards? Take a look at the Anki app. There are banks of cards you can access, or you can make your own. The beauty of this app is that you tell it how difficult each card was, and it works out the best time to ask you that question again!



This excellent book is designed to show teenagers how they can excel at school and in life. Discover how to: take control, concentrate better, find your motivation, fail better, make revision stick, perform under pressure, ace those exams, put down that phone when you're meant to be revising, get over FOMO, stop procrastinating, get a good night's sleep, take care of yourself and your mental health, learn from sporting champions and grow your mindset to get ahead.



This book answers the sort of questions that every parent wants to know. How much sleep does your child need? Should you help them with their homework? Why does your child forget what they have just learnt? How much screen time is too much? What can you do to help them do better at school? How can you help your child learn to better manage their emotions?



Guidance for Parents

Exam time can be a major cause of stress for children and parents at this time of year. At exam time, many parents are anxious about how much their children are studying, whether they are looking after themselves, and whether they will get the results they need. Some parents also find their own difficult memories of exams or school return at this time and make it harder to help their children.

Before their exams

It's always worth planning ahead and preparing as well as you can as a family. Accept that this is going to be a stressful time for the whole family - expect outbursts and try to remain calm!

- Try and **find out** as early as possible **what is expected of your child**, when their exams will be and when coursework needs to be handed in.
- **Don't avoid difficult topics or subjects**. Be clear that avoiding subjects they find difficult will not be helpful in the long run.
- **Encourage them to talk** to you if they are really worried that they haven't done enough work - reassure them that if they do not get their expected grades, there will be other opportunities ahead and they should just do their best.
- **Find out what revision techniques are recommended by the school**, what revision sessions they are providing and check out online revision sites too. If you have any concerns or queries, contact the school rather than relying on your child to do it.

Tips for Revision

While they are revising, children are often stressed, anxious and irritable and can have trouble with eating and sleeping. But a few simple things can really help:

Try and work with your child and support them rather than 'policing' them.

- **Encourage your child** to have regular breaks, to do something they enjoy, even if it's just half an hour off to listen to some music or to watch their favourite soap.
- Make sure they **eat healthy snacks regularly and drink enough** so they don't get dehydrated - you can always pop your head in to see how they are doing and bring them a drink.
- **Exercise** is also a good way to relax, even just a walk round the block.
- Children have different ways of revision - some may prefer to be alone whereas others work best surrounded by noise and family.
- Respect their body clocks - many teenagers are more alert during the night and this may be the best time for them to revise even though it makes parents anxious!

When it's all over

- After the exams, there may be feelings of relief, but also stress and anxiety if things haven't gone well. Feelings may 'catch up' with your child after a sustained effort of studying hard, and you may need to 'let them be' for a while.
- After an exam or hand-in, they might not want to talk about it immediately so let them decide.
- Try and plan something nice for when it's all over - reward them for trying their best, however they feel it went.

How to cope with stress

The best way to combat stress is to recognise and deal with it. It is perfectly normal to feel stress over examinations it is a matter of finding the best strategies to reduce it. Stress becomes a problem when parents and children handle it by denying its presence or by doing things to reinforce it. For parents, making a family joke of a child's anxieties or imposing an excessive revision schedule are sure ways of increasing the stress burden.

Parents

- **Don't go on about it.** Being asked how you feel often makes things worse. Try to be a listener rather than to give advice. It is normal to say that each exam paper was a total disaster, so don't join the inquest!
- **Be encouraging.** Even if you feel that your child has been lazy over the past few months, now it not the time to bring it up. Don't organise family visits and days out as entertaining distractions, either.
- **Talk to teachers** if you're worried. An apparently stressed child at home may be coping well at school and vice versa.
- **Expect a 'bumpy' ride** during the revision period. Slamming doors, arguing pointlessly and crying are simple safety valves and not a cause for worry. However, watch out for the child who is having real difficulty sleeping or is very quiet and withdrawn, or the one who is apparently "studying" diligently but really doing nothing - copying out the text book, for example. Watch out for side-effects. The stress of exams can easily bring unrelated emotional issues and physical complaints to the surface.

Students

- **Relax for an hour a day** at least - listen to music, watch television or take exercise.
- **Revise hard in slots** of an hour or less - write rather than read - and take a 10-minute break in-between.
- **Get regular sleep** and avoid too much junk food and caffeine (coffee, cola, and tea). The best revision is done in the morning.



Useful Websites to support with Revision and exam preparation

BMA Year 11 Parents Page	https://www.bucklersmead.com/parents-and-carers/year-11.htm
Seneca Learning	https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/
BBC Revision Website	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3
BBC Study Support	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z877wnb
BBC Exam Support	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zghhxbk
BBC Exam Support for Parents	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmxc96f
Quizlet	https://quizlet.com/en-gb
Exam Stress Advice	https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/exam-stress/ https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/