



**Buckler's Mead**

**Academy**

**Keys to Success**

**2023**

# Contents

Headteacher's Welcome	Page 2
Seneca Learning	Page 3
Independent Learning	Page 4
Exam Equipment	Page 5
Examination Timetable	Pgs 6-7
Subject Information	Pgs 8-23
Revision Guidance	Pgs 24-29
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 to support with the upcoming examinations.

Our key message at this time of year is to “make Easter count!” Whilst the Spring break is an opportunity for some rest and ‘down time’, it is also a crucial period for students to work independently in preparation for the exams.



Students should write a sensible revision schedule and try to stick to it. There will also be booster sessions taking place in school over the break. If your child is involved in one of these you will receive a letter with the details and timings. We would strongly encourage them to attend these. Students who make the most of the Easter break as a time for preparation as well as recuperation often feel prepared, ready and less stressed in the final weeks before the exam, so use the time wisely!

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. Mr Gold and the Year 11 tutors 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 the luck for the upcoming examinations.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lawrence', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Mark Lawrence (Headteacher)

## Guidance on how to access Seneca Premium

Seneca Learning enables teachers to build a personalised learning journey. Students can use it to help them understand and learn all of their subjects whilst at school or when revising for exams. Seneca is an adaptive learning platform, with a methodology entirely based on neuroscience, written by experts and academically proven to **double students' outcomes**.



Not only are they fun and effective, but they also adjust each assignment to each pupil, optimizing their learning and providing teachers with detailed information about the class' progress.

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. Thus, 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 schedule. Please encourage your child to use this as often as possible as part of exam preparation.

## Independent Learning Schedule

The information in the booklet (see link below) is intended to provide you with some guidance about the tasks your child should be undertaking independently. As students approach the end of Year 11 and start to prepare for their examinations, it is important that they use their time effectively and appropriately. One way to do this is to complete short sharp knowledge retention tasks or practice examination questions.

<https://www.midsomernortonschoolpartnership.com/uploads/files/y11-independent-learning-schedule.pdf>

Each department has broken down these tasks week by week for your child to complete. These can either be completed at home, during Independent study in Period 6 or as part of form time. It is very likely that students will use a combination of these.

Most of the tasks in the booklet are designed to be completed online either using Seneca Premium accounts, google classroom or subject specific sites. Students can access these by clicking on the hyperlinks.

Students will be expected to complete at least one of these tasks per week, per subject. In doing so, they will revise and prepare for the final GCSE examinations starting in May.



# Examination Equipment

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

Clear Pencil Case



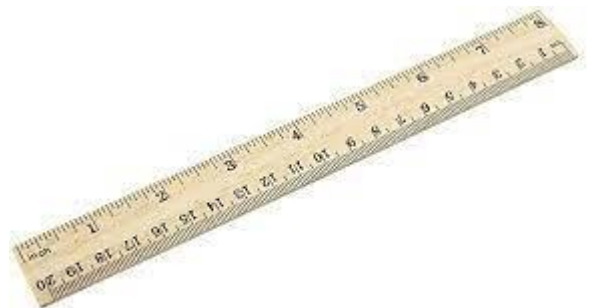
3 Black Biro or Ball point pens



A highlighter



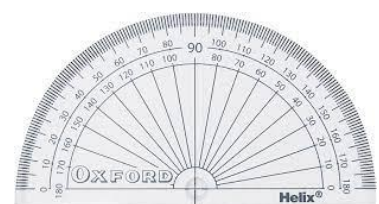
A ruler



A scientific calculator



A Protractor



A Compass



HB Pencils



# GCSE Examination Timetable

## Summer 2023

Date	Time	Board	Exam	Length
Mon 17 April			<b>INSET DAY</b>	
Tue 18 April				
Wed 19 April				
Thu 20 April				
Fri 21 April	AM	Edexcel	BTEC Sport - Fitness for Sport and Exercise (Onscreen)	1:15
Mon 24 April	P1-P5	AQA	Art & Design (Fine Art) Day 1	5:00
Tue 25 April	P1-P5	AQA	Art & Design (Fine Art) Day 2	5:00
Wed 26 April				
Thu 27 April	P1-P5	AQA	Art & Design (Photography) Day 1	5:00
Fri 28 April	P1-P5	AQA	Art & Design (Photography) Day 2	5:00
Mon 1 May			<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	
Tue 2 May				
Thu 4 May	P1-P5	Edexcel	Art & Design (Textile Design) Day 1	5:00
Fri 5 May	P1-P5	Edexcel	Art & Design (Textile Design) Day 2	5:00
Fri 5 May	AM	AQA	Polish Speaking	
Mon 8 May			<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	
Tue 9 May	TBC	AQA	French & German Speaking	
Wed 10 May	TBC	AQA	French & German Speaking	
Thu 11 May	TBC	AQA	French & German Speaking	
Fri 12 May	TBC	AQA	French & German Speaking	
Mon 15 May				
Tue 16 May	09:00	AQA	Biology Paper 1	1:45
Tue 16 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Science Biology Paper 1	1:15
Tue 16 May	13:30	AQA	German Listening & Reading Tier F	1:20
Tue 16 May	13:30	AQA	German Listening & Reading Tier H	1:45
Tue 16 May	13:30	Edexcel	BTEC Music - The Music Industry	1:00
Wed 17 May	09:00	AQA	English Literature Paper 1	1:45
Thu 18 May	09:00	AQA	History Paper 1 (America 1920-73; Conflict & tension in Asia)	2:00
Fri 19 May	09:00	Edexcel	Maths Paper 1 Non Calculator	1:30
Fri 19 May	13:30	OCR	Computer Science Paper 1	1:30
Mon 22 May	09:00	AQA	Chemistry Paper 1	1:45
Mon 22 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Science Chemistry Paper 1	1:15
Mon 22 May	13:30	AQA	Geography Paper 1	1:30

Tue 23 May	09:00	AQA	French Listening & Reading Tier F	1:20
Tue 23 May	09:00	AQA	French Listening & Reading Tier H	1:45
Wed 24 May	09:00	AQA	English Literature Paper 2	2:15
Thu 25 May	09:00	AQA	Physics Paper 1	1:45
Thu 25 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Science Physics Paper 1	1:15
Thu 25 May	13:30	OCR	Computer Science Paper 2	1:30
Fri 26 May	09:00	AQA	German Writing Tier F	1:00
Fri 26 May	09:00	AQA	German Writing Tier H	1:15
			<b>MAY HALF TERM</b>	
Mon 5 June	09:00	AQA	English Language Paper 1	1:45
Mon 5 June	13:30	AQA	French Writing Tier F	1:00
Mon 5 June	13:30	AQA	French Writing Tier H	1:15
Wed 7 June	09:00	Edexcel	Maths Paper 2 Calculator	1:30
Wed 7 June	13:30	AQA	History Paper 2 (Health & the people; Elizabethan England)	2:00
Thu 8 June	09:00	AQA	Further Mathematics Paper 1	1:45
Thu 8 June			<b>NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PM</b>	
Fri 9 June	09:00	AQA	Geography Paper 2	1:30
Fri 9 June	13:30	AQA	Biology Paper 2	1:45
Fri 9 June	13:30	AQA	Combined Science Biology Paper 2	1:15
Mon 12 June	09:00	AQA	English Language Paper 2	1:45
Mon 12 June	13:30	OCR	Creative iMedia: Pre-Production Skills	1:15
Tue 13 June	09:00	AQA	Chemistry Paper 2	1:45
Tue 13 June	09:00	AQA	Combined Science Chemistry Paper 2	1:15
Wed 14 June	09:00	Edexcel	Maths Paper 3 Calculator	1:30
Wed 14 June	13:30	AQA	Polish Listening & Reading Tier H	1:45
Thur 15 Jun			<b>NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PM</b>	
Fri 16 June	09:00	AQA	Physics Paper 2	1:45
Fri 16 June	09:00	AQA	Combined Science Physics Paper 2	1:15
Fri 16 June	13:30	AQA	Geography Paper 3	1:15
Mon 19 June	09:00	OCR	D&T: Principles of Design and Technology	2:00
Tue 20 June	09:00	WJEC/Eduqas	Food Preparation & Nutrition	1:45
Wed 21 June	09:00	AQA	Polish Writing Tier H	1:15
Wed 21 June	13:30	AQA	Further Mathematics Paper 2	1:45
Wed 28 June			<b>NATIONAL CONTINGENCY DAY</b>	

# Geography 9-1

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

Three exams in total

**Paper 1- Physical Geography 1 hour 30 mins**

Monday 22 May 2023 PM

**Paper 2- Human Geography 1 hour 30 mins**

Friday 9 June 2023 AM

**Paper 3- Pre Release and Unseen Fieldwork 1 hour**

Friday 16 June 2023 PM

## Suggested Revision Resources

Revision Book



Revision Exam Practice 7-9



Revision Exam Practice 7-9



Useful Websites

Internet Geography



Geography Hawkes Youtube



## Key Information to be aware of before the exam

- **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.

# French & German GCSE 9-1

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

### Four papers in Total

#### Speaking Examinations

French and German speaking exams Tuesday 9 May- Friday 12 May. You will be given a date and time within this period.

(12 mins preparation time for the speaking exams- exam lasts approx 7-9 mins F and 10-12 mins )

#### Listening, Reading and Writing Examinations

German listening- Tuesday 16 May (F 35 mins H 45mins)

German reading- Tuesday 16 May (straight after the reading paper) (F

45 mins H 1 hr) German writing- Friday 26 May (F 1hr H 1hr 15 mins)

French listening- Monday 22 May (F- 35 mins H 45 mins)

French reading-Monday 22 May (straight after the reading

paper) (F 45 mins H 1hr) French writing- Monday 5 June (F 1hr H)

## 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](http://www.quizlet.com)

'thisislanguage' – 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 log ins- 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 to be aware of before the exam

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.

# Mathematics GCSE 9-1

## Useful information

BOARD: **Edexcel**  
SPECIFICATION: **1MA1**

PAPER 1 – **Non-calculator**  
PAPER 2 – **Calculator**  
PAPER 3 – **Calculator**

### **Exam dates:**

**PAPER 1** – Non-calculator 19 May 9:00am  
**PAPER 2** – Calculator 7 June 9:00am  
**PAPER 3** – Calculator 14 June 9:00am

## 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)

# GCSE Combined Science & Separate Sciences 9-1

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

Combined Science: Six 1 hour 15 minute exams

Separate Science: Six 1 hour 45 minute exams

Biology Paper 1 – Tuesday 16 May

Chemistry paper 1 – Monday 22 May

Physics paper 1- Thursday 25 May

Biology Paper 2 – Friday 9 June

Chemistry paper 2 – Tuesday 13 June

Physics paper 2 – Friday 16 June

## 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 to be aware of before the exam

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 English Language 9-1

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

Two 1 hour 45 minute exams in total

Paper 1- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Monday 5 June 9:00am

Paper 2- Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives

Monday 12 June 9:00am

## 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 to be aware of before the exam

- 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 English Literature

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

Two examinations in total

Paper 1 - Macbeth and A Christmas Carol Wednesday 17 May 9:00am

Paper 2 - An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry Wednesday 24 May 9:00am

## Suggested revision resources

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



Power & Conflict



A Christmas Carol



Macbeth



An Inspector Calls

## Key information to be aware of before the exam

- A Christmas Carol and Macbeth will each have an extract included for you. Spend five minutes reading and annotation your extract and then five minutes planning.
- You must discuss the wider text as well, not just what is in the extract
- Check your SPAG - you are getting marks for this.
- Consider carefully the focus of the poetry question and choose an appropriate comparison.

# GCSE History

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

History Paper 1 America 1920-73 and Conflict & Tension in Asia Thursday 18 May 9:00am

History Paper 2 Health and the People, Elizabethan England Wednesday 7 June 13:30

Both papers 2 hours long

## Suggested revision resources

Links to suggested revision guides.



Health & the People



America



Conflict & Tension



Elizabethan England

## Key Information to be aware of before the exam

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

# GCSE Art Textiles 9-1

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

There are no written exams for this subject. Instead you will be expected to undertake a 10-hour practical exam.

Thursday 4 May and Friday 5 May. Attendance and participation to these days are compulsory elements of the course.

## Suggested preparation resources

You are able to plan your 10-hour make before the exam. Your sketchbook should be bursting with samples and your ideas for this before the practical exam.

Samples could include:

- Printing - Lino, Stamping, Sublimation, Disperse Dyes, Batik
- Manipulation - Cutting, Folding, Twisting,
- Stitching - Embroidery, Applique, Couching

## Key Information to be aware of in the final countdown

**You are only marked on the 'art', the 'surface design' of your final outcome rather than the construction.**

Make sure your time is well-spent. For instance, instead of **making** a jacket, **alter** a jacket.

# GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Eduqas 9-1

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification Tuesday 20 June 2023

## Suggested Revision Resources

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rlid=1476> Digital walk through of component 1

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=52&lvlId=2> All resources



All components,  
science of cooking,  
health and safety



Seneca Learning

## Key Information to be aware of in the final countdown

- The paper is made up of 2 sections – Section A is based on the picture stimuli and is 1 question which has 5 parts – 15 marks in total
- Section B has 8 questions which vary in complexity and size – and this section totals 85 marks
- The question types vary throughout the paper
- The total marks for this paper is 100
- Read through the whole question before starting to answer. This will help you understand what is required of you.
- Use a highlighter to pick out key words.
- Look at the command words and the number of marks available for each question, they will help you decide how much detail is needed.
- If a word is **bold** it is important.
- Keep your exam paper open at the double page spread, do not fold it in half.
- Read your answers to check they make sense.

# GCSE Design & Technology 9-1

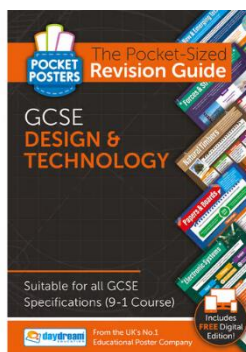
## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

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

## Suggested preparation resources

In addition to using seneca and bitesize, you may find <https://www.technologystudent.com/> to be a useful website.

Additionally, you were given a revision book by the school on the last day before the February half term break. Use this book to revise and test yourself. Why not ask your friends/family to quiz you from this too?!



You were also given two full past exam papers, the relevant inset and full mark scheme for these papers. You must try to complete both. Firstly, using your current knowledge in exam conditions and then by researching answers you are unaware of. Write these answers in a purple pen however to identify the answers that you need to research. Finally, you should seek to use the mark scheme to mark your answers and make amendments where required. Use a green pen to do this.

## Key Information to be aware of in the final countdown

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.

# Cambridge National Level 1/2 in Creative iMedia

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit

One 1 Hour 15 Minute Written Exam Paper

Monday 12 June 13:30pm

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

## Key Information to be aware of before the exam

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

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

Paper 1 Computer Systems - Monday 16 May (80 Marks) 1 hour 30 mins 50%  
Calculators not allowed

Paper 2 Programming and Algorithmic Thinking - Friday 27 May (80 Marks) 1 hour 30 mins 50% Calculators not allowed

## Suggested revision resources

Each pupil has a CGP Revision book

There are also Knowledge Organisers and Revision booklets on Google Classroom

Walking Talking Mocks are available in Classrooms

## Key Information to be aware of before the exam

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	Assessment Overview
<p><b>J277/01: Computer systems</b></p> <p>This component will assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1.1 Systems architecture</li><li>• 1.2 Memory and storage</li><li>• 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols</li><li>• 1.4 Network security</li><li>• 1.5 Systems software</li><li>• 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology</li></ul>	<p><b>Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes</b> <b>50% of total GCSE</b> <b>80 marks</b></p> <p>This is a non-calculator paper.</p> <p>All questions are mandatory.</p> <p>This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.</p>
<p><b>J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming</b></p> <p>This component will assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2.1 Algorithms</li><li>• 2.2 Programming fundamentals</li><li>• 2.3 Producing robust programs</li><li>• 2.4 Boolean logic</li><li>• 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments</li></ul>	<p><b>Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes</b> <b>50% of total GCSE</b> <b>80 marks</b></p> <p>This is a non-calculator paper.</p> <p>This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections.</p> <p>All questions are mandatory.</p> <p>In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using <b>either</b> the OCR Exam Reference Language <b>or</b> the high-level programming language they are familiar with.</p>

# BTEC First Sport

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

You have 2 attempts at the external assessment. You have taken one and will be sitting the second on Friday 21 April.

## Suggested preparation resources

Revision resources on google classroom - revision guide/past paper and mark scheme/Unit 1 booklet  
You have been given an A5 revision booklet.

## Key Information to be aware of in the final countdown

NEA revision day Wednesday 19 Thursday 20 April - day to be confirmed.

Revision in lessons week beginning 17 April.

# GCSE Fine Art 9-1

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

External Set Assignment 40% - This is issued from the 3rd of 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 to be aware of in the final countdown

Exam Date: Monday 24 & Tuesday 25 April will be the examination days. Attendance is compulsory.

# GCSE Photography 9-1

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

External Set Assignment 40% - This is issued from the 3rd of 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 to be aware of in the final countdown

Thursday 27 & Friday 28 April will be the examination days. Attendance is compulsory.

# BTEC First Music

## How many examinations will I be expected to sit?

1 Examination

Tuesday 16 May 1:30pm

## Suggested preparation resources

The Music Industry 1 hour written paper consisting of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Unit 1 – The Music Industry - 1 hr exam Learning Aim A: Understand different types of organisations that make up the music industry

- Venues and live performance
- Health, safety and security at venues
- Production and promotion
- Service companies and agencies
- Unions
- How organisations interrelate and why these relationships are important

Understand job roles in the music industry

- Performance/creative roles
- Management and promotion roles
- Recording roles
- Media and other roles
- How and why workers are employed in the industry
- Getting a break and starting out
- Importance of individual roles and responsibilities
- How individual roles and responsibilities interrelate
- How the industry relies on entrepreneurs, the self-employed and small enterprises
- How to get paid



Quizlet Flashcards

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Firsts/Music/2013/Specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446907955\\_BTEC\\_L12\\_ACECD\\_MUSIC\\_SAMS\\_WEB.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Firsts/Music/2013/Specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446907955_BTEC_L12_ACECD_MUSIC_SAMS_WEB.pdf)

## Key Information to be aware of in the final countdown

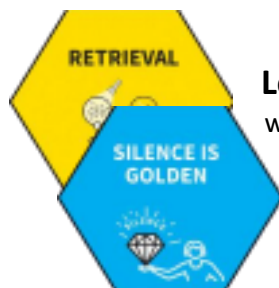
Use the materials detailed above to-

Revisit the subject content

Attempt practice questions

Familiarise yourself with the mark scheme

# 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](http://walkthrus.co.uk)  
Ideas and resources from [www.innerdrive.co.uk](http://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.**



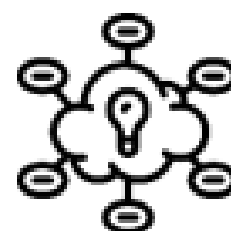
## Spacing

**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.





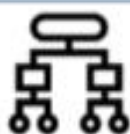
### Brain dump

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.



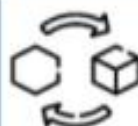
### Practise introductions

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

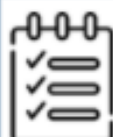
For a particular topic, make a list of key vocabulary, then do the following: define each word; use each term in a sentence; create a question where the key word is the answer; identify other words which connect to each of the words in your list.

# 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?

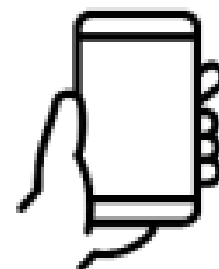
Put very simply, we experience two types of sleep: deep sleep, which helps our body to recover; and REM, which helps restore our mind. Without enough REM sleep, you are much more prone to anxiety, stress, lack of concentration, mood swings and poor decision making. A 2009 study (van der Helm and Walker) 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 is 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

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