



17th September 2021

Dear Year 11 Students

Year 11 Core Mock Examinations – week commencing 4th October 2021

Usually by this point in Year 11, you would have had the opportunity to sit assessments in the Sports Hall, as you will do for the examinations at the end of the year. I wrote to you back in May to say that your end of Year 10 assessments would be held in your normal lessons, but that there will be a short 'Core Mock' exam period at the start of October. We know that it is important for you to experience assessments in this setting, and in previous years this has helped to reduce anxiety in the summer examinations and make them run more smoothly.

These core mock exams will be in English, Maths and Science. Your teachers will be sharing with you in lessons what to prepare, led by the Curriculum Leaders for each subject. There will be assessments in lessons for your other subjects, so please remember that these core mocks are just one set of assessments. Next half term you will have a full set of mock examination, with the chance to show what you can do in exams in each subject.

Enclosed is a timetable for the week. We are planning for all assessments take place in the Sports Hall, and information on how they will be run will be shared with you in form time. If you have examination concessions, you may sit these assessments in a different venue.

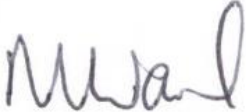
We will run these core mocks following the rules that apply for external exams, so you need to be aware of those rules and make sure you follow them:

- **No** mobile phones, iPods, MP3s, MP4s or SmartWatches are to be taken into any examination. All wrist wear, including watches, bracelets etc. should be removed and placed on the desk in clear view.
- **No** food, sweets or chewing gum allowed in any examination. You may bring a drink (water only) in a clear plastic bottle with a screw top and label removed.
- You **must** bring appropriate equipment with you to all examinations. This includes pens, pencils, eraser, ruler and calculator (if allowed). Please note you do need to bring your own calculator as we do not have any available to be handed out to you. Your equipment should be in a clear pencil case or a clear plastic bag.
- You should follow instructions from staff on where to **line up**, ready to go into the Sports Hall and find your designated seat.
- You are **not** permitted to communicate with each other whilst in the Sports Hall during examination times.
- If you are not in a timetabled exam, you will be in lessons as normal.

I have also included with this letter the guidance I sent to you last term, with tips on how to prepare for assessments in English, Maths and Science.

We want you to do the best you can in Year 11, so if you are worried about these or any other assessments, do talk to your form tutor, your class teacher, or your Progress Leader Mrs Wood.

Yours faithfully



Miss M Ward

Assistant Headteacher

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Preparing for English Language assessments:

- Read – the focus is on reading fiction and non-fiction texts so reading for pleasure is actually a good way to broaden your vocabulary, revise the structure of novels/letters/newspaper articles etc. and see a range of punctuation and paragraphing structures being used.
- Practise writing...describe a place you have been, your room, the qualities you look for in friend; you could google search for interesting pictures and use those as a base for description.
- Use the blurbs of books and create your own narrative; a good way would be to write an opening for the novel...you could then compare it to the actual opening to see if you've used any similar techniques.
- Argue... write your parents a really persuasive letter; try to convince them to let you go to that party or to buy you the latest computer game...they still may not let you but it's all revision!
- Use Mr Bruff – he has created videos that explore the new GCSE paper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch-XgnluOf4> This link takes you to paper 1, question 1 and then the others are available in the box down the right hand side.
- Use the exam board website: AQA English Language and have a look at past papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports. Try doing the questions and then having a look at the mark scheme and the answers they suggest you could have given.

Preparing for English Literature assessments:

- Read your key texts – a lot! Remember it is closed book so everything you can remember is vital. You can watch any versions that there may be of the texts but remember that they often change things or miss things out so test yourself and try to spot the differences.
- Make note cards, mind maps, lists, character profiles, post it notes etc. to remember key themes, quotes/references, character traits, structures, writer's techniques...
- Create revision mats with key characters, themes, quotes, context etc.
- Condense your class notes on texts and poems – as you will only have poem titles to spur your memory try creating mind maps around each title.
- Record yourself talking through your notes and listen to it back.
- Use audio books and YouTube videos such as Mr Bruff; again, he has some new videos that deal with the new papers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWoR3gMLVvw> (although some of his older ones that deal with set texts would still be valuable.)
- Use revision notes/guides, practice questions and your exercise books from your class, and resources on Teams.
- Practise questions and use the marking grids and feedback from your teachers to help you review your responses – again, these can be found on the AQA website under GCSE English Literature.
- You can also follow Mrs Brown's twitter account: <https://twitter.com/MrsBee98885769> for revision ideas, prompts, tasks etc.

Preparing for Maths assessments:

- Don't make flash cards by just copying information from one place to another. If you want to use them, try to make the notes from memory and then check the information is correct. Equally, do not just read through your notes or your revision guide and think that it will stick. To revise maths, you need to do some maths.
- Do lots of practice questions. There are lots available on mymaths, mathswatch, Corbett maths, Hegarty maths, Mr Barton maths, Just Maths, BBC bitesize – the list is endless! There are also resources on Teams
- Try not to just plough through past papers. Break them up into sections and concentrate on the type of questions that you struggle with. Equally, when using revision guides, don't feel like you need to do all the questions from a particular topic. It works a lot better if you space out the questions over a number of months. This will also make use of the retrieval effect. It is important to revisit topics that you haven't studied for a while in order to make sure that you still understand them
- Try not to reach for the answers if you get stuck, get a parent/friend/sibling to look at the first line of working and give you a pointer. Take a look back in your notes or revision guide for hints.

Preparing for Science assessments:

- Don't just read your notes or a revision guide! You must do something active; Use the revision guides, to read the notes and then complete the revision exercises at the end of each chapter.
- Don't just work on the bits you are already confident with. Focus on your weaker areas using a revision guide and other resources, such as www.doddlelearn.co.uk, <https://www.senecalearning.com/> and BBC Bitesize.
- Apply your knowledge by completing past paper questions, using resources from the AQA website, Teams and <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>
- Work on your maths skills – 20% of the total marks will come from testing your maths skills.
- Learn the required practicals. 15% of the total marks will be from questions about these so learn the definitions of key scientific terms used, create a brief outline of the methods, key equipment used and how the practical could be improved. The Freescience lessons website has very good videos to explain all the practicals.