

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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23rd October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 students

Year 11 Core Mock Examinations – commencing 6th November

As you are hopefully aware, there will be a short series of 'mock examination' assessments in the sports hall during the week commencing on Thursday 6th November. These will only be in some of the core subjects: English, maths, science and religious studies, with the addition of engineering. There will be a full set of mock examinations next half term. Information on what is in these assessments is being shared by Curriculum Leaders and teachers in lessons.

Enclosed is a timetable for these assessments. We are planning for all assessments to take place in the Sports Hall, and information on how they will be run will be shared with students in form time. Some students with examination concessions will sit these assessments separately, and Mr Bembridge will contact those students to explain the arrangements. We have also included some advice from the English, maths and science teams on preparing for assessments.

We will run this examination session following the rules that apply for external exams wherever possible, and we would be grateful if you could ensure that your child is aware of them.

- No mobile phones, iPods, MP3s, MP4s or watches are to be taken into any examination.
- No food, sweets or chewing gum allowed in any examination. Students may bring a drink (water only) in a clear plastic bottle with a screw top and label removed.
- Students must bring appropriate equipment with them to all examinations. This includes pens, pencils, eraser, ruler and calculator (if allowed). Please note that there are no calculators available to be handed out to students who do not bring them. The equipment should be in a clear pencil case or a clear plastic bag.
- Students should follow instructions from staff on where to line up, ready to go into the Sports Hall and find their designated seat.
- Students are not permitted to communicate with each other whilst in the Sports Hall during examination times.
- If students are not in a timetabled exam, they will be in lessons as normal.
- Where students have an exam P1, they will go straight to the hall (or exams concessions venue where appropriate) and be registered in their exam.

Thank you for your continued support.

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 have 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 is 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:

- Do not 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, do not 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 have not 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:

- Do not 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.
- Do not just work on the bits you are already confident with. Focus on your weaker areas using a revision guide and other resources, such as <https://www.educake.co.uk>, <https://www.senecalearning.com/> and BBC Bitesize.
- Apply your knowledge by completing past paper questions, using resources from the AQA website, school Teams pages 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.