

# HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR YEAR 9 ASSESSMENTS

## November 2017

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## Summary of assessment dates/venues

Subject	Date	Venue
Art	From February onwards	Classroom
DT	End of each term	Classroom
Drama	During the half-term that the pupil does Drama	Classroom
English	20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Classroom
French	20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Classroom
German	20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Classroom
Geography	20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Classroom
History	Throughout the academic year	Classroom
Mathematics	20 <sup>th</sup> November 9W – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 9V – 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Classroom Classroom - aural assessment
Music	Throughout the term	Classroom
PE	End of each unit each half-term	PE areas
RS	Throughout the academic year	Classroom
Science	Throughout the year	Classroom

# Art

## When are they happening?

The assessments will take place from February onwards

## Where is the assessment taking place?

Assessments will take place in Art classrooms

## What is being assessed?

1. Chuck Close Portrait – a decorative and imaginative portrait based on the grid portraits by Chuck Close
2. Juan Gris development page with annotations – research about Juan Gris and his Cubist Art mounted with a piece of the pupil's work inspired by his techniques and ideas
3. Cubist drawing from a collage of objects

These tasks will feed into the first GCSE project, should the pupil wish to take GCSE Art as an option in Year 10 & 11.

We mark against these criteria for practical work:

Imaginative composition Use of space Shape, proportions and angles
Tone to make 3D Colour mixing
Application and correct drawing/painting methods [Technique]
Detail

## How can pupils prepare?

- Revise the knowledge from this year – drawing and shading to make objects 3D, colour mixing and colour theory
- Reflect upon their teachers' feedback and targets

## How can parents support revision?

- Look at the work of Chuck Close and his use of grids and abstract patterns to form a photographic-like image
- Look at the colour wheel, particularly the relationships between colours such as harmonious colours and contrasting (opposite) colours on the colour wheel
- Study Gris and The Cubist painters such as Pablo Picasso and George Braque, particularly in relation to breaking up the image and imaginatively restricting it into a new composition

# Design & Technology

## When are they happening?

DT project assessments happen at the end of every term

## Where is the assessment taking place?

In Design and Technology classrooms

## What is being assessed?

Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils follow a rotation system for blocks of ten to twelve weeks. They study Resistant Materials, Product Design and Graphics. Pupils will be assessed on one of three projects that they will have studied during each term. In Year 9, they are:

- **Resistant Materials** - Pupils will design and make a decorative wooden box where they develop their making skills and gain further knowledge of woods, joints, standard components, glues and finishes. Pupils will also develop their understanding of analysing products and tasks.
- **Product Design** - The Cultural Clock project is designed to allow pupils to gain a knowledge and understanding of working with a range of materials, developing and analysing design briefs, modelling to test and develop their ideas and designing using a researched cultural influence, as well as developing designing skills learnt in previous units.
- **Graphics** – The Biscuit Packaging project develops pupils' ability to design creatively and apply graphic skills such as rendering effects, exploded views and thick and thin lines. It enables pupils to learn how to use a more demanding CAD software programme (Photoshop) which will set the foundation for pupils wanting to progress onto the GCSE Graphic Products next year. They should also understand how to manufacture a development net.

## How long is each paper?

60 minutes.

## How can pupils prepare?

Pupils must ensure they have attempted all their homework and completed the class work written in their booklets. Where gaps exist due to pupil absence, they should attempt to do the missing work with the support and guidance of their DT teacher. Pupils should focus on the DT project they will have studied during that term.

## How can parents support revision?

- Review their relevant project coursework in their DT booklet and clarify any misunderstandings
- Look at the revision materials provided by DT teachers in lessons. The following website [www.technologypupil.com](http://www.technologypupil.com) has a great deal of useful information, images and animations to help your child enhance his/ her learning, in the relevant topics

# Drama

## **When are they happening?**

Autumn Term, in the half-term the group study Drama

## **Where is the assessment taking place?**

In Drama classrooms, during lesson time

## **What is being assessed?**

Pupils are assessed in these areas of their ability:

- to create a piece of drama
- to deliver a performance
- to evaluate themselves and their peers' work

## **How long is each paper?**

Pupils will be assessed during several lessons of this half-term unit:

- Creating skills are assessed in a lesson specified by the teacher and pupils will be made aware of this on the day. They are encouraged to give their best effort in every lesson to ensure they achieve their desired grade
- Evaluating skills are assessed through a written assessment set at the end of the practical project
- Performances take place in the penultimate lesson of the half-term

## **How can pupils prepare?**

Completing the drama homework tasks will encourage pupils to be reflective in their work and prepare skills for the written assessment (evaluating).

## **How can parents support revision?**

Encourage pupils to complete their homework tasks.

# English

## When is the assessment happening?

Week 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November

## Where will the assessment be taking place?

In English classrooms

## What is being assessed?

Pupils' ability to respond to, and analyse, an extract from the class text, either 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' or 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'. They will be given a short extract from the text and a question; they will need to include quotations, analysis and context in their answer.

## How long is each paper?

One hour.

## How can pupils prepare?

- Re-read the text in class
- Familiarise themselves with the key themes
- Use online resources such as Sharepoint, Bitesize and Spark Notes to revise the text and the context of 19<sup>th</sup> Century literature

### **The Hound of the Baskervilles:**

- Rise of the RSPCA
- Doyle's beliefs in spiritualism
- The detective genre and Gothic literature
- The context of Victorian crime

### **Jekyll and Hyde:**

- Gothic features in 19<sup>th</sup> century literature
- Victorian views on religion and spiritualism
- The context of Victorian crime

## How can parents support revision?

Encourage pupils to re-read the text and complete practice paper questions, which can be found on Sharepoint. Reflect on work completed throughout the unit.

Remember the PETAL format for essay paragraphs: Point, Evidence (a quotation), Terminology, Analysis and Link to Context.

# French

## When are they happening?

Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November

The revision lesson will take place in the week before the assessment takes place.

There will also be regular quizzes and progress checks throughout the year which will not be part of this formal assessment process. These will cover the skills of Speaking, Writing, grammar and vocabulary retention.

## Where will the assessment take place?

The assessments will take place in ML classrooms

## What is being assessed?

Reading and Listening

## Topics are as follows:

- Past tense - describe an event
- Future plans
- Sport and fitness

## Length of assessment:

- Reading and Listening: approx. 30 – 40 minutes each
- Translating: approx. 30 minutes

## How can pupils prepare?

- Make sure that all sheets are stuck into exercise books – your exercise book and classwork will be the main resources
- Revise well from the revision materials given
- Use [www.vocabexpress.com](http://www.vocabexpress.com) to revise the vocabulary that will come up (username - ashcombe / password - wunderbar)
- Use [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) to revise grammar and topics

## How can parents support revision?

- Ensure that pupils spend time on Vocab Express
- Test them on their vocabulary from the revision lesson

# Geography

## When are they happening?

Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November

## Where will the assessment take place?

In Geography classrooms

## What is being assessed?

Pupils are being assessed on all of their work in Geography so far:

### Dangerous world

- The structure of the earth
- Plate boundaries
- Volcanoes
- Earthquakes (including Nepal Earthquake 2015)
- Tsunami (Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004)
- Earthquake-proof buildings

## Length of assessment:

40 minutes

## How can pupils prepare?

Start your preparation as early as possible! Create revision notes using your classwork books, summarising the content, and ask someone to test you on it. This could be done using detailed mindmaps or flashcards.

Ask an adult to test understanding of keywords, meanings, concepts or diagrams over a period of time. Try to recreate revision mindmaps and key diagrams from memory. Use the BBC KS3 Bitesize website as well as SAM Learning, when particular tasks have been set. You will find a range of helpful activities and animations on [www.echalk.co.uk](http://www.echalk.co.uk) (username: Ashcombe; password: echalk) and there are many useful resources on SharePoint which you can access via the school website.

## How can parents support revision?

Encourage active revision at home, rather than simply reading over books, by asking to see completed revision notes and checking against the revision checklist. Ask your child to explain a concept or event e.g. 'Can you explain convection currents to me?' using as many key words as possible. Test your child's understanding of key words using their books. Use photographs or real experiences, e.g. an earthquake being reported on the news, to prompt conversation and explanation.

# German

## When are they happening?

Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November

The revision lesson will take place in the week before the assessment takes place.

There will be regular quizzes and progress checks throughout the year which will not be part of this formal assessment process. These will cover the skills of Speaking, Writing, grammar and vocabulary retention.

## Where will the assessment take place?

The assessments will take place in ML classrooms

## What is being assessed?

Reading and Listening

## Topics are as follows:

- Comparing your lifestyle to that of your grandparents
- School and subjects
- School rules

## Length of assessment:

- Reading and Listening: approximately 30 – 40 minutes each
- Translating: approximately 30 minutes

## How can pupils prepare?

- Make sure that all sheets are stuck into exercise books – your exercise book and classwork will your main resources
- Revise well from the revision materials given
- Use [www.vocabexpress.com](http://www.vocabexpress.com) to revise the vocabulary that will come up (username – ashcombe / password – wunderbar)
- Use [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) to revise grammar and topics

## How can parents support revision?

- Ensure that pupils spend time on Vocab Express
- Test your child on the vocabulary from the revision lesson

# History

## When are they happening?

History is assessed throughout the year. At the end of three of the individual units that pupils study (WW1, Hitler and Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia and the Holocaust), there will be a test which focuses on particular skills, such as description, causation and detailed essay writing. The marks for the individual units will then be added up for the level issued at the end of Year 9.

## Where will the assessment take place?

In classrooms during History lessons.

## What is being assessed?

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to recall knowledge, apply this to the particular question and explain this in a coherent written form. Each test is designed to test a particular writing skill that is developed over the course of a topic. For example, the first Year 9 topic on World War One also gives pupils the chance to develop their ability to describe and to explain key events. All pupils will complete at least one type of question before being assessed on this in a test. The questions that pupils answer are in the style of a GCSE exam; hopefully this will increase pupil confidence about GCSE History and give them an idea of what to expect next year.

## How long is each paper?

Each paper lasts 50 minutes in lessons.

## How can pupils prepare?

Pupils will be told the topic and means of assessment prior to the test. Pupils will also be told if they can use their books in the tests or not. Pupils will have all the necessary information in their exercise books and should revise by condensing this into mindmaps or by highlighting key facts within their notes. Pupils will also have practised the different questions they could be asked in lessons and so they should look over their answers and read the advice from their teachers. Use <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/> Revision mindmap templates and structured sheets can be found on the Year 9 SharePoint page.

## How can parents support revision?

- Parents can prepare pupils by quizzing them on key information
- Ask pupils about the events from mindmaps that pupils have created
- Test pupils on the key events that pupils have highlighted in their books
- Suggest ways that pupils could improve their written work by reading over teacher comments with pupils

# Mathematics

## When and where are they happening?

- Both written papers in class on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November
  - 9V: periods 3&4
  - 9W: periods 7&8
- Aural Assessment:
  - 9V: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (periods 7&8)
  - 9W: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (periods 3&4)

## What is being assessed?

We will be assessing topics that have been covered this academic year since September.

**There are two written papers: one calculator and one non-calculator.** In both the written papers there are marks available for the final responses as well as method marks which are awarded for quality of working and an understanding of the method.

In addition to these written papers, there is an Aural assessment which will assess pupils' ability to quickly respond to verbal instructions and calculations without detailed working. Pupils listen to a 20-minute recording and are asked to answer questions of increasing difficulty.

## How long is each paper?

Each written paper is 30 minutes long; the aural assessment lasts 20 minutes.

## How can pupils prepare?

- Pupils will be completing some recap work during lessons in the run up to the exams. In addition to this, pupils will need to complete independent revision at home to maximise their success.
- We will be providing revision lists and revision worksheets for each class and distributing these to pupils in their lessons. In addition, a copy will be available to download from Sharepoint.
- Read through exercise book and identify areas of strength and weakness.
- MyMaths.co.uk (username: ashcombe, password: volume): choose topics from the menu that match what has been covered in class.
- BBC Bitesize (KS3 Maths) (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zqhs34j>)
- Attend Maths clinic on a Tuesday after school (3:30-4:30pm) in R41.

## How can parents support revision?

Help pupils find time to revise at home; look through their exercise book in conjunction with the revision list and help them with revision resources and identifying topics to revise.

Please also ensure that pupils come equipped with full mathematical equipment including a scientific calculator. The school currently sells the Casio FX-83GT (plus) through ParentPay for £6.00.

# Music

Year 9 Report Grades for Music are based on the results of two assessments. Pupils are assessed on either Performance or Composition (dependant on which unit they have completed in the first half-term of the Autumn Term). All pupils complete a Listening assessment on the unit that they have completed in the first half-term.

## 1. Performance (30%)

### **When does this happen?**

This takes place in lessons during the Autumn Term when the topic of 'Band Skills' is studied. The final assessment is a group performance of 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams' which was completed in the last week of the first half-term.

### **What is being assessed?**

Pupils are assessed on: their ability to perform this piece accurately, in time with their group and their use of the instrument chosen.

### **How long is the assessment?**

Pupils will have spent the half-term preparing for the assessment by learning the individual parts of the song and rehearsing this with their groups.

### **How can pupils prepare?**

Pupils could extend their work by, where appropriate, practising their parts.

## 2. Composition (30%)

### **When does this happen?**

This takes place in lessons during the Autumn Term when the topic of 'American Cool' is studied. Pupils spend the half-term working on an 'American Cool' composition which is completed and handed in during the penultimate lesson of the Autumn term.

### **What is being assessed?**

Pupils are assessed on: the style of their piece, the structure of their music, the melody they have written and their use of dynamics.

### **How long is the assessment?**

Pupils will have spent lessons during the half-term working on this piece prior to handing it in.

### **How can pupils prepare?**

Pupils could prepare by completing related homework, and could extend their understanding by listening to American Cool Jazz.

### **3. Listening Assessment (40%)**

#### **When are they happening?**

During lessons in Year 9 Assessment Week

#### **What is being assessed?**

Pupils will do an assessment on the topic they have taken in the first half-term. They will be assessed on their ability to listen and analyse the style of music (American Cool Jazz, or Rock); their knowledge of keywords and context relating to this style; their ability to identify relevant instruments; their ability to understand the structure of the music heard and (for American Cool) their knowledge about chords. Questions will cover all the different elements of music: instruments, melody, tempo (speed), dynamics (volume), harmony (chords), texture, structure and rhythm.

#### **How can pupils prepare?**

Complete the revision sheet given the week before and use past booklets to help revise (also given the week before).

#### **How can parents support revision?**

Encourage pupils to complete the revision sheet and go through the keywords in their music booklets with them. Listen to clips of the styles studied using the ideas or links on the revision sheet, thinking about what each style sounds like, and what instruments are used.

# PE

## **When are they happening?**

Assessment happens at the end of every unit of work.

Pupils complete one unit each half-term.

Pupils also complete 3 multi-stage fitness tests throughout the year; the result of this fitness test helps grade pupils for their progress review.

## **Where will the assessment take place?**

On the Sports Field, Gym or Sports Hall during normal lesson time.

## **What is being assessed?**

Pupils' ability to perform against a range of key skills as determined by the National Curriculum for Physical Education.

## **How are pupils assessed?**

- Pupils are assessed over the course of each unit where the teacher's professional judgement is used against GCSE descriptors for each activity
- By assessing against GCSE level descriptors it is possible to measure a pupil's progress over time (i.e. from year to year)

## **How can pupils prepare?**

- Ensuring they have the correct kit for every lesson
- Participating in lessons as fully as possible
- Taking part in a range of extra-curricular sporting activities

# Religious Studies

## When are they happening?

Year 9 Religious Studies assessments happen regularly throughout the year as each class reaches the end of a topic. There are four in total - philosophy, ethics, religion and science, and Buddhism. Pupils will be told by their class teacher when these assessments are taking place.

## Where will the assessment take place?

In their Religious Studies classroom during normal lesson time.

## What is being assessed?

At the end of each topic, pupils are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of that unit as well as their understanding and evaluation of religious ideas and concepts. There will also be the introduction of GCSE style questions to prepare pupils for further study. Pupils will be told what to revise by their teacher.

## How are pupils assessed?

Closed book assessments will be 50 minutes long. Open book assessments - religion and science (one lesson = 70 minutes) and Buddhism (one lesson = 70 minutes).

## How can pupils prepare?

- Create revision notes using their classwork books, summarising the content, and ask someone to test them on it. This could be done by a mind-map or flashcards.
- Ask an adult to test understanding of keywords, meanings, concepts or events.
- Try to recreate revision mind-maps and key diagrams from memory. Use the BBC KS3 and GCSE Bitesize website as well.

## How can parents support revision?

- Encourage active revision at home, rather than simply reading over books
- Ask your child to explain a concept or event or discuss with them what they have learned about the topics
- Test your child's understanding of key words
- Use stories in the news and articles which may raise questions - for example, issues about how religion and science are in conflict or about ethical issues like animal testing

# Science

## When are they happening?

Throughout the year at the end of each topic (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).  
During the summer assessment week (1 hour long formal examination).

## Where will the assessment take place?

A formal examination will take place in Ranmore Hall for the majority of pupils later in the year and end of topic tests will take place in classrooms.

## What is being assessed?

Each subject content at the end of the topic (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).  
All content from KS3 Science (Years 7 - 9).

## How long is each paper?

The exam will be one hour.

## How can pupils prepare for end of topic tests?

Your son/daughter has been advised to purchase a KS3 revision guide either through us in September or from Amazon. Here is the hyperlink to the key stage 3 Science book available on Amazon [http://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-Science-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/184146385X/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1398605916&sr=1-2&keywords=cgp+key+stage+3+science](http://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-Science-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/184146385X/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1398605916&sr=1-2&keywords=cgp+key+stage+3+science) or the 13 digit ISBN code is as follows: 978-1841463858. As well as the revision guide they could use BBC Bitesize ([www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/science/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/science/)) and SAM Learning. BBC bitesize contains interactive areas for revision, activities and testing. SAM Learning is a service the school subscribes to that your son/daughter may have used before in Science and other subjects. To log in, your son/daughter needs to go to the SAM Learning website (<https://www.samlearning.com>) and enter the centre number (RH4AS) and enter their username and password that should be the same unless they have changed it themselves. Their username/password is their date of birth in a 6 figure version (DDMMYY) followed by their 2 letter initials; e.g. John Smith born on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2001 would have a username/password of 010901JS.

## How can parents support revision?

Encourage bite-sized chunks of revision, 5-10 minutes a day to begin with, up to 30 minutes a day nearer the assessment.