



Year 8 Student Exam Guide 2017

This booklet is designed to prepare you for the Year 8 Exams.

Your parents/carers have been sent a link to this guide, so that they know how to support you at home during the exams.

The results of the Year 8 Exams will be given to you in your lessons, but will also be part of your next Progress Tracker.

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What to revise - Important Information from Teachers

What are the Year 8 Exams and why do we have them?

It is important that you are ready to take your GCSE exams at the end of Year 11. Part of being prepared is planning your revision, knowing what you have to do when you enter the exam hall, and knowing what equipment you need. The Year 8 Exams are a reflection of how you will be tested at the end of your courses.

As well as preparing you for your exams, it also gives your teachers the chance to check on your progress and make sure that you are ready for the real exams. Although your teachers are checking your progress all the time, this is the chance to see how you perform in each subject in exam conditions.

Revision timetables

You need to plan the free time that you have for revision. However, it is also important that you plan into this some breaks and other activities in order to relax and wind down.

Planning revision and having some down time will help control stress. A proper revision plan will help focus you on the subject areas you really need to cover.

You need to give more revision time to the exams that you feel less confident about.

Creating the right place to revise in



*"But mom, my room has to be a mess.
If I'm going to be a rock star, I have to
live the lifestyle."*

Creating the right place to revise in without distractions can be hard. However, it is important that the area you revise in is free of distractions

and helps learning. You need a room or an area that you can store books, equipment and if necessary, a computer to work on.

How to revise

No one can do this but you, and if you don't already know how to revise, here are some tried and tested ways:

Repetition It may be boring, but when revising you are going to need to go over the same topics several times to make sure you have learnt it properly. Get someone to test you at regular intervals. Do a quiz and get your parents/carers to test you when you have studied a unit.

Active Learning Learning is stronger when you are actually doing something. Write notes and use diagrams and pictures to remember things. At the end of the topic summarise everything you have just learnt in the form of a list of bullet points or a spider diagram and then go back to your original notes and see what you missed out.

Associations It is sometimes easier to remember things if you can make associations with things you are interested in. For example, could you turn a part of an English text into a cartoon? Could you write a poem or song about a Biology unit?

Word Games Turn the first letters of the words to be remembered into a name or word.

Highlighting Highlight keywords in a text that will help you remember the topic.

Index Cards Write everything you can about a topic on a card and then cover the card or get someone to test you on it.

Sing Change the words to your favourite song to fit in with your revision topic. Have a competition with a friend to see who can get

the most facts into a verse. (Try well known songs, like Happy Birthday.)

Decorate your room Get post-it notes and write revision notes on them around the room. When you know them take them down.

Getting bored of a subject? Change to another. Go back to the first subject when you are ready.

Revision Websites

The internet has loads of resources to help revision, but use it carefully. It is really easy to get distracted by other websites while you are on the computer, so if you know you can't use the computer without checking Facebook or Twitter every 5 minutes, don't use it!

These are good websites to use. Remember to ask your teacher for subject specific websites that they know of.

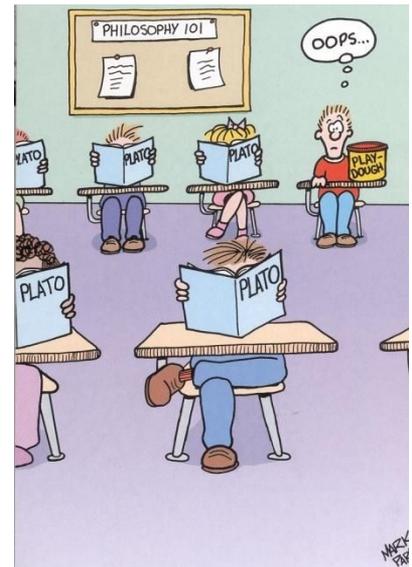
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.channel4learning.net

www.mymaths.co.uk

Get motivated

Getting started is probably the most difficult thing to do so a revision timetable can be helpful in planning your time. Short term and long term goals are really important in helping to get motivated. For example, work for 30 minutes; then walk my dog... work for 30 minutes; then see my friends.



Rewards

Talk to your parents/carers about possible rewards for good results in your exams. You could use the revision timetable to plan out small rewards when a certain number of targets have been met.

Staying Calm, Diet and Sleep

Try to make sure that revision time is quiet time. A healthy diet, exercise and sleep are also especially important when you are under pressure.

Breaks are essential. Even a short 15-20 minute break every 90 minutes will refresh your mind. If you are completely stuck on a topic, remember to tell us at school. Your teacher will be able to offer extra help and advice.

On the morning of the examination

- Set an alarm clock and make sure that you are ready in plenty of time.
- Make sure that you eat something to kick start your brains.
- Check that you have all of the equipment that you need for the exams that day. For example, do you need compasses or a calculator?
- Check that you know what time your exams are and which ones you are doing.



What happens before and during the exams?

Before the exam you will line up outside the classroom where the exams take place. If you are doing your exam elsewhere you will be told beforehand or collected by a member of staff from the classroom [exams will last 45 minutes].

What happens to the Year 8 Examination results?

- These exams are held so that you have plenty of practice for the real thing. The more practice you have the more confident you will feel at the end of Year 11 when you sit down to do your GCSEs.
- The results of the exams are used to make sure that you are in the right groups in your subjects, and in the right pathway. As most subjects are streamed it means that all of the exams are really important.
- The results will be given to you in lessons and will be on your Progress Tracker that comes out in June.

Exam Timetable

Your class teachers will tell you when your exam will take place and they will display this information on Show My Homework for you as well.

If you are ill on the day of the exams, please ask your parents to phone the school as soon as possible and let us know. In most cases you will be able to take the examination at another time.



Exams - subject specific areas to revise

Below are details of subject areas in terms of what to revise.

Subject	Topics to revise	
Maths	<p>Students are expected to recall and use all mathematical skills that they have been taught in their educational life. As part of our preparation for their GCSE in year 11, we will also expect this of students in assessments and tests.</p> <p>The Year 8 Exams will consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A numeracy paper• A maths in context paper, (this paper will be in 2 parts allow students sufficient time) <p>Topics in the numeracy paper include:</p> <p>Addition</p> <p>Subtraction</p> <p>Multiplication</p> <p>Division</p> <p>Decimals</p> <p>Fractions</p> <p>Percentages</p> <p>Topics in the maths in context paper include:</p> <p>Pictograms</p> <p>Types of angles and measuring angles</p> <p>Knowing units of measure and conversions</p> <p>Calculations with money</p> <p>Forming and simplifying algebraic expressions</p> <p>Patterns and sequences</p> <p>Timetables</p>	

	<p>Plotting coordinates</p> <p>Probability</p> <p>Knowledge of different types of numer, e.g. odd, even, square</p> <p>Finding areas and perimeters of 2D shapes</p> <p>Percentages, fractions & decimals</p> <p>Finding Angles using Angle Rules in Diagrams</p> <p>Drawing charts and graphs to represent data</p> <p>Knowing the Mode, Median and Mean</p> <p>Negative Numbers</p> <p>Inequalities</p> <p>Enlargement</p> <p>Tessellation</p> <p>Solving problems with all four operations</p> <p>Ratio</p> <p>Students can use the resources on Mymaths and the Year 8 Revision Google Classroom to support them with their preparation. Completing papers over and over again is a successful way to prepare, using the mark schemes to keep a record of your result and to learn from any mistakes that are made. The Google Classroom code is z6gibbe.</p>	
English	<p>READING (45 minutes)</p> <p>Students will be asked to read a text that is either persuasive or presents a strong argument. They will then need to answer one question using PEE paragraphs</p> <p><i>E.g. Explore how the writer uses language and structure to present their feelings/argument/opinion.</i></p> <p><u>Key skills:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying persuasive techniques (AFORREST etc.) • Supporting ideas with “evidence” • Deducing layers of meaning - word level analysis, implied meaning, writer’s intention, alternative meaning, effect of techniques/words used • L7+ Analysing how <u>structure</u> is used to persuade 	

	<p>WRITING (45 minutes)</p> <p>Students will be given <u>a choice of 3 tasks</u> that are thematically linked to the text in the reading exam. All tasks will ask students to write a persuasive, non-fiction piece.</p> <p><u>Students could be asked to write any one of the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A speech - A letter - A magazine article - A newspaper article - A diary or blog entry - A piece of travel writing <p>E.g. <i>Write a speech for your class in which you argue that homework should be banned.</i></p> <p>Or</p> <p><i>Tring Museum is closing down. Write a letter to a rich person asking them to donate money to keep the Museum open.</i></p> <p><u>Students will be assessed on the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness of purpose, audience and form - Paragraphs - Deliberate and effective opening and ending - Full control - Variety of sentence structures - Range of punctuation - Ambitious vocabulary - Correct spellings 	
Science	<p>The paper will comprise of short and long answer questions. Students should revise the following:</p> <p>Topics: Respiration Waves Periodic table Nutrition and digestion</p> <p>Skills: Understanding the parts of a scientific investigation, e.g. hypothesis, variables, method, risk assessment, conclusion, evaluation etc. Analysing and interpreting data</p>	

	<p>Plotting points on a graph Drawing lines of best fit on a graph</p> <p>Equipment needed: Pen, Pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Calculator, Protractor</p> <p>Resources: Students should use the school Science website to access materials and refer to their learning outcome grids for overviews of topics and content. To access the school Science website, students will need to be logged into their school email account: https://sites.google.com/a/tringschool.org/science/</p>	
<p>History</p>	<p>Your exam will be split into 2 sections. Section A will be on the content you have studied this year and Section B will be on Historical skills.</p> <p>Section A you will need to revise the following topics: Henry VIII; including his wives and the Break with Rome. Edward VI; including his religion. Mary I; including her religion. Elizabeth I; including the problem of Mary, Queen of Scots and her life, the Spanish Armada (causes, events and consequences.) The differences between Catholics and Protestants. The English Civil War; including the dates, what happened and how/ why it ended.</p> <p>Section B will ask you to consider two historical events you have studied this year and write an extended piece of writing explaining which event, in your opinion, is the more significant (important.)</p> <p>Remember not to simply read through your notes. Create a set of revision cards, a quiz, or create a mind map for each topic.</p>	
<p>Humanities</p>	<p>Your exam will be based on the History and Geography topics you have studied so far this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tudors - including Henry VII/ Henry VIII/ Edward VI/ Mary I and Elizabeth (Spanish Armada and Mary, Queen of Scots.) - Stuarts - including Guy Fawkes and Charles I. - Native American Indians including the Battle of Little Big Horn. - Brazil - Global issues including the BP oil spill. <p>There will be a mixture of short and longer answer questions on the exam paper.</p>	

	Remember do not simply read through your notes, create mind-maps/ revision cards and quizzes to test your knowledge.	
Geography	<p>The year 8 exam will be based upon 4 topics that we have done since the start of year 8: Global Issues, Rivers and Flooding, Emerging Nations and Amazonia. The exam will be a variety of questions spread across all 4 topics.</p> <p>Environmental Issues - What is a resource?, renewable & non-renewable resources, use of fossil fuels, causes of global warming, effects of global warming, environmental disasters, e.g. BP oil spill.</p> <p>Rivers and Flooding - The main features of a drainage basin, processes (erosion, transportation and deposition), explain the formations of landforms like waterfalls and meanders, what causes a flood and how people are protected from flooding.</p> <p>Emerging Nations - What are emerging nations? How are they emerging? Growth of factories in countries like China, the building a dam such as The Three Gorges Dam or the Belo Monte Dam - looking at the effects of it, social, economic & environmental, locally & globally.</p> <p>Amazonia - The distribution of tropical rainforests, why they are hot and wet, causes and impacts of human activity in the rainforest e.g. logging and cattle ranching, the impact of deforestation on tribes in the rainforest.</p> <p>Practice Students need to learn the content of the 4 topics above. Practice using case studies and reading climate graphs. Understand sequences of processes e.g. how a waterfall is formed. Understand what the command words require e.g. state, describe, explain, assess. Try different revision ideas: flash cards, quizzes, posters, spider diagrams.</p> <p>Equipment Students need to bring pen, pencil, ruler, rubber.</p>	

<p>PRS</p>	<p>Topic - Medical Ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saviour Siblings - Conjoined Twins <p>Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be able to show good knowledge of these issues including case studies. 2. To be able to evaluate the arguments for these issues 3. To be able to evaluate the arguments against these issues 4. To be able to show knowledge of religious views on these issues 5. To be able to come to your own conclusions on these issues with reasons. 	
<p>D&T</p>	<p>This will be a designing question based on the theme of 'Children's Birthdays'.</p> <p>Students will need to come to the exam prepared to create design ideas based on the theme, so should think of a range of different products associated with children's birthdays. Students should make sure they know how to annotate their ideas to achieve higher levels of designing.</p> <p>Students will need a range of drawing equipment, including coloured and graphite pencils, an eraser, ruler and a pen for the annotation.</p>	
<p>MFL French</p>	<p>Reading & Listening Students will be required to respond to various texts and to answer questions in English or French.</p> <p>Translation - Students will be required to translate a short paragraph from English into French and a short paragraph from French into English</p> <p>Writing Students will also be required to produce a piece of writing (approximately 60 words) from a choice of two questions. To achieve a Level 5, students will have to give at least 5 examples of verbs in two tenses. The ones in bold below are the "core" tenses.</p> <p>Present tense</p> <p>Near Future tense (je vais + another verb)</p> <p>Topics to revise Basic personal information Free time Clothes Places in town Hobbies</p>	

<p>MFL German</p>	<p>Reading & Listening Students will be required to respond to various texts and to answer questions in English or German. Translation - Students will be required to translate a short paragraph from English into German and a short paragraph from German into English Writing Students will also be required to produce a piece of writing (approximately 60 words) from a choice of two questions. To achieve a Level 5, students will have to give at least 5 examples of verbs in two tenses. The ones in bold below are the “core” tenses. Present tense Conditional tense - Ich möchte Topics to revise Food likes and dislikes Going to a restaurant Shopping Clothes Places in town</p>	
<p>MFL Spanish</p>	<p>Reading & Listening Students will be required to respond to various texts and to answer questions in English or Spanish. Translation - Students will be required to translate a short paragraph from English into Spanish and a short paragraph from Spanish into English Writing Students will also be required to produce a piece of writing (approximately 60 words) from a choice of two questions. To achieve a Level 5, students will have to give at least 5 examples of verbs in two tenses. The ones in bold below are the “core” tenses. Present tense Near Future tense (voy a + another verb) Topics to revise Sports/Free time activities Places in town Weather Time Opinions School subjects/teachers Describing people</p>	