



**Year Nine
Exam Guide
2017**

This booklet is designed to prepare you for the Year 9 Exams. The results of the Year 9 Exams will be given to you in your lessons and will also be part of your next Progress Report.

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What are the Year 9 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. This may seem like a long way off, but it will actually come around very quickly. 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 9 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 in the correct pathway and 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 under 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.



Students who do not plan revision often end up spending time going over areas that they already know well. A proper revision plan will help focus you on the subject areas you really need to cover.

A really good website is www.getrevising.co.uk

This website creates a colourful revision timetable that is easy to read and only requires you to input when the exams are plus any other commitments that you may have. You need to give more revision

time to the exams that you feel less confident about; doing this will have a big impact on your results.

Stick the timetable that you create somewhere that is obvious in your house and tell the rest of the family about it so that they can help you stick to your plan.

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, particularly with mobile phones and social media.

However, it is important that the area you revise in is free of distractions and helps learning. Have a space to revise. You need a room or an area that you can store books, equipment and if necessary, a computer to work on.

Wherever you work needs to be a quiet area, some people do work better if there is light noise such as quiet music in the background. Make sure that you are away from the TV, mobile phones or brothers and sisters that may take your attention elsewhere. Don't study with the TV on; you will be continually distracted.

Natural light is better, but you will need somewhere that is well lit and quiet. Make sure you have everything you need before you get started.

How to revise

This is the most important bit! No one can do this but you and you need to find the best way that **YOU** revise. Hopefully you already know how to revise from preparing for other exams and assessments, but if you don't here are some tried and tested ways of revising:

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. Make a quiz and get you parents 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.

Word Games: Mnemonics often work well at remembering things. These turn the first letters of the words to be remembered into a name or word. For example P.A.R.E.N.T.S could help you remember exam techniques:

Practise

Active

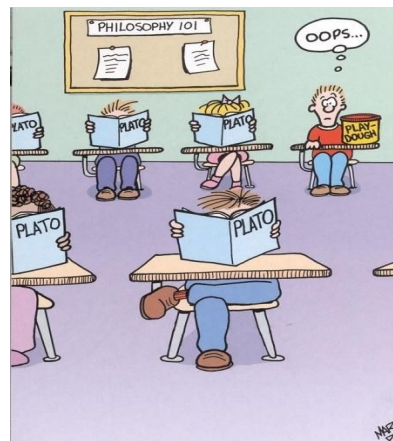
Repetition

Exam

Notes

Time management

Stress Management



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?

Highlighting: A really simple way to revise. Highlight keywords in a text that will help you remember the topic. Write them on a separate piece of paper and then next to them try to remember everything you can about that word or topic.

Index / Flash Cards: Write everything you can about a topic on a card (get them from stationery shops or the Post Office) and then cover the card or get someone to test you on it.

Text messages: You and your friends could test each other via text messages. Text a question to your friend and see if they get it right. Testing them also means that you have to know the answer.

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.

Decorate your room: Get post it notes and write revision notes on them around the room. When you know them, take them down. You can then put them back up again and make sure you could remember them.

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 social media every 5 minutes, don't use it!

If, however, you can use it wisely these are good websites to use. Remember to ask your teacher for subject specific websites that they know of. Some of these websites can also teach you **how** to revise:

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.mymaths.co.uk

www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/interactive_tips_exam

www.how-to-study.com

Get motivated

Getting started is probably the most difficult thing to do which is why a revision timetable can be helpful in planning your time; once you begin your revision keeping it going will be important.

Short term and long term goals are really important in helping to get motivated.

Rewards

Talk to your parents 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. These might include watching a favourite TV programme, spending time with friends, or having access to a website. Your parents will value your efforts more than perfect results.

You need to see beyond the revision too. At the end of Year 11, you get to do something that you have always wanted, which could be

staying on in Sixth Form or going to college for example. Good results will help you achieve all of these things and more.

Diet and Sleep

As far as possible try to make sure that revision time is a quiet time. A healthy diet and regular exercise are also especially important when you are under pressure. Don't drink caffeine-rich drinks like tea, coffee or coke the evening before; it can disturb sleep. Avoid sugary snacks as they may affect concentration.

If you are highly motivated it is important to make sure that you don't overwork. Breaks are essential; even a short 15-20 minute break every 90 minutes will refresh your mind. Make a drink, play some sport, listen to some music or watch TV. These are all good ways to help relax before the next revision session.

It's a good idea to set an alarm to remind you to stop and take a break. Studying in a group can be helpful as you can bounce ideas off each other, but you need to make sure it's with someone who will not distract you and who will stay on task. You can pick up new ideas, talk about exam stress and help each other with areas that you find difficult.



Trying to cram in last-minute revision the night before the exam is a bad idea. This can cause panic and might even affect your performance the following day. It's much better to do some revision but to make plenty of time to have a relaxing evening so you can do your best the following day. 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. Waking up in a panic or even arriving late for an exam only makes things stressful.
- Make sure that you eat something. You may not feel like it because of nerves, but having something to eat will help 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 Desborough Hall where the exams take place. If you are doing your exam elsewhere you will be told beforehand.

You will be asked to leave your bags outside (so please do not bring in anything valuable during this period). You will then be given any instructions for the exam. At the end papers will be collected in and given to your class teachers to mark.

Whilst in the examination hall, you should remain **silent**.

What happens to the Year 9 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 GCSE's.
- The results of the exams are used to make sure that you are in the right pathway and groups in your subjects. As most subjects are streamed it means that all of the exams are really important.

Exam Timetable

The exam timetable can be located at: [EXAM TIMETABLE](#).

You should come to school at the normal times; this is important as notices may be given out about the exams during these sessions.

Where you do not have an exam you are expected to be in lessons; where you are absent this will be followed up by your Head of House as normal.

Some lessons will provide the opportunity to revise for an exam but you should not assume that you will get the chance to do this and should do your revision at home.

If are ill on the day of the exams 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.

What do you need to revise?

Below you will find a good guide as to what you need to revise in each subject. If you have any questions about the topics speak to your teacher in plenty of time. You will also find a list of equipment that you will need in the exam. Make sure that you come prepared.

Subject	Topics to revise
English Language	<p><u>Section A: Reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 unseen fiction texts - 3 questions <p>Q1: information retrieval, short response Q2: explore effects of language & structure in Text 1 Q3: explore effects of language & structure in Text 2</p> <p>Areas to revise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Language devices (word choices and techniques) <u>and effects</u> ● Structural devices (sentence types, punctuation, paragraphs, developments, whole-text structure, beginning/middle/end) <u>and effects</u> ● Analysing layers of meaning using WETRATS <p><u>Section B: Writing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - choice of 2 tasks that are thematically linked to the reading in Section A - complete one task <p>Students could be asked to write any one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diary ● Short story ● Autobiography ● Description <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
English Literature	<p><u>ROMEO AND JULIET (45 minutes)</u></p> <p>Students will answer one question from a choice of using PEE paragraphs and making links to the context of the play: <i>How does Shakespeare present the theme/character of...</i></p> <p>Students need to revise subject terminology, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sonnet - Metaphor - Imagery - Juxtaposition - Oxymoron - Foreshadowing - Repetition - Audience - Iambic pentameter - Tone <p><u>Characters and themes to revise:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Romeo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juliet • Relationships • Emotions • CONTEXT - life and love in Shakespeare's times
Maths	<p>Students will be completing a GCSE style paper at Foundation or Higher level. Teachers will inform their groups which level they will be examined at.</p> <p>Students should revise using assessments previously completed in class and other resources, which are found in the Year 9 End of Year Exam Revision Google classroom (code: 3pe1ne5). Additionally, the www.mathsgenie.co.uk website has further GCSE papers and mark schemes.</p> <p>For topic revision, students can use the MathsWatch VLE (vle.mathswatch.com). Students can login with their school email address and the password reflect.</p>
Science	<p>Year 9 Triple GCSE Science Physics: Forces and Motion Chemistry: Atoms and the Periodic Table Biology: Cells (Lessons 1-10)</p> <p>Year 9 Double Science Earth and Atmosphere Forces and Motion Gas Exchange Genetics and Evolution</p> <p>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>
Geography	<p>Students will be answering GCSE style questions as they have been in all their tests this year. They need to revise the following topics and content:</p> <p>Population - Measuring population, how countries try to reduce or boost their birth rate e.g. the One Child Policy in China.</p> <p>The Restless Earth - Structure of the earth, plate boundaries, the causes, effects and responses to volcanic eruptions and tsunamis.</p> <p>Development - Measuring development, comparisons between richer and poorer countries, impacts of a natural disaster on development and factors that affect development (conflict/disease).</p>
History	<p>The Blitz, reliability of sources. You will answer 2 questions based on the Blitz during WWII. 4 mark question using your own knowledge of the Blitz. 6 mark question looking at the reliability of a source. Make sure you look at the actual source as well as the NOP (nature, what is it?, origin, who produced it?, purpose, why was it created?) Ensure you remain focused on the questions being asked and use specific own knowledge. Please remember to bring your planning sheet to the exam.</p>
French	<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 90 words) from a choice of two questions. To achieve a Level 6, students will have to give at least 5 examples of verbs in three tenses. The ones in bold below are the "core" tenses.</p> <p>Topics to revise Hobbies, Personalities, TV viewing habits Music genres and opinions, film genres and opinions Reading habits and preferences, Using technology for leisure activities Risks of social networking sites, Pros and cons of new technology, comparing life in the past with life in the present.</p>

	<p>Numbers</p> <p><u>Grammar to revise</u></p> <p>Present tense</p> <p>Perfect tense</p> <p>Future tense</p> <p>Imperfect tense</p> <p>Conditional tense</p>
German	<p><u>Reading & Listening</u></p> <p>Students will be required to respond to various texts and to answer questions in English or German.</p> <p><u>Translation</u> - Students will be required to translate a short paragraph from English into German and a short paragraph from German into English</p> <p><u>Writing</u></p> <p>Students will also be required to produce a piece of writing (approximately 90 words) from a choice of two questions. To achieve a Level 6, students will have to give at least 5 examples of verbs in three tenses. The ones in bold below are the “core” tenses.</p> <p><u>Topics to revise</u></p> <p>Hobbies</p> <p>Description of your own and other people’s appearance and personality</p> <p>Household chores</p> <p>Daily routine</p> <p>TV viewing habits</p> <p>Old and new media</p> <p>Favourite music, singers and bands</p> <p>Types of reading books</p> <p>Types of films</p> <p>Numbers / Time (12 hour and 24 hour clock)</p> <p><u>Grammar to revise</u></p> <p>Present tense</p> <p>Perfect tense</p> <p>Future tense</p> <p>Conditional</p> <p>Word order</p>
Spanish	<p><u>Reading & Listening</u></p> <p>Students will be required to respond to various texts and to answer questions in English or Spanish.</p> <p><u>Translation</u> - Students will be required to translate a short paragraph from English into Spanish and a short paragraph from Spanish into English</p> <p><u>Writing</u></p> <p>Students will also be required to produce a piece of writing (approximately 90 words) from a choice of two questions. To achieve a Level 6, students will have to give at least 5 examples of verbs in three tenses. The ones in bold below are the “core” tenses.</p> <p><u>Topics to revise</u></p> <p>Holidays</p> <p>Food and drink</p> <p>Opinions</p> <p>Outings and excuses</p> <p>Hobbies</p> <p>Numbers</p> <p><u>Grammar to revise</u></p> <p>Present tense</p> <p>Past tense (Preterite)</p> <p>Immediate future</p> <p>Conditional</p> <p>Modal verbs (querer, poder and deber)</p> <p>Time phrases</p>
D & T	<p>This revision list applies to all 5 areas, referring to the materials, components and equipment in those areas.</p> <p>Creating design ideas using specifications</p> <p>Names and uses of equipment</p> <p>Names and uses of materials and components</p>

	<p>Health and safety issues Quality Control The difference between One-off, Batch and Mass production. Students will be asked to design products as part of the exam, therefore they should have the correct equipment with which to draw and add colour to the designs.</p>
PRS	<p>All GCSE content on Peace and Justice covered after October half term needs to be revised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Justice ● Peace ● Forgiveness and reconciliation ● Peaceful and violent protest ● Terrorism ● Just War Theory ● Holy War ● Use of Nuclear Weapons ● Victims of war <p>You need to know Christian and Muslim perspectives on the above list, including quotes. Ensure you are confident on how to answer the different types of questions. Use the revision materials given to you by your teacher to support you with this.</p>