



EXAM SUPPORT

Core Mock Exams March 2023

Introduction

Year 11 is a very important year. Exams, college applications and decisions about the future all come around quicker than you might expect. These mocks marks will be used by teachers to make any alterations necessary to predictions and help inform final grades in the unlikely event exams were cancelled.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with essential information about how to prepare for your mock exams. To achieve well in your GCSEs you need to make the most of the mock experience.

The key messages are:

1. Get organised! If you can't do it on your own, get help. Balance your subjects.
2. Start early – there is lots to do, the earlier you start, the more manageable it is, cramming your revision is stressful and not as effective.
3. Make use of all the things the school provides – we only recommend things that make a big difference!

Contents

- ❖ *How do I organise my revision?*
- ❖ *Where can I get resources to revise for my subjects?*
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- ❖ *Two different templates for making a revision plan*



Where can I get resources to revise for my subjects?

The following pages contain the key revision information from every subject. Find your subjects and take note of them!



Subject: English Language

Number of mock exams in March and length:

One paper: Component 2 English Language – 2 hours

Topics that will come up in the mock:

Section A: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading (40 marks)

This section will test, through structured questions, the reading of two high-quality unseen non-fiction texts (about 900-1200 words in total), one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century.

Section B – Transactional/Persuasive Writing (40 marks)

This section will test transactional, persuasive and/or discursive writing through two equally weighted compulsory tasks (20 marks each). Across the two tasks candidates will be offered opportunities to write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and to real-life contexts in, for example, letters, articles, reviews, speeches, etc.

Recommended resources to use to revise and where they can be found:

- Students' yellow English Language books will have practice papers, example responses and guidance that they can look over.
- All students are added to English Language Revision **Google Classroom (classcode ed55so)**. There are BBC Bitesize and Eduqas resources, along with revision videos and general help with writing accurately.
- Practice papers will be given to students and are on Google Classroom. *Completing practice papers is the best way of preparing for this exam.*
- Language revision workbooks are available from the Finance Office. Students should complete all the activities for Component 2 from page 67 to page 151.
- The following links may also be useful:

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=643>

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=1533>
(Component 2 only)

The exam paper for this activity is on **Google Classroom**.

Subject: Maths

Number of mock exams in March and length:

2 papers, 1 hour 30 mins each (Paper 1 is non-calculator, Paper 2 is calculator allowed)

Topics that may come up in the mock:

Everything! – all modules from year 10 and 11

A revision list with all possible topics will be given to all students in class and posted in revision **Google classrooms** (details below) along with extra revision material and links.

Foundation: ikt6eac

Higher: rqeytz4

Recommended resources to use to revise and where they can be found:

- Past papers (3 sets of 3) will be given out to be used in class and at home.
- An extra set of past papers will be available on revision Google classrooms (see details above).
- Maths revision guides, workbooks and revision cards are available from the Finance Office.
- The following websites are also great for revision:
 - Mathswatch <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>
 - Corbettmaths videos www.corbettmaths.com
 - Corbettmaths 5-a-day <https://corbettmaths.com/5-a-day/gcse/>
 - BBC bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z9p3mnb>
 - Mathsgenie <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.html>

Subject: Double Science

Number mock exams in November and length:

Three exams, each 1 hour and 15 minutes

Topics that may come up in the March Mock:

Paper 2 topics, go to your revision guide or the revision Google Classroom for details.

Recommended resources :

Revision guide - The contents section in the front of the book lists the topics by paper.

Google classroom – A variety of revision materials for different learning styles. The classroom codes are:

Foundation – **s7jpvwt**

Higher – **5qe6dlk**

You will need to make sure that you are familiar with the **required practicals** for paper 2, as these **will be a key focus**.

Finance Office - Additional revision materials are available for purchase via the finance office. The resources are sold at cost price which is significantly cheaper than on the 'high street'.

Lunchtime revision sessions – 3 sessions starting **Monday 20 February** to **Friday 10 March**. Students will need to **sign up in advance** for each session using the same method as for parents evening and we plan to **log attendance** for the parents benefit.

Online Resources

<https://www.savemyexams.co.uk/>

<https://my.educake.co.uk/student-login>

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/gcse-revision/>

<https://www.footprints-science.co.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h>

Subject: Separate Sciences (Option E Choice)

Number mock exams in November and length:

Three exams, each 1 hour and 45 minutes

Topics that may come up in the March Mock:

Paper 2 topics, go to your revision guide or the revision Google Classroom for details.

Recommended resources :

Revision guide - The contents section in the front of the book lists the topics by paper.

Google classroom – A variety of revision materials for different learning styles. The classroom codes are:

Triple – **kwtqahr**

You will need to make sure that you are familiar with the **required practicals** for paper 2, as these **will be a key focus**.

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How do I revise?

The key message when revising is that it must be **active** and not passive. Passive would be just reading the revision guide then finishing and going to watch TV. Active revision is anything that involves thinking, making a decision or doing.

Instead of just reading it and then having a cup of tea...

- ***Can you reduce the information down to half the size in note form? Can you reduce it further down to just keywords?***
- ***Can you draw pictures to help you remember it?***
- ***Can you summarise the information in 5 key points then put them in order of importance?***
- ***Can you draw a mind map and link the information on a topic together?***
- ***Can you turn the page of information into a 10 question quiz that you can get someone to test you on?***
- ***Can you make flash cards with keywords on one side and definitions on the other?***
- ***Can you make a podcast about the thing you are learning about?***



How do I revise?

Once you feel like you've revise a topic, you need to **test yourself** to see if you really have and practice applying that knowledge. If the subject you are revising for involves writing them you must practice writing your answers

You can do this by answering questions in the revision guides, or by answering the relevant pages in a workbook or internet site.

It is extremely important that you mark the questions yourself – there is no point in doing questions if you don't know if they are right or not

Exam practice – build up to trying exams, there are not many practice papers so use them wisely! Make sure you mark them afterwards – get help from someone if you struggle. If you can't help looking at the answers, give them to someone responsible!



The Pressures of Exams



Some stress isn't always a bad thing. It focuses us at a time when it really matters.

But it is crucial to find the perfect balance, somewhere between not caring how you do to being so anxious that you are not able to perform in the exam.

What can you do?

- **Revise-** It sounds obvious but you will become more anxious if you haven't done any work. Revising will give you more confidence in your ability to perform in the exam.
- **Sleep-** Revising until the early hours won't help anyone. You won't sleep well, which means in the morning you're tired and grumpy. That's not going to help anyone is it?
- **Ban the socials-** Checking your notifications late into the evening before a big exam is distracting and the light from your phone/ tablet/ laptop actually tricks the brain into thinking the light is morning sunlight and 'wakes' you up. Plus who knows what someone has tagged you in or written on your wall. You don't need that drama!
- **Meditate!-** If the pre-exam build up throws you off you're A-Game then try some guided meditation (sessions in the Hub before the exams)- proven to calm and relax you, focusing the mind.
- **Speak to us!-** Every year we have students who struggle with exams. You're not on your own! Pop in, email us, ask your tutor to email/ speak to us, ask parents to call in. However, you need to do it, let us know. Talking to someone will always make you feel better. We've got so many tips and tricks but unless we know about you we can't help!

What can we do?

- **Self-help resources-** we use some fantastic resources that have been written by professionals for students around exam times. Why not pop into the Hub to pick up a pack or you can sign up to receive 6 emails that firstly explain what anxiety is and then how to manage it- Go to www.danreganhypnotherapy.co.uk/issues/exam-fear to sign up for the free emails.
- **Offer support and strategies to manage anxiety-** After your mocks we're going to run some sessions with Mrs Rockley to explore what the right support for you is.
- **Tweaks to exam arrangements**
- **Guided meditation-** As mentioned earlier, meditation is hugely successful in focusing and calming you down. We'll be running some sessions to teach you how to do it. Then, if you're getting stressed, you can try to calm yourself down. Any time, any place!

Part one: Planning the habit

1. Think about commitments you already have e.g. the school day, an evening when you have football training and list them
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2. Then put them into the weekly timetable below
3. Look at it and work out what have time available
4. Put in a time you'd like to have stopped working by
5. Think of other things you like to do that relax you or you enjoy
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6. List the subjects you take:
7. Highlight any priorities in within that list (if you have any that you want to particularly focus on)

Part one: Planning the habit

8. Put in hour or half hour blocks into the timetable where revision could take place
9. Put in a couple of spots where you know you'd like to relax
10. When are you at your best, which hours are your most productive do you think?
11. Identify 'dead time' e.g. before meals, after meals, when you're waiting around for something to start

Part 2: Doing the habit

1. Try to use a room or part of a room that is only for revision, that way you will associate working with being there and distractions will be easier to avoid. Which location (s) can you think of?
2. Sit a chair and a table/desk (not on your bed).
3. Tell someone you're starting revision and tell them to ask you what you will be doing in that time. Who can you tell, share our plan with?
4. Be very specific about when, where and what you will revise. Stick to the plan!
5. Keep distractions away – no TV, no phone, no computer game. Make it easy to avoid temptation by making your environment temptation free. Where will you put your phone, who could you give it to?
6. Set a clear end time so you know when you can stop. Stick to the plan.
7. Treat it like a job that needs doing, if it's not a school day, get up for work.

