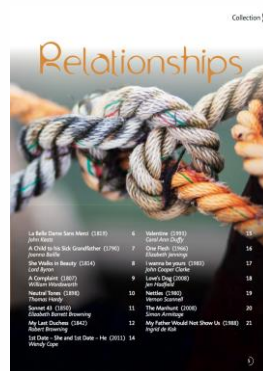
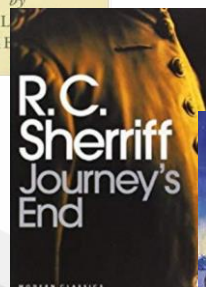
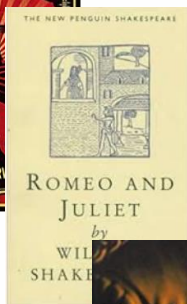
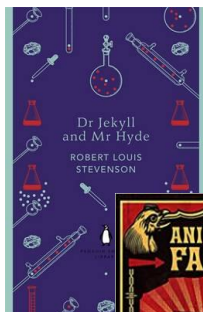


# Belfairs Academy GCSE English Information Evening

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023



AQA

GCSE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
(8700)

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Time allowed: 1 hour

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- **Source A** and **Source B** – which are provided as a separate insert
- **Instructions**
  - Answer all questions.
  - Use block ink or black ballpoint pen.
  - Fill in the boxes on this page.
  - You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
  - Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
  - Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
  - You must refer to the insert booklet provided.
  - You must not use a dictionary.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark of this paper is 40.
- There are 40 marks for **Section A**.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your reading in **Section A**.

## Advice

- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all four questions you have to answer.
- You should make sure you have sufficient time to check your answers.

AQA

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

Candidate number

Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

GCSE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
(8700)

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- **Source A** – printed within the question paper.
- **Instructions**
  - Answer all questions.
  - Use block ink or black ballpoint pen.
  - Fill in the boxes on this page.
  - You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
  - Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
  - Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
  - You must refer to the insert booklet provided.
  - You must not use a dictionary.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 40 marks for **Section A** and 40 marks for **Section B**.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your reading in **Section A**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your writing in **Section B**.

## Advice

- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all five questions you have to answer.
- You should make sure you have sufficient time to check your answers.

8700/1

COMMITMENT • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • SELF-BELIEF • STRENGTH

# Your child will:

- be sitting 7 and 1/2 hours of English examinations which will provide them with two GCSE grades: English Language and English Literature.
- have read and studied 18 Literature texts (2 novels, 1 play, 15 poems) to prepare for the literature examinations (this doesn't include extra poetry that prepares students for the 'Unseen Poetry' section);
- respond to 7 Literature tasks across their two English Literature Papers;
- respond to ten tasks across their two English Language Papers.



# To clarify:

Students will be sitting:

AQA English Language.  
Edexcel English Literature

## **Seen Texts for Edexcel Literature examination**

Students will be examined on:

- 'Animal Farm' or 'Journey's End' (Year 10)
- 'Romeo and Juliet' (Year 10)
- 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' or 'A Christmas Carol' (Year 11)
- A collection of poems under the heading of 'Relationships' or 'Conflict' (Year 10 and 11)



# The Literature exams

**'The modern text 'Animal Farm' or 'Journey's End'** – students have a choice of two essay titles. This is the exam for which students have the longest to write (55 minutes)  
**50% of the marks** are for the inclusion of Context and Writer's Intentions – **this is the challenge.**  
**8 marks (out of 40) are awarded for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.**

**'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' or 'A Christmas Carol', and 'Romeo & Juliet'**

2 questions, only 30 mins each.

Section A: Students must analyse the language in an extract - this extract can come from anywhere in the text and therefore students must be able to recognise this very quickly.

Section B: Students must then write about an aspect of the rest of the text eg Love in 'Romeo and Juliet', The search for Truth in 'Dr Jekyll', 'Social Responsibility in 'A Christmas Carol' – **aspects of the text are selected From memory.**

**Poetry Seen** – students must **compare** two poems which they have already studied - from the 15. (one is printed for them and the other is recalled from memory (from the other 14 poems studied) = students have only 35 minutes to write this )

**Poetry Unseen** – students must **compare** two poems and have 45 minutes to do so.



# Literature: what can students do?

**There simply is not a replacement for knowing the texts.**

**Students must know the** plot, characters and their actions, themes, and, in some cases, the historical context which surrounds the text ('Animal Farm' / 'Journey's End' / 'Romeo and Juliet')

The challenge is that students no longer have the full texts in the exam so much is reliant on memory.

Students can generate character profiles for each character in each text:

- How is the character described by the narrator.
- what a character does, says, thinks,
- how other characters treat them and what is said by other characters about them.
- The students can then link characters to themes as the questions can equally about themes.



# Learning multi-purposeful quotes

- Because of the caveat 'closed book' then students need to learn **multi-purposeful quotes** - these are quotes that can be used to discuss the text in a multitude of ways eg, when Romeo declares '**Fire eyed fury be my conduct now**'; this can be used to discuss Romeo's character development, the theme of revenge, the theme of loyalty, the theme of anger.
- Students will be guided by teachers on the most salient quotes to revise.



# The Belfairs Revision Centre

Screenshot of the Belfairs Academy SharePoint site showing the GCSE Revision Centre.

The page displays the Belfairs Academy logo and the SharePoint interface. The left sidebar lists various revision centres, including the GCSE Revision Centre. The main content area shows the GCSE Revision Centre structure, with a table listing English Literature resources.

Name	Modified	Modified By	Shared With
19th Century Novel Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	15 October, 2019	Heather Heighington	
Edexcel Literature Modern Text	27 June, 2019	Chris Bentley	
EdExcel Literature Poetry Unseen and Seen	27 June, 2019	Chris Bentley	
Edexcel Literature Shakespeare	27 June, 2019	Chris Bentley	
GCSE Literature PLCs	11 May, 2020	Chris Bentley	



COMMITMENT • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • SELF-BELIEF • STRENGTH

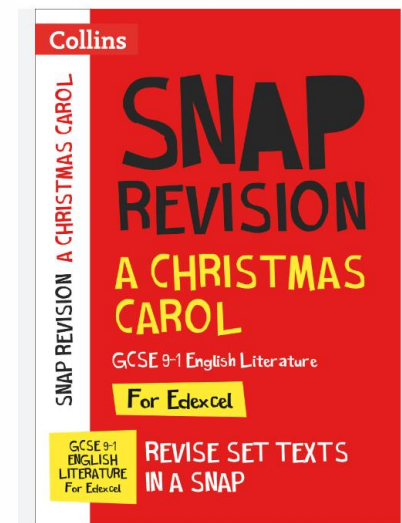
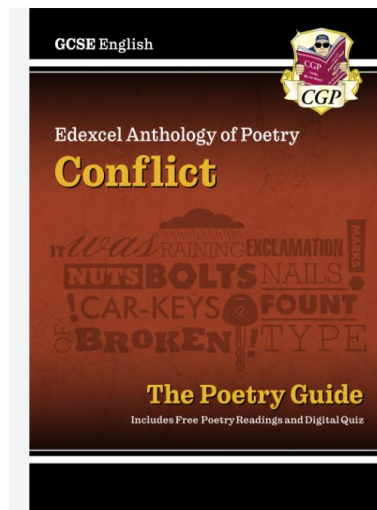
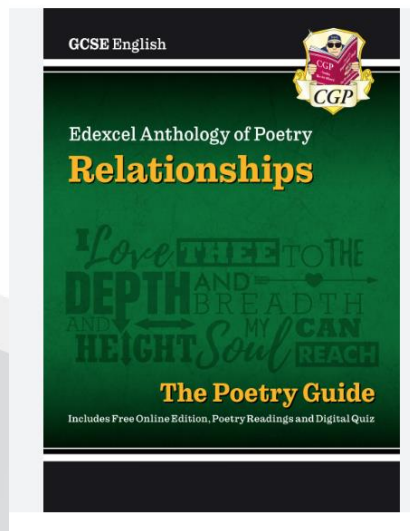
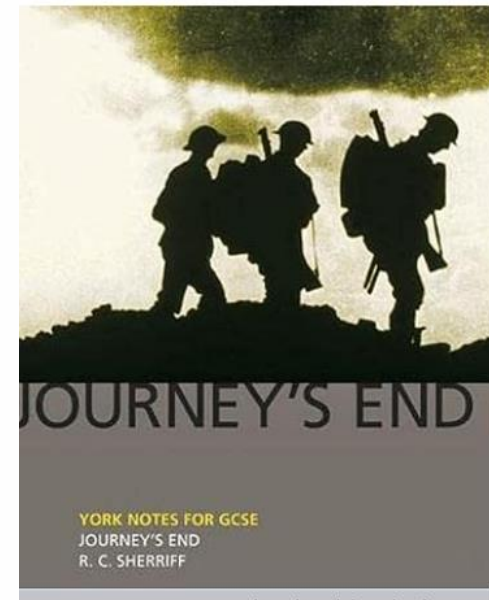
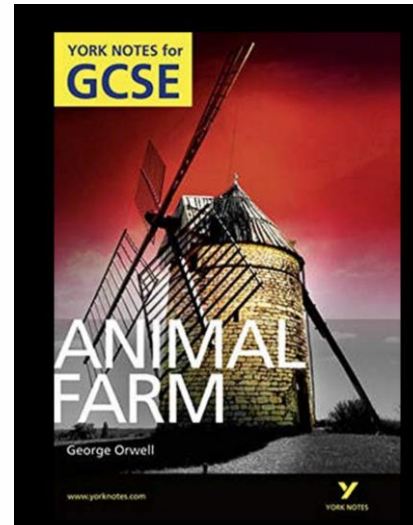
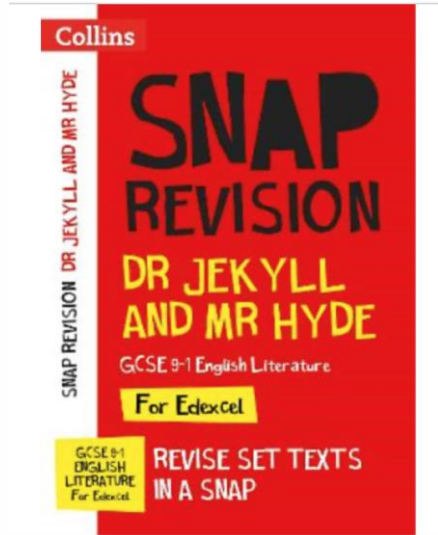
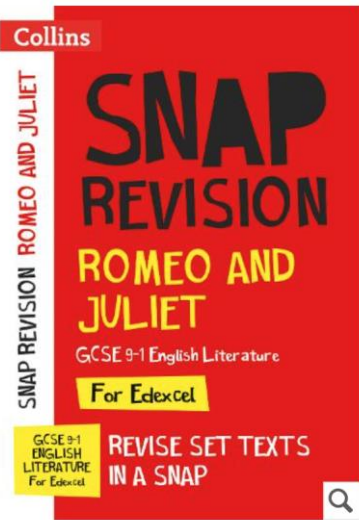
# Knowledge Organisers - to assist students in managing their revision

Character Studies How is the character described at various points in the play? How do characters react to other characters? What are their relationships with other characters? How do they react to events in the play? What role does the character play in the play?	Themes  How does the theme develop throughout the course of the play - what are the significant events and characters that are linked to the theme What is Shakespeare seeking to say through the theme?	Events  Who is involved in each event? How does each event contribute to the ensuing tragedy?	Contextual Factors	Key Words	Images / Symbols / Motifs  What do these come to represent as the play progresses? Which characters are associated with the image/symbols/motif? What ideas do these images/symbols/motifs represent? Are these associated with any particular characters?
Benvolio	Love and Marriage	The brawl	Patriarchal Rule	Patriarchy	Light and dark
Mercutio	Conflict and Power	The Queen Mab Speech	Elizabethan values	Sonnet	Religious Imagery
Tybalt	Fate v Free Will	The Capulet Ball	Religious beliefs in Elizabethan England	Iambic Pentameter	The Sun and Stars - cosmic imagery
Romeo	The individual versus Society	The Balcony Scene	Belief in astrology in Elizabethan England	Masculinity	Birds
Juliet	Loyalty	The Arrangements of the marriage	Elizabethan attitudes to marriage	Tragedy	Fire and Heat
The Nurse	Revenge	The marriage	Elizabethan codes of masculinity.	Soliloquy	Poison
Friar Lawrence	Male Society	The Mercutio / Tybalt Brawl		Monologue	Worms
Capulet	Youth V Older Age	Romeo's banishments		Prologue	illness
Lady Capulet	Honour	Romeo and Juliet's first/last night		Dramatic Irony	
Paris	Innocence V experience	The marriage between Juliet and Paris is arranged - Juliet Refuses		Irony	
The Prince	Punishment	Juliet sees Friar Lawrence to plan		Pathos	
	Violence	Juliet is found 'dead		Denouement	



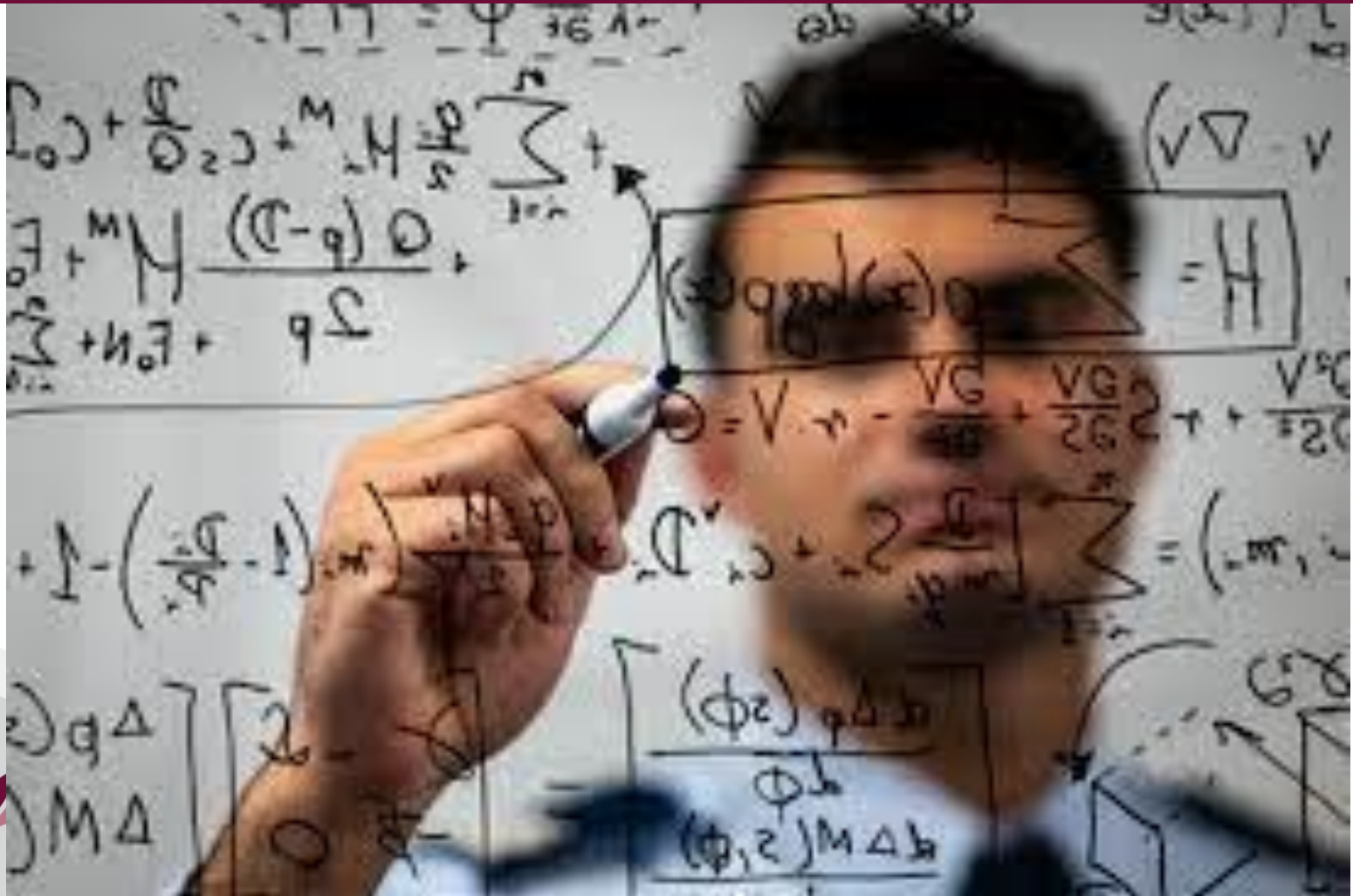
Literature: Edexcel

# Purchasing Revision aids



COMMITMENT • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • SELF-BELIEF • STRENGTH

# Mathematics



# Outline of the Evening

- To share some key information regarding exam boards, tier of entries etc.
- To explain the year ahead and how we can work as a triumvirate (pupil, parent, school) to provide key support and
- To share some key dates
- To share some specific Mathematics exam information

# Key Information

Which exam board are we using?

**Edexcel**

How many exams will my child sit?

**3 exams, all 1 hour 30 minutes each.**

**Two are calculator exams, one non-calculator.**

**80 marks per exam, total 240 marks**

There are two tiers of entry

**Foundation and Higher**



# Key Information

Which tier is my child going to sit?

**We aim for decisions to be made at October half term.**

**Currently**

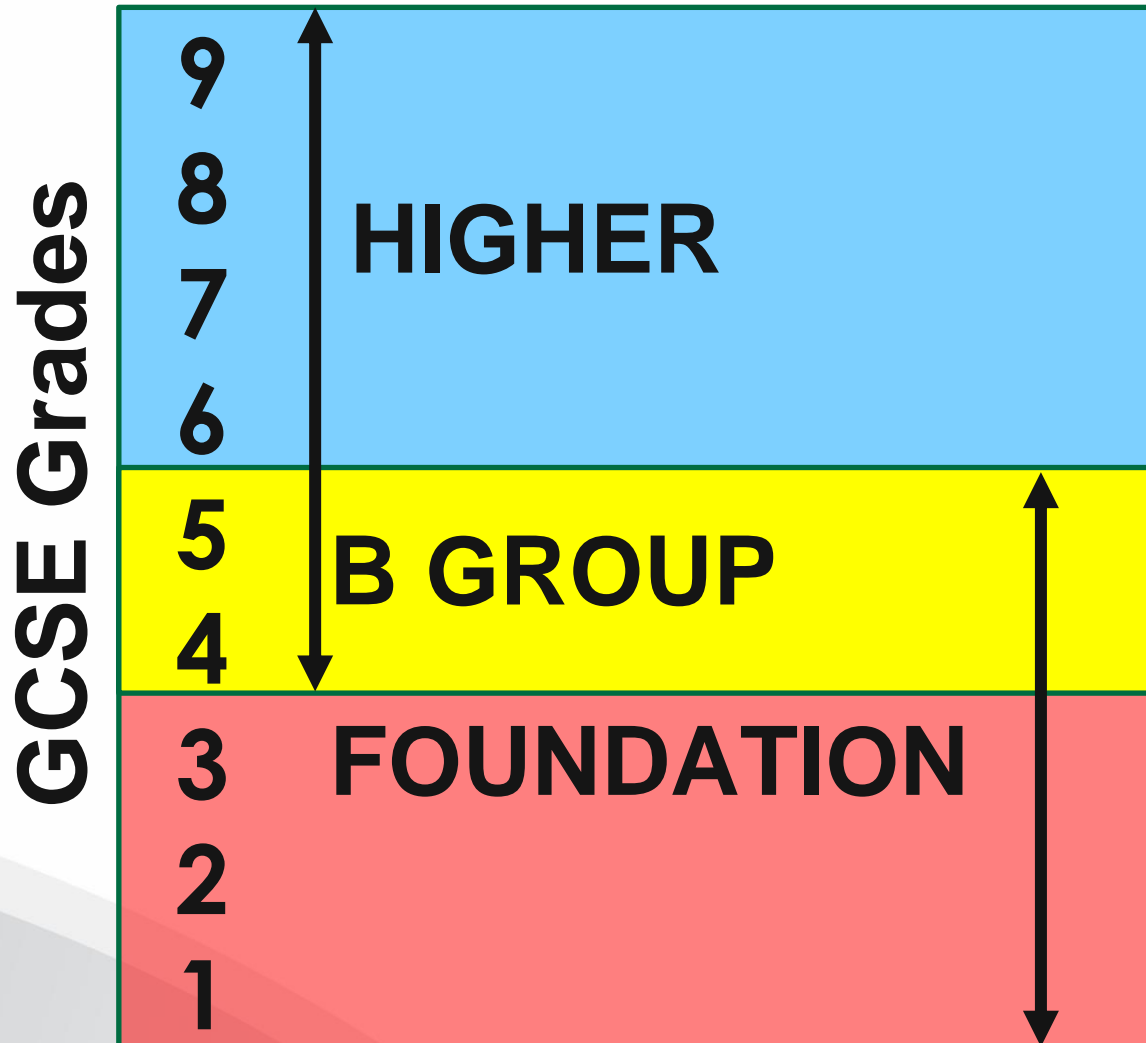
**P, R groups – Higher Tier**

**B groups – Higher / Foundation borderline**

**C, G groups – Foundation pathway.**



# Key Information





# Period 6 Sessions

These for Maths are beginning on Tuesday.

Initially these will be targeted, although all welcome.



# GCSE Examination dates

These should be released early Autumn.

Draft dates:

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 am **Paper 1**
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 am **Paper 2**
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 am **Paper 3**





# Changes to Examinations during 2022 & 2023 in-light of Covid-19 measures

<b>Year</b>	<b>Level of Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	Advanced information – we knew what topics would appear on each paper
<b>2023</b>	Provision of Mathematical formula booklet
<b>2024</b>	No support proposed – all formulae need to be learnt

# Historical Grade Boundaries

## Higher

Exam					Grade															
Board	Month	Year	Tier	Total	9		8		7		6		5		4		3		2	1
Edexcel	June	2017	H	240	190	79%	157	65%	124	52%	96	40%	68	28%	41	17%	27	11%		
Edexcel	June	2018	H	240	202	84%	170	71%	139	58%	109	45%	79	33%	50	21%	35	15%		
Edexcel	June	2019	H	240	198	83%	167	70%	137	57%	108	45%	80	33%	52	22%	38	16%		
Edexcel	June	2022	H	240	194	81%	165	69%	137	57%	104	43%	71	30%	38	16%	21	9%		
Edexcel	June	2023	H	240	203	85%	174	73%	145	60%	112	47%	79	33%	47	20%	31	13%		
Averages					197	82%	167	69%	136	57%	106	44%	75	31%	46	19%	30	13%		



Commitment - Respect - Excellence - Self-belief - Strength

# Historical Grade Boundaries

## Foundation

Exam					Grade									
Board	Month	Year	Tier	Total	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Edexcel	June	2017	F	240					158 66%	122 51%	90 38%	58 24%	26 11%	
Edexcel	June	2018	F	240					169 70%	136 57%	101 42%	66 28%	31 13%	
Edexcel	June	2019	F	240					184 77%	149 62%	111 46%	73 30%	36 15%	
Edexcel	June	2022	F	240					173 72%	135 56%	100 42%	66 28%	32 13%	
Edexcel	June	2023	F	240					182 76%	147 61%	109 45%	71 30%	33 14%	
Averages									173 72%	138 57%	102 43%	67 28%	32 13%	



Commitment - Respect - Excellence - Self-belief - Strength

# Some specific Mathematics guidance



Commitment - Respect - Excellence - Self-belief - Strength

# Calculators

- ❖ It is **essential** that all students have a scientific calculator for their maths lessons and their exams
- ❖ Students should bring these to school with them **every day** and also for every exam
- ❖ If you have not already purchased a calculator we recommend the CASIO-FX85GT Plus



# Revision



# Revision

## Traffic Light System



**Colour code list of topics to form your revision needs**



**Revise specific topics**



**Complete past papers**





# Revision Timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
08:00 – 08:30							
Period 6 14:45 – 15:45							
16:00							
17:00							
18:00							
19:00							
20:00							

**Make sure you know when your  
Period 6 sessions are!  
(Maths Tuesday – Week B)**

*Revision*

\* = revise if possible  
// = no revision/break

TIME	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
8:30-4:30	school	school	school	school	school	*	*
4:30-5:00	media	chemistry	media	maths	english	maths*	=
5:00-5:30	english	chemistry	media	maths	english	maths*	=
5:30-6:00	=	=	maths	english	media	=	=
6:00-6:30	english	english	=	=	=	=	=
6:30-7:00	maths	english	=	=	chemistry	=	=
7:00-7:30	=	=	english	chemistry	=	*	biology
7:30-8:00	=	=	physics	chemistry	=	*	media
8:00-8:30	maths	biology	=	=	chemistry	english	=
8:30-9:00	maths	maths	maths	biology	physics	english	=
9:00-9:30	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
9:30-10:00	biology	maths	biology	biology	phys*	=	=
10:00-10:30	media	physics	biology	media	phys*	=	=



Commitment - Respect - Excellence



# Revision Timetable

Creating, and sticking with, a revision timetable is vital, especially for PPEs.

You will find out what works, and what does not.

This will allow you to make adjustments for January PPE, before final adjustments for ACTUAL exams.

Revise well for PPEs has many advantages:

- **Provides encouragement;**
- Gives an indication of **what you know well** (means less revision for GCSEs)
- Allows you to recognise **what you need help with**
- Means you can find out **how you like to revise** and **when you revise best.**



# Useful websites

These websites are suggestions to assist with revision.

<https://www.sparxmaths.com/>

<https://corbettmaths.com/>

<https://examsolutions.net/>

<http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/>

## Equipment

Scientific Set including compass and protractor

Casio Scientific calculator Model fx – 83GT Plus

Maths GCSE 9-1 Edexcel Revision workbook and  
Revision guide (RRP approx. £6)

Commitment - Respect - Excellence - Self-belief - Strength



# AQA English Language

	English Language Paper 1 'Creative Reading and Writing'		English Language Paper 2 'Writers' Viewpoints and Opinions'
Unseen extracts	X1 (20th or 21st century: Extract from a novel		x2 (19th Century and 20th/21st Century): extracts will be on a shared theme; they may be letters / articles / diary entries / extracts from memoirs
Reading	Reading Section: x 4 questions which increase in difficulty and numerical values		Reading Section: x 4 questions which increase in difficulty and numerical values
Writing	Students are asked to write a creative piece: they are given a choice to use a picture stimulus or another task (short story/ story opening / describe or recount)		Students are asked to write in a non fiction form about a topic (linked to the two extracts); they will be asked to write for a particular audience, in a particular form.
Marks	Reading: 40 Marks Writing: Content and Organisation 24 marks Spelling , punctuation and grammar: 16 marks		Reading: 40 Marks Writing: Content and Organisation 24 marks Spelling , punctuation and grammar: 16 marks



# AQA English Language: Reading for Meaning

50% of the marks are awarded for Reading. This means:

- Retrieval of information
- Selection of quotations to support ideas about the meanings within the text.
- Using technical vocabulary to show knowledge and understanding
- Recognising the nuances within the text – being able to express the ideas held within the text: reading for empathy, recognising writer's viewpoints and opinions.
- Comparison skills

Students **MUST** use the 15 minutes reading time allocated within the language exams in order to annotate the extracts.

It is likely the second extract in Paper 2 will be from The Guardian – this is historically a favourite with AQA. Students should be reading articles in 'The Guardian' to develop familiarity with the level of language in such articles.



# Language: Writing

50% of the marks are awarded for **Writing**

Students must show they can write for two distinct purposes: Creative and Expressing Opinion.

Range, accuracy and impact of vocabulary is measured twice within the mark scheme.

**60%** of the writing grade is based upon sophistication of ideas and the organisation of the ideas. Writing in the correct format is awarded within the 60%. There is a considerable value placed on the use of connectives, discourse markers, prepositional phrasing, structural organisation within paragraphs and across the whole response.

**40%** of the writing grade is based upon **the accuracy** of Spelling, punctuation and grammar.



# Writing: Language Paper 1

Forms students are expected to be able to write in:

- **To Describe**
- **To narrate (write a story)**

These are very different in that to describe does not require a story arc, however to write an effective story within a 45 minute task is the more difficult of the two.

To write a story means students will be assessed on:

- Characterisation
- Setting
- Plot
- Themes

Write a description **as suggested** by the picture



# Writing: Language Paper 2

Forms students may be expected to write in:

- A Letter to a person of either importance or familiarity.
- A speech to be delivered to people of importance or familiarity.
- An article for a broadsheet.

Where the task states 'Write..... in which you argue for **OR** against this Statement' **do not open** with '**I agree/disagree with this statement**'.

The agreement, or disagreement, must become evident as the letter /speech/article develops.



# Language Paper 2 – Opinion Topics

We cannot predict what on topic students will be asked to express an opinion upon.

The focus of the task is about expressing an opinion through a variety of methods: express an opinion, develop that opinion and then justify that opinion, so that it is an informed piece, not solely driven by the student's personal and emotive ideas.

Students should be able to express an extended opinion on:

- Relationships - family and platonic
- Philosophical issues
- Food Trends
- Environmental Trends
- Social Issues
- Education
- Health
- Leisure
- Political issues

**Should students suddenly feel the topic is out of reach to them, they need to be reassured it is not about knowledge - it is about skill to express opinion. But the more culturally aware students are, more opportunities in their writing.**





# Revision

- CPG Guides
- Letts Guides
- Mr Bruff
- Writing answers / planning answers
- Revision of key quotations for each text
- Reading the texts
- Watching - the news, adaptations, short films
- Managing Literature and Language



# Next Steps

Year 11: Students will be sitting a full series of PPEs in January.

Year 10: Students will be sitting Literature Paper 1 and Language Paper 1 in the summer terms.

Year 11: Lessons are moving towards PPE revision.

Lessons are focused on building time management, speed and resilience in writing, as well as reading skills, preparing then for the unseen elements of the examinations.

Students should be developing a revision timetable, so that revision is overtime.

Independent study is expected as well as the home works being set.

Students must be addressing their repeated errors in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar and ensuring these are corrected. Essential marks can be gained through accuracy.

