

Belfairs Academy Mathematics Information Evening

Wednesday, 23 October 2024



COMMITMENT • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • SELF-BELIEF • STRENGTH

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 together (pupil, parent, carer, school) to provide key support
- 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 by the end of January, after Mock examinations .

Currently

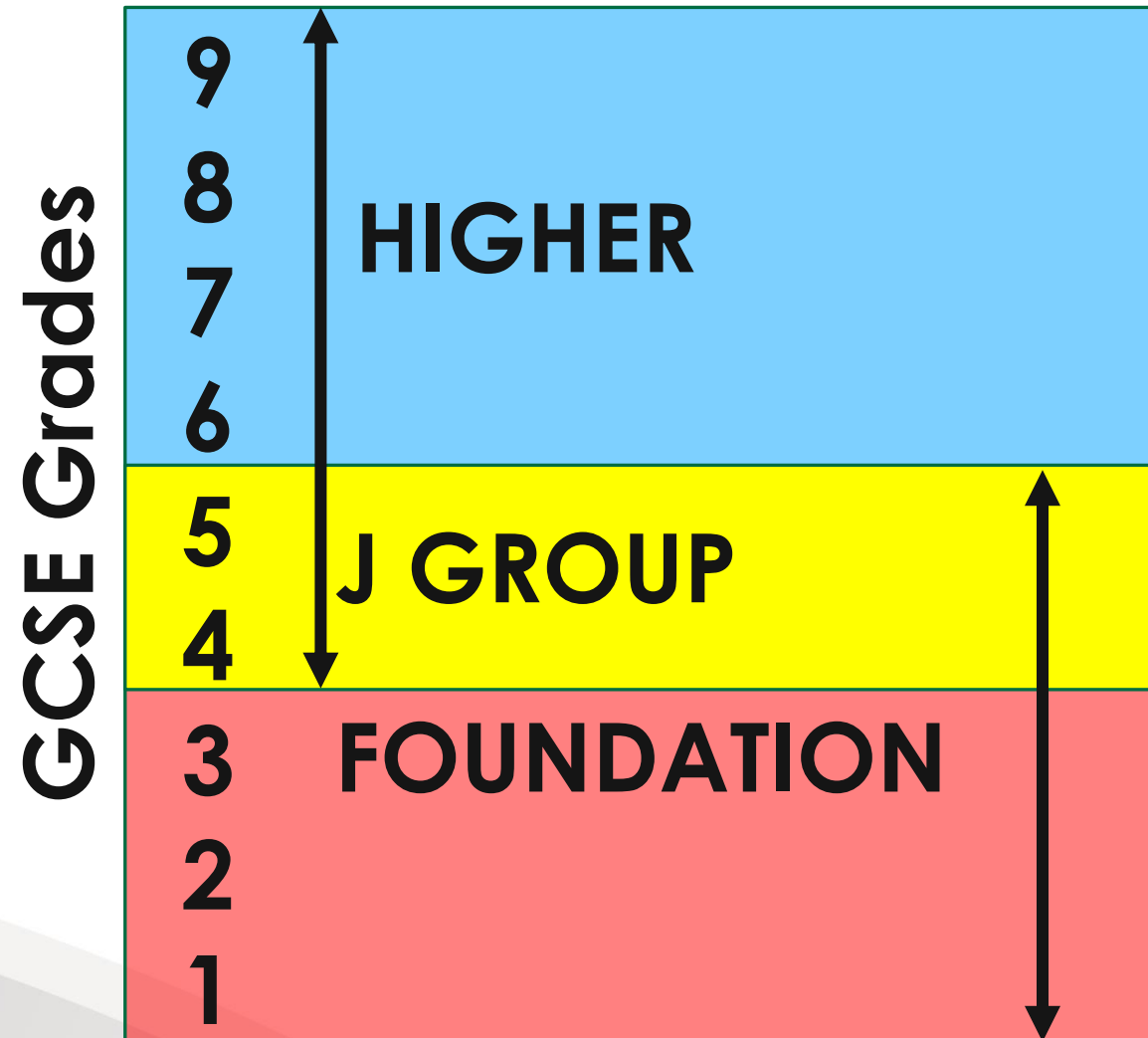
H & I groups – Higher Tier

J groups – Potentially Higher

K, L groups – Foundation pathway.



Key Information



Period 6 Sessions

These for Maths are beginning on Tuesday.

Initially these will may be directed by invite, although all welcome.



GCSE Examination dates

These should be released early Autumn.

Draft dates:

Thursday, 15 May (morning) Paper 1 (non-calculator)

Wednesday, 4 June (morning) Paper 2 (calculator)

Wednesday, 11 June (morning) paper 3 (calculator)



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%			
Edexcel	June	2024	H	240	197 82%	167 70%	137 57%	105 44%	73 30%	42 18%	26 11%			
Averages					197 82%	167 69%	137 57%	106 44%	75 31%	45 19%	30 12%			



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%	
Edexcel	June	2024	F	240					175 73%	142 59%	103 43%	65 27%	27 11%	
Averages									174 72%	139 58%	102 43%	67 28%	31 13%	



Calculators

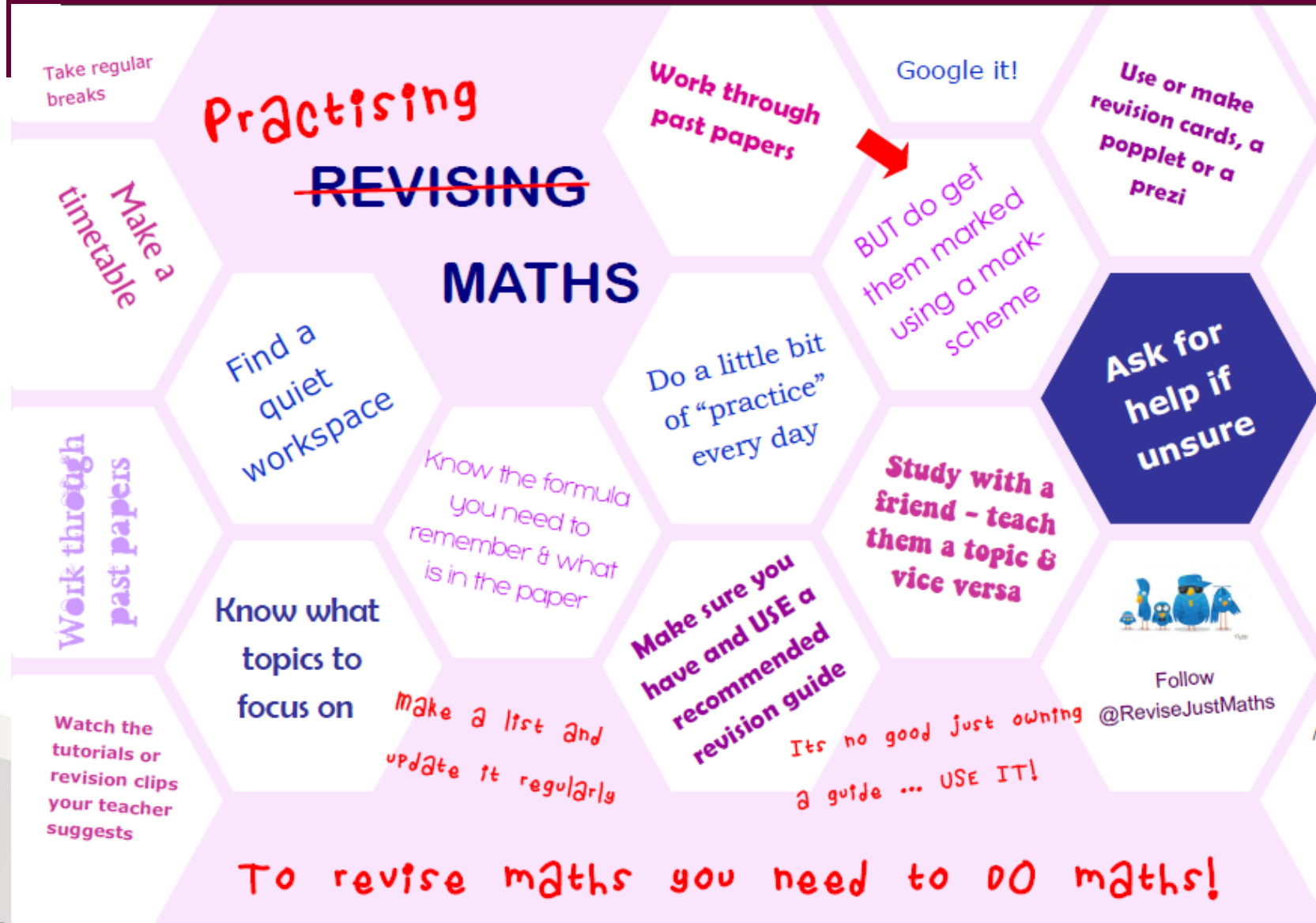
❖ It is **essential** that all students have a scientific calculator for their maths lessons and their exams

❖ 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



Practise topic-based questions



Practise past papers.

Watching of videos is not sufficient



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/English are Tuesday –)

REVISION

* = revise if possible
// = no revision/area

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*	=	=



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)



FAQ's

Who can I contact at Belfairs Academy about my child's progress in Mathematics?

Classroom teacher

Mr Murphy – Subject Leader - Mathematics

Mrs Turner – Year 11 Progress Leader



Time management

Students will have 90 minutes for 80 marks.

1 mark = 1 minute

with some time left over at the end to check.

They need to be wary of spending too much time on questions. Spending 3 minutes on a 1 mark question, will not be the best use of time, there will be an easier method.

Likewise, if they spend 1 minute on a 6-marker, they've probably missed something.



Underline key words and information

Wordy questions can be daunting.

Routinely underlining key information to help pick out what is needed.

They should cross out any red herrings – for example, information in a table that they are not going to need.

They should consider ticking each piece of information off as they use it so they don't miss anything out.



Neat handwriting

The easier the students make it for the examiner to read their answers, the more marks they could obtain.

Lay out each step of their working clearly and include units where necessary.



Command words

Estimate → This means work out approximately by rounding the numbers to one significant figure.

E.g.: Estimate 13.7×6.2

Answer: $10 \times 6 = 60$

Explain → Informing the examiner how they got to their answer or how they know the answer is correct. This will require either a written sentence or a mathematical calculation.

Construct → This is another way of saying 'draw accurately' using mathematical equipment. Show all working.



Command words

Calculate → This does not mean use a calculator, it means 'work out' (and show their working).

Complete → This means to fill in a data table or to fill in gaps.

Work out → A written or mental calculation is needed.

E.g.: Work out 6^2

Answer: $6 \times 6 = 36$



Command words

Expand (multiply out the brackets)

$$4(d - 3) = 4d - 12$$

Factorise (find factors and add brackets)

Solve → this means to work out the value of something; usually a variable in an algebraic equation. **E.g.: solve $3x = 12$**

Answer: $x = 4$

Simplify → This is the process of making something simpler, eg: algebraic expression, fraction or a ratio.

E.g.: simplify $12 : 15$

Answer: $4 : 5$



Rounding

Students need to make sure they read whether they need to round to **decimal places** or **significant figures**.

For example: 0.0453682

0.05 2 **decimal** places
0.045 2 **significant** figures

For example: 85762
85800 3 significant figures



Units and Conversions

Check: are the units the same throughout the question?

A box is on a table.

The area of the box in contact with the table is 1500 cm².

The pressure on the table is 28 newton/m².

Work out the force exerted by the box on the table.

$$p = \frac{F}{A}$$

p = pressure

F = force

A = area

..... newtons

(Total 3 marks)

Check: are there units given on the answer line?

Remember:

60 minutes = 1 hour

15 minutes = 0.25 hours, **NOT 0.15**



Give reasons for your answer

Is it plural or singular? Students need to use the marks available to interpret how many reasons to give.

This does not mean they should write an essay!

The examiner will be looking for keywords in their answers.

It might help to plan their answers briefly first to make sure they leave enough space for reasons.



Diagrams not drawn to scale

Rulers and protractors will be of no use because some diagrams are not always drawn to the correct scale. (Unless told to use this equipment)

Students need to use angle reasoning, area and volume formulae, trigonometry or circle theorems to help themselves answer these questions.

The assumption now is that all diagrams are not drawn accurately.

Diagram to illustrate that the angles actually aren't correct



Crossing out working

Crossed out working cannot be marked if it is replaced.

Students are better off leaving incorrect working there and gaining one or two marks than gaining none.

Students need to ensure they leave one final answer.



Answer everything

Again, students are better off leaving incorrect working there and gaining one or two marks than gaining none.

Encourage your child to have a go at the questions throughout the paper, try to attempt as much as they can.



Checking their workings

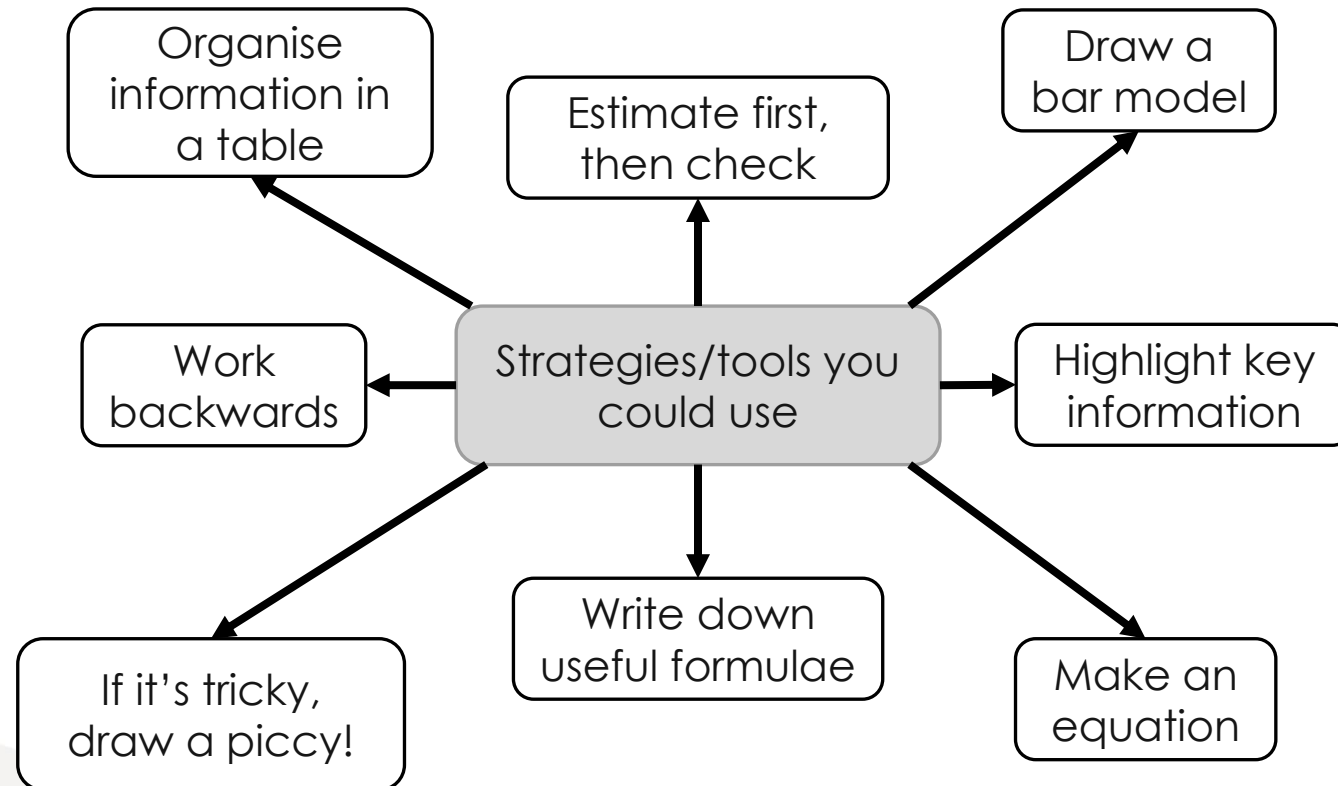
If students finish early...

They must check their working.

This doesn't mean just looking at their answers, they need to go over every step of their working to make sure they haven't made any avoidable errors with times tables or negatives.



Exam techniques



Exam techniques

Step 1

Read the question highlighting key information.

Step 2

Plan and structure how you are going to answer it.

Step 3

Answer it showing all your mathematical working out.

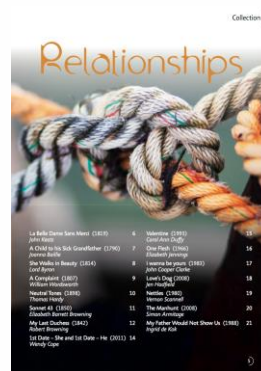
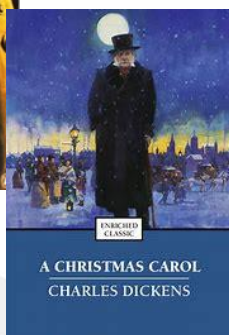
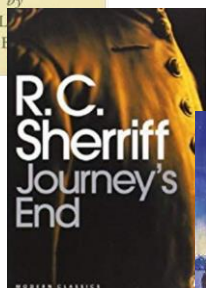
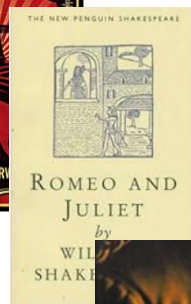
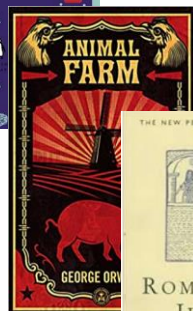
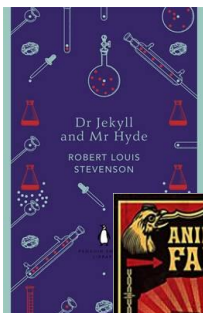
Step 4

Check your answers.



Belfairs Academy English Information Evening

Wednesday 23rd October 2024



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
- Answer all questions.
- Use black ink or black ballpoint pen.
- Fill in the boxes on this page.
- 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/inserts 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 assessed on the quality of your 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 leave sufficient time to check your answers.

AQA SPECIMEN

Please write clearly in black capitals.

Course 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 black 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/inserts 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** and 40 marks for **Section B**.
- You are assessed on the quality of your 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 leave 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

	The Modern Text	Shakespeare	19 th Century Novel	Poetry
Year 10	An Inspector Calls	Romeo and Juliet	A Christmas Carol	Relationship or Conflict
Year 11	Animal Farm or Journey's End	Romeo and Juliet	A Christmas Carol or Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	Relationship or Conflict



The Literature exams

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

2 questions, only 30 mins each.

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.

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' – **selected From memory.**

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.

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 = 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.

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 are equally about themes.



Knowledge Organisers

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	



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.



Language

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.
- Recognising the nuances within the text – being able to express the ideas held within the text.
- Using technical vocabulary to show knowledge and understanding

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

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%.

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



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



Language Paper 2

Forms students may be expected to write in:

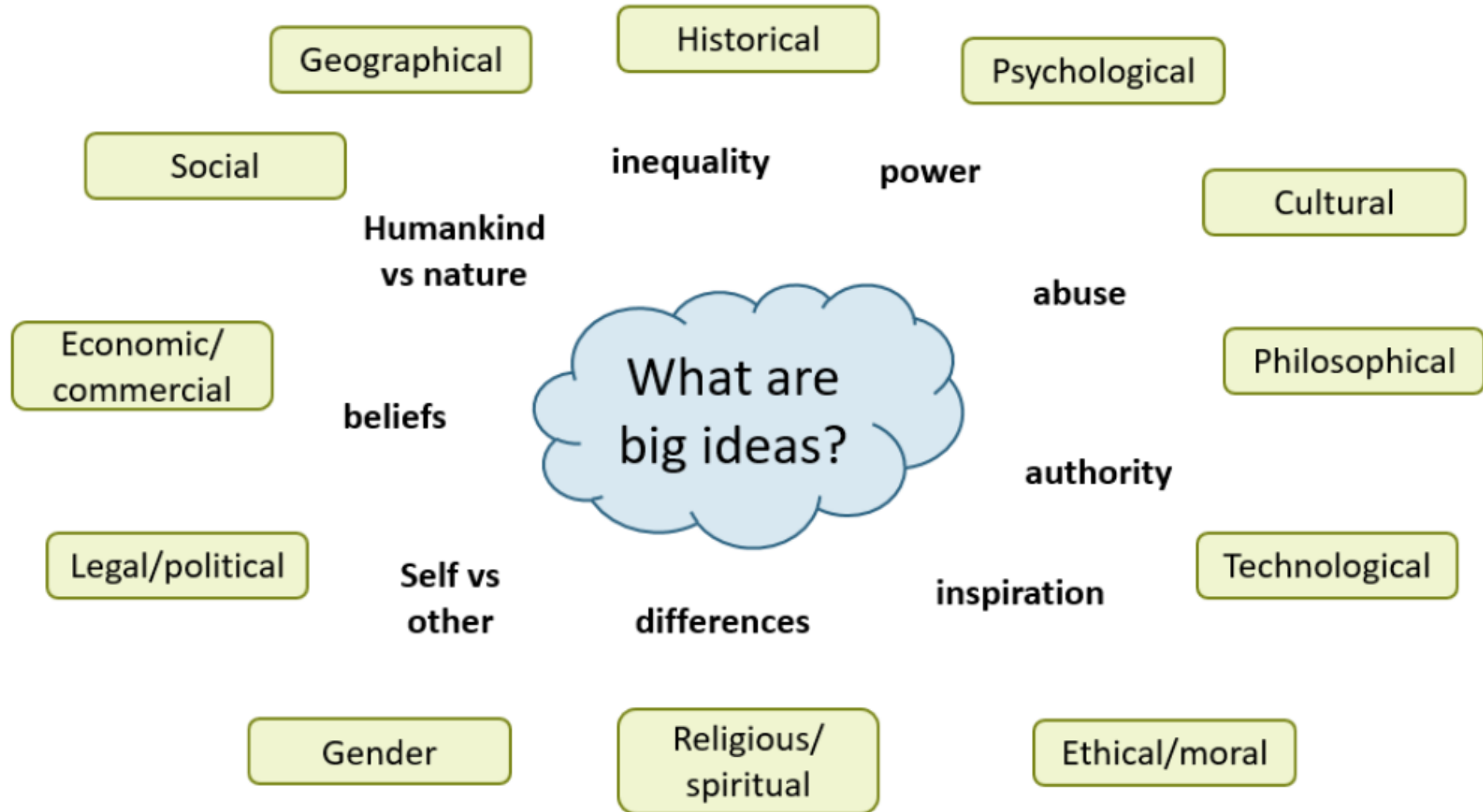
- A Letter to a person of either importance or familiarity.
- A speech to be delivered to people of importance or familiarity.
- An article for a broadsheet.

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.



Big Ideas



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.

Students should be able to express an extended opinion on:

- Food Trends
- Environment Trends
- Social Issues
- Education
- Health
- Leisure
- The Environment
- Ethical or moral or philosophical matters
- Political concepts

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 have the more opportunities in their writing.



Revision

- Belfairs Revision Centre
- CPG Guides
- Letts Guides
- York Notes
- Websites
- Writing answers
- Reading – re reading
- Watching



Next Steps – for year 11

Students will be sitting a second series of PPEs in January.

Homeworks 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 have a revision timetable in place.
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.

