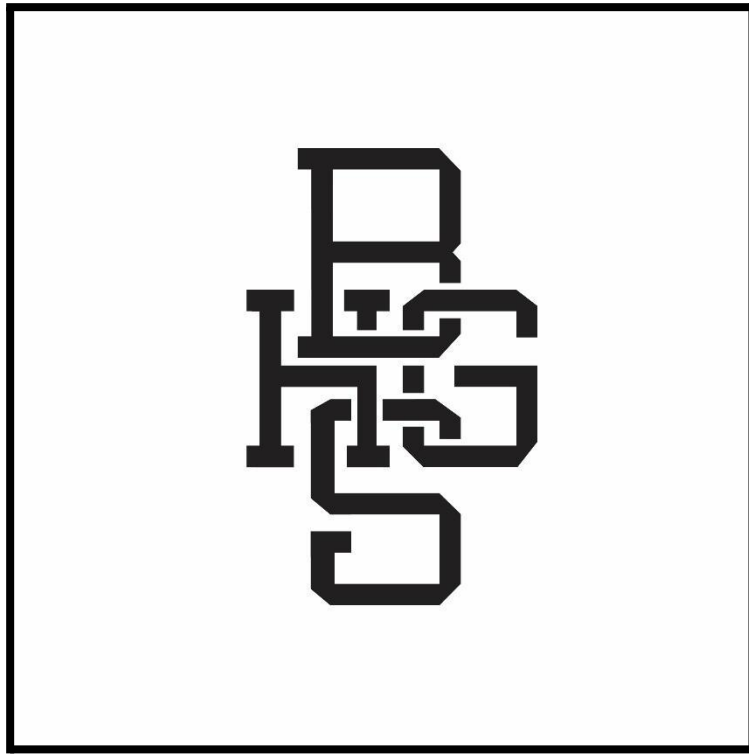


Information about the Year 11 Mock Exams



Bishop's Hatfield
Girls' School
2023

The purpose of this pack is to give you all the information you need to be successful in your Mock GCSE exams.

The mock exams are really important because:

- They give you practice at the discipline of taking exams and concentrating for the required lengths of time.
- They show you what to expect in the summer.
- They give you a clear indication of how you are doing in your subjects at this point in Year 11.

The year 11 mocks start with the language speaking exams from Friday 17th Nov, the PE practical on 27th Nov and the Art and Graphics practicals on 1st Dec.

The written papers then take place between 4th December and 15th December, with the first part of the last week of term available for catch up exams.

It is extremely important that you prepare for your mock exams by revising carefully, you need to get the best grades you are capable of.

Please see the attached timetable. You will be given their own individual timetable in addition to this more general overview. Please follow your own timetable - keep it safe - stick it into your planner.

You must also read the Examination Regulations carefully

There are two main elements involved in studying well:

- 'Deep' skills - these are mainly about your overall approach to study such as:
 - staying organised
 - concentrating well in lessons
 - doing homework to a good standard
 - asking for help when you are unclear about something
 - having a positive attitude - 'growth mindset'
 - 100% attendance
 - keeping positive about the future
- Revision skills
 - These are specific strategies that you can use before class tests, mock exams or the GCSEs and BTECs in the summer. Use the next pages for some tips on revision.

We hope you have all the information that you feel you need to manage your own revision and prepare for your exams. Talk to your subject teachers if you need any more help or guidance.

Find out when revision clubs are on and make time to attend them regularly. Your subject teacher will be able to advise you on subject specific resources, materials and strategies.

A calm planned out revision strategy is best. Panic is not an effective plan!

Speak to your Form Tutor, Ms Graves or Mrs Langston. Between us we will try to help you achieve your best!

Effective Revision

You have been considering effective revision in lifeskills and through VESPSA activities in form times. Now is the time to apply those strategies to your revision work.

What is revision? It means literally 're-looking' at information you have learnt previously. The aim is that you know the information you will be tested on and can remember it for the exam. Knowing something depends on understanding it.

The aim of revision. The aim is to reduce the amount of information relating to a subject to a series of key-points; any point, phrase or word prompts your brain to retrieve the information stored in it. At the end of your revision for each topic or sub-topic, aim to end up with a card or A4 sheet with the KEY points for that section.

Plan a revision timetable. The template at the end of this document can help you to structure your week. The school day is blocked out, as you are in lessons then. Add in other commitments you may have already, then think about meal times, and an hour of relaxation time before bed. Now add in the subjects and then the specific topics you need to revise, in 30 minute chunks. Come and get help with this if you need some more guidance.

The structure of revision sessions. Effective revision techniques always include:

- An aim for the session. e.g. 'By the end of this two hour revision session I will understand and be able to answer questions on photosynthesis'.
- Thinking about what you know already and identifying the bits you need to spend more time on (usually by doing some sort of self-testing – many revision aids include opportunities for self-testing).
- Breaking down each topic into 'do-able' chunks.
Revise each section – not just reading the information but doing something active with it (see below).
- Producing notes (shorter each time you revise a particular area) noting key points, phrases or words.
- Testing yourself to see what you have learnt.
- Ticking off the subject on your 'overall list' so that you can see regular progress.
- Revisiting your notes briefly after one day, one week and one month, as well as just before the exam – ***THIS REALLY WORKS!***

The key to effective revision. Useful revision involves **DOING SOMETHING** with the information you are trying to learn and remember. This is **ESSENTIAL** to allow your brain to learn, make connections and remember. Different people find different activities useful, and you need to find out how you revise best. Some ideas:

- Drawing 'spider maps' on large pieces of paper – to show how different parts of a subject hang together.
- Use pictures and big flip-chart sheets and colour to make posters with key points and display these on the walls or where you will see them regularly.

- Put revision aids up around the house – especially for any ‘rote learning’ – chemical or mathematical formulae, French verbs – read them when sitting on the loo, brushing your teeth or eating your breakfast.
- Record yourself making 10 key points about a particular topic, then play it back when you are travelling, running etc.
- Highlight key areas of notes or books (if yours), picking out the key points or summaries.
- Listen to tapes of e.g. books and plays and discuss them with another person.
- Watch revision DVDs but don’t just sit back passively – pause them and make notes of key or difficult areas, test yourself or get someone to watch with you and test each other.
- Read a page and shut the book – what can you remember?
- Tell someone about what you have learned – explain how the heart works over a meal (or perhaps stick to something less gory).
- Get people around you to test you on ‘rote knowledge’ – have a family quiz.

Memory techniques. Find out what helps you to remember stuff. Some ideas are;

Acronyms (using the first letter of each word to make a word to prompt your memory) e.g. you may find it hard to remember this sentence ‘Wholly Inadequate Needless Damned Outrageous Waste of Space’. However, turn it into an acronym and it becomes much easier: **WINDOWS**.

Picture stories (thinking of a strong visual image to associate with each word and linking them together in an unlikely and silly story) e.g. you may find it hard to remember the facts in this sentence, simply by reading it through.

Mnemonics are also useful – make up a silly sentence to help you remember the order of something, e.g. Never Eat Shredded Wheat (North, East, South, West).

Review. Take time occasionally to ask yourself how well your revision techniques are working for you. How much have you covered? Have you stuck to your timetable? Are you ending up with notes you can use for last minute revision? Congratulate yourself for all the subjects you have covered. Change your timetable plan if necessary.

Later on. When you have revised and revisited each topic, have a go at some past exam questions. Make sure you set the appropriate time limit, and try to work under exam conditions. Don’t do this too early (although it’s worth looking at them early on to get an idea of the sort of question you will be answering – essays, multiple choice etc). Do these in plenty of time so that your teacher can mark them (see ‘Making a Revision Plan – Phase 3’).

Quick tips for revising

- Make yourself start however much you don’t want to – the hardest bit is over with then!
- Put your phone away. Apps such as Forest can help, but it is best to leave it in another room so the notifications don’t call to you.
- Build in short breaks. Revise for 30 minutes, then have a 10 minute break, then another 30 minutes.

- Do frequent short exercises – stretches, neck and shoulder rolls, walking around etc.
- Drink water and get fresh air. Keep the temperature cool.
- Eat ‘brain food’ – avoid sugar and have lots of healthy snacks around to eat little and often.
- Take a day off and do something completely different.
- Don’t leave the difficult bits to the end.
- Do something relaxing between revising and bedtime.
- STOP and take a break if you start feeling as though you cannot concentrate. Make a note of the problem to take to your next lesson, and move on to something else. Revision should be done in 30 minute blasts, with 10 minute breaks in between.
- Focus on what you have done, not all the things that you haven’t – every little helps.
- Promise yourself little rewards after each session – time on the phone, time outside, read a book, listen to music and so on.
- At the end of each session, file away your notes and clutter so that your work-area is clear for the next session.

Weekly Revision Timetable

Name: _____

Day	8:00-9:00	9:00-10:00	10:00-11:00	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	13:00-14:00	14:00-15:00	15:00-16:00	16:00-17:00	17:00-18:00	18:00-19:00	19:00-20:00	20:00-21:00	21:00-22:00
Monday														
Tuesday														
Wednesday														
Thursday														
Friday														
Saturday														
Sunday														

*****Remember: make sure you give yourself breaks and allow time to relax and do the things you want to do and enjoy doing. REMEMBER, THE BEST REVISION IS ONE THAT CHANGES FOCUS EVERY HOUR, that could be, topics, revision activities or subjects.**

Write out a colour key here for your subjects:

