



WATLING
— ACADEMY —

Year 11 Shared Learning Evening
Tuesday, 10 March 2026

Shared Learning Evening

- GCSE exams are only 31 school days away!
- Collaborative effort – Students, Teachers and Parents
- Key information about the road ahead
- How we will support students
- How you can support your child in the run up to exams

Shared Learning Evening

- The exams will arrive – embrace the challenge head on!
- Take all the support and advice you can
- Be proactive – ask if you are unsure
- Balance is important – making sure you are at your best when the exams come



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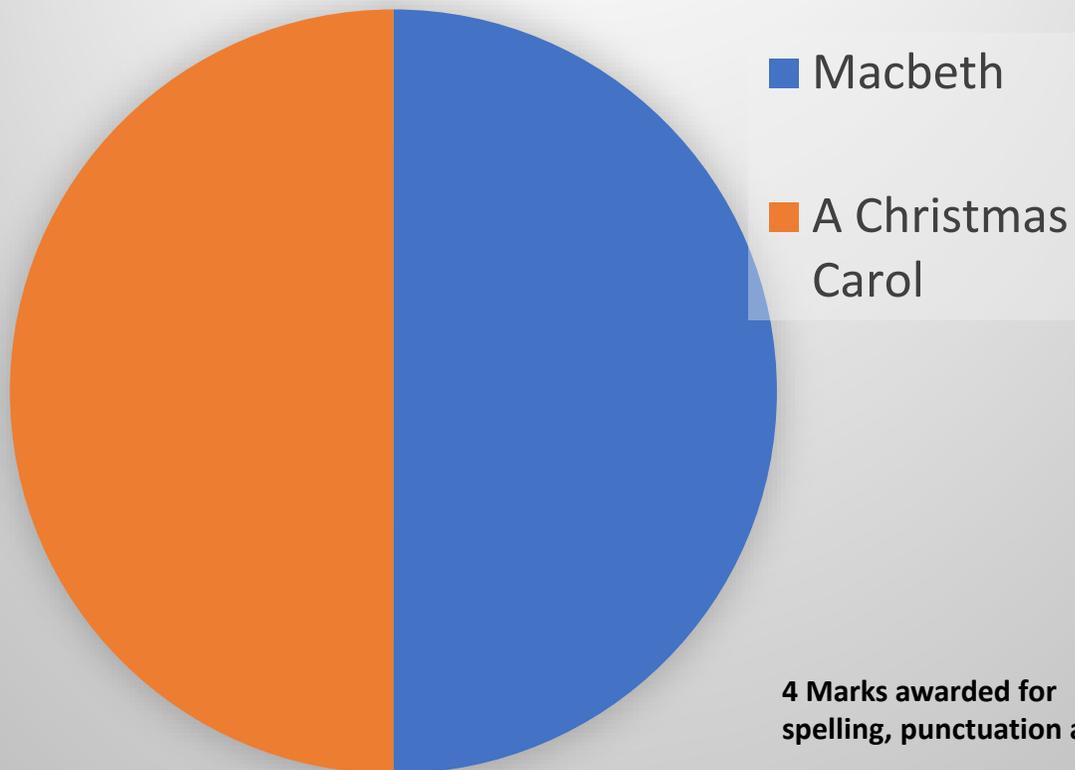
GCSE English

'English opens doors'

English Literature

Paper 1

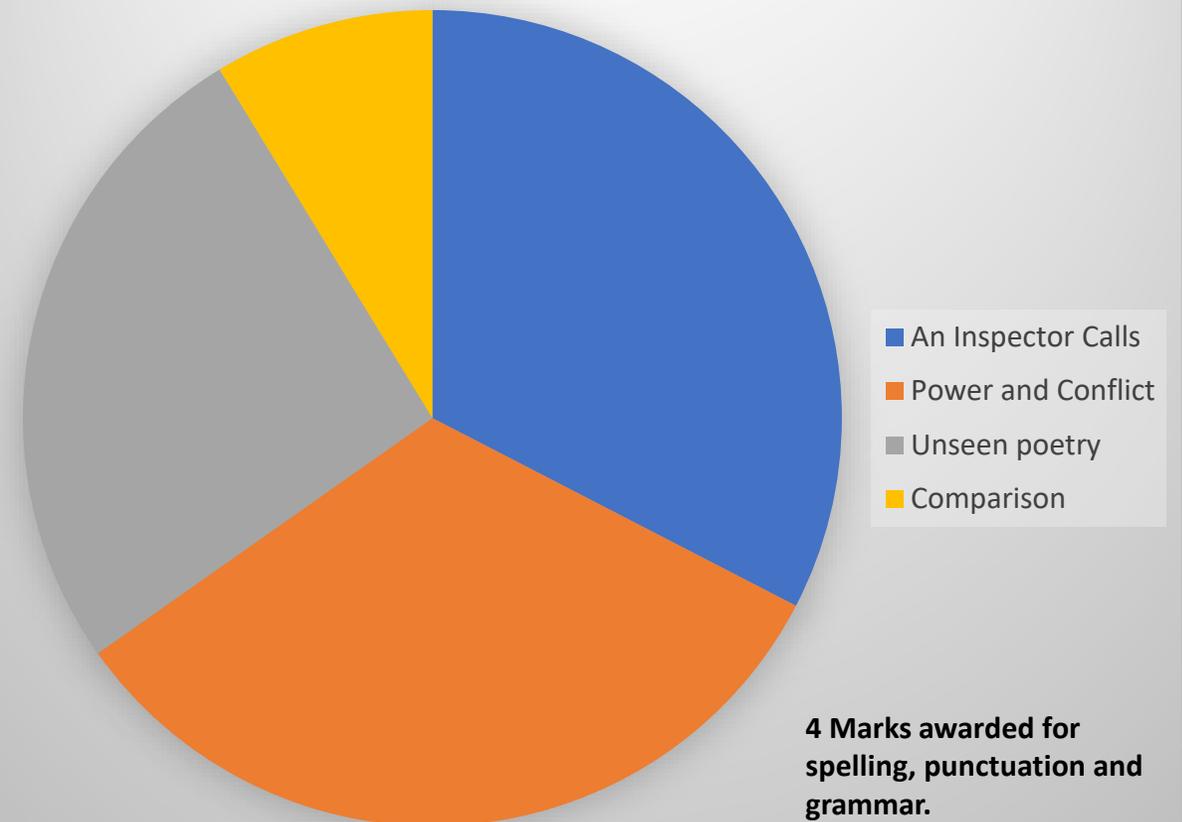
40% GCSE – 1hr 45 Minutes



4 Marks awarded for spelling, punctuation and

Paper 2

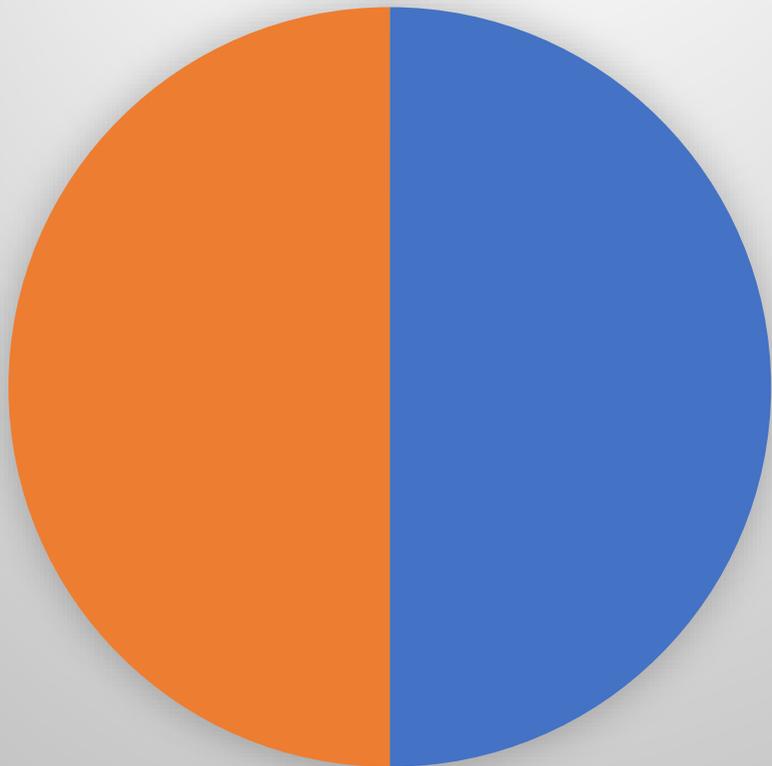
60% - 2hr 15 Minutes



4 Marks awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

English Language

50 % Paper 1 – Explorations in creative reading and writing
1hr 45 minutes



■ Reading

■ Writing

50% Paper 2 – Writers perspectives and viewpoints
1hr 45 minutes



■ Reading

■ Writing

What we are doing to maximise learning

Quality teaching where students have been matched with teachers

New content has now been delivered, the next few months we are focusing on revising, closing gaps in learning and mastering exam skills.

Exam practice once a week

Homework focused on exam questions

Regular in class assessment and monitoring

How we are supporting outside of lessons

- Homework focused on exam questions
- Regular in class assessment and monitoring
- Intervention in some of our bigger lessons with a subject specialist
- Intervention groups accessible on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after school.

How do you revise English?

Know your syllabus: Get to know the AQA English Literature syllabus. This will help you understand what your child needs to study and the key texts they need to focus on.

Know the texts: Know the plots, characters and main themes. The easiest way of doing this is by re-reading the texts or watching performances!

Know the exam:

Make sure you know what your examination paper looks like and the order that your questions come in.

Make sure you know what the mark scheme grids look like for each question.

Know your answers:

Using a blank copy of an answer booklet, create a reminder paper for yourself.

Rather than answering the questions, note down:

- How long you should spend on that question

- Any key information you have been taught in class

- The techniques you have been taught to answer that question

- Any key vocabulary you might need to answer that question

Don't underestimate writing:

50% of your language exam is based on it.

Remember an English GCSE is a marathon!





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GCSE Maths

How to support your child in their maths revision

**What are we doing
to maximise your
child's
performance?**

Quality teaching in the classroom

Already in place:

- Fortnightly exam practice lessons focused on exam technique and building confidence in answering exam questions
- Weekly past papers for homework to enable students to get familiar with exam style questions
- Content will be finished by Easter, allowing time for revision in class
- Weekly starters (mark maximisers) allowing for recap and review

Also running

- Maths drop-in every Tuesday lunchtime and Thursday afterschool – a space for students to get help and support with maths questions and homework
- Interventions during form time and Wellbeing lessons

What do we expect of the students?

- To try their best
- To try to start the questions, even if they think they cannot answer them
- To develop their resilience and confidence in exam questions
- To complete their past paper homework
- To ask for help when they don't understand
- To come equipped for lessons
- To show their full workings

What can you do to further support?

Knowing the GCSE Maths Syllabus

3 papers (AQA)

Paper 1 non-calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

Thursday 14th May 2026 9am

Paper 2 calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 9am

Paper 3 calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

Wednesday 10th June 2026 9am

All content can be tested in any one of the three papers.

All papers are equally weighted.

Higher or Foundation

Please make sure you are aware whether your child is sitting higher or foundation as the content does vary.

Giving your parental support

- Ensure your son/daughter has the correct equipment for lessons and the exams –pens, pencils, ruler, compass, protractor and calculator
- Encourage completion of weekly homework, especially working on past papers.
- Encourage active participation in all lessons as these are the revision sessions.
- Use websites/resources to help your son/daughter revise. i.e. Sparx, Mathsgenie
- Insist your son/daughter ‘actively’ revises. Revision is far more effective if you DO Maths as opposed to just read Maths.
- Talk Maths – ask questions about what your son/daughter has been revising. If they can teach/explain to you then they know it themselves.
- Be positive!

Calculators and Equipment

Several students are not coming prepared to their lessons with the necessary equipment they will need for the exam.

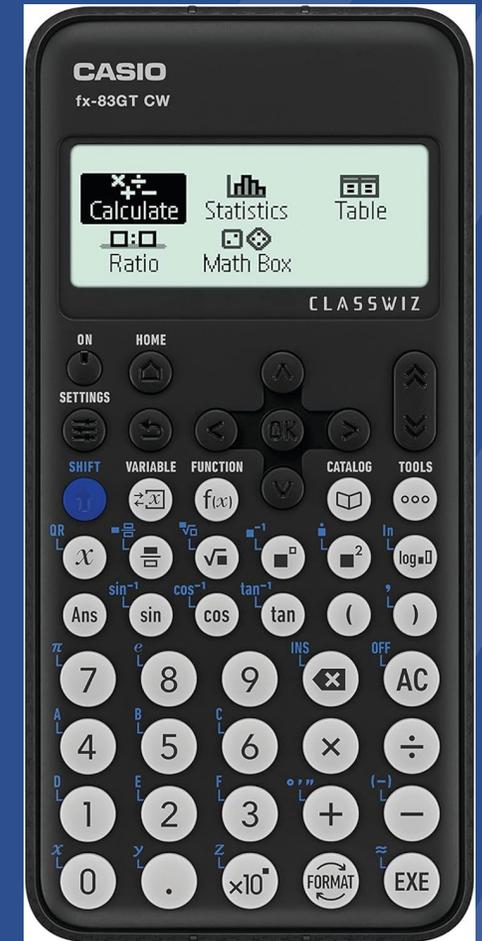
All students require a compass, protractor, ruler, pencil and pen.

Students will need a calculator.

We recommend the Casio FX85 and other similar models.

Please speak to myself or your child's maths teacher if you are unsure about which calculator to use.

Students need to get used to using their calculators now!



How to help with exam papers

- Go through solutions
- Timed conditions
- Expect full workings – nag them if they don't!

How do you revise maths

The best way to revise maths, is to do maths!

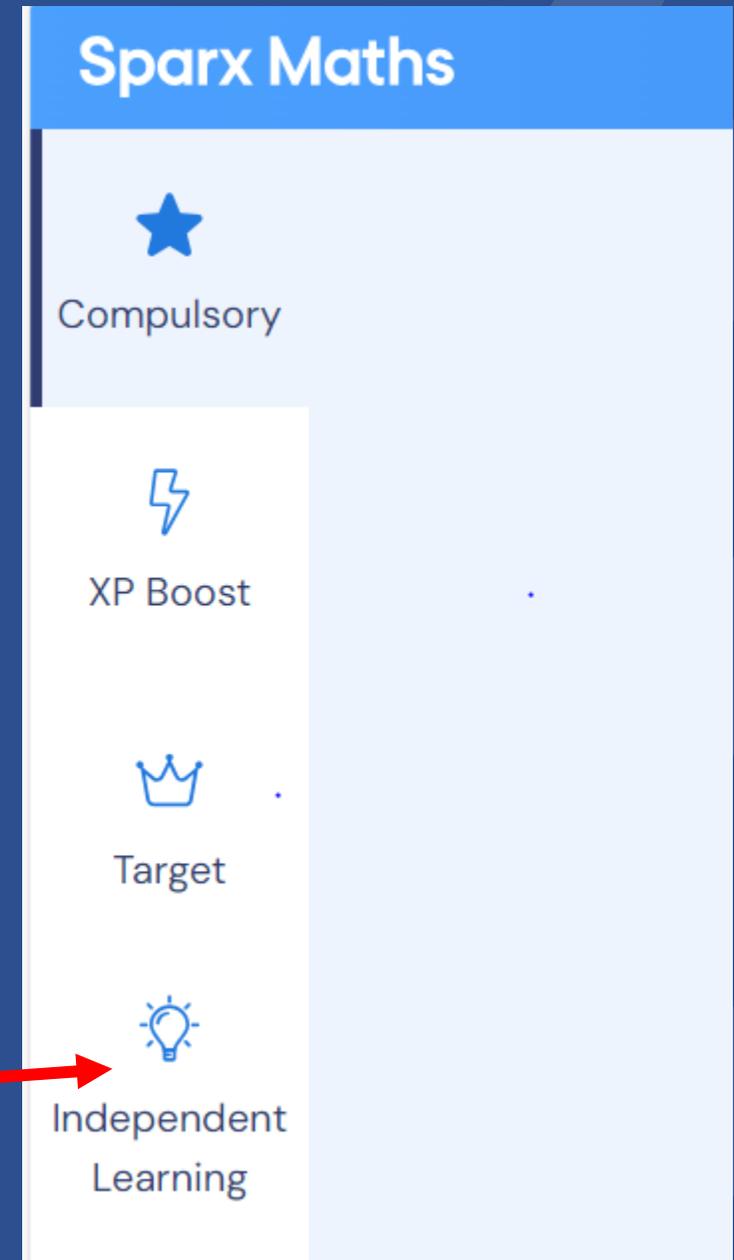
Maths is a skill, that must be practiced and perfected.

Where can I get questions?

Sparx – Independent learning

We have provided students with revision lists that include sparx codes.

These sparx codes are used in the independent learning section.



Where can I get questions?

Sparx – Independent learning

Independent Learning

Find topics | My activity

Search for topics: Your curriculum: Default level:

Select a topic:

Number 	Algebra 
Ratio and Proportion 	Geometry 
Probability 	Statistics 

- Students can fill in their codes in the search for topics box
- They will need to set the curriculum to GCSE

Where can I get questions?

Sparx – Independent learning

The screenshot shows the Sparx learning interface for the topic 'Factorising quadratic expressions of the form $x^2 + bx + c$ - U178'. The interface is titled 'Level 3' and includes a 'Show building blocks' dropdown menu. Below this, the main content is organized into three difficulty levels: 'Introduce', 'Strengthen', and 'Deepen'. Each level contains five question cards, each with an 'Answer' button. The 'Introduce' level is marked with a single bar icon, 'Strengthen' with two bars, and 'Deepen' with three bars.

- They will be given a range of questions at differing levels of difficulty to complete
- Sparx will offer the same help with hints and videos

Where can I get questions?

Maths genie

- Maths genie is a free website with a wealth of exam resources
- Questions are split into topics and grades
- This is an excellent resource for students trying to work through and improve specific topic areas

Maths Genie GCSE Revision GCSE Papers A Level Revision A Level Papers KS2 Revision Resources

GCSE Revision

Search for topics...

Grade 1

Videos	Exam Questions	Exam Questions Booklet	Solutions
Addition and Subtraction	Exam Questions	Addition and Subtraction	Solutions
Multiplication and Division	Exam Questions	Multiplication and Division	Solutions
Time	Exam Questions	Time	Solutions
Metric Conversions	Exam Questions	Metric Conversions	Solutions
Writing, Simplifying and Ordering Fractions	Exam Questions	Writing, Simplifying and Ordering Fractions	Solutions

All content beyond this point is for the higher tier only.

Grade 6

Videos	Exam Questions	Exam Questions Booklet	Solutions
Recurring Decimals to Fractions	Exam Questions	Converting Recurring Decimals to Fractions	Solutions
Fractional and Negative Indices	Exam Questions	Fractional and Negative Indices	Solutions
The Product Rule for Counting	Exam Questions	The Product Rule for Counting	Solutions
Repeated Percentage Change	Exam Questions	Repeated Percentage Change	Solutions
Expanding Triple Brackets	Exam Questions	Expanding Triple Brackets	Solutions
Parallel and Perpendicular Lines	Exam Questions	Parallel and Perpendicular Lines	Solutions
Inequalities on Graphs		Inequalities on Graphs	Solutions
Similar Shapes (Area and Volume)	Exam Questions	Similar Shapes (Area and Volume)	Solutions
Enlarging with Negative Scale Factors		Enlarging with Negative Scale Factors	Solutions

Exam feedback sheets

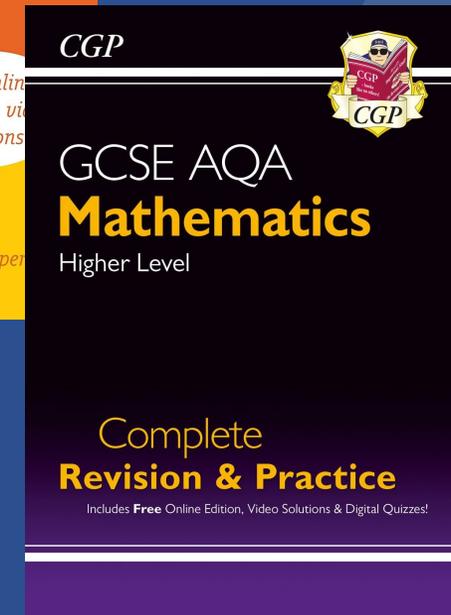
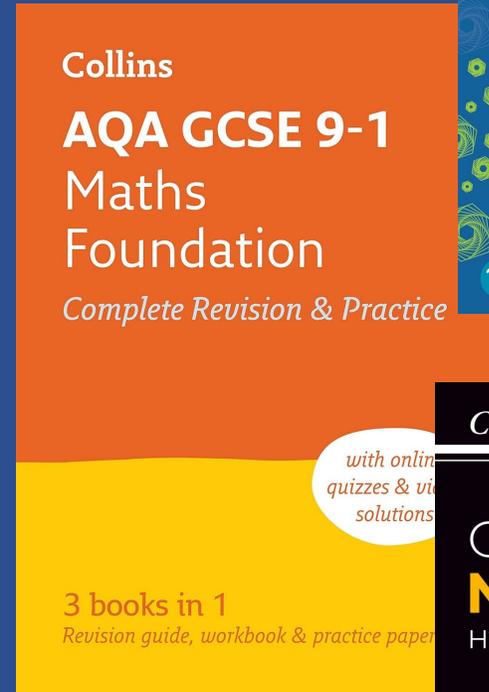
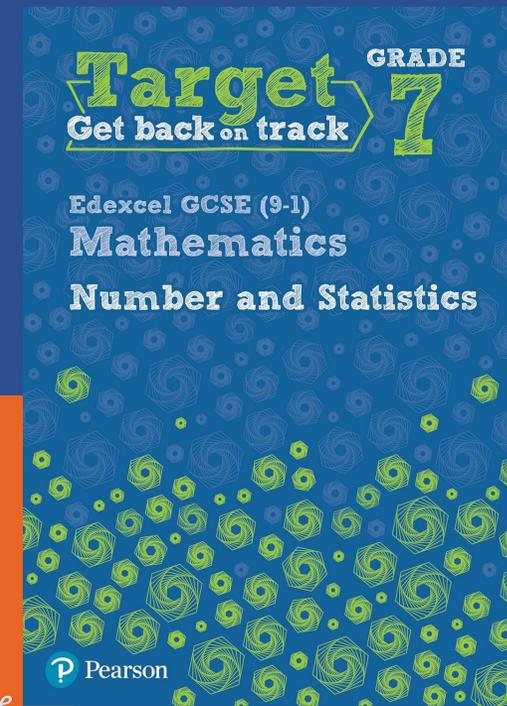
- Following every exam, students receive a blue feedback sheet that breaks down their performance question by question
- It highlights which topic areas they need to work on
- It provides them with sparx links to work through these areas independently
- These should be glued into your child's book so please ask them to bring them home or ask their maths teacher/myself for a copy

Question	Knowledge is power	Sparx link	Total marks	Marks scored	Overall Performance
1	Picture Sequences	U213, U978	2	2	
2	Pythagoras	U385	3	3	
3	Sampling	U162	1	1	
4	Identities	U613	1	1	
5	Plans and elevations	U786, U743	2	1	
6	Speed, distance and time	U388, U902, U721, U357	6	5	
7	Plotting linear graphs	U741	3	3	
8	Pie charts problem	U291, U172, U144	4	4	
9	Population Density	U144, U248	3	3	
10	Relative Frequency	U166, U683	3	3	
11	Multiplying and dividing	U548, U475, U613	2	1	
12	Tree Diagrams	U558	5	2	
13	Identifying roots	U667	2	0	
14	Angles and ratio	U753, U732, U577	3	0	

Where can I get questions?

Revision books

- Revision books have a wealth of questions and helpful tools
- Useful books include
 - Pearson target grade books – these are the best revision workbook and build up gradually through different topics
 - Collins workbook and revision guide
 - CGP workbook and revision guide



Where can I get questions?

Practice Exam Papers

- For homework students will be completing past AQA papers
 - We have mapped this out so that they complete every past paper before the exams in June
- If students are completing further past papers for revision, please can I encourage that they are NOT AQA
 - Both Edexcel and OCR have a lot of very good questions and the beauty of maths is it is the same on every exam board
 - Practice papers for other exam boards can also be found on mathsgenie

The best way to
revise maths is
to do maths!



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Science

AQA GCSE Combined Science

6 exams of 75 minutes each

<u>Biology Paper 1</u> Cell Biology Organisation Infection and Response Bioenergetics	<u>Chemistry Paper 1</u> Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table Bonding, Structure and Properties of Matter Quantitative Chemistry Chemical Changes Energy Changes	<u>Physics Paper 1</u> Energy Electricity Particle Model of Matter Atomic Structure
<u>Biology Paper 2</u> Homeostasis and Response Inheritance, Variation and Evolution Ecology	<u>Chemistry Paper 2</u> Rate and Extent of Chemical Change Organic Chemistry Chemical Analysis Using Resources Chemistry of the Atmosphere	<u>Physics Paper 2</u> Forces Waves Magnetism and Electromagnetism

AQA GCSE Separate Sciences

6 exams of 105 minutes each

<u>Biology Paper 1</u> Cell Biology Organisation Infection and Response Bioenergetics	<u>Chemistry Paper 1</u> Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table Bonding, Structure and Properties of Matter Quantitative Chemistry Chemical Changes Energy Changes	<u>Physics Paper 1</u> Energy Electricity Particle Model of Matter Atomic Structure
<u>Biology Paper 2</u> Homeostasis and Response Inheritance, Variation and Evolution Ecology	<u>Chemistry Paper 2</u> Rate and Extent of Chemical Change Organic Chemistry Chemical Analysis Using Resources Chemistry of the Atmosphere	<u>Physics Paper 2</u> Forces Waves Magnetism and Electromagnetism Space Physics

The Current Picture

- All content has now been covered
- All six papers have been completed in mock exams
- Revision lessons have started, with focus being on separate higher/foundation content
- Students will be supported to identify their weakest areas following the mock exams
- Lessons will be tailored to fill these gaps
- Revision sessions open to all on Tuesdays. Students should check the schedule to identify sessions most useful to them
- A range of targeted intervention sessions running

Practice your skills

- **AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific techniques and procedures (approx. 40%)**
- **AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures (approx. 40%)**
- **AO3: Analyse information and ideas to: interpret and evaluate; make judgments and draw conclusions; develop and improve experimental procedures (approx. 20%)**

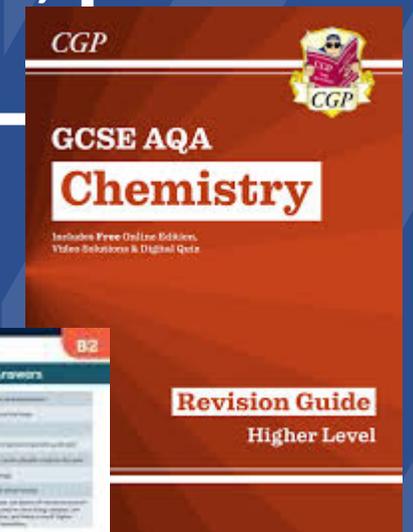
Practice your skills

- **AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific techniques and procedures (approx. 40%)**

This is the knowledge that is written on the spec and in the checklists

To practice:

- Use flashcards
- Learn definitions by rote from the checklists
- Use mark schemes to spot common phrases
- Use of revision guides such as CGP or oxford revise



Practice your skills

- **AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures (approx. 40%)**
- **AO3: Analyse information and ideas to: interpret and evaluate; make judgments and draw conclusions; develop and improve experimental procedures (approx. 20%)**

This means up to 60% of the paper can be application of the knowledge to unfamiliar situations

GCSE exam pupils baffled by 'business studies' question in biology paper

AQA Biology exam reportedly asked pupils to define 'independent company', prompting complaints from children on social media

A GCSE biology paper featuring a question about drinking has left some County

They said the examination did not test what was taught.

Instead, they were asked questions about teenagers and alcohol, and testing drugs on drunk rats.

AQA Biology GCSE Exam Asking Students Why Boiled Carrots Don't Decrease In Mass Sparks Confusion

PARENTS UK PARENTS CHILDREN SCHOOL
We asked a scientist for the answer. [↗](#)

By Amy Packham

Practice your skills

- Complete exam questions, in exam conditions, and mark them harshly
- Use mark schemes and work out what the question was
- Exposure to as much 'science news' as possible to increase scientific literacy – using apps such as BBC news
- Answer 3 mark or more questions in bullet points

Your support

You can help by:

- Regularly checking work is completed.
- Questioning students about what they are learning.
- Monitoring closely their completion of homework tasks
- Checking past papers have been completed and marked rigorously with the mark scheme.
- Encourage reading of science in the news
- Ensure the students have the correct equipment, including a functioning calculator
- Insist on active revision, not just reading

Next Steps

The final run-in – you can still make a difference!

- Mock Exam results – Friday 20th March
- Leadership interviews – Thursday 26th and Friday 28th March
- Subject Consultation – Thursday 16th April
- First Written GCSE Exam – Friday 1st May