

MOCK EXAM INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS



October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We want all of our pupils to leave Studley High School with the best possible results, which will then enable them to take their next steps in their education with confidence.

This year, we are aware more than ever that mock exams are a crucial part of your child's success at GCSE. If we have to rely on 'Centre Assessed Grades' in the summer, mock results will, like last year, be an important guide to teachers. Under normal circumstances, mock exams are an important teaching tool and help teachers target specific intervention in the students' final months in school, but this is even more important following the disruption to last year's teaching. With all of this in mind, this booklet has been designed to give all parents and carers guidance on how to prepare successfully for the examinations and how to organise revision for the mock exam season. The new GCSE courses have more rigorous examinations, with more content and longer-answer questions than previous specifications. The percentage of controlled assessment (coursework) has also been significantly reduced or removed from most subjects. More than ever before, effective revision is imperative.

Revision is an active process and requires more than just re-reading information. For example, many pupils will find it useful to have paper, coloured pencils or highlighters, post-it notes, and cue cards to help them revise and fully engage in 're-learning' and 'retrieving' all the content covered since the beginning of their GCSE courses in Year 9. In this booklet, you will be able to read about what we are doing in school, the barriers that some pupils need to overcome and, above all, how you can help your child to do the very best they can. We have also included a copy of the mock exam timetable and an overview of the mock exam content. Specific information for each subject can be found on the school website:

<https://studleyhighschool.org.uk/pupils/year-11-mock-exam-and-revision-information/>

We hope you find this booklet helpful as we approach the mock season.

Please note, in relation to the final GCSEs in the summer:

- if pupils miss an exam, they cannot be rescheduled – if pupils are ill for a real GCSE exam, they must have a doctor's note
- pupils must have, as a minimum, at least two black pens in a see-through case, plus any additional equipment required for a specific examination
- if pupils are late, they may not be allowed into the examination venue
- phones and any other electronic devices are not allowed in the examination room - pupils can leave them in their lockers or a suitable alternative will be provided

If at any point in the revision, or GCSE examination period, you are concerned or worried then please get in touch – we will help wherever possible. We look forward to working with you and your child in order to attain some fantastic GCSE results ahead of Results Day in August 2022.

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs R. McGhie



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The many roles of a supportive parent/carer

Attendance Officer – Making sure your child arrives at school on time and understands the importance of making the most of every lesson.

Partner with school and pupil – Attending support evenings, asking questions and finding out how best to help your child at home.

Provider of the tools for homework and revision – A quiet space, a ‘workbox’ of pens, paper and other necessities.

Study Buddy – Showing an interest in the subject, helping with homework and testing them on what they have learn.

Sounding board and adviser – Helping your child to break tasks down so that they are manageable, keeping a subtle eye on progress and celebrating achievements.

Project Manager – Agreeing the rules for homework or revision (they won’t work if they’re imposed), helping them to make a realistic timetable, balancing work against ‘down time’.

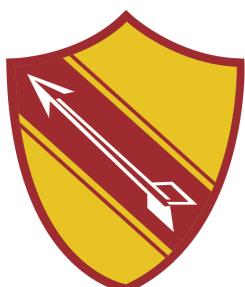
Go-between – For your child, and the school when necessary - making sure problems are nipped in the bud and asking questions your child can’t or won’t.

Teachers’ Pet – Build good relationships with teachers (get to know their names and emails). Use information provided to you by the school to support your child with their revision. Don’t be afraid to ask teachers for the information you need.

TV Guide – Do not allow your child to watch TV during their study time. Music is generally okay, provided it does not adversely distract them through constant scrolling through of playlists or an adversely quick beat.

Social Media Supervisor - Having a mobile phone during revision or being logged into a range of social media platforms is a distraction and doesn’t support effective revision. Agree that you will support your child by ‘looking after’ their mobile device whilst they are revising.

Personal Assistant – Agree regular ‘check-ins’ where you are ‘allowed’ to discuss, with your child, where they are in relation to deadlines, areas they are enjoying or having difficulty with.



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What's going on in school in the lead up to exams in May?

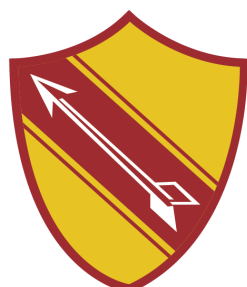
Emphasis on past/specimen papers
Finishing off Controlled Assessments to the highest possible standard. These marks are in the hands of pupils before they sit the examinations
Help and mentoring for those who are particularly anxious
Revision classes for most subjects at lunchtime and after school
Revision techniques in lessons
Revision and attainment assemblies
Regular reflection on progress after each Data Collection
Revision sessions in school holidays
Use resources from of external providers, Hegarty Maths and Ezy Education in Science

How can you help your child?

Make sure they eat and drink healthily and regularly
Help them to be organised (e.g. sorting through loose pieces of paper and discarding what isn't needed)
Encourage planned exercise and relaxation time (too much study is not helpful)
Encourage regular breaks to do something they enjoy, even if it's just half an hour off for their favourite soap or listening to music
Encourage screen free revision: NO PHONES/SOCIAL MEDIA during revision
Help them to forget about each exam as it is finished – avoid post mortems
Emphasise the need for plenty of sleep, particularly the night before an examination
Don't make comparisons to siblings, friends at school
Find a mid-point that's appropriate between nagging and not saying anything
Don't make a battleground out of whether they listen to music when doing their revision
Try to avoid asking them to do too many chores or look after younger siblings
Encourage them to use a revision timetable
Encourage them to be positive and logical - a "can do" attitude
Accept this is going to be a stressful time for the whole family – expect outbursts and try to remain calm.
Give plenty of encouragement and praise for hard work and practice, rather than talent and ability
Decide on the best place for your child to study. Remember, closed bedroom doors don't necessarily mean that good study is going on behind them. Help them to negotiate if bedrooms are shared.

Key Dates

- Year 11 mock season begins on Thursday 2nd December until Wednesday 15th December
- Data reports sent home week commencing 8th November 2021 and week commencing 31st January 2022.
- Parent's Evening: 11th November 2021 and 17th February 2022



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When should revision start?

Revision is a continuous process. Pupils take mock exams in November and December. The more pupils prepare for these practice exams, the more accurate an impression teachers will get of likely performance in the real examinations. This means we can pinpoint precise feedback and provide more helpful support to attain those extra marks. It is therefore imperative that pupils take the practice examinations seriously and prepare for them as fully as possible.



How long should revision sessions last?

- No more than 30 minutes without a break.
- Any known commitments and 'down time' can be included into the revision timetable.
- A revision timetable is intended to give freedom and flexibility, not constrain.

Revision techniques

Revision notes:

Writing notes is a great way of being active in revision. Revision notes should be created in the early stages of revision. Don't attempt to memorise all lesson notes – condense them first.

Organise by topic.

Subject revision guides are very helpful in your revision but do not see them as a substitute for writing revision notes.

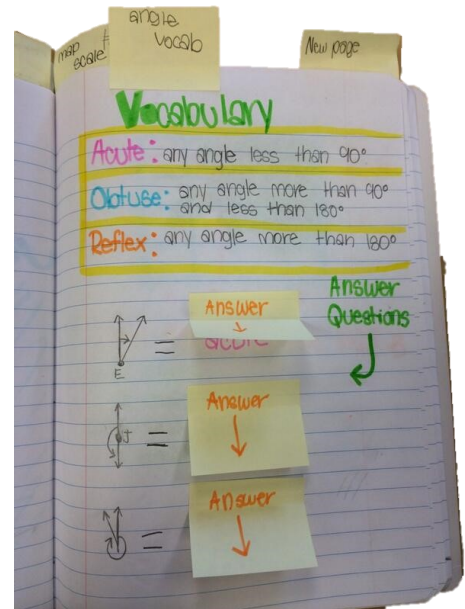
Read through notes on a topic asking yourself as you are reading 'Do I understand this?'

When you feel you have understood the topic, go back and pick out key words and phrases which trigger memory.

Remember to:

- Use your own words
- Space out your notes
- Use a variety of letter sizes

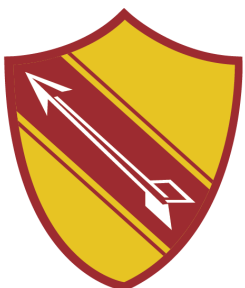
Make your notes interesting (colour/boxes/circles/abbreviations/



Revision Cards:

These can be carried around in a pocket or bag and used whenever you have a spare moment Remember to:

- Leave a margin so that you can make additional notes later should you wish to
- Make sure the subject and topic are clearly marked at the top
- Develop your own method for numbering the cards
- Don't be afraid to scrap a card and rewrite it if you are unhappy with it
- pictures etc.)



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Spider Diagram Notes/Mind Maps

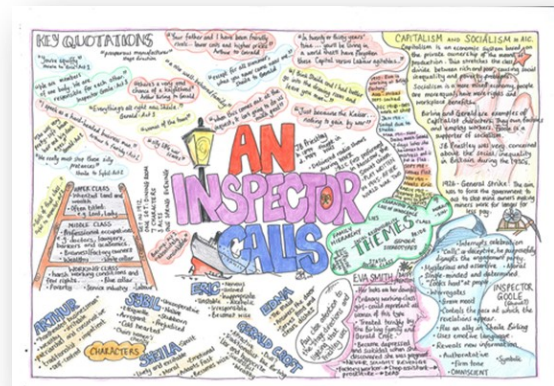
These can be very good for giving an overall view of a topic and for showing links and connections

Use the following steps:

- Write the MAIN TOPIC in the middle of the paper and draw a ring around it
- For each KEY POINT draw a branch out from the main topic
- Write a KEY WORD or PHRASE on each branch
- Build out further branches and add DETAILS
- Use a DIFFERENT COLOUR for each branch to support retention
- Add diagrams, pictures and symbols where you can to support retention
- Highlight links and connections
- Be creative and personalise it

Mnemonics

Mnemonics help you to remember by using short words that stand for something to help you. A common mnemonic is, 'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain', to remember the colours of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow etc.). They are good for learning a list of key words or concepts, or the structure to apply to a certain type of answer.

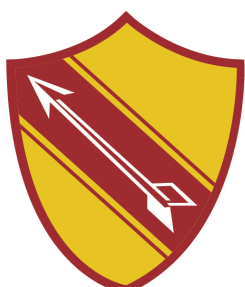


Teach it

The best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else. Adopt this approach with your friends, at home or perhaps during your revision lessons. Each pupil (or pair) becomes specialists in a topic and prepare a 5-10 minute session to teach it to their friends. Use any techniques and activities you like. When you have finished, swap over and let someone else teach their topic to you. Many pupils like electronic ways of revising so go to: <https://quizlet.com/en-gb>

Online Support

Many pupils find online systems such as [SENECA](#) useful, to complement resources provided by school.



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