

Introduction to GCSEs and Work Experience



Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

— *Malcolm X* —

AZ QUOTES

Aims of this evening

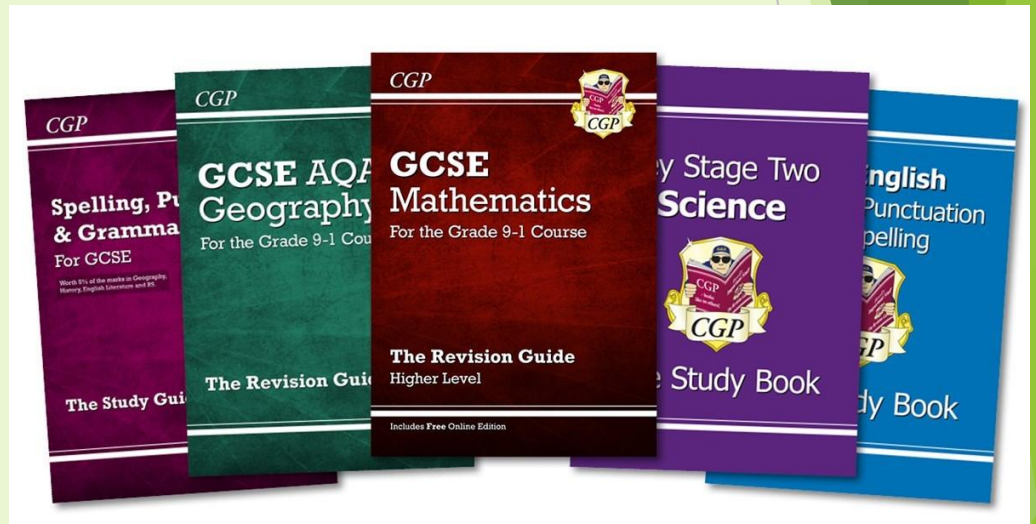
- ▶ **Introduce key information about GCSEs**
- ▶ **Introduce GCSE study in English, Maths and Science**
- ▶ **To look at how students can be best prepared for their GCSEs**
- ▶ **Introduce Work Experience**

- ✓ Broad and balanced curriculum for all students
- ✓ Students approached their options choices extremely well
- ✓ Reminder that students will complete all subjects
- ✓ GCSEs are graded 9-1

New grading structure	Old Grading Structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
⑤ STRONG PASS	
④ STANDARD PASS	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Revision Guides

- ▶ Available to order centrally from the school
- ▶ Allows us to pass on discounts
- ▶ Don't replace effective revision strategies
- ▶ Do offer students access to key information
- ▶ If you have any concerns please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.



GCSE English

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There are two English GCSEs

Exam board: AQA

- ▶ English Language
- ▶ English Literature

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- ▶ **2 exam papers**
 - ❑ same format
 - ❑ 1h45min
- ▶ **Section A: reading**
 - ❑ Q1-4
 - ❑ 40/80 marks
- ▶ **Section B: writing**
 - ❑ Q5
 - ❑ 40/80 marks

English Language Spoken Language Element

- ▶ **Presentation**
- ▶ **Compulsory**
- ▶ **Pass/Merit/Distinction**

English Language Revision

- ▶ **Past Papers**
- ▶ **Practise writing!**
 - Paper 1 Q5 = creative writing
 - Paper 2 Q5 = persuasive writing
- ▶ **BBC Bitesize + SENECA**

ENGLISH LITERATURE

▶ 2 exam papers

- ❑ Paper 1: 1h45

- ❑ Paper 2: 2h15

▶ Paper 1

- ❑ (Section A) 'Romeo and Juliet'

- ❑ (Section B) 'A Christmas Carol'

▶ Paper 2

- ❑ (Section A) 'An Inspector Calls'

- ❑ (Section B) Poetry: P+C anthology

- ❑ (Section C) Unseen poetry

English Literature Revision

- ▶ **READ** '*A Christmas Carol*' in the Christmas holidays
- ▶ **READ** the anthology poems in the February half-term.
- ▶ **READ** '*A Christmas Carol*' in the Easter holidays.
- ▶ **READ** the anthology poems in the May break.
- ▶ **READ** '*Romeo and Juliet*' and '*A Christmas Carol*' in August.
- ▶ **SELF-TESTING FLASHCARDS:** regularly self-test.
- ▶ **READ:** *Read aloud one poem per week from the anthology.*

	w/c	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	HOMEWORK
A1	8 Sept	WELCOME to GCSE [p4]	LANGUAGE PAPER 1 [p5]			'London' / ACC [p2-3]	NO HMWK
B1	15 Sept	LANGUAGE PAPER 1 [p3]		LANGUAGE PAPER 1 [p3]	ACC [p5]	ACC [p5]	TASK B1
A2	22 Sept	LANGUAGE PAPER 1 [p4]	LANGUAGE PAPER 1 [p5]			ACC / analysis practice [p2-3]	TASK A2

	w/c	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	HOMEWORK
A8	5 Jan	PD DAY [p4]	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p5]			R&J [p2-3]	TASK A8
B8	12 Jan	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p3]		LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p3]	R&J [p5]	R&J [p5]	TASK B8
A9	19 Jan	LANGUAGE PAPER [p4]	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p5]			R&J / analysis practice [p2-3]	TASK A9

B9

	w/c	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	HOMEWORK
B13	13 Apr	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p3]		LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p3]	'COLB' [p5]	'Bayonet Charge' [p5]	TASK B13
A14	20 Apr	LANGUAGE PAPER [p4]	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p5]			P&C practice [p2-3]	TASK A14
B14	27 Apr	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p3]		LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p3]	REVISIT: R&J [p5]	REVISIT: ACC [p5]	TASK B14
A15	4 May	WORK EXPERIENCE					TASK A15
B15	11 May						TASK B15
A16	18 May	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p4]	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p5] GEOG TRIP			P&C <u>practie</u> [p2-3]	TASK A16
HALF-TERM							
B16	1 June	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p3]		LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p3]	'Poppies' [p5]	'Remains' [p5]	TASK B16
A17	8 June	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p4]	LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [p5]			P&C practice [p2-3]	TASK A17
B17	15 June	TRIAL 1 PREP [p3]		TRIAL 1 PREP [p3]	TRIAL 1 PREP [p5]	TRIAL 1 PREP [p5]	TASK B17
A18	22 June	REVISIT: UNSEEN [p4]	REVISIT: UNSEEN [p5]			P&C practice [p2-3]	TASK A18
B18	29 June	REVISIT: LANG P1/Q4 [p3]		REVISIT: LANG P1/Q4 [p3]	'My Last Duchess' [p5]	'Exposure' [p5]	TASK B18
A19	6 July	REVISIT: LANG P1/Q3 [p3]	REVISIT: LANG P1/Q5 [p3]			AIC BRIDGING UNIT [p2-3]	NO HMWK
B19	13 July	AIC BRIDGING UNIT [p3]		AIC BRIDGING UNIT [p3]	AIC BRIDGING UNIT [p5]	AIC BRIDGING UNIT [p5]	NO HMWK

Next Steps . . .

- ▶ Be in school! **ATTENDANCE** matters!
- ▶ **COMMIT** to your learning: every lesson, every day, every week.
- ▶ **ACTIVELY ENGAGE** with your learning: respond to all feedback; complete weekly homework; regularly revisit your learning; self-test.
- ▶ Thoroughly **PREPARE** and **REVISE** for all Trial exams.
- ▶ Success = **MIND-SET** + **DETERMINATION** + **RESILIENCE**

GCSE Maths

Miss Coleman

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9-1 Maths GCSE

- ▶ **First examined June 2017**
- ▶ **Graded 9-1, with 9 being the highest.**
- ▶ **Higher and Foundation tiers**
- ▶ **Sets 1 & 2 Higher Grades 9-5**
- ▶ **Sets 3-5 Foundation Grades 5-1**
- ▶ **THIS YEAR SETS 103 and 104 are parallel groups**

- ▶ **A-level Entry requirement is a Grade 7**
- ▶ **Level 3 Maths in Context requirement is a Grade 5**

Key points:

- 1. Three 90 minute exam papers**
- 2. One non-calculator paper**
- 3. Adapted to focus primarily on solving problems that require clear, multi-step solutions to be shown**
- 4. Maths is still tiered with an ‘improved overlapping tiers model’, with a foundation tier covering grades 1-5 and a higher tier covering grades 4–9**
- 5. GCSE re-sit opportunities are in November for those staying into 6th Form at Beaminster**
- 6. Increased focus on ratio and proportion on the advice of the Business Sector**
- 7. Students will be expected to learn key mathematical formulae and be able to recall then apply these. There are no formulae sheets provided for the 2027 cohort.**

Revision Guides & Workbook



GCSE Science

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Mrs R Rychnovsky – Deputy head of Science
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Choices have been made.

If you have chosen **Double Science** – not science option.

- Exam board: **AQA**
- Course code: **8464**
- Course name: **GCSE Combined Science Trilogy**
- **9** lessons of science a fortnight in core Science time
- **3 Subjects – 2 full GCSEs – Documented as a double grade**
- **Higher tier or Foundation tier**
- **Entry tier is the same for all Sciences**
- Specific Course revision guide



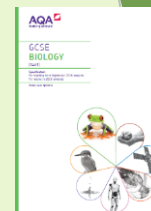
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7-6
6-6
6-5

5-5
5-4
4-4
4-3

3-3
3-2
2-2
2-1
1-1
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If you have chosen “Triple Science” – Option block Science

- Exam board: **AQA**
- Course codes: **8461, 8462, 8463**
- Course names: **GCSE, Biology, Chemistry, Physics**
- **14** lessons of science a fortnight in core Science time
- **3 Subjects – 3 full GCSEs – Documented as a single grade per subject**
- **Higher tier and Foundation tier entries can be different in each subject.** 3 Revision guides available

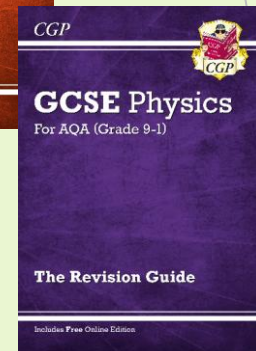
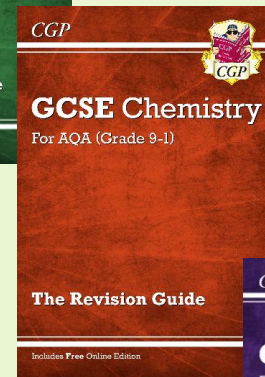
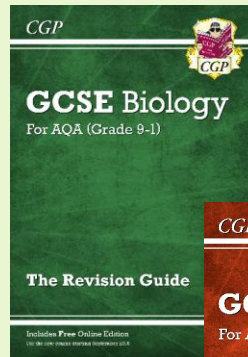
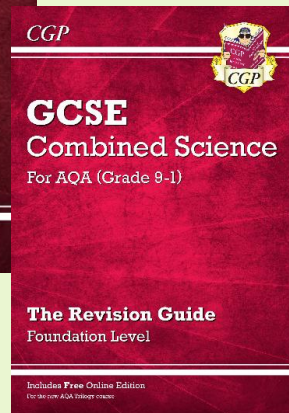
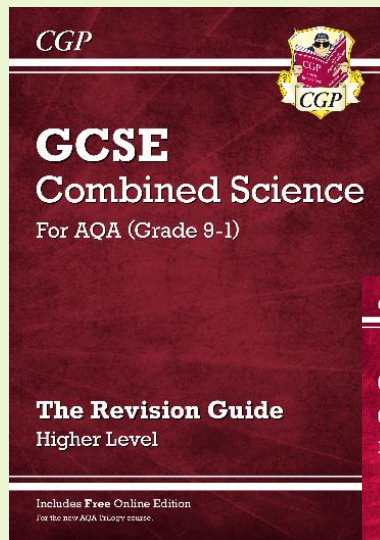


Biology	Chemistry	Physics
9	9	9
8	8	8
7	7	7
6	6	6
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5	5	5
4	4	4
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3	3	3
2	2	2
1	1	1
u	u	u

Course Content

GCSE Biology topics:	GCSE Chemistry topics:	GCSE Physics topics:
Cell biology	Atomic structure and the periodic table	Energy
Organisation	Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter	Electricity
Infection and response	Quantitative chemistry	Particle model of matter
Bioenergetics	Chemical changes	Atomic structure
Homeostasis and response	Energy changes	Forces
Inheritance, variation and evolution	The rate and extent of chemical change	Waves
Ecology	Organic chemistry	Magnetism and electromagnetism
	Chemical analysis	Space Physics
	Chemistry of the atmosphere	
	Using resources	

Revision Guides



Coursework

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy (Double)

24 – Required practical activities “RPAs”

8 Physics

8 Chemistry

8 Biology

GCSE Separate Sciences (Triple)

30 Required practical activities “RPAs”

10 Physics

10 Chemistry

10 Biology

Formally assessed during the end of course examinations.

Attendance is mandatory.

Exams

Course	Examinations
GCSE Combined Science Trilogy over 2 years.	All 6 Trilogy Science Exams will be assessed May/June 2026. There will be 2 Biology exams, 2 Chemistry exams & 2 Physics exams. All exams are available in foundation or higher, but no mixed entry. All exams will be 1¼ hrs, 70 marks and worth 16.7% of the final grades.
3 Science GCSEs (Separate Sciences) Biology, Chemistry & Physics.	Each Science will be assessed in May/June 2026. Each Science will have 2 exams. All exams are available in foundation or higher, but no mixed entry within a singular science. All exams will be 1¾ hrs, 100 marks and worth 50% of the final grade for that science.

Tier of Entry

Choosing a student's tier of entry is an extremely hard challenge for teachers and students.

Higher tier papers allow students to access grades 9 to 4.

Foundation tier papers allow students to access grades 5 to 1

Therefore in order for a student to be entered for higher tier papers teachers will look for a track record of regularly attaining grade 5s or more in assessments.

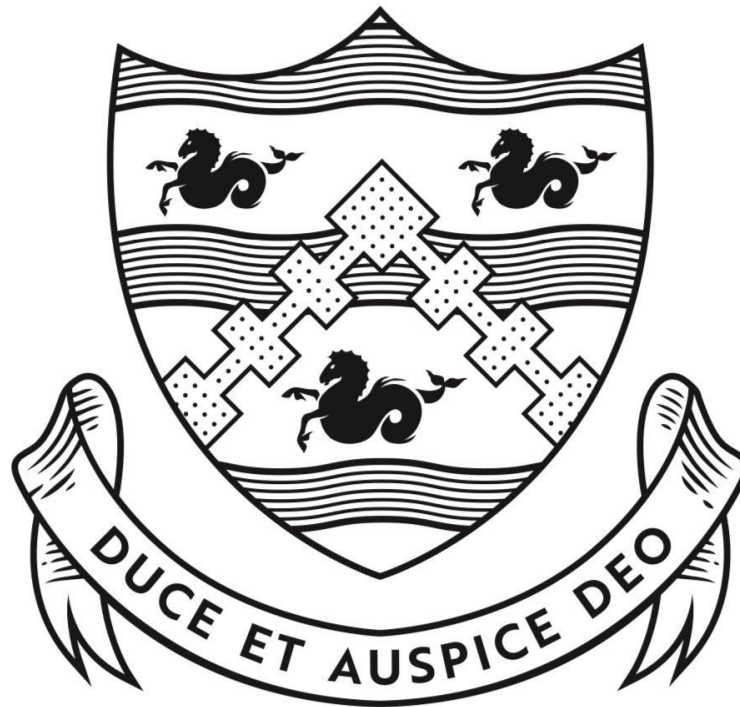
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4-4
4-3

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3-2
2-2
2-1
1-1
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Important things to remember

- **The exam board for all science courses is AQA.**
- **There are 2 courses: Separate Sciences & Trilogy.**
- **All students cover the same units**, but the separate science students will go into more depth in some units.
- **All examinations** are at the **end of Year 11**. (No Coursework)
- Each student should ideally have the correct **revision guide** for their course.
- **Revision/help sessions** are available. See your teachers and ask! Prior to mock exams Thursday lunch sessions.



Ambition • Service • Kindness

Mr See
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Be Prepared

- ▶ Know WHAT you need to know
- ▶ Know WHEN you need to know it
- ▶ Know that you KNOW it
 - ▶ Revisit, Review, Revise
- ▶ Know HOW to use it - practise
- ▶ Know WHERE to get help
 - ▶ “If in doubt – shout!”
 - ▶ No problem is insurmountable
 - ▶ Talk to tutors and subject teachers
 - ▶ Take up offers of help





Right attitude

Right from the start

The power of 'yet'

Be ambitious

Aim high

I'm not
telling you
it's going
to be

easy,

I'm
telling you
it's going
to be

WORTH IT.

How will you do?

- ▶ If you have the right attitude, work hard and push yourself then the grades will take care of themselves
- ▶ **Target grades**
 - ▶ Give an indication of where you should be aiming.
 - ▶ They are based on prior attainment and 'expected' outcomes.
 - ▶ They are realistically ambitious.
 - ▶ They are NOT a prediction.
 - ▶ They are not a ceiling to what you can achieve.
- ▶ **3 sets of trial exams**

Attendance

- ▶ **There is a direct relationship between attendance and final GCSE results**
- ▶ **One day off per week = 80% attendance**
- ▶ **DfE research shows that when attendance falls to 90% a pupil will have dropped a grade in their GCSE results.**
- ▶ **Absence means missing key content, support and coursework.**

Keep Stress to a Manageable Level

- ▶ Stress is normal
- ▶ You may think that you are alone in facing the pressures of this year
- ▶ You aren't – so don't be afraid to ask for help
- ▶ Tell teachers about any worries or if you don't understand something
- ▶ Parents and Carers, please contact us early if you have any concerns
- ▶ Be prepared – practise. Trial exams.



LAST BUT NOT LEAST

- ▶ Your grades will be result of your hard work.
- ▶ But in the exam room it is your race.
- ▶ There will be a huge amount of support.
- ▶ Your grades are your passport to your future.



Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

— *Malcolm X* —

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE 2026

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WORK EXPERIENCE CO-ORDINATOR AND CAREERS ADVISOR

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WORK EXPERIENCE ADMINISTRATOR

WORK EXPERIENCE DATES 2026

- **MONDAY 4TH MAY TO FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2026**
- **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**
- **THE FIRST MONDAY 4TH IS A PUBLIC BANK HOLIDAY. PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR EMPLOYER IF YOU NEED TO GO TO WORK ON THIS DAY.**
- **WE CARRY OUT ALL THE RELEVANT HEALTH, SAFETY AND INSURANCE CHECKS ON THE WORK PLACES**

WHY DO WE DO WORK EXPERIENCE?

- **WORK EXPERIENCE BUILDS CONFIDENCE, MATURITY AND EMPLOYABILITY.**

- WORK EXPERIENCE
- GIVES STUDENTS INSIGHT INTO SKILLS REQUIRED FOR FUTURE
- ALLOWS STUDENTS TO SEE IF THEY ENJOY THE JOB
- BROADENS KNOWLEDGE OF JOBS AVAILABLE
- INCREASES PERSONAL AWARENESS OF SKILLS AND STRENGTHS
- LINKS STUDENTS TO EMPLOYERS
- ALLOWS STUDENTS TO HAVE ENCOUNTERS WITH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES
- STUDENTS HAVE AN EXPERIENCE OF A WORKPLACE
- GIVES INSIGHT INTO A WORKING ENVIRONMENT
- GIVES MOTIVATION TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL
- USEFUL EXPERIENCE TO SHOW IN CV

WHO DOES WORK EXPERIENCE?

ALL OF YEAR 10 PARTICIPATE IN
WORK EXPERIENCE

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR
CHILD PARTICIPATING IN WORK EXPERIENCE
PLEASE SPEAK TO THEIR TUTOR OR MR
DONOVAN



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IDEAS FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

- THE ONLY LIMITS THAT WE HAVE ON WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS ARE MAKING SURE THAT THE PLACEMENT HAS SUITABLE INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY CHECKS.
- IF PAPERWORK IS SUBMITTED ON TIME, AND THE PLACEMENT HAS ALL OF THE CORRECT INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY CHECKS, THE SKY IS YOUR LIMIT!
- IN THE PAST WE HAVE HAD STUDENTS TRAVEL ALL OVER ENGLAND AND THE WORLD.

SOME EXAMPLES:

THE GRASMERE GINGERBREAD SHOP-LAKE DISTRICT

CITY OF LONDON EDUCATION POLICY INSTITUTE – LONDON

AUCTIONEER –SOUTH OF FRANCE

CHICAGO MARINE PARK - USA

Now

- ▶ Head to E2, E4 or E5 to hear about work experience placements
- ▶ Collect second hand revision guides (suggested minimum donation £2)
- ▶ Speak to staff/tutors
- ▶ Go home