





# INTRODUCTION

This year we have made a change to the structure of the year 9 exam week. This has included the addition of some subjects as well as extra assessments in others. There are several reasons for this change. Firstly we believe that this will increase the rigour of our assessments and mean that we are better able to accurately measure student's attainment during key stage three. Secondly, exam boards have now been instructed to move to linear exams at Key Stage 4. This means that candidates will take all their exams at the end of the course rather than taking some modules earlier as has been the system recently. This effect of this is that the mocks that you will take in the final year of courses are the first chance the majority of you will have to experience a formal exam. Practicing the skills required to study for an exam earlier will help you to be better prepared for the external exams to come.

It is the aim of Hinchingsbrooke School to make the examination experience as stress-free and successful as possible for all students. The purpose of this booklet is to help prepare you for the exams you will take in the spring term. This will be the first time you take exams in the large exam halls so it will be worth taking the time to ensure you understand what will happen.

Hopefully, this booklet will prove informative and helpful for you and your parents. Please read it carefully and show it to your parents so that they are also aware of the examination regulations and the procedures to follow in the event of any problems occurring.

There are strict criteria which must be followed for the conduct of examinations and Hinchingsbrooke School is required to follow them precisely.

Some of the questions you may have are hopefully answered in this booklet. If there is anything you do not understand or any question that has not been addressed, PLEASE ASK.

If you or your parents have any queries or need help or advice at any time before, during or after the examinations please contact:

The Examinations Officer Mrs Grantham

The school telephone number is: 01480 375700.

In this booklet you will also find information about what will be on the exam for each of the subjects. You should use this to guide your revision.

Your class teachers will also give you some help and advice so that you can prepare as well as possible for each of the exams

Remember – we are here to help.

Good Luck

Alistair Dewar  
Key Stage Three manager



## CONTACT DETAILS

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## REVISION ADVICE

There are a number of different ways of revising. Below are some suggestions of different ways you might try.

Whichever you choose remember that with revision little and often is always the best advice.

Make sure you choose somewhere quiet to revise

The more active your revision the more likely it is to be successful- simply reading your exercise books is not a good way of preparing for exams.

It is a good idea to plan your revision to make sure you cover all the topics you need to.

It is tempting to concentrate on the areas you are already good. Don't forget that you also need to revise the topics you find more difficult or less interesting.

1. Writing out notes again and again to help remember facts and information
2. Reducing information into shorter notes to help remember facts and information
3. Writing out sample answers
4. Using mindmaps or diagrams to help remember facts and information
5. Putting important information on to audio tapes and playing this over and over again
6. Revising with friends or family
7. Using colour (coloured highlighters, for example) to help summarise and understand key points and to remember facts and information
8. Using memory triggers to help remember the key point
9. Using key words as the basis for understanding
10. Doing or writing revision quizzes



## REVISION WEBSITES

We each learn in different ways. If you are someone who likes using ICT, there are many sites that could help you brush up your subject knowledge and prepare for exams. Below are some examples you might like to visit.

[www.school-resources.co.uk](http://www.school-resources.co.uk)

[www.bitesize.org.uk](http://www.bitesize.org.uk)

[www.techtv.com/techtv/index.html/](http://www.techtv.com/techtv/index.html/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/)

[www.schoolsnet.com](http://www.schoolsnet.com)

[www.revisionlink.co.uk](http://www.revisionlink.co.uk)

## SAM LEARNING

What is it?

An on-line revision resource. (Self - Assessment and Marking)

What should it do?

Independent research has shown that it can help students improve their grades by two levels if used appropriately and in excess of 10 hours.

How do you access it?

Log on by using the following:

Centre ID: PE29HS

User ID: DDMMYY (Date of birth) followed by the first two initials of your name - no gap)

Password: Initial log on is as per the User ID and then change the password to your own (we recommend using the same password as your school password, as this is easier to remember)



## EXAMINATION RULES

You will receive an individual timetable showing your own specific examinations with details of date, time and duration of the exam, venue and seat number. Check it carefully. If you think something is wrong see your teacher immediately.

You must check your individual timetable and see your teacher if you are unsure what to do.

## EQUIPMENT

Make sure you have all the correct equipment before your examinations.

The Notice to Candidates is displayed on the Exam Notice-Board.

It is possible to purchase stationery from the Resource Centre for exams. A clear plastic pencil case, which contains pencils, pens etc. can be purchased for a nominal fee. It is also possible to purchase scientific calculators.

**Please be aware it is an exam requirement that students write in black biro.**

## ATTENDANCE AT EXAMINATION

You must be on time for all examinations

For morning exams your tutor will escort you to the exam. For exams later in the day you must arrive immediately at the end of break or lunch. Please line up quietly outside your exam room until you are invited to enter by the examination invigilators.

If you arrive up to 10 minutes late for an examination you may still be admitted to the exam. However, if you are more than 10 minutes late you must go straight to reception and await the presence of one of the examination team, having reported to the Receptionist that you should be in an exam.

All items of equipment, pens, pencils, mathematical instruments, etc. should be visible to the invigilators at all times. You must either use a transparent pencil case or clear plastic bag.

Pens should be black ink or ballpoint only. Gel pens are not acceptable. No erasers or correction pens are allowed.

For Mathematics and Science exams, students should make sure their calculators conform to the examination regulations. If in doubt, check with your teacher.

Remove any covers or instructions and make sure batteries are new.  
Please make sure that any watch alarms are turned off.

Do not attempt to communicate with or distract other candidates.

Examination regulations are very strict regarding items that may be taken into the examination room. If you break these rules you will be disqualified from the examination.



**MOBILE TELEPHONES MUST BE SWITCHED OFF AND KEPT IN YOUR BAG AT THE BACK OF THE EXAMINATION ROOM.**

If a mobile phone (or any other type of electronic communication or storage device) is found in your possession during an examination (even if it is turned off) it will be taken from you and a report made to a senior member of staff. No exceptions can be made. The school uses a mobile phone detection device in exams. It is a discreet device, which can be carried around in all of the exam rooms and its use will not be announced.

Should a phone/electronic device belonging to you be detected during any exam there will be serious consequences.

Water is only allowed, provided it is in a clear plastic bottle and placed under the desk during the exam. All labels MUST be moved prior to bringing the bottle into the exam room.

Please do not write on examination desks. This is regarded as vandalism and you will be asked to pay for any damage. Checks are made on all desks both before and after any exam.

Do not draw graffiti or write offensive comments on examination papers – if you do the school will refuse to accept your paper, resulting in a zero mark.

Check you have the correct question paper

Read all instructions carefully and write your answers clearly

At the end of the examination all work must be handed in – remember to cross out any rough work. If you have used more than one answer book or loose sheets of paper ask for a tag to fasten them together in the correct order. Please ensure your name and candidate number is clearly written on all additional paper.

Invigilators will collect your exam papers before you leave the room. Absolute silence must be maintained during this time. Remember you are still under examination conditions until you have left the room. Communication during this time is still considered malpractice and has to be reported.

Please remain seated in silence until told to leave the examination room. Please leave the room in silence and show consideration for other candidates who may still be working.

If the fire alarm sounds during an examination the examination invigilators will tell you what to do.

Don't panic. If you have to evacuate the room you will be asked to leave in silence and in the order in which you are sitting. You will be escorted to a designated assembly point.

Leave everything on your desk.

**You must not attempt to communicate with anyone else during the evacuation.**

When you return to the exam room do not start writing until the invigilator tells you to. Communication during a fire alarm is treated as Malpractice.



## INVIGILATORS

The school employs external invigilators to conduct the examinations. Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner towards all invigilators and follow their instructions at all times.

Invigilators are in the examination rooms to supervise the conduct of the examination. They will distribute and collect the examination papers, tell students when to start and finish the examination, hand out extra writing paper if required and deal with any problems that occur during the examination, for example if a student is feeling ill.

Please note that invigilators cannot discuss the examination paper with you, explain the questions or give any advice at all.

If you are disruptive or behave in an unacceptable manner you will be removed from the examination room by the Exams Officer and members of the Senior Management Team.

## ABSENCE FROM EXAMINATIONS

If you experience difficulties during the examination period (e.g. illness, injury or personal problems) your parents should inform the attendance team at the earliest possible opportunity, stating that you are due to sit an exam. If you miss an exam then you will need to take this at a later date.

Please note that misreading the timetable will not be accepted as a satisfactory explanation of absence.

Ensure you look carefully at the times eg. 1.15 may refer to the time or length of the exam.

Please ensure you look at your own personal timetable only and do not rely on friends or peers as they may be sitting their exam in a different place.





# EXAM TIMETABLE

Please ensure that you bring your normal school equipment as you will attend lessons when you are not in exams

When you finish each exam you will go back to lessons. Failure to do so will be treated as truancy.

	Monday 18th March	Tuesday 19th March	Wednesday 20th March	Thursday 21st March	Friday 22nd March
Period 1 9.15am start	English Paper 1	History	Maths Paper 2	English Paper 2	Science Paper 2
Period 3 11.30 start	Normal lessons	Spanish or normal lessons	Normal lessons	Normal lessons	Normal lessons
Period 5 2.00pm start	Maths Paper 1	Science Paper 1	French German	Geography	Normal Lessons



## 5 TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS

### 1. Be on time for all exams

It is always better if you arrive promptly and calmly for an exam.

Being agitated because you have had to run to avoid being late will not help you perform to your best

### 2. Make sure you bring all your equipment

There is nothing worse than sitting down to an exam and realising you need a calculator or protractor and you haven't got one

Your teachers will make sure you know what you need.

You need to make sure you bring it

### 3. Have a good breakfast

A car won't run without fuel- and neither will you.

A good breakfast will provide you with the energy you need to think about the questions and succeed

### 4. Have a good nights sleep

Exams can be a nerve racking time. But your brain simply won't function well without sleep. Go to bed at a reasonable time, sleep well and you will do better.

Remember the best way to reduce exam nerves is to prepare well in advance

### 5. Make sure you are fully prepared for the exam

You don't get good at doing anything by only doing it once. Excellence takes practice and doing well in exams is no different

Make sure you know what is going to be on the exams and plan to revise fully before the exams. A sports person wouldn't only train the night before an event- and you can't revise only the night before either!



# SCIENCE

Students will sit two one hour exams in Science as part of their end of key stage 3 assessment. The exams will cover all of the topics taught in years 7, 8 and 9. They will cover all aspects of Physics, Biology and Chemistry. The topic titles taught were:

Disco	Life is a rollercoaster
Pirates life	Staying alive
We will rock you	I will survive
Parklife	Celebrate
To infinity and beyond	A whole new world
Winner takes it all	Tomb raiders
The illusionist	Our house

These themed modules represent the following topic areas:

Cells and reproduction	Environment and feeding relationships
Variation and classification	Acids, alkalis and chemical reactions
The particle model and solutions	Energy resources and electrical circuits
Forces	The solar system
Food and digestion	Microbes and disease
Ecological relationships	Atoms and elements
Compounds and mixtures	Rocks and weathering
Using chemistry	Energy and electricity
Gravity, space and the solar system	Heating and cooling
Magnets and electromagnets	Light and Sound
Inheritance and selection	Keeping healthy and respiration
Plants and photosynthesis	Reactions of metals and the reactivity series
Environmental chemistry	Motion, pressure and moments

Students are advised to use SAM Learning as a revision aid. By selecting Science KS3, students can choose the level of the questions posed and then answer a series of interactive questions on the whole of KS3. There are also practice test papers on individual topics and these can be printed off for practice.



# MATHS

There will be 2 x 1 hour exams for year 9. These will be a calculator and a non-calculator paper. The exams will contain work on 4 areas of study.

These are:-

- Number
- Algebra
- Shape and Space
- Data Handling

There will be 3 tiers of entry: Levels 6 – 8, 5 – 7 and 4 – 6

Students will need a calculator for the relevant exam. Your Maths teacher will tell you which paper will be the calculator paper.

## Number

This will cover all aspects of number work from pencil and paper techniques, such as long multiplication and division, to fractions, decimals and percentages. This will extend to standard index form, indices and surds at level 7 and 8

## Algebra

This will involve all aspects of simple algebraic manipulation at levels 4 – 6, including adding, subtracting, factorising and expanding. It will also include fractional algebraic manipulation and quadratics at the highest levels (levels 6-8).

## Shape and Space

This will include the knowledge of various different polygons, use of angles in geometrical reasoning, the identification of different angles, shapes and bearings. The higher level questions will include Pythagoras theorem and trigonometry.

## Data Handling

This will range from being able to carry out simple data analysis using various different averages and measure of spread, to the use and interpretation of cumulative frequency diagrams and histograms at level 7/8

There are lots of resources available on the departmental website:

<http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.co.uk/maths/maths%20website.swf> - move your mouse until the KS3 window opens.

If you require a user name or password, please use the following:

user = "mathswatch"    password = "maths2012"



## ENGLISH

In Key Stage Three, students develop their skills in the three areas of English - reading, writing and speaking and listening. Each of these skills is central to the study of English at KS4 and KS5 and are vital skills for the real world as well.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students will study at least one prose text, some poetry, a Shakespeare play, creative writing, media as well as non-fiction texts in every year. Activities and assessed tasks (carried out every half term) are built around assessing the continuing progress of each student's reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. Our aim is to develop and encourage articulate, imaginative and thoughtful students, both on paper and in speech.

In Year 9, students study 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Of Mice and Men' or 'Animal Farm' and they will develop their reading and writing skills through dedicated schemes of work which use extracts of texts and typical exam style tasks to build on the skills needed for the Year 9 examination; these are also the key skills that are assessed in the GCSE examinations.

The Year 9 exam focuses on reading and writing assessment. Students are required to complete one writing task and one reading task - both one hour each. The examinations are based on the GCSE examinations in English rather than on the old SATs papers in order to foster progress towards the next key stage.

In the writing task, students are required to write for a specific audience and purpose specified in the question. Students are assessed on the content of their writing, the organisation and structure of their writing and whether they employ appropriate techniques and features for the purpose and the audience. Additionally, we also assess technical accuracy such as complex punctuation, accurate spelling and imaginative vocabulary choices.

In the reading task, students are required to read a text and respond to two questions about the text. The questions will assess a student's ability to understand the text as well as commenting on the writer's choice of language and the possible effect of these choices on the reader. Students should show that they are capable of constructing fluent responses using quotes from the text to support their points and extend their explanations.



# HISTORY

Students will be answering three stepped questions based around a combination of the National Curriculum causation concept and the History GCSE style questions to found in both the SHP and Modern World options your son/daughter will be choosing between for Key Stage Four.

Describe...

(Students will need to describe four facts about a chosen event)

Explain why...

(Students will need to explain at least two separate reasons making use of connectives to build analysis)

Debate an issue...

(Students will need to weigh up competing arguments providing specific evidence in support of these and come to an overall conclusion)

The content for the exam will mostly be covered in lessons and in addition the Spring term homework project will support your son/daughter in their preparation. The focus of the exam will be the causes of the First World War. They will be required to weigh up a variety of causes and come to a conclusion as to which cause they believe was the most important. This will test both their subject knowledge and causal reasoning.

In order to answer the questions they will need to understand some of the following issues. They will not however cover these until much nearer the exam.

- The alliance system.
- The arms race.
- The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
- Imperialism.

It may also be useful to have some knowledge of the following.

- The Moroccan crises.
- The Balkan question and rise of Serbian nationalism.
- Domestic situation in Germany in the period up to 1914.

Although the students will be covering this in more than sufficient detail in class you may wish to complement this by watching/reading Andrew Marr's History of Britain which covers the build-up to the First World War very well.

BBC History is always a good website for revision and although not aimed at this level the GCSE bitesize does cover this period quite effectively.



# GEOGRAPHY

There will be three questions in the exam, one on each of the three units studied. The questions will be based on a resource, such as an image, map or graph. Each of the three questions will have sub-sections, enabling all students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the issue.

The units are:

## Development

1. What is development?
2. Why are some countries rich, whilst others are poor?
3. How does development in one African country compare to development in the UK?

## Population

1. Why and where is the world's population growing?
2. What are the impacts of population growth?
3. How can population growth be addressed (and should it)?
4. How does migration affect countries?

## Globalisation

1. How and why is our world getting 'smaller'?
2. How are we connected to other people around the world?
3. What are the impacts of globalisation?
4. How can we manage these impacts?

More detail about the three units and links to articles and activities can be found on the geography webpage: <http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.co.uk/geography/year9.html>



# LANGUAGES

The exams in languages will be a test of student's skills in writing.

## French

Students will be expected to write a text which may include the following elements:

- Some information about a region of France or somewhere they have been, including tourist attractions, gastronomy of the region, the history and other interesting features
- An account of the journey and a description of the hotel
- An account of what they did while on holiday
- Some information about what they are going to do next year or in the future

Students are expected to show a grasp of the perfect and future tenses as well as their use of the present tense. We are looking for good use of connectives, sequencers, modal verbs, the use of "y", comparatives and the conditional tense

## German

Students will be expected to write a text which may include the following elements:

- A description of their school, subjects and teachers
- A description of the school day
- School rules - what they can and can't do at school
- Some information about a school trip or an exchange in Germany
- Some information about their future plans and career aspirations

Students are expected to show a grasp of the perfect and future tenses as well as their use of the present tense. We are looking for good use of connectives, sequencers, modal verbs, comparatives and subordinating connectives such as "weil" and "dass"

## Spanish

Students will be expected to write a text which may include the following elements:

- Some information about themselves and the members of their family
- An account of a recent holiday - where they went and what it was like
- Saying how they travelled
- An account of what they did while on holiday

Students are expected to show a grasp of the preterite as well as their use of the present tense. We are looking for good use of connectives, sequencers, the imperfect tense, expressing an opinion and accurate use of adjectives.