



Year 11 - Parent/Carer Information

Key Dates:

Y11 Mock Exams: 20th November - 1st December 2023

AG6 Open Evening: 23rd November 2023

Y11 Parents' Evening: 14th December 2023

Y11 Final Exams: 6th May - 19th June 2024 (provisional)

Y11 AG6 Taster Day - Friday 21st June 2024

GCSE Contingency Day: Wednesday 26th June 2024 (Families are advised not to book holidays until after this date).

Y11 Prom: Thursday 27th June 2024 (provisional)

Y11 Results Day: Thursday 22nd August 2024

Revision

Many pupils have already begun regular revision, and we have provided support on creating a manageable and realistic revision timetable in school, which helps pupils to find a balance between clubs and activities, relaxation time and their school work. Individual subject revision sessions will begin at lunchtimes and after school next half term.

Pupils have been given guidance on a range of different revision methods, such as mind mapping, creating flash cards and using dual coding. Reminders of these techniques and further ideas available via their form group google classroom. You can help your child by establishing a location for revision, reminding them to take regular breaks and helping to remove distractions by encouraging them to leave their phone with you whilst revising.

JCQ guidance

There are a number of documents produced by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) which we are responsible for bringing to your attention. These are available via the school website and cover a variety of topics including unauthorised items in examinations, appeals procedure and frequently asked questions. This information will also be conveyed to pupils through an exams assembly.

If you require further information or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact myself (cstrachan@aldergrange.com) or the relevant teacher if you require additional support for a specific subject.

Subject Information

English

During their two year 'English' GCSE course, your child will study **two** GCSEs. These are GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature.

GCSE English Language is assessed through **two** terminal examinations, each of 1 hour and 45 minutes as well as a spoken component which requires candidates to deliver a prepared spoken presentation about a topic from a pre-approved list.

Examination:

English Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Fiction) - 1hr 45min

Section A: 4 reading questions based on an extract from a piece of creative writing.

Section B: a writing task

English Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (Non-fiction) - 1hr 45min

Section A: 4 reading questions based on **two** non-fiction texts: one contemporary; one pre-20th century.

Section B: a writing task

It is advisable to encourage your child to read for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. A balance of fiction and non-fiction is recommended. This could take the forms of a novel and range of newspapers and current affairs websites. Opinion columns in broadsheet newspapers are particularly useful.

For English Language Paper 2, the more working knowledge our students have about the world the better as they will be able to use some of their wider general knowledge to provide anecdotes and examples in their non-fiction writing, whatever the task may be.

GCSE English Literature comprises a study of a range of texts, spanning from the 19th century to the present. Students will study the following texts:

- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens **or** *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson (dependent on class and teacher)
- 15 poems from the AQA *Power and Conflict* cluster

The GCSE Literature course will also cover the teaching and learning of skills required to tackle the 'unseen poetry' component of the examination.

Examination:

English Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel - 1hr 45min

Section A: *Macbeth* - a question about a character or a theme in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Section B: *A Christmas Carol/The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (depending on which one the candidates have studied.) A question about a theme or character in the novel.

English Literature Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry - 2hrs 15min

Section A: An Inspector Calls - a question about a theme or character in the play.

Section B: Poetry - a comparison question asking candidates to compare the methods used to convey an idea/theme in a given poem (printed on the exam paper) to another one that they have studied (not printed out - candidates must choose an appropriate poem to compare).

Section C: Unseen Poetry - two unseen poems. The first question asks the candidates to analyse ONE of the poems. The second question asks for a comparison between BOTH poems (again, focussing on methods and effects.) Candidates to tackle **both questions**.

Our students are taught the texts in great detail, using a range of different sources, techniques and activities. We place emphasis on recall and retrieval of quotations, plot elements, characters and themes, building a holistic profile of each text studied and readying our students for examination.

The department section on the school's website also has a number of learned curriculum activities and sources that our students can use to further their knowledge and understanding of plays, poems and novels and the contexts in which they are set.

Maths

At Alder Grange, we follow the AQA GCSE course which consists of three exams:

Paper 1: Non-calculator

Paper 2: Calculator

Paper 3: Calculator

Each paper is worth 80 marks and is 90 minutes long. Your child will sit either a higher level (grades 4 to 9) or foundation level (grades 1 to 5) paper.

For mock examinations, pupils will sit two 90 minute papers; one non-calculator and one calculator, each worth 80 marks.

The mathematics department strongly encourages revision and offers revision sessions for both higher and foundation level pupils. This ensures pupils build their confidence in retrieval of mathematic information so they can apply it in different contexts. Homework is given once each week and, towards exam periods, practice exam papers are also given to pupils in order to consolidate their learning and prepare them for exam conditions. In order to support with revision and independent study, we use a variety of websites:

Mathswatch - each pupil has an individual username and password

Dr Frost Maths - pupils can gain access by logging on using their Google account

MathsGenie - pupils can access past papers, revision questions and supporting videos

OnMaths - pupils can complete timed practice papers, mini assessments and topical tests.

Science

The best science revision is active revision such as students trying past paper questions and then marking their work. The CGP 'complete revision and practice' guides provide a great source of questions, (alongside accompanying revision notes), on a topic by topic basis. They can be purchased through the following links:

[AQA GCSE Combined Science \(Foundation\)](#) ISBN 978-1789085785

[AQA GCSE Combined Science \(Higher\)](#) ISBN 978-1789085778

[AQA GCSE Biology \(both tiers\)](#) ISBN 978-1782945833

[AQA GCSE Chemistry \(both tiers\)](#) ISBN 978-1782945840

[AQA GCSE Physics \(both tiers\)](#) ISBN 978-1782945857

[SENECA learning](#) is another great source of questions and answers (the free version is more than adequate) - again arranged by topic.

Once a child is in the later stages of their revision, they can attempt questions arranged as full papers rather than in discrete topics. AQA host a full stock science GCSE past papers and mark schemes as free PDF downloads on the science section of their website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>. Initially pupils should attempt these papers with their revision guides alongside them for help when needed. Pupils could then progress to unaided attempts at past papers (but without a time limit) and finally, un-aided and within the time limit shown on the front of the paper.

The mock paper in November will be a paper one for each subject (3 papers in total). Combined science papers are 1 hour 15 minutes and triple science papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Topics covered in the mock are:

Biology - Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics.

Chemistry - Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes.

Physics - Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure.

Art and Design (AQA)

This GCSE subject is divided into two components, a Portfolio *Coursework* which is awarded 60% of the marks, and the externally set Assignment which is awarded 40%.

Students will complete the course work by the end of December 2023 and start work on their Exam Prep in January 2024.

They will complete a 10 hour exam over a period of 2 weeks, which is broken down into 4 blocks.

Exam dates are week beginning 11th March 2024, 25th March 2024.

Students will then have a short amount of time to complete and mount any outstanding coursework and hand this in on 8th May 2024.

The course has then finished.

All students will have the opportunity to work in the Art room most lunch times, (though Wednesday is the nominated day) and most evenings (except for Wednesdays).

BBC GCSE Art and Design Bitesize offers a wide range of support which students have been told to access in their own time.

Classics

There are two components to the Classical Civilisation OCR GCSE exam. At Alder Grange we study 'Myth and Religion' for Component One (studied in year 10) and 'The Homeric World' (Year 11) for Component Two. This year we have begun our study of books 8, 10, 19, 21 & 22 of 'The Odyssey' and 'Life in the Mycenaean Age'.

There are two exams and both are 1 hour and 30 minutes long. For the Component One exam, students use a range of written and visual sources to explore both ancient Greece and Rome. For Component Two, students are examined on an in-depth cultural study of Mycenae and study of extended extracts from Homer's text 'The Odyssey'.

Each week students are given a revision homework which is tested with a recall task in class. All of these are on Google Classroom. Ensuring this homework is completed will help students revise all the topics we have already studied in achievable 'bitesize' chunks of time. I would also recommend listening to the [Mr Keen Classics Podcasts](#).

Computer Science (OCR)

Students will sit 2 x 1.5 hour exam papers. They should be revising:

Paper 1	Paper 2
1.1 System Architecture	2.1 Algorithms
1.2 Memory and Storage	2.2 Programing
1.3 Networks	2.3 Robust Programs
1.5 System Software	2.4 Boolean Logic
1.6 Ethics.	2.5 Translators & IDEs

Students have access to revision materials on google classroom, with links to revision past exam papers to help them prepare.

AQA GCSE 3D Design (Architecture)

This GCSE subject is divided into two components, a Portfolio *Coursework* which is awarded 60% of the marks, and the externally set Assignment which is awarded 40%.

Students will complete the course work by the end of December 2023 and start work on their Exam Prep in January 2024.

They will complete a 10 hour exam over a period of 2 weeks, which is broken down into 4 blocks.

Exam dates are week beginning 22nd April and 29th April 2024

Students will then have a short amount of time to complete and mount any outstanding coursework and hand this in on 8th May 2024.

The course has then finished.

All students will have the opportunity to work in Tec 2 lunch times and evenings, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

AQA GCSE Design & Technology

The GCSE course comprises: exam preparation (50%), portfolio work (35%) and project work (15%).

1. Examination (50% of the final grade). A 2-hour exam, with a possible 100 marks. This will be based on the theory taught including technical principles, product design and make, product information, product lifecycle, environmental and consumer issues, material properties, manufacturing processes, CAD CAM and health and safety. The theory they are expected to learn can be found online under 'AQA GCSE Design and Technology Subject Content'.

2. Controlled Assessment (50% of the final grade). This is split into a coursework portfolio (approximately 35%) and final product (approximately 15%) and requires strong evidence of the work undertaken in a timescale of 35 hours. Assessment criteria: • Identifying and investigating design possibilities • Producing a design brief and specification • Generating design ideas • Developing design ideas • Realising design ideas • Analysing & evaluating.

- Coursework: posted on Google classroom. Coursework, deadline dates and estimated grades can be found here.
- Revision: all pupils have the AQA revision guide, which is studied in lessons and for homework; this also contains a code for pupils to access the online revision website. Deadline dates are on Google classroom. Other revision methods including flash cards, quizzes and past papers are also studied in preparation for the final exam.
- Catch up: pupils can attend catch up at lunchtime or after school.

Drama (AQA)

The course is made up of three units listed below.

Component 1: Understanding Drama (written exam)

Students will sit a 90 minute written exam answering questions on the set text Blood Brothers and the live performance 'Billy Elliot'. Students should revise the following:

- an overview of how the play is constructed, number of acts, scenes and the number of characters etc..
- the themes within the play and these themes will inevitably link to the social, historical and cultural context to the play.
- the characters and the social, historical and cultural context. Be able to read and understand the meanings, subtexts and playwright inferences within the script.
- look at the scene setting information and begin to think about the setting, lighting, sound and technical/design scene information the script gives.

Students will have access to the play in lessons and an electronic version will be available on google classroom. Billy Elliot: The Musical is available to purchase on amazon prime. If you wish to purchase it for your child to watch at home, please ensure that it is the correct production (live stage production from 2014).

Component 2: Devising Drama

Students will have completed their performance in the first week after October half term. Students will then be expected to write a logbook worth 60 marks which discusses the development of their performance.

Component 3: Texts in Practice

Students will rehearse and perform two extracts of a play to a visiting examiner in the spring term. The date for this exam will be communicated to you by email in the new year.

Enterprise and Marketing (OCR Cambridge National)

Year 11 have already completed one piece of coursework in year 10 (R068), they are currently working on their final coursework task (R069), which should be completed by February. Following this, students will have one exam (R067), 1 hour 15 minutes in length covering the following topics;

Characteristics, risk and reward for enterprise
Market research to target a specific customer

What makes a product financially viable
Creating a marketing mix to support a product
Factors to consider when starting up and running an enterprise

French (Eduqas)

Key dates

November mock - all 4 skills will be assessed. Writing and reading examinations will be held as part of the mock week and speaking and listening will be held in our timetabled lesson.

Speaking exams - The school have been given a window between Monday 8th April until Friday 10th May 2024 to conduct speaking exams. A specific date will be released in due course.

Course

We have covered 4 full modules

Module 1 – Family

Module 2 - Free time and leisure

Module 3 – Special occasions

Module 4 – Holidays

We have still to cover

Module 5 – Where I live

Module 6 – School

Module 7 – World of work and future plans

Module 8- Environment

Revision

Lunchtime Listening – Every Monday, Thursday and Friday in school. 5 minute listening question at the start of lunch .

Extra revision – Mrs Chamberlain offers small group revision every lunch time in L1. Come along and revise the skills where you would like extra practice.

CGP has an excellent revision book to work through. These can be purchased online.

Food and Nutrition AQA

Year 10 is a mixture of theory and practical to build skills.

1 exam in year 11 worth 50% of overall mark.

Two pieces of Non Examined Assessment (NEA) taken in year 11 :

- NEA1 is worth 15% and marked out of 30. It is begun in September of year 11.
- NEA2 is worth 35% and marked out of 70 (30 marks of these are for the three hour practical exam which takes place January/ February time). Both submitted in May of year 11.

Homework is set through Seneca learning and with supplementary worksheets for those who may struggle with access.

Geography (AQA)

Year 11 Mock - Changing Economic World & Fieldwork

Resources Geography GCSE:

- CGP Geography 9-1 AQA - revision guide can be a great help for pupils.
- BBC Bitesize - Geography AQA or Seneca Learning - Geography AQA

Pupils are encouraged to attend geography revision sessions.

Staff often place resources directly onto Google Classroom.

The units that must be studied for the final exams are:

Paper 1

- The Living World
- Natural Hazards
- UK Physical Landscapes (Coasts & Rivers)

Paper 2

- Urban Issues and Challenges
- Changing Economic World
- Challenge of Resource Management

Paper 3

- Issue evaluation (released at the end of March by AQA)
- Fieldwork

Health and Social Care OCR Level 2 - 190 marks

1 exam (RO32 sat in Year 11) 70 marks

Coursework (RO33 completed in Year 10 60 marks, RO34 completed in Year 11 60 marks)

RO32: Principles of Care in Health and Social Settings (covered in Year 10 & 11)

RO33: Supporting Individuals through life events (Year 10 - completed)

RO34: Creative and Therapeutic Activities (Year 11 submitted Dec)

History (AQA)

November Mock – Conflict & Tension: The First World War (1 Hour paper, 44 marks available)

Revision Resources:

- BBC Bitesize - History AQA or Seneca Learning - History AQA
- Clever Lili: <https://www.gcsehistory.com> – can be downloaded as an app or revision guides.
- Pupils are encouraged to attend history revision sessions.
- Staff often place resources directly onto Google Classroom. Revision guides will also be put onto Google Classroom.

The units that are taught for the final exams in Summer 2024 are:

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

Section A: Period studies

- America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality (1hr paper)

Section B: Wider world depth studies

- Conflict and tension, 1894–1918: The First World War (1hr paper)

Paper 2: Shaping the nation

Section A: Thematic studies

- Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day (1hr paper)

Section B: British depth studies including the historic environment

- Elizabethan England, c1568–1603 (1hr paper)

Media (Eduqas)

The course is made up of three units listed below.

Components 1 and 2 (written exams)

Students will sit two exams. Both exams will expect them to discuss and analyse four key

areas of study including media language, representations, audience and industry (RAIL). For example, in C2 students are asked to discuss features of Luther (BBC crime drama). Students should be able to discuss how media language e.g. camera angles, costume etc communicate meaning to the audience. They must be able to discuss how representations of social groups, places and individuals have been created. Students must also be able to articulate how audiences may respond to these messages as well as having wider appreciation of how media products are made, including ownership patterns. Students will be expected to make reference to each product's context (historical, social and cultural).

Below are the products students will be expected to write about.

Component 1

Newspapers (The Guardian (18 January 2022) The Sun (01 January 2021) and study of The Sun website - RAIL

Film (The Man with the Golden Gun and No Time to Die) and study of No Time to Die website - Industry ONLY

Video games (Fortnite) including website - Industry/Audience ONLY

Radio (Archers) including website - Industry/Audience ONLY

Magazines (GQ and Pride) - Language and Representation ONLY

Advertising and marketing (This Girl Can and Quality Street) - Language and Representation ONLY

Component 2

Television - Crime Drama (Luther-2010 and The Sweeney-1975) - RAIL

Music Videos - Taylor Swift, Bad Blood & Bruno Mars, Uptown Funk & TLC, Waterfalls

Online Media - <https://www.taylorswift.com/> & <https://www.brunomars.com/>

Component 3: Coursework

Students began researching, developing and creating their coursework in the summer term.

The coursework asks students to create the following: Create a front cover and a double page feature article

for a new special interest magazine. Your production must target an audience of 12-17 year olds.

All students have now completed their statement of aims and are working on the front cover and double page spread. All work **must be their own** including 6 original images linked to their special interest magazine. This is ongoing homework this term, students are able to attend a weekly media coursework session or ask for 1 to 1 support from either media teacher.

BTEC Music

Students will complete three components this year and are following the BTEC Music specification.

Component 1:

Students are expected to research and analyse four different genres of music and analyse music linked to each genre. This element of the course has now been completed. For the remainder of this term students will be under supervised conditions composing, performing and/or producing music in different genres. This unit will be complete by the end of November.

Component 2:

Students will be expected to demonstrate skills development through performing, composing or producing musical products. It is imperative that students are not absent for lessons as each session is under controlled conditions, they will not be able to complete work for submission outside of lesson time.

Component 3:

Students will start the final unit in the spring term, more information will be provided via edulink.

Miss Leach will keep in contact with parents and provide key dates for completion of these tasks

P.E. GCSE (OCR)

2 exams in summer.

Paper one 30% of overall mark. (14 May am)

Paper two 30% of overall mark. (21 May am)

Practical scores (three sports) 30% of overall mark. (Submitted March 2024)

NEA coursework 10% of overall mark. (Submitted March 2024)

Paper one revision: Applied anatomy and physiology & Physical training

Paper two revision: Socio-cultural influences, Sports psychology and Health, fitness and well-being.

Practical aspects: score out of 20 will be given for each sport internally. A selection of pupils will be chosen by the moderator to attend a moderation day where pupils will perform and the moderator will score the pupils to see if internal marking is accurate.

NEA: this is a written task over 6 sections that will be done in class. Task will focus on one of their chosen sports.

Revision material - pupils will be given/have been given teacher made revision cards and question cards. Past papers and markschemes can be found on their Google Classroom. There is no need to purchase your own revision guides.

Sociology (WJEC)

To achieve the highest grade possible in their mocks students need to revise for the topics in Paper One (family and education unit)

All students have been advised to buy the revision guide WJEC EDUCAS GCSE Sociology Revision Guide by Kathryn Bowman and Steve Tivey.

All the key theories and revision activities are on Google Classroom that includes lots of revision materials for the exam. On a fortnightly basis extra GCSE questions will be set which will be used for practice questions in class. Parents can help by questioning their knowledge using revision cards and organising a revision timetable.

Sport (Cambridge National - OCR)

1 exam (sat in Year 11) - 40% of overall grade

Coursework (Done mostly in Year 10) - 30% of overall grade

Practical (2 sports. Done throughout both years) - 30% of overall grade

Year 11:

R184 Exam: Contemporary issues in sport

TA1: Issues which affect participation in sport

TA2: The role of sport in promoting values

TA3: The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country

TA4: The role National Governing Bodies (NGBs) play in the development of their sport

TA5: The use of technology in sport