



Aylsham High School

Part of the Aylsham Learning Federation
It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child

Dear Parent/Carer

October 2023

Mock Exams – Selected Year 9 and 10 Students

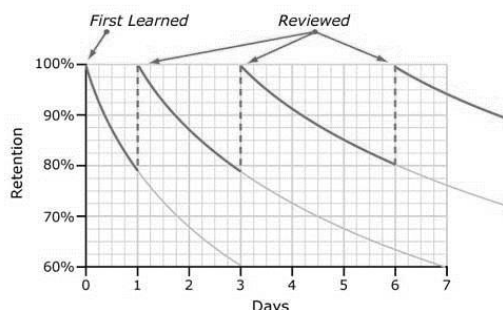
As part of your child's preparation for their GCSE or CAMNAT qualifications, they will complete mock exams in November, December and January. The timetable for these exams is attached for your reference.

To be successful in the mock exams, and to get the most out of the experience, your child will need to carefully plan and prepare their revision. It is crucial for students to use this opportunity as a way to practise their revision strategies, improve the core knowledge that they will need, identify topics in which they may need additional support and practise completing exams under exam conditions.

Further guidance is outlined below to support your child's preparations:

1. **During the next couple of weeks** - your child should speak with their subject teachers so that they know the style of each exam and are aware of any equipment they will need. They also need to ensure that they have the revision material and past papers required to support their preparation.
2. **Revision plan** – your child should make a revision timetable and stick to it. Put a copy somewhere central in your home so that everyone can see it and work together to keep to it. The timetable needs to space sessions out so that there is time to forget information and then re-learn it. This strengthens the memory of this knowledge as shown in the graph. We have provided students with an example of a revision timetable along with a blank copy for them to use to make their own version. They have been given two blank timetable templates. One for the Christmas period and a second one which can be used during term time.
3. **Mix up the subjects** – your child should break up the subjects and topics they need to learn into smaller blocks of around 30 minutes. They should plan to revise these topics in a mixed order. This strategy, called interleaving, has been shown to lead to deeper memory and understanding or mastery.
4. **Core knowledge** – this is the crucial knowledge required to understand a subject. High levels of recall and understanding of this knowledge are required to successfully complete an exam. Repetition and quizzing are good ways to learn this material.
5. **Past paper questions** – your child should practise these to gain experience of answering exam style questions. These are a good way to identify areas of misunderstanding. These are the aspects on which they need to focus.

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



Business & Enterprise



LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING
The Cambridge Network

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Please follow the QR code to the right to view a copy of the 'How to learn effectively' document which provides further information on the areas mentioned above. Implementing these strategies has been shown to have the greatest impact on learning and we would recommend that students use these to support their exam preparation. Alternatively, to access this document, please visit: <https://www.aylshamhigh.com/learningsubjectsahs>



If you would like a further explanation of the effective learning strategies, please follow this QR code to a video which covers each of the strategies. Alternatively, please visit: <https://youtu.be/CPxSzxyIRCI> to access this video.



Organisation of the mock exams

The mock exams will take place in the main hall for the majority of students. If the mock exam is taking place in a teaching room, this is specified on the mock exam timetable. If your child uses a laptop or reader pen to support them in their exams or if they are entitled to extra time, they will complete their exam in an appropriate venue.

Important information regarding conduct in exams

We need to make students and families aware of the exam expectations provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications, JCQ. A copy of these have been included with this letter and we strongly urge you to read through these with your child. Failure to follow the expectations could be deemed as malpractice by JCQ and result in a student's exam(s) being disqualified.

Mock exams and external exams video

In order to share key information with our year 9, 10 and 11 students about the mock exams and external exams, they watched a video during a lesson on Wednesday 18th October. This video provides advice and guidance about how to prepare for the upcoming exams, including the most effective strategies to use for revision. The video is available online for students and their families to watch using the link below or the QR code.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkg5r8ShnW8>

The results from the mock exams will be used to identify both areas of strength and any topics which your child may not fully know yet. These will become areas to work on in the run up to the summer exams. The results will also be used to complete your child's next report in the spring term, as well as supporting any decisions around tier of entry. Therefore, it is very important that your child prepares as fully as possible for these exams.

We know that hard work leads to success and I would like to thank you for your support in helping your child to work hard and prepare for these exams. I would like to share a quote about success from John Wooden, renowned American basketball player and coach, with you:

“Success is the peace of mind in knowing that you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.”

Thank you again for your continued support in helping your child to do their best.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C S Bridge'.

Mr C Bridge
Deputy Headteacher

Year 9 and 10 Mock exams - November, December 2023 and January 2024

GCSE Fine Art, Graphics and Textiles mocks will be during January and February 2024:

Graphics - Option 1 & 2 groups: Tuesday 13th February (in usual class hours), Thursday 15th February (in usual class hours), Friday 16th February (off timetable 5hrs)
 Fine Art - Option 1 & 2 groups: Tuesday 13th February (in usual class hours), Wednesday 14th February (off timetable 5hrs), Thursday 15th February (in usual class hours)
 Textiles - Option 1 group: Tuesday 23rd January (in usual class hours), Wednesday 24th January (off timetable 5hrs), Thursday 25th January (in usual class hours)
 Textiles - Option 2 group: Tuesday 23rd January (in usual class hours), Thursday 25th January (in usual class hours), Friday 26th January (off timetable 5hrs)

Date	Week	P1	P2	P3	Lunch	P4	P5
Monday 27th Nov	2						
Tuesday 28th Nov							
Wednesday 29th Nov							
Thursday 30th Nov		Geography 1 year group Op1A/Gg1 1 hr 30mins (1hr 53mins)				PE Op2A/Pt1a, Op2A/Pt1b, Op2A/Pt1c, Op2A/Pt1d 1hr 30mins (1hr 53mins)	
Friday 1st Dec							
Saturday							
Sunday							
Monday 4th Dec	1						
Tuesday 5th Dec		Food Prep Op1A/Fp1 & Op1A/Fp2 1hr 45mins (2hr 12mins)					
Wednesday 6th Dec							
Thursday 7th Dec		Food Prep Op2A/Fp1 & Op2A/Fp2 1hr 45mins (2hr 12mins)					
Friday 8th Dec							
Saturday							
Sunday							
Monday 11th Dec	2						
Tuesday 12th Dec		Catch up exams side 2				Catch up exams side 1	
No mock exams taking place between Wednesday 13th December and Wednesday 20th December							
Christmas Holidays							
Thursday 4th Jan	2	No mock exams taking place on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th January					
Friday 5th Jan							
Saturday							
Sunday							
Monday 8th Jan	1						
Tuesday 9th Jan		DT Op1A/DtW1 & Op1A/DtW2 50mins (1hr 2mins)				DT Op2A/DtM & Op2A/DtW 50mins (1hr 2mins) Music Op2A/Mu1 1hr (in classroom)	
Wednesday 10th Jan							
Thursday 11th Jan		Business Op2A/Bu1 & Op2A/Bu2 1hr 30mins (1hr 53mins) History 1 year Op2A/Hi1 1hr 20mins (1hr 40mins)				Business Op1A/Bu1 & Op1A/Bu2 1hr 30mins (1hr 53mins)	
Friday 12th Jan		Catch up exams				Catch up exams	



Joint Council for
Qualifications CIC



Important Information for Candidates

1. Be on time for the start of all your exams.
2. Leave bags and other personal items in your locker e.g. mobile, watches, earphones/earbuds, iPod, MP3/4 players or notes. These must **not** be taken into the exam.
3. Any pencil cases taken into the exam room must be see-through.
4. Water bottles must be clear and any labels must be removed.
5. Watches must be removed before entering exam rooms. Ideally, they should be left in your locker or handed to an invigilator.
6. Correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens must **not** be used in answers.
7. Do **not** talk or try to communicate with, or disturb other candidates once the exam has started.
8. You must **not** write inappropriate, obscene or offensive material in your work.
9. If students are involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the exam, it will be considered malpractice and reported to JCQ.
10. You must not leave the exam room unaccompanied before the exam has finished.
11. You must bring your own equipment for your exams. You must not borrow equipment from another candidate during the exam.
12. You must use a black pen to complete your exams. Please bring at least 2 black pens with you to all exams.
13. You must bring your own calculator to exams. Calculators cannot have anything stored in them and lids must be removed.
14. If you need anything during an exam, put your hand up and remain seated whilst you wait for an invigilator to come to you.

Remember: possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.