



Ballyclare Secondary School

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Ballyclare
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Principal: Mrs K O Bell BA Adv Cert Ed PQH

May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Key Stage 3 Examinations: May 2022

Our Key Stage 3 (Years 8 to 10) pupils will complete their summer examinations between Thursday 19th May and Wednesday 25th May 2022. Normal timetable classes will resume after break on Wednesday 25th May 2022.

I have attached the individual exam timetables for Years 8, 9 and 10 and your child/children will also receive a hard copy of their exam timetable. I also draw your attention to the information on the back of their exam timetable. In addition, attached is a 'How to study guide' and a list of revision topics for each subject. Pupils will also receive a hard copy of these to accompany their exam timetable.

Please share these dates with your child/children and display the schedule in a prominent place at home. Examination success only comes as a result of thorough preparation and revision, and I urge you to support your child/ children through this period so that they might gain a set of examination results that truly reflect their potential, and upon which they can continue to make progress for the remainder of the academic year.

As parents/carers there are a number of things you can do to support your son/daughter as they undertake their examinations. I have prepared a list below of some practical and easy to implement 'Top Tips' to help you as a family during this period:

- Ensure that your child/ children attends school every day and is on time to each lesson. Every minute of learning lost can impact on outcomes and all pupils benefit from good attendance and punctuality;
- Help your child/ children to arrive for each exam properly equipped. Exams should be completed in black pen so having a supply of these at home for the exam period would be useful;
- Monitor their time on social media/surfing the internet. Everybody needs time to unwind, but this needs to be managed against time spent purposefully revising;
- Ensure they have a quiet space in which to work at home;
- Ensure that they are eating a balanced diet, including them taking in enough water to remain fully hydrated. Breakfast really is the most important meal of the day, especially during exam time;
- Ensure that they are getting enough sleep; and
- Provide encouragement and support throughout the exam period.



All staff at Ballyclare Secondary School are hoping for our Key Stage 3 pupils to perform well in these exams and will support them fully during this period.

Should you have any questions linked to the exams, please do not hesitate to contact your child/children's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Cowden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Mr A Cowden

Senior Teacher – School Communication



Year 8 Summer Exam Timetable 2022

	Thursday 19th May	Friday 20th May	Monday 23rd May	Tuesday 24th May	Wednesday 25th May
8.40 - 9.50	Revision	Revision	Music (30 Mins)	RS (45 Mins)	Drama (30 Mins)
Break					
10.05 - 10.40	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Normal school day resumes from 10.05am
10.40 - 12.05	Maths (1 Hour)	History (1 Hour)	HE (1 Hour)	French (1 Hour)	
Lunch					
12.40 - 1.40	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	
1.40 - 3.00	Geography (1 Hour)	Science (1 Hour)	English (1 Hour)	Technology (55 Mins)	

Important Information

- Art, Music Listening, ICT & LLW will complete exams during Class time.
- Go to your exam room for registration each morning (8.40 – 8.50). Everyone should be in and seated by 8.40am. (Your class teacher will tell you which exam room you are in over the coming days)
- Make sure you are on time at the start of each session:
morning, mid-morning and afternoon.
- Bring all correct equipment to your exams, e.g. rulers, calculators, colours etc.
- **Mobiles phones and other electronic devices** must be switched off and in kept in your schoolbag.
- ‘Smart’ watches should be switched off and left on your desk.
- Bring books and notes for revision.
- If you have any questions, ask your Class Teacher before the start of the exams. **Normal school day resumes from 10.05am on Wednesday 25th May when you will go to your class teachers for registration until 10.20am then off to class period 3 – please bring your books or other necessary equipment for these lessons.**
- **STUDY HARD and GOOD LUCK!**



Year 8 Subject Revision Topics for Summer Exams

English	Geography	French
<p>Creative writing: Language features, verbs, objectives and adverbs to engage reader. Range of punctuation, including speech. Structure – introductions and conclusions. Sentence starters and connectives. Spelling: learn the words you find difficult, make yourself a spelling bank.</p> <p>Reading Images: revise TAP and PEE Presentational (Layout, logo, image, colour) and language features. Language features: Mr Soap. Writing paragraphs using PEE chains.</p>	<p>Types of Geography. Map skills. Geography of Northern Ireland. Waste and recycling. Energy. Farming.</p>	<p>Learn everything from Knowledge Organisers 1, 2 and 3 (at the back of your homework booklet and on Google Classroom). : Greetings, classroom objectives (masculine / feminine, I have / I haven't and asking have you got?), alphabet. Numbers and ages. Dates, days and birthday. Colours (including agreement) and instructions. Countries, nationalities and saying where you live, brothers and sisters.</p>

History	LLW	ICT
<p>What is History</p> <p>Definition</p> <p>Chronology</p> <p>Cause and consequence</p> <p>Empathy</p> <p>Primary and secondary evidence.</p> <p>The Normans</p> <p>Bayeux Tapestry</p> <p>Battle of Hastings</p> <p>Motte and Bailey Castles</p> <p>Feudal system</p> <p>Law and order</p> <p>Norman legacy</p> <p>Why did the Normans come to Ireland</p> <p>Dermot MacMurrrough</p> <p>Strongbow</p> <p>Medicine</p> <p>Plague causes</p> <p>Plague symptoms</p> <p>Plague cures/remedies.</p>	<p>Cultural Identity</p> <p>Sectarianism</p> <p>Racism</p> <p>Relationships</p> <p>Jobs in School</p> <p>Skills</p>	<p>Spreadsheets</p>

Maths	Maths (continued)	Science
<p>Number Basic use of number and place value. Multiplication tables. Multiplying by 10, 100 1000. Decimal work – place value and + - Rounding to the nearest 10, 100, 1000. Estimation. Odd, Even, Factors, Multiples, Prim, Squares, Cube, Triangle Number, Fibonacci. Directed number. Fractions – equivalent fractions. Fractions of an amount. Percentages.</p> <p>Handling Data Drawing and interpreting bar charts, pictograms and tally tables. Using discrete data. Conversion, line and distance time graphs. Probability – using probability language to describe probability, using a probability line, calculating simple probability. Coordinates in four quadrants. Finding the mean and range of data.</p>	<p>SSM Names of polygons and other definitions e.g. parallel, vertices etc. Parts of a circle. Symmetry with vertical and horizontal lines Naming 3d solids and recognising the nets and cubes. Nets of cuboids. Metric units. Area of rectangles and triangles. Perimeter.</p> <p>Algebra Simple number patters. Finding the next term.</p>	<p>Topics Cells and Living Things How to be a Scientist Chemical and Physical Changes States of Matter Forces</p> <p>Skills Converting units Making measurements Scientific diagrams Planning experiments Drawing tables Drawing graphs</p>

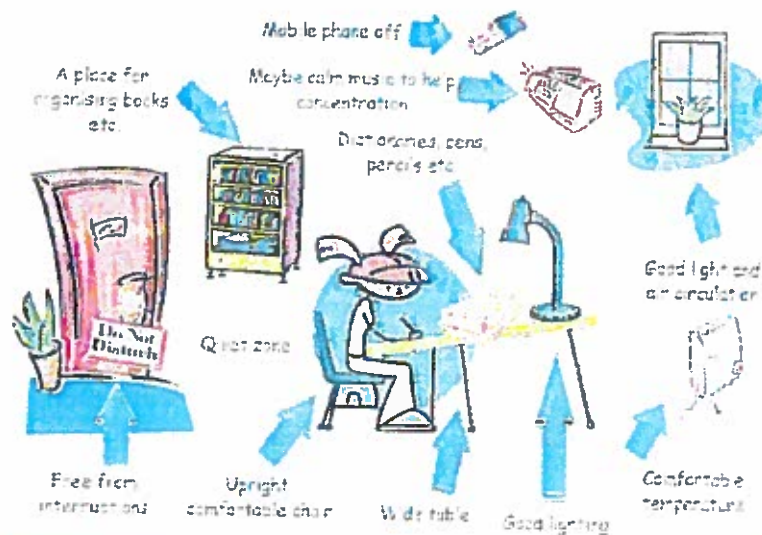
Home Economics	Music	Drama
<p>Safety</p> <p>Hygiene</p> <p>Washing up routine.</p> <p>Eat well guide.</p> <p>Types of bread</p> <p>Parts of a cooker.</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p>Physical, intellectual, emotional and physical needs.</p> <p>How to achieve 5-a-day.</p> <p>Nutritional needs of children.</p> <p>Types of family.</p> <p>Keywords, role reversal, role, responsibility, shared roles.</p> <p>Importance of breakfast and family mealtimes.</p>	<p><u>Listening Paper Revision List</u></p> <p>Recognise rhythms - learn rhythm table pg 11</p> <p>Recognise instruments and the family they belong to pg.26</p> <p>Describe a piece of music using the elements of music pg.19</p> <p><u>Written Paper Revision List</u></p> <p><u>Music Theory</u>- signs pg 6, note names pg 7, rhythm table pg 10</p> <p><u>Elements of Music</u>- pages 19,21, 23</p> <p><u>The Percussion Family</u>-page 26</p> <p><u>The Brass Family</u>-pages 31-33</p> <p><u>The String Family</u>- pages 40 and 41, page 44</p> <p><u>The Woodwind Family</u>- pages 47 and 48</p> <p>Pupils will be revising in class using the revision PPT which will also be available on google classroom. The listening test will be completed in class during the weeks before the summer exams.</p>	<p>Keywords and definitions.</p> <p>Drama skills.</p> <p>Communicating with the audience.</p> <p>Costume Design</p> <p>Musical Theatre</p> <p>Theatre in Education</p> <p>Please Note:</p> <p>There will also be a script performance which will account for 50% of the overall result. They will be doing this in groups during class but are marked as an individual.</p>

<p>Religious Studies</p>	<p>Technology</p>	
<p><u>Religious Studies</u> For the summer exam pupils are to revise the following topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Bible - pupils are to revise all of this completed topic. Pupils have a booklet on this topic and there are revision notes on page 27 and 28 of this booklet. 2) Abraham - pupils are to revise all of this completed topic. Pupils have a booklet on this topic and there are revision notes on pages 23 and 24 of this booklet. 	<p>Technology and Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials, Woods, Metals and Plastics • Tools and Machines • Measuring and Dimensions • Safety • Electronics • Single point perspective drawing 	

KS3 Strategies for Exam Success

An environment for learning

Before you do any revision, you must ensure that you are in a place where your work is going to pay off. Following these suggestions can really help.



A checklist for healthy revision living



- Enjoy a healthy and balanced diet.
- Use a revision timetable.
- Take regular short breaks (every 25 minutes - Pomodoro technique).
- Every 4x25 minutes take a longer break 30 mins.
- Take exercise (even if it's a short walk around the garden.)
- Get fresh air and **drink water**.
- Don't revise too late at night.
- Don't 'cram'
- Go to bed at a 'normal' time.



A revision timetable - Putting you in control

- ✓ Before you start your timetable, write a list of the things you need to revise for all your subjects and try to put topics into groups. Your subject teacher can help with this.
- ✓ Create a timetable that helps you to revise each of your subjects regularly (don't start a topic just before the exam)
- ✓ Try to prioritise revising the things you have found the hardest first to give yourself longer to understand them.
- ✓ Make sure you still enjoy hobbies, free time and breaks.
- ✓ Ask a teacher for help if you need more advice

An Example

Week Commencing	Day	Time	Subject and Topic


Useful Webpages

- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3 (Revision materials for all subjects)
- www.mymaths.co.uk (Revision of all topics in KS3/KS4 maths)
- www.topmarks.co.uk (A directory of great learning materials for all subjects)
- www.s-cool.co.uk
- www.topmarks.co.uk



Supporting your child in 'stress-free' revision

Whilst the prospect of exams and assessment can be stressful for your child, some strategies may really help in reducing the risk.

- Be positive about the difference revision will make.
- Support your child in trying out different strategies (post-its, mind maps, postcards etc) and help them to understand that they will not all work for them.
- Try to take breaks with your child to encourage them to balance their time.
- Try the Pomodoro Technique
<https://francescodinillo.com/pages/pomodoro-technique>

- Support your child in setting up a space that is quiet and well-equipped for revision.

Use online resources

YouTube

YouTube has lots of helpful video clips of how to answer certain questions.

Bitesize

BBC Bitesize is interactive and colourful and the revision strands are short and snappy!



www.4schools.ie/content/poker-study-system



<http://thesupergeneration.com/fire-e-study-resources>

Mnemonics

Mnemonics are typically rhymes or acronyms (a word made up of the first letters of other words) which make it easier to remember lots of facts or names.

Examples:



- The order of planets in the Solar System given by distance from the sun.

'My Very Educated Mother Just Made Us Nine Pizzas'

- The seven colours in a rainbow starting with the one at the top.

'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain'



They may be silly but they should be personal to you. What would be the point if you can't remember it?

Revision for Creative People

Reading notes can be daunting and it isn't the way the mind works for lots of people. The great news is, you can be more creative



Draw Pictures to help you remember the facts

Put pictures alongside a brief explanation can make it much easier to recall hard ideas in exams

Write a song

For some people, putting the ideas they find hard to remember into lyrics which can be sung to a favourite song can be a way of committing them to memory.



Using Post-It notes



Start by finding the key facts and information you have noted in your subject note book



Display a maximum of 12 'Post-its' with key facts around your house. Every time you see one, read out loud the fact and try to make links with the place it is stuck.



Write down as many of the facts as you remembered at least once a day. **You won't remember them all at once!**



Display new post-its when you are confident with the existing ones.

Making Useful Notes

Pupils typically find that it is impossible to remember facts and ideas by just reading them. Writing them down and making your notes more personal will help.



Highlighters

Using a highlighter to pick out key words (only a few in every sentence) will help you to find facts fast when you are reading notes later.

Post Cards

By writing notes on post cards, you will be able to keep all 'connected' ideas together. That means it will be easier to revise one part of a topic.

You might also have quizzes and tests with friends to make sure the notes you have written are being remembered.

Using a Dictaphone

Most smartphones allow you to record yourself to play back later. You may want to listen to the important facts on the bus or walk to school on the day of your exam.





Create a Study group with your friends

You have spent the last year studying with your classmates, so preparing for exams with them could be a great way of gaining understanding of things that were confusing the first time round.

Some ideas to do this include.

Just a Minute

Take it in turns to talk on a topic for a minute without revision guides. Your study group then feeds back with extra ideas.



PowerPoint Presentations

Split the work by each taking a topic, character or book you have enjoyed studying.

Take it in turns to give a 'revision lecture' and share resources with each other.

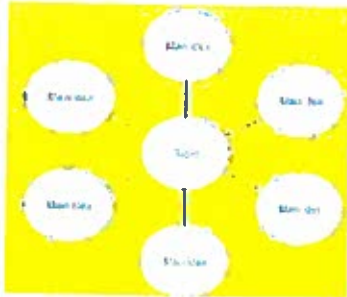
Revision Quizzes

Write quizzes based on the subject and topics you are revising. Take it in turn to ask questions.

The key to success is supporting one another in revising the areas in which they are less knowledgeable.

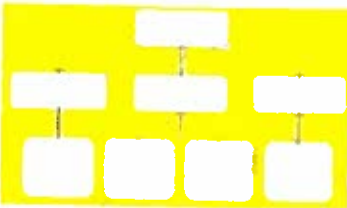
Different kinds of 'mind maps'

Mind maps require you to put onto paper all of the things that you have learned in a topic. Depending on the subject, there are a number of appropriate strategies.



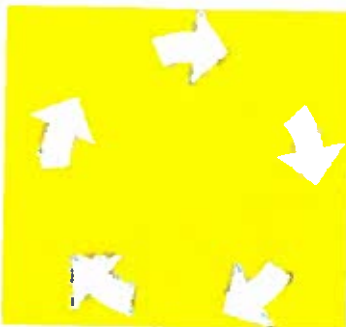
The 'standard' mind map

Start with the subject (e.g. Maths) in the middle and think of the 'big topics' you have covered (e.g. Algebra). Then expand your notes further (e.g. equations, formulae etc)



The 'Hierarchy' mind map

This is a useful way of showing how things 'feed into' others. This may be useful for timelines in History or 'family trees' for characters in English.



The 'Process' mind map

This helps us to see the cycles that exist and the way that one thing leads to another.

The 'water cycle' in geography and science and the 'Data Handling Cycle' in maths can be hard to learn without this approach

Note: Use your notebooks and revision notes to create 'mind maps' that are accurate.

Practice Exam Questions

In some subjects (notably maths and science), getting practice in answering exam questions is essential for securing success.



Getting the most from practice questions

1. Speak to your teacher. They will be able to recommend (and even provide) good sample exam questions.
2. Don't attempt these questions without having revised the topic first.
3. Work in pairs or groups to attempt questions. Collectively you will know more and it will be beneficial to share your knowledge.
4. Make a note of things you couldn't do and act on this.

Working towards a deadline



On exam days:

- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Check you have all equipment
- Arrive in plenty of time
- Try to have some 'calm' time to yourself. Avoid revising in the minutes before the exam.

