



Ark Charter  
Academy

# Assessment Point 1

## Year 9

# Parent Information Booklet

This booklet contains details of the assessments that your child will be taking in the upcoming half term. These assessments will take place during assessment weeks (20<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December). Please refer to the assessment timetable overleaf, in some subjects the date the students will sit their assessment varies depending on which class they are in.

You will receive an interim report following these assessments so you can see how your child is progressing.

Please contact [w.brombley@charteracademy.org.uk](mailto:w.brombley@charteracademy.org.uk) if you have any other queries about the assessments.

Year 9

| Monday                    | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                            | Friday  |
|---------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 20                        | 21  | 22   | 23                                  | 24  |
| P1                        | P1  | P1   | P1 Science Paper 1<br>30m           | P1  |
| P2                        | P2  | P2 History 50m   | P2                                  | P2 Spanish Reading<br>30m                             |
| P3                        | P3 Art (9A) 50m,<br>Drama 50m,<br>French Listening<br>25m                                       | P3 PE (9C) Paper 1<br>50m, Music 50m,<br>Art (9C) 50m,<br>Classics 1h30m | P3                                  | P3  |
| P4                        | P4 Art (9A) 50m, RE<br>45m, CPS 50m, PE<br>(9A) Paper 1 50m,<br>Drama 50m French<br>Reading 30m | P4 Art (9C) 50m,<br>ICT 50m, Music<br>50m                                | P4                                  | P4 PE (9C) Paper 2<br>50m, Music 50m,<br>Art (9C) 50m |
| P5                        | P5  | P5   | P5 Mathematics<br>Paper 1 60m (HPT) | P5  |
| P6                        | P6 Spanish<br>Listening 25m   | P6   | P6                                  | P6  |
| 27                        | 28  | 29   | 30                                  | 1   |
| P1 English 1h15m<br>(HPT) | P1  | P1   | P1 Science Paper 3<br>30m           | P1  |
| P2                        | P2  | P2   | P2                                  | P2  |
| P3                        | P3 Art (9A) 50m   | P3 Business Studies<br>60m, Art (9C) 50m                                 | P3                                  | P3  |
| P4 Spanish Writing<br>20m | P4 PE (9A) Paper 2<br>50m, Drama 50m<br>French Writing 20m                                      | P4 Art (9C) 50m  | P4                                  | P4 Art (9C) 50m                                       |
| P5                        | P5 Science Paper 2<br>30m   | P5   | P5 Mathematics<br>Paper 2 30m (HPT) | P5  |
| P6                        | P6  | P6   | P6 Art (9A) 50m                     | P6  |

(HPT) indicates the mock exam/assessment is taking place in Hornpipe.



**Assessment title:**

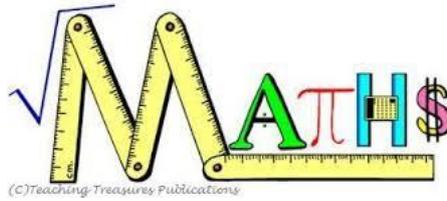
This term, your child will complete an English exam in the Hornpipe Theatre on *Jane Eyre*, which they have been studying in class since September. In this exam, to mirror the new GCSE style questions, students will be asked to analyse an extract from the novel and answer a question based on both the extract and the novel as a whole. They will be marked for reading and writing, which will make up their overall grade.

**Topics being covered:**

- *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Brontë
- The context of the Victorian era
- The concept of childhood in the Victorian era
- Analytical essay writing skills
- New vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar

**How you can help your child to achieve their best:**

Students need to spend time revising key vocabulary and concepts they have learnt during their study of *Jane Eyre*. Your child will be provided with a knowledge organiser for the topic, which you can spend time testing them in the run up to the exam. Students should also be encouraged to re-read key extracts from the novel, which we've studied in class, at home. You can support by discussing meanings of the extracts and key vocabulary, highlighting in the glossary to support students understanding to the text.



### **How your child will be assessed:**

In Autumn 2 all students in Year 9 will sit two holistic assessment papers. The first is the same for all Year 9 students and is a one hour paper. Students will then either sit a consolidation paper or an extension paper, both of which are 30 minutes.

All the exams cover content covered over the year so far, as well as content from Year 7 and Year 8.

### **Topics tested include:**

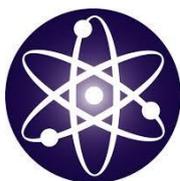
- Coordinates and midpoints of lines segments
- Linear graphs
- Direct and inverse proportion
- Calculate with scales
- Standard form
- Arithmetic and geometric sequences
- Expand and factorise quadratic expressions
- Change the subject of formulae

### **How you can help your child revise:**

Maths is best revised in regular short sessions. 15 to 20 minutes every night is far more beneficial than several solid hours on the weekend.

Please encourage your child to use [hegartymaths.co.uk](http://hegartymaths.co.uk). This website covers all topics listed here with video explanations and mini-tests.

Please also encourage your child to speak to their maths teacher if they have any questions or concerns.



## Science

### **How your child will be assessed:**

Students will sit 3 separate assessments each at 30 mins in length and will be conducted in exam conditions.

Students will be assessed on content covered this term information can be found below highlighting the topic areas.

Each assessment will assess a variety of skills including working scientifically, apparatus and techniques (practical skills) and maths mastery.

### **Topics covered:**

#### **Autumn content:**

- Biology - Cell structure & transport
- Chemistry - Atomic structures & separation techniques
- Chemistry - Chemical calculations
- Physics - Motion

### **How you can help your child at home:**

Please discuss with students at home the content they have covered this year, students should be encouraged to approach their teachers prior to the half term with any areas of concern. Students will be provided with revision sheets to complete over the half term covering the key topic areas, students should be encouraged to complete these over the break.





### **How your child will be assessed:**

Students will have three assessments in Autumn 2 of Year 9: listening, reading and writing.

The reading and listening assessments will both be in the style of the new GCSE. The speaking assessment will be a 5 minute conversation with the class teacher. There will be some material that has not yet been studied in class, as due to the nature of languages there will always be unknown content on exams. Students should be aware of this and use the strategies they have learnt, such as recognising cognates, to help them face this challenge.

### **Topics covered:**

1. Myself
2. My family and friends

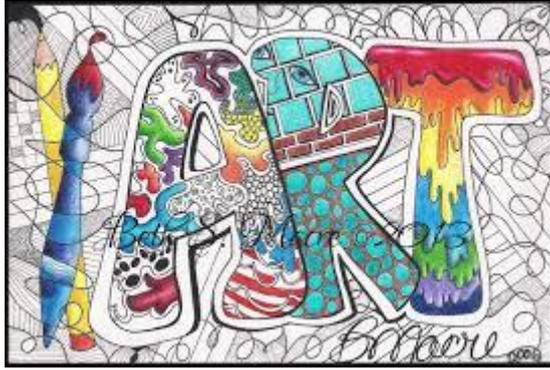
The assessment will also cover topics covered in year 7 and 8. Beyond this, there will be some material that has not yet been studied in class, as due to the nature of languages there will always be unknown content on exams. Students should be aware of this and use the strategies they have learnt, such as recognising cognates, to help them face this challenge.

### **How you can help your child at home:**

Please ensure that your child is revising for their weekly vocabulary tests and revisiting vocabulary covered in past tests. Your child will also be given a revision pack prior to their end of term assessments which they should be using to revise at home. Any support in this would be appreciated – you could test your child on words they need to learn without needing to know what they mean as Spanish is written more or less how it is spoken.

Furthermore, please encourage your child to practise Spanish at home by any means. This could be by using the internet to listen to music or the radio, watch TV shows or films or access the BBC Spanish website which has lots of resources <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/>.

Thank you!



### **How your child will be assessed:**

During the autumn term art students will begin their first unit of coursework based on the theme of 'Food'. Students are following the AQA GCSE specification where coursework is 60% of the GCSE. Students are introduced to the topic by drawing and recording from direct observation in a range of materials learning control and manipulation of styles and techniques. They then move on to researching a range of artists as part of their contextual studies.

Classwork is assessed every three weeks, giving students three lessons to develop and refine a piece of work within their sketchbook. Each task focuses on one of the assessment objectives and all students are taught key skills and techniques to help them develop their knowledge, understanding, ability, confidence and use of materials. The four assessment objectives in Art are based on the AQA GCSE strands. They are contextual studies, use of materials, recording ideas and a final piece. Students' home work is assessed throughout the year based levels of effort. The projects are formally assessed with levels at the end of each term and at the end of the summer term after students have produced their two final pieces.

### **Areas of study include:**

- Primary source drawings from themes surrounding 'Food'.
- Use and application of tone, texture and hue.
- Artist studies on Sarah Graham, Wayne Thiebaud and Nancy Standlee.
- Student's choice of contemporary artists from the paper provided and internet searches.

### **How you can help your child to achieve their best:**

- Providing a suitable area for students to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- Ask questions surrounding homework to support understanding.
- Encourage gradual independence, whilst reminding students of the homework times and expectations regarding effort.
- Offer advice and help if needed.
- Praise and encourage your child to help them develop confidence.

- Share discussions regarding the use and importance of art within society, life and careers.
- Contact the art teacher or art department if you have any concerns or questions.



**What has been covered in the term:**

Students have been introduced to some of the fundamental Business Studies concepts, mainly focussing on the industrial sectors and the reasons for and methods of setting up a business. These first two units will form the foundations for the remaining Business Studies content.

**What the assessment covers:**

The students' assessment will be based on the work they have been doing in lessons throughout this term. This includes the following topics.

- Entrepreneurs
- Market Mapping
- Ownership Types
- Stakeholders

**Nature of the Assessment:**

The assessment for this term will be a partial mock exam. This will be performed in normal exam conditions and will test students' knowledge in a variety of ways including:

- Multiple choice questions
- Short written answers
- Extended essay-style answers

**How the student can revise:**

Revision for the assessment is vital. There are a number of ways that students can revise for Business Studies including:

- Students can access their own work from their books or the computer network to check what they have done.
- Students can access the lesson resources in the Student Shared Area (this includes mock exams and mark schemes).
- Use online resources to help (Tutor2U, Business Studies Online and BBC Bitesize are all good).
- Actively discuss businesses and experiences with them.

**How you can help your child at home:**

Wherever possible, your contribution to the student's success is encouraged. There are several ways in which you can do this including:

- Making a suitable, quiet revision space available.
- Ask them to share with you what they learnt in lessons and challenge misconceptions.
- Share news stories relating to business real life.
- Share your experiences of the work environment with them.
- Ask them to demonstrate their knowledge of key terms with you.



# Classics

## **How your child will be assessed:**

- Time: One hour 30 minutes full paper – **Unit 1: Myth and Religion**
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan

## **Topics covered:**

- The Olympian gods
- The Universal hero: Hercules/Heracles
- Temples
- Foundation stories
- Festivals
- Myth and symbols of power
- Death and burial
- Journeying to the underworld

## **How you can help your child at home:**

You can help your child to revise using the revision they create in class. This could be testing them on key words, dates or people.



# Computer Science

## **How your child will be assessed:**

The assessment for Year 9 Computer Science follows the guidelines outlined in the course specification for OCR Entry Level Certificate in Computer Science. This will include a Practical Programming using Python and Computer Systems and Computational Thinking.

## **Topics covered:**

The students' assessment will be based on the work they have been undertaking in class. This includes the following topics:

- Components and internal workings of a computer
- Peripherals and their functions
- Operating Systems
- Types of Software and their uses
- Programming and Programming Techniques

## **How you can help your child at home:**

Wherever possible, your contribution to your child's success is encouraged.

There are several ways in which you can do this including:

- Making a suitable, quiet revision space available.
- Encourage them to practice their programming techniques.
- Encourage them to read around the subject of Computer Science either via the internet or from newspaper articles.
- Encourage them to consider the various ways in which ICT and Computer Science is used in society.



# ICT-Digital Technologies

## **How your child will be assessed:**

The assessment for Year 9 C&G Digital Technologies will cover the subjects undertaken throughout the autumn term and will take the form of an on-line / software based test. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and competence of software applications, their use and functions. This will also include some areas of spreadsheet design and modelling.

## **Topics covered:**

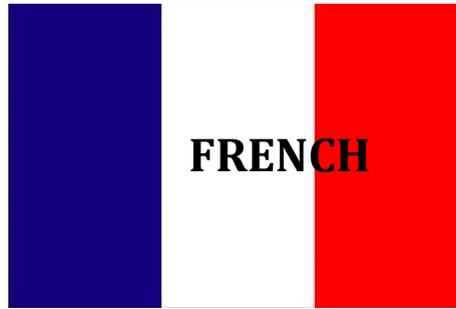
The students' assessment will be based on the work they have been undertaking in class. This includes the following topics:

- Types of Software Applications
- Uses of Software applications – choosing the correct application for the required outcome, trade-offs between applications
- Functions of Applications – comparison of the functions applications provide, cross platform and application similarities.
- Evaluating similarities between applications
- Spreadsheet Software - use a range of basic spreadsheet software tools and techniques to produce spreadsheets.
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## **How you can help your child at home:**

Wherever possible, your contribution to your child's success is encouraged. There are several ways in which you can do this including:

- Making a suitable, quiet revision space available.
- Encourage them to practice their techniques and use the software covered in the course.
- Encourage them to produce digital products such as presentations, posters, documents and spreadsheets.



### **How your child will be assessed:**

Students will have three assessments in Autumn 2 of Year 9: listening, reading and writing.

The reading and listening assessments will both be in the style of the new GCSE. The speaking assessment will be a 5 minute conversation with the class teacher. There will be some material that has not yet been studied in class, as due to the nature of languages there will always be unknown content on exams. Students should be aware of this and use the strategies they have learnt, such as recognising cognates, to help them face this challenge.

### **Topics covered:**

1. Myself
2. My family and friends

Beyond this, there will be some material that has not yet been studied in class, as due to the nature of languages there will always be unknown content on exams. Students should be aware of this and use the strategies they have learnt, such as recognising cognates, to help them face this challenge.

### **How you can help your child at home:**

Please ensure that your child is revising for their weekly vocabulary tests and revisiting vocabulary covered in past tests. Your child will also be given a revision pack prior to their end of term assessments which they should be using to revise at home. Any support in this would be appreciated – you could test your child on words they need to learn without needing to know what they mean as Spanish is written more or less how it is spoken.

Furthermore, please encourage your child to practise French at home by any means. This could be by using the internet to listen to music or the radio, watch TV shows or films or access the BBC French website which has lots of resources <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/>.

Thank you!



**Assessment title:**

This term, your child's grade will be determined by an analytical exam style question of a media product they will study in class, as well as a non-exam assessment where students will create their own media product in response to a brief.

**Topics being covered:**

- Media language: how the media through their forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings
- Representation: how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups
- Media industries: how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platforms
- Audiences: how media forms target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of audiences become producers themselves

**How you can help your child to achieve their best:**

Students need to spend time revising key terminology they have learnt so far in class. Students will be provided with revision resources to help prepare for the exam style question they will complete in class. You can support students by ensuring that they are working through revision resources and testing them on media language covered in the unit. They will also be able to complete planning and development work for their non-exam assessment, such as researching products, collecting images, experimenting with various designs and evaluating their work.



# MUSIC

This year in Music we are learning from the new Edexcel GCSE specification. We started in the Autumn Term by looking at basic music theory and consolidating our knowledge of reading music, chords and key signatures and other musical theory in the context of analysing and composing. They also spent time digitally recreating a piece of Dance Music. This term we are focusing on melody writing and different forms, through beginning to compose their own piece of Dance Music.

## **The assessment:**

There will be three elements to their assessment, in line with the GCSE specification: composition, performance and listening. The composition will be an assessment of their classwork and the performance will be based on the pieces that the students are working on in their peripatetic lessons. The listening assessment will be based on the set works and include specific musical vocabulary, terminology and melody analysis.

## **Your child should revise by:**

- Practicing their performances pieces every day.
- Revising musical terminology and the definitions.
- Listening to a variety of musical genres.

## **You can help by:**

- Encouraging them to revise musical vocabulary
- Encouraging them to practice – 10/15minutes a day will make a huge difference.
- Testing them on music terminology.



### **How your child will be assessed:**

Year 9 students will be assessed with two 50 minute exams during assessment week. This paper will draw on the knowledge covered throughout the first two chapters of the GCSE course.

There will also be continued assessment of student's practical skills in basketball.

### **Topics covered**

Structure & function of the skeletal system  
Structure & function of muscular system  
Movement analysis

### **You can help your child at home:**

- \* Helping pupils understand the benefits of participating in physical activity and that they are able to identify each as a Physical, Social or Mental benefit.
- \* Encourage participation to extra-curricular activities
- \* Reviewing and revising the definitions of key terms around the subject
- \* Using websites for preparation for end of term topics (e.g. BBC bitesize)



### How your child will be assessed:

- Time: 45 minute paper for mock paper ( questions ranging from 2 marks- 15)
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan
- The assessment question used must be unseen before the assessment begins

### Topics covered:

- Evil and suffering: The four Omni words, Christian and Islamic responses to suffering, Deontology and relativism and absolutism.
- The Holocaust: What was it? What happened to the Jewish faith?
- **How you can help your child at home:**

You can help your child to revise using the revision they create in class. This could be testing them on key words, dates or people.