



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 (12th November – 23rd November). 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 if you have any other queries about the assessments.

Year 9 A Band

If your English, Maths and Science classes are the subject code followed by A-1, A-2 or A-3 you are in the A band.

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13	14	15	16
P1	P1	P1	P1 Science Paper 2 30m	P1
P2	P2 Science Paper 1 30m	P2	P2	P2 History 40m/ Geography 50m
P3	P3 C Block Options: Art 100m/Drama 100m	P3 A Block Options: Art 100m/P4 only: French Reading 30m/Listening 15m	P3	P3
P4			P4	P4
P5	P5 Spanish Reading 30m/Listening 15m	P5	P5	P5
P6	P6	P6	P6	P6
19	20	21	22	23
P1	P1 Maths Paper 1 50m	P1 English 1h15m (HPT)	P1	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3 C Block Options: Art 100m/Drama 100m/ P4 only: RE 45m/Business 45m/PE 45m/Media Studies 50m	P3 A Block Options: Art 100m/Music 100m/ P4 only: French Writing 30m/Business 45m/PE 45m	P3 Maths Paper 2 50m	P3
P4			P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5	P5
P6 Science Paper 3 30m	P6	P6	P6	P6 Spanish Writing 30m/ PE 50m

Year 9 B Band

If your English, Maths and Science classes are the subject code followed by B-1 or B-2 you are in the B band.

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13	14	15	16
P1	P1	P1	P1	P1
P2	P2 Science Paper 1 30m	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3 C Block Options: Art 100m/Drama 100m	P3 A Block Options: Art 100m/P4 only: French Reading 30m/Listening 15m	P3	P3 History 40m/ Geography 50m
P4			P4	P4
P5	P5 Spanish Reading 30m/Listening 15m	P5	P5 Science Paper 2 30m	P5
P6	P6	P6	P6	P6
19	20	21	22	23
P1 Science Paper 3 30m	P1	P1	P1	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2 Maths Paper 2 50m	P2
P3	P3 C Block Options: Art 100m/Drama 100m/ P4 only: RE 45m/Business 45m/PE 45m/Media Studies 50m	P3 A Block Options: Art 100m/Music 100m/ P4 only: French Writing 30m/Business 45m/PE 45m	P3 English 1h15m (HPT)	P3
P4			P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5	P5
P6	P6 Maths Paper 1 50m	P6	P6	P6 Spanish Writing 30m/ PE 50m



Assessment title:

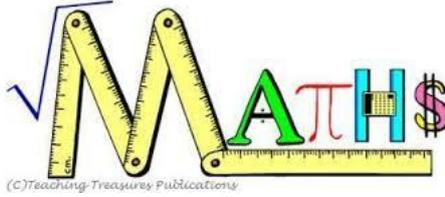
This term, your child will complete an English exam in the Hornpipe Theatre on *Jane Eyre*, which they have been studying in class since September. In this exam, to mirror the new GCSE style questions, students will be asked to analyse an extract from the novel and answer a question based on both the 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 of the text.



How your child will be assessed:

In Autumn 2 all students in Year 9 will sit two holistic assessment papers. Both of these exams are 50 minutes long. One assessment is non-calculator, the other is calculator.

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

Topics tested include:

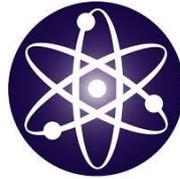
- Coordinates and midpoints of lines segments
- Linear graphs
- Direct and inverse proportion
- Calculate with scales
- Standard form
- Arithmetic and geometric sequences
- Expand and factorise quadratic expressions
- Change the subject of formulae

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. 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 science (biology, chemistry and physics) 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.

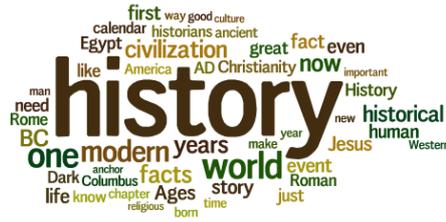
Topics covered:

Autumn content:

- Biology - Cell structure & transport
- Chemistry - Atomic structures & separation techniques
- Physics - Energy

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:

They will sit 1 paper in exam conditions within their classroom. This paper will be 40 minutes long and will focus on source skills looked at during Autumn 1.

Topics covered:

It could cover warfare from 1250-1500 or any of the history mysteries studied in Autumn 1:

- Lost colony of Roanoke
- Jack of Ripper
- Titanic
- Lusitania
- JFK
- Diana

How you can help your child at home:

You can help your child to revise using their class notes. This could be testing them on key words, dates or events. There are also revision guides that can be purchased for the Edexcel GCSE 9-1 course.



How your child will be assessed:

- Skills assessed:
 - Reading: 30 mins
 - Listening: 15 mins
 - Writing: 30 mins
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan
- The assessment questions must be unseen before the assessment

Topics covered:

The assessment will focus on the topic covered in class. Students will be expected to express themselves and understand people talking about their leisure activities:

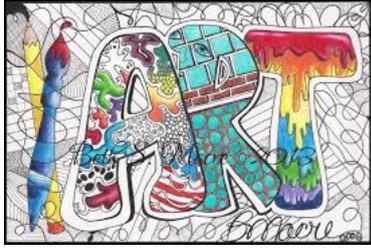
- What leisure activities they enjoy
- What they do during the summer
- Using the stem changing verbs
- Activities they did in Barcelona

Grammar skills will include:

- the use of the present tense
- the use of the preterit tense (past tense) with regular verbs and some irregular verbs
- opinion structures

How you can help your child at home:

You can help your child to revise using their vocabulary list provided and studied during this half-term.



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 completing 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 folders 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.



This year in Drama we are learning from the new GCSE specification. This term we have been focusing on basic drama mediums and getting all the class up to the same standard of work and work ethic. The emphasis this term has been on building on the already strong foundation of stage craft from the KS3 syllabus and developing a mature attitude to rehearsal and performance.

The assessment:

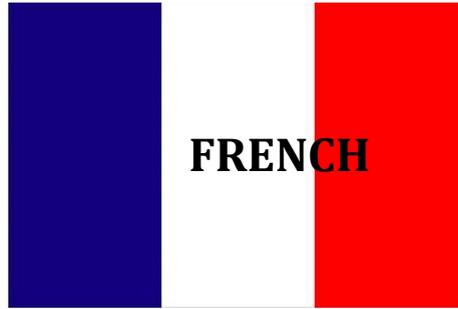
There will be three elements to their assessment, in line with the GCSE specification: rehearsal process, performance and evaluation. The rehearsal process will be assessed in classroom work and the written supporting evidence that needs to be provided alongside the devised work. The performance will be based on the pieces that students present in class. The evaluation will be done in a controlled assessment environment once the performance has been completed.

Your child should revise by:

- Practicing their performances pieces in their spare time as well as in lessons.
- Working on the supporting evidence that will be presented alongside the performance piece.
- Keeping detailed notes on the process to assist in their supporting evidence.

You can help by:

- Encouraging them to spend time on their supporting evidence.
- Encouraging them to practice – 10 minutes a day will make a huge difference.



How your child will be assessed:

- Skills assessed:
 - Reading: 30 mins
 - Listening: 15 mins
 - Writing: 30 mins
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan
- The assessment questions must be unseen before the assessment

Topics covered:

The assessment will focus on the topic covered in class. Students will be expected to express themselves and understand people talking about their families and animals:

- Physical description
- Personality description
- Whether they get on well or not and why
- Pets they have at home
- Their opinion about pets

Grammar skills will include:

- the use of the verbs “être” (to be), “avoir” (to have) and “s’appeler” (to be called) in the present tense
- the use of various adjectives, their place in the sentence and their agreement
- the use of “my”
- opinion structures

How you can help your child at home:

You can help your child to revise using their vocabulary list provided and studied during this half-term.



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 (Television crime drama) 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
- 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 will also spend time digitally creating their own song using 5 chords.

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.



9 GCSE Preparation Year

How your child will be assessed:

Year 9 students will be assessed with one 50-minute exam during assessment week. This paper will draw on the knowledge covered throughout the first chapter of Physical Training.

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

Topics covered

Physical Training

- Components of fitness
- Principles of training
- Preventing injury in physical activity and training

9 NCFE (Health and Fitness)

How your child will be assessed:

Year 9 students will be assessed with one-50-minute exam during assessment week. This paper will draw on the knowledge covered in section one and two of the specification.

Topics covered:

Skeletal System

- Structure of the skeleton
- Functions of the skeletal system
- Types of bones
- Types of joints
- Joint actions
- Structure of a synovial joint (knee)
- Structure of the spine and posture

Muscular System

- Types of muscle
- Structure of the muscular system
- Muscle movement and contraction
- Muscle fibre types

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)

