



Ark Charter
Academy

Assessment Point 2

Year 8

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 (26th February- 9th March). 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 l.headland@charteracademy.org.uk if you have any other queries about the assessments.

Monday 26th February- Friday 9th March

A Band Assessment Timetable

If your child's classes are the subject code followed by A-1, A-2 or A-3 they are in the A band.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26	27	28	1 March	2
P1	P1 Science Paper 1 30m	P1	P1	P1 Mathematics Paper 2 45m (HPT)
P2	P2	P2	P2	P2 English Paper 1hm (HPT)
P3	P3	P3 Drama A-1 50m, Drama A-3 50m	P3 ITA-1 50m	P3
P4 ITA-2 50m, Music A-3 50m	P4 Music A-1 50m	P4 Mathematics Paper 1 45m (HPT)	P4	P4
P5	P5 Drama A-2 50m, ITA-3 50m	P5	P5 Music A-2 50m	P5 Art A-2 50m
P6	P6 Art A-1 50m, Art A-3 50m	P6	P6 Spanish Listening Paper 20m and Reading Paper 30m	P6
P7	P7	P7	P7	P7
5	6	7	8	9
P1	P1 Science Paper 2 30m	P1 Spanish Writing Paper 30m	P1 Geography 45m	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
P3 History 45m	P3	P3	P3 RE 8A-2 45m	P3 Science Paper 3 30m
P4 B Band Science Paper 2 30m	P4	P4	P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5 RE 8A-1 45m	P5 Art A-2 50m, RE A-3 45m
P6	P6 Art A-1 50m, Art A-3 50m	P6	P6	P6
P6	P6	P6	P6	P6
P7	P7	P7	P7	P7

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

Monday 26th February – Friday 9th March

B Band Assessment Timetable

If your child's classes are the subject code followed by B-1, B-2 they are in the B band.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26	27	28	1	2
P1 ITB-1 50m, Drama B-2 50m P2 Art B-1 50m P3 P4 P5 P6 P7	P1 P2 P3 ITB-2 50m P4 P5 P6 Drama B-1 50m, Music B-2 50m P7	P1 Mathematics Paper 1 45m (HPT) P2 Art B-2 50m P3 P4 P5 P6 English Paper 1h (HPT) P7	P1 P2 P3 Science Paper 1 30m P4 P5 P6 Spanish Listening Paper 20m and Reading paper 30m P7	P1 P2 Mathematics Paper 2 45m (HPT) P3 P4 P5 Spanish Listening Paper 20m and Reading paper 30m P6 P7
5	6	7	8	9
P1 P2 Art B-1 50m, RE B-2 45m P3 P4 Science Paper 2 30m P5 P6 P6 P7	P1 A Band Science Paper 2 30m P2 P3 P4 Geography 45m P5 P6 P6 P7	P1 P2 Art B-2 50m, RE B-1 50m P3 P4 P5 P6 P6 P7	P1 Spanish Writing Paper 20m P2 P3 B Band Science Paper 3 30m P4 P5 P6 P6 P7	P1 Music B-1 50m P2 P3 History 45m P4 P5 P6 P6 P7

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



Assessment title:

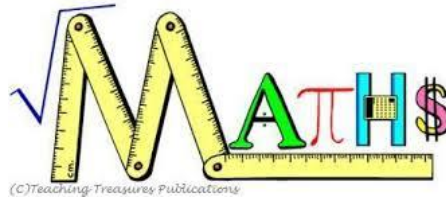
This term, your child will complete an English exam in the Hornpipe Theatre on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, which they have been studying in class since the start of the Spring term. In this exam, to mirror the new GCSE style questions, students will be asked to analyse an extract from the play and answer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

Topics being covered:

- *The Tempest*, by William Shakespeare
- The context of the Elizabethan 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 terms and vocabulary that they have learnt during their study of *The Tempest*, such as 'colonialism' and 'imperialism'. Your child will be provided with a knowledge organiser for the topic, which you can spend time testing them on in the run up to the exam. Students should also be encouraged to re-read key extracts from the play, 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 Spring 2 all students in Year 8 will sit two holistic assessment papers, each 45 minutes long. Students will be sitting either two foundations papers or two higher papers. These papers will be decided by their teacher and based on where we think the student will be most successful at this time.

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

Topics tested include:

- Types of numbers
- Prime numbers and indices
- Prime factorisation
- Use of Venn diagrams and LCM and HCF
- Addition and subtraction of fractions
- Order of operations
- Order and calculate with negative numbers
- Form and solve linear equations
- Linear sequences
- Geometry including triangles, quadrilaterals and angles in parallel lines
- Length and area
- Percentages and percentage change
- Ratio and rates of change

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 assessments each at 30 mins in length and will be conducted in exam conditions.

Whilst students will be assessed on content covered this term they will also be assessed on cumulative content covered across the course of the previous year (details of topic areas are highlighted below).

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

Topics covered this term:

1 – Physics - Energy

2 – Chemistry – Separation techniques

3 – Biology - Ecosystems

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.

Please check that students have entered any Science homework into their planners and check that this has been completed by the set deadline.

Historic year 7 & year 8 topics:

Biology – Health & lifestyle

Biology – Cells & systems

Biology – Structure & function of body systems

Biology - Reproduction

Chemistry – Reactions of the group 1, 7 & 0 elements

Chemistry – Particles & bonding

Chemistry – Elements & compounds

Chemistry – Types of reaction

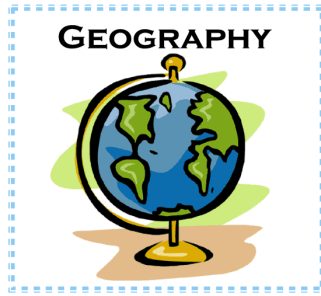
Chemistry – Chemical reactions

Physics – Electricity & magnetism

Physics – Forces

Physics – Sound

Physics – Light & sound



Students in Year 8 started the year by studying Population and Crime. During the Spring term, students will be studying Conflict and the Threats to our world, which will include Natural Hazards.

The Assessment

The assessment for Year 8 is a 45 minute written paper that covers the range of topics that students have studied since September.

Your child should revise by:

- Reading through their classwork
- Revising key concepts and important geographical concepts
- Read around the topics that we are covering in the classroom. They may find useful information on BBC Bitesize.

You can help by:

- Testing them on key concepts/words and geographical concepts
- Encouraging them to complete revision at home
- Asking them to use geographical terms to describe the world around them



How your child will be assessed:

- Time: 45 minutes for one essay and two small questions.
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan
- The assessment question and any sources used must be unseen before the 45 minutes begins

Topics covered:

- The British Empire
- The Industrial Revolution
- The Slave Trade
- Inventions from this time period

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.



How your child will be assessed:

Students will have three assessments in Spring 2 of Year 8: reading, listening and speaking. These are Ark Assessment + shared exams, which means all year 8 students in Ark schools who study Spanish will take the same assessments.

The reading and listening assessments will both be in the style of the new GCSE. The writing assessment will be an open response question as well as sentence translations.

Topics covered:

1. Holidays
2. Verb conjugation in the present and past tense.

The assessment will also cover topics covered in year 7 and the autumn term. 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. Duolingo is an excellent free site to help students learn more vocabulary and pick up grammar in context. Thank you!





How your child will be assessed:

During the spring term art students will continue and develop the theme of 'Street Art' and 'Illustration' where they will learn about graffiti, stencil design, typography and characterisation. Students will draw from direct observation as well as from their imagination when creating personal, informed and meaningful pieces whilst making artist connections to local artists like My Dog Sighs, and other street artists like Banksy. Students will work within handmade sketchbooks as well as working in small groups to design graffiti murals for the school.

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:

- Direct observational drawing
- Use and application of tone and texture
- The street artist's Banksy and My Dog Sighs.
- Letter design and public art.
- Painting and mark making.

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.



In Spring 1 we have been studying pieces of music that use Ground Bass. The students have been using the Ground Bass from Michael Nyman's *Timelapse* to compose their own piece of Music. In Spring 2 the students will be exploring the Elements of Music through Film Music. Students will look at a variety of film scores and begin to compose their own piece of film music.

How your child will be assessed:

The assessment will be based on the compositions and performances of their film music and song. They will be assessed on fluency of performance, group work and their answers to the listening questions. This will include an extended answer question and a comparison question to mirror the new GCSE.

Your child should revise by:

- Researching the topics which will be studied.
- Recognising elements of music, including notation.

You can help by:

- Discussing Film Music with them using musical vocabulary.
- Discussing your favourite film music.

