



Assessment Point 3

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 (19th June – 6th July). 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 in the same format as the last one.

Please contact l.headland@charteracademy.org.uk if you have any other queries about the assessments.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19 P1 Art: 1h (8B/8E)*, Drama: 1h (8D), Music: 1h (8A)	20 P1 Science: Paper 1 30m	21 P1	22 P1 PE: 1h (8C/8D/8E)	23 P1
P2 PE: 1h (8C/8D/8E)	P2	P2 Catering: 1h (8C), Drama: 1h (8E), Music: 1h (8D)	P2 Art: 1h (8D) Catering: 1h (8E), Drama: 1h (8A), Music: 1h (8C)	P2 RE: 1h (8C/8D), PE: 1h (8A/8B),
P3 Mathematics: 1h	P3	P3	P3 Catering: 1h (8A), Drama: 1h (8C)	P3
P4	P4 PE: 1h (8A/8B)	P4 History: 45m (8A/8B)	P4 Music: 1h (8B)	P4 Art: 1h (8A/8C)* Catering: 1h (8B)
P5	P5 Catering: 1h (8D), Drama: 1h (8B), Music: 1h (8E)	P5	P5 Science: Paper 2 30m	P5 History: 45m (8C)
P6	P6 Spanish: Writing 45m	P6 Spanish: Listening 20m/Reading 30m		
26 P1 Art: 1h (8B/8E)*, ICT: 1h (8C), Drama: 1h (8D), Music: 1h (8A)	27 P1 Science: Paper 3 30m	28 P1 English: 1h	29 P1 Geography: 1h (8A/8B), PE: 1h (8C/8D/8E)	30 P1
P2 RE: 1h (8A/8B), PE: 1h (8C/8D/8E)	P2	P2 ICT: 1h (8A), Catering: 1h (8C), Drama: 1h (8E), Music: 1h (8D)	P2 Art: 1h (8D) ICT: 1h (8B), Catering: 1h (8E), Drama: 1h (8A), Music: 1h (8C)	P2 Geography: 1h (8E), PE: 1h (8A/8B)
P3 Mathematics: 30m	P3	P3	P3 ICT: 1h (8D/8E), Catering: 1h (8A), Drama: 1h (8C)	P3
P4	P4 PE: 1h (8A/8B)	P4 Geography: 1h (8D), RE: 1h (8E)	P4 Music: 1h (8B)	P4 Art: 1h (8A/8C)* Catering: 1h (8B), NGRT: 1h (8D/8E)
P5 History: 45m (8D/8E), Geography: 1h (8C)	P5 Catering: 1h (8D), Drama: 1h (8B), Music: 1h (8E)	P5	P5	P5
P6	P6	P6		
3 P1 NGRT: 1h (8C)	4 P1	5 P1 GL English Assessment: 1h	6 P1	7
P2	P2	P2	P2 Art: 1h (8D) NGRT: 1h (8B)	
P3	P3	P3	P3	
P4	P4	P4	P4 GL Maths Assessment: 1h	
P5	P5 NGRT: 1h (8A)	P5	P5	
P6	P6	P6		

* These Art assessments will also take place during their lesson w/c 12th June

New Group Reading Test (NGRT)

Why is my child sitting this assessment?

Designed to drill down into pupil's reading and comprehension skills (including phonics where necessary), the New Group Reading Test (NGRT) reveals exactly where support is required.

With NGRT you can compare decoding skills and sentence completion against passage comprehension allowing you to identify, for instance, competent decoders with weak comprehension skills.

We know that poor literacy skills can severely limit a child's horizons. The New Group Reading Test (NGRT) allows teachers to assess reading and comprehension skills benchmarked against the national average and monitor progress.

The ability to compare sentence completion scores alongside passage comprehension scores allows teachers to identify differences between a pupil's decoding and comprehension skills - vital insight for helping to get literacy levels up.

How will my child be assessed?

The test is made up of two parts: sentence completion, which measures decoding with some element of comprehension; and passage comprehension, which measures a range of comprehension skills of increasing difficulty.

The first reading comprehension passage is based on the pupil's performance in the sentence completion section.

Pupils with weak reading will see the phonics test. This would include secondary age pupils with delayed reading.

GL Maths Assessment (PTM) and English Assessment (PTE)

Why is my child sitting this assessment?

Given the recent curriculum and assessment changes it is important that we ensure our assessment of students' achievement is accurate. As a trusted and robust assessment; the new standardisation for *PTE* and *PTM* is based on 85,000 pupils.

As well as making it easy for us to measure progress reliably in the wake of recent curriculum changes, the *Progress Test Series (PT Series)* in English and maths delivers a detailed, accurate, and clear picture of each pupil's attainment and progress. This allows teachers to identify where students are underperforming in relation to their peers (using a much larger sample than just students attending an Ark school) which will enable them to tailor their teaching to fully meet students' needs.

How will my child be assessed?

English Assessment (PTE) assesses students' technical English skills (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and reading comprehension. This is assessed using 1 written paper.

Maths Assessment (PTM) monitors students' mathematical skills and knowledge, in areas such as number, shape, data handling and algebra. This is assessed using 1 written paper.



Skills covered this term:

Students have been studying *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, which is the first modern text they have studied this year. Pupils have been developing their reading with a focus on evaluating the writer's purpose and message by looking at the impact of the speeches on the animals. They have been also exploring the concept of an allegory and will demonstrate their mastery of the key features of an allegory.

Alongside this students have been working on their writing skills in lessons focussed on technical accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar, using sophisticated vocabulary and structuring texts in a clear and interesting way.

How your child will be assessed:

Students will complete an exam in the Hornpipe Theatre as they did just before the Christmas break. 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 both reading and writing. Students will have 1 hour to complete the test in exam conditions.

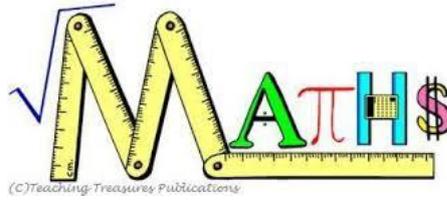
The grade awarded for this test will make up 1/3 of their overall end of year grade. The remaining 2/3 of their grade will be an amalgamation of their literary heritage assessment (taken in Autumn 2) and their Shakespeare assessment (taken in Spring 2).

Your child should revise by:

- Reading through their classwork.
- Revising key terms they have learnt in their study of *Animal Farm* i.e. allegory.
- Learn the difficult vocabulary they are introduced to in class i.e. tyrant.
- Re-read the text itself.

How you can help your child at home:

- Testing them on their key terms in their books
- Reading through Animal Farm with them. Discuss the meanings of the whole text and individual words.



How your child will be assessed:

In Summer 2 all students in Year 8 will sit two holistic assessment papers. The first is the same for all Year 8 students and is a one hour calculator paper. Students will then either sit a consolidation paper or an extension paper. Both of these exams are 30 minutes and also non-calculator.

All the exams cover content covered over the course of the year, as well as content from Year 7.

Topics tested include:

- The four operations including estimating
- Place value
- Types of number
- Negative numbers
- Fractions
- Percentages
- Geometry including angle facts and 2D shapes, constructions and 3D shapes
- Area, perimeter and volume
- Order of operations
- Rearranging algebraic expressions and solving equations
- Simple algebra including simplifying algebraic expressions, formulae and substitution
- Charts and graphs
- Averages

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 entire 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:

New summer content:

1. Adaptation and inheritance
2. Metals and acids
3. Motion & pressure

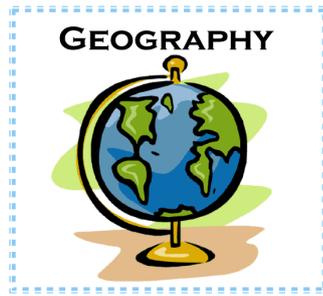
Cumulative content:

1. Ecosystems processes: photosynthesis, respiration and interdependence
2. Health and lifestyle: drugs and digestion
3. The Periodic table
4. Separation techniques
5. Energy
6. Electricity and magnetism
7. Forces (Yr7)
8. Cells (Yr7)
9. Particles (Yr7)

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.



This year in Geography we have been studying the population dynamics that govern our world, the geography of crime, the Asian continent and river processes. They have looked at various topics such as migration, population policies, designing out crime and human impacts on a drainage basin.

The assessment:

The assessment will focus on content we have been studying since September. It will be divided into 7 sections which will include topics on: population, crime and conflict, Asia and river processes. The assessment will follow the same structure as the new GCSE papers. There will be a series of written questions in which students will be expected to describe, explain and evaluate a variety of geographical concepts.

Your child should revise by:

- Reading through their classwork
- Revising key concepts and geographical processes
- Reading around the topics that we are covering in class

You can help by:

- Testing them on key terms and geographical concepts
- Encouraging them to complete revision at home, even it is a YouTube video
- Asking them to use geographical terms to describe the world around them



How your child will be assessed:

- Time: 45 minutes for one essay
- 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:

- Abolition of the slave trade in Britain
- Empire
- Industrialisation
- Conquest of other countries

How you can help your child at home:

You can help your child to revise using the revision materials 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 Summer 2 of Year 8: listening, reading and writing.

The listening will last 20 minutes and will be completed in the same exam session as the reading test, which lasts 30 minutes. The writing assessment will be completed separately and lasts for 45 minutes, including an open response question and translation.

All of these assessments will be in the style of the new GCSE to in order to best prepare them.

Topics covered:

New summer content: House and home

1. Where you live
2. Rooms in the house
3. Furniture and prepositions

Cumulative content:

4. Holidays (including preterite tense)
5. Town
6. Food

How you can help your child at home:

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/>. 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. Thank you!





This year in Art students will study the theme 'Illustration' where they will learn about typography, characterisation, graphics and product design. Students will present a personal, informed and meaningful final piece at the end of the spring term, making artist connections to illustrative artists like Paul Thurlby. In the summer term students will create two sculptures. The first one of these will be constructed using card and will teach students how to transfer a two dimensional design into a three dimensional form. Students will then create a clay coaster using their two dimensional letter design by carving it into a clay tile and adding lines and patterns.

The assessment:

The four areas of assessment in Art are based on the AQA GCSE strands in order to give students the confidence and enthusiasm to consider Art as an exciting GCSE option. They are contextual studies, use of materials, recording ideas and a final piece. Students' class work and home work is assessed throughout the year based levels of effort and the success criteria. The project is 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

- The artists Paul Thurlby, Si Scott and Robert Indiana.
- The street artist's Banksy and My Dog Sighs.
- Letter design and illustration.
- Sculpture and form using card and clay.

Your child should study by:

- Working on their homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- Practising observational drawing to improve their skill and capability.
- Attending school interventions when needed.

You can help by:

- 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.



How your child will be assessed

Year 8 students are assessed in a practical environment where they demonstrate the skills they have learnt throughout the term on the different activities covered. The recipes are designed so that pupils acquire further skills and techniques in food preparation, with greater emphasis placed on finishing techniques for food presentation.

Students will also complete a multiple choice and short answer exam paper to demonstrate their knowledge of the areas covered this term.

Your child should revise by:

- Practising their practical skills such as knife skills outside of lesson time.
- Revise the safety rules within a kitchen and the key rules for a healthy diet

You can help by:

- Helping them revise the safety rules within a kitchen and the key rules for a healthy diet. BBC Bitesize has some helpful videos in the Food Technology section.



This term in Music we have been studying Film Music and Song Writing. The students will be required to compose a short piece of film music and a song. They can use keyboards and other instruments. They will listen and respond to a variety of film music and age appropriate songs as a stimulus. They will be required to perform, compose and answer listening questions as part of the assessment.

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:

- Practicing the lyrics at home, with emphasis on performing in time to a beat.
- Recognising elements of music, including notation.

You can help by:

- Listening to their lyrics and helping them stay in time.
- Discussing film and television music with them using musical vocabulary
- Discussing your favourite songs/music

