



Assessment Point 3

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 (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 w.brombley@charteracademy.org.uk if you have any other queries about the assessments.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19	20	21	22	23
P1 P2 Spanish: Writing 45m P3 P4 P5 P6	P1 Mathematics: Paper 1 1h P2 P3 Art: 2 hours P4 RE: Paper 1 1h, Computer Sci: 2x30m, French: Writing 45m P5 P6	P1 P2 Science: Paper 1 30m P3 Art: 2 hours P4 P5 P6	P1 P2 P3 English: Writing 1h P4 P5 Spanish: Listening 20m/ Reading 30m	P1 History: Paper 1* 1h15m, Geog: Paper 1* 1h30m P2 P3 P4 P5
26	27	28	29	30
P1 Science: Paper 2 30m P2 P3 P4 P5 P6	P1 Mathematics: Paper 2 1h P2 P3 Art: 2 hours, PE: 1h P4 RE: Paper 2 1h, Drama 1h, Computer Sci: 2x30m, Listening 20m/ Reading 30m P5 P6	P1 P2 Science: Paper 3 30m P3 Art: 2 hours Classics: 1h30m, PE: 1h P4 Music: 1h, Business: 1h P5 P6	P1 P2 P3 English: Reading 1h P4 P5	P1 History: Paper 2* 1h20m, Geog: Paper 2* 1h30m P2 P3 P4 P5
3	4	5	6	7
P1 P2 NGRT: 9- Dickens, 9 - Doyle P3 P4 P5 P6	P1 NGRT: 9-Kipling, 9-Wells P2 P3 Art: 2 hours P4 P5 P6	P1 P2 GL Maths Assessment: 1h P3 Art: 2 hours P4 P5 P6	P1 P2 P3 GL English Assessment: 1h P4 P5	

* These assessments start at 8.50am students should go straight to their History or Geography classroom

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 covered reading, writing and speaking and listening skills consistently over the past term. In lessons focused on reading skills, this has included basic comprehension, inferred meanings and tracking the development of themes and characters across a text. Writing skills include lessons focussed on technical accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar, using sophisticated vocabulary and structuring texts in a clear and interesting way. Speaking and listening skills have been covered in the presentations that students have delivered in class based upon their homework projects.

N.B. 9A have been focussing more heavily on reading skills in their Gifted and Talented course so they will focus on writing skills in the week preceding the writing mock exam in the Hornpipe Theatre so that they are fully prepared for it.

How these skills will be assessed this term:

Students will complete an exam in the Hornpipe Theatre (if available) as they did just before the Christmas break. This exam will require them to respond to a question which tests their writing skills. The students will be given this question the day before so that they have time to plan their response ahead of the exam; this process reflects the demands of the new GCSEs and has been created to prepare students for these demands as well as possible. The level awarded in this test will make up 33% of their end of term level which will be reported before the Easter break. The other 66% will be weighted equally between in-class assessments completed in both reading and writing over the past term.

How you can help your child at home:

As always, please encourage your child to read extensively and ensure that they are exposed to a wide variety of both fiction and non-fiction texts; this is the best way to improve their vocabulary, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Also, please encourage your child to plan for their writing exam which will be given to them towards the end of this half term



How your child will be assessed:

In Summer 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 calculator paper. Students will then either sit a consolidation paper or an extension paper. Both of these exams are also one hour and are non-calculator.

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

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
- Ratio and proportion
- Quadratic equations
- Inequalities
- Probability
- Trigonometry

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](https://www.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:

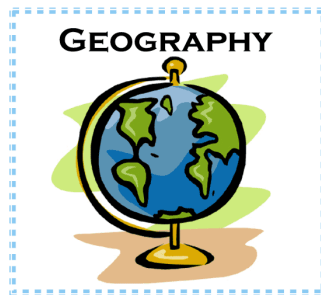
1. Ecology: adaptation, interdependence and competition
2. Bioenergetics: photosynthesis
3. Bonding: ionic
4. Bonding covalent
5. Waves: properties including sound
6. Waves: electromagnetic

Cumulative content:

1. Cell biology: structure
2. Cell biology: transport
3. Organisation: animals the digestion system
4. Bioenergetics: respiration
5. Atomic structure and separating techniques
6. The periodic table
7. Quantitative (equations and formulae)
8. Energy transfer by heating
9. 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.



This term in Geography we are learning from the new GCSE specification. We started in the Autumn Term by looking at tectonic processes and climate, and since Christmas we have covered a wide range of topics, such as population and energy resources. These topics allow the students to further improve their knowledge that they have gain in years 7 and 8.

How your child will be assessed:

Their assessment will focus on content we have been studying since September. It will therefore include topics on: Tectonics, Climate, Ecosystems, Population Dynamics and Energy Resources.

The assessment will follow the same structure as the new GCSE papers. There will be sections for human and physical geography. There will be a series of written questions in which students will be expected to describe, explain and evaluate the concepts they have studied this year.

Your child should revise by:

- Reading through their classwork.
- BBC GCSE bitesize website
- Revising key processes and interactions
- Completing Revision Homework activities

You can help by:

- Encouraging them to revise
- Purchasing a revision guide for the (9-1) Edexcel B Geography specification to help with revision



How your child will be assessed:

Students will have four assessments in Summer 2 of Year 9: listening, speaking, 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. The students will be given an appointment to attend for their speaking assessment which will be a 5 minute general conversation.

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: Body and Health

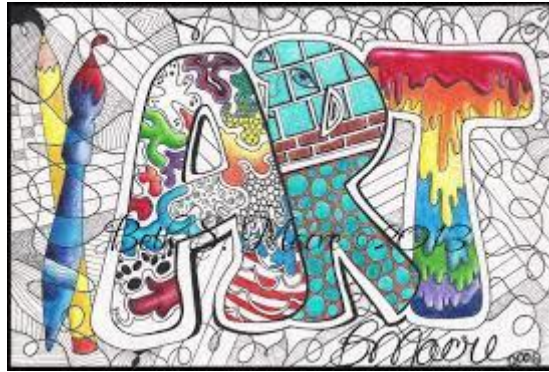
1. Body
2. At the doctor's (illnesses, treatments etc.)
3. Healthy lifestyle (diet, sport and exercise)

Cumulative content:

4. Leisure: Free time, clothes and food
5. Relationships and descriptions
6. Technology

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 are producing their first unit of coursework based on the theme 'Food'. Students are following the AQA GCSE specification where coursework is 60% of the GCSE. Students were introduced to the topic in the Autumn Term by researching a range of artists as part of their contextual studies. They then went on to explore the recording element of the assessment; drawing from primary and secondary sources in a range of materials learning control and manipulation of styles and techniques. In the Spring Term students explored their own ideas as well as consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the theme and a variety of artist approaches. This term we are focusing on design ideas for a final piece which should be a personal response to the theme that shows links to the work of others as well as refining student's ideas and use of materials.

The assessment:

There are four elements to the Art GCSE assessment, contextual studies, use of materials, recording ideas and the final piece. Students' work is assessed throughout the year and culminates in a mock exam held at the end of the year. The Art mock exam is held within the classroom but will follow normal exam conditions in which students are expected to produce their final piece.

Areas of study include

- The artists Sarah Graham, Wayne Thiebaud and Nancy Standlee
- Student's choice of contemporary artists from the paper provided and internet searches.
- Primary source drawings from themes surrounding 'Food'.
- Design ideas that incorporate areas of research, artist links and the theme itself.

Your child should study by:

- Working on their sketchbooks at home on a regular basis to refine and complete class work tasks.
- Practising observational drawing to improve their skill and capability.

- Designing and creating personal ideas for a final piece.
- Attending school interventions wherever possible and when needed.

You can help by:

- Providing a suitable area for students to work at home.
- Encouraging and reminding students to work on their sketchbook on a weekly basis.
- Praising students for their commitment and achievements.
- Looking through sketchbook work with students and discussing ideas.



What has been covered in the term:

Students have been covering a variety of key business topics this term, mainly focussing on recruitment and operations management. These are the final topics that cover the knowledge required and students will now begin to apply this knowledge in an exam context before starting their coursework in year 10.

What the assessment covers:

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

- Ownership Types
- Stakeholders
- Marketing
- Basic financial calculations
- Production
- Human Resources

Nature of the Assessment:

The assessment for this term will be a full mock exam. This will 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 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 Project (Controlled Assessment) and four written exam papers. The exam papers cover both 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
- Computer memory and storage
- Moral, Legal, Environmental concerns of Computer Science
- Computer Science Legislation
- Computational Logic – Boolean logic, Boolean operators
- Algorithms – computational thinking, binary / denary conversions, flowcharts
- Data Representation – data structures, data types
- 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.



How your child will be assessed:

The assessment for Year 9 ECDL will cover all the aspects undertaken throughout the year and will take the form of an on-line / software based test. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and competence of core software components including presentation, spreadsheet and word processing.

Topics covered:

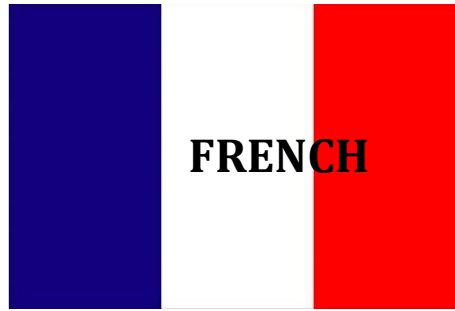
The students' assessment will be based on the work they have been undertaking in class. This includes the following topics:

- Presentation Software - use a range of basic presentation software tools, be able to create text based or diagram based slide shows and lecture notes.
- Spreadsheet Software - use a range of basic spreadsheet software tools and techniques to produce spreadsheets.
- Word processing Software - use a range of basic word processing software tools and techniques to produce appropriate, straightforward or routine documents.
- Improving Productivity using IT - plan, evaluate and improve procedures involving the use of IT.

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 four assessments in Summer 2 of Year 9: listening, speaking, 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. The students will be given an appointment to attend for their speaking assessment which will be a 5 minute general conversation.

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: Body and Health

1. Body
2. At the doctor's (illnesses, treatments etc.)
3. Healthy lifestyle (diet, sport and exercise)

Cumulative content:

4. Relationships: friends, family and descriptions
5. Food
6. Holidays
7. Grammar, including the past tense

How you can help your child at home:

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 or watch TV shows or films or access the BBC French website which has lots of resources <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/>. You have been sent a letter by Mrs Paston, the French teacher which gives more details on how to support your child at home, such as by using the revision guides and workbooks which have been provided for them and specific websites to use.



Skills covered this term:

This term, pupils have been developing their skills and analysing how meaning is created in moving image. They have looked at a variety of science fiction films to study key concepts and how media language is used to convey genre. They have also started to identify the companies and organisations involved in creating, distributing and regulating media. In practical lessons students have been applying this knowledge to design and evaluate their own specific media texts such as storyboarding, scripting, selection and editing.

How these skills will be assessed this term:

Students are studying various science fiction films to practice exam style questions. Towards the end of this half term pupils will complete a mock GCSE exam, which will be marked and graded against the AQA GCSE criteria. Students will be provided with Preliminary material before the exam, which will take the form of a brief detailing a contextualized scenario. Students are expected to extend and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of science fiction films by completing independent research and preparation in response to the given brief. In the examination students will be required to complete four tasks.

How you can help your child at home:

Outside of class, please encourage students to engage with a wide variety of Media forms to study key concepts and how media language is used to convey genre. This might include films, newspaper articles, websites, music and advertisements. Also, please encourage your child to research and plan for their mock exam using the Preliminary material, which will be given to them before their exam towards the end of this term.



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. This term we are focusing on melody writing, theme and variations and will move on to adding harmony.

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.

Pieces to revise include

- Music for Stage and Screen- Star Wars IV - A New Hope
- Defying Gravity – from Wicked
- Esperanza Spalding – Samba Em Preludio

Your child should revise by:

- Practicing their performance 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 – 10/15 minutes a day will make a huge difference.
- Testing them on music terminology

