

## Examinations

At Ark Charter Academy, we believe that providing students with the opportunity to gain qualifications is a fundamental part of preparing students for the next steps in their education and learning. Qualifications provide the currency which will open doors to future life opportunities and are the fruition of studying the curriculum at Charter.

Students sit public examinations in May/June of Year 11 when they take their General Certificate of Secondary Education across a range of subjects. All students will sit GCSE examinations in English, Maths, Science, a Humanities subject and then further option subjects which they have studied during Key Stage 4. For many of these subjects students will sit more than one exam paper. The full list of examinations that students can sit at Charter Academy and the number of papers taken is shown below.

Qualification	Subject	Number of papers	Practical component
GCSE	English Language	2	Spoken Endorsement
GCSE	English Literature	2	
GCSE	Mathematics	3	
GCSE	Combined Science	6	
GCSE	Biology	2	
GCSE	Chemistry	2	
GCSE	Physics	2	
GCSE	Spanish	4	
GCSE	French	4	
GCSE	History	3	
GCSE	Geography	3	
GCSE	Art & Design	1	Portfolio 60%
GCSE	Classical Civilisation	2	
GCSE	Computer Science	2	
GCSE	Drama	1	NEA 60%
GCSE	Media Studies	2	NEA 30%
GCSE	Music	1	NEA 60%
GCSE	Physical Education	2	NEA 40%
GCSE	Religious Studies	3	
L1/L2 Technical Award	Business & Enterprise	1	Synoptic Project 60%
L1/L2 Technical Award	Health & Fitness	1	Synoptic Project 60%
L1/L2 Vocational Award	Hospitality & Catering	1	

At Charter we recognise the importance of thoroughly preparing students for public examinations so that they can attain the higher grades enabling them to go onto the courses of their choice in one of the local colleges, where they can then progress onto university or the world of work upon completion of school at age 18.

To ensure correct preparedness we have 2 full mock examination periods for pupils in Year 11. These examinations are sat under full examination conditions with external invigilators and unseen papers. In the weeks before these mock examination periods students practice important revision skills with a clear focus on knowledge retrieval and rehearsal. Students are shown how to write a revision timetable so that they schedule periods of revising using the principles of spaced practice and interleaving.

Each subject provides students with revision materials which are a combination of revision guides and online learning sites such as Hegarty Maths, Tassomai and Seneca Learning.

Pupils in Year 11 are expected to spend extra time at the academy out of normal school hours to fully prepare for upcoming examinations. Parents can support this by reinforcing the importance of attendance at these days and workshops, as well as supporting their child to make full use of their revision timetables.

As a result of sitting two periods of mock examinations students are able to practice and become familiar with the strict routines required for examinations. There is a full scripted What to Do that is followed for setting up exams, student entry in to the exam hall, behaviour and conduct during the exam and the processes after the exam is completed.

Students and parents are provided with a booklet that outlines the JCQ rules and regulations that apply in the examinations.

At Charter we recognizes that students with additional learning needs will require more specific exam arrangements. Charter conducts exam arrangement assessments for all students with additional needs using qualified professionals to make these assessments. Where exam access arrangements are needed, such as access to a reader, a scribe or additional time, these are provided by the examinations officer in conjunction with the SENDCO.

The final summer examination series starts in May 2020 for written exams, but some pupils will be completing practical elements under exam conditions from as early as January. A full examination timetable is available on the academy website.

For younger year groups summative assessments are often held in the examination hall although it is not possible to sit all assessments in the hall. For Year 10 students the academy will ensure that they sit their English and Maths summative assessments in the exam hall in preparation for when they enter Year 11 and formal preparation occurs for GCSE examinations.

A timetable for when summative assessments are held is given within the academy's Assessment Policy.