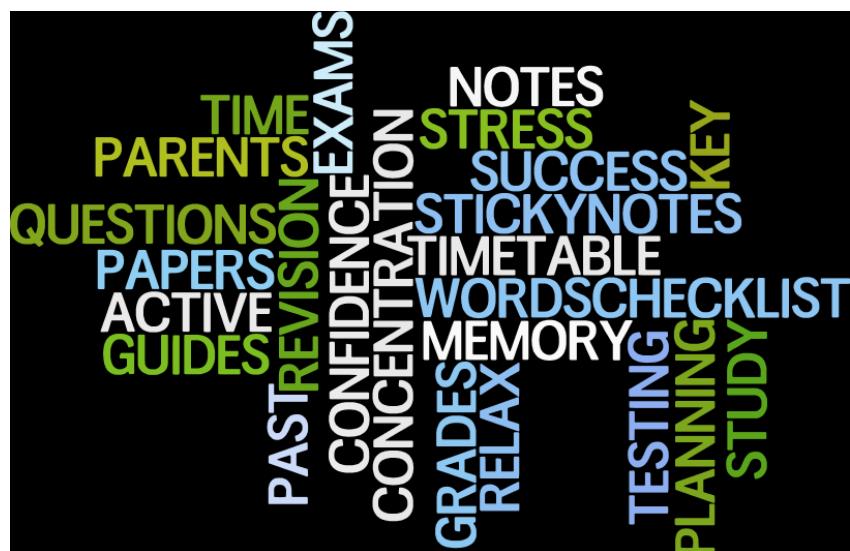




GCSEs 2026

Advice and Guidance Parents and Students



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1) How to use this booklet

Do

- ✓ Flick through the booklet to see what each of the sections is about.
- ✓ Try out any new ideas that appeal to you and don't be afraid to change the new ideas to suit you.
- ✓ Add any new ideas to the ways you already have for revising
- ✓ Try out the new ideas when you get bogged down with your revision.
- ✓ Keep this booklet in a handy place throughout your revision and dip into it from time to time to give your revision a boost.
- ✓ Have a pen or highlighter handy as you are reading and highlight the ideas you like as you go along.
- ✓ Start by thinking about the areas of revision you would like some help with. You will get given some information from your subjects to help with this. Most subjects will carry out question level analysis to direct revision sessions. Some you will also have personalised learning checklists which you can use to help.

Don't

- ✗ Stop using any of your own methods if they have worked for you in the past.
- ✗ Read the booklet through from start to finish.

How can this booklet help?

- ✓ Boost your confidence
- ✓ Give you lots of ideas about how to revise
- ✓ Help you make the most of your time

1) Doing your revision

Active or passive revision?

- Active revision means involving your eyes, ears and hands in a variety of ways. Revising actively is the best way to make sense of the material you're revising and also helps you to remember it.
- Active methods of revision include: writing revision notes, reading notes aloud, recording key points onto your phone, discussing topics with a friend, testing yourself, getting others to test you, rewriting notes, doing examples, trying past exam papers and using revision websites. Use as many of these methods as you find useful.
- Revision Notes: Hints – As you become more familiar with a topic your notes should become more concise, they should be used more as triggers to remind you and enhance your memory not just pages and pages of information. Try to make use of revision ideas we have shown you like, flash cards, mind maps or self-quizzing
- Passively reading through your notes and books is a very poor method of revision. It doesn't help you to understand or remember what you are revising. Don't just sit there reading page after page until you get bored!
- Find out what your preferred way of revising is and use techniques that will help you to remember more effectively.

Fill up the tank!

- Revising burns a lot of energy so it's important to eat properly and regularly.
- If you need to snack whilst working try eating fruit or nuts rather than fatty foods.
- Drink water rather than fizzy drinks which are full of sugar.

Did you know?

Your brain uses 20% of all your body's energy.



2) Revision timetable hints and tips

- Get some paper and some different coloured pens. A ruler might help, too, if you want to make a table rather than a list.
- Make a revision timetable – it helps you to feel in control and prioritise those areas which you are least familiar with. It is tempting to revise those things that you know really well, however it is important to work on those weaknesses and try to turn them into strengths. When making a revision timetable think carefully about your strengths and weaknesses.
- Display your timetable. This will reduce pressure from family and reduce your stress levels.
- List all the subjects you do and break them down into sub-categories. English Literature, for example, may be broken down into the different books you are studying and then further into chapters/themes/quotes etc. Highlight or circle the different subjects using different colours.
- Mix your subjects up. Don't put all your nightmare subjects on one day, and the ones you like on another day.
- The best thing to do with revision is little and often. Breaking it down into smaller “chunks” to make it manageable and rewarding yourself for the successes. From the information evening we showed you how the use of “interleaving” is an excellent way of supporting our memory. Look into keeping your revision manageable with smaller chunks revisited at different points.
- Make sure you write down any other commitments you have e.g. a job, lessons, meeting or social events and build this into your revision timetables. It is important to exercise and to have rewards to maintain your motivation.
- Decide what times you work best and put the tasks that require more energy or concentration during your optimum times.
- When putting the rest of your revision into your diary or table, put times down and make sure you start each day reasonably early.

- Start your day off with something you know you can accomplish. This will give you motivation for the rest of the day. Make sure the next slot is something heavier so you don't put off your worst subjects until the end.
- It has been said the optimum concentration time is 32 minutes so keep this in mind when deciding how long each session should last.
- Give yourself regular breaks. If when doing your revision, you are doing well, you can always decide to keep going.
- Cross things off as you do them because it will give you a sense of accomplishment.
- Be realistic about what you can achieve but remember it is all about trial and error. Even if it isn't as successful you can always adjust your timetable.
- When you are drawing your timetable, draw one with just the subjects you have to revise and then draw another one with which topics within each subject to revise (e.g. angles, periodic table, etc.). This way you have a quick table and one, which is more precise, detailed and focused!
- Don't spend ages making your timetable look pretty. If you are a perfectionist and having a messy timetable will unnerve you, make it look clean and tidy.
- The most important thing – don't panic.



When to Revise? What to Revise? How to Revise?

Plan revision time by subject - stick to it.

Mindmapping, PPQs, Note Reading, Revision Card Making, Self-tests, Collaborative Work,

General Revision Materials that Oldbury Wells students have access to in class and through our subscriptions to things like GCSEpod.

GCSE Pod

Accessing the information is easy with your current Oldbury Wells login (first name.surname@oldburywells.com)

Click Forgotten Login Details and a new password is sent to your inbox.

GCSE Pod offers a wide of podcasts for all subjects, including maths and both language and literature qualifications in English. Many of our students have made use of GCSE Pod already and have greatly benefitted from it.

This is a massively underused resources, there are literally thousands of 'PODs' available which support learners to make notes and learn in bite size chunks. This is an excellent way to revise and test yourself through the multitude of short quizzes available. Remember, revision methods such as making general notes, Flashcards are important but it's equally important to test yourself on the content. Forcing you to recall the knowledge into your working memory and helping it cement in your long term memory.

Youtube

Most of us know Youtube has plenty of 'tragic' videos on. However there is a wealth of videos out there that are fabulous to help understand difficult concepts.

The difficult part is staying focussed on the task in hand.

Just a Quick Search in Google for the Subject, the Exam board and GCSE - away you go.

For English language and literature qualifications we thoroughly recommend Mr Bruff's YouTube channel. We were fortunate to have Mr Bruff visit us last year and his videos have been invaluable in helping students to prepare for their English exams.

How to Use Flashcards and Self-Quizzing for Effective Revision

Why Use These Strategies?

Flashcards and self-quizzing are two of the most powerful ways to revise. Both methods help you **actively retrieve knowledge** from memory rather than just re-reading notes. This makes information “stick” for much longer and improves exam performance.

1. Flashcards

What They Are

Flashcards are small cards with a **question or keyword on one side** and the **answer or definition on the other**.

Example:

- Front: *What is photosynthesis?*
- Back: *The process by which plants make food using sunlight, water and carbon dioxide.*

How to Make Flashcards

1. Keep each card short and clear – one question or fact per card.
2. Make sure you’re using the correct information from your class notes or knowledge organiser.
3. Write clearly so you can read it at a glance.
4. Use colour to separate subjects or topics (e.g. blue for science, red for English).
5. Create your flashcards as soon as you finish a topic in class.

How to Use Flashcards – The Leitner System

This system helps you **focus more on the cards you find difficult**.

1. Start with all cards in Box 1.
2. Go through the cards:
 - If you get it **right**, move it to the next box.
 - If you get it **wrong**, keep it in Box 1 (or move it back there).
3. Review boxes on different days:
 - Box 1 – every day
 - Box 2 – every two days
 - Box 3 – every three days
 - Box 4 – every four days

The result: you practise difficult cards more often and review easy ones less often.

2. Self-Quizzing

What It Is

Self-quizzing means testing yourself from memory rather than just reading. It’s similar to the “look-cover-write-check” method.

How to Self-Quiz

1. Read a short section of your notes, knowledge organiser or revision guide.
2. **Cover** it up.
3. **Write down everything** you can remember.
4. **Check** what you wrote against the notes.
5. With a **different colour pen**, correct mistakes or fill in anything you missed.
6. Make a note of topics you struggled with and revisit them later.

Tips for Success

- Aim for short, regular sessions rather than long cramming periods.
- Mix topics from different subjects to help your memory adapt.
- Focus more on what you find difficult.
- Try studying with a friend and test each other.
- Keep practising — every time you recall information, you strengthen it!

Summary

Flashcards and **self-quizzing** are about *active recall* — making your brain work to remember information. Used regularly, these methods make revision more efficient, less stressful and much more effective.

English Language and Literature: A Guide for students and parents

Revision and home learning guide for Linear June exams

Advice to students and parents

Resources available

A variety of resources will be provided to ensure that every student is fully prepared for the Language and Literature exams.

Resource 1: Mock exams and teacher feedback

Students have taken two mock exams as part of their preparation for the actual exam. Students will be provided with individualised and whole class feedback based on their performance in the weeks following the exams.

Resource 2: Previous and sample examination papers

Students will be given copies of past paper and sample examination papers, as well as teacher produced materials which will be the main focus of classroom revision in the weeks prior to the examination.

Resource 3: – Web based revision sites

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zxqncwx>
(Literature)

<https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zcbchv4> (Language)

This is an excellent free site website which includes video lessons for all set texts, including: short, informative video clips; small test bites; extended explanations and sample exam-style questions.

Mr Bruff's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff>

A former English teacher and specialist with specifically tailored videos to suit the AQA English language and literature exams.

Purchasable resources

Copies of set texts: Macbeth, An Inspector Calls, A Christmas Carol,

Frankenstein, Romeo and Juliet, Merchant of Venice, Julius Caesar

GCP Revision Guides: All of the above plus Power & Conflict Poetry and

Unseen Poetry

York Notes Revision Guides

Useful information

The qualification consists of 2 papers per qualification. Each paper contributes to 50% of the overall grade. There is **no** higher/foundation tier separation.

- **English Literature Paper 1** (Shakespeare/pre 1900 novel) **1h45m**
- **English Literature Paper 2** (An Inspector Calls & Poetry/Unseen Poetry) **2h15m**
- **English Language Paper 1** (Fiction & Creative Writing) **1h45m**
- **English Language Paper 2** (Non-fiction & Writing for a Purpose) **1h45m**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

What can parents do to help?

- Encourage rather than push.
- Help structure the revision so time is not wasted.
- Encourage reading for pleasure to expand imagination and develop vocabulary.
- Test your child on key quotes linked to set texts. Make use of flash cards. (Revisit the PowerPoint from the evening if needed or make use of the information earlier in the booklet.)
- Purchase your child their own copies of the set texts to allow them to annotate.

What should my child be doing?

- Practice makes perfect – creative writing and extracting information from texts.
- Seek out novel extracts or short stories to broaden your horizons.
- Re-read your set texts.
- Learn from mistakes – use the mock exams to identify the topics that need improving.
- Listen to the advice given by teachers – even if they do not like it!
- Help their teachers, by letting them know what topics they need help with and what makes them difficult.
- Make the most of the revision resources available.
- Do not waste lesson time.

Contact email: sally.lawson@oldburywells.com

GCSE Mathematics: A Guide for students and parents

Resources available

Resource 1: Mathswatch - <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

Mathswatch is an internet based resource that requires a username and password. Students have all been provided with a personal login which will allow them to view videos and attempt practice exam questions on all topics.

Resource 2: Mock exams and teacher feedback

Students will complete 2 sets of three mock papers as part of their preparation for the actual exam. Students will complete review sheets for each paper which give them a clear picture of their specific topics of weakness. These should form the focus of their revision.

Resource 3: Practice exam papers

Students will be given copies of practice exam papers which they can work through as an important part of their revision and exam preparation.

Resource 4: – Web based revision sites

There are now many fantastic, free to use maths revision sites, including the 3 below.

Hegarty Maths - <http://www.hegartymaths.com/>

This is an excellent free site website which includes video lessons for all GCSE topics. In addition it has video explanations to a number of old examination papers.

M4ths.com- <http://www.m4ths.com/the-best-cd-borderline-page-ever.html>

This website has lots of videos with explanations about topics as well as C/D grade questions to try.

Mr Barton's Maths - <http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/gcse.htm>

This site has links to past exam papers and mark schemes, as well as written solutions for many. It also has some notes about topics as well as questions sorted by topic.

Purchasable resources

Revision guides and workbooks are available to buy from lots of places including amazon and WH Smith. It is a good idea to choose one which is specifically for the Edexcel syllabus and you should check whether you need a foundation or higher guide before buying.

It is essential that your son/daughter has their own scientific calculator. We recommend Casio scientific calculators. It is important that they have a scientific calculator to bring to maths lessons now, so that they can learn how to make best use of it before the exams.

Useful information

The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

- Paper 1 (Non-calculator)
- Paper 2 (Calculator)
- Paper 3 (Calculator)

Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long

What can parents do to help?

- Encourage them not to give up. Confidence plays such an important role in maths, and many students decide early on that they “can’t do maths”.
- If you aren’t sure how to help them, point them in the direction of one of the many online resources that are available.
- Encourage them to plan their time effectively, scheduling in regular slots for maths revision.

What should my child be doing?

- Making the most of lesson time. Year 11s have 9 hours of Maths lessons each fortnight and from now on, most of this will be spent on revision and exam practice.
- Practice makes perfect! The best way to revise Maths is to practice it, by completing lots of questions and papers. When they get stuck, they should then revise the particular topic using their Maths book, revision guide or suggested websites until they can do that question.
- Learn from mistakes – use the mock exams to identify the topics that need improving and focus on those.
- Help their teachers, by letting them know what topics they need help with and what makes them difficult.
- Start now. The Maths GCSE covers a huge amount of content and is entirely tested by exam. It will take time to revisit each topic and then practice exam technique.

Contact email: john.kiapene@oldburywells.com

GCSE Sciences: A Guide for students and parents

Revision and home learning guide for Linear June exams

Advice to students and parents

Science revision classes

We offer session 3 times per week- After school on Monday, Wednesday lunchtime and after school on Friday. We are unable to offer them all at lunchtimes due to staffing and the need to provide revision time in all subjects. If your child is unable to attend resources are usually shared on Satchel One so they don't miss out completely.

Science Revision Revolution

We explicitly teach evidence-based revision strategies to our students. We also have weekly targeted past paper questions in all 3 Science areas. These have been selected specifically based on areas the learners have struggled with in the last mock or end of topic test, and areas we know from experience are challenging for learners. It is imperative that all learners arrive promptly to lessons to ensure they get the most from this experience.

Resources available

A variety of resources will be provided to ensure that every student is fully prepared for the Triple Science and Combined Science papers. These should be used to complement the work covered in class and will allow students to tailor their efforts to their own individual needs.

Resource 1: Mock exams and teacher feedback

Students have taken a mock paper in each subject as part of their preparation for the actual exam. Students should revisit mock papers and end of topic tests and attempt questions again based on individual feedback indicating topics of weakness that need to be the focus of their own revision. A good starting point is to identify topics where you scored low and focus revision on these topics. Every student has had time in class to complete a reflection and do some directed improvement work for all assessments so should have a record of areas for development (See below)

Assessment: Mock exam Paper 1
Grade: 9

Score	Score	What went well	Even better if
11/14	11/14	Graphs Understanding tables	Type of drug decrease cholesterol now a heart works
8/14	8/14	Cells Identifying organs	Pancreas digestive enzymes (6 markers)
11/12	11/12	6 marker - chemical Interpreting tables	Dried + starch practical lungs -> oxygen travel
5/12	12	Parts of a leaf	Xylem tissue Phloem tissue Very poor wedge on this
8/11	11	6 marker - interpreting graph - Potatoes	Concentration gradient Of potatoes plateau result
8/8	8	Viruses + antibiotics	nothing
7	Photosynthesis Effects of temp		iodine

Students will be provided with Knowledge organisers and mind map starters for all Science topics as well as information on required practicals via Sharepoint

Resource 2: Previous and sample examination papers

Specimen papers are available on the AQA web site (<https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>). There are a number of papers available for each Science subject. Last years Science papers are not yet available on the web site but will be after April. This was the first year of the new exams so there are no other past papers that you can practise.

Resource 3: – Web based revision sites – make sure you use AQA specific resources

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

This website has lots of summary notes and some videos to support you. The Combined Science is AQA Combined Science Trilogy. Triple Science are listed as the separate science subjects.

MyGCSEScience – you tube <https://www.youtube.com/user/myGCSEscience>
A number of summary videos containing all the science topics in each science. Remember to select the AQA videos.

Physics & Maths tutor - <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>

A website covering all sciences with excellent revision notes, worksheets and practise questions.

Kahoot - <https://kahoot.com/>

Lots of interactive quizzes on different topics

GCSE Pod - <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

Access by Office 365 and school email, it provides online podcasts with practice questions to confirm knowledge and areas of focus for revision that matches AQA curriculum. The GCSE Pod Mobile App is great for short snapshots of content. There is a revision tips and skills sections for each course, which is really useful and we really recommend the required practical sections for each course, as students often struggle to remember exactly how each one was done- use the video to write a method for each practical and then try to evaluate each method- what are the pros and cons and the possible sources of error- these are common exam questions.

Pass My Exams - <http://www.passmyexams.co.uk/>

A good revision site containing notes and animations on all the Sciences

Seneca Learning - <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Free revision for your GCSE already used by most science teachers as a revision tool and home learning. It provides analysis of strength of knowledge and areas for improvement for each topic.

Purchasable resources

A scientific calculator.

It is essential that your son/daughter has their own scientific calculator and that students know how to use it correctly – especially when rounding up numbers on calculations and recurring values for decimal points.

A ruler, pencil, rubber and black biro

Useful information

The **Triple Science** qualification consists of two equally-weighted written examination in each of the Science subjects at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

- Biology Paper 1
- Biology Paper 2
- Chemistry Paper 1
- Chemistry Paper 2
- Physics Paper 1
- Physics Paper 2

Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long. You can choose different tiers for each subject but the same tier has to be chosen for each paper within a subject. The lowest grade on a higher tier Paper is a 4 (small number may gain a 3 if close to a 4).

The **Combined Science (Trilogy)** qualification consists of six equally-weighted written examination with 2 papers in each of the Science subjects at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

- Biology Paper 1
- Biology Paper 2
- Chemistry Paper 1
- Chemistry Paper 2
- Physics Paper 1
- Physics Paper 2

Each paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes long. You have to sit the same tier of entry in **ALL** papers. The lowest grade on a higher tier paper is 4-3. Below this you are ungraded.

What can parents do to help?

- Encourage rather than push. – students can get no grade at all if they sit higher papers and cannot cope with this
- Follow school advice on tier of entry
- Help structure the revision so time is not wasted.
- Help students practise questions against the clock....1 mark is roughly 1 minute.
- If you were good at Science do not get frustrated by your child.
- If you found Science challenging (or even hated Science!) please do not let this discourage them.
- Provision of a scientific calculator. The Casio fx-83 or fx-85 is used in school maths lessons and hence is our recommendation.
- Reassure students if 1 paper in the exam does not go to plan.... there are several more than still count and can massively influence the final grade.

What should my child be doing?

- **Attending all revision classes**
- Past paper and examination question practise is vital.
- Learn from mistakes – use the mock exams to identify the topics that need improving.
- Listen to the advice given to them by teachers – even if they do not like it!
- Help their teachers, by letting them know what topics they need help with and what makes them difficult.
- Make the most of the revision resources available and attend revision classes.
- Do not waste lesson time.
- Regular revision in the run up to exams- make a plan!
- Last minute revision is fine (**But** only useful if a lot of revision has already taken place)

Contact email: daniel.cox@oldburywells.com



GCSE Art and Design

Key Contact Details:	Mrs E Wycherley, Emma.wycherley@oldburywells.com
Exam Board:	OCR
Useful Revision Guide:	BBC Bitesize: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zk7p3qt/revision/3
Course Breakdown:	Art and Design COURSEWORK PORTFOLIO 60 % GCSE
	Art and Design SET TASK EXAM 40 % GCSE

Exam information:

Art and Design COURSEWORK PORTFOLIO 60 % GCSE – In Class - Ongoing

23rd January 2026

COURSEWORK PORTFOLIO INFORMATION

- Portfolio 2 completed from July 25- Jan 26. Using support booklet and HL to ensure students are up to date and on target. This is worth 60% of the overall grade.
- Use of Thursday lunch & afterschool club for extra support and catch up.
- For the 5 hour DECEMBER mock they will produce a fully completed final DESIGN in colour inspired by Contextual artist study.
- They will use this MOCH DESIGN to work from to complete the 10 hour final piece starting after the mock on Tues 16th Dec.
- The FINAL PORTFOLIO will be chosen from 1 or 2.
- There will be a PowerPoint provided to launch the Portfolio for artist inspiration and ideas in student resources on Sharepoint.

Art and Design SET TASK EXAM 40 % GCSE-

5th and 6th May, 2026

SET TASK EXAM INFORMATION

Objective AO4: Final piece- 20 marks out of 80 and 10% of the GCSE

- All exam preparation AO,2 and 3 will be complete from Jan- May. Using a plan of lessons, support booklet and HL to ensure students are up to date and on target. This is worth 30% of the overall grade.
- Use of Thursday lunch and afterschool club for extra support and catch up.
- They will produce an EXAM PLANNING BOARD with the final design and take into the exam to work from.
- Students can prepare materials and equipment for the exam E.g. cut out stencils, do tracings, cut up/ rip collage and plan out the design fully before the exam starts.
- They will complete the 10 hour FINAL PIECE in the exam sessions worth 10% of the overall grade.
- There will be a PowerPoint provided to launch the set task exam for artist inspiration and ideas in student resources on Sharepoint.



Business

Key Contact Details: Mrs A Bishell, April.bishell@oldburywells.com

Exam Board: Edexcel

Useful Websites: [GCSE Business - Edexcel - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z822n39)

Course Breakdown: Exam paper 1 – 50%

Exam paper 2 – 50%

Paper information:

Paper 1 (IBS0/01) - Theme 1: Investigating Small Business - 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks

11th May 2026

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

- Section A: mixture of multiple choices and short answer knowledge questions
- Section B: Case study – mix of short answer, data response and extended answer.
- Section C: Case study – mix of extended answer questions

Paper 2 (IBS0/02) - Theme 2: Building a business - 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks

21st May 2026

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

- Section A: mixture of multiple choices and short answer knowledge questions
- Section B: Case study – mix of short answer, data response and extended answer.
- Section C: Case study – mix of extended answer questions



GCSE Computer Science

Key Contact Details:

Mrs V Reddington, Vickie.Reddington@oldburywells.com

Exam Board:

Cambridge OCR

Useful Revision Guide:

GCSE Computer Science OCR Complete Revision & Practice (CGP OCR GCSE Computer Science) CGP Books

Course Breakdown:

Paper 1 - Computer systems

Paper 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
Study and British Depth Study

Paper information:**Paper 1 - Computer systems - non-calculator paper – 1hour 30 mins – 50%**

12th May 2026

Content overview

- 1.1 Systems architecture
- 1.2 Memory and storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols
- 1.4 Network security
- 1.5 Systems software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

This paper consists of multiple-choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions

**Paper 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
Study and British Depth Study – 1 hour 30 Mins – 50%**

20th May 2026

Content overview

- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections. All questions are mandatory. In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with.



GCSE Design and Technology

Key Contact Details: Mrs E Bell – Liz.bell@oldburywells.com

Exam Board: AQA

Useful Revision Guide: GCSE AQA Design and Technology: Illustrated Revision and Practice

Course Breakdown: Non Examined Assessment (NEA) – 50% Final Mark
Exam Paper – 50% Final Mark

Paper information:

Non-Examined Assessment (30-35 Hours) – 100 Marks

7th May 2026

- Substantial design and make task

Assessment criteria:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating
- There are 3 Contextual challenges- one to be chosen by the student.
- Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence
- Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA
- Practical application of:
- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Written Exam Paper – 2 Hours – 100 Marks

10th June 2026

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

- A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

- Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

- A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.



GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Key Contact Details: Miss E Short, Eloise.Short2@oldburywells.com

Exam Board: AQA

Useful Revision Guide: BBC Bitesize: <https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/>
CGP GCSE Music Complete Revision & Practice

Course Breakdown: Component 1 - NEA 1 - Food Investigation
Component 2 - NEA 2 - Practical investigations are a compulsory element
Task 2: Food preparation assessment
Component 3 – Written Exam

Exam information:

Component 1 - NEA 1 - Food Investigation - Non-Examined Assessment – 30 Marks

May, 2026

Task 1: Investigation task released

Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation

Component 2 - NEA 2 - Practical investigations, Task 2: Task 2: Food preparation assessment – 70 Marks

May, 2026

Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

Component 3 – Written Exam – 100 Marks

11th June, 2026

Food, nutrition and health:

Macronutrients, Micronutrients, Dietary Reference Values

Food science:

Cooking and heat transfer, Functional and chemical properties. Raising agents

Food safety:

Spoilage and contamination, Principles of food safety, High-risk and low-risk foods

Food choice:

Influences, Food labelling and marketing,

Food provenance,

Food production, Sustainability, Fairtrade,

Mixture of Multiple Choice, short answer and extended answer questions.



GCSE Physical Education

Key Contact Details:

Mr T Cowburn, terry.cowburn@oldburywells.com

Exam Board:

AQA

Useful Websites:

<https://erevision.uk/>

[GCSE Physical Education - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

Course Breakdown:

Exam paper 1 – 30%

Exam paper 2 – 30%

Non-Examined Assessment – 40%

Paper information:

Paper 1 (8282/1) The human body and movement in physical activity and sport- 1 hour 15 minutes, 78 marks – 22nd May 2026

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Movement Analysis
- Physical Training
- Use of Data

Types of Questions

- Multiple Choice
- Short Answer Questions
- 6 & 9 Mark Question

Paper 2 (8582/2) - Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport -1 hour 15 minutes, 78 marks – 1st June 2026

- Sports Psychology
- Socio-cultural Influences
- Health, Fitness and Well being
- Use of Data

Types of Questions

- Multiple Choice
- Short Answer Questions
- 6 & 9 Mark Question

NEA (8582/C)– Practical Performance and Analysis of Performance – April 2026

- Practical Performance – 30%
 - 3 Sports: 1 Team, 1 Individual, 1 Team or Individual
 - 25 Marks per sport, 75 overall – 30%
- Analysis of Performance – 10%
 - From the approved list of sports
 - 25 Marks overall
- Total NEA – 100 Marks

Key Contact Details:

Mx S Farrington, sam.farrington@oldburywells.com

Exam Board:

Edexcel Specification B

Useful Revision Materials:

GCSEPod <https://members.gcsepod.com/login/form>

CGP revision book : GCSE Geography Edexcel B Complete Revision & Practice
(Product code: GES42 ISBN: 9781789080919)

Specification: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/geography-b-2016.html>

Course Breakdown:

Paper 1 - Global Geographical Issues (37.5% of total marks)

Paper 2 – UK Geographical Issues (37.5% of total marks)

Paper 3 – People Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions (25%)

Paper information:

Paper 1 - Global Geographical Issues -1 hour and 30 minutes. 94 marks over three sections.

13th May 2026

Content overview

Topic 1: Hazardous Earth

Topic 2: Development dynamics

Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and three 8-marker extended writing questions. Detailed knowledge of case studies in each topic is required.

Paper 2 – UK Geographical Issues - 1 hour and 45 minutes. 94 marks over three sections.

3rd June 2026

Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape, including sub-topics 4A: Coastal change and conflict and 4B: River processes and pressures.

Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape – including Birmingham Case Study - Dynamic UK cities.

Topic 6: Geographical investigations CHOICE of topics / questions – OWS students need to select questions linked to OUR FIELDWORK locations- Rivers and Cardingmill Valley, Urban areas and Shrewsbury – the official topic names are ‘Physical fieldwork investigation on River processes and pressures’ and ‘Human fieldwork investigation linked to Dynamic urban areas’.

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and four 8 marker extended writing questions, three 8 markers require skilful use of resources on the exam paper. Detailed knowledge of example locations and case studies in each topic is required.

Paper 3 – People Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions - 1 hour and 30 minutes.64 marks over four sections.

11th June 2026

Section A: People and the biosphere **Section B:** Forests under threat

Section C: Consuming energy resources

Section D: Making a geographical decisions.

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions.

Section C will include two 8 mark extended writing questions and Section D is a decision making exercise, assessed through a 12-mark extended writing question



GCSE History (9-1)

Key Contact Details:

Mr B Grainger, Ben.grainger@oldburywells.com

Exam Board:

Edexcel

Useful Revision Guide:

GCSE Pod: <https://www.gcsepod.com/>

Course Breakdown:

Paper 1 - Thematic study and historic environment
Paper 2 – Period Study and British Depth Study
Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study

Paper information:**Paper 1 - Thematic study and historic environment, 1 hour 20 minutes**

15th May 2026

Content overview

Medicine in Britain c1250-present

The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918; injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Question Types:

short answer (2 marks x 2), sources (usefulness 8 marks and enquiry 4 marks), 3 paragraph essay (12 marks) and 5 paragraph essay (16 marks +4 SPAG)

Paper 2 – Period Study and British Depth Study, 1 hour 50 minutes

9th June 2026

Content overview

The American West, c1835-c1895

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-88

Question Types: short answer (2 marks x 2), 3 paragraph essay (12 marks) and 5 paragraph essay (16 marks +4 SPAG)

Consequence question (8 marks), narrative account (8 marks) and importance (16 marks)

Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study – 1 Hour 30 Minutes

9th June 2026

Content overview

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-39

Question Types: Sources (inference 4 marks, usefulness 8 marks), interpretations (difference 4 marks, reasons for difference 4 marks, how far do you agree 16 marks + SPAG) and 3 paragraph essay (12 marks).



GCSE Music

Key Contact Details:

Mrs J Dangerfield, jo.dangerfield@oldburywells.com

Exam Board:

Eduqas

Useful Revision Guide:

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zbmct39>

CGP GCSE Music Complete Revision & Practice

Course Breakdown:

Component 1 - Performance

Component 2 - Composition

Component 3 - Listening and Appraising

Exam information:**Component 1 - Performance – Non Examined Assessment – 30%****May 5, 2026**

A 4-6 minute portfolio of solo and ensemble performances on instrument or voice of choice

Component 2 - Composition - Non Examined Assessment – 30%**May 5, 2026**

A 3-6 minute portfolio of two compositions, one of which must be in response to a choice of four composition briefs released by Eduqas in Year 11

Component 3 - Listening and Appraising - End of course Examination - 40%**Friday, June 5, 2026**

8 questions, 2 on each area of study:

AoS 1 Musical Forms and Devices (including a set work*)

AoS 2 Music for Ensemble

AoS 3 Film Music

AoS 4 Popular Music (including a set work*)

Mixture of Multiple Choice, short answer and extended answer questions



GCSE Philosophy and Religion

Key Contact Details: Dr J Perfect, jim.Perfect@oldburywells.com

Exam Board: AQA

Useful Revision Guide: Revision Guide Provided at the start of the course
GCSE Pod: gcsepod.com

Course Breakdown: Paper 1 - Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices
Paper 2 - Component 2: Thematic studies

Exam information:

Paper 1 - Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices – 1 hour 45 minutes

12th May, 2026

Religious belief and practice of Christianity and Buddhism

Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

Each religion is marked out of 48.

Paper 2 - Component 2: Thematic studies – 1 hour 45 Minutes

20th May, 2026

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes:

Theme A: Relationships and families.

Theme B: Religion and life.

Theme C: The existence of God and revelation.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

Students complete 4 from these six

Each theme has a common structure of five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.



GCSE French

Key Contact Details:

Miss S Dijoux, solene.dijoux@oldburywells.com

Exam Board:

AQA

Useful Websites:

GCSE French 8652 | Specification | AQA, www.kerboodle.com, www.languagenut.com, www.gcsepod.com

Paper information:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle: Identity and relationships with others, Healthy living and lifestyle, Education and Work

Theme 2: Popular Culture: Free-time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Celebrity Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us: Travel and tourism, including place of interest, media and technology, The environment and where people live

Exams:

Between 28th April and 1st May: Paper 2 – Speaking

Wednesday 20th May: Paper 1 – Listening AND Paper 3 – Reading

Thursday 4th June: Paper 4 – Writing

Foundation Tier Grades 1-5	Higher Tier Grades 5-9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 1: Listening 35 min, 25%, 40 marks Paper 2: Speaking 7-9 minutes, 25 %, 50 marks Paper 3: Reading 45 min, 25%, 50 marks Paper 4: Writing 1 hr 10, 25%, 50 marks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 1: Listening 45 min, 25%, 50 marks Paper 2: Speaking 10-12 minutes, 25%, 50 marks Paper 3: Reading 1 hour, 25%, 50 marks Paper 4: Writing 1hr15 min, 25%, 50 marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening: questions and dictation Speaking: role-play, photo card, read aloud tasks Reading: questions and translation Writing: Foundation - photo, 50 words, grammar, translation, 90 words. Higher – translation, 90 words, 150 words. 	

	FOUNDATION	HIGHER			
Listening	Section A	32 marks	Section A		
	Section B: 4 sentences	8 marks	Section B: 5 sentences		
	Total	40 marks (scale x1.25)	Total		
Speaking	Total	50 marks	Same as Foundation		
	Role-Play	10 marks			
	Reading Aloud task	15 marks			
	Discussion Photo Card	25 marks			
Reading	Total	50 marks			
	Section A	40 marks			
	Section B	10 marks			
Writing	Total	50 marks			
	Photo description	10 marks	Translation	10 marks	
	50-word paragraph	10 marks	90-word paragraph	15 marks	
	Grammar	5 marks	150-word paragraph	25 marks	
	Translation	10 marks	Total	50 marks	
	90-word paragraph	15 marks			
	Total	50 marks			

Weekly Revision Timetable (Week 1)

		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Morning	8.00am							
	9.00am							
	10.00am							
	11.00 am							
Afternoon	12.00pm							
	1.00pm							
	2.00pm							
	3.00pm							
Evening	4.00pm							
	5.00pm							
	6.00pm							
	7.00pm							
	8.00pm							
	9:00pm							

Weekly Revision Timetable (Week 2)

		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Morning	8.00am							
	9.00am							
	10.00am							
	11.00 am							
Afternoon	12.00pm							
	1.00pm							
	2.00pm							
	3.00pm							
Evening	4.00pm							
	5.00pm							
	6.00pm							
	7.00pm							
	8.00pm							
	9:00pm							

Revision topic planner

Subject: _____

Subject: _____

3) Organising your revision sessions

Location, Location

- Think about where you do your revision – is it somewhere quiet and comfortable (but not too comfortable!)
- NOT in front of the TV
- Get everything together so it's close at hand
- Fresh air and natural light are good

Avoid distractions!

- If it helps, listen to music but play it at low volume and choose something that won't distract you. If you do find yourself singing along, then you are distracted!
- DO NOT be tempted to keep checking your 'status'.
- DO NOT answer text messages immediately!
- LOG OFF Facebook and Twitter and leave your phone in another room. It's always best to leave all electronic items in another room. Revise away from your xBox, Playstation, TVs.
- As parents there are parental control apps you can download to monitor this and try to help support their revision. In particular late night use.

Understanding

- Understanding a topic helps you to remember information and structure answers more easily.
- First break the information down – a simple way is to consider the overall theme, the main ideas then any details.
- Then put it back together so you can see the whole picture! A bit like doing a jigsaw puzzle

4) Aiming for top grades

Practice makes perfect

- No athlete ever turns up for a match / race without putting in hours of training first.
- No performer ever goes onto stage without first having a dress rehearsal.
- You need to look through past exam papers so you can get used to how the questions are asked and how many questions from each section you need to be answering. The relevant exam board websites will have a plethora of past papers and links to model answers; all of the information you need has been provided above to enable access to this (in the course information section). If you are struggling, speak to your teacher or access the revisions section in the library, where additional papers can be obtained.
- Take every opportunity to revise – revision is a skill that needs practising, the more you do it the better you get. Make it a habit right from the beginning of your GCSE course to take every opportunity to revise. Revise for classroom tests, end of unit tests, end of year exams and especially pre-public exams and mocks.
- Attend the revision sessions at lunchtime and after-school
- Use exam board websites. On them you will find the specification for each subject (a list of the topics you need to cover and details of the exams), as identified above - past papers, mark schemes and information on level/grade boundaries. If you are unsure, check with your teacher which exam board each subject is taken with and the exact specification you are working to.



5) Sitting your Exams

- Only attempt light revision the night before using your revision notes and try not to do any totally new revision.
- Be organised - Get all your equipment ready that you will need (i.e. pens, calculator, ruler, etc.) the night before. The last thing you want in the morning is to be rushing around trying to find things.
- Try to get a normal night's sleep (if you can!). Try to relax – if you are struggling take a bath, read a book, watch some television and get to bed for a reasonable time.
- Get up in plenty of time and make sure you try and have something to eat and drink – now's a good time to fill up your water bottle to bring with you.
- Check you have everything you need before you leave home.
- If you really want to, do some last minute revision by flicking through your revision notes.
- Compose yourself – the moment you first open your exam paper is always a bit of a shock. The exam never looks or reads quite the way you expect it to, so be prepared for this.
- Don't worry about your classmates who may already be scribbling away.
- If it helps you, write down anything you are afraid of forgetting.
- Read the whole paper through carefully, noting all the instructions given and the number of choices – if it helps underline them.
- Decide on your question order then start by answering the questions you know you can answer well. This gives you more time to think about the difficult questions and boosts your confidence.
- Timing – How long is the exam? How many questions do you need to answer and how much time is allocated to each answer?
- Understanding – What are you being asked? It's worth spending time getting to grips with command words e.g. describe vs explain.

- Question choice – Read all choices and answer the correct number in each section etc.
- SPG – Some marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Practice difficult spellings so you don't lose marks.
- Read every question at least twice, picking out key words – if it helps underline them.
- Think about the question and analyse it before you get into your answer. Get a sense of how long and detailed an answer is expected to be – use the number of marks awarded to help you with this.
- For long detailed answers outline the main points you intend to include. Without this you are likely to stray from the point or forget important points.
- Remember to stick to what the question is asking!



6) Coping with exam stress

- Be prepared - Make sure you know what you are supposed to have learned and that you have all your notes, books, and essays to hand. Do you know what format the exam takes and how the marks are allocated? If not, ask your teacher and/or study the marking scheme, which is often on the exam board's website. This can be particularly important with GCSE stress, when there are so many exams, all structured in different ways.
- Know when and where you work best - Work when you are most alert. We all have slightly different body clocks – are you a night owl or a dawn lark? Everyone has different revision styles – maybe you like to sit at a tidy library desk or under the duvet with your laptop. Wherever you feel calm and in control is the best place for dealing with exam stress.
- Take a break - Psychologists suggest that we can only concentrate properly for about 32 minutes at one stretch, while neuroscientists tell us that the longer, we try and focus on one thing, the less our brains are able to deal with it effectively. Take breaks to stay refreshed. Instead of cramming in more revision or, indeed, stressing over how to deal with exam stress, the best thing might simply be to do something completely different.
- Eat well - Keeping your blood sugar levels steady so that you do not have energy dips during the day and can sleep well at night is a vital way of dealing with exam stress. Avoid lots of processed, sugary foods like cereal, biscuits, sweets, and chocolate.
- Drink well - Staying hydrated with lots of water, low-calorie sodas or herbal teas is key to feeling alert. Juices or sugary drinks can make you feel jittery and mess up your energy levels. Caffeinated tea and coffee perk you up, but stick to about five cups a day, and if you feel jittery or have problems sleeping, drink your last one in the late afternoon. Bear in mind that cola, energy, and sports drinks may all contain a lot of sugar and caffeine.
- Get exercise - This is one of the best ways of dealing with exam stress. Anything from walking the dog to going for a swim, run or bike ride helps reduce physical tension that can lead to aches and pains, and releases natural feel-good brain chemicals. If you can't get motivated, rope in friends – it's much harder to make excuses.
- Sleep well - Tossing and turning the night before an exam is understandable, and our bodies can cope with lack of sleep for a day or so. Worrying about not being able to nod off only makes matters worse.

A warm bath and having somewhere dedicated just to sleeping (and not to watching TV or going on a computer, phone, or tablet) will help you switch it off. If you really cannot get to sleep, do something repetitive like a jigsaw or ironing.

If you really, really cannot sleep, do not panic. Sheer adrenaline will help you get through most exams the next day better than you might expect.

- Relaxation - If you are really anxious, find a calm, quiet space and try breathing deeply in and out for a few minutes, focusing your mind on something pleasant, like a beautiful place with happy memories – anything that helps you wind down.
- Talk about it with someone - Almost everyone finds exams stressful – so you are not alone. Expressing your worries to a good friend, family member, your school tutor or a student counsellor will help get them out of your system.
- Reward yourself - Build in treats to your timetable – anything you can look forward to as a reward for sticking to it. Plan something exciting to celebrate the end of the exams.

7) Exam information: Be Prepared

- You must be on time for all your examinations.
- Equipment to be brought to **EVERY** exam:
Clear pencil case or bag
Black pens
Pencil
Eraser
Pencil sharpener
Ruler
Coloured pencils
Calculator (apart from non-calculator Maths paper)
Protractor
Compass
- You may have a clear drinks bottle but all labels must be removed.
- Glasses cases should be put onto the floor along with calculator lids.
- You will be under exam conditions as soon as you enter the examination room which means complete silence. You must not talk to, attempt to communicate or disturb other candidates. This will also be the case when the exam has finished and until you have left the exam hall.
- All mobile phones should be switched off and, in your bag, not on your person. Possession of a mobile phone or other unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.
- No watches of any kind will be permitted. Please remove and leave in your bag or hand in to an invigilator as you enter the exam hall.
- You must follow the instructions of the invigilator.

8) Results day GCSE Results

Thursday 20th August 2026

If you are unable to collect your results in person you must provide Miss Pattison (Exams Officer) with a personal email address or stamped addressed envelope to send your results.

Exam certificates

Exam certificates will be available from **West Reception** Monday to Friday between **8am and 3pm** from **1st December 2026** until **14th February 2026**.

A letter of authorisation will be required if anyone else is picking these up. Certificates will be returned to the exam boards if not collected by this date and you may be charged if required at a later date.