



The Kings of Wessex Academy

Getting the best out of everyone

November 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 13 Pre-Public Exams – January 2018

I am writing to inform you of some very important pre-public exams (PPEs) that are due to take place for Year 13 students at The Kings of Wessex Academy from 17th-23rd January 2018 inclusive.

PPEs are internal examinations set by subject teachers and the results do not count towards the final grading of qualifications. However, these exams use exam board assessment materials and mark-schemes and give students a very authentic experience of sitting examinations which will be excellent preparation for the public examinations in the summer. These exams also give students and their teachers some really valuable information about their current level of performance, their strengths and those areas which they still need to develop in order to achieve their full potential. Where students spend time systematically revising and where they put in their best effort these exams will be fantastic opportunity to build confidence and momentum towards success at the end of Year 13.

Please find overleaf a timetable which indicates when exams in specific subjects are taking place. Your son/daughter will shortly be issued with an Individual Candidate Exam Timetable by their tutor, which indicates exactly which papers they are sitting with details given regarding starting times, venues and seat numbers. Until then, should your son/daughter be unaware which option blocks are relevant to them, they can seek further clarification from their subject teachers.

To support students with the time they need to revise, Year 13 students will only be required to attend school to sit their exams during their PPEs. However, students are, of course, welcome in school at other times to use resources like the Learning Resource Centre or to consult subject teachers about revision. Normal timetabled lessons will run right up to the start of the exam period on 17th January and then resume immediately after the PPEs on 24th January.

To assist with the revision process, I have asked the relevant Subject Leaders to indicate in the table below, which topics Year 13 students will need to focus on in preparing for these crucial examinations.

Art/Photography/Textiles	Please note that the details provided here relate not to 'PPEs' but the externally set assignment (Component 2) which is 40% of the final A Level mark. Students will receive an exam paper on 1 February. This will consist of a choice of themes to be used as starting points. Students will have approximately ten weeks to create preparatory work leading to resolved pieces of two- or three-dimensions. Students will undertake fifteen hours of unaided, supervised time to produce finished work. The exam weeks are 10 –17 May 2018 and students will be informed as to which three days their exam will take place by 23 March.
Biology	7402 (AQA): Synoptic test with some questions covering topics from Year 12, and most questions from Year 13: Photosynthesis, Respiration, Energy and ecosystems, Nutrient cycles, Nervous system, Muscles, Pancreas and Kidneys.
Business Studies	Students will be sitting a two hour paper comprising of multiple-choice, data response and longer evaluation questions using case study material. The content will cover any topic covered on the AS course and the work completed in term 1 of the second year, specification lists will be given in preparation.

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Chemistry	Students need to revise content from Year 12 and 13 for the January exam. Topics which should be covered include Atomic Structure, Bonding, Energetics, Organic Chemistry, Rates of reaction, Equilibrium, Spectroscopy, Electrode Potentials, Transition Metals and all types of mole calculations.
Computer Science	Questions will be drawn from the following topics – all Year 12 content plus Year 13 topics on networking, programming paradigms, OOP and data structures.
DT Product Design	This is a 2 hour exam. Revision should focus on technology push and market pull, innovative uses of materials, changes in a product over a period of time, sustainable products, anthropometrics, rapid prototyping, contemporary designers and creative thinking strategies.
English Language	Students will sit two papers, a reduced Paper 1 (1 hr 45 mins), Exploring Language and a full Paper 2 (2 hrs 30 mins), Dimensions of Linguistic Variations. In Paper 1 there are two sections: Section A - language under the microscope, for which students will need to revise their analysis of unseen texts with a particular emphasis on lexis and grammar, ready to write about an unseen text. Section C – comparing and contrasting texts, for which students will need to polish their skills of applying the appropriate methods of language analysis to unseen texts in order to compare and contrast how the texts have been written to create meaning within a specific context. In Paper 2, students will answer on the topics of Language Acquisition, Language in the Media and Language Change, so will need to revise all their work on these three areas, ready to write on unseen texts.
English Literature	Students will sit Paper 1 (1 hour and 15 minutes) which asks students to write a comparative response to Oscar Wilde's 'An Ideal Husband' and a selection of Coleridge's poetry. For this section students will have a choice of questions and therefore understanding key themes that are shared between the texts is important. In addition students will also sit Paper 2 which is 2 hours and 30 minutes long and is the study of the Gothic genre. In preparation students should revise Bram Stoker's 'Dracula and Carter's 'The Bloody Chamber' and be prepared to write a critical appreciation of an unseen passage. Preparation should include a close focus on contextual factors that relate to the Gothic as a genre.
French	Students should prepare for the 2½ hour combined listening, reading and writing skills paper by learning topic specific vocabulary from their vocabulary lists, the memrise.com website, links under each topic area and by practising past papers via the "Revise" link on Firefly. Students can also find exam style questions in the challenge section of their work booklets. The combined skills and translation paper will include synoptic texts from the topics on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspects of French-speaking society (current trends): The changing nature of the family, The cyber-society, The role of voluntary work. Artistic Culture in the French-speaking world: A culture proud of its heritage, Contemporary francophone music and Cinema: the 7th art form Aspects of French-speaking society (social issues): Positive features of a diverse society, Life for the marginalised and How criminals are treated. Aspects of political life in the French speaking world: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?, Politics and immigration. For the written element students will be required to write two essays on the literary and film topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Un sac de billes La Haine. For the 25 minute speaking examination students will be examined on their independent research project and one of four themes i.e: Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
German	Students should prepare for the combined listening, reading and writing skills paper by learning topic specific vocabulary from their vocabulary lists, the memrise.com website, links under each topic area and by practising past papers via the "Revise" link on Firefly. Students can also find exam style questions in the challenge section of their work booklets. The combined skills and translation paper will include synoptic texts from the topics on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspects of German-speaking society: The changing state of the family, The digital world, Youth culture: fashion & trends, music, television Artistic Culture in the German-speaking world: Festivals and traditions, Art and architecture, Cultural Life in Berlin, past and present. Multiculturalism in German-speaking society: Immigration, Integration and Racism. Aspects of political life in the German speaking world: Germany and the European Union, Politics and Youth, German reunification and its consequences For the written element students will be required to write two essays on the literary and film topics:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Der Vorleser • Das Leben der Anderen. <p>For the 25 minute speaking examination students will be examined on their independent research project and one of four themes ie. Aspects of German- speaking society or Artistic culture in the German-speaking world or Multiculturalism in German-speaking society or Aspects of political life in German-speaking society</p>
Geography	Students will be sitting a two and a half hour examination to test the three topics they have studied so far during A Level. The three topics are: 'Water and Carbon Cycles', 'Population and the Environment' and 'Global Systems and Governance'. The exam will be worth 111 marks in total. Students will have to answer a 20 mark question on each topic so it is important that they familiarise themselves with the different level criteria in order to gain maximum marks. Students should use their class notes, past paper packs and revision guides to prepare for this exam. For 'Water and Carbon Cycles', students should use pages 2-13 in the A Level revision guide to revise. For 'Population and the Environment', students should use pages 182-191 in the A Level revision guide to revise and for 'Global Systems and Governance', students should use pages 122-138 in the A Level revision guide to revise. Revision guides and past paper packs can be purchased at a cost of £10 from the Main Office. If they haven't already done so, it is advised that students purchase these in order to help them revise thoroughly.
History	Students will sit a 2 hour 15 minute exam which will examine two topics – In Search of The American Dream, 1917-1980 and Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603. The American section of the exam will include one essay question covering the period 1917-1980 and one part C question focused on Reagan 1980-1996. Students also need to revise the Tudor Breadth Topic 1 (Changes in Governance at the Centre) and Breadth Topic 2 (Gaining the cooperation of the localities). They will have one Section C Tudor essay question to answer on the paper. Revision lists and resources can be found on Firefly.
Maths	Students will be sitting an OCR Core 3 past paper.
Further Maths	Year 13 students will be sitting an S2 past paper.
Media Studies	Media and collective Identity: A2 paper section B.
P.E.	Students should focus their revision on all aspects of the course that have been studied in Year 12 and 13 and will sit two separate papers. Paper 1 will be Anatomy and Physiology, Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics. Paper 2 will be Skill Acquisition, Sport Psychology, Sport in Society and Contemporary issues in Physical Activity and Sport. The exam questions will cover all the work in these areas which has been studied up to the end of December.
Physics	Topics for revision: Capacitors, Circular Motion, Gravitational Fields, Electric Fields, Magnetic Fields, Simple Harmonic Motion.
Psychology	The Year 13 exam will consist of two papers: Paper 1 (Year 1): This paper will include questions on all units covered last year. Learning Theories/Cognitive/Biological/Social Psychology and may include reference to the key issues from Year 12 and the practical investigations from Year 12 (90 marks). This paper is 2 hours. Paper 2: Applied options. This paper will include questions on Criminology. It may include questions related to your key issues from this year and your investigation from Criminology. (45 marks). This paper is 1 hour. There may also be references to issues and debates on both papers. Model answers/specimen papers/revision ppts can be found on the Psychology pages of Firefly.
Religious Studies	There will be three separate one hour papers (Philosophy, Ethics and Judaism). Each exam paper will require students to answer one complete question, including both part a (20 marks) and b (30 marks), making each A level paper 50 marks in total. Revision resources will include textbooks and class notes. Class teachers will direct students to relevant websites and online resources. It is important to note that subject material studied in Year 12 and in Year 13 can be examined. Revision resources will include textbooks and class notes. Class teachers will direct students to relevant websites and online resources.
Sociology	There will be one paper. It will assess Sociological Research methods and the Education unit.

I hope that you have found this information useful in providing specific details on what your son or daughter should be revising between now and the January PPE exams. It is essential that Year 13 students are now setting aside a significant amount of time (in the evenings, on the weekends and over the holidays) to prepare for these exams. Students will need to strike the right balance over the holidays in having time to rest and relax as well as setting aside sufficient time for revision. This will not necessarily be easy but if students put the hard work in now, use the Christmas break wisely and then come back in January ready to do their best, they can be confident about receiving their PPE results in the New Year.

Formal feedback on performance in these exams will be given during February. You will be notified by email when the results are available.

Should you have any further questions regarding these exams, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Subject Leader(s) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Jason Edwards
Deputy Headteacher

Timetable for Year 13 PPEs – January 2018

Date	MORNING		MID MORNING		AFTERNOON	
Wed (A) 17 Jan	BIOLOGY	9.00-11.00	Option Block A RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Ethics)	11.30-12.30	ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 2	1.15-3.45
Thur 18 Jan	FRENCH – Combined Skills GERMAN – Combined Skills MATHS SOCIOLOGY	9.00-11.30 9.00-11.30 9.00-10.30 9.00-11.00	Option Block C RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Judaism)	11.30-12.30	Option Block B ENGLISH LANGUAGE Paper 2 GEOGRAPHY HISTORY	1.15-3.45 1.15-3.45 1.15-3.30
Fri 19 Jan	Option Block B ENGLISH LANGUAGE Paper 1 DT PRODUCT DESIGN MEDIA STUDIES PHYSICS	9.00-10.45 9.00-11.00 9.00-10.00 9.00-11.00	RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Philosophy)	11.30-12.30	Option Block D BUSINESS STUDIES ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 1 GEOGRAPHY FURTHER MATHS P.E. (Part 1) PHYSICS PSYCHOLOGY Paper 1	1.15-3.15 1.15-2.30 1.15-3.45 1.15-2.45 1.15-3.15 1.15-3.15 1.15-3.15
Mon (B) 22 Jan	Option Block C BUSINESS STUDIES CHEMISTRY COMPUTER SCIENCE DT PRODUCT DESIGN PSYCHOLOGY Paper 1 RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Ethics)	9.00-11.00 9.00-11.00 9.00-11.00 9.00-11.00 9.00-11.00 9.00-10.00	Option Block D PSYCHOLOGY Paper 2	11.30-12.30	Option Block E ENGLISH LANGUAGE Paper 2 ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 1	1.15-3.45 1.15-2.30
Tues 23 Jan	Option Block D FRENCH – Essay P.E. (Part 2) Option Block E ENGLISH Language Paper 1 GERMAN - Essay	9.00-11.00 9.00-10.30 9.00-10.45 9.00-11.00	Option Block C PSYCHOLOGY Paper 2 MOP UP SESSION	11.30-12.30 11.30-as req'd	Option Block A CHEMISTRY ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 1 HISTORY RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Judaism)	1.15-3.15 1.15-2.30 1.15-3.30 1.15-2.15