



The Kings of Wessex Academy

Getting the best out of everyone

10 April 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 12 Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) 2018

I am writing to inform you of some important pre-public exams (PPEs) that are due to take place for Year 12 students at The Kings of Wessex Academy from 8 - 11 May 2018.

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 Year 13. These exams also give students and their teachers some really valuable information about their current level of performance, their strengths and those areas that still need to develop. I want to ensure that students have clear information and support to help them best prepare for these important assessments.

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, 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.

I would be grateful if you could emphasise the importance of thorough preparation for these exams. These exams represent an invaluable opportunity for Year 12 students to practise the application of their knowledge under exam conditions. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn, improve and achieve.

To support students with the time they need to prepare, Year 12 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 up to, and including, Friday 4 May and then resume immediately after the PPEs on Monday 14 May.

To assist with the revision process, I have asked the relevant Subject Leaders to indicate in the table below, which topics Year 12 students will need to focus on in preparing for these examinations.

Business Studies	Students will be completing a 90 minute exam. This will consist of approximately 8 compulsory questions ranging in marks from 3 to 20. Topics will be selected from the year 1 specification which is now complete. Students have received a summary of all topics to be revised and will practice exam technique in lessons prior to the assessment. Suggested areas for revision include business structures, leadership, financial analysis and marketing strategies.
Computer Science	To prepare effectively, students should revise the key topics of study from year 12 so far. This includes: Problem solving, Algorithms, Programming Theory, Data Representation, Big Data, Hardware and Software. For more information students should refer to the revision resources section of Firefly. There they will find an overview of what should be revised, revision materials and more information.
DT Product Design	Students will sit a one hour exam. They will answer questions relating to JIT manufacture, risk assessments and the work of BSI in protecting the customer. Students will be taught how to prepare for the examination in lessons and will be able to access support material via Firefly.
English Language	Students will sit a full Paper 1 (2 hrs 30 mins), Exploring Language. In Paper 1 there are 3 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 syntax, ready to write about an unseen text; Section B - writing about a topical language issue, for which students will need to revise the topics of gender, power and technology and different forms of writing, ready to write a short non-fiction text (form, audience and topic specified) and 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.
English Literature	Students will sit the H472/02 component 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

	<p>Gothic as a genre. In addition students will be sitting half of the H472/01 paper (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. Furthermore in Paper 1, students should ensure that they have a detailed and broad understanding of context surrounding both texts.</p>
French	<p>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.</p> <p>The combined skills and translation paper will include synoptic texts from the topics on:</p> <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 <p>Section A & B: listen/read and respond to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist, detail and the ability to summarise. Questions in French to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French.</p> <p>Translation: translate a French passage of a minimum of 70 words into English.</p> <p>No access to a dictionary during the assessment</p>
German	<p>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.</p> <p>The combined skills and translation paper will include synoptic texts from the topics on:</p> <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. <p>Section A & B: listen/read and respond to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist, detail and the ability to summarise. Questions in German to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German.</p> <p>Translation: translate a German passage of a minimum of 70 words into English.</p> <p>No access to a dictionary during the assessment</p>
Geography	<p>Students will be sitting a one hour thirty minute examination to test the three topics they have studied so far. The three topics are: 'Hazards', 'Coastal Systems and Processes' and 'Changing Places'. The exam will be worth 90 marks in total; 30 marks per topic. Questions will vary in marks available, from 1 mark to 20 marks. Questions with a mark range of 1-6 marks will be point marked. Levels will be used for all questions that are 6 marks and over. Two levels will be used for questions with a tariff of 6+ marks, 3 levels with a tariff of 9+ marks and four levels will be used for questions worth 20 marks. Students should familiarise themselves with the level criteria so they know how to achieve the highest marks; this is particularly important for the 20 mark questions! Although no extra marks will be awarded, quality of written communication and legibility will be assessed, particularly in the level marked questions. Students should use their class notes, pages on Firefly, Topic Overviews and their CGP A Level Revision Guide to help them revise. It would also be beneficial to practise questions in their Past Paper Packs (if they have purchased these).</p>
History	<p>Year 12 will sit two History exams, each lasting 1 hour 30 minutes and should revise two units: The American Dream and South Africa. For the American Dream exam students should revise the content from the four units covered so far: The Changing Political Environment, The quest for Civil Rights, Society and Culture in Change and Changing Quality of Life. In addition students should revise how to answer essay questions which test the following concepts: causation, consequence, similarity/difference, significance and continuity/change. Their yellow assessment books will help students to revisit how to structure these questions using past essays and the personalised feedback they have received. For the South Africa exam they should revise all four of the topics studied: 1. The response to apartheid 1848-59; 2. Radicalisation of resistance and the consolidation of National Party power, 1960-68; 3. Redefining resistance and challenges to National Party power, 1968-83; 4. The end of apartheid and the creation of the 'rainbow nation', 1984-94. Students should make use of their class notes and revision resources available on the South African History pages on Firefly. Students will also need to revise how to answer the two styles of exam question. There will be one essay based on the key concepts of causation, consequence and significance and there will be one source based essay question which requires students to evaluate the value of two historical sources.</p>
Maths	<p>Year 12 Maths will be taking a 2 hour exam paper on all the Pure Maths they have studied this year. Revision resources for this can be found on the Firefly page.</p>
Further Maths	<p>The content of the Further Pure core paper will be: Complex Numbers, Series, Roots of Polynomials, Matrices and Proof by Induction.</p> <p>The Decision Maths exam will cover all of the Decision Maths topics taught to date: Algorithms in general, Sorting & Packing Algorithms, Graphs theory, MSTs, Shortest Route, Route Inspection, TSP problem, LP & Simplex. Students should refer to the class' Firefly page for more details.</p>
Film Studies	<p>The two hour exam will cover:</p> <p>Film Form in US Cinema from the Silent Era to 1990 : Two questions in which candidates do close analysis of sequences chosen by themselves from two of the three film history texts: Birth of a Nation, Double Indemnity, Do the Right Thing. 10 marks each. Then a theoretical or conceptual essay question comparing two of these films, worth 35 marks</p> <p>European Cinema History: One question in which candidates do close analysis of a sequence from one of the European film movements (surrealism or German Expressionism), worth 15 marks; followed by a theoretical or conceptual question on the other movement, worth 35 marks.</p> <p>Preparation: candidates need to have an in-depth and wide-ranging knowledge of all the set films, and be well versed in the micro-elements of film form and how to apply them to generate perceptive insights.</p>

Music	The exam will consist of 2 sections which follow the standard A Level format: Section A will consist of 3 questions related to the set works and a short melody/rhythm completion exercise. Section B will be 2 essay questions (one 15 marks, one 20 marks). Essay one will draw links from the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar listening. Essay two will give a choice of 3 questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study. There will also be a performance and composition element that will take place during lessons before the exam period.
Psychology	The Year 12 exam will consist of ONE 2hr paper. This will examine the first three units we have studied; Cognitive, Biological and Social Psychology. The last section of the paper will be on Issues and Debates which will be covered before the PPE. There will be a mix of short answer and 8 mark questions, these may include questions relating to your investigations and key questions for these three units. Revision materials, past papers and example answers can be found on Firefly (Psychology – Revision / Key questions and Investigations).
Religious Studies	Students will be examined on all three components of the A level course: Philosophy, Ethics and Judaism. There will be a one hour exam for each component. For each exam students will be required to select and answer one question with two parts A and B. Part A tests knowledge and understanding and is worth 20 marks; Part B tests critical analysis and evaluation and is worth 30 marks. The exams will cover the topics studied since September. In preparation for these exams students should revise their class notes, use the materials housed on the Firefly pages and use their course textbooks.
Sociology	Students will sit two exam papers: Research methods and researching inequalities – need to revise all content of the methods section and the structures for answering all four question types. Also need to revise evidence of, and theoretical explanations for, inequalities based on class and the structures for both question types. Culture, socialisation and identity – need to revise all content of this section (the work done with Mr Edwards) along with the structures for the question types for this exam. The content of all units, instructions for answering all question types, model answers and mark schemes are in the course handbook that all students have been issued.
Biology	The Year 12 PPE's will cover: Biological Molecules, Cells, Exchange and Genetics. The textbook and revision guides cover these topics in detail.
Chemistry	Students will need to revise all topics covered this year: Atomic structure, Periodic Table (periodicity, Group 2, Group 7), Moles calculations, Ideal gas equation, Structure and bonding, Shapes of molecules, Enthalpy changes, Redox, Rates of reaction, Equilibrium, Organic chemistry (crude oil, alkanes, alkenes, polymers, halogenoalkanes, alcohols, all mechanisms, isomerism)
Physics	The Year 12 exam will cover the following topics: Particles and radiation, Waves, Mechanics and materials and Electricity. In addition students should be familiar with the topic of measurements and their errors and be able to apply these skills to all topics. Textbooks that have been issued cover these topics in detail. Revision resources are available on Firefly.

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 exams. It is important that Year 12 students are now setting aside time (in study periods at school, in the evenings and at weekends) to prepare for these exams. This will not necessarily be easy but if students put the hard work in now they can be confident about receiving their exam results.

Formal feedback on performance in these exams will be given in the Year 12 Grade Reports which will be available online from 27 June.

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

Date	Morning		Mid-Morning		Afternoon	
Tues (B) 8 May	Block A BIOLOGY Paper 1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE PSYCHOLOGY GERMAN	9.00-10.30 9.00-11.30 9.00-11.00 9.00-10.45	Block E RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Philosophy)	11.45-12.45	Block C BIOLOGY Paper 2 HISTORY Paper 1 MATHS PSYCHOLOGY	1.40-3.10 1.40-3.10 1.40-3.40 1.40-3.40
Wed 9 May	Block B BIOLOGY Paper 2 CHEMISTRY MATHS Block E FRENCH	9.00-10.30 9.00-11.00 9.00-11.00 9.00-10.45	Block E ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 1 FILM STUDIES FURTHER MATHS - Core RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Ethics)	11.15-12.30 11.15-1.15 11.15-12.55 11.15-12.15	Block D CHEMISTRY ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 1 MATHS RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Ethics) SOCIOLOGY Paper 1	1.30-3.30 1.30-2.45 1.30-3.30 1.30-2.30 1.30-3.45
Thur 10 May	Block C BIOLOGY Paper 1 HISTORY Paper 2 PHYSICS	9.00-10.30 9.00-10.30 9.00-11.00	Block B BIOLOGY Paper 1 BUSINESS STUDIES	11.15-12.45 11.15-12.45	Block E ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 2 GEOGRAPHY RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Judaism) Block B MUSIC	1.15-3.45 1.15-3.45 1.15-2.15 1.40-2.45
Fri 11 May	Block D COMPUTER SCIENCE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 2 RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Judaism) SOCIOLOGY Paper 2	9.00-10.30 9.00-10.30 9.00-11.30 9.00-10.00 9.00-9.45	Block D RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Philosophy) Block E FURTHER MATHS - Decision	11.15-12.15 11.15-12.45	Block A BIOLOGY Paper 2 DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY GEOGRAPHY PHYSICS	1.15-2.45 1.15-2.45 1.15-3.45 1.15-3.15