

February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Pre-Public Exams - March 2022

I am writing to inform you of the pre-public exams (PPEs) that are due to take place for Year 11 students at Kings Academy from 14 to 25 March 2022.

PPEs are internal exams set by subject teachers. The results do not count towards the final grading of qualifications, if the full examination series is taken in the summer. However, these exams use exam board assessment materials and mark-schemes and give students a very authentic experience of sitting exams, an excellent preparation for the public exams in the summer. These exams also give students and their teachers valuable information regarding their current level of performance, their strengths and those areas which they still need to develop in order to achieve their full potential. If students spend time systematically revising and putting in their best effort, these exams will be a fantastic opportunity to build confidence and momentum towards success at the end of Year 11. These March PPEs focus on the weaker assessment area or different assessments areas from the November series.

In 2021 you will be aware that teacher assessed grades (TAGs) were awarded to each GCSE student based on the evidence held for the student in each subject. PPEs were included in those evidence portfolios, although not exclusively. There are no current plans for TAGs this year but we will, of course, keep you informed in the unlikely event of any change to this.

To ensure you have clear information to help support your son/daughter to prepare for these important assessments, please find overleaf a timetable indicating when exams in specific subjects will take place. Your son/daughter will, in due course, be issued with an Individual Candidate Exam Timetable. This will indicate exactly which papers they are sitting with details of start times, venues and seat numbers. A copy will also be emailed to their Kings' email address. Should your son/daughter be unaware which option blocks are relevant to them, they can seek further clarification from their subject teachers.

To assist with the revision process, I have asked Subject Leaders to indicate in the table below which topics Year 11 students will need to focus on in preparing for their PPEs.

Business Studies	Students will be sitting a version of Paper 2 which will focus on Marketing, Finance, Business in the Real World and Influences on Business. These areas are clearly listed in the contents page of the new CPG 9-1 Revision Guide. The paper is broken down into three sections. Section A contains multiple choice questions, short knowledge only questions. Sections B and C will be based on real business case studies with a variety of questions ranging from two to twelve marks. The paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in length.
Computer Science	Students will sit two separate papers for Computer Science. Paper 1 will cover Computational Thinking, Code Tracing, Problem-solving, Programming Concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing and refining of code. This will be a two hour exam covering the programming topics studied this year. The sections covered in Paper 1 are: 3.1 Fundamentals of Algorithms and 3.2 Programming. Paper 2 will cover computing concepts. This is a one hour and 45 minutes exam.

	<p>The sections covered in Paper 2 are: 3.3 Fundamentals of data representation, 3.4 Computer systems, 3.5 Fundamentals of Computer Networks, 3.6 Cyber Security, 3.7 Relational Databases and SQL and 3.8 Ethical, Legal and Environmental Impacts</p> <p>Please see the Computer Science revision section of Firefly, supplied revision resources and official revision guides for resources to help prepare effectively.</p>
Creative iMedia	<p>The exam will be a past paper covering the examined unit R081 – Pre production skills. This exam is one hour and 15 minutes. This will be a useful opportunity to reinforce your revision for the external assessment and if necessary, the re-sit opportunity in May this year.</p>
Design & Technology Product Design	<p>This is a two-hour exam. The exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, short and long answer questions. The exam paper will cover the three areas of study: Core Technical Principles, Specialist Technical Principles and Designing & Making Principles.</p> <p>Topics for the exam include Energy: sources, fossil fuels and renewables. Batteries: alkaline and rechargeable. Manufacturing: designing for maintenance, JIT production: advantages and disadvantages. Addition processes: laminating, 3D printing, soldering, welding. Removing waste materials: turning, sawing, drilling, cutting, sanding, filing. Health & Safety: safely using tools and equipment. Surface finishes: aesthetics and function. Quality controls: benefits and examples. Working with tolerances. Forces: bending, compression and tension. Materials and their working properties: biodegradable, card and boards: types, uses and properties, Timbers: hardwoods, softwoods, manufactured boards, Kevlar: structure, uses and properties. Sources of materials. Processes that convert timbers into a workable form (stock forms). Sustainability: global warming, the environmental impact of designing and manufacturing products. Product analysis: the suitability of a design for target markets, function, aesthetics, safety and sizes. Design and making processes: designer collaboration: benefits. Advantages and disadvantages of 2D and 3D drawing. Orthographic projection: plan view, side view, front view. Modelling: reasons for and advantages.</p>
English Language	<p>Students will sit Section A only of the English Language Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing paper. Students will be asked to answer questions analysing and evaluating the methods used in an extract from a fiction text in Section A of this exam. They will read one source and answer 4 questions on it: question 1 tests comprehension; question 2 asks students to analyse language; question 3 asks students to analyse structure; question 4 asks students to evaluate the source in response to a statement. There are past papers and revision resources on Firefly to aid revision for this PPE.</p>
English Literature	<p>Students will complete an exam question on Power and Conflict Poetry. This question will assess their ability to understand texts, use evidence, analyse methods and make links to influencing context. There are pages on Firefly with past paper questions and revision resources for this unit. They should also use their Poetry Anthology for revision.</p>
Food Preparation & Nutrition	<p>Students will sit a one hour 45 minute written exam testing their theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition. There will be a variety of long and short questions including multiple choice. Students will be shown how to research and prepare for the examination leading up to their PPE. Students will be able to access revision materials available on Firefly.</p>
French/German	<p>PPEs will take place for the three skill areas: reading, listening and writing.</p> <p>Students should focus on learning topic specific vocabulary and practising tasks for the skill areas. All revision resources and links to past papers can be found on Firefly in the “Revise” section and by using the “Memrise” “Duolingo” or “Quizlet” link on the Web-links section. Students can also find exam style tasks in their work booklets. The topics (at both Higher and Foundation level) will range from: Relationships with family and friends, marriage/partnership, social media, mobile technology, music, cinema and tv, food and eating out, sport, home, town and local region, social issues: charity/voluntary work, healthy and unhealthy living, global issues: the environment, poverty/homelessness, travel & tourism, current and future study & employment.</p> <p>In preparation for the writing exam students should use BBC Bitesize, Languages online, the CPG 9-1 Revision Guides and Firefly links to revise the past, present and future verb tenses, word order rules and opinion sentence starters.</p>
Geography	<p>Students will be sitting a one hour examination to assess a Human Geography and a Physical Geography topic which they have studied. The topics are: ‘The Living world’ and ‘Urban Issues and challenges’. Students must therefore revise both of these topics in detail. The exam will be worth 55 marks and students will all sit the same exam paper. The exam will test a range of geographical knowledge and skills through a variety of questions (ranging from multiple choice to extended written answers). Questions will therefore range from one mark questions to nine mark questions. There may be questions in the exam where students will need to use examples or a case study(ies) so it is important they are familiar with any case study content. Students are reminded that appropriate spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as clear presentation of answers are required. To ensure</p>

	they have revised effectively, students should use their exercise books (with 'Topic Overviews' and 'Key Words') and revision guides to prepare for this exam. The relevant revision guide pages will be indicated as a task on Firefly. If students follow the revision timetable sent out in September, then this will support them in which pages to revise and help structure their revision.
History	Students will complete a full Paper 2, focused on the Early Elizabethan England. Students should revise both the content and how to answer the exam questions using their purple and yellow exercise books. A firefly task with revision lists, a timetable of revision and supporting materials has been set for all year 11 students. Revision materials and exam question guidance are also available on Firefly and include practice exam questions to complete. Revision session after school on Wednesdays 3.15-4pm will also be focused on preparing students for the Elizabethan paper and all students are invited to attend.
Maths	Students will take a 90-minute calculator paper. A topic list similar to what pupils will receive in the summer will be provided before February half term. All past papers and revision resources can be found on the Maths Firefly page.
Music	Students should use their anthology scores, notes from their exercise books and recordings (available on YouTube) and the resources on Firefly to prepare for the exam. Revision should cover the set works, in the four areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700 - 1820, Vocal Music, Music for stage and screen and Fusions. The exam paper will fall into two sections, A & B: The first part of section A will be short answer listening questions based on the set works (26 marks). This will be followed by a musical dictation question (nine marks) and a short answer, unfamiliar listening question (10 marks). Section B is an extended writing question based on an extract from one of the set works and a related but unfamiliar work (12 marks).
P.E.	Students will sit two, one hour papers for GCSE PE. In order to prepare for these exams students should focus on all their work since starting the course in Year 9 and what they will have studied up to the end of November in Year 11. This work includes Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Training, Social Cultural Issues, Sports Psychology and Health Fitness and Well Being. Students will be supplied with revision material to help with preparation for this exam. Some power points used in lessons are also available on Firefly. A revision guide is also available to purchase from the Academy.
Religious Studies	The one-hour exam will focus on the Judaism and Christianity beliefs and teaching units studied in Years 9 and 10. Students will answer two complete questions: each requiring part a, b, c and d answers. Students need to revise using the GCSE RPE Christianity and Judaism Firefly pages and subject revision guides.
Science	Students will be sitting a paper in each separate science subject the content of which is as follows: Biology – Paper 2 Topic 5 – Homeostasis and Response, Topic 6 – Variation and Evolution, Topic 7 - Ecology Chemistry – Paper 2 Topic 6 – The rate and extent of chemical change, Topic 7 – Organic Chemistry, Topic 8 – Chemical Analysis, Topic 9 – Chemistry of the Atmosphere, Topic 10 – Using Resources Physics – Paper 1 Topic 1 – Energy, Topic 2 – Electricity, Topic 3 – Particle model of matter, Topic 4 – Atomic Structure

The following subjects will hold assessments outside of the PPE timetable, if it is not listed below the teacher will communicate with the students separately:

Art, Photography & Textiles	Students are currently developing and planning final design ideas in sketchbooks for the 10 hours of supervised time over two days (exam conditions) to create final outcomes for Component 1 in May 2022. All students have a time plan and check list of both classwork and homework tasks to follow. 11A/Art – 10 hours of supervised time (3rd & 4th May) 11C/Tx - 10 hours of supervised time (4th & 5th May) 11D/Art – 10 hours of supervised time (5th & 6th May)
Performing Arts	Students will be working on their assessed devised performance in response to a brief. Students will create 7 minutes of original performance that demonstrates a confident use of technical and expressive skills. The piece should include performance material that has been influenced by at least three practitioner styles. Students have been provided with a weekly revision plan which is also available via the Performing Arts Firefly page. Resources, examples and structures for written logs are also available via Firefly.

I hope you find this information useful in providing specific details on what your son/daughter should be revising between now and the March PPE exams. It is essential that Year 11 students are now setting aside a significant amount of time (in the evenings, on the weekends, over the February Half Term holidays and attending bridging sessions at school) to prepare for these and the summer exams. Students will need to strike the right balance over the February Half Term 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 half term break wisely, and then come back ready to do their best, they can be confident about receiving encouraging PPE results. The revision students undertake for their PPEs will also be relevant for their final exams in the summer of 2022. Revising thoroughly for PPEs is an important strategy in staying on top of work in Year 11 and reducing pressure later in the school year.

Formal feedback on performance in PPEs will be given in the Year 11 Grade Reports which will be available online in April 2022.

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



Rachel Hopwood
Deputy Headteacher

Timetable for Year 11 PPEs – March 2022

TIMETABLE FOR YEAR 11 PRE PUBLIC EXAMS – MARCH 2022

	MORNING (PERIODS 1 & 2)		MID MORNING (PERIODS 3 & 4)		AFTERNOON (PERIOD 5)	
MONDAY 14 MARCH	English Language	9.05 – 10.15	RE	11.25 – 12.25		
TUESDAY 15 MARCH	Biology – Combined Science Biology – Triple Science	9.05 – 10.20 9.05 – 10.50	Maths	11.25 – 12.55		
WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH	English Literature	9.05 – 9.55	Geography	11.25 – 12.25		
THURSDAY 17 MARCH	Computer Science – Paper 1 iMedia	9.05 – 11.05 9.05 – 10.20	French Writing – Foundation French Writing – Higher	11.25 – 12.25 11.25 – 12.40	French Listening – Foundation French Listening - Higher	2.10 – 2.45 2.10 – 2.55
FRIDAY 18 MARCH	Chemistry – Combined Science Chemistry – Triple Science	9.25 – 10.40 9.25 – 11.10	German Writing – Foundation German Writing – Higher	11.35 – 12.35 11.35 – 12.50	German Listening – Foundation German Listening - Higher	2.10 – 2.45 2.10 – 2.55
MONDAY 21 MARCH	Computer Science – Paper 2 Food Preparation & Nutrition	9.05 – 10.50 9.05 – 10.50	History	11.25 – 12.15		
TUESDAY 22 MARCH	Physics – Combined Science Physics – Triple Science	9.05 – 10.20 9.05 – 10.50	PE – Paper 1	11.25 – 12.25		
WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH	Business	9.05 – 10.50	French Reading – Foundation French Reading – Higher	11.25 – 12.10 11.25 – 12.25		
THURSDAY 24 MARCH	DT	9.05 – 11.05	German Reading – Foundation German Reading – Higher	11.25 – 12.10 11.25 – 12.25		
FRIDAY 25 MARCH	Music	9.25 – 11.10	PE – Paper 2	11.35 – 12.35		