

October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Pre-Public Exams - November 2023

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 6 -16 November 2023.

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.

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 unclear 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 1 which will focus on Business Operations and Human Resources, 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 six multiple choice questions, short knowledge only questions followed by a series of questions that need to be applied to the context in the question. Sections B and C will be based on real Business case studies with a variety of questions ranging from two to twelve marks.
Computer Science	There will be one paper for this PPE. This paper will cover elements of Paper 1 - general programming and Paper 2 - computing concepts. This is a two hour exam. The sections covered in Paper 1 are: Unit 1 Algorithms, Unit 2a+b - Programming, Unit 3 - Fundamentals of data representation, and Unit 4 - Computer systems. Please see the Computer Science Resources folder in your class notebook on Teams, supplied revision resources and official revision guides for resources help prepare effectively. Please see the Computer Science revision section of Firefly, supplied revision resources and official revision guides for resources to help prepare effectively.
Creative iMedia	The exam will be a past paper covering the examined unit R093 – Creative iMedia in the Media Industry. This exam is one hour and 30 minutes. This will be a useful opportunity to reinforce your revision for the external assessment in June next year.
Design Technology	The PPE is a sample test of the three sections of the written paper, which consists of Core technical principals, Specialist technical principals, Designing and making principal. In term 1 and term 2 of year

	11, pupils will have covered for revision: Selection of materials or components, Specialist techniques and processes and materials management. Inclusive in the PPE will be Maths for DT.
English Language	Students will sit a full English Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives. Students will be asked to answer questions analysing and comparing the methods used in two sources in Section A of the exam. They will read both sources and answer four questions on them: question one tests comprehension; question 2 asks students to write a comparative summary; question 3 asks students to analyse language; question 4 asks students to compare writers' ideas and methods. Section B is the writing section of the exam where students will write their own non-fiction text to express their point of view on a given topic. There are past papers and revision resources on Firefly to aid revision for this PPE.
French/ German	PPEs will take place for all four skill areas: reading, listening, speaking and writing. Students should focus on learning topic specific vocabulary via the AQA list on Memrise and practising tasks for the skill areas via the links in the Revision section on Firefly. The topics at both Higher and Foundation level will cover the following topics: 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 and tourism, current and future study and employment. In preparation for the writing exam students should use Basics and Complex Features sheets, Bitesize, Languages Online, the CPG 9-1 Revision Guides and Firefly links to revise grammar and core vocabulary including the past, present and future verb tenses, word order rules, opinion phrases, time phrases and connectives.
Geography	Students will be sitting two, one and a half hour examinations. Paper 1 will test all of their physical Geography topics; Natural Hazards, The Living World, Coasts and Rivers. Students must therefore revise all of these topics in detail. 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. Paper 2 will test their ability to apply geographical skills and understanding using a pre released document which will be provided in lessons, they will also be tested on their fieldwork knowledge. Students will need to revise their key terminology and both physical and human fieldwork findings for this paper. To ensure they have revised effectively, students should use their exercise books (with 'Topic Overviews' and 'Key Words') and revision guides to prepare for this exam.
History	Students will complete a full Paper 3, focused on the German Depth Study. It will have six questions covering the skills of inference, usefulness, explanation, and three questions focused on interpretation analysis. Students should revise the content of topics 2 and 3 covering Weimar Hitler's rise to Power 1918-1933 and Hitler's methods of consolidation (becoming Fuhrer) and control 1933-1939. They should also revise how to answer the exam questions. Tasks to support revision including a revision schedule and revision materials and a set of exam questions have been set on ClassCharts.
Maths	Students will complete a Calculator and Non-Calculator paper and are aware of the tier of paper they are currently working towards. We will provide pupils with a topic list with links to SPARX Maths and Corbett Maths to help them with their revision and a half term revision booklet of exam questions. Past papers and links to other 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 and 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. Paper 1 will cover Anatomy and Physiology and Physical Training Paper 2 will cover Social Cultural Issues and Sports Psychology

	Revision material can be found on Firefly. There is a variety of resources from past papers to videos of the specific areas plus there are the lesson material which the students studied. There are also booklets for revision on Firefly. These can be printed at school if we are given enough notice.
Religious Studies	Students will sit a one-hour religions paper, which consists of two full questions testing their knowledge, understanding, and evaluation of Judaism and Christianity. Question 1 of the exam will focus on Jewish beliefs, teachings, and practices, and question 2 will focus on Christian beliefs, teachings, and practices. This requires students to revise the Judaism and Christianity units they studied in Years 9 and 10. Students will answer two complete questions: each requiring parts a, b, c, and d answers, testing their skills of defining, describing, explaining, and evaluating. Students need to revise using the GCSE RPE Christianity and Judaism Firefly pages and the subject revision guides signposted by their subject teacher.
Science	Students will be sitting a paper in each separate science subject the content of which is as follows: Biology – Paper 1 Topic 1 – Cell Biology, Topic 2 – Organisation, Topic 3 – Infection and Response and Topic 4 – Bioenergetics. Chemistry – Paper 1 Topic 1 – Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Topic 2 – Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter, Topic 3 – Quantitative Chemistry, Topic 4 – Chemical Changes and Topic 5 – Energy Changes. Physics – Paper 1 Topic 1 – Energy, Topic 2 – Electricity, Topic 3 – Particle model and 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 and Textiles	<p>AQA Component 1 (60% of GCSE) is a portfolio of work to include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial starting points to the realisation of finished outcomes. During the five-hour practical students will work from a design plan to create a final piece. The final piece will conclude the Year 11 unit of work.</p> <p>Five-hour PPE practical days are as follows: 11C Textiles 07 Dec and 11D Textiles 08 Dec. 11A Art and 11D Art 12 Dec and Year 12 GCSE Photography 11 Dec 2023.</p> <p>Component 2 (40% of GCSE) is an externally set assignment. Students will be provided with an exam paper on Thursday 4 January 2024. Following receipt of the paper, students will consider the starting points and select one. To launch component 2 students will attend a five-hour practical day as follows: 11A Art 09 Jan, 11D Art 09 Jan, 11C Textiles 18 Jan, 11D Textiles 19 Jan and Year 12 GCSE Photography 17 Jan 2024. Component 2 is a 12-week project developing project themes in preparation for 10 hours of supervised time where students produce a finished outcome or a series of related outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.</p> <p>Component 2 actual 10 hours of supervised time (exam conditions) takes places as follows.</p> <p>11A Art 22 and 23 April 2024 11D Art 24 and 25 April 2024 11C Textiles 16 and 17 April 2024 11D Textiles 18 and 19 April 2024 Year 12 GCSE Photography Week B Mon 22 and Tues 23 April 2024</p>
Performing Arts	<p>Over the course of 12 weeks students will be introduced to a Brief. They will respond to this Brief by working in groups to create a seven-ten minute performance (18 marks) that must also link to a given stimulus.</p> <p>The students will review the devised performance and their development as a performer by writing three 800 word logs over the course of the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas Log (15 marks) • Skills Log (15 marks) • Evaluation Report (12 marks) <p>All logs will be completed in three one hour sessions, on a computer during timetabled lesson time. Students are permitted to bring notes into the controlled assessment.</p>

I hope you find this information useful in providing specific details on what your son/daughter should be revising between now and the PPE exams. It is essential that Year 11 students are now setting aside a significant amount of time (in the evenings, on the weekends and attending bridging sessions at school) to prepare for these and the summer exams. The revision students undertake for their PPEs will also be relevant for their final exams in the summer of 2024. 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.

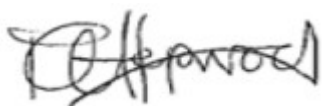
Formal feedback on performance in PPEs will be given in the Year 11 Grade Reports which will be available online in December 2023.

You are reminded next week on Wednesday 18 October there will be a Year 11 Preparation for Success evening with talks at 5.30pm and 6.45pm in the café. This is the same day as Kings' Sixth Open Evening which is also running between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Year 11 Parents Evening is taking place on Thursday 7 December, with subject teaching staff. If you are unable to attend there will be information available on 7 December during Parents' Evening and the opportunity to ask questions from current students alongside a mini tour to see the new Sixth Form Centre.

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 – November 2023

TIMETABLE FOR YEAR 11 PRE PUBLIC EXAMS – NOVEMBER 2023

	MORNING (PERIODS 1 & 2)		MID MORNING (PERIODS 3 & 4)		AFTERNOON (PERIOD 5)	
MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER	English Language	9.05 – 10.50	French Writing – Foundation French Writing – Higher	12.00 – 1.00 12.00 – 1.15	French Listening – Foundation French Listening - Higher	2.15 – 2.50 2.15 – 3.00
TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER	Biology – Combined Science Biology – Triple Science	9.05 – 10.20 9.05 – 10.50	RE	12.00 – 1.00		
WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER	Maths	9.05 – 10.35	Geography	11.30 – 1.00		
THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER	Chemistry – Combined Science Chemistry – Triple Science	9.05 – 10.20 9.05 – 10.50	History	11.45 – 1.05		
FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER	Business	9.25 – 11.10	German Writing – Foundation German Writing – Higher PE – Paper 1	12.00 – 1.00 12.00 – 1.15 12.00 – 1.00	German Listening – Foundation German Listening - Higher	2.15 – 2.50 2.15 – 3.00
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER	Maths	9.05 – 10.35	Geography	11.30 – 1.00		
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER	Computer Science – Paper 1 iMedia	9.05 – 11.05 9.05 – 10.35	French Reading – Foundation French Reading – Higher	12.00 – 12.45 12.00 – 1.00		
WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER	Physics – Combined Science Physics – Triple Science	9.05 – 10.20 9.05 – 10.50	DT	11.30 – 1.00		
THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER	Music PE – Paper 2	9.05 – 10.50 9.25 – 10.25	German Reading – Foundation German Reading – Higher	12.00 – 12.45 12.00 – 1.00		