

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

Year 13 Pre-Public Exams – November 2023

I am writing to inform you of the important Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) that are due to take place for Year 13 students at The Kings Academy from 20 to 27 November 2023.

PPEs are internal exams set by subject teachers. The results do not count towards the final grading of qualifications if all exams are undertaken in the Summer series. 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 some valuable information regarding their current level of performance, their strengths and those areas which they still need to develop. Our Sixth Form students, in previous years, have told us receiving feedback from their PPEs was one of the most valuable learning experiences in Year 13. Students in Year 13 will sit their PPEs in November 2023 and in March 2024 to support them in being fully prepared for their public exams next Summer. 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 13.

Please find overleaf a timetable indicating when exams in specific subjects will take place. Students will, in due course, be issued with an Individual Candidate Exam Timetable by their tutor, a copy of which will be emailed to their Kings' email address. This will indicate exactly which papers they are sitting with details of their start times, venues and seat numbers. During the PPE week, students are not expected to attend their lessons and they should use the week as study leave unless they take a vocational subject in which case they must check with their teaching staff.

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 important exams.

Art, Photography and Textiles	A Level Component 2, 40% of A Level. This is an externally set assignment. Students will be provided with an exam paper on Thursday 1 February 2024. Following receipt of the paper, students will consider the starting points and select one. The preparatory period is followed by 15 hours of supervised time (exam conditions) and takes place as follows. Photography 13F 01, 02, 03 May and 13E 07, 08, 09 May Art 13C 08, 09, 10 May Textiles 13B 07, 08, 09 May
Biology	The exam will be one hour 30 minutes long. The exam will consist of short answer questions and some extended response questions. The focus for these exams are all the topics studied in Year 12: Cells, Biological Molecules, Organisms and Exchange, Genetic Information, Variation and Relationships between Organisms.
BTEC Human Biology	Students will be sitting a Unit 3 Human Biology and Health Issues one hour 30 min paper comprising of two or three longer discussion questions using scientific journal reading material. The content will cover any topic covered in Year 13 since September in Mrs Angus and Mr Davies' lessons. Topic lists will be shared with students to enable them to focus their revision on particular elements of the specification.
BTEC Law	Students will be sitting a paper worth two hours on Unit 3. Students will complete two tasks based on learning aims A-D and are able to take into the exam two sides of A4 notes which will be agreed by their teacher. Students will be issued with the pre release material one week before and will have class time to work on their notes.



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BTEC Sport Cert	<p>Unit 2 - Two 1/2 hour exam - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifestyle factors • Screening for programming • Programme Related nutritional needs • Training methods • Training Programme Design <p>Students will be given the topic prior to the exam and will have time to plan their work. They can take up to four sides of A4 paper into the exam with bulleted notes. In the exam they will be given a scenario and they will answer six questions on the areas stated above in relation to the scenario.</p>
BTEC Sport Diploma	<p>Unit 2 - As above for BTEC Sport Cert</p> <p>Unit 22 - 3 hour exam - Investigating Business in Sport and the active leisure industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business operations • Business models • Human resources • Marketing • Trends in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry <p>Students will be issued with instructions to research three businesses prior to the exam. This research can be taken into the exam on up to four sides of A4 as bulleted notes. Students will answer four questions based on a fictitious company which will be given to them in the exam and compare this business with the ones which they have researched.</p>
Business Studies	<p>Students will be sitting a two hour paper comprising of multiple choice questions, some short data response questions and a series of longer evaluation questions using case study material. The content will cover any topic covered in Year 12 and term one of the Year 13 course. Topic lists will be shared with students to enable them to focus their revision on particular elements of the specification.</p>
Chemistry	<p>Students need to revise AS content from Year 12 for their PPE. Topics which should be covered:</p> <p>Unit 1 – Atomic Structure, Amount of Substance, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibria and Redox Reactions</p> <p>Unit 2 – Periodicity, group two and group seven</p> <p>Unit 3 – Introduction to Organic Chemistry, Alkanes and Haloalkanes, Alkenes and Alcohols, Organic Analysis</p> <p>Paper 1 will focus on the Inorganic Chemistry topics with Paper 2 focusing on the Organic Chemistry topics. The Physical Chemistry topics are split between both papers.</p>
Computer Science	<p>The PPE will be a combination of questions from AQA A Level Paper 1 and Paper 2. This exam is two hours and 30 minutes. There will be a range of short answer and extended answer questions taken from the following areas (covered in Year 12):</p> <p>4.1 Programming, 4.2 Data Structures, 4.3 Algorithms, 4.5 Data Representation, 4.6 Computer Systems, 4.7 Computer Organisation and Architecture, 4.9 Communication and Networking, and 4.12 OOP. Refer to your Class notebook for topics to revise and access to course text book, revision guides and your unit notes and worksheets.</p>
Core Maths	<p>The paper will be a paper 1, focusing on topics outlined in the topic list students were provided with at the beginning of the year. Revision resources can be found on Firefly under Maths, Core Maths, and then both 'Pre requisite' and 'Revision'.</p>
DT Product Design	<p>This PPE will focus on: Maths in DT, Performance characteristics, processing and working characteristics of: polymers, wood, metals, composites, smart materials. Responsible design, Product design and development.</p>
Digital Media	<p>Paper 1 will be a past Unit 1 paper (Digital Media and Emerging Technologies). Paper 2 will be a past Unit 2 paper (Pre-Production and Planning).</p>



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Economics	Students need to prepare for Micro and Macro topics, a combination of topics from Year 12 and the Autumn term of Year 13. There will be a series of short answer questions, some using diagrams followed by a longer mark question from each area which will refer to case study information. Topic lists will be shared with students to enable them to focus their revision on particular elements of the specification.
English Language	Students will sit one paper, Paper 2 (two hours 30 minutes), Dimensions of Linguistic Variations. In Paper 2 they will sit the following <u>three</u> sections: Section A: Language Acquisition. One transcript of a child/children in conversation and students must conduct an analysis of the language use in this transcript. Section B: Topical Language Issues – Writing creatively on a topical language issue (A paper one question that will be moved into Paper 2 for this exam) Section C: Language Change. Two texts from different eras. Students must compare these texts and explore how the language within them has changed over time.
English Literature	Students will sit a partial Paper 1 (one hour 15 minutes) on Section B only. Section B requires 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. They should use their orange revision booklets from year 12 to prepare for this section of the exam. Students will also sit a full Paper 2 Exam (2 hours 30 minutes). This will include Section A, which is the Gothic Critical Appreciation and Section B, which is the Gothic Contextual comparison of Carter and Shelley. There are revision resources for this on Firefly and students should also use their Gothic Anthologies and wider reading for revision.
Film Studies	Students will sit Paper 2 Critical Approaches to Film. They will need to know for Section A ‘Skyfall’ and ‘The Dark Knight Rises’, for Section B the Documentary theory and set film (The Act of Killing) and for Section C the Outsiders films (Elephant, Babadook, Y Tu Mama Tambien). Students must also revise these aspects of film theory: Genre, Representation, Spectatorship, Ideology, Narrative, Institution.
Geography	Students will be sitting a two hours 30 minutes examination to test the three topics they have studied so far in Year 12. The three topics are: ‘Changing Places’, ‘Coastal Systems and Processes’ and ‘Natural Hazards’. The exam will be worth 120 marks in total. Questions will vary in marks available from four, six, nine and up to 20 marks. Levels will be used for all other questions that are six marks and over. Two levels will be used for questions worth six marks; three levels will be used for questions worth nine 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. 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 from the Past Paper Section on Firefly.
History	Students will sit one paper lasting one hour and 30 minutes. This paper will assess students on assessment Objective 2 and assessment Objective 3 which cover the source and interpretation skills required at A level. Students will complete one 45 minute source essay focused on Paper 2 South Africa, 1948-1994 and one 45 minute Interpretation question focused on Reagan’s presidency from Paper 1. In preparation students should revise Topics for South Africa and all of the Reagan topic.
Maths	There will be two papers for students studying A Level Maths: A two-hour Pure Maths paper – which will cover all Year 1 Pure Maths topics, then from Year 2 Pure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 section 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 on Algebraic and Partial Fractions • Chapter 5 on Radians • Chapter 6 on Trigonometric functions • Chapter 7 on Trigonometry



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 9 on Differentiation section (9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5) <p>A 75-minute AS paper on Statistics and Mechanics (The whole of Year 1 mechanics and for statistics content)</p>
Maths AS	Pupils will sit a full set of AS papers. A two-hour Pure paper and a 75 minute applied paper on Statistics and Mechanics.
Further Maths	<p>There will be two papers for Year 13 Further Maths students:</p> <p>A two-hour Core Pure Maths paper – which will cover everything in Core Pure Book 1 (AS), then from Core Pure Book 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1 on Complex Number Chapter 6 on Hyperbolic functions (sections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3) Chapter 5 on Polar coordinates (section 5.1 and 5.2) Chapter 2 on Series (section 2.1) <p>A one hour 40 minutes AS paper covering the AS content of Decision Maths and Further Statistics 1.</p>
Music	<p>Students should use their anthology scores, notes from their exercise books and recordings (available on YouTube) and handouts within their folders to prepare for their exam. Revision should cover the set works within the five areas of study covered so far – Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz and Fusions.</p> <p>The exam paper will comprise of two sections, A and B. The first part of Section A will be short answer listening questions based on the set works. This will be followed by a musical dictation question. Section B comprises of two extended writing questions, the first based on an unfamiliar piece that falls into one of the areas of study. The second is an essay style question based on one of the set works.</p>
PE	<p>Students will sit two papers for PE. The course content will be based on all work covered in the previous two years.</p> <p>Paper 1 - Two hour exam - physiological factors affecting performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skeletal and muscular systems, Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems Energy for exercise, recovery, altitude and Heat Diet and Nutrition, preparation and training methods Biomechanics <p>Paper 2 - One Hour exam - socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill acquisition Sports Psychology Sport and Society <p>Revision material is available on Firefly, with the course structure leading to past papers and lesson material. The students have been shown and also emailed the link.</p>
Physics	Students will sit a two hour exam comprising of 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on the following topics: Measurements and their Errors, Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics and Materials, Electricity and Periodic Motion.
Psychology	<p>The Psychology papers will be on Paper 1 topics and will be two hours long:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Influence Memory Attachment Psychopathology <p>Students will also be sitting a second paper which is one hour and will be on research methods. Revision resources are on Firefly and students have access to classroom resources and revision guides. They will need to revise work covered in Year 12 and Year 13.</p>



<p>Religious Studies</p>	<p>Students will sit two papers. Paper 1: Judaism will be a one-hour paper, students will answer one full question including both parts A (Ao1 worth 20 marks) and B (Ao2 worth 30 marks). Students will choose their question out of a choice of three, testing their knowledge and evaluation of the Judaism topics studied in Years 12 and 13. Paper 2: Philosophy and Ethics will be a two-hour paper. Students will answer two full questions including both parts A (Ao1 worth 20 marks) and B (Ao2 worth 30 marks). Students will be required to answer one Philosophy question and one Ethics question out of a choice of six; three Philosophy questions and three Ethics questions, testing their knowledge and evaluation of the Philosophy and Ethics topics studied in Years 12 and 13. Revision resources will include textbooks and class notes. Class teachers will direct students to relevant websites and online resources.</p>
<p>Sociology</p>	<p>Students will sit a complete Component 2 Paper. Section A: Research Methods Section B: Researching Social Inequalities Revision list and instructions for answering the questions can be found in their course handbook.</p>

I hope you find this information useful in providing specific details on what students should be revising between now and the November 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 half-term break wisely, and then come back in November ready to do their best, they can be confident about receiving encouraging PPE results.

Formal feedback on performance in these exams will be given in the Year 13 Reports which will be available online in January 2024 ahead of Year 13 Parents' Evening on Thursday 18 January 2024.

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 13 PPEs – November 2023



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TIMETABLE FOR YEAR 13 PRE PUBLIC EXAMS – NOVEMBER 2023

	MORNING		AFTERNOON	
MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER	Computer Science	9.00 – 11.30	PE Paper 1	1.00 – 3.00
	BTEC Sport Diploma & Cert – Unit 2	9.00 – 11.30	BTEC Human Biology	1.00 – 2.30
	Business	9.00 – 11.00	English Literature Paper 1	1.00 – 2.15
	Digital Media Paper 1	9.00 – 11.00		
TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER	Geography	9.00 – 11.30	DT	1.00 – 3.00
	Further Maths (Core Pure)	9.00 – 11.00	Biology Paper 1	1.00 – 2.30
	Music	9.00 – 11.00		
WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER	Maths (Pure) & AS students	9.00 – 11.00	Psychology Paper 1	12.45 – 2.45
	BTEC Law Paper 1	9.00 – 11.00	Economics	12.45 – 2.45
	Maths Core (Year 12)	9.00 – 10.30		
THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER	BTEC Sport Diploma – Unit 22	9.00 – 12.00	History	1.00 – 2.30
	English Language	9.00 – 11.30	RE Paper 1 (Judaism)	1.00 – 2.00
	Chemistry Paper 1	9.00 – 10.30		
FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER	Sociology	9.00 – 11.15	BTEC Law Paper 2 (Yr12&13)	1.00 – 2.30
	Physics	9.00 – 11.00	Psychology Paper 2	1.00 – 2.00
	RE Paper 2 (Philosophy & Ethics) & AS Students	9.00 – 11.00		
	PE Paper 2	9.00 – 10.00		
MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER	English Literature Paper 2	9.00 – 11.30	Further Maths (Decision & Stats)	1.00 – 2.40
	Maths (Applied) & AS students	9.00 – 11.00	Chemistry Paper 2	1.00 – 2.30
	Film Studies	9.00 – 11.00		
	Digital Media Paper 2	9.00 – 11.00		



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