

March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

Year 12 Pre-Public Exams – April 2024

I am writing to inform you of some very important pre-public exams (PPEs) that are due to take place for Year 12 students at The Kings of Wessex Academy from Monday 29 April to Friday 3 May 2024 inclusive.

The above is a date change from the one that was originally in the calendar due to the placement of the external Summer Examination Series for both Years 11 and 13.

PPEs are internal examinations set by subject teachers. These exams use exam board assessment materials and mark-schemes and give students a very authentic experience of sitting examinations and excellent preparation for the public examinations in Year 13. These exams also give students and their teachers some valuable information about 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 that receiving feedback from their PPEs was one of the most valuable learning experiences. 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.

Students will be given a predicted grade for UCAS and future applications. This grade will take into account the PPE grade achieved in Year 12 but this will not be used in isolation for the prediction.

Please find overleaf a timetable which indicates when exams in specific subjects are taking place. Your son/daughter will, in due course, be issued with an Individual Candidate Exam Timetable by their Tutor. A copy will also be emailed to their Kings’ email address. This will indicate exactly which papers they are sitting with details of starting times, venues and seat numbers. During the PPE week students will be on study leave unless they have lessons in VTQs (Vocational Technical Qualifications e.g. BTEC). A number of VTQ subjects have external exam units in May 2024.

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 crucial examinations.

Biology	Students will be assessed on any content from topics 1-4, namely Biological molecules, Cells, Exchange and Genetic information. We strongly recommend that students revise by using the “past paper questions by topic” that are available on Firefly. Past Paper Questions by topic
Business Studies	Paper 1 (AS) content: What is Business? Managers, Leadership and Decision-Making, questions covering the four functional areas of Marketing, Operations Management, Finance and Human Resources. A more detailed topic list will be shared with students in lessons.
Chemistry	The two papers will cover all AS content taught during Year 12. Past papers are available on Firefly and at www.aqa.org.uk , with topic examination questions also available.
Computer Science	The exam will cover all content taught in Unit 1 (Fundamentals of Programming), Unit 2 (Problem-Solving), Unit 3 (Data Representation), Unit 4 (Hardware and Software), Unit 5 (Computer Organisation), Unit 11 (Databases and SQL), and part of Unit 12 (OOP).

DT Product Design	<p>The three-hour exam includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of technical principles and designing and making principles, along with their ability to analyse and evaluate wider issues in Design and Technology. Students should revise the following topics:</p> <p>Material: timer (seasoning) Material testing: destructive and non destructive Material Availability: stock forms, benefits. Material Categories: metals: aluminium, steel Example of uses, Polymers, timber, Material Finishes: powder coating Environmental Impact of Materials extraction, Feasibility studies, Market pull, CIM, Consumer Acts legislations Maths in DT: surface area, circumference and volume.</p>
Economics	50% Micro, 50% Macro topics taken from topics taught from the AS specification (Year 12). A more detailed topic list will be shared in lessons.
English Language	<p>Students will sit a full Paper 1 exam.</p> <p>Question 1: Language Under the Microscope (Lexis and Sentences)</p> <p>Question 2: Topical Language Issue (Writing for a specific purpose and audience on a Topical Language Issue that will have been studied in class)</p> <p>Question 3: Comparing and contrasting texts</p>
English Literature	<p>Students will write one comparative essay on Oscar Wilde's <i>An Ideal Husband</i> and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's selected poetry. There will be a selection of thematic questions to choose from and answer. Resources are available on Firefly for this exam question, and students should also use their orange revision booklets for this unit.</p> <p>Students will also sit the critical appreciation section for the Gothic element. Revision resources are available for this on Firefly and students should also use their Gothic Anthologies for revision.</p> <p>This exam will be two hours 30mins.</p>
Film Studies	Students will sit a full Paper 1 exam: US and European Film History. The following areas will be examined: <i>Do the Right Thing</i> , Chaplin, <i>Double Indemnity</i> , Surrealism and Expressionism.
Further Maths	Students will sit a Core Pure paper covering all year one Core Pure content and a Decision paper covering all the AS and A2 Decision content.
Geography	Students will sit a two hour examination to assess the three topics they have studied in Year 12. The three topics are: 'Hazards', 'Coastal Systems and Processes' and 'Changing Places'. Students should use their class notes, pages on Firefly, Topic Overviews and their CGP A Level Revision Guide to help them revise everything they have studied in each topic. The page numbers from the revision guide and the links to Firefly pages will be sent to students via ClassCharts. It would also be beneficial to practise questions from past papers (found on Firefly). This will help them practise the PEEEL structures they have been taught to use.
History	Students will sit a two hour 15 minute exam paper covering both the units taught this year. For Paper 1: In Search of the American Dream, students should revise the first two topics studied this year: Topic 1: The changing political environment, 1917–80 and Topic 2: The quest for Civil Rights, 1917–80. For South Africa, 1948–94 students should revise all topics covered in class so far including Topic 1: The response to apartheid, c1948–59, Topic 2 Radicalisation of resistance and the consolidation of National Party power, 1960–68 and Topic 3 Redefining resistance and challenges to National Party power, 1968–80. The exam will consist of one source essay testing A02 for the South Africa section and two knowledge essays for the America section of the paper. Each of the three questions are worth 20 marks and should take 45 minutes. Students will be provided with revision lists, exam technique advice and links to revision material on ClassCharts.
Maths	Students will sit a Pure paper covering all the year one Pure content and an applied paper covering all the year one Statistics content.
Music	This will cover all the set works covered to date. There will be three short answer listening questions, a melodic and rhythmic dictation, an unfamiliar essay question and one extended essay question.
PE	The students will undertake two exams which will cover the following units of study; Paper 1 Anatomy and Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics, Paper 2 Skill Acquisition and Sports Psychology. Students need to revise the theory covered to date to test knowledge across the topics. All taught lessons are on Firefly.
Physics	Students will sit a one hour 30 minute AS paper 1. The exam comprises of 70 marks of short and long answer questions split by topic, based on the following: Measurements and their Errors, Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics and Materials and Electricity.

Psychology	Students will be sitting two papers which will include modules taught during Year 12 from Paper 1 and Paper 2. The exam will consist of Approaches, Research Methods, Biopsychology, Memory and Psychopathology.
Religious Studies	Students are to sit two assessment papers, which will require students to answer one complete question, both parts a and b (AO1 and AO2) on each of the three components. Paper 1: Judaism (AO1/AO2) one hour Examining theme 1: Covenants, Torah/Talmud/Mishnah, Rashi, and Maimonides. Paper 2: Philosophy and Ethics (AO1/AO2) two hour Philosophy: Examining theme one and two: Proofs for the existence of God and challenges for the existence of God. Ethics: Examining theme one and two; Virtue Ethics, Aquinas Natural Moral Law and its application of the theory.
Sociology	Students will sit a full paper 1. This will comprise of two sections: Section A: Culture, Socialisation and Identity. Section B: Youth and Youth Subcultures. A wide range of 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 PPE exams. It is essential that Year 12 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 break wisely and then come back 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 12 Reports which will be available online in June 2024.

If 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 12 PRE PUBLIC EXAMS – APRIL 2024

	MORNING	Times	AFTERNOON	Times
MONDAY 29 APRIL	Business	09.00 – 10.30	Computer Science	12.30 – 2.30
	Further Maths – Decision	09.00 – 10.30	Economics	12.30 – 2.30
	RE Paper 1	09.00 – 10.00		
TUESDAY 30 APRIL	English Literature	09.00 – 11.30	Maths – Pure	12.30 – 2.30
	Chemistry Paper 1	09.00 – 10.30	PE Paper 1	12.30 – 2.00
	BTEC Business - Marketing	09.00 – 10.30		
WEDNESDAY 1 MAY	DT	09.00 – 12.00	Biology	1.00 – 2.30
	RE Paper 2	09.00 – 11.00	Physics	1.00 – 2.30
	Psychology Paper 1	09.00 – 10.00	BTEC Business – Finance	1.00 – 2.00
THURSDAY 2 MAY	English Language	09.00 – 11.30	Film Studies	12.30 – 2.30
	History	09.00 – 11.15	Sociology	12.30 – 2.30
	Further Maths – Core	09.00 – 10.40	Chemistry Paper 2	12.30 – 2.00
FRIDAY 3 MAY	Geography	09.00 – 11.30	PE Paper 2	1.00 – 2.00
	Music	09.00 – 11.15	Maths – Statistics	1.00 – 1.40
	Psychology Paper 2	09.00 – 10.30		

Public exams for Year 12

Exam	Date
BTEC Business - Unit 2 Developing a Marketing Campaign	Part A – Thursday 9 May PM, Part B – Friday 10 May AM
BTEC Business - Unit 3 Personal and Business Finance	Thursday 16 May PM
BTEC Law - Unit 1 Dispute Solving in Civil Law	Thursday 2 May AM
BTEC Sport - Unit 1 Anatomy and Physiology	Wednesday 15 May PM
BTEC Sport - Unit 2 Fitness Training and Programming	Thursday 2 May AM
Core Maths	Paper 1 – Wednesday 15 May AM, Paper 2 – Thursday 23 May AM
Criminology - Unit 2 Criminological Theories Paper	Thursday 16 May PM
Digital Media - Unit 6 Social Media and Globalisation	Friday 24 May AM
GCSE Maths	Paper 1 - Thursday 16 May AM, Paper 2 – Monday 3 June AM, Paper 3 – Monday 10 June AM
GCSE English Language	Paper 1 – Thursday 23 May AM, Paper 2 – Thursday 6 June AM