



Empowered to Succeed

2025-2026



Supporting your child with their revision

Contents

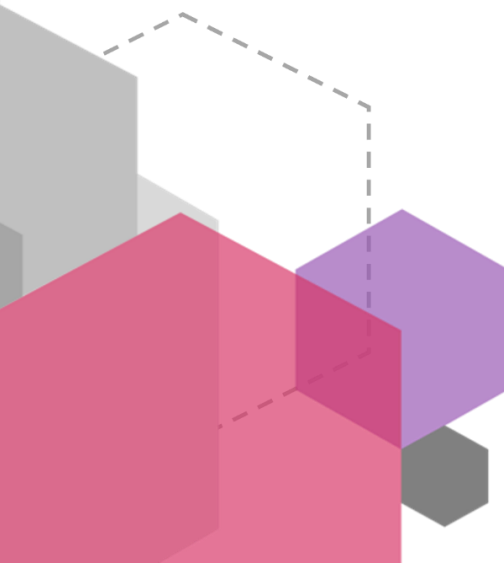
1. The Empowered to Succeed roadmap – important dates
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Important Contacts

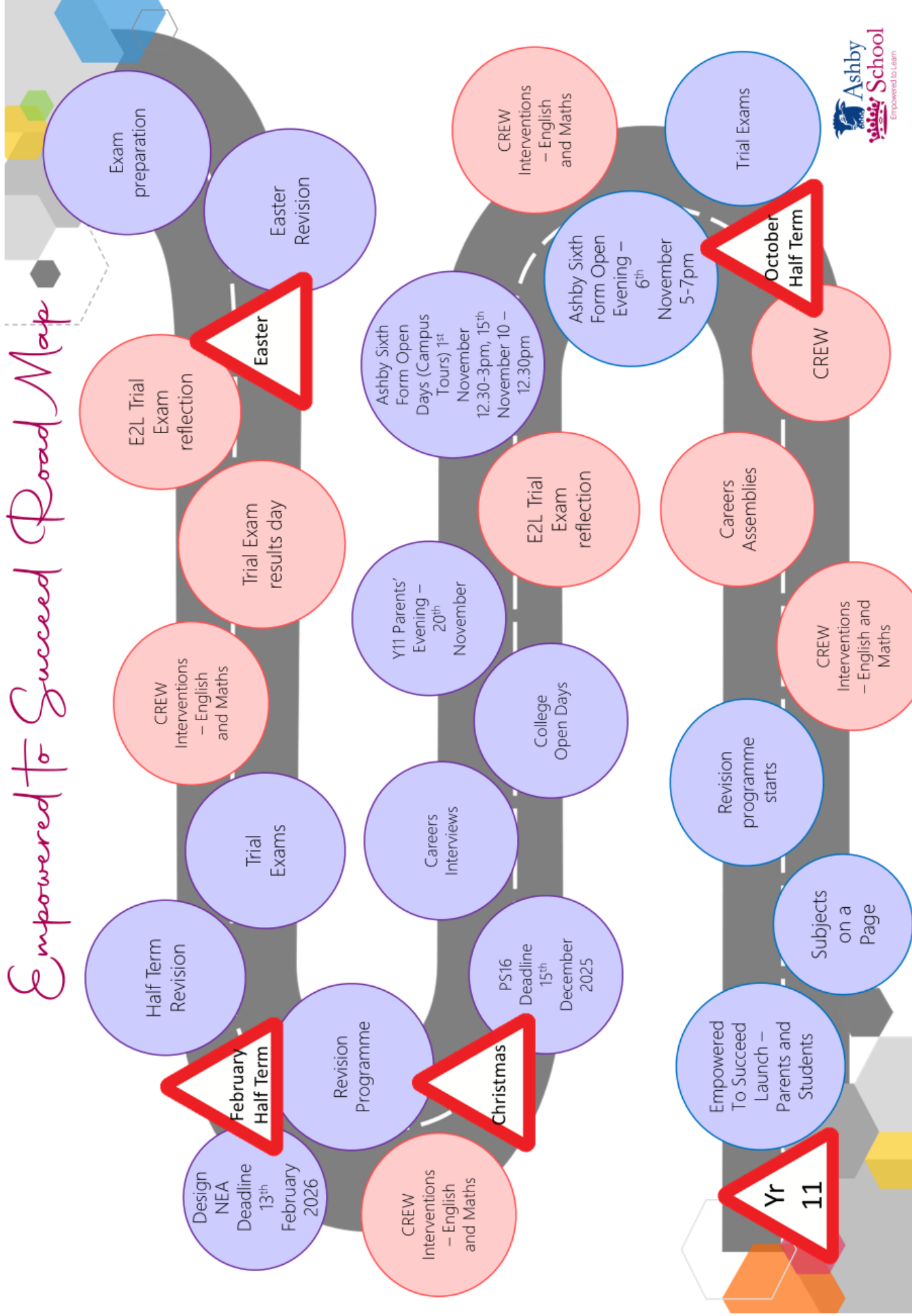
Mr Benstead – Year Team Leader
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Exams
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Empowered to Succeed Road Map



Revision Timetable

Block out time for activities

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			Saturday	Sunday
16:00							10:00	Sports	
17:00							12:00		
18:00							14:00		See Relatives
19:00		Training			See Friends		16:00		
20:00							18:00		
21:00							20:00		

Choose some after school sessions...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			Saturday	Sunday
16:00	After school French		After School Geography	After School Design			10:00	Sports	
17:00							12:00		
18:00							14:00		See Relatives
19:00		Training			See Friends		16:00		
20:00							18:00		
21:00							20:00		

Fill in relaxation times....

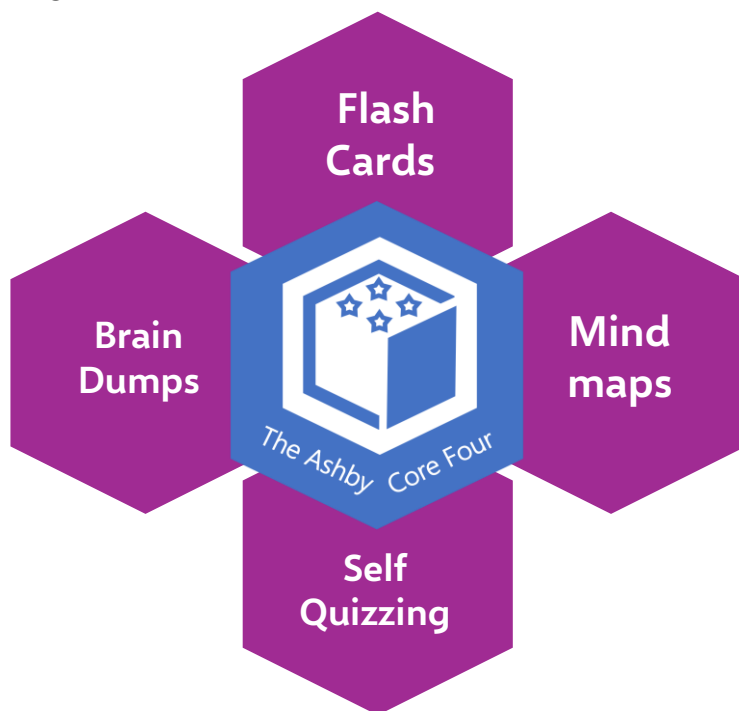
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			Saturday	Sunday
16:00	After school French		After School Geography	After School Design	Watch TV / Relax		10:00	Sports	
17:00	Eat / Relax	Eat / Relax	Eat / Relax	Eat / Relax			12:00		
18:00							14:00		See Relatives
19:00		Training	Watch TV / Relax		See Friends		16:00		
20:00				Watch TV / Relax			18:00		
21:00	Watch TV						20:00	Watch TV / relax	

Add in revision

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			Saturday	Sunday
16:00	After school French	Science	After School Geography	After School Design	Watch TV / Relax		10:00	Sports	Geography
17:00	Eat / Relax	Eat / Relax	Eat / Relax	Eat / Relax	Geography		12:00		French
18:00	English	Psychology	French	Business	Science		14:00	English	See Relatives
19:00	Maths	Training	Watch TV / Relax	Science	See Friends		16:00	Maths	
20:00	Business		English	Watch TV / Relax			18:00	Science	Business
21:00	Watch TV	Design	Maths	Psychology			20:00	Watch TV / relax	Psychology

The Ashby Core Four

The Ashby Core Four are Four revision techniques which we teach students to use in school. Students use these in lessons, in CREW time and in PSD. By using 4 core techniques it allows students to become familiar and confident with them. It gives them a go to with revision rather than not knowing how to start.



Pomodoro Revision Technique – A Guide for Parents

Help your child revise effectively using this simple time-management method:

1. Choose a Task

Pick one subject or topic to focus on.

2. Set a Timer for 25 Minutes

This is called one *Pomodoro*. During this time, your child should work with full focus—no distractions.

3. Take a 5-Minute Break

After 25 minutes, encourage a short break—stretch, grab a snack, or walk around.

4. Repeat

After 4 Pomodoros (4 x 25 mins), take a longer break of 15–30 minutes.

5. Track Progress

Use a checklist or planner to mark off completed Pomodoros. It helps build motivation and a sense of achievement.



Summary: How to create flash cards



1.

Identify knowledge

What are you creating flash cards on?

Do you have your knowledge organizer?

Use your book to look at previous misconceptions from whole class feedback.

2.

Colour coding

Use different coloured flash cards for different topics. This helps with organization NOT recall

3.

Designing

1 Question per flashcard.

Making them concise and clear.

Use a one word prompt, so that you can recall as much as you can.

No extended answer questions.

Number your flash cards for self quizzing.

4.

Using

Write your answers down, then check. Or say your answers out loud. This really clearly shows the gaps in your knowledge.

Do not just copy & re-read.

Shuffle the cards each time you use them.

Use the Leitner system to use flash cards everyday.

5.

Feedback

How have you performed when you look back at your answers?

Is there anything you need to revisit in more detail?

Is your knowledge secure? If so, move onto applying knowledge in that area in specific extended exam questions.

Summary: Self Quizzing



1.

Identify knowledge

Identify knowledge/content you wish to cover.

2.

Review and create

Spend around 5-10 minutes reviewing content (knowledge organisers/class notes/text book)

Create x10 questions on the content (If your teacher has not provided you with questions)

3.

Cover and answer

Cover up your knowledge and answer the questions from memory.

Take your time and where possible answer in full sentences.

4.

Self mark & reflect

Go back to the content and self mark your answers in **green** pen.

5.

Next time

Revisit the areas where there were gaps in knowledge, and include these same questions next time.



Summary: How to create a mind map



1. Identify knowledge

Select a topic you wish to revise. Have your class notes/knowledge organisers ready.



2. Identify sub topics

Place the main topic in the centre of your page and identify sub topics that will branch off.



3. Branch off

Branch of your sub topics with further detail.

Try not to fill the page with too much writing.



4. Use images & colour

Use images and colour to help topics stick into your memory.



5. Put it somewhere visible

Place completed mind maps in places where you can see them frequently.

Summary: Brain dumps



1. Identify knowledge

Identify the knowledge/topic area you want to cover.



2. Write it down

Take a blank piece of paper/white board and write down everything you can remember about that topic. (with no prompts)

Give yourself a timed limit (e.g. 10 minutes)



3. Organise information

Once complete and you cannot remember any more use different colours to highlight/underline words in groups.

This categories/links information.



4. Check understanding

Compare your brain dump to your K/O or book and check understanding.

Add any key information you have missed (key words) in a different colour.



5. Store and compare

Keep your brain dump safe and revisit it.

Next time you attempt the same topic try and complete the same amount of information in a shorter period of time or add more information.

English Literature

Exam Dates

English Literature Paper 1— Macbeth and A Christmas Carol 1 hour 45mins [40%] **11th May 2026 AM**

English Literature Paper 2—An Inspector Calls, Poetry Comparison and Unseen Comp 2hrs 15 [60%] **19th May 2026 AM**

Exam Board: AQA



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Additional Notes and Resources Available

Bespoke revision packs with practice questions, quote revision tasks, checklists and writing frames will be given to all students in February.

Revision sessions for English Literature will be communicated ASAP to both students and parents, once finalised.

Useful Literature Revision Websites:

SENECA: <https://senecalearning.com/en-gb/>

MACBETH BBC YOUTUBE CLIPS: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yo9XbFA1zUv>

POETRY CLIPS (P&C): <http://conflictandpower.blogspot.co.uk/>

English Literature Paper 1

Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel

1 hour 45 minutes

Section A:

Macbeth (50 mins)- 34 marks (4 marks SPG)

- Answer a question about Macbeth where you write in detail about an extract from the play and explore the theme/character in the whole play
- Structure:** Point, Evidence, Explain, (Furthermore), Shakespeare Purpose (x3)
- 5 mins:** Check your answer for technical accuracy

Section B:

A Christmas Carol (50 mins)- 30 marks

- Answer a question about A Christmas Carol where you write in detail about an extract from the play and explore the theme/character in the whole play
- Structure:** Point, Evidence, Explain, (Furthermore), Dickens Purpose (x3)

In both answers, focus on:

- Language/structural analysis
- Writer's intentions

Remember to consider **WHEN, WHAT, HOW, WHY!**

40% GCSE

64 Marks

English Literature Paper 2

Modern texts and poetry

2 hours 15 minutes

Section A

(45 mins): An Inspector Calls (30 marks & 4 marks SPG)

- Answer one essay question about An Inspector Calls (you have a choice of two questions)
- Structure:** Point, Evidence, Explain, Furthermore, Priestley's Purpose

Section B

(45 mins): 15 poems from the Power and Conflict section of the anthology you have studied (30 marks)

- Poetry comparison: you will analyse one named poem which is given to you in the exam, and you have to choose one other poem from the anthology of your choice to also analyse in relation to the theme.
- Structure:** Point, Evidence, Explain, Furthermore, Point, Evidence, Explain, Purpose (x3 quotes in total) [Then repeat for chosen poem]

Section C (2 questions)

(35 mins): Unseen poetry (24 marks) Answer a question about an unseen poem.

- Structure:** Point, Evidence, Explain, Furthermore x2

(10 mins): Unseen comparison (8 marks)

- Finally, there is a question where you have to compare the unseen poem to another unseen poem.
- Structure:** Point, Evidence, Explain, Link, Point, Evidence, Explain, Compare

60% GCSE

96 Marks

English Language

Exam Dates

English Language Paper 1 — Creative Reading and Writing 1 hour 45mins [50%] **21st May 2026 AM**

English Language Paper 2 — Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives 1 hour 45mins [50%] **5th June 2026 AM**

Exam Board: AQA

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Additional Notes and Resources Available

Bespoke revision packs with practice papers, exemplar paragraphs and mark schemes will be given to all students in February.

Revision sessions for English Language will be communicated ASAP to both students and parents, once finalised.

Useful Revision Websites/Electronic Resources:

SENeca: <https://senecalearning.com/en-gb/>

BBC BITE SIZE ENGLISH LANG: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zbcchv4>

PRACTICE PAPERS PACK: <https://riddle.sdown.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/English-Language-Revision-Pack.pdf>

English Language Paper 1

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 minutes

Reading (40 marks)

You will read **one** text – an extract of a piece of fiction

- Question 1 (5 mins)**
List 4 things about a part of the text (4 marks)
- Question 2 (15 mins)**
Analyse the use of the writer's language (8 marks)
➢ *Point, Evidence, Explain, Furthermore x2*
- Question 3 (15 mins)**
Analyse the structure of the text (8 marks)
➢ *Point, Evidence, Explain, Structural Development x2*
- Question 4 (25 mins)**
Respond to a statement about the text explaining to what extent you agree with the statement (20 marks)
➢ *Point, Evidence, Explain, Furthermore x2*

Writing (40 marks) - 45 mins

Question 5 – choice of 2 questions: **descriptive** writing based on a picture, or write a story (**narrative** writing).
➢ **4 Part Structure:** Overview / Zoom-in (groups) / Extreme Close-up / Zoom-out Overview.

50% GCSE

80 Marks

English Language Paper 2

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

1 hour 45 minutes

Reading (40 marks)

You will read **two** texts – both non-fiction. One will be a recent text and one will from the 1800s.

- Question 1 (5 mins)**
Select 4 statements which are true from a list of 8 (4 marks)
- Question 2 (12 mins)**
Write a summary of the differences between the two texts (8 marks)
➢ *Point & Evidence (together), Explain, Link, Point & Evidence, Explain, Compare x2*
- Question 3 (18 mins)**
Analyse the language used in one of the texts (12 marks)
➢ *Point, Evidence, Explain, Furthermore x2*
- Question 4 (25 mins)**
Compare the two texts and the writers' views (16 marks)
➢ *Point, Evidence, Explain, (Furthermore), Link, Point, Evidence, Explain, (Furthermore), Compare x2*

Writing (40 marks) - 45 mins

Question 5 – Write a piece of extended writing giving your opinion or views on a topic.
[Argue/persuade or explain]

50% GCSE

80 Marks



Maths

Exam Board: AQA

Exam Dates:

Paper 1 - 14th May 2026 AM

Paper 2 - 3rd June 2026 AM

Paper 3 - 10th June 2026 AM

Revision Resources Available

Sparx Maths

Revision Book provided by Faculty

Exam Papers and Content:

All Papers cover the same content

Paper 1 is Non-Calculator

All papers:

Topics which come up in earlier papers are less likely, but not impossible to come up in later papers. The Maths Faculty will email guidance on this between papers. The topics covered at GCSE are: Algebra, Number, Geometry, Ratio and Proportion, Statistics and Probability



Combined Science (Trilogy)

Exam Board: AQA

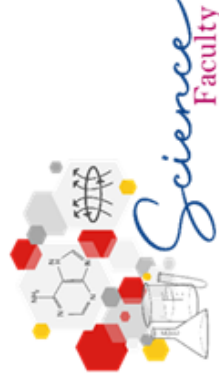
Exam Dates:	Biology 1	12th May PM	Biology 2	8th June AM
	Chemistry 1	18th May AM	Chemistry 2	12th June AM
	Physics 1	2nd June AM	Physics 2	15th June AM

Revision Resources Available

- Revision guides and workbooks (e.g. *CGP AQA GCSE Combined Science Revision Guide* with higher and foundation versions available)
- BBC Bitesize website [GCSE Combined Science - AQA Trilogy - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize) (revision videos, summary guides, quizzes and past exam questions)
- Free Science lessons revision videos www.freesciencelessons.co.uk
- Physics and Maths tutor www.physicsandmathstutor.com and student shared drive (past exam questions)
- Revision apps (e.g. Seneca - all students have an account)

Exam Papers and Content:

• Paper 1 Biology	1hr 15 min	Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and Response; and Bioenergetics
• Paper 2 Biology	1hr 15 min	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology
• Paper 1 Chemistry	1hr 15 min	Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
• Paper 2 Chemistry	1hr 15 min	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources
• Paper 1 Physics	1hr 15 min	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure
• Paper 2 Physics	1hr 15 min	Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism



Science
Faculty

Science Trilogy

Separate Sciences (Triple)

Exam Board: AQA

Exam Dates:	Biology 1	12th May PM	Biology 2	8th June AM
	Chemistry 1	18th May AM	Chemistry 2	12th June AM
	Physics 1	2nd June AM	Physics 2	15th June AM

Revision Resources Available

- Revision guides and workbooks (e.g. *CGP AQA GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics Revision Guides* with higher and foundation versions available)
- BBC Bitesize website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkww2hv> (revision videos, summary guides, quizzes and past exam questions)
- Free Science lessons revision videos www.freesciencelessons.co.uk
- Physics and Maths tutor www.physicsandmathstutor.com and student shared drive (past exam questions)
- Revision apps (e.g. Seneca - all students have an account)

Exam Papers and Content:

- Paper 1 Biology 1hr 45 min Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and Response; and Bioenergetics
- Paper 2 Biology 1hr 45 min Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology
- Paper 1 Chemistry 1hr 45 min Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
- Paper 2 Chemistry 1hr 45 min The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources
- Paper 1 Physics 1hr 45 min Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure
- Paper 2 Physics 1hr 45 min Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism ; and Space physics



Separate Sciences

Science on a page



Empowered to Learn

Subject Information

Information for all other subjects can be found on our website, under the 'students' tab, GCSE revision

ART AND DESIGN 'TEXTILES DESIGN'

Exam Board: AQA

Exam Dates: April time actual date TBC

Inspiration Resources Available

Pin inspiration to your Pinterest board - We have a Ashby school Pinterest page where I pin inspiring technique examples. Follow me on: The_arty_textile_teacher

Fashion/Textile magazines- Vogue/ Good house keeping

Exam Content:

Students choose one starting point from a paper set by AQA. You respond to it by developing ideas, doing preparatory work, then producing a final piece(s) under supervised conditions.

Weighting: 40% of the GCSE grade. Marked out of 96.

Timing: Preparatory period: starts on or after 2 January. Then: 10 hours of supervised unpaid work.

Assessing: All four Assessment Objectives (AOs).

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, sources, research.

AO2: Experiment, refine ideas, media/technique.

AO3: Record observations, ideas, insights etc., with annotation/drawing.

AO4: Present a personal and meaningful final response that meets the intention and shows progression from initial engagement -> preparatory work.

Requirement: Your response must show progression from initial engagement -> preparatory work.

- Preparatory work can be in any suitable form: sketchbooks, journals, design sheets, models.
- During the 10 hour supervised time, you may refer to your preparatory work but you cannot during those 10 hours.
- You must clearly identify work done in supervised time.
- No internet access during supervised time (except permitted webbased applications like Creaform).

Submission: both preparatory work + the work made in supervised time are submitted to the examiners.

AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA

Exam Dates: Written exam 50% of total GCSE grade—Tuesday 11th June 2026 pm

Revision Resources Available

- Student shared / docs—virtual school—design and technology—year 11—food—revision work year 11
- Recommended revision guide and workbook— Harper Collins AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition complete revision guide & practice:
- Online Text Book: <https://www.illuminate.digital/aqafood/> username—SASHBY3 password -LE651DT3.
- Seneca—set by subject teacher

Exam Papers and Content:

NEA1—15% of total GCSE grade—Deadline October 31st 2025

Food Science Report looking at the functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Students will undertake 3 experiments as part of this NEA.

NEA2—35% of total GCSE grade—Deadline TBC Feb 2026

Food Preparation assessment focusing on technical skills and presentation within cooking. Students will be off timetable for a day for their final examination cook as part of this NEA.

Written exam—50% of the total GCSE grade

- Food nutrition
- Food provenance
- Food choice

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

Exam Dates:

Paper 1 (Living with the Physical Environment) - 13th May 2026 AM

Paper 2 (Challenges in the Human Environment) - 3rd June 2026 PM

Paper 3 (Geographical applications) - 11th June 2026 AM

Revision Resources Available

The best revision resources for GCSE Geography are:

1. Student books and booklets
2. GCSE 9-1 Geography AQA Revision Guide by Tim Bayliss (ISBN 10: 0170363415)
3. GCSE Pod - full of pods, quizzes and excellent visual resources. (the details (Email: Mr Cornell (Head of Geography) on if any log-in details)
4. The department will release additional revision material closer to the exam.

Exam Papers and Content:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

- Natural hazards (Tectonics, tropical storms, climate change);
- The Living World (Ecosystems and biomes);
- UK landscapes (Coasts and rivers).

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

- Urban Issues and Challenges (Birmingham and Rio);
- The Changing Economic World (Birmingham and Rio);
- The Challenge of Resource Management.

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

- Pre-release material - Issue Evaluation (Released in March 2026)
- Fieldwork.

French GCSE

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Exam Dates: Speaking April/May 2026 (tbc), Listening 20th May 2026 AM, Reading 4th June 2026 PM, Writing 8th June 2026 PM

Revision Resources Available:

- Seneca
- Memrise
- Student Shared—MFL+French+GCSE
- BBC Bitesize
- Pearson GCSE Revision Guide and Workbook 9-1 (exams from 2020) ISBN: 978-1292739731 ISBN:978-1292739700

Exam Papers and Content: All papers cover content from the following thematic contexts:

- My personal world
- My neighbourhood
- Media and Technology
- Studying and my future
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- Travel and Tourism

All 4 exam papers for GCSE French are equally weighted at 25%

Paper 1—Speaking in French (read aloud, roleplay, picture task with conversation)

Paper 2—Listening and Understanding in French including dictation

Paper 3—Reading and Understanding in French including translation into English

Paper 4—Writing in French (Foundation: Picture task, Two writing responses and translation into French; Higher: Two writing responses and translation into French)



Parents – What can you do?

How to support your child during examinations (and trial exams)

- Students will have an individual timetable for each set of exams or mocks
- Ensure they know which exam(s) they have that day, including whether it is in the morning or the afternoon
- Check that they have all of the equipment they need for each exam

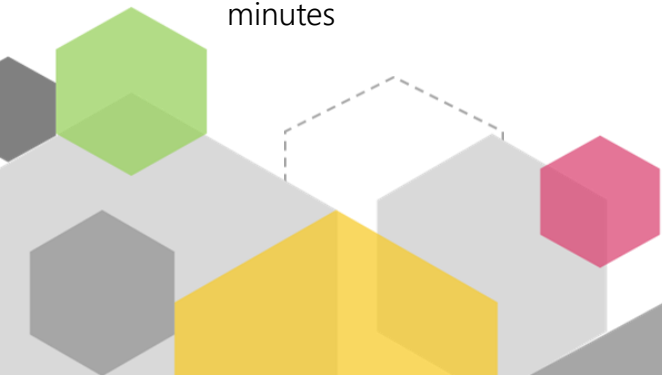
ANY ISSUES DURING THE EXAMINATIONS

- Illness – Contact the school and make an appointment with your GP
- Pastoral – Contact Mr Benstead
- Subject concerns – Speak to the class teacher

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

- Ask if they need help regularly – gentle reminders work best
- Stay calm. Teenagers taking exams can get tunnel vision, and rows can be commonplace during a stressful time. Anger can be a cover for fear
- You can't make them study, but you emphasise why they need to study and the benefits it will bring
- Try to diffuse negative thoughts and remain positive and realistic
- Ensure your child gets fresh air, is eating regular healthy meals and sleeps well

SUGGESTED REVISION TIMINGS

- Suggest they put aside a set period of time each day for revision and support them to stick to this
 - Suggested timings: 25 minutes revision, 5 minutes break (Pomodoro technique)
 - After their break, ask them what they can remember from their last 25 minutes
- 



Common Worries

"There is so much to learn"

- Have a revision timetable
- Divide the day into three sections (morning, afternoon, evening)
- Write exams and key dates on a calendar
- Focus on topic rather than whole subjects
- Have a variety of subjects in a day

"I can't concentrate"

- Concentration levels do vary for each individual
- Begin working for shorter periods and gradually increase
- Introduce the idea of rewards and goals
- Quiet instrumental music in the background

"This is so boring"

- Revision is not always fun
- Get actively involved with the materials
- Use a range of techniques
- Have small, achievable goals

"I like studying in bed"

- Provide a quiet place without distractions
- Insist on no TV, mobile phone, computer games etc. whilst revising
- Ensure the room is well lit – natural light is better than artificial light

"I can't remember any of it"

- This is a panic cry
- Try to recall information immediately after a revision session, and then again later that day
- Use prompts to jog memories

"I don't understand it"

- Contact the subject teacher
- Use a range of resources, including notes from lessons, websites, textbooks
- Examination board specifications have guidance

Next Steps....

- Sixth Form
- College
- Apprenticeship
- What are the entry requirements?
- What grades you are likely to achieve?
- PS16 - <https://www.ps16.co.uk/>



Ashby Sixth Form Open Evening – 6th November 5-7pm
Ashby Sixth Form Open Days (Campus Tours) 1st November
12.30-3pm, 15th November 10 – 12.30pm



Saturday 4th October 2025
9:30am - 13:00pm



Saturday 11th October 2025
10am- 1pm



Anything is *Possible*