

PADGATE ACADEMY

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Principal: Mr A McMillan Bsc (Hons)

Year 11 Information Evening

Thursday 25th September





Overview of today's session:

- 1. Year 11 Road Map:** What the year ahead looks like for Year 11
- 2. Subject-Specific Information:** Structure of exams in different subjects, controlled assessments, how individual subjects will prepare students for the GCSEs.
- 3. Revision and Study Strategies:** *What is the most effective way for students to prepare themselves for their exams?*
- 4. How Parents Can Help:** *How can parents/carers help at home to support their son/daughter in Year 11?*
- 5. Post 16 Destinations:** *How will we ensure all students are equipped with the information, skills and suitable ambition to make informed choices about the next stage of their education, employment or training?*
- 6. Student wellbeing:** *How will we support students during the exam period? What can students do?*



Year 11 Road Map

Autumn term

- Post 16 assemblies
- College/6th form open events
- Year 11 information evening – 25th September 2025
- Revision technique sessions
- Mock exams - 17th October – 21st November 2025
- Progress reports – WB 15th December 2025
- Post 16 applications – to be completed by December 2025
- Vocational Controlled Assessment submission - Component 2



Year 11 Road Map

Spring term

- Post 16 interviews
- Progress Evening – 15th January 2026
- MFL mock speaking exams and Art mock exam – WB 2nd February 2026
- Full set of mock exams – 9th February – 27th February 2026
- Mock results day -TBC
- Progress report – WB 23rd March 2026



Year 11 Road Map

Summer Term

- Progress evening (Invite only) – 24th April 2026
- Progress meetings with Form Tutors
- MFL speaking exams – WB 27th April 2026
- Art exam – WB 27th April 2026
- GCSE/Vocational exams - 1st May – 24th June 2026
- Leavers assembly -TBC
- Prom – 25th June 2026 (Provisional date)
- Results day – 20th August 2026



Mock Exams – Term 1

Date	Exam	Duration
A Fri 17/10	AM - Eng Lang	1hr 45
A Fri 17/10	PM - Maths – Paper 1	1 hr 30
B Mon 20/10	AM - History Group 1	55 mins
B Tue 21/10	PM - History Group 2	55 mins
B Thu 23/10	PM - Eng Lit – Paper 1	50 mins
A Fri 14/11	AM - Chemistry – Paper 2	1hr 15/45
A Fri 14/11	PM – Eng Lit – Paper 2	50 mins
B Thu 20/11	PM – Biology – Paper 2	1hr 15/45
B Fri 21/11	AM – Physics – Paper 2	1hr 15/45
B Fri 21/11	PM – Maths – Paper 2	1hr 30

AM Exams – Students to arrive in school for 8.15am for an 8.30am start.

PM Exams – Students will go to the canteen P4 for an early lunch. Exam to start at 1pm (except for History – 2pm start).

Option Subjects – Subject teachers will be assessing students during their lessons.



Why are these exams important?

- Teachers will have a better understanding of what students know and what they don't know. This evidence will then be used to plan future lessons and future interventions
- Mock exams will be used for college references
- Mock exams will be used to make decisions on tier of entry (Maths, Science & MFL)



GCSE Grades Explained

How numerical grades compare with old ones

Old grades	Numerical grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 Strong Pass
	4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

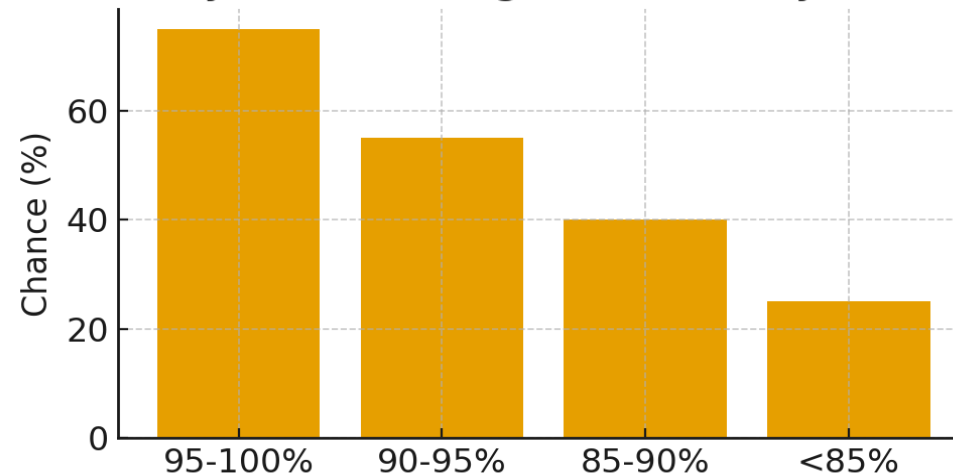


Attendance and GCSE Outcomes

Missing just 10 school days in Year 11 was associated with about a **50% reduction** in the chance of achieving a strong pass (Grade 5) in English and Maths.

Students with **95%+ attendance** have markedly higher odds of achieving Grade 5+ than those with lower attendance.

Probability of Achieving Grade 5+ by Attendance





Exam expectations:

- Pupils must be on time for their exams – late arrivals may be refused entry
- Pupils must attend exams in full school uniform. Pupils cannot sit exams in their own clothes
- Pupils cannot miss exams due to being on holiday or choosing not to attend – they must sit them on the scheduled day and time, they cannot sit them on another date.

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Y11 English

Head of Faculty – Miss Fogg

efogg@padgateacademy.co.uk



What does Y11 look like?

We plan Year 11 in English using a 'Countdown' revision plan.

Here, we cover every aspect of both the Literature and Language exams to ensure that all content from Year 10 has been thoroughly revised and practiced in lessons with a specific focus on exam technique.

Students are informed of what they will be 'studying' that week, so will be aware of what they need to bring to lessons (in terms of their own revision and books etc).

This is a working document that is reviewed on a bi-weekly basis and in consultation with the Year 11 teaching team, so we are aware of any gaps arising in knowledge. Often, this will change prior to or following assessments/mock exams.



Century Tech and Revision



CENTURY

- All Year 11 students have log in details for our online homework/revision platform 'Century Tech'. We are asking for at least 1 hour per week for optimal use.
- We had proven success with this last year where a student improved both their Literature and Language outcomes by two whole grades through their commitment and effective use of the platform.
- A variety of revision strategies are being demonstrated in lessons and students are given the opportunity to create meaningful revision where possible – this needs to be reflected in their attitude to 'at home' learning too. Resources have been/will be provided for students to complete in their own time.



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MACBETH REVISION



Name _____

Class teacher _____



Exam Dates and Additional Help

- Exam dates have now been published for 2026 and are advertised on the classroom doors in English.
- English Revision – lunchtime Tues - Thurs in N3. Afterschool day - TBC.
- Scholastic Revision guides – Amazon.
- Please contact myself or your child's English teacher for any further help or guidance.

Y11 GCSE English Exams



English Literature Paper 1:
Shakespeare and A Christmas Carol
1hr 45mins



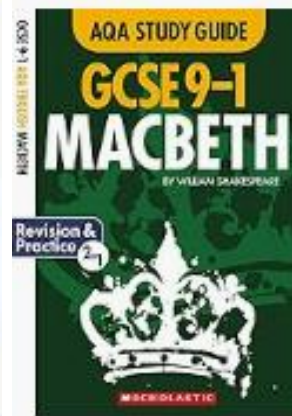
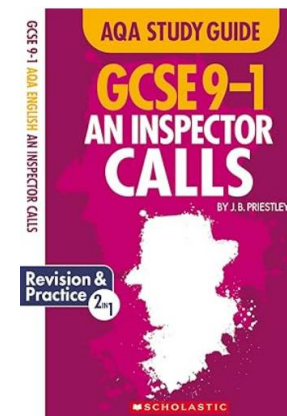
Monday 11th May 2026 (AM)

English Literature Paper 2: An
Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict
Poetry and Unseen Poetry 2hrs 15mins
Tuesday 19th May 2026 (AM)



English Language Paper 1 –
Fiction 1hr 45mins
Thursday 21st May 2026 (AM)

English Language Paper 2 –
Non-Fiction 1hr 45mins
Friday 5th June 2026 (AM)



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Y11 Maths

Head of Faculty – Mr Ashcroft

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GCSE Maths – Exam dates (provisional)

Exam board: OCR	Paper 1 – Foundation Paper 4 – Higher	Paper 2 – Foundation Paper 5 – Higher	Paper 3 – Foundation Paper 6 – Higher
Date	14 th May 2026	3 rd June 2026	10 th June 2026
Time allowed Number of marks	90 minutes 100 marks	90 minutes 100 marks	90 minutes 100 marks
Calculator or Non- calculator	Calculator	Non-calculator	Calculator



GCSE Maths – Grades

- Grade 4 needed to not resit GCSE maths in college
- $\frac{2}{3}$ of our Y11 students gained a grade 4 or higher last year.
- Foundation covers Grades 1 to 5.
- Higher covers Grades 4 to 9.
- Most colleges require at least a Grade 7 for A Level Maths and a Grade 8 for A Level Further Maths



GCSE Maths – Homework

- Sparx Maths –30 minutes per week, practising skills that have been studied recently and from Year 10.
- Past papers – Half of a paper per week to start with. This will increase gradually over time.
- Keeping on track with these 2 things and completing properly is the most effective way of ensuring that they are well prepared for exams (as well as attending and working hard in lessons!)



GCSE Maths – Revision

- Sparx Maths – independent learning section has videos for every topic and questions to practise on every topic.
- Third Space Learning AI personal tutor – all students have a login for this resource.
- Knowledge organisers
- Important to work on the topics that they find difficult.



GCSE Maths – Calculator

- 2 out of 3 papers are calculator papers. It is very important that they have a calculator and know how to use it properly.

Casio fx-83GT CW




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Y11 Science

Head of Faculty – Mr Crewe

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Science: Overview of the year ahead

Preparing for GCSE questions:

- Use of exam command words (predict, describe, explain, evaluate, analyses, suggest)
- Exam style question practice in class and homework

Common pitfalls and skills examiners look for:

- Misreading command words (e.g. “describe” vs “explain”)
- Not applying science to context in questions
- Poor use of key terms/definitions
- Weak maths skills (ratios, percentages, standard form, graphs)
- Examiners reward: clear explanations, use of scientific vocabulary, linking ideas



Science: Structure of Exams (AQA)

Combined Science:

- 6 papers (2 Bio, 2 Chem, 2 Phys)
- 1h15 each,
- 70 marks, equally weighted
- Worth 2 GCSEs total

Triple Science:

- 6 papers (2 per subject)
- 1h45 each, 100 marks, equally weighted
- Worth 3 GCSEs total



Science: Revision techniques & materials

- Flashcards for key terms & equations
- Past papers under timed conditions
- Quizzes (Cognito, BBC Bitesize, SPARX Science)
- Mind maps to connect topics
- Spaced retrieval (weekly review of older topics)
- Revision guides AQA (Collins / CGP)
- Knowledge organisers
- Topic checklists
- Past paper packs

Recommended online:

- BBC Bitesize – free summaries & quizzes
- Cognito – structured lessons, exam-style practice, progress tracking



Science: Homework expectations

- Students hand SPRAX Science homework every Friday
- This will alternate after first round of mocks – students will be handed paper-based exam questions.

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Y11 Humanities & Languages

Head of Faculty – Mr Norris

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Geography

Exam Board: Eduqas
Specification: Geography A
Homework: Seneca learning,
Monday- Monday
Intervention Session: Thursday
Lunchtime B4

Component 1 (35%)

Core themes:

- Landscapes and physical processes –
Landscapes, Rivers and coasts



- Rural – urban links – Development of **towns and cities, Population and Retail.**



Option themes:

- Tectonic** landscapes and hazards



Component 2 (35%)

Core themes:

- Weather, Climate and Ecosystems

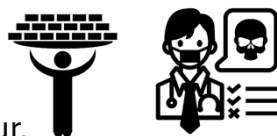


- Development and resource issues



Option themes:

- Social challenges (Equality, Women's rights, Child Labour, Disease, Malaria)



Component 3 (30%)

Applied fieldwork

Part A – Data analysis and presentation

Part B – Use of data from your fieldwork experience. Fieldwork to Physical and Human location.

Part C – Decision making exercise on a current issue



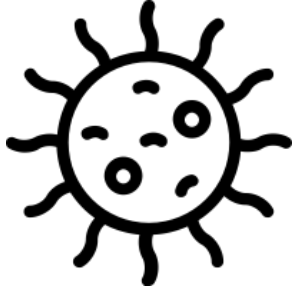
Recommended Revision Strategies:

Flash Cards

Revision Clocks/ Mind Maps

Past Paper Questions- All past papers can be found on the exam board website
Revision Booklets

Paper 1 British Sector of the Western Front and Medicine Through Time c1250- present 30%



Paper 2 American West c1830-c1895 and Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 40%

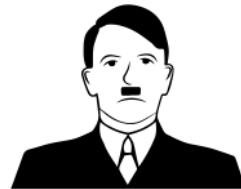


History

**Exam Board: Edexcel
Homework: Seneca learning and revision preparation.
Intervention Session:
Wednesday Lunchtime J3**



Paper 3 Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939 30%



Recommended Revision Strategies:

Flash Cards

Revision Clocks/ Mind Maps

Personal Learning Checks for each unit.

Past Paper Questions- All past papers can be found on the exam board website

RS

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical & Ethical Studies in the Modern World (50%)

Core themes:

- Relationships
- Life & Death
- Good & Evil
- Human Rights

Component 2: Christianity (25%)

Core themes:

- **Christian Beliefs** (God, the afterlife, the life and teachings of Jesus)
- **Christian Practices** (Festivals, ceremonies and rituals)

Exam Board: Eduqas
Specification: Route A
Homework: Seneca learning, revision and in-class quizzes
Monday- Monday

Component 3: Judaism (25%)

Core themes:

- **Jewish Chronicles** (the history of the Jewish people)
- **Jewish Beliefs** (God, the afterlife, Messiah, Pikuach Nefesh)
- **Jewish Practices** (Festivals, ceremonies and rituals)



Recommended Revision Strategies:

- Flash Cards
- Revision Clocks/ Mind Maps
- Past Paper Questions- All past papers can be found on the exam board website
- Revision booklets provided by SMC

COURSE CONTENT

- Over two years, you will learn about three themes:

THEME 1: PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLE	THEME 2: POPULAR CULTURE	THEME 3: COMMUNICATION AND THE WORLD AROUND US
Identity and relationships with others	Free-time activities	Travel, tourism, and places of interest
Healthy living and lifestyle	Customs, festivals and celebrations	Media and technology
Education and work	Celebrity culture	The environment and where people live

Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: Spanish

Homework: Vocab & Past Paper
practice (A)

Vocabulary (B)

Intervention Session : Tuesday 3:10-
3:45 K7



Recommended Revision Strategies:

Past papers- accessed from teacher

Vocabulary Quizlet revision

Sample speaking questions in GCSE
speaking booklet.

Mind-map vocabulary from sentence
builders

Language Nut independent tasks

EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 1: LISTENING

Foundation (1 – 5)

35 minutes

40 marks

A: Listening comprehension

All questions and answers in English
(32 marks)

B: Dictation

Transcribing short sentences
(8 marks)

Higher (4 – 9)

45 minutes

50 marks

A: Listening comprehension

All questions and answers in English
(40 marks)

B: Dictation

Transcribing short sentences
(10 marks)

EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 3: READING

Foundation (1 – 5)

45 minutes

50 marks

A: Reading comprehension

All questions and answers in English
(40 marks)

B: Translation into English (=35 words)
(10 marks)

Higher (4 – 9)

1 hour

50 marks

A: Reading comprehension

All questions and answers in English
(40 marks)

B: Translation into English (=50 words)
(10 marks)

EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 2: SPEAKING

Foundation (1 – 5)

9 minutes

+ 15 minutes preparation time

50 marks

A: Role play

(1 to 1½ minutes, 10 marks)

B: Reading aloud and short conversation
(=35 words, 2 to 2½ minutes, 15 marks)

C: Photo card and longer conversation
(1 + 3 to 4 minutes, 25 marks)

Higher (4 – 9)

12 minutes

+ 15 minutes preparation time

50 marks

A: Role play

(1 to 1½ minutes, 10 marks)

B: Reading aloud and short conversation
(=50 words, 3 to 3½ minutes, 15 marks)

C: Photo card and longer conversation
(1½ + 4½ to 5½ minutes, 25 marks)

EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 4: WRITING

Foundation (1 – 5)

1 hour 10 minutes

50 marks

01. Photo description

(5 sentences, 10 marks)

02. 50-word response

(10 marks)

03. 5 short grammar tasks

(5 marks)

04. Translation into target language

(=35 words, 10 marks)

05. 90-word response

(Choice of two, 15 marks)

Higher (4 – 9)

1 hour 15 minutes

50 marks

01. Translation into target language

(=50 words, 10 marks)

02. 90-word response

(Choice of two, 15 marks)

03. 150-word response

(Choice of two, 25 marks)

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Y11 Vocational

Head of Faculty – Mr Morris

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Health and social care

Component 1 –Human Lifespan Development –(Coursework) - 30%

Component 2 - Health and Social Care Services and Values - (Coursework) - 30%

Component 3 –Health and Wellbeing 48 1/2 External Synoptic - (Exam) - 40%

Key dates

Component 1 -completed in May Year 10 (January resits in year 11)

Component 2 – December of year 11

Component 3 – June of year 11

Drama

Component 1 Exploring the Performing Arts -30%

Component 2 – Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts – 30%

Component 3 – **Responding to a Brief** controlled assessment 40%

Key dates

Component 1 - completed in May Year 10 (January resits in year 11)

Component 2 – December of Year 11

Component 3 – May of Year 11

Sport

Component 1 - Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity – 30%

Component 2 - Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance -30%

Component 3 –Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (Exam) – 40%

Key dates

Component 1 - completed in Year 10 (January resits in year 11)

Component 2 – December of Year 11

Component 3 – Exam May of Year 11

Digital IT

Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design Principles -30%

Component 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data - 30%

Component 3 – Effective Digital Working Practices (Exam) – 40%

Key dates

Component 1 - completed in Year 10 (January resits in year 11)

Component 2 – December of Year 11

Component 3 – Exam May of Year 11



Hospitality and Catering

Unit 1 – The hospitality and catering industry - External exam 40% - 1 hour 20 minutes

Unit 2 – Hospitality and Catering in action- Non examined assessment 60% 12 hours

Key dates

Coursework submission date 5th May

Exam June of Year 11

Design in the built environment

Unit 1 – Introduction to the built environment - External exam- 40% - 1 hour 30 minutes

Unit 2 – Non examined assessment –Designing the built environment - 60% 14 hours

Key dates

Coursework submission date 5th May

Exam June of Year 11

Not following the brief – producing good work that doesn't meet the exact criteria or unit requirements.

Poor organisation in coursework – missing deadlines, incomplete sections, or failing to meet the assessment criteria.

Misinterpreting the question/task – not fully addressing command words such as explain, evaluate, or analyse.

Lack of evidence/application – giving generic answers rather than linking to case studies, practical work, or real-world examples.

Weak time management – spending too long on one question or section of coursework and leaving others incomplete.

Limited subject terminology – not using key technical terms, which are often required for higher marks.

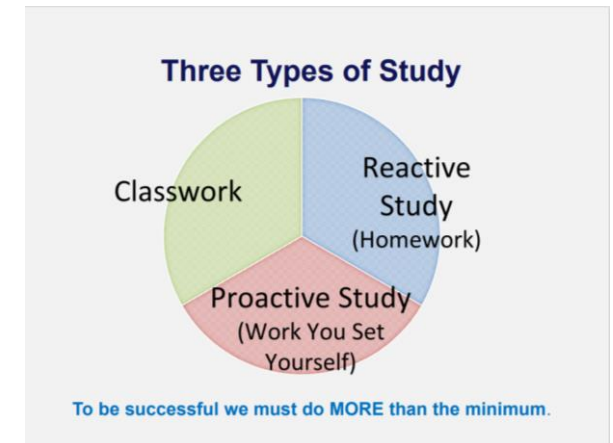
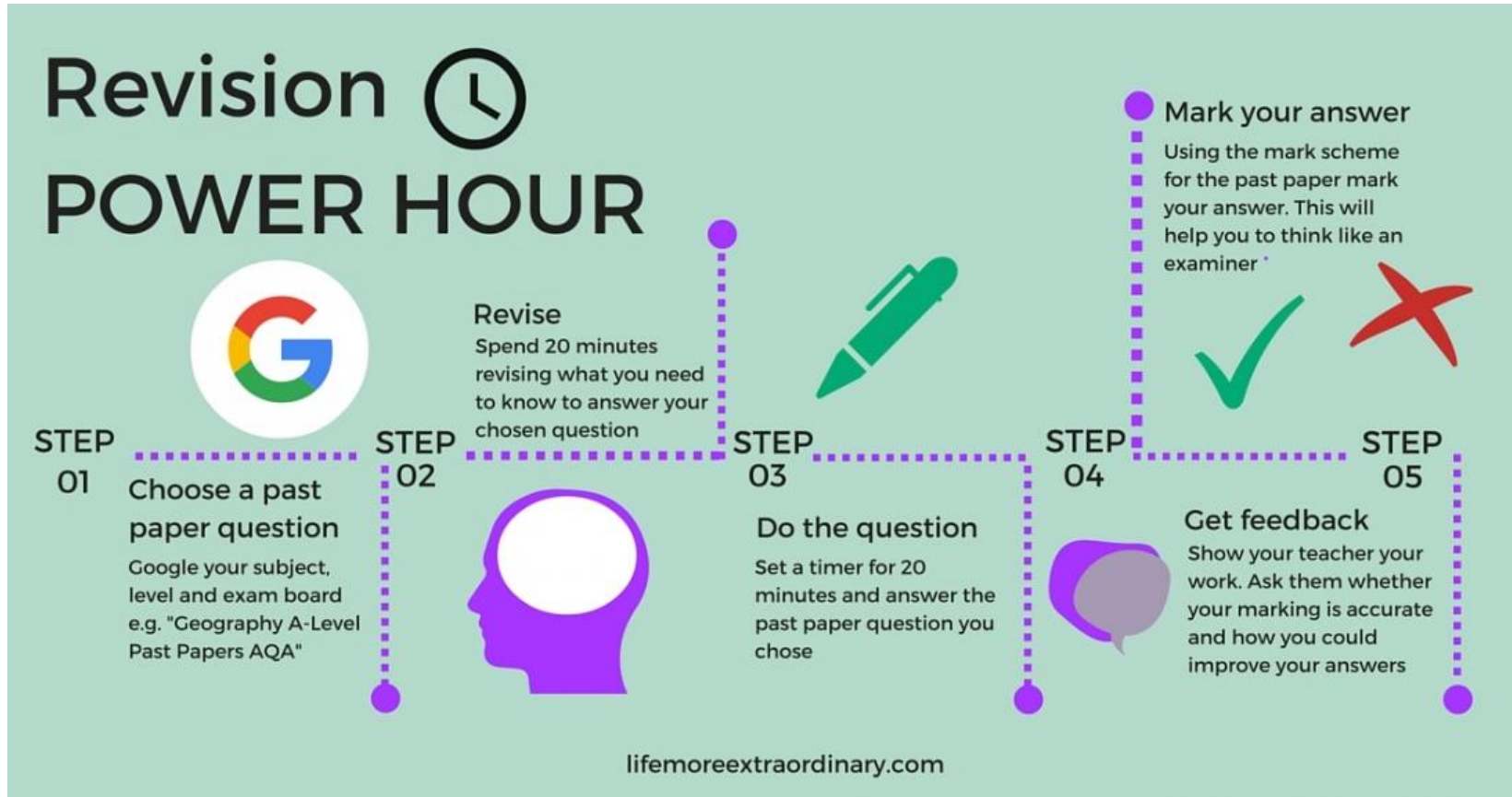
Surface-level revision – relying on memorisation instead of practicing exam-style responses or applying knowledge.



- **Revision materials** – Each subject within the faculty will provide past papers and facilitate retrieval practice to give students exposure to exam-style questions.
- **Revision guides** – Subject leaders will direct students to revision guides that can be purchased and in some cases revision guides have been purchased for each student in each subject.
- **Intervention-** A timetable of after-school and half-term intervention sessions for each subject will be shared with parents and students in advance. These sessions are designed to provide additional support, reinforce learning, and help students achieve their full potential.
- **Homework** - regular homework and revision are essential for strengthening knowledge, building confidence, and ensuring long-term success



The Importance of Revision





Why Revision Matters

- Revision consolidates learning and moves knowledge from short-term to long-term memory.
- It reduces stress and boosts confidence before exams.
- Regular, structured revision leads to better outcomes than last-minute cramming



Common Challenges for Students

- Not knowing *how* to revise.
- Getting distracted or procrastinating.
- Just rereading notes
- Highlighting everything (looks productive but isn't)
- Watching videos *passively* (unless you quiz yourself after)

These don't challenge your brain enough to *actually* remember things.



Effective Revision Strategies

- **Spaced Practice:** Short, regular sessions spread over time.
- **Active Recall:** Process of actively trying to remember information **without** looking at your notes by testing themselves with flashcards, past papers, or quizzes.
- **Interleaving:** Mixing subjects/topics rather than studying one thing for hours.
- **Mind Maps & Summaries:** Condensing information into key points.
- **Teaching Others:** Explaining a concept out loud shows true understanding.



How Parents Can Support

- Provide a quiet, organised study space.
- Encourage a balanced routine (study, rest, sleep, exercise).
- Help set realistic goals and revision timetables.
- Praise effort and progress, not just results.

Revision is not just about working harder but about working smarter. With the right strategies and support, Year 11 students can approach their exams with confidence.

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Careers Lead

Head of Faculty – Mrs Leigh

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Next Steps Post 16

- At this point in the school year students should be looking at College courses and attending open events. The school have invited all local post 16 education providers into school to give assemblies and introduce themselves to our year 11 students.
- Applications for Priestley College open early for Padgate Academy as we are a TCAT school, this is a fantastic opportunity for students to have early access to interviews. Applications are now open!
- All college applications should be submitted by January 2026.
- Students should apply to at least TWO colleges.
- Please take a handout that has all relevant dates and links.



PRIESTLEY
COLLEGE
WARRINGTON



Open Events

for ENROLMENT SEPT 2026

- **Wed 8 Oct**
- **Thu 9 Oct**
- **Thu 6 Nov**
- **Sat 22 Nov**

priestley.ac.uk

Book your place



Cronton Sixth Form Open Events

- Saturday 4th October 2025, 10am – 1pm
- Thursday 9th October 2025, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Wednesday 15th October 2025, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Tuesday 11th November 2025, 5.30pm – 7.30pm



**Warrington
& Vale Royal
College**

Warrington and Winsford campus, 5.00pm – 8.00pm:

- **Wednesday 8th October**
- **Wednesday 5th November**
- **Monday 17th November**
- **Tuesday 25th November (Winsford)**



**Myerscough
College**

Saturday 4th October 2025 - Course Advice Morning

Saturday 15th November 2025 - Course Advice Morning

Saturday 7th February 2026 - Course Advice Morning

Saturday 18th April 2026 - Course Advice Morning



Supporting Pupils Through Exams



Intervention Sessions

- We are running a variety of intervention programmes based on your child's needs. These are done at lunch, afterschool and Friday mornings
- Friday mornings will become mandatory for year 11 in the upcoming weeks to ensure they have the best opportunities to succeed



Supporting Pupils Through Exams

- Communicating with others if you are struggling – you are not alone! There is a team of staff in school available to help and support pupils through this year.
- Being organised – give yourself the opportunity to identify your weaker areas.
- Quiet space to work, revision materials and exam practice questions.
- You are doing better than you think.
- Stay Positive.
- Providing opportunities for 'down time'.
- Exercise and sports.
- Investing in family & friends.





Embracing Opportunities

- You have the opportunity to visit college open days.
- Best source of learning – in the lessons, with your fantastic teachers.
- Make the most of intervention sessions.
- Make use of online materials.
- Enrichment activities (CAS clubs and societies, sports, music, volunteering etc.)



“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will.” – Vince Lombardi