The John Roan School

Key Stage 4 Course Information

A Parents Guide
A Guide for Parents/Carers in Supporting your Child’s Learning at Key Stage 4

Dear Pupils and Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This booklet gives you information regarding the programme of study your child will undertake in their Key Stage 4 education at The John Roan School and how best you can support them in their learning.

The booklet contains information for all the subjects your child will potentially be studying such as; the exam board for each subject, the programme of study for Years 10/11 and a breakdown of the assessments to be undertaken. You will also find recommended revision books and websites (where applicable).

If you would like any further information or advice regarding homework or the curriculum, please contact the Head of Department (Subject Leader).

Ms Sumner
Head of Year 10
KS4 Subject Details

English

Curriculum Content
GCSE English Language [8700] and English Literature [8702]. (Double Award).
Exam Board AQA

Students will complete the study of 4 units of English Literature and 3 units of
English Language in Year 10. They will cover all the core text content, skills
and ideas. In Year 11 they will revise all these key core text content, skills and
ideas and complete practice exam papers throughout.

The KS4 Literature consists of:
Paper 1
• Shakespeare play [Macbeth]
• The 19th-century novel [A Christmas Carol]

Paper 2
• Modern prose or drama texts [An Inspector Calls]
• The poetry anthology [Power and Conflict]
• Unseen poetry

The KS4 Language consists of:
Paper 1
• Explorations in creative reading and writing

Paper 2
• Writers’ viewpoints and perspectives

Speaking and Listening Certificate
• Non-exam assessment

Assessment Content
GCSE English Language and English Literature are linear courses. They will
both be assessed at the end of Year 11 in the form of examinations (externally
assessed).

The Speaking and Listening is internally assessed/recorded and sent for
moderation.

Mock Exams are calendared in for mid and end of year in Year 10, and x2 mid-
year in Year 11.
Revision Books
There are numerous titles available in book shops and on ParentPay. Please make sure that anything you buy relates to the AQA course outlined above.

Revision Websites/Books

General Revision / Language
- http://www.sparknotes.com/
- https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty
- New GCSE English Language AQA Revision Guide – For the Grade 9-1 Course (CGP)
- New GCSE English Language AQA Workbook – For the Grade 9-1 Course (CGP)
- REVISE AQA GCSE English Language Revision Workbook: For the 9-1 Exams – REVISE AQA GCSE English 2015

An Inspector Calls
- An Inspector Calls: York Notes for GCSE Workbook: Grades 9-1 – York Notes (Paperback)
- An Inspector Calls: York Notes for GCSE (9-1) – York Notes (Paperback)
- http://www.sparknotes.com
- http://www.shmoop.com/
- https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff

Macbeth
- Macbeth: York Notes for GCSE Workbook: Grades 9-1 – York Notes (Paperback)
- Macbeth: York Notes for GCSE (9-1) – York Notes (Paperback)
- http://www.sparknotes.com/
- http://www.shmoop.com/
- https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff
- British Library: https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare
A Christmas Carol

- A Christmas Carol: York Notes for GCSE Workbook: Grades 9-1 – York Notes (Paperback)
- A Christmas Carol: York Notes for GCSE (9-1) – York Notes (Paperback)
- http://www.sparknotes.com/
- http://www.shmoop.com/
- https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff

Conflict Poetry

- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7K6t2DMy9MA2f2eD_k0SK5OsnilYMxw
- www.litcharts.com
Mathematics

Curriculum Content

The Mathematics GCSE covers the National Curriculum areas of Number and Algebra, Shape, Statistics and Ratio and Multiplicative Reasoning.

Students are encouraged to purchase and master the use of a Casio Scientific Calculator.

Assessment Structure

The students will sit a linear exam at the end of the course consisting of three papers, each of 1 hour 30 minutes. The use of a calculator is allowed during the second and third papers but not the first. Students are encouraged to purchase and master the use of a Casio Scientific calculator and geometry set.

Exam Board

Edexcel – 1MA0 specification

Revision Websites

www.2july.co.uk

- Free worksheets (and answers) covering a number of topics - for Intermediate and Foundation Tiers
- Student guide to GCSE coursework
- Interactive Maths dictionary
- Self-assessment sheets
- “Hot Potatoes” quizzes and crossword puzzles
- PowerPoint presentations with notes, examples and questions on a number of topics
- Interactive EXCEL spreadsheets on topics including transformations, simultaneous equations, fractions and correlation.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/maths

- Interactive revision and tests – with instant feedback
- Student revision checklist

http://www.easymaths.com

- GCSE tutorials
- Exambank and a huge resource of problems and answers
- Puzzles and quizzes
www.s-cool.co.uk
- Tutorials and exam-style questions and answers

www.thelighthouseforeducation.co.uk
- A number of interactive PowerPoint presentations on a variety of topics including the graphical solution of simultaneous equations, equivalent fractions, travel graphs.

www.1000problems.com
- Contains many different types of problems, broken down into topics, and worked solutions

www.cut-the-knot.org/content.shtml
- Interactive Maths games and puzzles, covering a number of topics
- Interesting Mathematical facts

www.mathszone.co.uk
- The KS4 section is currently under development. It will contain links to a number of Maths games and useful revision pages across the net

www.gcseguide.co.uk
- GCSE Maths tutorial
- Contains exam questions and worked answers
- Has advice for students on completing coursework

www.topmarks.co.uk
- Contains links to a variety of Mathematical websites including games
- Suitable for all ages

www.schoolzone.co.uk
- Website full of links, games, tutorials, worksheets for teachers, parents and students

www.algebrahelp.com
- Useful for pupil revision
- Contains tutorials and interactive questions per topic and full answers

Hegartymaths
- Helps student’s complete independent studies/research with videos and tutorials
**Triple Science** Biology/Chemistry/Physics – 1 hr 45 mins

- Biology Papers 8461/1F or H – 12th May 2020 pm
- Biology Papers 8461/2F or H – 1st June 2020 pm
- Chemistry Papers 8462/1F or H – 14th May 2020 am
- Chemistry Papers 8462/2F or H – 10th June 2020 pm
- Physics Papers 8463/1F or H – 20th May 2020 pm
- Physics Papers 8463/2F or H – 12th June 2020 am

**Trilogy Science/Triple Science** Biology/Chemistry/Physics – 1 hr 15 mins

- Biology Papers 8464/B/1F or H – 12th May 2020 pm
- Biology Papers 8464/B/2F or H - 1st June 2020 pm
- Chemistry Papers 8464/C/1F or H – 14th May 2020 am
- Chemistry Papers 8464/B/2F or H – 10th June 2020 pm
- Physics Papers 8464/P/1F or H – 20th May 2020 pm
- Physics Papers 8464/P/2F or H – 12th June 2020 am

**Exam Board**

AQA

**Revision Books**

Any AQA Science revision guides for the current examinations will be useful. The school have some available through the Science Department for the cost price (currently £4 for each course). The below are highly recommended:

- GCP Revision Guide GCSE Biology
- GCP Revision Guide GCSE Chemistry
- GCP Revision Guide GCSE Physics
- GCP Combined Science for AQA (Grades 1-9) Higher
- GCP Combined Science for AQA (Grades 1-9) Foundation

**Revision Websites**

- [www.my-gcsescience.com/](http://www.my-gcsescience.com/) - very good starting point - has links to revision videos for all parts of the specifications along with links to the exam board question papers.
- [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/aqa/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/aqa/)
- [www.schoolscience.co.uk](http://www.schoolscience.co.uk)
- [www.darvill.clara.net/index.htm](http://www.darvill.clara.net/index.htm)
- [www.s-cool.co.uk/](http://www.s-cool.co.uk/)
History

Curriculum Content

Paper 1
- America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality (Section A, Option D)
- Conflict and Tension, inter-war years 1918-39 (Section B, option B)

Paper 2
- Britain: Power and the People c.1170 to the present (Section A, option B)
- Elizabethan England, c.1568-1603 (Section B, option C)

Assessment Structure

The students will sit a linear exam at the end of the course consisting of two papers, each of 2 hours.

Exam Board

AQA

Revision Books

- A helpful revision guide, which you might want to purchase, that covers the content for both Paper 1 and Paper 2 is AQA GCSE (9-1) History Revision Guide, ISBN: 978-1510455610.

Revision Websites

- www.johndclare.net
- www.Historylearningsite.co.uk
- www.Historymad.com
- www.learninghistory.org.uk
- www.mrallsophistory.com
- www.schoolhistory.co.uk
- www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk
- www.history.co.uk (the History Channel)
- www.bbc.co.uk/gcsebitesize
- www.AdditionalNeeds.net
Geography

Curriculum Content

- Unit 1 - Physical Geography
- Unit 2 - Human Geography
- Unit 3 - Decision Making Exercise
- Unit 4 - Coursework

Assessment Structure

The course is assessed through Higher and Foundation tiers. There are exams in both Physical and Human Geography (75 minutes each) and these exams are worth 50% of the total marks. There is also a decision making exercise, based on synoptic materials and assessed via a 90 minute exam based on skills and geographical theory; it is worth 25% of the total marks. There is also a Controlled Assessment undertaken in the Spring Term of Year 10 (set by the exam board but marked internally). This is worth 25% of the total marks.

Exam Board

Edexcel Geography B 'Evolving Planet'

Revision Books

The revision guides for each unit published by Edexcel are called “My Revision Notes.”

Revision Websites

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/
Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish)

Curriculum Content
The pupils are studying French/Spanish Life and Culture, as well as the spoken and written language. This is divided into units:

- Unit 1 - Listening
- Unit 2 - Reading
- Unit 3 - Speaking
- Unit 4 - Writing

Assessment Structure

- **Unit 1**: Listening - Examination 20% of GCSE grade (Foundation Tier 30 minutes + 5 minutes reading time; Higher Tier 40 minutes + 5 minutes reading time).
- **Unit 2**: Reading - Examination 20% of GCSE grade (Foundation Tier 30 minutes; Higher Tier 40 minutes).
- **Unit 3**: Speaking - Controlled Assessment 30% of GCSE grade (internally assessed).
- **Unit 4**: Writing - Controlled Assessment 30% of GCSE grade (externally assessed).

Exam Board
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Revision Books
AQA revision book/AQA workbook higher level/Besherelle

Revision Websites
- [www.bbcbitesize.co.uk/gcsefrench/revision](http://www.bbcbitesize.co.uk/gcsefrench/revision)
- [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)
Physical Education (GCSE and BTEC)

Curriculum content for GCSE
The course will cover both practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education including such sports as: Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Table Tennis and Rounders/Softball. The theoretical aspects include: Health, Fitness, Diet, Bones, Body Systems, Methods and Principles of Training, Health & Safety, Sport Injuries, Rules and many other components of Sport.

Curriculum content for BTEC
The topics the students will cover include; Health & Fitness (online exam), Practical Sport, Training for Personal Fitness and Leading Sports Activities. Only one of the units will be externally assessed with an exam and the rest will be assessed through a portfolio of work.

Assessment Structure
BTEC - Students will complete four units of internally assessed work. One unit is externally assessed in the form of an online test.

GCSE - Students practical abilities will be assessed in four sports for 50% of the final mark, coursework 10% and a final exam 40%.

Exam Board
Edexcel

Revision Books
All students have been provided with a revision book by the PE Department.

Revision Websites
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/pe/
GCSE Drama

Component 1: Devising (40%)
- You will create and develop a devised piece of theatre from a selection of given stimulus
- You will perform this devised piece for assessment
- Finally, you will complete a written portfolio about the devising process and their final performance
- It is imperative in lessons that you keep detailed notes of the work you have completed during the devising process

Component 2: Performance from Text (20%)
- This is a performance exam in front of a visiting examiner
- You will be given 2 extracts from a play to learn and perform. This could be working as a group, as part of a duologue or a monologue

Learning Lines – Top Tips
- Read the lines aloud. By speaking the lines you will hear them and they are more likely to stick
- Ask a friends/family to help you. Friends can correct you on any mistakes you make, give you the cue lines and go back over any weak areas
- Little and often. Go over them first thing in the morning, a few times during the day and last thing at night
- Make a recording of the scene on your phone. Listen to it while you are travelling to and from school, getting dressed etc.
- Move around while you are saying your lines. The best thing to do is to act and feel the emotions of the character so that you are learning the meaning of the speech as much as the words
- Learn the cue lines that lead in to each of your lines

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)
Written Exam 1 hour 30mins.

Section A: Bringing Texts to Life
Section A focuses on DNA. You will need to answer a range of questions from the perspective of a performer, director and designer.

Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation
In Section B of the exam, you will have to answer two questions based on a live theatre performance that the school will organise for you to see.
Music

Curriculum Content
The course consists of 3 units:

Unit 1: Performing Music – Pupils will prepare a solo performance and an ensemble performance to be recorded and submitted as coursework (internally assessed).

Unit 2: Composing Music - Pupils will produce two original compositions, two arrangements or one composition and one arrangement, these will be recorded and you will need to produce a score to accompany your composition.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising – You will study and analyse 12 pieces of music which are chosen by EDEXCEL, there are three pieces from each of the following areas of study: Western Classical Music, Music in the 20th Century, Popular Music in Context, World Music. You will sit a listening exam based on the set works.

Assessment Structure
Unit 1: Performing Music - 30%, internally assessed
Unit 2: Composing Music – 30%, internally assessed
Unit 3: Listening and Appraising – 40%, externally assessed exam

Exam board
Edexcel

Revision Books
- Edexcel GCSE Music Revision Guide (A.Charlton, published by Rhinegold)
- GCSE Music Edexcel Specification (R.Parsons, published by CGP)
- Edexcel GCSE Music Student Book (J.Arkell and J.Martin, published by Edexcel)

Revision Websites
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/music
- http://getrevising.co.uk/resources/gcse_edexcel_music_revision_2009
- http://www.teoria.com/
- http://www.mymusictheory.com
Health & Social Care Tech Award

Curriculum Content

Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development (internally assessed coursework) - Understanding human growth and development across life stages and how factors affect it.

Component 2 – Health and Social Care Services (internally assessed coursework) – Understanding the different types of health and social care services and the barriers to accessing them.

Component 3 – Health and Well Being (externally assessed examination – 1.5 hours) – Factors affecting health and well being.

Exam Board

Edexcel

Revision Websites

- www.dignityincare.org.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/learningzones/clips/help.shtml
- www.nursingtimes.net
- www.communitycare.com
- www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
- www.youtube.com
- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.dh.gov.uk

Revision Book

Business Studies BGCE 9-1:

Curriculum Content

Theme 1 (curriculum for Year 10) - Concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

Topics

- Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
- Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
- Topic 1.4 Making the business effective
- Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2 (curriculum for Year 11) - Examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

Topics

- Topic 2.1 Growing the business
- Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions
- Topic 2.3 Making product decisions
- Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions
- Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

Assessment Structure

100% written exam, Paper 1 Paper 2 (90 minutes per paper).

The paper is divided into three sections: A B & C.

The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.

Calculators may be used in the examination.

Exam Board

Edexcel-Pearson
Textbook

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business Student Book
Published by Edexcel, 2017

Revision Books


Revision Website

- https://www.businessed.co.uk/index.php/home/activities/gcse-activities/edexcel-gcse-activities - a good starting point with a notes relating to all topics
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zpsvr82
- https://getrevising.co.uk/resources?q=&level_id%5B%5D=gcse&level_id%5B%5D=vocational_gcse&subject_id%5B%5D=business_studies&board_id%5B%5D=edexcel
Design Technology

Curriculum Content

Paper 1

What's Assessed?
- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles
- *In addition: at least 15% of the exam will assess Maths and at least 10% of the exam will assess Science*

How it's Assessed
- Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE Questions
- **Section A** – Core technical principles (20 marks) A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding
- **Section B** – Specialist technical principles (30 marks) Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles
- **Section C** – Designing and making principles (50 marks) A mixture of short answer and extended response questions

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)

What's Assessed?
- Practical application of: Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

How it’s Assessed
- Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approximately
- 100 marks 50% of GCSE Task(s) Substantial design and make task

Assessment Criteria
- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating
- Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence
- Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA
Exam Board
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Revision Books
Collins AQA GCSE 9-1 Design and Technology Complete All-in-One Revision ... A Revision Guide.
GCSE Food and Nutrition

Curriculum Content

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)

What's Assessed?
Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks) Student’s understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.
Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks) Student’s knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

How it's Assessed
Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500 – 2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.
Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

Exam

Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition

What's Assessed?
• Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition

How it's Assessed
• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
• 100 marks 50% of GCSE Questions
• Multiple choice questions (20 marks)
• Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

Exam Board

AQA

Revision Books and Websites

BBC Bitesize Access to videos https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z48jmp3

Recommended Revision Guides
• AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition All-in-One Revision and Practice by Collins. £10.98.
GCSE Art/Photography/Textiles

All three creative subjects follow the same structure:

**Coursework**

Students complete one creative project in Year 10 and one in the first term of Year 11, which constitutes the coursework component (60%) of the overall grade. These are internally assessed and moderated in centre.

**Externally Set Assignment:**

This is handed out to students in January and students prepare sketchbooks of ideas, experimentation and planning for a final piece. This preparation over 10 school weeks will end in two days of exam assessment where students will produce a final piece in relation to their theme. This will constitute 40% of the overall exam grade.

**Assessment Objectives:**

*All students will be assessed using the four assessment objectives:*

- **AO1:** Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources
- **AO2:** Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- **AO3:** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses
- **AO4:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

**Useful Websites and Resources**

- **Tate Exam Help**
  This resource covers not only some of the current exam themes, but the ones that are on there are covered really well. It’s great to find a site with commentary linking the artists’ ideas to the theme and to one another.
- **art2day**
  A fantastic resource for finding fine artists and photographers to inspire students or link to their individual projects.
- **Student Art Guide**
  Exemplar sketchbooks to inspire students and help demonstrate teachers’ expectations.
- **PhotoPedagogy**
  Photography student sketchbooks with accompanying notes.
- **The Art Story**
  This website focuses on modern and contemporary artists and has a great, clear layout making it easy to use.
Top Homework Tips

- Encourage your child to complete any homework they have been given as soon as they get home from school. Parents can check what homework has been set on ‘Show My Homework’. This will give them free time later in the evening.

- Try to use small incentives to get your child to complete their homework.

- Try to provide a place for your child to do homework where it is quiet.

- Look at your child’s work and give him/her positive encouragement.

- Though listening to music may help the completion of homework, television and computer games will almost certainly not.

- Encourage your child to have a short break after each 30 minutes of working (15 minutes) and then go back to the task they were doing.

- Look at the ‘date due’ dates in the planner and encourage your child to get work completed in advance and not leave it until the night before it is due. Students produce a higher quality of homework when they complete it on the day that they were set, as the work from school is fresher in their mind. Also this will leave them time to get help from the teacher should they have any difficulty with the homework.

- Set a period of time in the evening and at the weekend that is dedicated to homework. If all homework is completed or there really is none to do then this time can be used for activities which do not require a television, for example, reading.

- Talk to your child about the work they have done and get them to explain it to you.