

PADGATE ACADEMY

Insall Road, Warrington WA2 0LN

Telephone: 01925 822 632

info@padgateacademy.co.uk

www.padgateacademy.co.uk

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Principal: Mr A McMillan Bsc (Hons)



Year 11 Information Evening Thursday 8th October



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 – 8th October 2026
- Revision technique sessions
- Mock exams - 13th October – 13th November 2026
- Progress reports – WB 14th December 2026
- Post 16 applications – to be completed by December 2026
- Vocational Controlled Assessment submission - Component 2



Year 11 Road Map

Spring term

- Post 16 interviews
- Progress Evening – 14th January 2027
- Full set of mock exams – 25th January – 26th February 2027
- Mock results day -TBC
- Progress report – WB 15th March 2027



Year 11 Road Map

Summer Term

- Progress evening (Invite only) – 25th March 2027
- Progress meetings with Form Tutors
- MFL speaking exams – WB 19th April 2027
- Art exam – WB 19th April 2027
- GCSE/Vocational exams – 3rd May – 23rd June 2027
- Leavers assembly -TBC
- Prom –1st July 2027 (Provisional date)
- Results day – 19th August 2027



Mock Exams – Term 1

Date	Exam	Duration
A Tue 13/10	AM - Eng Lit	1hr 45
A Thu 15/10	Am –Chemistry - Paper 1	1 hr 15/45
A Fri 16/10	AM – Maths Paper 1	1 hr 30
B Wed 21/10	PM - History	55 mins
B Thu 22/10	AM - Biology – Paper 1	1 hr 15/45
B Fri 23/10	AM – English Lang	45 mins
A Tue 10/11	AM – Maths – Paper 2	1 hr 30
A Wed 11/11	Spanish Speaking	
A Fri 13/11	AM – Physics – Paper 2	1hr 15/45

AM Exams – Students to arrive in school for 8.15am for an 8.30am 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 exam grades 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

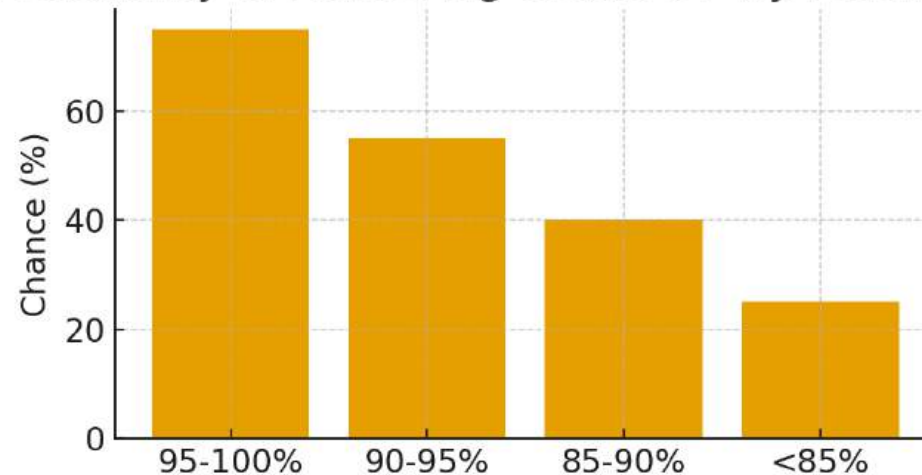


Attendance and GCSE Outcomes

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.



Access Arrangements for GCSE Examinations

What are Access Arrangements?

Access arrangements are reasonable adjustments that help students with a recognised need access examinations fairly.

Key Messages

- Students eligible for access arrangements have already been identified through our normal assessment and support processes.
- Arrangements are awarded in line with **JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) regulations**.
- Evidence must be gathered over time and demonstrate a clear and ongoing need.
- Access arrangements are not based on parent or student requests alone; they must be supported by evidence from school and formal assessment where required.
- At this stage, **no new requests for access arrangements can be considered for the summer examination series.**



Examples of Access Arrangements

- 25% extra time
- Reader or reading software
- Scribe
- Word processor/laptop
- Rest breaks
- Prompt
- Alternative rooming
- Coloured or enlarged paper



"Use It or Lose It"

Why Regular Use Matters

JCQ regulations require students to **regularly use their approved access arrangements in normal classroom learning and assessments.**

Key Messages

- Access arrangements must reflect a student's **normal way of working.**
- Students need to use their arrangements consistently in class, assessments and mock examinations.
- Evidence of regular use is required before arrangements can be approved and retained for GCSE examinations.
- If a student chooses not to use their arrangement during mock examinations, this may affect our ability to demonstrate their normal way of working.
- In line with regulations, if we cannot provide evidence that an arrangement is routinely used, we may be unable to process or maintain the request for GCSE exams.



How Parents Can Help

- Encourage your child to use their agreed access arrangements whenever they are offered.
- Reinforce that these arrangements are designed to remove barriers, not provide an advantage.

Remember: Access arrangements are there to support success, but students must actively use them throughout Year 11 to ensure they remain available for their GCSE examinations.

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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

- 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 provided for students to complete in their own time.



CENTURY



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MACBETH REVISION



Name _____

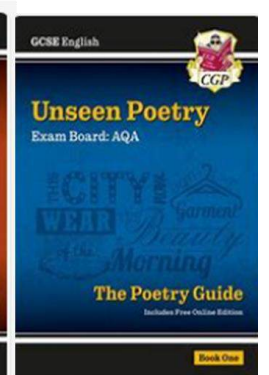
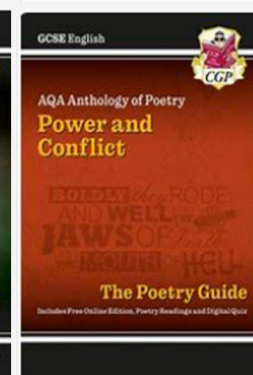
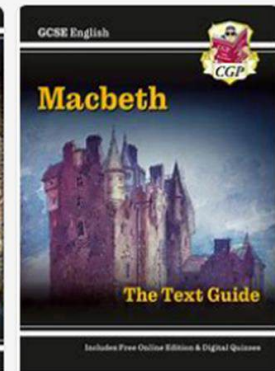
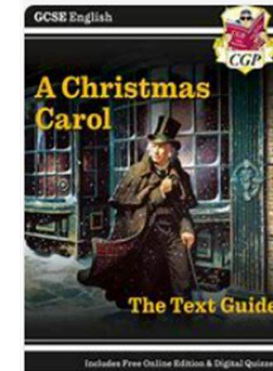
Class teacher _____



Exam Dates and Additional Help

- Exam dates have now been published for 2027 and are advertised in the English classrooms.
- CGP revision guides for all Literature texts have been donated to students – we kindly ask that they are returned upon the completion of the GCSE exams. Additional revision and resources have also been given to students – please ask your child to use these effectively in their own revision time at home.
- Please contact myself or your child's English teacher for any further help or guidance.

Date	Exam
12 th May	English Lit P1
19 TH May	English Lit P2
24 th May	English Lang
8 th June	English Lang



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Y11 Maths

Head of Faculty – Mr Ashcroft

Pashcroft@padgateacademy.co.uk



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 2027	27 th May 2027	14 th June 2027
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
- 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 – 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.

You can pre-order a calculator from school at a cost of £11.92



Casio fx-83GT CW



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Y11 Science

Head of Faculty – Mr Crewe

lcrewe@padgateacademy.co.uk



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

Date	Exam
11 ^h May	Biology P1
17 ^H May	Chemistry P1
25 th May	Physics P1
10 th June	Biology P2
15 th June	Chemistry P2
18 th June	Physics P2



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

Homework Expectations

- SPARX Science due every Friday
- Next term students will also have past paper questions to do

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Y11 Humanities & Languages

Head of Faculty – Mr Norris

tnorris@padgateacademy.co.uk

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)



Geography

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



Date	Exam
8 th May	Paper 1
26 th May	Paper 2
10 th June	Paper 3

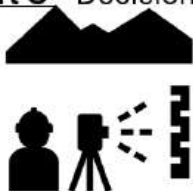
Component 3 (30%)

Applied fieldwork

Part A – Data analysis and presentation

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

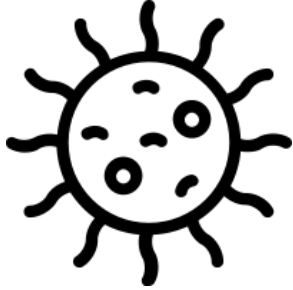
Part C – Decision making exercise on a current issue



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%



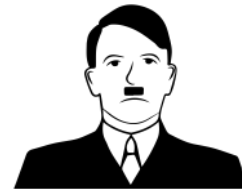
History

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



Date	Exam
20 th May	Paper 1
28 th May	Paper 2
9 th June	Paper 3

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)



Date	Exam
13 th May	Paper 1
21 st May	Paper 2
7 th June	Paper 3

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

Date	Exam
9 th June	Listening & Reading
16 th June	Writing

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Y11 Vocational

Head of Faculty – Mr Morris

Kmorris@padgateacademy.co.uk



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 2027

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 – 17th May 2027

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 4th May 2027



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 – 5th May 2027

Child Development

Component 1 –Children's growth & development –(Coursework) - 30%

Component 2 - Learning through play - (Coursework) - 30%

Component 3 –Supporting children to play, Learn & develop 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 – 5th May 2027



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 14th June 2027

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 8th June 2027

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



Art , Photography and Music

Overview of GCSE subjects:

AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design

- Component 1 – Coursework 60%
- Component 2 - Externally set assignment 40%

AQA GCSE Photography

- Component 1 – Coursework 60%
- Component 2 - Externally set assignment 40%

EDUQAS GCSE Music

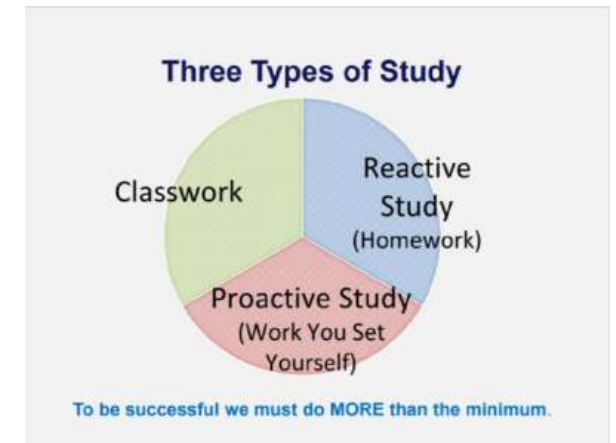
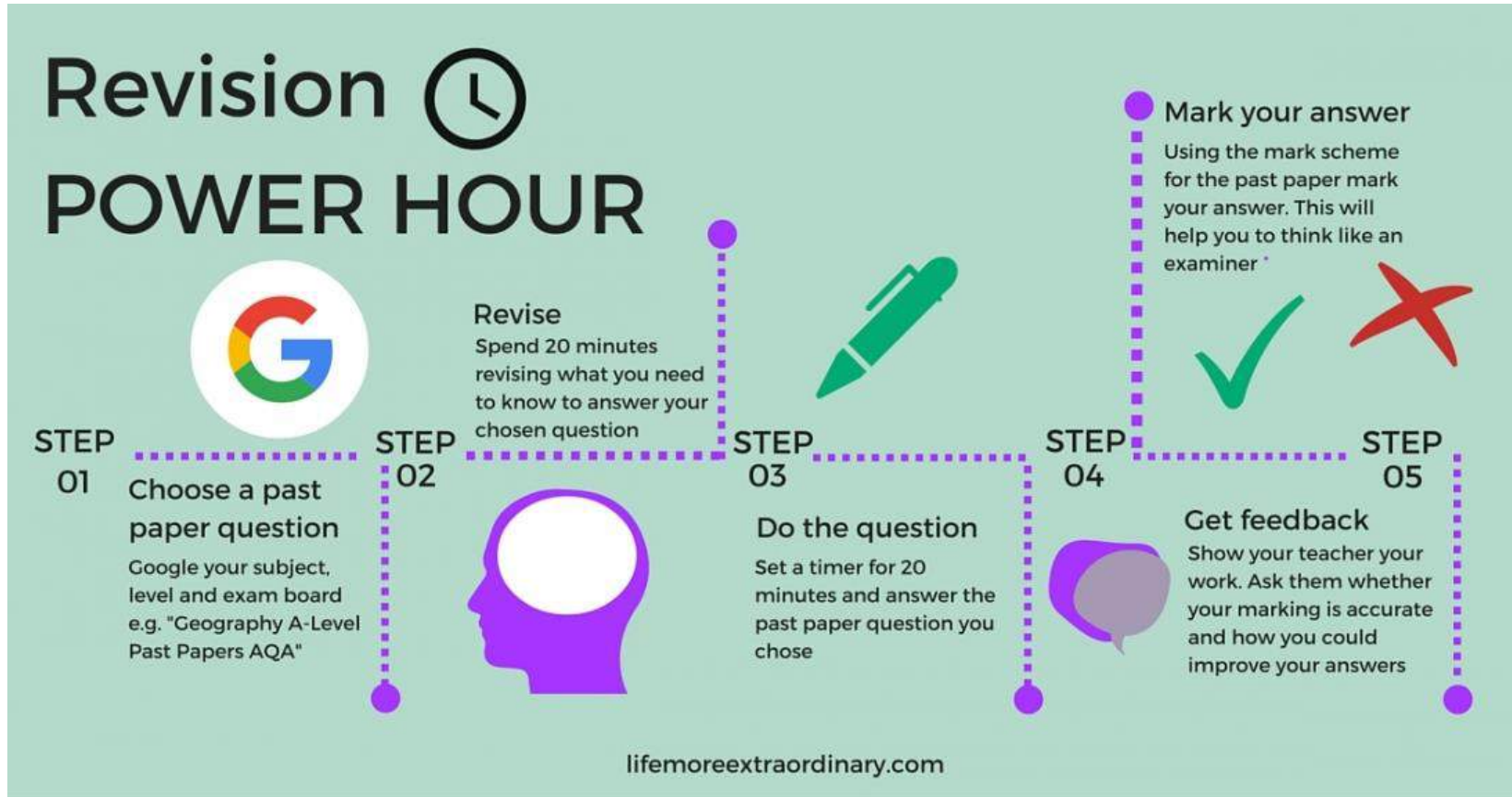
- Component 1 – Performing 30%
- Component 2 – Internal assessment 30%
- Component 3 – External examination 40%

How to achieve in practical subjects:

- Art must include regular practical coursework at home/after school
- Completing homework
- Revision guides for music
- Practice questions for music
- Reading over theory lessons
- Listening to set homework
- Practicing a musical instrument



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

jleigh@padgateacademy.co.uk



Post 16 Pathways

- All young people are required to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday.
- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider
- Full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with part-time education or training leading to relevant regulated qualifications.
- An Apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship





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 December 2026.
- Students should apply to at least TWO colleges.



College Open Evening Events



- Thu 8 Oct – FULLY BOOKED
- Wed 4 Nov – 5pm to 7.30pm
- Sat 21 Nov – 10.30am to 12.30pm



- Wed 21st Oct – 5pm to 8pm
- Mon 9th Nov – 5pm to 8pm
- Wed 18th Nov SEND – 4pm to 7pm



- Thu 8th Oct – 5.30pm to 7.30pm
- Wed 14th Oct – 5.30 to 7.30pm
- Tue 10th Nov – 5.30pm to 7.30pm



Wed 11th Nov 5pm-7pm



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- Wed 30th Sept – 5pm to 7.30pm
- Wed 4th Nov – 5pm to 7.30pm
- Tue 19th Jan 27 – 5pm-7.30pm



- Tue 3rd Nov – 5.30pm to 8.30pm



Supporting Pupils Through Exams



Intervention Sessions

- We are running a variety of intervention programmes based on your child's needs. These are done during tutor time, at lunch, afterschool and Friday mornings



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