



Langley Grammar School

GCSE Assessment Information

Year 10 / 11

2014 - 2016

Website address: www.lgs.slough.sch.uk



Dear Parents

GCSE Assessment Information – Year 10/11 in 2014 - 2016

This booklet is intended to inform parents of Year 10 students about the nature and timing of the GCSE assessments which students will face during Years 10 and 11, culminating in the final examinations taken in the summer of Year 11.

Controlled assessment is a key component of most of the GCSE courses and involves students in working on assignments at various times throughout the two years of their GCSE courses. The booklet tells you what the assessment requirements are for each subject, the percentage of the final mark and where relevant, when the work will be done. Please note that in many subjects the controlled assessments carry more weight than the examinations in determining the final outcome for the student. There are, however, one or two subjects which do not have any controlled assessment component and for which all the marks for the GCSE are based on examinations.

The success of our students at GCSE relies on a very high standard of performance in both the controlled assessments and the examination. We hope that by keeping you fully informed about the demands of the controlled assessments, you will be able to support your sons and daughters in achieving the grades of which they are capable and in meeting all the deadlines that will be set during the two years of the GCSE course.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

John Constable
Headteacher

Year 10 Pastoral team 2014

Phase Leaders (Yrs 10 & 11): Ms Roughton/ Mr Pascall

Form Tutors:

10H	Mr Hetherington
10K	Mr Mace/Mrs Clark
10R	Miss Rae
10S	Mr Wilkinson
10V	Ms Raj

Subject Leaders:

Subject leaders are responsible for the organisation and standards of the curriculum in their subject area.

Mathematics	Mr Simpson
English	Ms Prest
Biology	Mrs Morgan
Chemistry	Mrs Chana
Physics	Mr Kitley
Modern Languages	Mr Scales
Technology	Mrs Toor
Physical Education	Mr Close
Philosophy & Ethics	Mrs Paice
History	Mr Langford
Geography	Mr Pascall
Business Studies	Mr Kirton
Computing	Mrs Jenkins
ICT	Mrs Jenkins
Art	Ms Runswick
Drama	Mrs Andrijasevic
Music	Mr Wilkinson
Classical Civilisation	Mrs Hidden
Careers Advisor	Mrs Golding

GCSE subjects - assessment Information

ART AND DESIGN

AQA Specification 42011/42012

There are two components to the course:

- 1. Portfolio (controlled assessment) - 60% of Final Mark** Students will produce three projects of work over the two years which will form their portfolio. Each project is a 'body of work', based around a given theme which demonstrates the student's ability to investigate, record, analyse, experiment and develop ideas towards exciting and creative outcomes. Students will need to look at the work of artists, designers and art movements to help inspire ideas within their work. Portfolio work begins at the start of Year 10 and continues through the year and the Autumn term of Year 11. Portfolios will need to be ready for submission by the end of January in Year 11.
- 2. Externally set task - 40% of Final Mark** Students will receive an exam paper in January of Year 11; there will be a range of themes given by the exam board and students will have time to complete preparation work towards one chosen theme. Students are expected to demonstrate the same abilities as for the portfolio projects; however, the final outcome for this component will be completed in a ten hour controlled test, usually shortly after the Easter holidays.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Edexcel Specification 2BSO1

There are **two examinations** which take place at the end of Year 11. Unit 1 is a multiple choice paper and is worth 25% of the final grade. The Unit 3 exam is a written paper requiring both short and extended written answers: this exam is worth 50% of the final grade.

In addition to the external examinations, there is also a **controlled assessment** (Unit 2) which is worth **25%** of the final grade and is completed in the first term of Year 11.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

AQA Specification 4020

There is **one controlled assessment** in the form of an extended piece of work prepared under controlled conditions. This constitutes **25%** of the final mark.

The controlled assessment tests candidates' ability to:

- assemble and make relevant use of information from primary texts and secondary material,
- demonstrate understanding of material by analysing and evaluating the material assembled.

The topic is taught during the first term of Year 11. After this, the candidates are given the question for the extended piece. They may then have up to ten hours to research and plan their answer to the question. This research and planning time is supervised and a research diary is kept by each student to record how they have spent their time, and as a record of their thinking to demonstrate the final piece is their own work. This research diary is available to the candidates to use during the final 4 hour write up along with the primary source material.

SCIENCE

OCR Gateway Science B Specifications

J263 (Biology);

J264 (Chemistry);

J265 (Physics)

GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics

During Year 10 and 11 students will complete **two controlled assessments** in each of the three subjects, with the best mark from the two counting for 25% of their final GCSE grade in that subject.

The controlled assessments will be carried out over the period of approximately 4 or 5 weeks in the students' lessons for that subject.

The dates for the first controlled assessment in the three subjects are shown below...

Biology	12 January 2015 to 2 February 2015.
Chemistry	17 November 2014 to 12 December 2014.
Physics	23 February 2015 to 27 March 2015.

Each controlled assessment task consists of three parts:

- **Part 1** requires students to research and collect secondary data
- **Part 2** requires students to plan an investigation, to test a hypothesis and then use their plan to collect primary data.
- **Part 3** requires students to process, analyse and evaluate their primary and secondary data and draw conclusions.

The second controlled assessment will take place in Year 11 and the final dates for these will be confirmed with students in the summer of 2015.

COMPUTING

OCR Specification J275

a) Unit A451 Computer Systems and programming - Written paper

40% of the GCSE, 1 Hour 30 minutes examination worth 80 marks

Students will take the examination in the summer term of Year 11.

b) Unit A452 Practical investigation (controlled assessment)

30% of the qualification, 20 hours, 45 marks

Students will carry out a practical investigation of a topic chosen by the ICT & Computing department from a set of options supplied by OCR. This will be completed by the spring term of Year 10.

c) Unit A453 Programming project (controlled assessment)

30% of the qualification, 20 hours, 45 marks

Students will need to complete a programming project, where they create solutions to computing tasks chosen by the ICT & Computing department from a set of options supplied by OCR. This will be completed by the spring term of Year 11.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Product Design AQA Specification 4557

Textiles Technology AQA Specification 4570

Food & Nutrition Specification OCR Specification J431

The **AQA suite** of specifications (Product Design and Textiles Technology) requires candidates to complete a **major piece of controlled assessment** which contributes **60%** to the final GCSE grade and a written exam accounting for 40%. The specification will be taught both through separate topics and basic skills necessary for carrying out the controlled assessment.

The controlled assessment will consist of a design folder and practical realisation in the chosen material area. Candidates will be given **approximately 45 hours** to complete this within lessons under close supervision, with research and preparation more informally managed and interim deadlines to meet at stages during the controlled assessment. This starts in the summer term of Year 10 and continues into Year 11. Teacher guidance and feedback will be in accordance with the criteria provided by the exam board. Completed assessments are internally marked and externally moderated.

The **OCR Food and Nutrition** course comprises an internally assessed and externally moderated **controlled assessment** element made up of three short practical tasks (approx. seven hours each) and one Food Study investigative task (approx. 22 hours) which together form **60%** of the final GCSE grade and a written paper which makes up the remaining 40%.

The specification content, the principles of Food and Nutrition, will be delivered throughout the course to enable the controlled assessment tasks to be undertaken to a high level of accuracy and depth, with teacher support and feedback in accordance with the exam board guidance. Both the written and practical application of each scenario being studied for the controlled assessment will be carried out during lessons under direct teacher supervision; however, some research outside school will inevitably be necessary.

This starts during the Spring Term of Year 10 and finishes at the end of January in Year 11.

DRAMA

AQA Specification 4240

Unit 1: Drama Written paper - 40% of final grade, 80 marks

This unit comprises three sections. Students must answer all of section A, and then one of either sections B or C:

- A.** Practical work completed during the course – compulsory question – four parts, each worth 10 marks
- B.** Study and performance of a scripted play – optional question – two parts, each worth 20 marks
- C.** Study of a live theatre production seen – optional question – two parts, each worth 20 marks

Unit 2: Practical work - 60% of final grade, 120 marks

Assessment for this unit is continuous, over the two years of the course. Candidates will complete several pieces of practical work across the following **controlled assessment** options, TWO of which must be entered for the final grade:

- Acting
- Physical Theatre

- Devised Thematic Work
- Theatre in Education

If candidates have an interest in studying design options, such as mask, sound, costume or lighting, this can also be done by negotiation with Drama Department staff.

The controlled assessment options have two areas of assessment:

- Part 1** Process and understanding of skills development, in which candidates' ability to 'recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of drama to generate, explore and develop ideas' is assessed – 15 marks
- Part 2** Final Presentation (performance or design demonstration) in which candidates' ability to 'apply practical skills to communicate in performance' is assessed – 45 marks

Candidates will be required to attend some after-school visits to experience live theatre, which is an integral part of the course. They will also need to give up some lunchtime/after school time to rehearse controlled assessment performance work with their peers.

ENGLISH

English Language *WJEC Specification 4170*

English Literature *WJEC Specification 4200*

English Language

Students will sit two external examination papers in May 2015:

- **Unit 1 – Studying written language (1 hour) 30%**
- **Unit 2 – Using written language (1 hour) 30%**

Students will also sit two controlled assessments during the course of Year 10 or 11:

- **Unit 3 – Literary reading and creative writing (4 hours) 30%**
- **Unit 4 – Studying spoken language (2 hours) 10%**

English Literature

Students will sit two external examination papers in May 2015:

- **Unit 1 – Prose and poetry (2 hours) 35%**
- **Unit 2 – Literary heritage and contemporary prose (2 hours) 40%**

Students will also sit one controlled assessment during the course of Year 11:

- **Unit 3 – Poetry and drama (4 hours) 25%**

FRENCH AND GERMAN

French AQA Specification 4655

German AQA Specification 4665

Students will be examined in all four skills: **Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.**

Listening and Reading will be assessed in an examination at the end of Year 11. This will be worth **40%** of the final grade.

Speaking and Writing will be assessed in 4 pieces of **controlled assessment**, two for each skill. The controlled assessments all together make up **60%** of the final grade and are carried out over the two years of the GCSE course. The pattern is as follows:

- January/February Year 10 Controlled Assessment Writing
- April Year 10 Controlled Assessment Writing
- July Year 10 Controlled Assessment Speaking
- October Year 11 Controlled Assessment Writing
- January Year 11 Controlled Assessment Speaking

The two best pieces of writing will be submitted to the examination board for marking. Both of the speaking assessments are marked in school and both marks count towards the final grade.

Students will prepare the topics to be tested in the controlled assessments in lessons and they will normally plan the final piece at home; the actual writing or speaking piece will be completed under controlled conditions in school. Students who wish to plan in school may do so in supervised conditions after school in Controlled Assessment Club. Students who have had difficulty preparing thoroughly enough at home will be asked to attend these sessions.

GEOGRAPHY

Edexcel specification 2GB01

The Edexcel GCSE in Geography comprises four units each worth 25% of the total GCSE

Unit 1 Dynamic Planet covers the Restless Earth, Changing Climate, Battle for the Biosphere, Water World Coastal Change and Oceans.

Unit 2 People and the Planet covers Population Dynamics, Consuming Resources, Globalisation, Development Dilemmas, Changing Settlements and Challenges of an Urban World.

Unit 3 Making Geographical Decisions will assess the students' ability to make decisions about geographical issues and justify them.

Unit 4 Investigating Geography is where students need to complete a fieldwork investigation and report. They must complete one of the tasks provided by Edexcel on the following themes: coastal environments, river environments, rural/countryside environments, town/city environments. **This unit is assessed under controlled conditions.**

Unit 4 is based on a residential fieldtrip to Devon or a fieldtrip conducted more locally and involves writing a report of their findings. The **controlled assessment** begins at the same time as the fieldtrip and lasts approximately half the term with some work done at home as research and some in class under exam conditions. The fieldtrips are usually in May of Year 10. The rest of the exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

HISTORY

Edexcel Specification 2HA01

GCSE History comprises four units, each worth 25% of the total GCSE. There are three examination units formally assessed at the end of the course. These are:

Unit 1: The Cold War

Unit 2: Russia, 1914-39

Unit 3: War and the transformation of British society, c1931-51

There will be one **controlled assessment (unit 4)**, worth **25%** of the final mark, on civil rights and protest in the USA, 1945-70. This will start around July of Year 10 and continuing through to December of Year 11. The first eight weeks will be taught in lessons. This will be followed by approximately six weeks of writing up in class under controlled conditions. The assessment will comprise three parts:

Part A: historical explanation

Part B: carry out a historical enquiry

Part C; analyse and evaluate representations of history

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

AQA AS Specification 1521

Year 10 and 11 students will be studying AS level ICT. There is no coursework element at AS level. However, in the INFO 1 module the students create two small tasks which become sample work to be taken into the examination.

INFO 1 - Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World - 50% of AS

- 1 Hour 30 minutes examination
- 80 marks
- Section A short answer questions
- Section B structured questions
- INFO1 is completed in Year 10 with the examination taken in the summer of that year.

INFO 2 - Living in the Digital World - 50% of AS

- 1 Hour 30 minutes examination
- 80 marks
- Section A short answer questions
- Section B structured questions
- INFO 2 is completed in Year 11 with the examination also taken in the summer.

MATHEMATICS

Edexcel Specification 1MA0

Assessment in GCSE Mathematics consists of two written exams each contributing 50% of the final grade. There is **no coursework element or controlled assessment** for the Mathematics GCSE.

Students will be taught the complete GCSE syllabus during years 9 and 10 and in year 11 they will all study for the AQA level 2 certificate in Further Maths which consists of 2 exams, contributing 40% and 60%. Our most able students will also study the FSMQ (Free Standing Mathematics Qualification) in Additional Mathematics, assessed through one final exam.

The majority of students will sit the GCSE maths and AQA Further maths exams at the end of year 11. Some students, however, will be given the opportunity to take their GCSE at the end of Year 10. Students will be monitored and assessed regularly throughout the GCSE course and in January of Year 10 they will be given the opportunity to prove themselves eligible for early entry by sitting a mock GCSE exam. Students who are able to demonstrate that they have reached the necessary level of progress such that we are confident that they will achieve an A* grade in the Mathematics GCSE will be given the opportunity to sit the exam at the end of Year 10.

Upon completion of the GCSE course these students will then go on to study both the Further Mathematics course and the FSMQ in Additional Mathematics in Year 11.

All the remaining students who do not sit the exam in year 10 will go on to study the Further Mathematics course, coupled with a program of GCSE mathematics revision and support, and will sit all the associated exams at the end of Year 11.

MUSIC

Edexcel Specification 2MU01

Coursework for GCSE Music is closely integrated into the syllabus and represents **60%** of the total mark. There are various internal deadlines set for the completion of compositions and performances which are worked on throughout the course. There is also a listening and written exam at the end of Year 11 based on 12 set works studied over the course. This accounts for the remaining 40% of the total mark.

All coursework is completed in controlled time and is structured as follows:

- Solo Performance (15% of total mark); recorded in summer term of Year 10.
- Ensemble Performance (15% of total mark); recorded in spring term of Year 11.
- Composition one (15% of total mark); completed in Year 10; ten hours controlled time.
- Composition two (15% of total mark); completed in Year 11; ten hours controlled time.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - FULL COURSE

AQA Specification 4890

a) *Knowledge & Understanding: THEORY*

This comprises **40%** of the Full Course and consists of a 1 hr 30 mins written exam paper. Scenario pre-release material is issued in advance of the exam.

b) *The Active Participant: PRACTICAL*

This constitutes **60%** of the Full Course, consisting of four assessments from two different '*ways of thinking*'. At least two performances must be as player / performer. Other assessments may be in a different role, such as official / coach / organiser / choreographer. There is also a written controlled assessment on analysing practical performance.

**'Ways of thinking'* refers to the new National Curriculum whereby assessment areas are divided up not by activity areas such as swimming, athletics etc. but by 6 skill areas: outwitting opponents, accurate replication, exploring and communicating ideas, performing at maximum levels, identifying and solving problems, safe and effective exercise.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS:

Philosophy & Applied Ethics OCR Specification J621

There are four modular written examinations in the Philosophy & Ethics course. Candidates sit all four modular examinations at the end of Year 11. Students answer two questions from a choice of three in each paper. Examination questions are based on the topics below:

Paper 1: Philosophy (Beliefs about Deity, Religious & Spiritual Experience, The End of Life).

Paper 2: Philosophy (Good and Evil, Religion, Reason & Revelation, Religion & Science).

Paper 3: Ethics (Religion & Human Relationships, Religion & Medical Ethics, Religion, Poverty & Wealth).

Paper 4: Ethics (Religion, Peace & Justice, Religion & Equality, Religion & the Media).

There are no controlled assessments in Philosophy & Ethics.