HELSBY High School

Achieving Success
Valuing Others

2025

Year 9

Quick Guide

Summer Exam Preparation

Art

The assessments will take place in both Art lessons for each class across the exam fortnight.

Art
Students will complete observation drawing using tonal shading and mark making. You will recall skills that you have developed in class to develop a series of drawings in a range of drawing styles.

Computer Science

Students will be assessed on the topics covered this year and a revision booklet will be provided via class charts.

Drama

Year 9 will be completing a practical assessment using a script. Students will be given the script on the day and will be given preparation time. Students will complete this in their drama lesson within the assessment fortnight.

English

Examination 1 Creative Prose Writing 45 minutes (60 minutes for students with extra time)
The English Language Examination will test the students' ability to write a short story. Students will be able to choose a title from a choice of four. 16 of the available marks are awarded for vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation.
Students are expected to write between 350 and 500 words.

Students should prepare for this examination by practising their creative writing skills, revising their knowledge and understanding of a range of sentence structures, punctuation and paragraphing techniques. Students should also revise a range of linguistic and narrative techniques that they can employ in their own creative piece.
Students should aim to build a range of engaging, precise and sophisticated vocabulary to utilise in their response. Reading a range of short stories and flash fiction will develop their story writing ability and help to increase their vocabulary range.

Students should use their current curriculum booklet, 'The Art of Short Story Writing' to support their preparation for this examination.

Examination 2 Reading Non Fiction 45 minutes (60 minutes for students with extra time)
Students will read two short pieces of non fiction and answer questions based on them. The questions will test their understanding of the texts, their ability to analyse and comment on the writer's choices and their ability to compare two texts.

Students will be prepared for this assessment in lessons. They should revise using their curriculum booklets along with any class and revision materials given to them by their class teacher.

Geography

Pupils will be tested on the topic *Landscapes of the UK*.

Knowledge organisers will be provided to support revision. Pupils are also reminded to use their class exercise books to aid their revision.

The assessment will cover key geographical terminology, particularly geomorphic processes such as erosion, weathering, transportation, mass movement, and deposition.

Additionally, pupils will be tested on key river features, including waterfalls, gorges, meanders, oxbow lakes, and levees. It is strongly recommended that pupils practise writing detailed paragraphs explaining how each of these river features is formed.

History

Students will answer a combination of short recall questions and questions that require a more developed answer testing their understanding of the events we have studied. They should revise the following topics:

1. Hitler's Rise to Power
2. Dictators
3. Causes of the Second World War
4. Dunkirk
5. The Home Front
6. The Atomic Bomb
7. The Cold War

Students should use their books to prepare for their assessment. A knowledge organiser will be also shared on Class Charts.

Maths

Foundation	**Higher**
Four rules with decimals	HCF/LCM
Factors, multiples, primes, squares, cubes	Ratio/Fractions
Prime factors, HCF, LCM	Ratio Hard
Percentages	Product Rule for Counting/ Percentages
Fractions	Percentages
Ratio	Expand and factorise
Rounding, estimation, BIDMAS	Factorise/solve quadratics
Negative numbers	Factorising quadratics with coefficient
Basic algebra	Simultaneous Equations
Substitution	Inequalities / Changing the subject
Coordinates	Pythagoras/trigonometry
Expanding and factorising	3D Pythagoras/3D trigonometry
Solving Equations	Angles
Solving equations with unknowns on both sides	Angles in polygons
Sequences	Bearings (with trig)
Inequalities	Pie charts
Indices	Cumulative frequency/box plots
Angles	Averages
Angles in parallel sides	Averages from a table
Area and perimeter	Scatter graphs/frequency polygons/stem and leaf
Circles	Standard form
Plotting graphs	Area, surface area, volume
FDP	Circles, cylinders, spheres
Four rules with fractions	Probability
	Probability Trees

MFL

French - C band - Wednesday 4 June - lesson 3
French/German - AB band - Friday 6 June - lesson 2

During the Year 9 assessment period, you will have one 45-minute assessment which will test your listening and reading skills. The GCSE tasks will be similar to those which you do every lesson.

In order to prepare for this, you need to revise vocabulary, either from your printed vocab sheets or on Language Nut. The tasks will be based on all of the topics we have covered this year including:

1 Identity & relationships
2 Free time
3 Healthy living
4 School & future plans
5 Celebrity culture

Music

Year 9	**Date – Period - Teacher**
9aMu1	Tuesday 3rd of June – P5 - GSI
9aMu2	Friday 6th of June – P3 - ASY
9aMu3	Wednesday 4th of June – P5 - GSI
9bMu1	Thursday 5th of June – P3 - GSI
9bMu2	Monday 2nd of June – P5 - ASY
9bMu3	Monday 2nd of June – P3 - GSI
9cMu1	Tuesday 3rd of June – P3 - GSI
9cMu2	Friday 6th of June – P4 - GSI
9cMu3	Monday 2nd of June – P5 - GSI

Students will be completing a performance or composition assessment depending on the topic they are studying. Students will be assessed on the quality of their performance/ composition and how well it meets the criteria in their assessment booklets.

Science

Biology

Your assessment will contain all GCSE topics covered so far in Year 9.

- B1 – Cells and Organisation
    - Microscopes
    - Animal and Plant cells
    - Specialised animal cells
    - Diffusion
- B2 – Cell Division
    - Cell division
    - Stem cells
    - Stem cell dilemmas
- B3 – Organisation and the Digestive system
    - Tissues and Organs
    - The human digestive system
    - Enzymes
- B4 –Organising animals and plants
    - The blood vessels
    - The heart
    - Breathing and Gas Exchange
- How Science Works skills such as; analysing data, simple calculations and evaluating information.
- Required practicals:
    - Using a Light Microscope

You should bring a pen, pencil, calculator and ruler.

You will be provided with digital copies of knowledge organisers and useful revision links via ClassCharts.

Chemistry

Your assessment will contain all GCSE topics covered so far in Year 9 exam.
The following topics can be assessed:

- C1 – atomic structure
    - Atoms – structure
    - Chemical equations
    - Separating mixture – filtration, crystallisation, chromatography and distillation
    - History of the atom (all key scientists involved)
    - Ions, atoms and isotopes
    - Electronic structure (how many electrons in each shell for the first 20 elements)
- C2 – the periodic table
    - The development of the periodic table. All scientists involved
    - Electronic structure and the periodic table
    - Group 1 – the alkali metals
    - Group 7 – the halogens
- How Science Works skills such as; analysing data, simple calculations and evaluating information.
- Practical Activties:
    - Chromatography

- Distillation
- Filtration
- Crystallisation

You should bring a pen, pencil, calculator and ruler.

You will be provided with digital copies of knowledge organisers and useful revision links via ClassCharts.

A revision homework is set on Seneca for all students to complete prior to the assessment.

Physics

Your assessment will contain all GCSE topics covered so far in Year 9 exam.
The following topics can be assessed in Paper 1:

- P1 – Energy stores & transfers
    - Changes in energy stores
    - Conservation of energy
    - Energy and work
    - Gravitational potential energy
    - Kinetic and elastic potential energy
    - Energy dissipation
    - Energy and efficiency
    - Electrical appliances
    - Energy and power
- P2 – Energy transfers by heating
    - Energy transfer by conduction
    - Specific heat capacity
    - Heating and insulating buildings
- P3 – Energy resources
    - Energy demands
    - Energy from wind and water
    - Power from the Sun and the Earth
    - Energy and the environment
    - Big energy issues.
- How Science Works skills such as; analysing data, simple calculations and evaluating information.
- Required practical Activities:
    - Investigating specific heat capacity

You should bring a pen, pencil, calculator and ruler.

You will be provided with digital copies of knowledge organisers and useful revision links via ClassCharts.

A revision homework is set on Seneca for all students to complete prior to the assessment.

Religious Education

Students need to revise the following topics for their RE assessment:

- Prejudice and discrimination
- Buddhism

Revision material will be available on Class charts.

Technology

Design & Technology

- The Year 9 D&T written assessment will take place during each group's single D&T lesson within their allocated assessment fortnight.
- Students will complete a written progress test and will also be assessed on their ongoing practical work.
- Design & Technology knowledge banks will be uploaded to Class Charts to support revision and preparation.
- The written assessment will focus on content directly related to the current project, including students' knowledge and understanding of:
    - The design process
    - Product analysis
    - Art Deco and De Stijl
    - Timbers
    - Timber joining methods
    - Processes, components, and techniques related to their practical work

Food Studies

- Each student's ongoing practical work will be used to form a practical assessment and they will also undertake a written assessment which will take place in their one and only food THEORY lesson during their allocated assessment fortnight.
- The written assessment will cover the topics listed below.
    - Food safety, pathogenic bacteria and food poisoning
    - Nutrition: The main nutrients, their functions (jobs) and good food sources of each
    - Health conditions caused by a lack or excess of some nutrients
    - Factors affecting the nutritional requirements of different groups
    - Foods from other cuisines around the world
    - Methods of making a starch based sauce
    - Food science of starch based sauces
    - Food developments: organic and genetically modified food
    - Food security, poverty and waste
    - Food miles and carbon footprint
    - Reading data off a food label to compare products
- Students can obtain hard copies of knowledge organisers from their class teacher to help them focus their revision – copies of these are also be available on ClassCharts.