

**HELSBY**

**High School**



Achieving Success  
Valuing Others

**Year 11**  
**Quick Guide**  
**Exam Preparation**  
**for PPE 1**  
**Autumn 2025**

## **Business**

The exam will be based on Paper 1 (Year 10) with a Year 11 case study section focusing on their recent learning, 2.1 Growing a Business. Students will have 1 hour 45 minutes to complete the test.

Both classes should focus on their recent learning, as well as the content from Theme 1 in Year 10, as shown below.

- Entrepreneur new business
- Adding value
- Margin of safety
- Overdraft
- Impact of unemployment
- Net cash flow
- Variable costs
- Employment legislation
- Stakeholder conflicts
- Franchises
- Calculating interest
- Strong brand
- Online booking systems/ technology
- Market research
- Marketing methods
- Takeovers/ growth

## **Computer Science**

Paper 1 - Computational thinking and programming skills (1 hour)

3.1 Fundamentals of algorithms (Up to Efficiency of algorithms)

3.2 Programming (All topics covered in lesson)

Paper 2 - Computing concepts (1 hour)

3.3 Fundamentals of data representation

3.4 Computer systems

3.5 Fundamentals of computer networks

Revision resources

- Revision book - CGP GCSE AQA Computer Science Complete Revision and Practice for 2022 exams and beyond (All students have a copy)
- Revision cards (All students have these)
- Class work booklets
- YouTube - <https://student.craigndave.org/8525-2>

## **Design & Technology**

The 2 hour NEA period will encompass a session working on their ongoing and live NEA task. Sections to be completed will include.

A - Exploring design opportunities – 10marks

B - Design brief specification – 10 marks

C - Generating design ideas – 20 marks

- The 1 hour written paper assessment will include questions related to the topics below.
- Fossil Fuels
- Renewable Energy
- Polymers
- Design in society
- Material Properties
- Planned Obsolescence

- Technology Push
- Manufactured Boards
- Workshop Tools and Equipment
- Health and Safety
- The work of others
- CAD CAM
- Maths - Percentages and Areas
- Ergonomics
- Functionality
- Innovation
- Metal Turning
- Laser Cutting
- Orthographic Drawing
- Perspective Drawing

You should use the revision resources previously handed out to you, in addition

Revision websites for the written paper assessment:

[www.technologystudent.com](http://www.technologystudent.com)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/specifications/AQA-8552-SP-2017.PDF>

Revision text books for the written paper assessment:

AQA GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology. Author: Michael Ross. ISBN-13: 9781910523100 Clear revise  
AQA GCSE 8552 – Illustrated revision and practice. Author L Sheppard. ISBN-13: 978-1-910523-24-7

<https://www.pgonline.co.uk/resources/design-and-technology/gcse-aqa/gcse-design-and-technology-textbook-8552/>

<https://www.pgonline.co.uk/resources/design-and-technology/gcse-aqa/clearrevise-8552/>

## **English Language**

Component Two: 19th and 21st Century Non fiction Reading Study and Transactional/Persuasive writing (2 Hours)

### Section A Reading (40 marks)

This section will test through structured questions the reading of two high-quality unseen non-fiction texts (about 900-1200 words in total), one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century.

Non-fiction texts may include, but will not be limited to: letters, extracts from autobiographies or biographies, diaries, reports, articles and digital and multi-modal texts of various kinds from newspapers and magazines, and the internet.

This section assesses AO1 (and 2), AO2, AO3 and AO4.

### Section B Writing (40 marks)

This section will test transactional, persuasive and/or discursive writing through two equally weighted compulsory tasks (20 marks each).

Across the two tasks candidates will be offered opportunities to write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and to real-life contexts in, for example, letters, articles, reviews, speeches, etc.

This section assesses AO5 and AO6.

## **English Literature**

### **Component One: Shakespeare and Poetry (2 hours)**

This component assesses Shakespeare and poetry from 1789 to the present day. In Section A, students will need to show their knowledge of dramatic techniques and demonstrate their understanding of plot, characterisation, events and key themes; they will need to analyse language, structure and form closely in order to engage critically with the text.

In Section B, learners have the opportunity to show their understanding of the poems and the relationships between them and the contexts in which they were written.

#### **Section A Shakespeare: 'Macbeth' (40 marks)**

One extract question and one essay question based on the reading and study of 'Macbeth'. (1 hour)

This assessment will test, through one extract-based question and one essay question on the text as a whole, knowledge and understanding of a Shakespeare text. Students will be expected to comment on Shakespeare's use of language, structure and form and show an understanding of key themes, characters and ideas within the text. This section will also test students' spelling, punctuation and grammar.

#### **Section B: Poetry Anthology (40marks)**

This assessment will test knowledge and understanding of poetry from 1789 to the present day. Learners will be assessed on two poems from the WJEC Eduqas Poetry Anthology. In the first question, learners will be asked to write about a specified poem. In the second question, learners will be asked to write about a second poem chosen from the WJEC Eduqas Poetry Anthology, and compare it to the first.

Students will be expected to consider the context of each poem, its content and key ideas, and the poets' use of language, structure and form.

Students will be prepared for the assessments both in class, through homework tasks and revision materials given to them by their class teacher.

## **Food Preparation and Nutrition**

Students cannot "revise" for this NEA1 session as such but in advance it is **STRONGLY** recommended they watch 5 particular videos which will help them prepare and give them a better understanding about researching, planning, conducting and analysing a food science investigation. The videos can be found online at <https://www.ifst.org/lovefoodlovescience/resources>

The 5 particular videos to watch are entitled:

1. Food investigation: how to begin a food investigation
2. Food investigation: conducting experiments
3. Food investigation: conducting experiments II
4. Food investigation: data and observations
5. Food investigation: analyse results and present findings

## **Health and Social Care**

- The 2 hour NEA2 slot will encompass a session working on their ongoing and live NEA2 task relating to 'Supporting Individuals Through Life Events' (RO33). They will be specifically working on task 2B (sources of support available).
- Students cannot "revise" for this NEA2 session as such but do have access to Mrs Gilbert's support and guidance resources provided on the shared area which they are encouraged to use to help support their understanding of the task, both in preparation for and during the assessment.

## **Geography**

Students will need to revise all knowledge content for the following units:

- Landscapes of the UK
- People of the UK
- UK environmental Challenges
- Ecosystems of the planet

The revision guide is: Blackshaw, R., Payne, J., Ross, S. (2018) Geography A OCR GCSE 9-1, Hodder Education. This can be purchased online and is available in all good bookshops.

## **History**

Students will sit a **1hr 45 minute exam** on the People's Health / Elizabethans.

People's Health 1250- present		
Q1	3 x 1 mark questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medieval Period 1250-1500</li><li>• Early Modern Period 1500-1750</li><li>• Industrial Period 1750-1900</li><li>• Twentieth Century to today</li></ul>
Q2	9 mark question	
Q3	10 mark question	
Q4/Q5	18 mark question (from a choice of 2)	
The Elizabethans 1860-1603		
Q6 (a)	3 mark question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily Lives</li><li>• Popular Culture</li><li>• Wider World</li><li>• Government</li><li>• Catholic Threat</li></ul>
(b)	5 mark question	
Q7	12 mark question	
Q8/Q9	18 mark question (from a choice of 2)	

Students will be given a **revision schedule** with **weekly tasks** to complete at home and in class. These will involve writing mind maps and flash card. There will be a revision quiz each week based around the knowledge organiser for each topic.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zqkrbk7>

<https://app.senecalearning.com/>

## **Maths**

The Maths department will provide a list of revision topics on Show My Homework. Students should revise all topics covered since the start of year 9.

There will be one non-calculator and one calculator paper. Students should provide their own calculator for the PPE.

Students should be working through past papers provided by their class teachers in preparation for the exam.

Revision resources:

<https://www.drfrostmaths.com/>

<https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.html>

<https://corbettmaths.com/contents/>

<https://hegartymaths.com/>

<https://www.onmaths.com/>

## **GCSE Further Maths**

- Product rule for counting
- Surds – simplifying and rationalising
- Binomial expansion
- nth term of quadratic sequences
- Equation of straight line graphs inc parallel and perpendicular
- Length of a line segment
- Equation of a circle
- Equation of a tangent to a circle
- Factorising
- Algebraic fractions – simplifying, multiplying and dividing, addition and subtraction
- Algebraic fractions – solving equations
- Rearranging formula
- Algebraic division
- Factor theorem
- Solutions of linear and quadratic equations
- Solving linear simultaneous equations
- Solving linear equations with three unknowns
- Solving linear inequalities and representing graphically
- Solving quadratic inequalities and representing graphically
- Multiplying matrices
- Representing transformations with matrices including combined transformations
- Simplifying indices
- Solving equations with indices
- Differentiation of polynomials
- Equations of tangents and normal
- Turning points inc problem solving
- Curve sketching/interpreting

Use Sparx Maths to revise. Log on and then click on independent learning on the left hand menu. Change "Your curriculum" to AQA Level 2 Further Maths and then you can search for any of the above topics.

## **Media**

For GCSE Media Studies, students will sit Section A of a Component 2 exam paper where they will be assessed on their knowledge of Crime TV. They will need to revise Crime TV genre conventions generally, and more specifically series one episode one of Luther, and series one episode one of The Sweeney 'The Ringer', focussing upon narrative and character representations, as well as the social historical context of each episode.

The Luther episode is available to watch on the Daily Motion website: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5vgz7j> and The Sweeney episode is available on ITVX.

Students should also revise Media Studies terminology and theory, as they will need to use and apply this in their written responses.

The best and most relevant revision resources are all available for free online in the Digital Resources section of the Eduqas Media GCSE website, links below.

### **Luther & Sweeney fact-sheets:**

**Luther fact-sheet one:** <https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2020-21/Media%20Studies/Eduqas%20Component%202/Luther%20Factsheet%201%20-%20Language%20%2B%20Representation.pdf>

**Luther fact-sheet 2:** <https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2020-21/Media%20Studies/Eduqas%20Component%202/Luther%20Factsheet%202%20-%20Industry%2C%20Audience%20%2B%20Contexts.pdf>

**The Sweeney fact-sheet 1:** <https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2020-21/Media%20Studies/Eduqas%20Component%202/The%20Sweeney%20Factsheet%201%20-%20Language%20%2B%20Representation.pdf>

**The Sweeney fact-sheet 2:** <https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2020-21/Media%20Studies/Eduqas%20Component%202/The%20Sweeney%20Factsheet%202%20-%20Industry%2C%20Audience%20%2B%20Contexts.pdf>

### **Crime genre interactive online**

**activities:** <https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=1054>

**Glossary of key terms:** <https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2016-17/gft/eduqas/mediastudies/GCSE%20media%20studies%20Glossary.pdf>

**The Mrs Fisher Youtube videos analysing both Luther and The Sweeney are also excellent revision resources:**

Luther Industry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQs8yTSGX2Q&t=413s>

Luther Audience: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Dsyb6\\_qKzY&t=58s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Dsyb6_qKzY&t=58s)

The Sweeney: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsymfcvb3Mw>

## **MFL**

### **French**

Students will be given the writing, reading & listening components of a full GCSE exam for these PPEs.

The practice speaking exams will be in January (this will include role play, photo card & conversation). Students will be given an appointment for just after the Christmas holiday.

The listening exam will take place in lessons the week before the other exams.

To prepare for the reading & listening exams, students should prepare by revising vocabulary (into English) and by completing any exam practice activities on Language Nut (just search AQA French GCSE legacy). They can also complete practice tasks on BBC Bitesize AQA French.

To prepare for the writing exam students will need to revise all of the topics covered so far and practise essay questions (40 & 90 word foundation and 90 & 150 word higher) on topics of:

Family & friends

Free time (sport, media, technology)

Healthy living

Town & region

Holidays

School

Future study, careers & other ambitions

Social & global issues (higher only)

Students should have a clear checklist of the tenses and other grammatical structures that they plan to include in their answers. They would also be well advised to memorise a few good phrases for each topic.

If you make any revision notes or write out some practice answers, your teacher will willingly mark these for you.

The best & most reasonable revision guides are published by CGP, but make sure you get the AQA editions.

### **German**

Students will be given the writing, reading & listening components of a full GCSE exam for these PPEs.

The practice speaking exams will be in January (this will include role play, photo card & conversation). Students will be given an appointment for just after the Christmas holiday.

The listening exam will take place in lessons the week before the other exams.

To prepare for the reading & listening exams, students should prepare by revising vocabulary (into English) and by completing any exam practice activities on Language Nut (just search AQA German GCSE legacy). They can also complete practice tasks on BBC Bitesize AQA German.

To prepare for the writing exam students will need to revise all of the topics covered so far and practise essay questions (40 & 90 word foundation and 90 & 150 word higher) on topics of:

Family & friends

Free time (sport, media, technology)

Healthy living

Town & region

Holidays

School

Future study, careers & other ambitions

Social & global issues (higher only)

Students should have a clear checklist of the tenses and other grammatical structures that they plan to include in their answers. They would also be well advised to memorise a few good phrases for each topic.

If you make any revision notes or write out some practice answers, your teacher will willingly mark these for you.

The best & most reasonable revision guides are published by CGP, but make sure you get the AQA editions.



## **Music**

Please use your books to revise all Little Shop of Horror pieces. You must revise key features of each piece in relation to the element of music it relates to. You must also revise keywords relating to elements of music and practice recognising these aurally.

- You can access good revision resources on BBC Bitesize by searching 'BBC Bitesize AQA GCSE Music' [GCSE Music - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)
- You can also access aural listening questions by searching on Youtube 'aqa gcse music listening tests'.
- If you have any questions or need any further support. Feel free to come to music during any break time throughout the week for some revision.

## **GCSE Physical Education**

### **Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems**

#### **Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology**

- 1.1 The structure and functions of the musculoskeletal system
- 1.2 The structure and functions of the cardiorespiratory system
- 1.3 Anaerobic and aerobic exercise
- 1.4 The short- and long-term effects of exercise

#### **Topic 2: Movement analysis**

- 2.1 Lever systems, examples of their use in activity and the mechanical advantage they provide in movement
- 2.2 Planes and axes of movement

#### **Topic 3: Physical training**

- 3.1 The relationship between health and fitness and the role that exercise plays in both
- 3.2 The components of fitness, benefits for sport and how fitness is measured and improved
- 3.3 The principles of training and their application to personal exercise/ training programmes
- 3.4 The long-term effects of exercise
- 3.5 How to optimise training and prevent injury
- 3.6 Effective use of warm up and cool down

- The assessment is 1 hours and 30 minutes.
- The assessment is out of 80 marks.

## **Science**

### **GCSE Combined Science Trilogy - Biology**

Your assessment will be a full Paper 1 Biology exam, for which content was taught in year 9 and 10. The following topics can be assessed in Paper 1.

- B1 – Cell structure & transport
- B2 – Cell division
- B3 – Organisation and the Digestive system
- B4 – Organising animals and plants
- B5 – Communicable disease
- B6 – Preventing and treating disease
- B7 – Non communicable disease
- B8 – Photosynthesis
- B9 - Respiration
- How Science Works skills such as; analysing data, simple calculations and evaluating information.
- Required Practicals
  - o Investigating microscopy

- o Investigating Osmosis in plant tissues
- o Investigating the effect of pH on Enzymes
- o Food tests
- o investigating the effect of light intensity on Photosynthesis

Your assessment will last 75 minutes, and 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.

### GCSE Combined Science Trilogy – Chemistry

Your assessment will be a full Paper 1 chemistry exam, for which the content was taught in year 9 and 10. The following topics can be assessed in Paper 1

- C1 Atomic Structure
- C2 The periodic table
- C3 Structure & Bonding
- C4 Chemical Calculations
- C5 Chemical Changes
- C6 Electrolysis
- C7 Energy Changes
- How Science Works skills such as; analysing data, simple calculations and evaluating information.
- Required practical's:
  - o Preparing a soluble salt
  - o Electrolysis of aqueous solutions
  - o Temperature changes
  - o Neutralisation - titration

Your assessment will last 75 minutes, and 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 full paper 1 revision homework is set on Seneca for all students to complete prior to the assessment.

### GCSE Combined Science Trilogy - Physics

Your assessment will be a full Paper 1 physics exam, for which the content was taught in year 9 and 10. The following topics can be assessed in Paper 1

- P1 – Energy stores & transfers
- P2 – Energy transfers by heating
- P3 – Energy resources
- P4 – Electric Circuits
- P5 – Electricity in the Home
- P6 – Particle Model of Matter
- P7 – Radioactivity
- How Science Works skills such as; analysing data, simple calculations and evaluating information.
- Required practical's:
  - o Investigating specific heat capacity
  - o Investigating I-V Characteristics
  - o Investigating the resistance of a wire
  - o Investigating density

Your assessment will last 75 minutes, and 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 full paper 1 revision homework is set on Seneca for all students to complete prior to the assessment.

### **GCSE Separate Science**

Subject Paper 1 Topics

Biology Paper

1 Topics 1-4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection & Response; Bioenergetics

Chemistry

Paper 1 Topics 1 - 5: Atomic Structure & the Periodic Table; Bonding, Structure, & the Properties of Matter; Quantitative Chemistry; Chemical Changes; Energy Changes

Physics Paper

1 Topics 1 -4: Energy; Electricity; Particle Model of Matter; Atomic Structure

### **Biology**

From AQA GCSE Biology 8461, there are 10 required practical activities in total. AQA+1

Here the list of required practical activities for Paper 1 topics (Cell biology; Organisation; Infection & response; Bioenergetics):

Practical No.	Practical Activity
<b>Practical 1</b> – Use a light microscope to observe, draw and label plant & animal cells. <a href="#">AQA</a>	Very relevant for <b>Cell Biology</b> (Topic 1)
<b>Practical 2</b> – Effect of antiseptics / antibiotics on bacterial growth using agar plates <a href="#">AQA</a>	Infection & response (Topic 3)
<b>Practical 3</b> – Effect of range of concentrations of salt or sugar on mass of plant tissue (osmosis) <a href="#">AQA</a>	Cell Biology / Bioenergetics (osmosis)
<b>Practical 4</b> – Use qualitative reagents to test for carbohydrates, lipids & proteins (food tests) <a href="#">AQA</a>	Bioenergetics (nutrition, respiration etc.)
<b>Practical 5</b> – Effect of pH on rate of reaction of amylase enzyme <a href="#">AQA</a>	Bioenergetics (enzyme action, rate of reaction, temperature effects)
<b>Practical 6</b> – Effect of light intensity on rate of photosynthesis using pondweed (oxygen production) <a href="#">AQA</a>	Bioenergetics (photosynthesis)

## Chemistry

From AQA GCSE Chemistry 8462, there are 8 required practical Activities total. AQA

Required practical activities Paper 1 topics (Atomic structure; Bonding; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; Energy changes):

Practical No.	Practical Activity
Practical 1 – Preparation of a pure, dry sample of a soluble salt from an insoluble oxide or carbonate (using Bunsen burner, evaporating etc.) <a href="#">AQA</a>	Chemical changes; quantitative chemistry (yields, balancing, reacting masses, separation)
Practical 2 – Titration: reacting volumes of strong acid and strong alkali; for HT, find concentration etc. <a href="#">AQA</a>	Quantitative chemistry; chemical changes
Practical 3 – Electrolysis of aqueous solutions using inert electrodes, hypothesis-driven investigation <a href="#">AQA</a>	Chemical changes; atomic structure (ions, charges)

## Physics

From AQA GCSE Physics 8463, there are 10 required practical activities total. AQA+1

Here is the required practical activities for Physics Paper 1 (Energy; Electricity; Particle model; Atomic structure):

Practical No.	Practical Activity
Practical 1 – Specific heat capacity of materials (relating energy, temperature, mass) <a href="#">AQA</a>	Energy (Topic 18)
Practical 2 – Effectiveness of materials as thermal insulators; factors affecting insulation properties <a href="#">AQA</a>	Energy / heat transfer
Practical 3 – Investigate resistance: factors affecting resistance of wire, combinations in series/parallel circuits <a href="#">AQA</a>	Electricity (Topic 19)
Practical 4 – I-V characteristics of circuit elements like filament lamp, diode, resistor <a href="#">AQA</a>	Electricity
Practical 5 – Determine density of regular and irregular solid objects and liquids (measure mass, volume etc.) <a href="#">AQA</a>	Particle model of matter; also measurement skills; properties of matter etc.

## **Sociology**

Topics the students need to revise:

- Research Methods
- Families
- Education

Revision Books:

My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology by Ian Woodfield and Rosie Owens

ISBN-10 1510423230 - available from AMAZON

Revision resources:

- Revision materials from year 10 and extra materials from Year 11
- We will go through exam structure and style in lessons
- Revision resources will be put on Class charts as homework