HARTFORD
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
HIGH SCHOOL

Year 8 Assessment Preparation

Monday 23 November to Friday 4 December 2026

Student Name: _____

Ready, Revise, Together

Information, advice and guidance for students, parents and carers to support success in assessments

A Message from your Head of Year

Dear Year 8 Students,

This is your moment to show what you can do.

Your KS3 assessments are coming up, and they're an important chance for you to show just how much you've learned, grown, and achieved since September. Revision isn't about being perfect — it's about building confidence, strengthening your knowledge, and giving yourself the best chance to shine.

I am so proud of you and what I see day in and day out. The effort, the curiosity, the resilience, the way so many of you push yourselves to improve — it genuinely inspires me. These assessments are just one way of measuring progress. Yes, they matter, but we all have off days, and that's normal. What matters most is the learning you take from the experience and the habits you build along the way.

Remember, you are surrounded by people who want you to succeed. Your teachers, the pastoral team, your friends, and your families — you have amazing support both in and out of school. Use it. Ask for help. Use your revision resources. Practise little and often. Every bit of effort you put in now will help you feel more confident when you walk into those assessments.

Throughout your life, you'll face many different kinds of tests — in school, when learning new skills, when preparing for future careers. The revision habits you build now are preparing you for all of that. So take this seriously, stay positive, and give yourself the chance to surprise yourself.
Work hard. Stay focused. Believe in yourself. And above all, be proud of the progress you've made this year — because I certainly am.

You've got this, Year 8!

Miss Hallmark
Head of Year 8

Preparing for your assessments



Ensure you have a quiet space to work

This enhances concentration, improves information retention, and reduces stress. By minimizing distractions, a quiet environment allows the brain to focus on learning, leading to better academic performance and the development of long-term study habits.



Revision Timetable

Plan a revision timetable. Break down your revision into manageable chunks and allocate specific times for each subject. If you have commitments like sports etc then build these in and plan around them.



Remove Distractions

Make sure your mobile phone is out of sight and out of mind so that you can concentrate fully on your revision.



Be Organised

Make sure you have all of your revision resources to hand so you can use your time effectively to revise rather than wasting time looking for stationery and notes, etc.



Stay Healthy

Eat a balanced diet to keep your energy levels up. Exercise regularly as this is good for reducing stress and improving concentration. Sleep well (7-8 hours a night) to ensure your brain is well rested.



Seek Help

If you're struggling with a particular topic, don't hesitate to ask teachers, friends, or family for help.



Stay Positive

Break your revision into small, manageable tasks and reward yourself when you achieve them.

My Exam Timetable

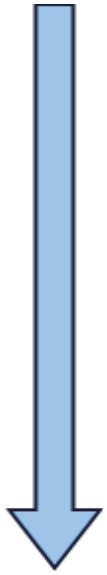
You need to take responsibility for asking your teachers when your assessments are so you can record the dates in your exam timetable below:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Lesson 1					
Lesson 2					
Lesson 3					
Lesson 4					
Lesson 5					

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Lesson 1					
Lesson 2					
Lesson 3					
Lesson 4					
Lesson 5					

Revision Techniques

Low Cognitive Demand



High Cognitive Demand

Flash Cards	Useful for focusing on simple recall of facts, key words and definitions.
Revision Clocks	Useful for structuring and summarising content around a topic.
Cornell Note Taking	Useful for summarising and identifying key ideas, using your class notes, revision guides or information on reliable websites.
Mind-maps	Useful for organising, connecting and synthesising ideas across a topic.
Self Quizzing	Useful for active retrieval of information from memory without prompts and strengthening recall and understanding.
Practice Exam Questions/Papers	Useful for developing application, analysis and evaluation of knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. Develops real exam thinking and problem-solving.

Weekly Revision Planner

Check list of things to do:

- Make a list of all your subjects
- Add any non-school commitments for the week e.g. leisure activities, going out, seeing friends and time to relax, into your weekly revision planner
- Write into your revision planner when you are going to revise each subject that week
- Try to plan 40 minutes revising, 10 minutes testing, 10 minutes resting, or
- 20 minutes revising, 5 minutes testing, 5 minutes resting
- Tick off when you have completed each subject

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	TIME	Saturday	Sunday

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	TIME	Saturday	Sunday

Topic Lists

The Autumn assessments will take place from Monday 23 November to Friday 4 December. A detailed timetable showing when each in-class assessment will take place will be shared with you and your child the week before the assessment period. Students can use this information to create their own exam timetable in this booklet.

During the half terms where students have formal assessments, we launch our 'Ready, Revise, Together' initiative. This initiative is designed to encourage students to proactively manage their own study habits, moving away from last-minute cramming and building strong revision skills and good habits over time. Students will be explicitly taught revision strategies in their lessons which they should then use to revise independently at home. This booklet contains revision support, revision lists and a revision timetable template for students to use to plan their revision.

These assessments are a valuable tool for both teachers and students. They have been carefully designed to evaluate your child's understanding of the curriculum content covered so far and to consolidate their knowledge. The assessments also identify areas of strength and highlight areas that may require additional focus.

This booklet is designed to help parents, carers, and students plan and prepare for the upcoming assessments. Please note that the topic lists provided are not exhaustive; tests will assess both recent classwork and prior learning from previous years.

The results are used to inform the Autumn CRU Grade.

There will be no formal Autumn assessment for DT and PE; students will be graded by ongoing assessments. For Dance, Drama and Music, students will complete a portfolio of work across the term and an assessment mark out of 39 will be awarded.

Kate Booth
Assistant Headteacher

English Language & English Literature

Language

Gothic Fiction

- The Monster
- The Villain
- 'Show not tell'
- Setting descriptions
- Vocabulary (see vocab list)
- Sentence structures and punctuation for effect

Literature

Refugee

- Structural features
- Language features
- Narrative viewpoint
- Characters and character development
- Tension
- Different refugee journeys:
    - Germany
    - Cuba
    - Syria
- Analytical paragraph writing

Mathematics

Band A:

- Product of primes
- Highest common factors
- Four rules of fractions
- Solving equations
- Simplifying expressions
- Expanding brackets
- Estimation and bounds
- Problem solving with percentages
- Lowest common multiples
- Forming equations
- Solving equations – properties of shapes
- Coordinates
- Midpoints

Band B:

- Multiplying numbers
- Rounding
- FDP equivalents
- Product of primes
- Highest common factors
- Four rules of fractions
- Expanding brackets
- Solve equations
- Simplifying
- Order of operations
- Problem solving with percentages
- Lowest common multiples
- Forming equations
- Forming expression using properties of shapes
- Using formulae
- Coordinates

Religious Studies

- The Trimurti
- The Ramayana
- Diwali
- Karma
- Atman and Life After Death

Science

- 8A – Food & Digestion
- 8E – Combustion

Art

African masks - assessments to include:

- Drawing of a selected African mask
- Designs for a 3D African mask
- Picasso research pages
- Final 3D African mask

Design Technology

Within the subject of Design Technology students complete 3 different projects through the academic year. Each project is 12 lessons in length and each project reflects the GCSE options we have within the department: Design Technology, Engineering and Food.

Students are on a carousel where they move between teachers who deliver their specialist project.

Assessment within Design Technology happens within each project. Each project will allow staff to input 2 assessment scores: 1 theory (end of unit examination), 1 practical. (final assessed model)

The metals awarded within Design Technology will be a calculation based on students' performance in all project areas using all assessment scores.

Geography

- Structure of the Earth (layers and characteristics). features of an earthquake (focus, epicentre, seismic waves)
- Plate margins, describe the movement at a constructive and conservative plat margin
- Explain the processes occurring at a destructive plate margin
- Case studies: Sichuan Earthquake 2008 and Boxing Day Tsunami 2004)
- Living off the earth's resources (water). What is a natural resource, economic and physical water scarcity, water usage (agricultural, domestic, industrial), how to solve water scarcity

History

The English Civil War

- Causes of the English Civil War
- Royalists vs Parliamentarians
- King Charles on trial and the execution of King Charles
- The rule of Oliver Cromwell and the Restoration

Information Technology

- Spreadsheets
- Computer Models
- Formulas
- Functions
- Formatting
- Charts

PE

Assessment will take place during practical lessons in

- Fitness
- Gymnastics
- Netball
- Football

Spanish

Vocabulary

- Town and City
- Places in Town
- Town and City Descriptions
- Rooms in the House
- House Descriptions
- Future Living Plans

Grammar

- Present Tense
- Adjectival Agreement
- Opinions
- Future Tense

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