Key Stage 3

Examination Guidance January 2027

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Examination Preparation: Tips for Parents

1. Encourage Retrieval Practice (Active Recall)

What it is: Instead of rereading notes, pupils test what they can remember *from memory*.

How parents can help:

- Ask your child to close their book and explain what they just learned.
- Use **flashcards** or **quizzes**, apps like Quizlet or paper cards work well.
- Have "mini-tests" where your child recalls key points without looking.

Why it works: Actively recalling information strengthens memory and makes it easier to retrieve later in exams.

2. Use Spaced Practice

What it is: Revisiting topics regularly over time instead of cramming.

How parents can help:

- Encourage a revision timetable that revisits topics after a few days, then a week, then two weeks.
- Mix old and new topics in each session ("interleaving").

Why it works: Spacing helps information move from short-term to long-term memory and keeps earlier learning fresh.

3. Support Active Note-Making

What it is: Turning information into something meaningful, not just copying.

How parents can help:

- Encourage pupils to summarise notes in their own words.
- Create mind maps, diagrams, or "one-page summaries."
- Ask them to teach the topic back to you

Why it works: Organising and explaining ideas deepens understanding.

4. Build in Short, Focused Sessions

What it is: Working in chunks of 25–30 minutes with breaks.

How parents can help:

- Encourage a quiet, distraction-free study space.
- Set timers and reward focused work with short breaks.

Why it works: Short sessions maintain concentration and reduce overwhelm.

5. Foster a Positive Routine & Mindset

What it is: Making revision feel manageable and part of everyday life.

How parents can help:

- Praise effort, not just results ("You worked really hard on that quiz").
- Help set realistic goals for each session.
- Balance revision with rest, exercise, and hobbies.

Why it works: Confidence and consistency are key for long-term motivation.

Year 8

In Year 8 20% of the will be from two standardised assessment tasks/tests.

Art

The January exam mark is based on work completed throughout term 1.
Core assessments:
(80%) drawing/painting/experimental based on apples
(20%) 'Seven elements of Art' poster task on iPad

Biology

Exam time is 30 minutes with a range of short answer and longer extended questions based on the topics of Cells and Life Processes and Animal Reproduction.

Students are reminded to use their paper booklet and the eBook that is on WHSCampus, for their revision of each topic.
A 30cm ruler, calculator, pens and pencils will be required to complete the examination.

The January report mark will be based on the examination result (80%) and the following core assessments : Cells storyboard task (onion slide) (10%), Cells formal homework (5%) and Cells end of topic test (5%).

Chemistry

The Chemistry examination is 30 minutes. The examination paper will consist of short answer recall and application questions. Pupils will be required to answer questions on the topics:

- Getting Started,
- Chemical Changes
- Acids and Alkalis (part of)

Pupils will be expected to recognise simple apparatus and draw graphs. Pupils should bring pens, pencils, and a ruler to the examination. Two Core Assessments completed during the term will contribute 20% towards the final report mark. The written examination paper will contribute 80%.

Drama

In this 30-minute examination pupils will undertake a series of questions based on gesture, staging, the history of theatre, roles and responsibilities and theatres around us. They will also reflect on skills developed in Term One.
Pupils' Core Tasks (20%) and performance skills (30%) will also be assessed.

English

The examination will last 1 hour and will contain two sections:

a Persuasive Writing

b Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Multiple choice questions.

Core Tasks will also form 20% of the final mark awarded and 20% of the final mark will come from Talking and Listening assessments.

French

Listening examinations will be held in class during the week beginning the 4th of January (pupils will be notified in advance of the precise date for their class examination).

The written paper (45 minutes duration) will involve reading, writing and grammar exercises. Examination content is as follows:

Alphabet
Numbers 1-31
Months & Dates
Classroom items
Giving personal information
Places in town & town description
Festivals
Where we live
Opinions about where we live and why
Grammar & Writing
Grammar- A/Some/The/prepositions
Oral questions & answers from booklets 1-3

The revision list will also be emailed to pupils and will be available on WHS Campus and Google Classroom. There will be no oral examination at this stage of the year. However, pupils must learn all the answers to their oral

questions from their booklets as the writing tasks will be based on these.

A Core Unit Test (10%) and Core ICT task (10%) will form 20% of the final examination result.

Geography

The examination will be one hour long, and answers will involve one-word answers, definitions, and longer more detailed responses. Pupils may be asked to draw diagrams and interpret maps and cartoons. The paper is worth 80% of the marks available and this will be added to the marks for the Core Assessment tests (20%).

Topics to be examined are 'What is Geography?', Geography in the News, Settlement and OS Map Work. There will be a Northern Ireland focus to all of the questions.

All pupils need to ensure they have colouring pencils, calculators and other items included in the equipment list given at the beginning of term. Additional revision advice will be available on WHS Campus.

History

The paper is split into 3 sections. This includes factual knowledge, source work and extended writing.

Pupils need to revise:

- Chronology – putting dates in order and into centuries.
- Definitions – what is Primary and Secondary evidence, bias and anachronism and pupils should be able to give examples.

Students should revise their source work skills making use of the source work writing frame located in their class notebooks. There is also an electronic version on WHSCampus.

Pupils need to know about who the Normans were, the contenders for the English throne and their claims to the crown, as well as the events of 1066 including the Battles of Stamford Bridge and Hastings.

The marks from the examination will be added to the two core assessments already completed to give an overall percentage out of 100.

Home Economics

The exam paper is 30 minutes in length and will examine all work covered since the beginning of September. Pupils are provided with a list of topics covered. The paper is worth 80% of the marks available and this will be added to the marks for a Core Assessment test (10%) and a practical examination completed during class time (10%).

Mathematics

The examination is based on the work covered this year. Lists of topics together with revision material and all the classwork used are available digitally on WHS Campus. Pupils will sit a one-hour examination which is non-calculator. This will account for 80% of their report percentage as 20% of standardised assessment has already been completed during the year.

Music

The test is made up of a written aural exam, lasting 30 minutes. Pupils will be examined on the Elements of Music. This accounts for 50% of the final mark. A further 20% consists of a performance exam taken in class time. 30% for a composition task in GarageBand, also undertaken in class time.

Physics

The exam paper is thirty minutes in length and will consist of short answer recall and application questions. There is a detailed revision list on WHScampus, worksheets and an ebook.

- Forces
- Mass & Volume
- Density
- Energy & Resources
- Speed

The students are expected to have a calculator, ruler and pencil with them.

Religious Studies

The examination will cover the topics covered in Term 1 of Religious Studies

- Abrahamic Faiths: this includes knowledge and understanding of the key beliefs and practices within Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Students must also revise the similarities, differences, and shared history of the three faiths.
- The Birth Narrative of Jesus.

The examination will last 30 minutes. The examination will account for 80% of the overall grade, and the remaining 20% being taken from Core assessments.

Technology

Mid-Year assessment will be based on a 30-minute exam (40%), written coursework (30%) and a practical (30%). The exam is to be based on work covered this year – health and safety, graphics, materials and workshop processes.

Year 9

Art

The January exam mark is based on work completed throughout term 1.
Core assessments:
(50%) 'Perspective' observations - drawing/painting/experimental studies.
(50%) Mixed Media Construction Project.

Biology

Exam time is 30 minutes with a range of short answer and longer extended questions based on the topics of Diet & Digestion and Respiration.
Students are reminded to use their paper booklet and the eBook that is on WHSCampus for their revision of each topic.

A 30cm ruler, calculator, pens and pencils will be required to complete the examination.

The January report mark will be based on the examination result (80%) and the following core assessments: Food Test storyboard (10%), Diet & Digestion formal homework (5%) and Diet & Digestion end of topic test (5%)

Chemistry

The Chemistry examination is 30 minutes. The examination paper will consist of short answer recall and application questions. Pupils will be required to answer questions on

- Atomic Structure
- Elements, Compounds and Mixtures
- Reactions (part of)

Two core Assessments during the term will contribute to the final overall mark (20%). The written examination paper will contribute 80%.
Pupils should bring pens, pencils and a calculator to the examination.

English

The examination will last 1 hour and will contain two sections:
A -Writing : Pupils will write the opening of a short story based on a visual stimulus.
B - Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Multiple choice questions.
Core Tasks will form 20% of the final mark awarded. 20% of the final mark will come from Talking and Listening assessments.

Geography

The examination will be one hour long, and answers will involve one word responses, definitions, and longer more detailed answers. Pupils may be asked to draw diagrams and interpret maps and cartoons.

The paper is worth 80% of the marks available and this will be added to the marks for the Core Assessment tests (20%).

Topics to be examined are the European Union and Rivers (processes, landforms and flooding). There will also be a 'Geography in the News' question. There will be a European focus to all of the questions. Pupils will also need to revise OS map skills.

All pupils need to ensure they have colouring pencils, calculators and other items included in the equipment list given at the beginning of term. Additional revision advice will be available on WHS Campus.

History

The paper is split into 3 sections. This includes factual knowledge, source work and extended writing.

Pupils need to revise:

- The Reformation – reasons for and results, the reformers.
- Henry VIII – wives and children.
- Mary, Queen of Scots – her life story, the murder of Rizzio, her part in plots against Elizabeth, the reasons for her execution, results of her execution.
- The Armada – reasons for it being sent, reasons for failure.
- Students should revise their source work skills making use of the source work writing frame located in their class notebooks. There is also an electronic version on WHS Campus.

The marks from the examination will be added to the two core assessments already completed to give an overall percentage out of 100.

Home Economics

The exam paper is 30 minutes in length and will examine all work covered since the beginning of September. The paper is worth 80% of the marks available for this subject.

A Core Assessment test contributes a further 10% of the marks.

A practical examination completed during class time is worth 10% of their final result. Pupils are given a list of topics covered since September.

Mathematics

The examination is based on the work covered this year. Lists of topics together with revision material and all the classwork used so far are available digitally on WHS Campus.

Pupils will sit a one-hour paper and are expected to have their own calculator for use in the examination.

This will account for 80% of their report percentage as 20% of standardised assessment has already been completed during the year.

Modern Languages

French, German and Spanish

Listening examinations will be held in class during the week beginning the 4th of January (pupils will be notified in advance of the precise date for their class examination).

The written paper (45 minutes duration) will involve reading, writing and grammar exercises. Examination content is as follows:

French	**German**	**Spanish**
School subjects Opinions on subjects School uniform Time A typical school day (in	Greetings Numbers 0-31 Days, months and seasons Classroom items from Unit 1 Colours	Greetings The Spanish Alphabet Numbers 0-31 Age/birthdays

France and NI) Daily routine Describing the school building Jobs and future careers Countries and holiday destinations Asking for and giving directions **Grammar and Writing** Regular er verbs Adjectives and adjective agreement Reflexive verbs Aller (to go) Prepositions (inc. à / au / en / aux) Oral questions from booklet 1 and 2	Animals Members of family Adjectives to describe size and personality **Grammar and Writing** Know how to use the three words for the (der, die, das), a (ein, eine, ein) and it (er, sie and es) Know how to use the accusative indefinite article (a) zum Beispiel: Ich habe einen Fisch / eine Schlange / ein Pferd Regular verbs in the present tense haben to have and sein to be Oral questions from units 1&2	Dates (including days and months) Classroom Items Classroom Instructions Where we live Countries Nationalities Languages Basic personal questions and answers **Grammar & Writing** Gender of nouns Making nouns plural A/ some (un/ una/ unos/ unas) The (el/ la/ los/ las) Tener – Tengo/ no tengo AR, ER and IR verbs Oral questions from booklets 1-3

The revision lists will be emailed to pupils and will also be available on WHS Campus and Google Classroom. There will be no oral examination at this stage of the year. However, pupils must learn all the answers to their oral questions from their booklets as the writing tasks will be based on these.

In French, a Core Unit Test (10%) and Core ICT task (10%) will form 20% of the final examination result.

Music

The examination is a 30-minute paper. Pupils are examined on The Elements of Music, notation, rhythm dictation and note values. This provides 50% of the final mark.
A further 50% consists of a performance exam taken in class time. Students perform 'Jingle Bells' using left hand chords, triads and right-hand melody.

Physics

The 30 minute test will include short format questions to test recall, knowledge and application of the following topics which have been studied since September in Topic 1 and 2 booklets. Students are expected to have a calculator, ruler and pencil with them. There is a detailed revision list on WHScampus, plus worksheets and an ebook.

- The eye
- Reflection
- Refraction
- Lenses
- Dispersion
- Static Electricity
- Circuit Symbols
- Series Circuits
- Parallel Circuits
- Electromagnets

Religious Studies

The examination will cover the topics covered in Term 1 of Religious Studies on Church History. This includes knowledge and understanding of the key events that spanned from The Crucifixion of Jesus up to The Spanish Inquisition. Pupils must understand all key events covered and be able to compare which events have had the largest impact on the creation of the Christian Church that exists in 2026/2027.
The examination will last 30 minutes. The examination will account for 80% of the overall grade, and the remaining 20% being taken from Core assessments.

Technology

Mid-Year assessment will be based on a 30-minute exam (40%), written coursework (30%) and a practical (30%).
The exam is to be based on work covered this year – health and safety, graphics, mechanisms, materials and workshop processes. Pupils should also understand the work covered in Year 8 – this knowledge provides the essential building blocks required to give an overall understanding of Technology.

Year 10

Art

The January exam mark is based on work completed throughout term 1.
Core assessments:
Sea Themed Ceramics Project:(30%) Preparatory work. (60%) outcome.
(10%) Careers in the Creative Industries research task on iPad.

Biology

Exam time is 45 minutes and includes a range of short answer and longer extended questions based on the topics of Blood & Circulation and Microbes: Defence against Disease.
Students are reminded to use their paper companion booklet and the eBook that is on WHSCampus for their revision of each topic.
A 30cm ruler, calculator, pencils and pen will be required to complete the questions.
The January report mark will be based on the examination result (80%) and the following core assessments :Blood Fact Files (10%), Circulation formal homework (5%) and Circulation end of topic test (5%).

Chemistry

The Chemistry examination is 45 minutes. The examination paper will consist of short answer recall and application questions.
Pupils will be required to answer questions on

- Neutralisation
- GCSE Atomic Structure
- Bonding (part of)

Pupils should bring pens, pencils and a calculator to the examination.
Two Core Assessments completed during this term will be used to contribute 20% of the January report mark. The written examination paper will contribute 80%.

English

The examination lasts for one hour, fifteen minutes. Section A will focus on The Importance of Being Earnest. Pupils will answer a series of analytical questions exploring context, staging, plot and characterisation. Section B will test Vocabulary Development based on Term One work.
Two Core Tasks will also form 20% of the final mark awarded. 20% of the final mark comes from Talking and Listening assessments.

Geography

The examination will be one hour long and answers will involve one-word answers, definitions, and longer more detailed answers. Pupils will be asked to apply their knowledge to different situations and case studies.

Pupils may be asked to draw diagrams and interpret maps and cartoons. The paper is worth 80% of the marks available and this will be added to the marks for the Core Assessment tests (20%).

Topics to be examined are Plate Tectonics (to include earthquakes and volcanoes and the relevant case studies) as well as Development Indicators. There will also be a' Geography in the News' question. Each question will have a global focus. Pupils will need to prepare for the use of geo-maths skills.

All pupils need to ensure they have colouring pencils, calculators and other items included in the equipment list given at the beginning of term. Additional revision advice will be available on WHS Campus.

History

The paper is split into 3 sections. This includes factual knowledge, source work and extended writing.

Pupils need to know:
World War One – the alliance system, rivalry between the powers, the rivalry over the Balkans, trench warfare – what a trench was like, conditions for soldiers (vermin, food, weather and dangers).

The Holocaust- the Nazi attitudes towards the Jews as well as other social/ ethnic groups. This will also include Nazi policies towards the Jews and other social/ ethnic groups during WW2.

Students should revise their source work skills making use of the source work writing frame located in their class notebooks. There is also an electronic version on WHS Campus.

The marks from the examination will be added to the two core assessments already completed to give an overall percentage out of 100.

Home Economics

The exam paper is 30 minutes in length and will examine all work covered since the beginning of September. The paper is worth 80% of the marks available for this subject. A practical examination completed during class time is worth 10% of their final result and a Core Assessment test contributes a further 10% of their marks. Pupils are given a list of topics covered since September.

Mathematics

The examination is based on the work covered this year. Lists of topics together with revision material and all the classwork used so far this year are available digitally on WHS Campus.

Pupils will sit a one-hour paper and are expected to have their own calculator for use in the examination. This will account for 80% of their report percentage as 20% of standardised assessment has already been completed during the year.

Modern Languages

French, German and Spanish

Listening examinations will be held in class during the week beginning the 4th of January (pupils will be notified in advance of the precise date for their class examination).

The written paper (1 hour duration) will involve reading, writing and grammar exercises. Examination content is as follow:

French	German	Spanish
Countries/holiday destinations	Food and drinks	Booklet 1 - all school related vocabulary
holiday activities	Food and drink likes and dislikes	Booklet 2
Holiday disasters	Hobbies	House types
festivals	TV Programmes and opinions	Locations
Typical foods	Time Vocab	Rooms
Countries/holiday	Countries	Bedroom items

destinations holiday activities opinions Holiday disasters Festivals Food and quantities Typical foods **Grammar & Writing** Present tense Perfect tense The partitive article – some Vouloir – to wish/want Oral questions - booklet 1 and Q1&2 from booklet 2	Places in the town Modes of transport Weather expressions **Grammar and Writing** Verbs in present tense (regular and irregular) Word order rules (Time Manner Place and verb second idea in phrase) Indefinite article in the accusative case (e.g. es gibt einen alten Bahnhof) Adjectives and how to use them zum / zur (zu + dative) Wenn clauses (verb, comma, verb) Oral questions from units 1-3	Colours Places in the town High street shops Clothes Directions **Grammar & Writing** Prepositions Del/de la Adjectival agreement Ir – to go al/ a la Giving opinions Oral questions from booklets 1 & 2 (My town)

The revision lists will also be emailed to pupils and will be available on WHS Campus and Google Classroom. There will be no oral examination at this stage of the year. However, pupils must learn all the answers to their oral questions from their booklets as the writing tasks will be based on these.

Pupils' target for the grammar and writing section of the paper is 50%. A subject support session will be held after school for any student that does not achieve this target.

In French, a Core Unit Test (10%) and Core ICT task (10%) will form 20% of the final examination result.

Music

The examination is a 30-minute paper which is worth 50% of the total mark. Pupils are examined on The Elements of Music and must respond critically to excerpts of Latin American music Revision aids can be found in the iBook TV themes and adverts in WHSCampus.

A further 20% consists of a performance exam taken in class time. 30% is a composition task in GarageBand, also undertaken in class time, completed at home and submitted by December 4th

Physics

The 45 minute test will include short format questions to test recall, knowledge and application of the following topics which have been studied since September - Topic 1, 2 & 3 workbooks.

There is a detailed revision list on WHScampus, worksheets and an ebook. The students are expected to bring a calculator, ruler and pencil to the exam.

- Motion - speed equation
- Motion graphs (distance:time & speed:time)
  (calculate speed, rate of change of speed and distance)
- Levers and Moments
- Gears
- Pulleys
- Electrical circuits (voltage and current)

Religious Studies

This examination will be 30 minutes long and determine 100% of the grade awarded. The examination will be based on the content covered since the beginning of the year within the: Introduction to Christian Ethics GCSE module, focusing on the theme of ***'Personal and Family Matters'***.

Topics included in the examination include:

- 1. Family: importance, roles, values and responsibilities
- 2. Marriage: Biblical teaching and Church Teaching

This examination will have a range of GCSE style questions from 1 mark, 5 mark and 10 mark questions.

Technology

Mid-Year assessment will be based on a 45-minute exam (60%), written coursework (20%) and a practical (20%).

The exam is to be based on work covered this year – Health and Safety, graphics, electronics (potential dividers based round sensing components, resistors, transistors, output components), materials and workshop processes.

Pupils should also understand work covered in Years 8 and 9 – this knowledge provides the essential building blocks required for an overall understanding of Technology.