

St Aidan's Church of England High School

Year 11 Exams & Assessment - a Guide 2015/2016

Centre Number: 48237

This booklet explains what you need to do to ensure that you complete your controlled assessment, arrive at your exam desk properly prepared, in the best mental and physical condition and with the correct exam paper in front of you. Read it carefully and follow the rules and suggestions it contains.

Any problems or queries you might have about the exam procedures can be dealt with by the Exam Office, which is located on the ground floor of Bede House.

Mrs Fisher
Exams Officer

CONTENTS

		Page
Index		1
Timetable of Events		2 and 3
The Examination System		4
Entries	Who is responsible for the exams?	5
	Who is entered for exams?	5
	When are entries made?	5
	Exam Timetables	5
	Individual Timetables	5
	Seating Plans	6
	Emergencies	6
The Exams	Times	7
	Exam Rooms	7
	Exam Regulations	7
Good Practice		8
Personal Problems	Special Arrangements	9
	Special Consideration	9
Pre-Exam Preparation	Organise Revision	9
	Study Leave	9
Controlled Assessment	Regulations	10
	Advice	10
	Penalties	11
Results and Certificates	Results	11
	Certificates	11
Appendices	Warning to Candidates	
	Controlled Assessments Information	
	Information for Candidates	
	Social Media and Malpractice	
	No Mobile Phones Sign	

Timetable of Events

<p>December</p>	<p>7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 14th 15th 16th 17th</p>	<p>Mock exams Religious Studies OCR 2 x 1 hour papers - morning Religious Studies AQA - morning Geography paper 1 - afternoon Mathematics papers 1 and 2 - morning Geography paper 2 - afternoon History paper 1 - morning History paper 2 - afternoon English/English Language - morning Biology - afternoon Science - afternoon Chemistry - morning Additional Science paper 1 - morning Physics - afternoon Product Design - morning Food Technology - morning Textiles - morning Drama - afternoon Business Studies - afternoon Dance - morning P.E. - morning Computing - morning Engineering - afternoon Health and Social Care - afternoon French Listening and Reading - morning Spanish Listening and Reading - afternoon German Listening and Reading - morning Music Listening - afternoon</p>
<p>February</p>	<p>21st</p>	<p>Final summer exam entries submitted to Awarding Bodies Students receive their summer exam timetable</p>
<p>March</p>	<p>16th 17th</p>	<p>English Literature Unit 1 mock exam - afternoon Or English mock exam - afternoon Maths unit 3 mock exam Controlled assessment completion time (varies between Departments)</p>
<p>April</p>		<p>Modern Foreign Language oral exams take place</p>

Exam clash

May Start of main summer exam season	16 th	Religious Studies OCR Ethics 1 and 2 - morning	
	17 th	Religious Studies AQA unit 5 - morning	
	20 th	French Listening and Reading - morning	
		Spanish Listening and Reading - morning	
		Physical Education - afternoon	
	23 rd	English Literature paper 1 - morning	
		Religious Studies AQA unit 2 - afternoon	
	24 th	Engineering - morning	Exam clash
		Drama - morning	
		Textiles - morning	
		Geography B unit 1 - afternoon	
	25 th	Business Studies unit 1 - morning	
		Biology B module 1 - afternoon	
		Science B module 1 - afternoon	
	26 th	Mathematics unit 1 - morning	
	27 th	English Literature paper 2 - morning	
June	6 th	History B unit 1 - morning	Exam clash
		Additional Mathematics - morning	
		D&T Food Technology - afternoon	Exam clash
		Media Studies	
	7 th	English/English Language - morning	
	8 th	German Listening and Reading - morning	Exam clash
		Computing - morning	
		Geography B Unit 2 - afternoon	
	9 th	Mathematics unit 2 - morning	
	10 th	Science B module 2 - morning	
		Chemistry B module 1 - morning	
		Music Listening and Appraising - afternoon	Exam clash
		Business Studies unit 2 - afternoon	
	14 th	Mathematics unit 3 - morning	
		History B unit 2 - afternoon	
15 th	Religious Studies OCR Philosophy 1 and 2 - morning		
	Physics B module 1 - afternoon		
	Additional Science B module 1 - afternoon		
17 th	Biology B module 2 - morning		
	Additional Science B module 2 - morning		
	Health and Social Care Unit 1 - afternoon		
20 th	Chemistry B module 2 - morning		
22 nd	Physics B module 2 - morning		
	Dance - afternoon		
24 th	D&T: Product Design - morning		
August	25 th	Exam results issued	

THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM

Separate Awarding Bodies run the public exams. While each one has its own administrative and documentation process, they are all run to the same standard. Departments are free to choose which Awarding Body syllabus they use and you should know which this is for each of your subjects.

Each Awarding Body has a website on which details of the course can be found as well as past papers and exams advice.

The Awarding Bodies used are:

AQA www.aqa.org.uk

OCR www.ocr.org.uk

Edexcel www.edexcel.org.uk (includes DiDA course)

WJEC www.wjec.co.uk

The table below shows which awarding body runs the specifications currently taught to Year 11

AQA	Spec. No.	OCR	Spec. No.
Art - Fine Art	4200	Biology B	J263
Art - Graphic Art	4200	Chemistry B	J264
Design Tech: Food Technology	4545	Physics B	J265
Design Tech: Product Design	4555	Science B	J261
Design Tech: Textile Technology	4570	Additional Science B	J262
Drama	4240	Religious Studies B (Philosophy & Ethics)	J621
Engineering	4850	Computing	J275
English Language	4700	Additional Mathematics	6993
English Literature	9715		
French	4655	Edexcel	Spec. No.
Geography B	9035	NG CiDA	
German	4665	Physical Education	2PE01
History B	9145	Business Studies	2BS01
Mathematics	4360		
Music	4270	WJEC	Spec. No.
Performing Arts: Dance	4230	Media Studies	4390
Religious Studies	4050		
Spanish	4695		

Question papers in English Literature, Geography, History and Religious Studies have extra marks awarded for spelling punctuation and grammar.

Entries

Who is responsible for the examinations?

The awarding bodies or examination boards set down strict criteria for the conduct of exams which must be followed, and the centre is required to follow them precisely. Mrs Fisher, the school Exams Officer is responsible for administering all internal and external exam arrangements. You can contact her on p.fisher@staidans.co.uk. A team of external invigilators is present at all times during each exam session.

Who is entered for external exams?

Every student is entered at the most appropriate level in each of their timetabled subjects. Students will only be withdrawn from exams for which they have been entered after consultation with the appropriate Head of Subject.

When are entries made?

Entries are made in February for the summer season.

Exam Timetables

The year's exam timetable will be posted on the exam notice board (outside the exam office in main school, next to Ph2). It is also posted on the school website: www.staidans.co.uk.

Individual Timetables

These show the personal details that will be sent to the exam boards and which will appear on your certificates, the examinations (and levels) that it is intended that you be entered for and any vocational courses you are registered to.

Individual exam timetables are given for each exam season. You need to make sure that the following details are correct:

- The spelling of your name
- Your date of birth
- Your candidate number - make a note of it in your planner and learn it as it is required for every exam paper
- That you are entered for an exam in all of the subjects you do and that the level of entry (higher or foundation if applicable) is correct.

Any mistakes in your personal or subject details **must** be reported to the exam office immediately.

Failure to check your timetable correctly may result in you not being entered for an exam, being entered for the wrong exam or having incorrect personal details on a certificate.

You may notice an exam clash (two exams at the same time). Where this happens, one exam will be moved to a different session on the same day and those concerned will be quarantined for part of the day to maintain exam security. You will get a separate letter about this if you are affected. If you do not receive a letter within 1 week of receiving your timetable you must notify me immediately.

It is good practice that when you receive your exam timetable, you write down the dates, subjects and times in your planner or to pin it on your bedroom wall. It is also a good idea to write them on a calendar at home. This means other people know what you are doing and can remind you. Every year there are students who miss exams because they fail to do this - don't let it be you this year.

Seating Plans

Seating plans will be posted outside the exam hall, the exams office and at the main reception before each exam commences. These are ordered alphabetically by surname. It is imperative that you sit in the numbered seat allocated to you for a specific exam.

Emergencies

If the fire alarm sounds during an exam the invigilators will tell you to stop work immediately and to turn over your paper. A note will be made of the time. The Exams Officer will liaise with a member of the Senior Staff to find out if an evacuation is necessary or not. If so, then you leave everything on your desk and are taken to a designated assembly point. You must leave in complete silence and at no point can you attempt to communicate with anyone.

On return to the exam hall you do not begin writing until instructed to do so. You will be allowed the remaining time for the exam and a special consideration report will be sent to the Examination Board detailing the incident.

The Exams

Times

For all exams (Mocks & External)

Morning exams start at 9.15 am and you must be outside the exam hall at 9.00 am

Afternoon exams start at 1.30 pm and you must be outside the exam hall at 1.15 pm

Exam Rooms

Most exams take place in the Sports Hall or Constance Green Hall but other rooms are used as well. It is your responsibility to check the venue. Coats and bags must be left in the specified places before you enter the exam hall.

Exam Regulations

The Boards set exam regulations. Failure to comply with them may lead to you being disqualified from an exam or, in extreme circumstances, from all exams in that session. A full copy is shown in Appendix 1 at the end of this booklet, the following is a summary:

You must not take into the exam room:

- notes
- a calculator case/instruction leaflet
- a mobile phone, iPod, iWatch, MP3/4 player or any other technological / web enabled sources of information.

Awarding Bodies take a very strict line on mobile phones, PDA's and MP3's. Possession of one in an exam room, even if it is turned off and the battery removed, is considered as an attempt to cheat and will result in disqualification.

- You must not become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of an exam.
- Cans of drinks or bottles of fizzy drink are not permitted; however small clear bottles of water are allowed into the exam room provided all labels have been removed from the bottle.
- Any unauthorised materials or equipment must be left outside the exam room or handed to an invigilator before the exam starts.
- You must not attempt to communicate with, or distract, another candidate during the exam. You are not allowed to borrow equipment from another candidate during the exam or loan your own to others. You must remain in your seat quiet and facing forward throughout the exam.
- You cannot leave an exam before it finishes, except in an emergency
- Pencil cases must be of the "see-through" type or simply use a polythene bag. The use of correcting fluids or pens and highlighters in your answers is not allowed. If you make a mistake simply cross it out.
- Write only in black pen. A pencil may be used for diagrams or graphs.
- Rough work must all be done in your answer booklet/additional paper but then clearly crossed through and, if on additional paper, attached to your answer paper.
- On some occasions you might be dismissed while another exam is continuing - please have regard for others who have not finished and move well away from the area.

Good Practice

Before, and during an exam period, check your timetables carefully to make sure you know what days and times your exams are scheduled.

If, for any reason, you know you not going to be able to either get to an exam e.g. illness on day, or that you might be late e.g. transport problems, it is essential that you let the main office (☎01423 885814) know as soon as possible and ask for the message to be passed to the Exam Office.

Be sure to arrive at school in plenty of time, this may mean making adjustments to your normal travel arrangements. Some afternoon exams may go on beyond the end of normal school time. Please make sure that you make alternative travel arrangements if this is likely to cause problems due to buses etc. You cannot leave an exam early even if you have finished.

Your brain needs fuel just like a car so have something to eat and drink for breakfast / lunch before an exam. If you have an exam clash which will require you being supervised over the lunch period, make sure you bring food and drinks with you.

Remember that you are still a member of the school until the date of your last exam in June and so you must wear full school uniform for all of your exams. Do not risk being prevented from taking an exam because you do not conform. The Sports Hall in particular can be cold so come prepared.

Make sure you know before an exam what equipment you will need, that you have it, and that it works. This is particularly important for Maths, Science, Geography and Technology exams where calculators, rulers and coloured pencils may be required. Always take spare pens and pencils into an exam.

If necessary, go to the toilet before the exam starts - the English Language and Media Studies exams are two and a quarter hours long, almost 3 hours if you are entitled to extra time.

Listen carefully to instructions that are given at the start and finish of each exam. You will be responsible for filling in all the correct personal information on the front of the exam paper/answer paper, including your candidate number. Some exam boards also require you to sign your script. Where there is a choice of question you must carefully number the questions that you have attempted. Doodling on your script/writing comments about the exam/notes to the marker may be considered to be inappropriate use of exam materials and might attract a mark penalty.

If during an exam you have a problem and are in doubt about what to do put up your hand and ask an invigilator.

When you are dismissed from an exam remember that there may be candidates still working. Leave quietly and save your discussions with others until outside the building.

Personal Problems

It is recognised by exam boards that candidates can find themselves, through no fault of their own, in situations where their performance in an exam may be impaired. As long as I am made aware of such situations there are procedures that can be put in place to either assist a candidate or for consideration of the problem to be made when papers are marked. These are either:

Special Arrangements

These are applied for when it is known that a candidate has a particular problem before sitting an exam. For example this could be a difficulty in writing due to a wrist injury in which case we can arrange for someone to act as a scribe for you.

Special Consideration

This is applied for when something unexpected occurs and may disadvantage a candidate. For example, illness during an exam meant that you did not perform as well as you normally would or could not physically make it into school. The details are forwarded to the exam board and who may take them into account when grades are being awarded. In some cases these procedures can also be applied for in relation to controlled assessment.

If you have any problems regarding exams please contact me in the exam office. All matters are dealt with in strictest confidence.

Pre-Exam Preparation

How is it best to organise revision during the examination period?

Examinations are inevitably a stressful time for some students and support from both school and parents can be helpful. We will provide advice about revision programmes and examination techniques as the examination period approaches, and if this is followed it should not be necessary to work abnormally long hours during the revision period. It is probably helpful for students to discuss the organisation of revision and to talk through any anxieties about particular techniques or subject matters with subject teachers. The testing of factual material can be beneficial in some cases, but often all that is needed is a quiet place to work, plenty of sleep and some opportunities for relaxation.

What arrangements are made for Study Leave?

Study Leave begins on a date agreed by school, usually as the written exams begin in May. After that date students are only required to be present when they actually have an exam.

Controlled Assessments

You will already have started the assessments in Year 10 and will know that it is an important part of many GCSE courses. Make sure you follow all the guidelines set by your teachers as well as those laid down by the awarding body. The following is a summary of the regulations, the official version is shown in the appendices.

Regulations

1. Before you submit any coursework for marking, you will be asked to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.
2. Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts or ideas and trying to pass them off as your own. The work which you submit for assessment must be your own or this will be considered as cheating.
3. However, you may:
 - a) quote from books or any other sources; if you do, you must include a bibliography at the end of your work which lists the full details of publications you have used in your research.
 - b) use the same wording as a published source; however you must place quotations marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called "referencing".
 - c) receive guidance from someone other than your teacher: if so you must tell your teacher, who will record the nature of the assistance given to you.

Your work must be completed, marked, moderated internally and externally well before the written exams take place. Subject departments set deadlines that allow for this process and to meet those set by the awarding bodies. These deadlines cannot be changed except in exceptional circumstances.

Advice

- 1 Keep to the deadlines your teachers set for submitting drafts and final pieces of work. Your teachers are there to guide and assist you - showing them your work as you progress will allow you and your teacher time to sort out any problems before it's too late.
- 2 Take care of your work - keep it safe. You must always keep your work secure and confidential whilst you are preparing it; do not share it with your classmates. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you don't need.
- 3 Ask your teacher if you need any guidance.
- 4 If you have been absent and/or have problems completing your work, talk to your teacher.

Penalties

Plagiarism is easy to detect these days with the use of specialised computer software to match phrases or pieces of text with the original and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation. If it is discovered that you have broken the regulations you may be disqualified from the whole subject concerned.

REMEMBER - YOUR COURSEWORK MUST BE YOUR OWN

Results and Certificates

Results

Statements of Results are available:

Summer series - will be available for collection from Constance Green Hall at 09.30am on Thursday 25th August. If you are away on holiday there are various means of getting the results to you:

- If you would like your results posted to your home, please leave a stamped, addressed envelope with me before the last day of term.
- They can be emailed as a pdf file to a previously notified email address
- Someone else can collect your results for you as long as they have a letter of authorisation from you.
- If you need to contact me my email address is p.fisher@staidans.co.uk
- My direct telephone number is 01423 818512

Certificates

During the autumn term of 2015 you will be invited to the Presentation of Certificates evening. Certificates are awarded to candidates who obtain any pass grade A* - G.

It is vital that the certificates are kept in a safe place. Replacements can only be obtained from Exam boards and are expensive. You will need to refer to them when making an application for further or higher education and they must be presented when you register for the chosen course. Employers increasingly ask to see them as proof of the qualifications you may have entered on an application form.

If you or your parents have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Good luck to everyone.

Mrs Fisher
GCSE Exams Officer