



Dear Parents and Carers,

**Year 10 Autumn Examinations
23rd November - 4th December 2020**

As Year 10 scholars approach the end of their first term of GCSE studies, I am writing to share with you the arrangements for their first round of mock examinations. Giving scholars opportunities to practise completing exam-style questions under timed conditions is an essential part of the learning process. Not only do these examinations give your child a good idea of their strengths and weaknesses at this early stage in the course, but the results serve as predictors of their final grades. Scholars owe it to themselves to take these exams seriously, as every second counts.

The autumn examinations will take place from 23rd November to 4th December 2020.

Independent Study Programme Schedule

It is important that scholars prepare for the full suite of examinations in a systematic way.

Success in examinations comes from the consistent adherence to some basic study routines. It is pertinent to note, scholars will not be able to cram their way to success and must instead prioritise daily, short bursts of varied, focussed study. Scholars should adhere to the below schedule to ensure they are completing sufficient levels of independent study to be well-placed for success.

	Monday (5.30-7.30pm)	Tuesday (5.30-7.30pm)	Wednesday (5.30-7.30pm)	Thursday (4.30-7.15pm)	Friday (4.30-7.15pm)	Saturday (9.00am-12.30pm)	Sunday (9.00am-12.30pm)
Start	Have a drink, eat a snack, turn off all social media, television and remove all distractions.						
40min session 1	MFL	Science	Humanities	English	Maths	Option 2	Science
20min break	Watch TV/ Talk to friends/ do an activity/ get up and move around						
40min session 2	Maths	English	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	MFL	English
20min break	Watch TV/ Talk to friends/ social media time/ get up and move around						
40min session 3				MFL	Humanities	Humanities	Option 1
20min break						Have snack, go to the toilet, leave the room and move around.	
40min session 4						Science	Option 3
End	Have a drink, eat a snack, turn on social media.						



Things scholars can do right now to get ahead:

1. Prioritise revision topics

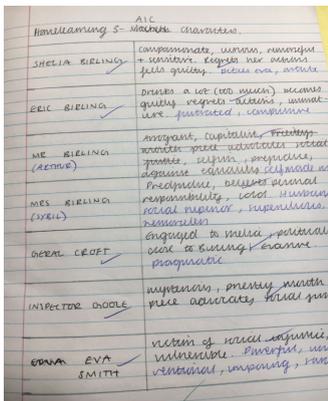
This will require introspection. Scholars should triangulate their 2019-20 PLCs, Y9 Summer mock examination scripts and course content to determine the best order to revise topics.

We would advise scholars to resist the urge to focus on areas they are confident in first. Instead, it would be logical to find a balance between topics they're least familiar with and those which they'll be able to get through quickly.

A full list of the course content and links to revision activities can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/AGFSYear10Revision>.

2. Self-quizzing

Practice at retrieving knowledge or skill from memory is a potent tool for learning and durable retention. Therefore, one of most effective way of approaching revision is self-quizzing; scholars need to:



1. Learn as much as they can from the knowledge organiser (KO) or Quizlet stack.
2. Turn the KO over and write down as much as they can accurately remember.
3. Flip the KO back over and check the accuracy of what they've written.
4. Use a blue pen to correct any errors and fill in any gaps.
5. Repeat step 1 to 4 until they've achieved 100% success three times in a row.

To see this method modelled in practice, please watch this video [here](#).

3. Try past papers

Whilst this may feel nerve-racking at first, consolidating knowledge with past papers is a sure-fire way to prepare for exams. By working through different exam questions, scholars will quickly identify their strengths and areas for improvement.

Here are some ideas for scholars:

- Select a paper
- Start a timer, and try to answer all the questions (have a go, even if they are unsure)
- Carefully review all answers against the mark scheme



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- Correct mistakes using teacher-written model answers
- Repeat this at least once every two weeks

Mock examinations can be a very demanding time for scholars. Teachers are working hard to prepare them as thoroughly as possible for their examinations. If you are concerned about your child and wish to seek advice or support please contact the school via info@arkgreenwich.org or telephone at 02083193692.

A copy of the examination schedule can be found [here](#). For more information about the assessment dates and times, please click [here](#).

We wish your child the very best of luck and we look forward to celebrating their well-deserved results.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Valibhai
Ark Greenwich Free School
www.arkgreenwichfreeschool.org
'Ambition, Growth, Fellowship, Scholarship'