



Year 13 Subject Leader Comments – Term 3

Subject	Subject Leader Comment
Art (Fine)	Fine Art students have been concluding work on their coursework relating to 'Secrets, Codes and Conventions', using the opportunity of the three-day exam to produce a large-scale outcome. Students have been responding to individual feedback from their teachers to improve their current sketchbooks and are preparing to complete their books, large scale pieces and essays to meet the deadline of 31 January before beginning the Externally Set Assignment on 1 February. The marks given for this report are for the practical component and not the Personal Project essay, which may slightly alter the overall grade given for Component 1.
Biology	The Biology mock examination was two 105-minute paper covering all A-Level topics taught so far (please see the exam breakdown for details).
Business Studies	<p>Term 3 has naturally been an important term for students as they have embarked on their mock examinations and continued with theory. Students completed a Paper 2 for their mock which assessed them on Theme 2 and Theme 3 content.</p> <p>In the classroom we have carried on teaching Theme 4 and have covered topics such as Foreign Direct Investment, GDP and Protectionism. Next term students will continue learning Theme 4 content and will hopefully have plenty of opportunities to undertake practice questions as well. We will be offering Business Studies revision sessions moving forward; however, we hope that students are revising previous themes at home as part of their preparation for the upcoming A-Levels.</p>
Chemistry	In term 3, students sat the mock exams. There were two papers: Inorganic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry. Each paper was 1 hour and 45 minutes in length, comprising 88 and 84 marks respectively. The grade shown is the direct average of the two papers (i.e. each paper has a 50% weighting). The papers used past exam questions covering all the topics covered from Year 12 and so far in Year 13. A breakdown of performance by topic is shown in this report. The projected grade provided is the judgement of both teachers based on the mock and other evidence, such as performance in other assessments, engagement in lessons etc.



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Computer Science	This academic year has been busy in Computer Science with the NEA coursework gradually being developed into finished projects. As well as topics such as networking & the Internet, functional programming, big data and regular languages being completed. There has also been detailed mock preparation using past paper questions and exam technique skills.
Design Engineering	Following the mock exams, students have been provided with guidance and feedback on specific areas to develop (shown in this report) to help them prepare for the summer exams. In lessons, students are also working to develop the designs that they have been working on since the start of the project. This will include 2D and 3D modelling, circuit design/modelling, coding and demonstrating practical skills such as etching/soldering PCBs in advance of the Easter deadline. All the tasks are being assessed in line with the Design Engineering specification.
Drama & Theatre Studies	The Year 13 report is focused on the recent mock examination, which was the full 3-hour paper, divided into three sections: Section A, Hedda Gabler, Section B, Our Country's Good, Section C, Live Theatre Response.
Economics	This term students completed the final theme of the course and they have now begun the process of exam preparation for the summer.
English Language	The mock exams replicated the format and timings of the final examinations, and therefore covered all aspects of the course. Students have been able to use teacher guidance to reflect carefully on the strengths of their performance and areas for development. Students have now completed their study of the development of children's spoken language, which has provided a firm foundation for studying writing and reading development. Students have also embarked on their NEA (coursework) projects with planning and research.
English Literature	The mock exams provided the opportunity for students to consolidate their knowledge of the majority of the A-Level course content, and to reflect on their performance via feedback lessons. The focus for the remainder of the term and moving into the next term is the study of Carole Ann Duffy poetry and approaching unseen modern prose extracts. Students have also embarked on



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	their NEA (coursework) essays, in which they are comparing two texts of their choice, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.
Further Mathematics	Students have completed the single Mathematics (OCR H240) section of the course, and they should truly be confident of success in this so that we can turn our attention to the more challenging Further Mathematics (OCR H245). We have nearly finished the Pure section and will shortly be moving on to studying Further Mechanics and Statistics. It is crucial at this stage that students work hard outside of lessons to review old topics and develop their understanding of the difficult material. The Further Mathematics mock consisted of most of a Pure paper and a Year 12 Statistics and Mechanics paper.
French	In Term 3, students have continued the theme of 'Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues', looking at different attitudes to crime, discussing the merits and problems of prison, and considering alternative forms of punishment. They have also studied the themes relating to the novel 'No et moi'. The mock exams consisted of three papers: Paper 1 (Listening, Reading and Writing), Paper 2 (Writing) and Paper 3 (Speaking). Skills such as essay writing, translating from French to English and English to French, listening and reading comprehension and summarising were all assessed across these exams. Following on from the mock exams, the students have looked at various exam techniques and strategies for success.
Geography	The Year 13 mock examination consisted of three exam papers which were paper 1 titled 'Physical Systems', paper 2 titled 'Human Interactions' and paper 3 titled 'Geographical debates'. The mock exam tested all the units that have been studied so far. The final A-level grade in the Summer will also include the independent investigation which is worth 20%.
German	Over the course of the first part of this academic year, students were introduced to the themes of multiculturalism and aspects of political life in the German-speaking world covering the topics of immigration and integration as well as Germany's relationship with the European Union. Furthermore, the students read and began analysing 'Die Verwandlung' by Franz Kafka, a seminal piece of global literary history.



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History	<p>For Unit 1, students have been learning about the reign of Edward VI and the extent to which England enjoyed stability and reform under the governance of the Duke of Somerset and the Duke of Northumberland. Students have begun to study the reign of Mary I and the extent to which a female ruler posed a problem. For Unit 2, students have explored the causes and events of the Korean War and the impact its aftermath had on the region. Students have begun to study the significance of the 1st Pacific Indochina War. For Unit 3, students have concluded their study of Richard I and have evaluated interpretations of his reign using their contextual knowledge and understanding of the wider historiographical debates. Students are about to consider the reign of John, which will conclude the chronological content of this module. Students have had the opportunity to complete timed essays or practice questions for each unit of the course. The Year 13 Mock Exam assessed all three units.</p>
Law	<p>In Law, the first two terms of Year 13 were spent covering the substantive Law of Tort topics and the non-substantive aspects of the English Legal System for Paper 2. The Mock Exam in Law was last year's Paper 2. Towards the end of Term 2, we also looked at introductory aspects of Contract Law, and we have been building understanding in this area in Term 3. Contract Law is the substantive element of Paper 3A, the final paper that the students will sit in the summer. We should complete Contract Law by Easter, leaving just a review of the Paper 3A non-substantive topics, some work on Question 9 across all the papers (students can prepare part of this in advance) and revision across the papers prior to study leave.</p> <p>In response to the Mock Exam in Law, students have received AQA examiner guidance on that Paper 2 and exemplar student answers. I will be recapping Paper 1 topics in revision lunch-time sessions in Term 4.</p>
Mathematics	<p>The mock examinations have covered all topics in the course so far and should be used to identify areas of weakness to work on individually or with the guidance of their teacher. We have covered most of the content of the A-level now, so it is important that students have a well-established revision routine in place. Students who wish to succeed should dedicate an hour to individual practice for each hour they spend in a lesson. Sixth-form drop-in sessions occur four times per fortnight and at least one should be accessible by students.</p>



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Media Studies	In Term 3, students have been working on exam content for Paper 2: Evolving Media. The primary unit of study has been Video Games, where key texts and case studies have centered around media audiences and industries, from newer concepts such as ownership and integration, to key academic theories from David Hesmondhalgh and Albert Bandura.
Music	Students have been focusing on their coursework this term, making sure their two chorales are complete and making good progress with the free composition. In addition, revision lessons have been taking place on the film music component with regard to the 30-mark essay question in the mock exam.
Physical Education	Students were tested on a combination of Year 12 and Year 13 work and assessed using multiple choice, short response and extended questions. For each area of study students were given 2 multiple choice questions worth 2 marks and a series of short questions worth 12 marks and then 2 extended questions worth 23 marks. The exam was based around past paper and AQA sample questions.
Physics	The attainment grade for term 3 is based on students' performance in the Year 13 mock exams. In Physics, these consisted of two papers which covered all Year 12 content as well as the Year 13 topics studied so far this year.
Politics	<p>Students sat three papers in the recent mock examinations. Each paper assessed a different component of the A-Level in Politics. These components are: 'UK Politics & Core Political Ideas'; 'UK Government & Non-Core Political Ideas'; 'Comparative Politics - The Government & Politics of the USA'.</p> <p>Each paper was assessed against three assessment objectives:</p> <p>Assessment Objective One (worth 35%) requires candidates to: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories, and issues.</p> <p>Assessment Objective Two (worth 35%) requires candidates to: Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities, and differences.</p>



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	Assessment Objective Three (worth 40%) requires candidates to: Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements, and draw conclusions.
Psychology	In Psychology, students sat the AQA 2023 Paper 1 for their mock exam. This was a challenging paper, which provides an excellent insight into the depth and specificity of knowledge required for students to be confident of success. All students, regardless of their result, have been asked to reflect on their progress and to plan changes to their everyday working routine, in consultation with their teachers. It is almost always the case that students make significant improvements between mocks and the final examinations. The scale of this improvement is determined by how early and systematically the lessons from the mock are applied.
Religious Studies	Students sat three papers in the recent mock examinations. Each paper assessed a different component of the A-Level in Religious Studies. These components are: 'Buddhism'; 'Philosophy of Religion'; 'Religion and Ethics'. Each paper was assessed against two assessment objectives. Assessment Objective One requires candidates to: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including: religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching; the influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies; cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice; approaches to the study of religion and belief. Assessment Objective Two requires candidates to: Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study. Assessment Objective One is worth 40%. Assessment Objective Two is worth 60%.
Sociology	Students have finished all the content needed for Paper 1 (Education and Methods in Context) and Paper 2 (Topics in Sociology) and are currently on the last topic (Crime and Deviance). Students have looked at a range of theoretical explanations for Crime and Deviance in society and will be moving on to how these intersect with Social Class, Gender, and Ethnicity. Additionally, they will cover the role of the media and of the state, and how the justice system exists and works to resolve Crime and Deviance. As this is the final topic, it will then allow for revision of content and exam technique before the summer exams. Students should be working independently in free periods and studies to revise content learnt in lessons and turn them into revision materials, in order to have a



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	solid foundation of knowledge from which to hone higher order analysis and evaluation skills during revision lessons.
Spanish	In term 3, students have studied the following topics in the Hispanic World: popular movements and protests and their effectiveness; power of unions and syndicates; religions; racism; and racist and xenophobic attitudes. Our grammar focus was on 'if' clauses + pluperfect subjunctive and adverbs. The Mock exam consisted of three past papers: Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and writing; Paper 2 - Writing; and Paper 3 - Speaking.