



Year 12 Subject Leader Comments – Term 4

Subject	Subject Leader Comment
Art (Fine)	In Term 4, students have been continuing with their coursework title, 'Identity within a Place' using a variety of mixed media to generate multiple ideas relating to their chosen theme. Students have been exploring primary and secondary sources using detailed techniques and developing more compositional outcomes on a larger scale. Selecting and showing connections to artists who have inspired their work has also been a focus this term, as students begin to gather further information for the start of their Personal Project essay in Term 6.
Biology	The Biology mid-year assessments consisted of two 55-minute papers covering all A-Level topics taught so far (please see the exam breakdown for details).
Business Studies	Throughout Term 4 students will have been working through the second half of Theme 2. This entailed students learning about many topics ranging from: Financial documents, Methods of Production, Quality and Quality Control. Naturally in Term 4 there has been a large focus around the Term 4 Test. This was a chance for students to be assessed on all content they have learnt in Business Studies to date. This was an extremely beneficial process and gave the students a flavour of what it will be like to revise large contents for an examination. Moving into Term 5 we will be learning about the External Environment and its impact on a business.
Chemistry	Students sat two papers in Term 4 - one each for Organic and Inorganic Chemistry. Each paper comprised 50 marks and students were allowed 55 minutes to complete them. Papers were sat under controlled conditions to ensure fairness. The result shown is the average score over both papers and the grade shown is based on this average score. The report contains a breakdown of each paper by topic to help students to improve their performance in future assessments. The provisional predicted grade shown is the current holistic assessment of both teachers as to the likely outcome. From this distance, there is likely to be some 'noise' around this grade and students should look to be working on feedback and aspiring to improve on their provisional prediction when the FUPG Exams come round in the summer term.



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Computer Science	With Mr Brown students have looked at advanced features of Python programming such as records, dictionaries, and APIs. They have also submitted their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) proposals which will be examined to see if they are suitable. With Mr Clark students have finished the module on communications and networks looking in detail at network topologies and client-server and peer-to-peer networking. This term we focused on databases including relational databases, normalising data, and an introduction to SQL. The mid-year test was also sat which covered both papers including programming and theory.
Design Engineering	This term, students have continued to research their A-Level controlled assessment project. Starting with the development of a long-term plan, considering each step in the design-and-make process, researching the target market for their product and the key information necessary to solve the design brief. Students then researched a variety of different options using comparable products to determine the most viable choices they can use for the inputs, processes, outputs and materials that can be used to realise their final product. All the tasks are being assessed in line with the Design Engineering specification.
Drama & Theatre Studies	The report focuses on students Term 4 assessment, which was sat in timed conditions for one hour (or one hour, fifteen minutes for those with 25% extra time). They wrote an essay on either set design or performing on their set text, Hedda Gabler.
Economics	This term the students completed Theme 2 of the course and were assessed under exam conditions on a half paper on that theme. This was the first time the students had sat a Theme 2 paper, and it is not therefore surprising that many performed at a slightly lower level than their predicted grade. Theme 2 will be the topic area assessed in the summer exams and the predicted grade given here reflects the expected progress students will make given current work levels.
English Language	Students have been exploring a range of aspects of our linguistic identity, including ethnicity and gender, and are now focusing on language and occupation. They have also been building their knowledge of how language create meanings and representations in texts by exploring a wider range of language features. Year 12 will culminate in preparing for exams in the final term.



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English Literature	Students are continuing their exploration of the Literature of Love, focusing on both an anthology of love poetry and unseen poetry. Developing close analysis and reading skills will continue as students prepare for the end of year exams.
Further Mathematics	For their term 4 examination students sat two Single Maths papers covering the spread of Pure, Mechanics and Statistics and sat one Further Maths Pure paper. For students this was the first time they have sat a formal paper, so it was their first chance to really assess their understanding of the course in timed conditions. It is important that students reflect on the advice from their teachers and refine their skills for the final examinations. Students have since been studying the remaining parts of the applied sections of the Further Mathematics course (Mechanics and Statistics).
French	In Term 4, students have studied the topic of 'Heritage', looking at how some of France's most famous heritage sites market themselves and how heritage impacts upon and is guided by culture in society. The focus has been to develop skills and strategies for a variety of listening and reading tasks ready for the A-Level exam. We have continued to practise asking and answering questions on each of the topics in preparation for the speaking exam. They have also studied various themes in the film 'La Haine'. The Term 4 assessment was based on the three exam papers which assessed all skills.
Geography	The year 12 mid-term assessment consisted of two papers. One paper was on Changing spaces, making places and the other paper was on Earth's life support systems. Pupils used an insert for some of the questions to answer the skills-based questions.
German	During Term 3 and 4 students covered the topic of youth culture, learning about German-speaking, fashion, television and media industry. As topic of festivals and tradition students investigated the significance of these for society and economy. Within these topics the grammar points of advanced use of pronouns, imperative, imperfect, separable and inseparable verbs as well as the passive were studied.
History	For Unit 1, students have explored political change following the Second World War and have evaluated the successes and failures of the Conservative governments of the 1950s and 1960s. For Unit 3, students have examined the changes which took place to the government of England during



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	the reigns of William Rufus and Henry I. Students have also considered the extent to which royal control over the Church in England changed during this period. The attainment grade in this report is informed by the timed essays completed during term 4. The projected grade in this report also considers this, alongside other essays, and assessment of knowledge completed since the start of the academic year.
Law	The Year 12 Law students have been working very hard to complete the Criminal Law topics for Paper 1 and, aside from some work on Question 9 (a specific type of question that requires the knowledge and application of concepts and theories to Criminal Law topics) and on the English legal system, they will be moving on to Paper 2 in Term 5. The FUPG Assessment that follows will be a full Paper 1, so the students have the challenging task ahead of them of revising Paper 1 while moving forward with new learning for Paper 2. Please note that students are supported by my booklets and notes, by a video platform for every topic called 'Flipped Law', by access to textbooks and wider reading, and by recommended Youtube channels (e.g. LawwithAnna; The Law Teacher). This term, all students sat a wide-ranging knowledge test, and have been invited to submit up to three essays; the grades are only indicative of their progress, given that they have yet to sit a full paper in Law.
Mathematics	Mathematicians sat two papers in term 4 to provide an early assessment of ability and exam readiness. These consisted of two 48-minute papers containing elements of Pure, Mechanics and Statistics from the syllabus covered so far. For students this was the first time they have sat a formal paper so is their first chance to really assess their understanding of all material in the course in timed conditions. It is important that students reflect on the advice from their teachers and refine their skills for the final examinations.
Media Studies	In Term 4, Year 12 Media students have been working on the biggest unit in Paper 1: News. This is a full synoptic unit covering a range of sub-topics including genre, media language and house-style of UK newspapers. Ownership and integration patterns, including political affiliation and bias. Representation of social groups, including the impact and influence on passive audiences. A range of theorists including, George Gerbner, Judith Butler and Alonso Mosley have also been introduced in this unit.



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Music	The attainment grade for this term is solely based on the in-class assessment completed during Term 4. This was an AS paper and the students first opportunity of completing a series of exam questions in the given time limit. The listening paper is worth 40% of the overall A-Level, so the attainment grades this term does not take into account the additional 60% of coursework.
Physical Education	The practise exam paper was split into four sections: 1. Anatomy and Physiology paper. 2. Skill Acquisition 3. Psychology 4. Coursework- a practical video presentation and an Analysis mark. Each written section of the exam consisted of multiple-choice questions, short response questions and then several extended questions. In the next set of exams, the extended questions will be increased to get closer to replicating the students experiences next summer. The paper consisted of all past paper questions to make it as realistic experience as possible for the students.
Physics	The attainment grade for term 4 is based on the mid-year exams conducted this term. These consisted of two papers covering all the A-Level content delivered so far.
Politics	Students are being prepared for three papers at A-Level. The examining body is Pearson/Edexcel Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas. Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas. Paper 3: Comparative Politics - the Government and Politics of the USA. All three papers are taught concurrently. Each paper is worth a third of the overall result at A-Level. In Term 4 the students have been considering the role of Parliament in the United Kingdom.
Psychology	Year 12 Psychology students have now completed all the content for 'Paper 2' in the AQA Psychology exam (Approaches to Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods). The recent assessment, the result of which is reported here, examined all these areas. The students are now embarking on the first of the 4 units which comprise Paper 1: Social Influence. We will also increasingly be turning our focus to the key skill of evaluative, extended writing. It is extremely important that, in addition to these new challenges, students continue to regularly practise retrieving older Paper 2 content, using either core questions or past exam questions.
Religious Studies	Students are being prepared for three papers. The examining body is Eduqas Paper 1D: Study of Religion - Buddhism Paper 2: Philosophy of Religion. Paper 3: Religion and Ethics. Each paper is worth a third of the overall result at A-Level. In the 'Study of Religion - Buddhism' aspect of the



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	course, the students have been learning about Buddhist religious practices. In the 'Philosophy of Religion' aspect of the course, the students have been examining whether the ontological argument can be considered a reliable proof for the existence of a god. In the 'Religion and Ethics' aspect of the course, the students have been considering competing meta-ethical theories.
Sociology	Year 12 Sociologists have just completed their Term 4 assessments and will now be looking to finish the Education and Methods in Context topic. Students have learnt about key debates in the field of education, such as the internal and external factors which may shape educational experiences. This term, we have looked at educational policy, and how political approaches to education have changed over time. Students will then move on to combine their knowledge of research methods and educational issues, to consider how effective different methods may be in researching education as an institution. Throughout this study, students will be asked to apply their knowledge to different contexts, develop their ability to analyse, and hone their evaluation skills. Exam technique will be reviewed throughout, to ensure students can apply their knowledge to practice questions.
Spanish	In term 4, our Year 12 students have been studying topics in the theme of 'Patrimonio cultural' exploring the civilisations that contributed to the cultural heritage of Spain, and the art and architecture which forms part of the cultural heritage of our Hispanic world. They have also explored the influence of the catholic church in the traditional and modern values of Spanish and Latin-American society. They have started the theme of 'La igualdad de los sexos', discussing gender equality. Our grammar focus has been on the use of the subjunctive; demonstrative and possessive adjectives; and imperfect and preterite tenses together. Term 4 assessment consisted of 4 past papers: Listening, Reading, Essay writing and Speaking.