



Key Stage 3
Examination Guidance January 2025

Year 8	2
Year 9	6
Year 10	10

Year 8

In Year 8, 80% of the final mark will be from the examination and 20% of the will be from two standardised assessment tasks/tests.

Art

The January exam mark is based on all work completed in term 1.

40% - drawing/painting/experimental presentation based on apples

Core assessment 1 - 20% written and illustrated 'Seven elements of Art' task on iPad

Core assessment 2 - 30% textile art

Observation homework - 10%

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

- Getting Started,
- Chemical Changes and
- Acids and Alkalis topics

and will be expected to recognise simple apparatus and draw graphs. Pupils should bring pens, pencils, and 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' coursework (20%) and performance skills (30%) will also be assessed.

English

The exam 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 exams will be held in class during the week beginning the 6th of January (pupils will be notified in advance of the precise date for their class exam).

The written paper (45 minutes duration) will involve reading, writing and grammar exercises. Exam content will be highlighted on the revision list that will be given to pupils at the beginning of December.

The revision list will also be emailed to pupils and will be available on WHS Campus and Google Classroom. There will be no oral exam 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 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 79% of their report percentage as 21% 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, Song structure and Active Listening. This is worth 50% of the total mark. Revision ibooks and resources are available in WHSCampus.com

A further 20% consists of a performance exam taken in class time. 30% is 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

Year 8 students should learn the topics covered in Term 1 of Religious Studies on 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 examination will last 30 minutes.

Their examination will account for 80% of their overall grade, and the remaining 20% being taken from their Core (in class) assessment.

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 all work completed in term 1.

Core assessment 1- 40% - 'Perspective' observations - drawing/painting/experimental studies and research.

Core assessment 2 - 50% - Graphic design task using ArtStudio on iPad

Observation homework - 10%

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

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 exam 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 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 79% of their report percentage as 21% of standardised assessment has already been completed during the year.

Modern Languages

French, German and Spanish

Listening exams will be held in class during the week beginning the 6th of January (pupils will be notified in advance of the precise date for their class exam).

The written paper (45 minutes duration) will involve reading, writing and grammar exercises. Exam content will be highlighted on the revision list that will be given to pupils at the beginning of December.

The revision list will also be emailed to pupils and will be available on WHS Campus and Google Classroom. There will be no oral exam 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 exam is made up of an aural paper lasting 30 minutes and examining the Elements of Music through Active Listening, Blues music, the twelve-bar blues, recognising the pattern, identifying Boogie woogie, Ragtime and Big Band. Revision eBooks are available in the resources section of 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.

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
- Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Static Electricity
- Circuit Symbols
- Series Circuits
- Parallel Circuits
- Electromagnets

Religious Studies

Year 9 students should learn 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 Reformation. Students must have an understanding of all key events covered, and be able to compare which events have had the largest impact on the creation of the Christian Church that we now know in 2024. The examination will last 30 minutes.

The examination will account for 80% of their overall grade, and the remaining 20% being taken from their Core (in class) assessment.

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 all work completed in term 1.

Core assessment 1 : 40% - 'Hands' observations - pencil, colour and experimental studies and research.

Core assessment 2 : 60% - Creative careers project which includes written research, drawing and experimental presentation techniques.

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 exam will last 1 hour and will contain two sections:

A - GB Shaw's "Pygmalion". Pupils will answer a series of analytical questions which focus on staging and characterisation.

B - Literary Devices and Spelling - multiple choice definition test on a range of Literary techniques and vocabulary development.

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 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 79% of their report percentage as 21% of standardised assessment has already been completed during the year.

Modern Languages

French, German and Spanish

Listening exams will be held in class during the week beginning the 6th of January (pupils will be notified in advance of the precise date for their class exam).

The written paper (1 hour duration) will involve reading, writing and grammar exercises. Exam content will be highlighted on the revision list that will be given to pupils at the beginning of December.

The revision list will also be emailed to pupils and will be available on WHS Campus and Google Classroom. There will be no oral exam 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. Pupils are examined on The Elements of Music and must respond critically to excerpts of Television and Advertising 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.

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 and 2 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
- Levers and Moments
- Gears
- Pulleys
- Electrical circuits (voltage and current)

Religious Studies

Year 10 students should revise the topics covered in Term 1 of Religious Studies on Social Justice. This includes knowledge and understanding around key terms, poverty, specific groups in society who have historically or are currently facing injustice, as well as Church teachings on the importance of striving for social justice. The examination will last 30 minutes and will be the sole basis of their January grade.

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.