

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 11 November Mock Examinations.

Thank you for your continued support with your son/ daughter this year. The period 6 sessions for English, Maths and Science are going strong with a host of fantastic learning opportunities: all in addition to the timetabled lessons for these subjects. The students that are attending are making good progress in their knowledge and examination techniques, ready for the end of the year.

Period 6 will not be running on the PD week Monday 30th October 2023 – Friday 3rd November due to both staff and students attending trips and this week being a curriculum collapsed week. There are specialist sessions for English, Mathematics and Science during this week that are directly tied to examinations and GCSE progress. Maths and English will be conducting walking talking mocks a widely used very successful strategy for teaching examination technique. Science will be conducting experiments that are part of the Science GCSE papers, questions will be asked on these practical skills and firsthand experience is of paramount importance for being successful in these questions.

From Monday, 6th November your child will be sitting mock examinations in selected subjects including English, Maths and Science over a two-week period. This will be the first of two mock examination periods that the year 11's will sit prior to the final examinations.

These examinations are important as they are an opportunity for your child to experience an examination series similar to the final examinations and identify strengths and areas where knowledge is not yet embedded. It will also give a good indication of the progress that has been made so far this year.

During the mock examinations it is important that all students are fully prepared with their revision and equipment. It is also important that your child's attend every examination. As will be the case in the final exams, if a mock is missed due to non-attendance that paper will receive a score of 0. The results of these exams will act as evidence to assist decision making regarding higher and foundation tiers for the final examinations. They may also influence the setting in some subjects due the focused revision that will be happening because of analysis from these examinations.

Equipment list – most of these items can be purchased via the ClassCharts shop

Full Plympton Academy Uniform
Black pens x2
Pencil

Rubber
Sharpener
Ruler
Protractor
Compass
Scientific calculator

Prohibited items.

As a reminder, there are certain items which are prohibited from the examination room.
Please see below the infographic from JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications)



To support a good start to the exam day, we will be registering the students in the canteen and then moving the students to the changing rooms where they will be able to securely store their bags. The morning session will run as follows:

08:25 Register is taken in the canteen and then students are walked to the examination rooms

08:40 Exam starts

We will also be repeating this process for exams later in the day:

11:00 Register is taken and students are walked to the examination rooms

11:15 Exam starts

Note: - Students with a toilet pass will not be permitted to leave the exam to use the toilet, aside from an emergency: this is in line with the guidance provided to us by the exam boards.

After the exam has finished, students will be dismissed in silence from the rooms as per Exam Board guidance. They will immediately return to their timetabled lesson. Students are expected to return to lessons swiftly. Students who do not return to the correct lesson after their examination will be truanting. We will treat this truancy in line with our policy.

Please find attached an exam timetable for the two weeks. Individual timetables will be issued to students in the week after half term. Also attached to this letter is information on the papers that the students will be sitting.

We appreciate your continued support. If you have any questions around the mock examinations or our process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Raymont

Assistant Principal

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Timetable

Week Commencing 6th November 2023 (Week A)					
	Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8	Thursday 9	Friday 10
	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
1	Mathematics Paper 1 1h30m	Physics Paper 1 1h15m	English Lit Paper 1 1h45m	Geography Paper 1 - Physical 1h 30m	History 2 1h 45m
2					
Break					
3	English Lang Paper 1 1h45m	Mathematics Paper 2 1h30m	Chemistry Paper 1 1h15m		RS Paper 1hr 30 m
4					
Lunch					
5		Biology Paper 1 1h15m			
Tutor					

Week Commencing 13th November 2023 (Week B)					
	Monday 13	Tuesday 14	Wednesday 15	Thursday 16	Friday 17
	Year 11			Year 11	Year 11
1	Spanish Writing H: 1h15m & E: 1h			Art Group 1 MRO	Art Group 2 DHA
2					
Break				Photography Group 1 PTU	Photography Group 2 PTU
3					
4					
Lunch					
5					
Tutor					

Subject Paper Content.

English

Through the November mock examinations, the English department are offering our students a realistic but carefully considered firsthand experience of sitting their English GCSEs. We recognise how demanding and rigorous GCSE English is and therefore have carefully considered which aspects of the GCSE they will sit; we have designed the mock examinations with this in mind. For GCSE English Language, students will complete *Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing*. Students are assessed against both reading and writing skills which they have developed throughout their time at Plympton Academy. Students should revise the writing frames taught by class teachers last year. For the GCSE English Literature course, students will sit a *Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-Century-Novel* mock examination. Therefore, students will answer exam questions on *A Christmas Carol* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Our Year 11 students have benefitted from having bespoke English Language and English Literature teachers, who have prepared our learners for this challenge. We strongly encourage that students are familiar with the key characters; plot; themes and most memorable moments from both texts thus far. We believe students are ready to put their knowledge and skills into practice.

Science

Specification link:

[GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy Specification Specification for first teaching in 2016 \(aqa.org.uk\)](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

Biology:

Cell Biology

Organisation - Digestion and Circulation

Infection and Response

Bioenergetics - Photosynthesis and Respiration

Chemistry:

Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table

Bonding, Structure and Properties of Matter

Quantitative Chemistry

Chemical Changes

Energy Changes

Physics:

Energy

Electricity

Particle Model of Matter

Atomic Structure

Mathematics

The Mathematics course is examined by selecting topics from across the course into any of the three papers. This means that any of the topics could be questions on any of the papers. There is also the chance that a topic may come up on two of the three papers as the exam board want to examine both calculator and non-calculator versions of the topic.

This means that over the two papers sat in this series there could be a question on any of the content. The first paper will be non-calculator and the second paper will be calculator. The best way to explore the maths topics is by using the independent learning section on Sparx and changing the curriculum to GCSE. This will have videos and questions on all topics to help you bring some of the topics you studied last year to the forefront of your memory.

Geography

Human Geography Paper

1. Urban Environments including Rio, Bristol and sustainable urban living
2. Changing Economic World including Development, Nigeria and UK
3. Resource Management including Water

History

There will be two topics that will be assessed in History The normal Conquest and the People's Health.

Religious Studies

Christian Beliefs- Nature of God; Life After Death; Life of Jesus.

Jewish Practices- Synagogue; Items of Clothing; Rites of Passage (Brit Milah and Bar Mitzvah)

Life and Death- Creation; Sanctity of Life; Euthanasia and Abortion.

Head of Department Contact information.

Subject	Name	Email
English	Mr Richards	simon.richards@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk
Maths	Mr Brown	Matt.brown@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk
Science	Mrs Hagan	Emma.hagan@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk
Geography and History	Mr Jones	Chris.jones@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk
Religious Studies	Mrs Gent	Clare.gent@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk
Spanish	Mrs Davenport	Naomi.davenport@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk
Art and Photography	Mrs Romanski	Maria.romansk@plymptonacademy.tsat.uk