

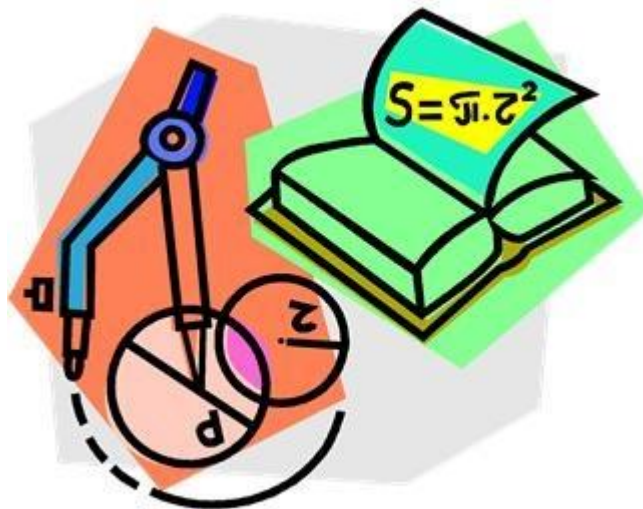
FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN



YEAR 12

**GCSE
ASSESSMENT**

2016 - 2017



YEAR 12 – GCSE ASSESSMENT

As you are aware pupils now entering Year 12 have taken Controlled Assessments and the first unit of their GCSE examinations in some subjects.

All pupils took Controlled Assessments in English and Modern Languages as well as in the following optional subjects: Geography, HE, ICT, and Technology. Additionally, all pupils took Public Examinations in the first unit of GCSE Religious Studies and pupils who are studying Further Mathematics sat the full GCSE Mathematics. The marks achieved in both Controlled Assessments and the public examination papers will contribute to the final grade pupils achieve in GCSE at the end of Year 12.

Year 12 will also involve **all** pupils in a significant number of **Controlled Assessments throughout the year**. While this will reduce the number of final examinations pupils take in June 2017 it does mean that pupils will be preparing for and taking Controlled Assessments from September through to May next year.

You can see on this table how each subject is assessed at GCSE.

100% External Exam	75% External Exam & 25% Controlled Assessment	40% External Exam & 60% Controlled Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics • Religious Studies • Mathematics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Studies • English Literature • Geography • History • Science : Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Double Award Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • English • Home Economics • ICT • Journalism • Languages • Moving Image Arts • Music 35%performance, 30% Controlled Assessment • Physical Education • Technology & Design

Pupils taking Additional GCSEs as part of the Lisburn Area Learning Community (LALC) Initiative have also taken some assessments in Engineering and Photography which will contribute to their final GCSE grades.

Controlled Assessments

- ✓ Controlled Assessment was previously referred to as Coursework. It is a form of internal, continuous assessment and is now completed largely in class time.

- ✓ It is essential for your son/daughter to understand the assessment requirements for each subject as the levels of control; input by the teacher and the ability to work at home on assessment tasks will differ from one subject to another.
- ✓ The teaching towards and most pupil preparation for Controlled Assessments will take place during class time and during this time pupils will be able to take work home to develop and research work done in class more fully.
- ✓ The final writing up of most Controlled Assessments will be done in **class time** under **formal supervision** over a length of time that will vary from one subject to another. For instance in Languages pupils will complete their writing assessments in a one hour slot; English over one and a half hours and Technology over five hours. Supervision during the final writing up time will be formal, **just as in an exam**, and pupils will not be able to consult with either the teacher or another pupil for advice.
- ✓ Marks awarded in Controlled Assessments will be a percentage of your son/daughter's final score in GCSE and will have a direct bearing on the overall grade attained.
- ✓ In most cases pupil work will be marked internally and moderated externally

GCSE Controlled Assessments in Year 12

All pupils taking the following subjects will take Controlled Assessments over Year 12

SUBJECT	% OF TOTAL GCSE SCORE
Art	60%
Business Studies	25%
English	15% + 20% Talking and Listening (Taken over Yr 11 & Yr 12)
English Literature	25%
Geography	25%
History	25%
Home Economics	40%
ICT	30%
Journalism	60%
Languages (French/German & Spanish)	45%
Moving Image Arts	40%
Music	35% Performance, 30% Controlled Assessment
Physical Education	60%
Science- Biology, Chemistry , Physics & Science Double Award	25%
Technology & Design	40%

Attendance

Full attendance at school is very important to ensure your son/daughter is in class when preparations for Controlled Assessments are taking place.

Full attendance is a **prerequisite**, however, when the preparation is deemed **FORMAL preparation** time, as for instance, in Geography, History and Journalism, where absence will make it difficult to verify that the work has been done by the pupil.

During the **formally supervised writing up or completion of assessment tasks, full attendance is essential as these are considered as formal GCSE examinations.**

Absence during these times will require a pupil:

- ✓ to attend a catch up session under formal supervision – permitted only if absence is deemed an exceptional circumstance

and supervision :

- ✓ is unlikely to be with the pupil's own subject teacher
- ✓ and will be arranged after school, at a time convenient to staff

It will be the responsibility of the pupil to catch up on all non-formal preparation missed through absence.

Resitting Controlled Assessment

Another important thing to bear in mind is that if a pupil feels he/she has not given of his /her best in a Controlled Assessment, he or she **cannot resubmit/retake** the same task at a later stage. Pupils are therefore advised to give their best effort in each task.

Results in Controlled Assessments

While teachers will mostly be able to give pupils feedback on their performance in Controlled Assessments, marks will be subject to moderation and therefore exact marks will not be known before completion of the full GCSE.

Managing Controlled Assessments

Pupils' ability to manage their work is central to their success in Controlled Assessments. They will need to be:

- ✓ well organised in the taking and storing of notes during teaching and preparation time
- ✓ ensure they catch up on all work that is missed through absence
- ✓ keep up to date with all home works and
- ✓ make effective use of the resources given by subject teachers to assist with preparation.

Resits of GCSE public exams

Pupils are advised that resits for all GCSE Units taken at the end of Year 11 will take place in May/ June 2017 and pupils wishing to **resit a Unit** should discuss this with their subject teacher and have their approval.

Parents will be asked to pay the cost the resit.

While teaching this year will essentially focus on preparation for final GCSE Units, pupils will be given assistance and will have the opportunity to take a Mock Examination in the paper they are resitting. Pupils will also need to have a personal revision plan to revisit work done last year and set targets for personal improvement.

Timing

The enclosed timeline of Controlled Assessments and formal examinations is to enable you to be aware as to when your son/daughter is preparing for and taking assessments. The timeline cannot always give exact dates but is a good general guide. Subject teachers will give more exact advance notification of final task dates as teaching progresses.

Issue of GCSE Results

GCSE Results will be issued on **Thursday 24 August 2017**. Results may be collected from School from 9.15 am onwards on that day. Results will not be given out over the telephone. Pupils who wish their results to be posted out to arrive on **Thursday 24 August** should leave a stamped, addressed A5 envelope with the Principal's Secretary in advance.