



**St Bede's**  
Roman Catholic High School

# **Examinations 2019**

## **Centre number 47119**

**Guidance for Pupils, Parents and  
Carers of Year 10 & 11 students**

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# Section 1

## Introduction

This booklet provides important exam related information. Please read it carefully and show it to your Parent/Carer so that they are also aware of the exam regulations and procedures.

The awarding bodies (the exam boards) set out strict criteria which must be followed for the conduct of exams. St Bede's is required to follow them precisely. You should therefore, pay particular attention to the 'Information for Candidates' in this booklet.

Some 'Frequently Asked Questions' you may have, are answered at the back of this booklet. If there is anything you do not understand or any questions that have not been addressed, please ask.

If you have any queries or need help or advice at any time before, during or after the exams, please contact:

**Mrs W Ashton (Assistant Headteacher)**

**Mrs A McGovern (Examinations Officer)**

The school telephone number is:

**01254 202519**

## Section 2

# How can I improve my grades?

1. Attend School. Performance of past year groups show us that pupils with good attendance perform better.
2. **REVISE!** If you revise, then there is a really good chance of achieving your target grades.
3. Have a good 'Attitude to Learning'. Pupils high up our Attitude to Learning League Table tend to do much better in exams.
4. Buy the revision guides recommended by your teacher.
5. Devise and keep to a revision timetable.
6. Check that your work is up to date and, act on the teachers' tips about how to improve it.

# Changes to GCSE Grading

Pupils will no longer be graded A\*-G but rather on a 1-9 numerical scale with 9 being the highest and 1 the lowest.

CIDA will be A\* to C

BTEC subjects continue to be awarded from Distinction\* to pass.

Department for Education

### GCSE Grading

| New Grading Structure | Old Grading Structure |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 9                     | A*                    |
| 8                     |                       |
| 7                     | A                     |
| 6                     |                       |
| 5                     | B                     |
| 4                     | C                     |
| 3                     | D                     |
| 2                     | E                     |
| 1                     | F                     |
|                       | G                     |
| U                     | U                     |

Standard Pass →

# **Section 3**

## **Revision Advice for the Easter Holidays**

### **Planning for effective revision**

It is important that you are properly prepared if your revision is going to be effective. If you do not plan to make your revision effective you will end up wasting time and having to spend more time revising. Having a plan will not only help to keep your revision manageable and ensure you cover all the topics but will stop you from focusing on the areas you find the easiest or most interesting. The key steps to planning your revision are:

- find out which subjects you have exams in and when
- speak to your teachers and find out which topics you need to revise for each subject.
- make a list of the topics to revise.
- identify which topics you will need to spend the most time on (either because these topics are ones you are least comfortable with or contain the most content).
- make a realistic revision timetable to show which topics you will revise on each day up until the exams.
- plan for time to review your revision; you should make time to test your revision on each topic
- plan to revise in short bursts: sessions of 15 -20 mins are most effective.

- make sure you plan for some time off. You and your brain need time to relax if you are to be effective.
- as you go through your revision, tick off the topics you have covered from your list so that you can see your progress.
- plan to start your revision as early as possible. The sooner you start, the less you will have to do each day and the less stressed and more successful you will be.

## Designing a revision timetable

To make a revision timetable. First of all talk to your teachers and make a list of all the topics you need to revise for each exam. Find out when subject specific revision sessions are scheduled for and attend. You may decide to split your revision time evenly between each topic or, you might prefer to concentrate more on the subjects you know you have more trouble with or that have a higher amount of content. Ask your subject teachers for advice.

On each of the days between when you are starting revision and the exam write down two topics that you are going to revise on each day. Make sure that by the time you have reached the exams you have covered all of the topics you need to!

Be realistic when planning your timetable, schedule some days off. If you have a day when you know you won't be able to revise then do not plan to revise on that day.

If your timetable is not realistic you will not be able to stick to it.

For some of your revision sessions don't plan to tackle a new topic but to review the information you have already revised.

Remember: Spread your topics out. Don't study one topic completely before starting on the next; it's best to have some variety. Give more time to difficult topics.

## What makes a good revision session?

Once you have planned your revision you finally need to get down to doing some revision. Revision simply means 'looking again' but some revision actually involves new learning.

Revision can include:

- ✓ Finding out what you know & understand (and what you don't)
- ✓ Building on what you know & understand
- ✓ Finding out what has slipped your memory
- ✓ Working on ways on retaining information
- ✓ Practising answers
- ✓ Preparing to show what you have learned

To get the maximum benefit out of each revision session follow the tips below:

- Aim to have something learnt each session. Make sure your aim is specific and measurable. This means that by the end of the session you will be able to demonstrate to someone else that you have met your aim. You could even get a friend or parent to ask you some questions to check you have met your aim.



- Find a suitable quiet place to revise, refuse to be interrupted or distracted. Turn your phone off and close all Social Media.
- Don't just read notes but do something active with them (see revision ideas). Use different techniques and try to identify the technique that works best for you. Think about the work you have done on your preferred learning style in school.
- Keep all the equipment you need handy (pens etc, calculator, paper, notebooks, postcards, post-its) – wasting 20 minutes looking for a pen is not good use of revision time!
- Take short breaks between revising different topics.
- Drink water, get fresh air and make sure your room is cool enough.
- STOP when you feel frustrated, angry, overwhelmed and take a break. Make a note of the problem and deal with it next session – move on to something else.
- Aim for natural light or a desk lamp in your working area
- Be honest about whether you have met the aim of each revision session. Don't delude yourself that three hours spent colour coding your files constitutes revision!

## What should I do when I am revising?

At the heart of good revision is looking at the work you have previously done. Use your exercise books, text books, revision guides or even the internet to review the content in each topic. Read back over teachers' comments to identify

which topics you did well in and which require more work. Look at the advice the teacher gave you. Just reading over your notes is not the best way to revise for most people. On average, we only remember:

- ✓ 20% of what we read
- ✓ 30% of what we hear
- ✓ 40% of what we see
- ✓ 50% of what we say
- ✓ 60% of what we do
- ✓ 90% of what we read, hear, see, say & do

This means that if you are going to remember the information you are revising you should do something active with it and transfer information from one form to another. Below is a list of some revision techniques. Try a few to find a couple that work for you and aim to vary the techniques you use to suit each topic.

1. Turn notes into bullet points. Highlight key words. Keep shortening them until you have one word which will trigger your memory for each point.
2. Make flash cards with the key ideas. (see [www.flashcardexchange.com](http://www.flashcardexchange.com) for ideas).
3. Practice past exam papers or questions from your text book.
4. Draw Mind Maps for topics to show how the main ideas link together

5. Write out key words and definitions on flash cards. Colour code them. Get someone to test you.
6. Turn your notes into pictures or diagrams such as flow charts
7. Use websites e.g. BBC bitesize to read through key information.
8. Learning posters – put key information on small posters. Use patterns, colour and drawings. Pin them up where you'll see them often (like in the toilet).
9. Use Mnemonics to remember key facts (Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain)
10. Make up questions and get somebody to test you verbally. Put aside the ones you don't know and keep working on them until you learn them all.
11. Record notes and put them on a device. Listen to them as often as possible.
12. Make a rhyme, rap or song out of your revision notes (yes it really works!)
13. Read your notes out loud to your cat or dog! Sounds stupid but it works!
14. Explain key ideas to a friend. Teaching other people helps you to learn yourself.
15. Practice past exam papers

16. Associate information with actions. Act out your notes as you read them.
17. Walk around the room whilst revising.
18. Write information on post-its and stick it around the room. Move round the room reading the notes.
19. Make up a play involving key ideas and act it out.
20. Role play key events or arguments from subjects with friends.
21. Instead of reading notes summarise them up using a computer.
22. Turn your notes into a PowerPoint and share it with friends.
23. Try recalling detailed diagrams/graphs/illustrations from memory and test yourself

## Using Your Friends

Form a study group. Choose people who are unlikely to chat. Plan which topics to revise individually and meet regularly to discuss problem areas from your revision. Devise quizzes and test each other. These strategies will illustrate how much you know and what further revision needs to be undertaken.

## **Section 4**

### **Official Exam Notices**

- 4.1 Warning to Candidates poster.
- 4.2 No Mobile Phones/I-watches poster.
- 4.3 Information for Candidates (For written exams).
- 4.4 Information for Candidates (For on-screen tests).
- 4.5 Information for Candidates (Non-examination assessments).

# Section 5

## St Bede's Exam Procedures

### 5.1 Before the Exams

#### Exam Timetables:

All candidates receive an individual timetable detailing all their exams that take place in May and June. Please check carefully that **all personal details** are accurate as these will appear on official exam certificates and it will be difficult to change them once they have been awarded.

Each pupil's timetable includes details of the each exam, subject, date, time, duration and element/component. If you notice any mistakes, please see Mrs McGovern in the main office who will deal with your query.

A few candidates occasionally have a clash where two subjects are timetabled at the same time. The school will make special timetable arrangements for these candidates. If you think there is a clash on your timetable that has not been resolved, please see Mrs McGovern.

#### Candidate Name:

Candidates are entered under the name format of First Name + one middle initial + (Legal) Surname, e.g. Adam J. Smith.

## **Candidate Number:**

Each candidate has a four-digit candidate number, shown at the top of exam timetables. This is the number you will enter on exam papers. It will appear next to your name on seating plans and exam registers. Please write your candidate number on the front of this booklet and learn it. You keep the same number for Years 10 and 11.

## **UCI:**

In addition to a candidate number, each candidate has a Unique Candidate Identifier which again, is shown at the top of exam timetables. This will usually begin with the St Bede's Centre Number (47119) unless you have transferred from another school that had already issued your UCI. Your UCI is used for administration purposes and it is not necessary for you to remember it.

## **Contact Numbers:**

Please check that school has at least one up-to-date contact for you.

## **Equipment:**

Make sure you have all the correct equipment before your exams. Check with your teachers what you are allowed to bring.

## 5.2 During the Exams

### Exam Regulations:

A copy of the 'Information for Candidate' notice which is issued jointly by all the Examining Boards is printed in this booklet. All candidates must read this notice carefully and note that to break any of the exam rules or regulations could lead to disqualification from all subjects. The school must report any breach of regulations to the Awarding Body.

### Attendance at Exams:

Candidates are responsible for checking their own timetable and arriving at school on time, properly dressed and equipped. Please check the seating plans in the dining area and wait quietly outside the exam room at least 15 minutes before the start of the exam, until you are invited to enter by a teacher or exam invigilator.

Full school uniform must be worn by all students attending school for exams. Pupils not in full school uniform will sit their exams separately from other pupils.

Only take into the exam room the pens, pencils, erasers and any other equipment which you need for the exam. All equipment must be visible to invigilators at all times.

Only write in BLACK INK. No pen erasers or correction pens are allowed.

Do not attempt to communicate with or distract other candidates.



For Mathematics and Science exams, make sure calculators conform to the exam regulations. If in doubt, check with the teacher. Remove any covers or instructions and make sure batteries are new.

**Mobile phones & smart watches MUST NOT BE IN YOUR POSSESSION IN THE EXAM ROOM. If a mobile phone (or any other type of electronic communication or storage device) is found in your possession during an exam (even if it is turned off) it will be taken from you and a report made to the appropriate exam board. No exceptions can be made.**

No food is allowed in the exam rooms. One small bottle of water *only* is allowed with a leak proof top in a clear bottle. No other drinks are allowed. (No labels on bottles)

Do not graffiti or write offensive comments on exam papers - if you do, the exam board may refuse to accept your paper.

Listen carefully to instructions and notices read out by the invigilators - there may be amendments to the exam paper that you need to know about.

Check you are given the correct question paper- check the subject, paper and tier of entry.

Read all instructions carefully and number your answers clearly.

Candidates must stay in the exam room for the duration of the exam. You will not be allowed to leave the room early. If you have finished the paper, use any time remaining to check over your answers and that you have completed your details correctly.

At the end of the exam, all work must be handed in - remember to cross out any rough work. If you have used more than one answer book or additional sheets of paper, ask for a tag to fasten them together in the correct order.

Invigilators will collect your exam papers from you before you leave the room. Please remain silent until you have left the exam room.

## Invigilators

The school employs external invigilators to conduct the exams. Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner towards all invigilators and follow their instructions at all times.

Subject specialist teachers will normally be present at the start of an exam.

Invigilators are in the exam rooms to supervise the conduct of the exam. They will distribute and collect the exam papers, tell candidates when to start and finish the exam, hand out extra writing paper if required and deal with any problems that occur, for example, if a candidate is feeling ill.

**Please note**, that neither invigilators nor teachers can discuss the exam paper with you or explain the questions.

Pupils who are disruptive or behave in an unacceptable manner will be removed from the exam room and a report will be sent to the exam board.

## Absence from Exams

If you experience difficulties during the exam period (e.g. illness, injury or personal problems) please inform school at the earliest possible point, so that we can help or advise you.

Only in 'exceptional circumstances' are candidates allowed special consideration for absence from any part of an exam. It is essential that medical or other appropriate evidence is obtained on the day by the candidate/parent and given to the Exam Officer without delay, in all cases, where an application is to be made for special consideration.

## Using social media examinations and assessments

- Exchanging, obtaining, receiving (even if not requested) or passing on assessment related information by any means of communication (even if just attempting to)
- Failing to report to your centre assessment related information being shared online
- Passing on rumours of exam content

ALL OF THESE EXAMPLES OF USING SOCIAL MEDIA CONSTITUTE MALPRACTICE

## 5.3 After the Exams

### Notifications of Results

Year 11 pupils will be able to collect their results from school in-between the hours of **10.00 - 1400 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019**. Students may also collect their results during term time 0800 – 1600 Monday – Thursday, 1530 on Friday.

If you are unable to collect your results on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August due to extenuating circumstances you can appoint someone to collect them on your behalf. They will need to provide the Exams Officer a signed letter from yourself giving permission to the person (named in the letter) to collect the results.

Students will be required to sign a consent form when collecting their results, this is a consent form for the school to submit an application for a clerical check/remark of your paper and have access to your scripts for future teaching purposes. Please see details regarding this process in section 7.

Year 10 results will be available in school, in September. We do not have the resources to provide a results service for Year 10 in the holidays. Year 11 pupils must take priority. Thank you for your understanding.

## **Section 6**

# **Post Results Services, Guidance for Pupils**

### **What to do if you are unhappy about any of your results**

If you are unhappy about any of your results, you should first consult the Head of Subject or your teacher to obtain their advice as to the advisability of requesting a re-mark. A re-mark should only be considered if your mark is close to the higher grade boundary.

The majority of grades do not change. It is not advisable to request a re-mark if you are close to the lower grade boundary as your grade could go down. If your mark/grade does go down, it is not possible to revert to the original mark.

Review of marking service 2 (see below) charged per unit.

Edexcel            Per unit £39.50

For example: Maths paper 3 units  $£39.50 \times 3 = 118.50$

AQA                Per unit £37.55

For example: Science paper 3 units  $£37.55 \times 3 = 112.65$

OCR                Per unit £48.50

After speaking with your teacher and/or parent and you still wish to proceed, please send a written request to Mrs McGovern in the main office at the start of the new school year as there is a deadline for enquiries about

results. **This date has not yet been confirmed for 2019 (usually mid-September)** however if you have any queries regarding this please contact Mrs McGovern. Requests must include details of which service you require, exam board, subject and paper details. **(Charges will apply for this service).**

**If the grade has gone up as the result of enquiry about results clerical check, the fee will be refunded.**

## Enquiries about Results (EARs)

### Service 1 (Clerical re-check)

This service does not re-mark a script but re-checks of all clerical procedures leading to the issue of a result. It checks:

- That all parts of the script have been marked.
- The totalling of marks and recording of marks.
- The application of any adjustments, grade thresholds and/or special consideration.
- If requested, a photocopy of the re-checked script(s) for those units/components included in the 'Access to Scripts' service.

The outcome of the re-check will be reported along with a statement of the total marks awarded for each unit, or component, included in the enquiry.

### Service 2 (Post results review of marking)

This is a post-results review of the original marking to ensure that the agreed mark scheme has been applied correctly. The service is available for externally assessed components of both a unitised and linear specification. This service will include:

- The clerical re-checks detailed in service 1.
- A review of marking as described above.
- If requested, a photocopy of the reviewed script(s) for those units/components included as part of the Access to Scripts service.

## Outcome of Enquiries

The outcome of each enquiry will be confirmed to the Exam Officer by the respective awarding body. Where a grade has been changed and a certificate has previously been issued, a replacement will be re-issued showing the revised grade.

**Where a grade has been downgraded as a result of a review of marking, the request will not be revoked and the original, higher grade will not be reinstated.**

## **Section 7**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why do I need to check the details on my Exam Timetable?**

The details on your exam timetable will be used when certificates are printed. If the name or date of birth on your certificates do not match your birth certificate, it could cause you problems if you are asked to show your certificates to a potential employer for college/university at some time in the future. You should also check that the subjects and tiers of entry you are entered for are correct and that no subjects are missing.

#### **What do I do if there's a clash on my timetable?**

The school will reschedule papers internally (on the same day) where there is a clash of subjects. Candidates will normally sit one paper then have a supervised break, during which they will not have any communication with other candidates. They will then sit the second subject paper. It may be necessary for you to bring a packed lunch if you have exams in the morning and afternoon as you will have to remain in isolation until both exams are completed.



## What do I do if I think I have the wrong paper?

Invigilators will ask you to check before the exam starts. If you think something is wrong put your hand up and tell the invigilator immediately.

## What do I do if I forget my Candidate Number?

Candidate numbers are printed on seating plans, which are displayed outside the exam rooms and on attendance registers. Invigilators will be able to help you find your number. Alternatively, you can check with the main office before going into the exam room.

## What do I do if I forget the school Centre Number?

The **Centre Number is 47119**. It will be clearly displayed in the exam rooms.

## What do I do if I have an accident or I am ill before the exam?

Inform school at the earliest possible point so that we can help or advise you. In case of an accident that means you are unable to write, it may be possible to provide you with a scribe to write your answers but we will need as much prior notice as possible.

You will need to obtain medical evidence if you wish the school to make an appeal for Special Consideration on your behalf.

## What is an Appeal for Special Consideration?

Special Consideration is an adjustment to the marks or grades of a candidate who is eligible for consideration.

The allowance for Special Consideration is from 0% (consideration given but addition of marks considered

Inappropriate) to 5% (reserved for exceptional cases). Parents should be aware that any adjustment is likely to be small and no feedback is ever provided. Candidates will only be eligible for Special Consideration if they have been fully prepared and covered the whole course but performance in the exam or in the production of coursework is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control. Examples may be illness, accident, injury, bereavement or domestic crisis. The Exam Officer must be informed immediately, so that the necessary paperwork can be completed (within 7 days of the last exam session for each subject) and the candidate will be required to provide evidence to support such an application.

## What do I do if I fall ill during the exam?

Put your hand up and an invigilator will assist you. You should inform an invigilator if you feel ill before or during an exam and you feel this may have affected your performance.

## If I'm late, can I sit the exam?

Provided you are not more than 1 hour late from the official start time (0900 for morning exams and 1330 for afternoon exams) it may still be possible for you to sit the exam. The school can change the start time of exams to

half an hour before or after the official start time. You should get to school as quickly as possible and report to Reception. A member of staff will escort you to the exam room. You must not enter an exam room without permission after the exam has begun. It may not be possible to allow you extra time if you start the exam late.

You should also be aware that if you start the exam more than 30 minutes after the published starting time, the school must inform the exam board and it is possible that the Board may decide not to accept your work. **Please ensure that you allow enough time to get to school** so that if you are delayed (e.g. through transport problems) so that you still arrive on time.

**If I miss the exam can I take it another day?**

**No.** Timetables are regulated by the exam boards and you must attend on the given date and time.

**What items are not allowed into the exam room?**

Only material that is listed on question papers (e.g. an anthology) is permitted in the exam room and students who are found to have any materials with them that is not allowed, will be reported to the appropriate exam boards. In such circumstances, a student would normally be disqualified from the paper or the subject concerned.

Bags and coats and any other items not permitted under exam regulations must be left in the care of the invigilators at the front/back of the room. Do not bring any valuables into school with you when you attend for an exam.

No food or drink is allowed in the exam room. (A small bottle of water **ONLY** is allowed if it has a spill-proof top).

Mobile phones **MUST** be handed to an invigilator or switched off in your bags along with your watch, before the exam begins. The school recommends that you do not bring your mobile into school during the exams.

## Why can't I bring my mobile phone/I-watch into an exam room?

Being in possession of a mobile phone/I-watch (or any other electronic communication device, e.g. iPod, headphones) is regarded as cheating and is subject to a severe penalty from the awarding bodies.

The minimum penalties are as follows:

- Device found on you and turned ON - disqualification for the entire subject award.
- Device found on you and turned OFF - disqualification from the specific paper you are sitting at the time.
- If your phone rings during the exam, wherever it is in the room, the exam board must be informed and
- you will be disqualified from all papers for the subject.

## How do I know how long the exam is?

The length of the exam is shown in minutes on your individual timetable under the heading 'duration'. Invigilators will tell you when to start and finish the exam. They will write the finish time of the exam on a flip chart or board at the front of the exam room. There will be a clock in all exam rooms.

## Can I leave the exam room early?

It is a requirement of the exam boards that you must stay in the exam room for at least one hour after the published start time of the exam (or for the duration of the exam, if it is less than one hour). It is not the school's policy to allow candidates to leave the exam room early as this is disruptive to other candidates.

## What do I do if the fire alarm goes off?

The exam invigilators will tell you what to do. If you have to evacuate the room, leave everything on your desk and leave the room in silence. You must not attempt to communicate with any other candidates during the evacuation.

## Can I go to the toilet during the exam?

Not unless it is absolutely necessary. You will be escorted by an invigilator and will not be allowed any extra time.

## If I have more than one exam on a day, can I get lunch at school?

Pupils who have exams in both morning and afternoon sessions may obtain lunch from the dining hall in the usual way or bring a packed lunch.

## I am entitled to extra time - how will this affect the way I take my exams?

Some students receive an allowance of up to 25% extra time. Where possible, such candidates will be seated together (often in a separate room) to minimise disturbance from other candidates who finish earlier. The

invigilators will include the additional time when they display the finishing time of your exam on the board.

## What do I do if I don't get the grades I need for college?

Teaching staff will be available to advise you on results day. If you feel strongly that it is necessary to make an enquiry about your result you should first consult the Head of Subject to obtain their advice as to requesting a re-mark.

Please read the Post Results Services – 'Guidance to Pupils' pages earlier on in this booklet.

Good Luck in your exams!