



ASTREA SIXTH FORM  
**ST NEOTS**  
Astrea Academy Trust  

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INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

# Year 12

## Exam Information

April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It is our pleasure to enclose information about the Year 12 Exam process, which is due to begin on Monday 7 June 2021.

This document contains information about:

- The revision process
- Key tips on how best to revise
- Information from each subject regarding the exams, the content of each paper and additional revision information relevant for that subject
- The exam timetable

We encourage all students to be using their time effectively over the next few weeks. With over five weeks still available for revision, there is a lot that can be achieved between now and the beginning of the exams on the 7 June. Most subjects have shared resources on Teams and Doodle, including past papers and checklists to aid revision.

The end of Year 12 exams are very important, as they form the basis of the UCAS predicted grades used for university applications during the autumn term of Year 13. They will also form the basis for predicted grades for apprenticeships and job applications. In addition to the predicted grades, the exams also help students, parents/carers and the Sixth Form team to make decisions about suitability for Year 13 courses. If a student struggles to pass their end of Year 12 exams we will arrange meetings to discuss whether they are ready for Year 13 study. The Year 13 material often builds on Year 12 knowledge and it is not advisable for a student to continue into Year 13, if they do not have a firm grasp of the easier material covered in Year 12.

For subject specific queries, please speak to the subject teachers during the Parent/Carer's consultation evening on the 13 May (details of the consultation evening will be shared soon). For general enquiries about the Sixth Form please contact the Head of Year, Dr Cullen ([douglas.cullen@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:douglas.cullen@astrea-longsands.org)).

During lessons and tutor time, students are increasingly turning their attention to revision techniques. A significant proportion of each lesson, as well as homework, is devoted to retrieval practice, reviewing previous learning and thinking about how to apply this knowledge in exam-style questions.

If you have any subject specific queries about these exams, please contact the relevant teacher or Head of Department via [enquiries@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:enquiries@astrea-longsands.org). If you have any general questions regarding the exam process, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Cullen [douglas.cullen@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:douglas.cullen@astrea-longsands.org)

Yours sincerely



Dr D Cullen  
Head of Year 12



Mr M Taylor  
Director of Sixth Form

## Year 12 End of Year Exams: Advice for Students and Parents/Carers

A-level and BTEC exam success is very much down to the amount of independent learning each student has undertaken. The Sixth Form teachers will be working very hard to ensure that every student is fully prepared for their final exams or coursework deadlines. However, research from across the world shows that the best results in the Sixth Form often come when school and parents/carers work together.

This information sheet has been put together using a wide range of research-based learning techniques and study habits.

### **Point 1: There is always *something* to do**

There is never a time when a Sixth Form student has *nothing* to do. The homework that is set is the minimum amount of work required. Students should be aiming to revise and learn previously taught material for at least four hours for each of their subjects every week. If your child says that they do not have any work to do, they might have finished their homework, but they almost definitely have not finished the revision they need to be completing for their exams.

### **Point 2: Active learning is better than passive learning**

Active learning requires a student to process the information in an *effortful* way. Any task which tests your child's knowledge will contribute to active learning. Just rereading notes, rereading textbooks or even rewriting notes are inefficient ways to learn material. A common problem is that passive learning is *easy* and it feels like you are doing something worthwhile.

### **Point 3: Part-time work**

Whilst having a part-time job is an important experience for teenagers it should not be allowed to have a negative impact on their studies. A-level grades will influence the rest of your life and dropping a grade because you have been doing too much paid-work could be very costly in the long term. Eight hours a week is unlikely to damage progress, while over 12 hours a week can significantly impact on grades. Many students now choose to reduce the number of hours they work, or stop paid work completely, in the run up to important exams.

### **Point 4: Find the past papers and mark schemes**

Understanding the exam is half the battle for success in the exams. The past papers and mark schemes offer an excellent way to learn about the exams and to practise past paper questions. All major exam boards allow access to these materials via their websites. Many subjects will have handed out or made electronic copies of the past papers available to students.

### **Point 5: Download a copy of the *revision techniques that work* booklet.**

Dr Cullen has written a *Revision Techniques that Work* booklet, which is available on the Sixth Form website [Revision-techniques-that-work-v8.pdf \(astreasixthformstneots.org\)](https://astreasixthformstneots.org/Revision-techniques-that-work-v8.pdf)

Copies can be requested via email from the Sixth Form [info@astreasixthformstneots.org](mailto:info@astreasixthformstneots.org)

### **Point 6: Know the exam dates**

The timetables for the exams are included with this information. Print it off and put a copy on your fridge or notice board. A small number of students accidentally miss an exam each year and this can negatively impact on their predicted grades.

## Point 7: Buy some revision materials

Index cards are a great revision tool – and they can be purchased from shops like WH Smiths and Tesco.

White boards are a great way to test what you know and to look for connections between different topics in a subject. An easy way to use them is the blank page method: give your son daughter a topic and ask them to write everything they know on the white board without using their notes/textbooks. Then check to see what they got right.

## How Do I Organise My Revision?

Create a timetable, as shown below, for organising your revision. In order for you to be successful, you need to ensure there are no distractions. Therefore, during your revision time put away your phone, switch off the TV and remove anything else that may compete for your attention.

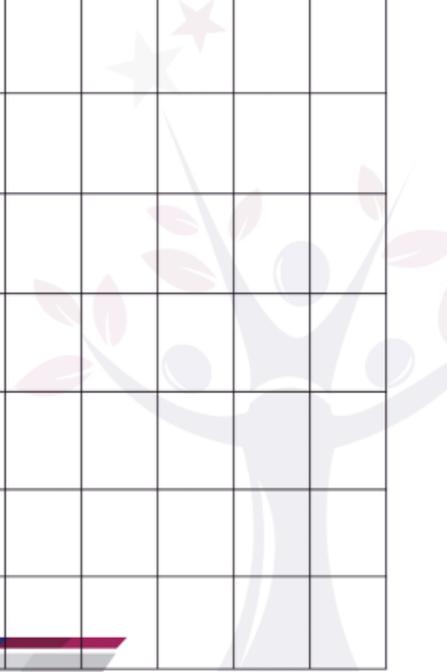
### You're going to need:

- A suitable place to complete revision
- To eat properly and stay healthy
- To have resources such as books, post-it notes, paper, highlighters, pens and flash cards
- Ensure you get enough sleep
- Have a suitable timetable planned which includes both breaks and working times.

Revising can sometimes be quite stressful, it is important that you give yourself some planned breaks where you can continue to do the activities you enjoy; socialising, being active and getting outside. It is very difficult to revise for many hours without a break so make sure that you schedule these into your plan to ensure the time you spend revising is productive and effective.

Weekly Revision Timetable – When at school

	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Monday	<b>The school day</b>												
Tuesday													
Wednesday													
Thursday													
Friday													
Saturday													
Sunday													



## I Get Stressed by Exams, What Can I Do?

Unfortunately, there is no magical solution to eradicate stress. A more helpful approach is for students to accept that exams are designed to be challenging and therefore feeling a degree of stress before any exam is perfectly normal. Some well-managed stress is actually a good thing; too much stress is clearly not so helpful. The important question is what strategies can be used to help students to remain focused and calm enough to access their hard work and revision in the exam hall?

### What you can do

- Sleep - it is very important to give your brain time to absorb the information you have learnt and therefore getting a good amount of sleep before exams is imperative for you to be able to function effectively
- Minimise electronic usage - the source of light from phones or a tablet can trick the body in thinking that it is awake, therefore making it more difficult to switch off
- Communication is key - you are not on your own, students every year struggle with exams. Please utilise the support in place and speak to us
- Utilise the online resources - Doodle, Kerboodle and Seneca are all examples of additional learning tools available to you

## How Do I Revise?

**Firstly, revision needs to be effective and repetitive.** Reading the revision guide will not mean that the information is remembered. Revision needs to be active, which involves thinking, completing useful revision activities and practising exam questions.

**This section includes some strategies that may be useful to try when revising. Above all:**

- Can you reduce the information down to half the size in note form? Can you reduce it further down to just keywords?
- Can you draw pictures to help you remember it?
- Can you summarise the information in 5 key points then put them in order of importance?
- Can you draw a **mind map** and link the information on a topic together?
- Can you make **flash cards** with keywords on one side and definitions on the other?

### Secondly, test yourself.

Once you feel that you have revised a topic, you need to **test yourself** and practise applying that knowledge. You can do this by answering questions in the revision guides, or by answering exam questions. You may also ask someone to test you on the knowledge you have just learnt.

Practise exam questions as this will help you apply your knowledge. It is extremely important that you mark the questions yourself – there is no point in doing questions if you do not know if your answers is correct or not.

More detailed advice about effective revision can be found at [Revision-techniques-that-work-v8.pdf \(astreasixthformstneots.org\)](https://www.astreasixthformstneots.org/Revision-techniques-that-work-v8.pdf)

## Subject Specific Revision Information

In this section, each subject has detailed content for each exam, and subject specific revision information.

### Art

Content Assessed: Personal Investigation: Artist Response (5 hours)

- Artist Response: Create a piece of work in response to your chosen artist.

Recommended Revision Materials:

- Department Project Checklist.

### Accounting

Content assessed: AS Accounting Paper 1 Financial and management accounting (3 hours)

- AS Accounting – Financial and management accounting.

Recommended Revision:

- Department issued revision material, past exam paper walking-talking mock practice, A level Accounting My Revision notes (revision guide).

### Business Studies

Content assessed: Paper 1, Paper 2 (both 1 hours)

- AS content, units 1 to 6.

Recommended Revision:

- Department issued revision study packs, past exam paper walking-talking mock practice, A level Business My Revision notes (revision guide).

### Economics

Content assessed: Paper 1 Markets and Market failure (2 hours)

- AS Micro-economics content (Units 1 to 5).

Recommended Revision:

- Department issued revision study packs, past exam paper walking-talking mock practice, A level Economics My Revision notes (revision guide).

## Biology

Content assessed: Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes), Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes)

- Units 1 Biological molecules
- Unit 2 Biological molecules
- Unit 3 Exchange and mass transport
- Unit 4 Variation and genes

Recommended Revision:

- Textbook, Kerboodle, Seneca, resources placed on Doodle, AQA website, Physics and Maths Tutor, Studywise.

## Chemistry

Content assessed: Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes), Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes).

- Module 2 Fundamentals in Chemistry
- Module 3 Periodic Table and Energy
- Module 4 Core Organic Chemistry Chapters 1-17

Recommended Revision:

- Textbooks, Kerboodle, Physics and Maths Tutor (website), Revision timetable, Resources placed on Doodle.

## Physics

Content assessed: 1 Breadth in Physics, 2 Depth in Physics

- Module 3 Forces and Motion
- Module 4 Electrons, Waves and Photons (up to and including Chapters 13 in the textbook)

Recommended Revision:

- Textbooks, OCR website for practice papers including Mechanics and Electrons, Waves and Photons from the old spec, revision guides, exam practice workbooks, physicsandmaths tutor.com, Kerboodle, Physics and Maths Tutor (website), Revision timetable, Resources placed on Doodle.

## Computing BTEC

Content assessed: N/A

Recommended Revision:

- No summer mock – continuous assessment coursework for this period.

## English Language/Literature

Content assessed: Paper 1 Telling Stories (3 hours)

- Paris Anthology
- Frankenstein
- Heaney Poetry (only those poems studied in class)

Recommended Revision:

- Revision Checklist (for each text)
- Comparison of two texts
- Key moments/quotations
- Applying Concepts from Linguistic and Literary Study
- Analysis of Key Methods used by the writer
- Considering Relevant Contextual Information

## English Literature

Content assessed: Tragedy Paper (2 hours 30 minutes)

- Death of a Salesman
- King Lear

Recommended Revision:

- Revision Checklist (for each text)
- Quotations
- Plot and significant moments
- Themes and key concepts
- Characterisation
- Writers craft and techniques
- Context
- Genre conventions of Tragedy

## Film Studies

Content assessed: Paper 1 Varieties of film and filmmaking (2hours 30 mins), Paper 2 Global filmmaking perspectives (1 hour)

- Paper 1 – 3 x 45 minute essays This is England, Trainspotting, Captain Fantastic, Inception, Vertigo, One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest
- Paper 2 – City of God, Pans Labyrinth

Recommended Revision:

- Revision Checklist and class materials.
- Text book and previous essays

## French

Content assessed: Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Writing (1 hour 45 mins), Paper 2 La Haine essay (1 hour)

- Aspects of French society
- Artistic culture and study of a film

Recommended Revision:

- Revision workbook 1 for exam questions.
- Textbook, class notes and end of module questions and answers

## German

Content assessed: Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Writing (1 hour 45 mins), Paper 2 Das Leben der Anderen essay (1 hour)

- Aspects of German speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German speaking world and study of a film

Recommended Revision:

- Revision workbook 1 for exam questions.
- Textbook, class notes and end of module questions and answers

## Geography

Content assessed: Paper 1 Physical systems (1hour 30 minutes), Paper 2 Human Interactions (1 hour 30 minutes)

- Carbon and water cycles
- Coastal landscapes

Recommended Revision:

- Revision checklist
- Class notes
- Revision folder on SharePoint

## Geology

Content assessed: Paper 1 (1hour 30 minutes), Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes)

- Both papers are synoptic in nature and will cover knowledge taught across Y12

Recommended Revision:

- Revision checklist
- Class notes

## English History

Content assessed: Paper 2 (2 hours 30 minutes)

- 1625 - 1642

Recommended Revision:

- Knowledge Organisers, Massolit Videos, Textbook and class notes

## Russian History

Content assessed: Paper 1 (2 hours 30 minutes)

- Alexander II
- Alexander III
- Nicholas II
- February Revolution and October Revolution

Recommended Revision:

- Booklets, Massolit Videos, Textbook, Orlando Figes Book and class notes

## Politics

Content assessed: Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes)

- Democracy and Participation
- Electoral systems
- Political parties
- Voting behaviours

Recommended Revision:

- Pre-chewed Politics, Economist and Politics Review articles, Knowledge Organisers, Textbook and class notes

## Politics

Content assessed: Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes)

- Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Executive
- Relations between the Branches

Recommended Revision:

- Pre-chewed Politics, Economist and Politics Review articles, Knowledge Organisers, Textbook and class notes

## Maths

Content assessed: Papers 1 Pure and Statistics (1 hour 30 minutes), Paper 2 Pure and Mechanics (1 hour 30 minutes)

- All topics from Year 12
- Stats/Mechanics topics just in respective papers
- Pure content across both

Recommended Revision:

- Textbooks, Integral Maths resources, particularly the section tests.

## Maths (Further)

Content assessed: Papers 1 Pure (1 hour 15 minutes), Paper 2 Stats (1 hour 15 minutes), Paper 3 Discrete (1 hour 15 minutes)

- All topics from Year 12
- Pure, Stats and Discrete content only covered in respective papers
- Pure content across both

Recommended Revision:

- Textbooks, Integral Maths resources, particularly the section tests

## Media Studies

Content assessed: Media (2 hours 15 minutes)

- Component 1 Section A; ML & Representation, Beyonce Formation & unseen extract comparison and unseen film poster analysis
- Section B; Industry & Audience, Marketing and Contexts, Black Panther & Tide Advert

Recommended Revision:

- Revision material for all is their notes on the set products studied in the relevant unit booklets

## Music Technology

Content assessed: Listening and Analysing (1 hour 30 minutes), Analysing and Producing (2 hour 15 minutes + 10 minutes set up time)

- Era's of recording technology, effects, sampling and synthesis

Recommended Revision:

- Rhinegold Revision Guide

## Psychology

Content assessed: Paper 1 Research Methods, Biopsychology and Psychopathy (1 hour 30 minutes), Paper 2 Social, Memory and Attachment (1 hour 30 minutes)

- Research methods, biopsychology, psychopathy, social, memory and attachment

Recommended Revision:

- Past papers and mark schemes in the Teams resources folder, subject issued study guides and workbooks and the Psychboost videos

## Criminology

Content assessed: Unit 1 Changing Awareness of Crime (controlled assessment 8 hours), Unit 2 Criminology Theories (1 hour 30 minutes)

- Students are given check lists

Recommended Revision:

- School issued work books, Knowledge Organisers, PowerPoints in Team files.
- Text books; Criminology Book 1 (Napier Press), Criminology (Illuminate Publishing)

## Health & Social Care

Content assessed: Unit 4 Anatomy and Physiology (2 hours)

- The structure, function and malfunctions of the cardiovascular system, respiratory system, digestive system, musculoskeletal system, control and regulatory systems and sensory systems

Recommended Revision:

- OCR revision guide for Health and Social Care (Students to purchase)
- Subject issued Revision booklets on doddle/Teams

## Sociology

Content assessed: (7192/1) Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods (reduced paper 1 hour 30 minutes), (7192/2) Paper 2 Topics in Sociology (reduced paper to include Families and Households questions only 1 hour)

- Checklist given to students

Recommended Revision:

- PowerPoints are on the files section of teams
- Napier Press Sociology (Napier Press Publications)
- ReviseSociology – A Level Sociology Revision – education, families, research methods, crime and deviance and more!

## Religious Education

Content assessed: Philosophy (1 hour), Ethics (1 Hour), Christian Thought (1 hour)

- Philosophy: Ancient philosophical influences; Plato and Aristotle, Soul Mind and Body, The problem of Evil, Arguments for God based on reason.
- Ethics; Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Kant, Natural Law
- Christian thought; Christian Moral Principals, Augustine's teaching on human nature, Knowledge of God's existence

Recommended Revision:

- Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR revision guide

## Sport BTEC (Single)

Content assessed: Unit 1 Anatomy and Physiology (1 hour 30 minutes)

Recommended Revision:

- GCSE Simplified BTEC Sport Level 3 Anatomy and Physiology Revision Guide
- BTEC Sport Knowledge Organisers

## Sport BTEC (Double)

Content assessed: Unit 22 Investigating Business in the Sports and Active Leisure Industry (3 hours + 6 hours preparation time within lesson)

Recommended Revision:

- BTEC Sport Knowledge Organisers

## Exams Procedures

We realise it has been a long time since you have taken exams in the Sports Hall, so here are a few things to be aware of:

- If you have access arrangements agreed, you will either be in the seating area behind the screens at the back of the hall or seated in the row along the wall (N Row) if you are using a laptop. If you have a scribe or 1:1 Reader you will be roomed separately.
- All of you will receive a personal timetable which shows you which room, row and seat number you are in. Bring this with you to every exam so you can go straight in and find your seat.
- If you do not have an exam, you will go to normal lessons at that time.
- Bags and coats will be put at the front of the room. Make sure phones are turned OFF, especially the alarms.

### You MUST:

- be silent from the moment you enter the Sports Hall until after the exam when you have left the Sports Hall. Sometimes there will be other exams which have not finished so you will need to be considerate of those other students and make as little noise as possible near the Sports Hall.
- make sure you have everything you will need for the exam – calculator, at least 2 black pens, pencils and maths equipment for maths and Science. We will not be issuing any equipment in the room.
- take the label off your water bottle if you bring one in
- tell an invigilator if you need assistance of any kind – they are there to help.

### You MUST NOT:

- bring in any additional items not needed for the exam – books, paper, etc. – Leave everything in your bag.
- have any form of electronic device, such as smart watch, MP4 player, mobile phone. If you are found with these on your possession they will be removed until the end of the exams period – in the actual A-Level exams you would be disqualified from the paper, so it is a good idea to get into practice now!
- wear or bring a watch of any description. There will be large clocks at the front and sides of the Sports Hall. If you have problems seeing the time, please tell us and we will move you nearer to one of the clocks.

## Mock Timetable

Summer Exams 2021	<b>Year 12 Summer Exams</b>	
The majority of the exams will be in the Sports Hall, including access arrangements		
	Periods 1 and 2	Periods 3 and 4
Mon 7 June	Psychology - Paper 1 Research Methods, Biopsychology and Psychopathy 8.45 - 10.15 French P1 Listening, reading and Writing 8.45 - 10.30 German P1 Listening, reading and Writing 8.45 - 10.30 Further Maths - Pure Core 8.45 - 10.00	Maths - Pure and Statistics 11.30 -1.00 Criminology Unit 2 Theories 11.30 -1.00
Tues 8 June	History - Russia 8.45 - 11.15 HSC Unit 4 Anatomy & Physiology 8.45 - 10.45 Physics - Breadth in Physics 8.45 - 10.15	Business Studies 1 11.30 -1.30 Geology 1 11.30 -1.00 11.30 -1.00
Wed 9 June	English Literature - Aspects of Tragedy 8.45 - 11.15 English Lang & Literature - Telling Stories 8.45 - 11.45 Business Studies 2 8.45 - 10.45 Geology 2 8.45 - 10.15 Film P1 Varieties of Film & Film making 8.45 - 11.00	
Thu 10 June	Chemistry Paper 1 8.45 - 10.15 Music Tec - Producing and Analysing 8.45 - 11.10 Geography - Physical Systems 8.45 - 10.15	Biology - Paper 1 11.30 -1.00 Politics Paper 1 11.30 -1.00 Sociology - P1 Education with Theory and Methods 11.30 - 1.00 1 student has Music and Sociology - can start later
Fri 11 June	Psychology - P2 Social Memory and Attachment 8.45 - 10.15 Film P2 Global Film Making Perspectives 8.45 - 9.45 French P2 La Haine essay 8.45 - 9.45 German P2 Das Leben Der Anderen essay 8.45 - 9.45 Further Maths - Discrete maths 8.45 - 10.00	Chemistry Paper 2 11.30 -1.00 Btec Sport Unit 1 Anatomy & Physiology 11.30 -1.00
Mon 14 June	History - English Civil War 8.45 - 11.15 Physics - Depth in Physics 8.45 - 10.15 Media Studies 8.45 - 11.00	Geography - Human Interactions 11.30 -1.00 Music Tec - Listening and Analysing 11.30 -1.00 1 student has History and Geography - can start later
Tues 15 June	Biology - Paper 2 8.45 - 10.15 Politics - Paper 2 8.45 - 10.15 Sociology - P2 Topics including Family and households 8.45 - 10.15	Maths Pure and Mechanics 11.30 - 1.00
Wed 16 June	Btec Sport Unit 22 Investigating Buiness 9.00 - 12.00 Economics P1 Markets & Market Failures 9.00 - 11.00	Further Maths - Statistics 11.30- 12.45 Business Studies 2 11.30 - 1.30 Geology 2 11.30 -1.00
Thurs 17 June	RE - Ethics, Philosophy, Christian Thought 8.45 - 11.20 Accounting P1 Financial & Management Accounting 8.45 - 11.45	Catch up exams
Fri 18 June	Catch ups	Art all day Catch ups