

St. Brigid's School

**To Inspire and be Inspired
Through: Respect, Love, Faith,
Truth and Excellence**



EXAMINATIONS PREPARATION GUIDE 2023

The following guide has been prepared specifically for you to help you through the next couple of months and aims to answer any questions you may have regarding examinations. If once you have read through this guide you still have unanswered questions. **Please ask them.**

Useful people to talk to:

Form Tutor / Mentor
Subject Teacher
Senior Leadership Team

If none of the above can answer your question, then see the school Exams Officer - Mrs Wilkinson.

Because these exams will affect decisions you make about the rest of your life, they need to be treated very seriously and therefore it is important that you give yourself sufficient time to prepare for them.

So:

- Know when **your** particular examinations are taking place.
- Know what you need to cover for each paper.
- Know the format of each of your examination papers – including how long you should spend on each question.

<p>Remember there are never any surprises. Those who achieve their potential do so because they have put in the time and effort.</p>

Your teachers will give you as much help as they can, **but you must do your share of the work if you are to be successful.**

You have now been given a personal timetable of your summer exams. It is your responsibility to make sure you know when each exam is. Changes from the exam board can occur from time to time. If this does happen you will be notified by the school.

Some candidates will have clashes on certain days, these will all be rectified, but this could mean you could sit three exams in one day. Please be aware of this and prepare in plenty of time.

**Please keep this guide safe as it may help you when
or if a problem arises**

Mrs Wilkinson
Examinations Officer

The full examination timetable will be published on the examination notice board with the length of each exam, and the start and finish times.

Instructions will vary according to the particular exam and so will the running time. You will need to know the procedures for your subjects. Check with your teachers if you are unsure.

Do not Rely on Hearsay for Information

Please check the Examination Board each time you are in school as this is where you will find any notices.

Rules in the Examination Hall

- Before going into the exam room you must check the seating plan which is published on a board outside each exam room. It will tell you the location of your seat for that particular exam. (NOTE: You will be sat in different seats for each exam).
- Once you walk into the exam room, examination conditions apply. **You must enter in complete silence leaving bags and coats outside.** It is vital that you have clear knowledge of the particular subjects and specific tiers for which you have been entered – prior to walking into the exam hall.
- If your exam finishes **after 3.30 p.m.**, it is up to **you** to make arrangements to get home safely. Every effort is made to time exams to finish for the school buses.
- **Full school uniform must be worn.** You are a pupil of the school until the end of the examination period and as such all School Rules still apply.

Your School Centre Number is **68115** and your Candidate Number (which will be written under your name on the exam desk) must be written on the front cover of each of your examination papers.

<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT CHANGE PLACES FOR ANY REASON WITHOUT THE INVIGILATOR'S PERMISSION</p>
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- **Mobile phones, smart watches or any other electronic device must not be brought into the exam room.** They should be switched off and in your bag or handed in to the office and **not on your person.** No other electronic equipment is allowed in the exam hall. If you are found with any of these your name will be forwarded on to the exam board and you could have all your exams cancelled.
- Any inquiry you have, once inside the exam hall must be made through an invigilator, whose attention should be drawn by raising your hand.
- Do not, under any circumstances attempt to communicate with anyone else in the examination hall. It will result in your name being forwarded to the exam board and could result in **all** your exams being cancelled.
- Make sure you have all the correct writing with you, including black pen, pencil, **calculator,** anthologies for English, etc. **Pencil cases must be transparent or a clear plastic bag will suffice.** Only the materials you need for that exam should be on your desk.
- From time to time clashes can occur on your examination timetable. If this happens to you, it is very important to inform Mrs. Wilkinson at once so that she can contact the examination board and make alternative arrangements for you.
- Drinks of water will be allowed in clear water bottles. These must be taken away at the end of each exam along with any other litter.

Time and Place

The examinations will start at the following times:

Morning – 9.15am

Afternoon – 1.15pm

(unless otherwise stated – check the examination notice board daily)

The main examination venue will be the Hall. Some examinations will be held in other rooms when there are too many candidates or when there is a listening exam. Be sure to know exactly where your exam is by checking the board.

All candidates must be outside the exam room at least 10 minutes before the start of each examination.

Special Arrangements

Those pupils who require special arrangements will be issued with a coloured card, which will be placed on their desk at the start of each exam.

Circumstances affecting Performance in Examinations

- If you fail to turn up for an exam, school will phone home. Exam boards will allow only **one hour** after the start time for you to arrive, even then a report is sent to the board and they may not allow the paper to be marked. If you fail to turn up for an exam, school will expect to be reimbursed for the cost of the exam entry.
- If there are any circumstances which may impair your performance on the day e.g. illness, bereavement or accident, please inform Mrs. Wilkinson immediately. In cases of illness it is imperative to have a letter or certificate from the doctor describing the problem. We can then present a case to the examination board to give you special consideration enabling the exam board to forecast a mark if sufficient work has been completed on that course.

Minimum Requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence

GCE 50% of the total assessment must be completed.

GCSE 50% of the total assessment must be completed.

For this reason, do not throw away any past mock or papers sat under exam conditions.

REMINDER - Exam Day rules

- Be on time for all your exams. If late, your work might not be accepted.
- If you do arrive late for an exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.
- If you arrive to your exam more than one hour after the published starting time for the exam; you may not be allowed to take it.
- Do not become involved in any dishonest practice during the exam.
- If you try to cheat or break the rules, you may be disqualified from **all** of your subjects.
- You can't take notes or any technological sources of information into the exam room.
- Any pencil cases taken into the exam room must be see-through.
- If you wear a wrist watch, the invigilator will ask you to remove it and place it on your desk.
- You must write clearly and in **black ink only**. Coloured pencils or inks may only be used for diagrams, maps, charts etc. unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.
- Do not use correction pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers.
- Do not talk or attempt to try to communicate with, or disturb other candidates once the exam starts.
- You must not write inappropriate, obscene or offensive material.
- If you leave the exam room, without being accompanied by an invigilator, before the exam as finished, you will not be allowed to return.
- Do not borrow anything from another candidate during the exam.
- You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.
- If you do use a calculator:
 - Make sure it works properly; check that batteries before the exam;
 - Clear anything that has been stored in it;
 - Remove any cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;
 - Don't bring into the exam room any operating instructions or prepared programs.
- Do not use a dictionary or computer spell checker unless you are told otherwise.

During the exam

- ALWAYS listen to the invigilator and follow their instructions.
- Tell the invigilator immediately if:
 - you think you have the incorrect question paper;
 - the question paper is incomplete or badly printed.
- Remember to read carefully and follow the instructions that are printed on the question paper and/or on the answer booklet.
- You will be instructed to fill in all the details required on the front or the question paper and/or answer booklet. Ensure you fill these details in on any additional answer sheets.
- Write your answers within the designated sections of the answer booklet.
- Do any rough work on the correct exam stationery. Cross it through it and hand it in with your answers – making sure you add your candidate details to any additional sheets.

Examination Results

A Level / AS Level - Thursday 17th August
GCSE - Thursday 14th August.

Results will be available to collect from **9am – 12pm**.

Any pupil not able to collect his or her exam results may either have them emailed, picked up by an authorised person or sent directly to their home address. **A stamped addressed envelope must be handed to Mrs Wilkinson, before their last exam.**

N.B. School will only be open on Results Days

Enquiries about Results

GCE ONLY

Priority Photocopies

Candidates are entitled access to their marked scripts following the examination results. If you wish to see a script to decide whether to have its marking reviewed, then you may ask for a **priority photocopy** of the script.

Requests must be submitted by **August 25th** at the latest – please ask Mrs Wilkinson for a request form.

Access to Scripts

GCE & GCSE

Request for photocopies of scripts – cost approx. **£15**

N.B. School will only be open on Results Days.

The photocopies will be sent to the centre no later than **September 7th** so that you can decide whether to lodge an enquiry or not.

The latest date to lodge an enquiry is **September 22nd**.

Original Scripts

Candidates are entitled access to their marked scripts following the examination results.

This is available for **GCSE** and **GCE**

Requests for original scripts – cost approx. **£12**

Requests must be submitted by **October 4th** – please see Mrs Wilkinson for request forms.

Scripts should arrive in school between **September 21st and November 22nd**. These scripts will **not** be eligible for enquiries about results but are for general interest or to inform future learning.

**All payments should be made on line via Parent Pay www.parentpay.com
or at a Pay Point retailer**

Certificates

Certificates arrive in school in the autumn term and can be collected from Mrs Wilkinson. For those students who have already left school, please phone and arrange a time to pick up and sign for your certificate.

These are the only real evidence of an examination result and once received should be kept safely.

Good Luck to You All

Make the most of your opportunities this year. Always aim for the highest possible standard in everything you do. However, remember that failing an exam is not the end of the world. Don't work yourself into a state. If you find that things are getting too much try not to panic or get upset. We are here to help and all want you to achieve your potential



Record It

Record yourself on your phone or tablet reading out the information. These can be listened to as many times as you want!



Revision Tips and Tricks!

Teach it!

Teach someone your key facts and the get them to test you, or even test them!



Flash Cards

Write the key word or date on one side and the explanation on the other. Test your memory by asking someone to quiz you on either side.

Hide and Seek

Read through your knowledge organiser, put it down and try and write out as much as you can remember. Then keep adding to it until its full!



Back to front

Write down the answers and then write out what the questions the teacher may ask to get those answers.



Sketch it

Draw pictures to represent each of the facts or dates. It could be a simple drawing or something that reminds you of the answer.



Post its

Using a pack of post-it notes, write out as many of the keywords or dates as you can remember in only 1 minute!



Practice!

Some find they remember by simply writing the facts over and over again.

Read Aloud

Simply speak the facts and dates out loud as you're reading the Knowledge Organiser. Even try to act out some of the facts – it really helps you remember!



Exercise has been proven to lower stress levels and will leave you more relaxed and more able to focus. However a three hour hike is a bit excessive!!!! Pick something easy like a brisk walk, a short run, or whatever else you do to exercise.

Get up and go for a break around every 60 minutes or so. Get some fresh air or watch a bit of T.V. Look at this as a reward for all the hard work you are doing. Don't study all day long. If you have been at it all day then STOP.

Always try and get about 8 hours sleep when revising because you'll be glad of it if you find yourself cramming in the last couple of nights before the exam. If you are tired, you will not think clearly in the exam.

Don't over do it on caffeine. Too much chocolate, coffee, energy drinks and coke will make you more stressed and probably have you walking the walls. The short boost that it gives you won't last too long and will end up leaving you tired and drained. Have water instead.



Loving God be with me now, as I prepare for my exams.
Thank you for the many talents and gifts you have given me and for the opportunity of education.

Calm my nerves and anxiety, help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to answer the questions the very best that I can.

At this difficult time, give me the gift of self-confidence and an assurance that you will hear my prayer and answer my need.
I ask this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen

