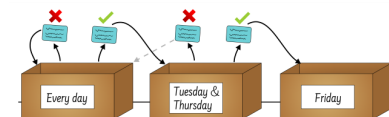


Important Notes



Inspiring our community to thrive

Year 11 Revision-Fest 2026



Welcome and What to Expect...

Thank you for joining us at Ibstock School Revision Festival. The event aims to provide key information about the year ahead; the upcoming Pre-Public Exams; how we will support students in school and how you can support your child at home.

After the initial talk, students and families are invited to visit our **revision stalls**, collecting Top Revision Technique cards for each subject. The cards will provide handy hints on what and how to revise for each subject.

Key Contacts for Year 11

- Subject teachers regarding revision resources and techniques
- Ms Bennett Pastoral Manager: r.bennett@ibstockschool.co.uk
- Mrs Roe, our SENDCO: c.roe@ibstockschool.co.uk
- Miss Nelson, Student Progress: s.nelson@ibstockschool.co.uk
- Miss Jones, Exams Manager: r.jones@ibstockschool.co.uk
- Mr Modi, Pupil Premium: a.modi@ibstockschool.co.uk
- Mrs L Buckley, Attendance: l.buckley@ibstockschool.co.uk
- Mr Foulsham, Careers Leader: b.foulsham@ibstockschool.co.uk
- Miss Clements, Wellbeing: m.clements@ibstockschool.co.uk

Dates for your Calendar

Please note that selected key dates are provided below, but Non-Examination Assessment deadlines, practical examinations/assessments run throughout the year at different times in different subjects. For this reason, please do not take your child out of school during term time, as they may miss a valuable component of their final GCSE qualification.

Ibstock School Dates	
26th Oct –11th November 2026	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (session 1)
Late November	Year 11 Reports 1
3rd December	Year 11 Progress Evening— appointments with subject teachers
January 2027	Mid Jan Sixth Form Deadline End of Jan PS16 Deadline
1st February – 12th February 2027	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (session 2)
March 2027	Year 11 Reports 2

Important Notes

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Attendance is EVERYTHING

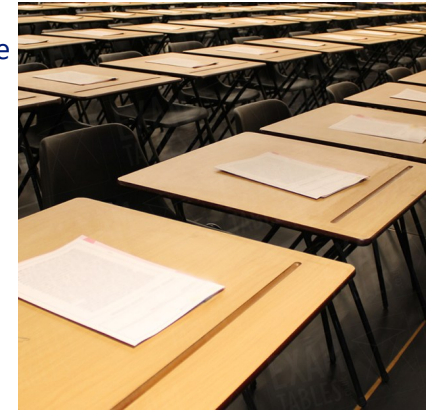
- ⇒ 190 school days in a year, less for Y11
- ⇒ 95% attendance = 9 days (45 hours of lost learning)
- ⇒ 90% attendance = 19 days (95 hours of lost learning)
- ⇒ Students with 90%+ attendance achieved an average grade of 4.5 (a solid standard pass)
- ⇒ Students with attendance of 80% or below achieved an average grade of 1.9 (not quite grade 2)



Pre-Public Exams - PPEs (aka Mock Exams)

Our first set of Year 11 Pre-Public Exams run from the 26th October — 11th November. These internal exams are an important opportunity for students to:

- Practise revision
- Practise time-management and resilience
- Develop exam hall skills so they know what works for them
- Identify the subjects, topics and skills they are confident in
- Discover the areas for development that they can work on before the final examinations



There will be a further set of Pre-Public exams in February, focused mainly on the core subjects. Details of how to start revising and the topic of each PPE can be found in the following pages.

How can you Support Pre-Public Exams?

WEEKLY REVISION PLANNER									
TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TIME	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
8:30 AM - 9 PM	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	9 AM - 10 AM	BREAKFAST / SHOWER	BREAKFAST / SHOWER	
4 PM - 5 PM	HOMEWORK	TV / GAMING / SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	TV / GAMING / SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	10 AM - 11 AM	REVISION - ENGLISH	REVISION - SCIENCE	
5 PM - 6 PM	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	11 AM - 1 PM	SEEKING PLEASURES / LUNCH	SPORT / LUNCH	
6 PM - 7 PM	REVISION - RECAP	HOMEWORK	REVISION - HISTORY	REVISION - PHYSICS	REVISION - SCIENCE	1 PM - 3 PM	REVISION - MATHS	REVISION - PLAN GATES	
7 PM - 8 PM	REVISION - PATHS	REVISION - ENGLISH	FREE TIME	HOMEWORK	FREE TIME	3 PM - 5 PM	OUT WITH FAMILY	SPORT / TV / GAMING	
8 PM - 9 PM	FREE TIME / SHOWER	FREE TIME / SHOWER	FREE TIME / SHOWER	FREE TIME / SHOWER	FREE TIME / SHOWER	6 PM - 8 PM	DINNER / FREE TIME	DINNER / FREE TIME	

- ⇒ Know the teachers — and what they're looking for.
- ⇒ Set up a revision-friendly area.
- ⇒ Schedule a regular study time; help your child to make a plan.
- ⇒ Keep distractions to a minimum.

- ⇒ Make sure your child does their own work (homework or revision).
- ⇒ Set a good example with habits, devices and sleep.
- ⇒ Be a motivator and monitor. Praise their work and efforts. Small rewards!
- ⇒ Communicate.

Resilience and Wellbeing Support...

In all schools, Year 11 is a time when the resilience of students is tested and most students feel pressure or have worries at some point. The important thing is to recognise when this is happening and for them to seek support if needed.

Who is available to support?

- Your child's CREW leader
- Subject teachers/members of staff that they trust
- Miss Bennett, pastoral manager
- Miss Nelson, AHT for Student Progress
- The Mental Health and Wellbeing Team, lead by Ms Clements

Managing Exams Stress—a note from Ms Clements

At Ibstock School, we recognise how important it is to look after ourselves mentally as well as physically. Exams can trigger anxiety in lots of students who might not have struggled with mental health issues previously. We have various sources of support; students' needs are discussed on an individual basis and the best support is put in place. This could be sessions with Ms Webster, our well-being mentor, or referrals to outside agencies who come into school to work with students either in small groups or 1-1.

We have assemblies taking place about dealing with exam stress through the NHS Mental Health Support Team, as well as more focused activities on preparing for exams and dealing with stress in late spring.

When the GCSE exams take place in May and June, there will be opportunities for students to join a smaller group for a coach and calm session before each exam starts; this will help to prepare them for the exam in a smaller group, and to go down to the exams' hall before the main cohort. This proved highly successful last year.



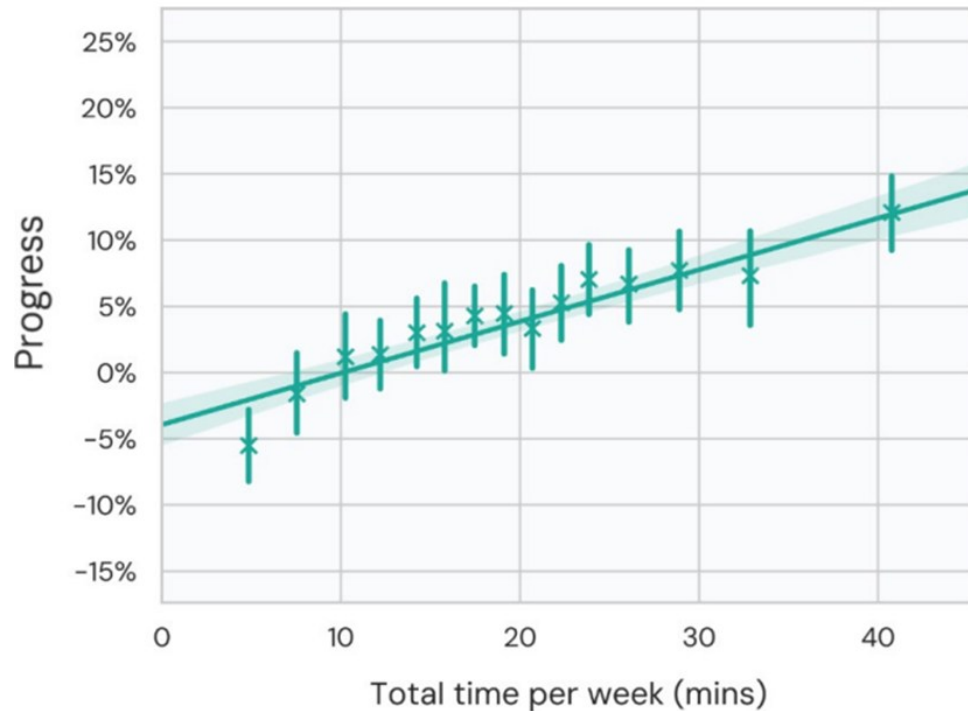
National Examination Dates

Subject	Exam Board	Exam Dates 2027
Business Studies	Edexcel	12th May PM, 21st May PM
Computer Science	OCR	10th May AM, 19th May PM
D&T—Graphics and Resistant Materials	AQA	15th June PM
English Language English Literature	Eduqas	24th May AM, 8th June AM 12th May AM, 19th May AM
Food & Nutrition	AQA	24th May PM
French	AQA	26th May AM (L & R), 8th June PM (W)
Geography	AQA	18th May AM, 26th May PM, 10th June PM
Health & Social Care	Pearson	5th May AM
History	OCR	20th May AM, 28th May, 9th June PM
Maths	AQA	14th May AM, 27th May AM, 14th June AM
Music	Eduqas	27th May PM
GCSE PE	OCR	13th May PM, 20th May PM
Philosophy & Ethics	AQA	13th May AM, 21st May AM
Science: •Biology •Chemistry •Physics	AQA	11th May AM, 10th June AM 17th May AM, 15th June AM 25th May AM, 18th June AM
Spanish	AQA	09th June AM (L & R), 16th June PM (W)

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has designated **Wednesday, June 23rd, 2027**, as the contingency day for the summer 2027 GCSE series in the UK. **All candidates must remain available for exams up to this date** to account for potential disruptions to the examination schedule.

Independent Learning

- ⇒ Homework is an example of self-quizzing and you should still complete this alongside your revision.
- ⇒ Research has shown that homework has a positive impact on progress.



- ⇒ All three core subjects set homework on the Sparx Learning platform.

Sparx Maths

Building maths confidence through personalised homework.

[Visit Sparx Maths](#)

Sparx Reader

Building confident readers through regular reading practice.

[Visit Sparx Reader](#)

Sparx Science

Improving scientific knowledge through thoughtful practice.

[Visit Sparx Science](#)

Looking After Your Mental Health and Wellbeing During Exams

Sleep: Sleep is non-negotiable - it gives your brain time to rest and consolidate memories. Aim for between seven and nine hours each night.

Water: Our bodies are about 60% water and even mild dehydration can make you feel unfocused, so keep water nearby and sip it regularly

Activity: Moving your body boosts blood flow and oxygen to the brain, which helps you think more clearly. Try going on short walks, a light jog or regularly stretching

Nutrition: Nourish your brain with whole foods rather than processed ones. Choline is a nutrient vital for brain health so eating food that is rich in it like eggs, fish and nuts can support concentration and focus.

Stress: Chronic stress floods the body with cortisol - a hormone that helps regulate your body's response to stress - and that can cloud your thinking. Find ways to lower stress through breathing exercises, mindfulness and hobbies.



Pre-Public Examinations in October/November...

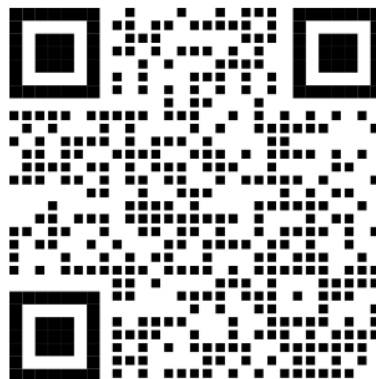
Below you will find information on the focus of each Pre-Public Examination in our November series. It should provide a starting point for student revision and help you to check that they are on the right track.

Exam	Exam Board	Paper(s)	Duration	Exam Topics
Biology	AQA	Paper 1	1 hr 45 mins	Cell biology, organisation, diseases, bioenergetics
Business	Pearson/Edexcel	Paper 1: Investigating Small Business	1 hr 45 mins	Entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship Spotting a business opportunity Putting a business idea into practice Making the business effective Understanding external influences
Chemistry	AQA	Paper 1	1 hr 45 mins	Atomic structure and periodic table, bonding, chemical calculations, salts, exothermic and endothermic reactions
Combined Science	AQA	Biology - 1 exam	1 hr 15 mins	Cell biology, organisation, diseases, bioenergetics,
		Chemistry - 1 exam	1 hr 15 mins	Atomic structure and periodic table, bonding, chemical calculations, salts, exothermic and endothermic reactions
		Physics	1 hr 15 mins	Energy calculations, energy transfers, electricity, molecules and matter, radioactivity

Why is revision important?

Revision is the bridge between learning something once and remembering it when it matters. Revising strengthens memory, builds confidence, reduces exam stress and improves GCSE performance

- ⇒ Make sure you know when your exams are and what you need to learn for each one. Spend time revising areas you are least confident on.
- ⇒ Start early to give yourself plenty of time to practice – this will strengthen your memory and speed up your recall.
- ⇒ Create a space to revise away from distractions and keep your work organised.
- ⇒ Take breaks after 15-20 minutes.
- ⇒ Use a mixture of the Core 4 strategies – these are proven techniques for revision
- ⇒ Don't neglect to complete your homework.
- ⇒ Please ask for help or resources if you are unsure.
- ⇒ Use the tools available to you (e.g. booster sessions, intervention, master classes etc.) as well as books and reputable sources on the web.



BBC Bitesize

How to revise: planning and timetables



RECALL Brain Dumps

Brain dumps encourage you to **retrieving** key ideas by writing down everything you can about a topic.

Brain dumps are great preparation for GCSE exams as you have to recall information without help and write under pressure.

- * Write from memory.
- * Check what you have written against a textbook, web page or knowledge organiser.
- * Practice!



REFLECT Self-Quizzing

Self-quizzing lets you **test yourself** to see how much you have learnt about a topic.

Self-quizzing is great preparation for GCSE exams as you have to recall information without help and write under pressure.

- * Use Sparx, Seneca, past exam papers, revision websites or ask AI to write you some questions.
- * Try to answer every question, even if you are unsure.
- * Answer from memory – no cheating!

Exam	Exam Board	Paper(s)	Duration	Exam Topics
Computer Science	OCR	Component 1 – Computer systems,	1 hr 30 mins	Component 1 Systems Architecture, Memory and Storage, Computer Networks, Connections & Protocol, Network Security, Systems Software, Ethical, Legal, Cultural & Environmental Impacts of Digital Technology)
		Component 2 – Algorithms & programming	1 hr 30 mins	Component 2 Algorithms, Programming Fundamentals, Producing Robust Programs, Boolean Logic Programming Languages and Integrated Development Environments
D&T - Graphics / Resistant Materials	AQA	Paper 1	1hour	Section A – Core Technical Principles Section B – Designing and Making Principles
English Language	Eduqas	Component 1 Section A – Reading Section B - Writing	1 hr 45 mins	Section A Reading skills including locating and extracting information; analysing language, evaluation skills Section B Narrative Writing
English Literature	Eduqas	Component 2 English Literature Post 1914 Prose / Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry	1 hr 30 mins	Section A – An Inspector Calls Section B – A Christmas Carol Section C – Unseen Poetry

Exam	Exam Board	Paper(s)	Duration	Exam Topics
Food Preparation and Nutrition	AQA	Paper 1—Food Preparation and Nutrition	1 hr	All topics and units
French	AQA	Papers 1 – 4 Foundation (F) / Higher (T)	See Exam Topics For Break-down	Paper 1 Listening F – 35 mins H – 45 mins (conducted in class) Paper 2 Speaking (conducted individually at given times F – 7-9 mins, H 10-12 mins) conducted in class) Paper 3 Reading F – 45 mins H – 60 mins Paper 4 Writing F – 60 mins H – 75 mins
Geography	AQA	Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment	1 hr 30 1 hr 30	Part A - Natural Hazards Part B – Ecosystems Part C - Rivers, Glaciation Part A – Just Lagos Part B – Changing Economic World (The UK and Nigeria) Part C – The Challenge of Resource Management (UK resources and Water)



Mind maps allow you to **organise** your knowledge so you can see the **connections** between it.

This is key for GCSE questions which ask you to explain or analyse.

- * Select a topic to revise
- * Identify sub-topics
- * Write information on branches
- * Use images and colour



Flashcards allow you to practice **retrieving** key ideas by turning your knowledge into questions.

Flash cards are great for GCSE questions which ask you to recall facts, state definitions or give simple explanations.

- * Put a single question and answer on each card or use the flash cards on Sparx.
- * Test yourself using your cards.
- * Sort the cards according to how confident you are – practise the areas you are least confident on more.

How do I revise?

The **Ibstock Core 4** is an evidence-based revision cycle with 4 strategies:

- * ORGANISE—Mind Maps
- * CREATE—Flash Cards
- * RECALL—Brain Dumps
- * REFLECT—Self Quizzing

Each of these strategies ensures active thinking and builds on the previous stage.



Exam	Exam Board	Paper(s)	Duration	Exam Topics
Health and Social Care	Pearson Edexcel	No written exam until February PPEs. Focus will be on coursework		
History	OCR	Paper 1	1 hour 45 mins	Crime and Punishment The Elizabethans
		Paper 2	1 hr	Kenilworth (History Around Us)
Maths	AQA	Paper 1: No calculator allowed	1 hr 30 mins	All content from AQA 8300 specification
		Paper 2: Calculator	1 hr 30	
Music	Eduqas	Listening	1 hr 15 mins	All Areas of Study
Philosophy and Ethics	AQA	Paper 1	1 hr 45 mins	Christian Beliefs and Teachings, Christian Practices Buddhist Beliefs and Teachings, Buddhist Practices
GCSE PE	OCR	Paper 1 – Factors affecting physical performance.	1 hour	Structure and function of the skeletal system. Structure and function of the muscular system. Movement analysis Structure and function of the cardio respiratory system
		Paper 2 – Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology	1 hour	Components of fitness Principles of training Types of injury , Commercialisation, Engagement patterns of different social groups, Ethical issues, Sports psychology, Health, fitness and Well-being

Exam	Exam Board	Paper(s)	Duration	Exam topics
Physics	AQA	Physics – Paper 1	1 hr 45 mins	Energy calculations, energy transfers, electricity, molecules and matter, radioactivity

Spanish	AQA	Papers 1 – 4 Foundation (F) / Higher (T)	See Exam Topics For Breakdown	Paper 1 Listening F – 35 mins H – 45 mins (conducted in class) Paper 2 Speaking (conducted individually at given times F – 7-9 mins, H 10-12 mins) conducted in class) Paper 3 Reading F – 45 mins H – 60 mins Paper 4 Writing F – 60 mins H – 75 mins
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Both Textiles and Art will do a 5 hr timed session during the PPE window. Students will be off normal timetable for the whole day. Students will be informed when these sessions will be on their PPE timetable.

Where subjects are not shown to have a Pre-Public Examination above, it is either that they will complete exam practice outside of this two week window, or that they are currently concentrating on Non-Examination Assessments and will sit PPEs in the February Series.

How do we learn?.....

We learn by:

1. **Paying attention** – this allows information to enter our working memory.
2. **Learning** — repetition and practice help move information into long-term memory.

