



YEAR 10

**GUIDE TO GCSE CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT
(COURSEWORK)**

2015-16

Overview of Year 10 for controlled assessment/coursework/examinations (all of the following constitute part of the GCSE for that specific subject)

	Controlled assessment/coursework
September	Art (on going throughout the year) Drama (on going over the term)
October	Graphic Products (on going until April)
November	
December	
January	Drama (on going over the term)
February	
March	Geography (until June)
April	Drama (on going over the term) Geography
May	Geography English – Speaking and Listening
June	Geography History (learning relevant content)
July	History (learning relevant content)

*Language Controlled Assessment tasks to be fitted in when appropriate.

There is no coursework/controlled assessment in for GCSE Mathematics in either Year. None of the work undertaken in Music during Year 10 contributes to coursework/controlled assessment grades.

General guidance

Some GCSE subjects contain an element of controlled assessment and/or coursework, i.e. tasks which are completed at various stages of the two-year course (before the final examinations) and which contribute towards the final grade awarded. There is considerable variation between subjects concerning the nature of the controlled assessment tasks, their contribution towards the final GCSE grade, the manner in which the tasks are carried out and the time at which they are set. Subject staff will, during lessons, explain exactly what is required for each task and what is being assessed. They will give guidance and advice as the task progresses and will make clear the exact date by which the work must be completed.

Controlled assessment could be thought of as ‘partially supervised coursework’. The work must be completed under different levels of control. Under limited control you will be able to work in groups and get support from your teacher. Under high control conditions you will be formally supervised under examination-style conditions. Your work at this stage will be stored securely by your teacher and you will not be able to communicate with other people. You cannot use any new research material at this stage.

The purpose of this brief guide is to provide some background information which we hope will help students as they plan their work and parents as they support their daughters. Please note that there is **NO** controlled assessment component in some subjects, while in others controlled assessments and/or coursework may be completed in Year 11.

Efficient time management is essential to achieve a good standard in controlled assessment, as in all areas of study. It is vital that the task is begun as soon as it is set, that progress is made rapidly and effectively and that both interim and final deadlines are met. Good attendance is also essential so that the explanation of controlled assessment requirements is heard first-hand and so that the lesson time allocated to the controlled assessment can be used. Just as GCSE examination dates are fixed and cannot be changed if a student is absent, so too controlled assessment dates must be adhered to and cannot be changed (unless circumstances are exceptional). This is necessary to ensure that the controlled assessment is conducted under the examination boards required supervision, and to ensure there is adequate time for the marking and moderation of the task.

It must be remembered, however, that failure to meet controlled assessment requirements will affect the GCSE grade eventually awarded and, in some subjects, may even prevent a student from being entered for GCSE.

We know that students will want to do their best as they fulfil the requirements for each subject. We also appreciate the assistance and encouragement of parents in ensuring students spend an appropriate (and not an excessive) amount of time preparing for the controlled assessment, and in exercising responsibility to ensure deadlines are met. By staff, students and parents working together we are confident that all controlled assessment tasks will be completed efficiently and effectively.

STUDENTS MUST NOTE THAT examination boards' regulations require that any work which is submitted for assessment must be your own. Appendix 1 at the end of this guide is Information for Candidates issued by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) – you must read this and adhere to the rules as set out by the JCQ.

ART (AQA Art & Design)

GCSE Art is 60% controlled assessment based. Over the two years of the course students will complete **two** units of work which start in the September of Year 10. A unit of controlled assessment consists of preparatory studies, sketchbook work and a Main Piece, and has to meet four assessment objectives.

Towards the end of Year 11, students will complete an externally set task worth 40% of the overall GCSE grade. This will be completed over a number of weeks, and in the same way as the controlled assessment projects. A 10 hour period of supervised time allows students to complete a final main piece of work.

Controlled assessment Deadlines

It is important that students establish good regular study habits to enable them to allocate sufficient time for each of their GCSE subjects, and to meet all deadlines.

Students will be set a final deadline together with interim deadlines for each unit of controlled assessment. **It is imperative that students keep to these deadlines**, to ensure they continue to make progress in Art.

By the nature of the subject, much of the work will need to be completed in school. Whereas some of the preliminary/supporting studies for controlled assessment can be undertaken at home, the Main Piece for each unit must be completed in school for teacher

authentication, in accordance with examination board regulations. To give all students an equal opportunity to use the wider range of materials and the facilities of the Department, the Art Rooms are available during lunchtimes and for regular sessions after school.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AS Level (OCR H046)

There is no external assessment in Year 10, and both of the two 75 minute examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework or controlled assessment component for AS Computer Science.

DRAMA (AQA)

The GCSE exam board we follow for Drama is AQA and controlled assessment makes up 60% of the final mark. Controlled assessment comprises of practical drama rehearsal and presentation. Students will work in smaller groups to present extracts from scripts and devise their own pieces of drama. Each term students complete one piece of practical coursework; this is assessed in two stages, preparation and final presentation. Assessments are continual and lesson contributions can affect the preparation mark. Controlled assessment is completed mainly during lessons, however students have the option of rehearsing their pieces after school, using this time as their homework allocation. This arrangement will depend on the availability of a member of staff to supervise. Students may rehearse during lunchtime but must make a prior arrangement to do so with Miss Long. As coursework is undertaken in groups, punctuality, good attendance and a positive attitude are essential. Of the practical work completed over the two years, the two best marks are entered towards the final exam mark.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (AQA) & LITERATURE (Edexcel)

English Language (AQA)

English Literature (Edexcel)

Neither specification has any Controlled Assessment. They are both assessed by terminal examinations at the end of the course and you will receive a separate grade for each course.

Speaking and Listening will be assessed in one presentation. This will take place in the summer term of Year 10. It does not contribute towards your final grade and is reported on separately with an additional number on your examination certificate.

GEOGRAPHY (Edexcel B)

You will be completing the Controlled Assessment – Unit 4 “Researching Geography” in the Spring and Summer Terms of Year 10, including fieldwork in Carding Mill Valley. The final piece of work will be submitted by late June and constitutes 25% of the final GCSE. A specific date for submission will be given to you by your teacher.

Elements of the enquiry that are to be carried out under 'limited control' include: Introduction, methodology, data collection and data presentation. The sections that are completed under 'high control' conditions include the analysis and conclusions, as well as the evaluation.

Lessons will be allocated towards planning. It is therefore essential that you follow guidance given to you by your teacher. It is essential that you meet deadlines and hand in good quality work, as you will not have the chance to improve upon it at a later date. You have been given a copy of the assessment criteria, so use this as a guide for what will generate the best piece of work.

GRAPHIC PRODUCTS (OCR)

The GCSE Graphics Products course consists of three modules. Coursework is worth 60% of the final grade, broken down into two projects worth 30% each. One project will be completed in Year 10, and the other will be completed in Year 11. The projects will be produced during lesson time and pupils will have the opportunity to work in the Design & Technology department at lunchtimes. It is imperative that deadlines are kept to as students must maintain pace as a class in order for teacher centred guidance to be relevant. As well as controlled assessments taking place in school, students will also undertake one external examination worth 40%. Students will take a paper on Sustainable Design and on the Technical Aspects of Designing and Making at the end of the Year 11.

HISTORY (OCR: Modern World (History B))

In history you will be required to complete a single controlled assessment unit. This unit represents 25% of the total marks. Preparation for the task will begin in the Summer Term of Year 10, following the end of year exam. The assessment will then be completed in the Autumn Term of Year 11. The topic of the assessment is the USA 1919 – 1941. The task requires candidates to demonstrate an understanding of the period, and to use source material to complete an essay, of no more than 2000 words in length.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (AQA)

The Controlled Assessments in both Year 10 and Y11 will count towards the final GCSE grade. The preparation for (and completion of) these assessments will take place in school, during lesson time, under a high degree of supervision.

The skills of speaking and writing are currently assessed under controlled conditions. This means that during the course of Years 10 and 11 students will prepare for and take at least four controlled assessments: two for speaking and two for writing. The four best pieces of work submitted will account for 60% of the final GCSE grade, so teachers and pupils will be aiming to achieve the highest level of accuracy and complexity possible. Students will need to work consistently hard from the outset.

Teachers will decide upon the most appropriate themes and tasks for students, based on what has been covered in class. As a result, exact dates for assessment are flexible. There will then be a structured plan of preparation and learning time, during which pupils will

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have to commit a great deal of information and language to memory independently, in order to speak or write to the best of their ability when assessed. When any given task is officially completed, it may be done with the aid of 40 individual word prompts.

GCSE Speaking Assessments are each marked out of 30 as follows:

COMMUNICATION /10

9–10 Very Good. Information, ideas and points of view are presented and explained with confidence. Can narrate events when appropriate.

7–8 Good. A good amount of information and points of view are conveyed and regularly developed.

RANGE AND ACCURACY OF LANGUAGE /10

9–10 A wide range of vocabulary, complex structures and a variety of verb tenses. Errors may appear in more complex structures.

7–8 A range of vocabulary; some complex structures and a variety of verb tenses attempted, though not always well formed. Some errors occur but the message is clear.

PRONUNCIATION AND INTONATION /5

5 Consistently good accent and intonation.

4 Generally good.

3 Generally accurate, but some inconsistency.

INTERACTION AND FLUENCY

5 Responds readily and shows initiative. Conversation sustained at a reasonable speed, language expressed fluently.

4 Answers without hesitation and extends responses beyond the minimum with some flow of language.

3 Ready responses; there is evidence of an ability to sustain a conversation, but little initiative.

GCSE Writing Assessments are each marked out of 30 as follows:

CONTENT /15

13 –15 Very good. A fully relevant and detailed response to the task. Sound ability to convey information clearly, express and explain ideas and points of view. Well organised structure.

10 –12 Good. Mostly relevant response to the task and shows ability to convey a lot of information clearly, express and explain ideas and points of view.

RANGE OF LANGUAGE /10

9-10 Wide variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are handled with confidence and verb tenses are used successfully.

7– 8 Good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures used. More complex sentences are attempted and are mostly successful.

ACCURACY /5

5 Largely accurate, although there may still be some errors especially in attempts at more complex sentences. Verbs and tense formations are secure.

4 Generally accurate with errors occurring in attempts at more complex sentences. Verb and tense formations are usually correct.

3 More accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are sometimes unsuccessful. The intended meaning is clear.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (AQA)

We follow the AQA Specification for **GCSE PE** and students are assessed by examination and controlled assessment.

This course encourages students to

- become increasingly physically competent through being actively engaged in a range of physical activities.
- become increasingly effective in their performance in different types of physical activity and roles such as player/performer, leader, official and organiser.
- develop their ability to engage independently and successfully in the processes of different types of physical activity.
- develop and maintain their involvement in physical activity as part of a healthy active lifestyle.

The course is assessed through a written theory examination (40%, 1 hour 30 minutes) and practical controlled assessment (60%). The controlled assessment consists of four assessments from **at least two** activity groups (see department for details) **or ways of thinking**. At least 2 of these must be with the student taking the role of player/performer. Assessments are continuous throughout the course in lessons. Further assessments will be within the extra-curricular programme. If you plan to be assessed for offsite activities you must inform the PE department at the start of the course.

SCIENCES (AQA)

There will be no controlled assessment for any Science subject during Y10. These will be completed in Year 11 and are worth 25% of each Science GCSE studied.

Each science subject is split into 3 units (25% each) examined by three separate exam papers.

J Rose
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