

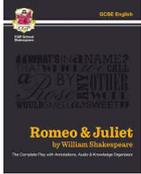
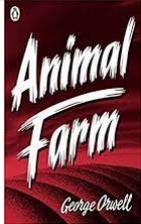
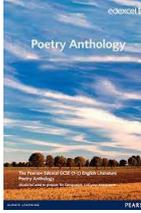
Supporting Your Child's Learning  
Spring Term - Year 11



**Yardleys**  
School  
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

At Yardleys, we understand that it can sometimes be difficult to know how best to support your children through their studies. But we also know that the more our students talk about their work, both inside and outside of school, the deeper and more flexible their learning. We need you to help us promote the school values of **curiosity** and **reflection** beyond our classrooms and, in doing so, help your child on their journey to academic success!

This term, students will be sitting mock exams in all of their core subjects - English, Maths and Science. **Mock exams will take place between 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Students must attend these mock examinations.** To help you and your child prepare and, once they have received feedback, support your child in working to address the knowledge gaps identified, you will find a condensed plan of resources that can be used at home.

English Literature: Students will be examined on four texts as part of their GCSE. Our exam board is Edexcel.				
	Texts Provided	Watch	Listen	Useful Websites
'Romeo and Juliet'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baz Luhrmann's 'Romeo and Juliet' (1996)</li> <li>Carlo Carlei's 'Romeo and Juliet' (2013)</li> <li>Eric Whyman, RSC's 'Romeo and Juliet'</li> <li>'Noughts and Crosses'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Teach Me a Lesson' podcast S1 E3: Should You Believe in Love at First Sight?</li> <li>'Shakespeare For All' podcast; 3 podcasts about the plot, characters and language of the play.</li> <li>'Much Ado About Shakespeare' podcast - 'What can Shakespeare teach us about society today?'</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.bbcbitessize.co">www.bbcbitessize.co</a>  <a href="http://www.shmoop.com">www.shmoop.com</a>  <a href="http://www.sparknotes.com">www.sparknotes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.gcsepod.com">www.gcsepod.com</a>  <a href="http://www.litcharts.com">www.litcharts.com</a>
'Animal Farm'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1954 Animated Film Adaptation</li> <li>Part 1 of the 2012 documentary 'Stalin'</li> <li>Lucy Worsley: Royal History's Biggest Fibs, The Russian Revolution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal Farm Audiobook</li> <li>Radio 4: In Our Time Podcast 'Animal Farm'</li> <li>Dan Snow's History Hit: George Orwell and 1984</li> </ul>	
'Frankenstein'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Attenborough's natural Curiosities S4 E1: 'Animal Frankensteins'</li> <li>Panorama S30 E21: 'Are you Scared Yet, Human?'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Teach Me a Lesson' podcast S1 E1: Are People Born Evil?</li> <li>'You're Dead to Me: Mary Shelley' S2 E2</li> <li>'Straight Talking English' Podcast: S5 E6 and S5 E7: The Science of Frankenstein</li> <li>'Straight Talking English' Podcast: S5 E8 and S5 E9: Victor Frankenstein and The Monster</li> </ul>	
Conflict Poetry		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BBC Teach: Ciaran Carson on 'Belfast Confetti'</li> <li>Southbank Centre: Johan Agard, Guyana</li> <li>ClickView: 'Perfecting Poetry: Poetic Form and Structure'</li> <li>ClickView: 'Perfecting Poetry: Sensory Imagery and Sound Devices'</li> <li>BBCiPlayer: Tan France: Beauty and the Bleach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Witness History: World War I Poetry.</li> <li>'In Our Time: The Charge of the Light Brigade'</li> <li>'Straight Talking English' Podcast, S4 E11: 'Tennyson's <i>The Charge of the Light Brigade</i>'</li> <li>'Straight Taking English' Podcast, 'Tacking an unseen Poem'</li> </ul>	

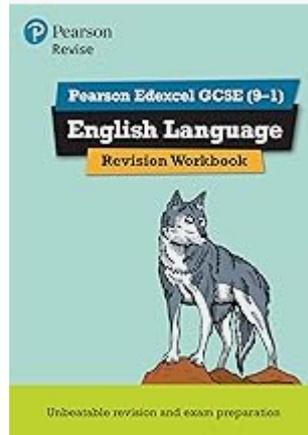
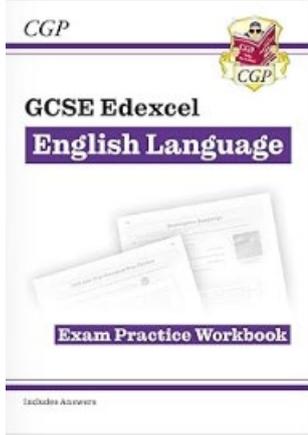
**English Language** Students will sit two papers where they will be asked to analyse, evaluate and compare **unseen fiction and non-fiction** texts as well as create their own. Our exam board is **Edexcel**. Please check with your child regarding which specification they will be entered for.

**Suggested Texts**

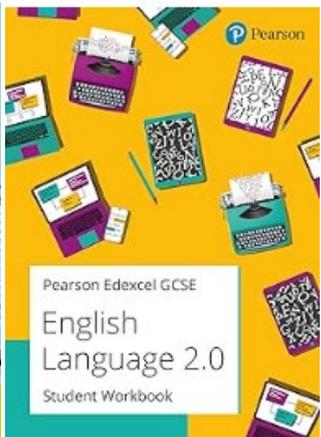
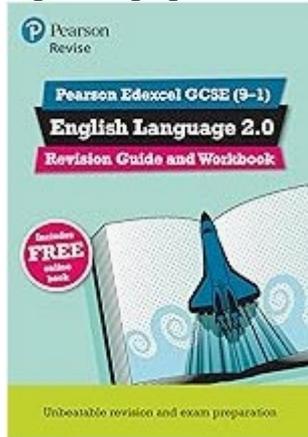
**Useful Websites:**

English Language GCSE Edexcel (Legacy Specification) **11v1a ONLY**

- [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) :GCSEPoD: 10 pod series called 'Edexcel: Tips for Exam Success and Example Responses.'
- [www.bitesize.com](http://www.bitesize.com)



English Language 2.0 GCSE Edexcel **ALL OTHER STUDENTS**



**Maths** To support students in their preparation for their (mock) exams and support the teaching of final exam content in lessons, students should watch and discuss the following depending on whether they have been entered for the **higher** or **foundation** tier. Our exam board for Maths is **AQA**.

**Higher Tier**

**Foundation Tier**

**Circle Theorems:**  
<http://corbettmaths.com/2013/04/04/circle-theorems-theorems/>

How many Circle Theorems can you draw/recall & describe?

**Vectors:**  
<https://corbettmaths.com/2017/09/25/column-vectors/>

In the vector  $\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$ , what do the 5 and -3 represent? What does it mean if the 5 and -3 swap places?

**Equation of a Circle:**  
<http://corbettmaths.com/2013/03/01/equation-of-a-circle/>

If  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ . What is its radius? What is the circumference of the circle? How do you work out the gradient of a tangent to any circle?

**TRRE:**  
<http://corbettmaths.com/2013/05/19/rotations/>  
<http://corbettmaths.com/2013/06/23/describing-reflections/>

What does TRRE stand for? Can you fully describe all four transformations?

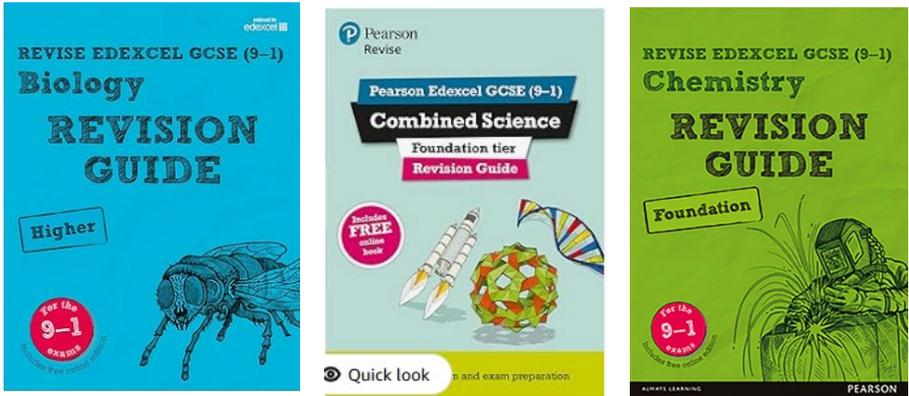
**Perpendicular Lines:**  
<http://corbettmaths.com/2013/06/06/perpendicular-lines-2/>

How can you work out if two straight lines are perpendicular to one another? Explain.

**Congruence & Similarity:**  
<http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/10/congruent-and-similar-shapes/>  
<http://corbettmaths.com/2013/11/16/similarshapes/>

Are all squares congruent? Explain.  
Are all squares similar? Explain.

<b>Vectors:</b> <a href="https://corbettmaths.com/2016/04/25/vectors/">https://corbettmaths.com/2016/04/25/vectors/</a>	How do you know if two or more vectors are parallel? Explain. How do you know if two or more vectors lie on the same straight line? Explain.	<b>Basic Angles:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/10/angles-in-a-triangle/">http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/10/angles-in-a-triangle/</a>	Angels in a triangle sum to... How many other "Angle Facts" do you know?
<b>Linear Simultaneous Equations:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2013/03/05/simultaneous-equations-elimination-method/">http://corbettmaths.com/2013/03/05/simultaneous-equations-elimination-method/</a>	5 apples & 2 bananas cost £1.60 2 apples & 3 bananas cost £1.30 Work out the cost of one apple & one banana	<b>Angels in Polygons:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/10/angles-in-polygons/">http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/10/angles-in-polygons/</a>	How do you work out the interior & exterior angles of a regular octagon?
<b>Non-Linear Simultaneous Equations:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2013/05/07/simultaneous-equations-linear-and-quadratic/">http://corbettmaths.com/2013/05/07/simultaneous-equations-linear-and-quadratic/</a>	How many solutions can you have when a straight line intersects with a circle? What do these solutions represent? Explain.	<b>MMMR from Tables:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/19/means-from-frequency-tables/">http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/19/means-from-frequency-tables/</a>	What does MMMR stand for?  Do you know how to work out all three averages?
<b>Algebraic Fractions:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2013/01/19/simplifying-algebraic-fractions/">http://corbettmaths.com/2013/01/19/simplifying-algebraic-fractions/</a>	$x^5 + 2x^3 = 3x^8$ What went wrong here? Can you correct it?	<b>Scatter Graphs &amp; Time Series:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/10/scatter-graphs/">http://corbettmaths.com/2012/08/10/scatter-graphs/</a>	What is the job of a line of best fit on a scatter graph?  How do you use a line of best fit?
<b>Algebraic Proof:</b> <a href="https://corbettmaths.com/2016/04/24/algebraic-proof/">https://corbettmaths.com/2016/04/24/algebraic-proof/</a>	What is the simplest way to prove if a No. is even? What is the simplest way to prove if a No. is odd?	<b>Straight Line Graphs:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2012/12/23/drawing-graphs-using-xy-tables/">http://corbettmaths.com/2012/12/23/drawing-graphs-using-xy-tables/</a>	In " $y = mx + c$ ", what does each letter stand for?  What does a negative value of "m" mean?
<b>Kinematic Graphs:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2018/01/31/area-under-a-graph/">http://corbettmaths.com/2018/01/31/area-under-a-graph/</a>	What does the gradient of a line represent on a speed-time graph? Explain. What does the area under the graph tell us in the same graph? Explain.	<b>Non-Linear Graphs:</b> <a href="http://corbettmaths.com/2013/06/23/drawing-quadratics/">http://corbettmaths.com/2013/06/23/drawing-quadratics/</a>	What do positive quadratic graphs look like? Can you describe a negative quadratic graph?

	GCSE Biology	GCSE Chemistry	GCSE Physics	Combined Science
Prepare Resource	 <p>The image shows three book covers for Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Revision Guides. From left to right: 1. Biology Higher tier, blue cover with a fly illustration. 2. Combined Science Foundation tier, light blue cover with a rocket and DNA helix illustration. 3. Chemistry Foundation tier, green cover with a scientist illustration. Each cover features the Pearson logo and 'FOR THE 9-1 GRADE' badge.</p>			
	<p>Revision guides are available via Parent Pay £3 a Set of 3 books/ one combined book which includes all content.  Different covers are just different print-runs, all are still current and relevant for their exams (2016 spec).</p> <p><b>Ensure your child has the correct tier and books</b> according to the exam they will be entered for (higher tier revision guides include content foundation pupils do not need). February mocks will decide final tier entries, but most pupils know which exams they will be sitting by now. If your child is in 3a or 3b they are sitting foundation combined Science.</p> <p>Additional resources you may wish to purchase published by the exam board to support your child:  <a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/page/4EB87E93-389C-4CA7-ABD6-D4C66B7EF1E3?ingress=0&amp;visitId=52aa41ca-ba66-4045-ac1c-47f2b3acf950">https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/page/4EB87E93-389C-4CA7-ABD6-D4C66B7EF1E3?ingress=0&amp;visitId=52aa41ca-ba66-4045-ac1c-47f2b3acf950</a></p> <p><u>TOP recommendation</u> if you want some guided practise - revision workbooks- these complement the revision guides so are easy to follow. The link also has pre-made flash cards and practise paper questions to targeted at different grades e.g.  Nail it! 7-9 revision and practise for Physics etc.</p>			

Retrieve Use the specifications linked below as checklists to decide where to prioritise revision and make this out onto your revision timetable;

### **Combined Science**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/Specification/gcse-combinedscience-spec.pdf>

### **Biology**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/Specification/gcse-biology-spec.pdf>

### **Chemistry**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/Specification/gcse-chemistry-spec.pdf>

### **Physics**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/Specification/gcse-physics-spec.pdf>

**TOP TIP:** start revising the bits you understand least first, and make sure your revision is spread across all topics as **all topics** will be assessed in the final exams.

**Mind maps, summary flash cards and practise questions/exposure to mark schemes work best for Science revision.**

### **Core Practical Experiments**

There is no coursework for GCSE Science, but pupils are expected to be familiar with the

following core practical experiments and could get asked to;

- Recall a method e.g. how to measure the speed of a wave
- Risk assess a given method e.g. acid is corrosive so wash your hands after use
- Suggest what variables are in each experiment (independent/dependent/control)
- Plot results on a graph, calculate an average result from data in a table
- Suggest how to improve a method to get more accurate results e.g. use a light gate to make remove the human error with reaction time when timing a trolley on a ramp.  
Explain the Science behind a result

Follow these links to find a youtube channel and watch summaries of each of the core practical experiments.

Physics [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz\\_ggOXzqKs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz_ggOXzqKs)  
 Chemistry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s2IO4WIV2I>  
 Biology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWu1ol17EuY>

Apply

All past papers are available online free, including mark schemes and examiner reports on The Pearson website,

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html?Qualification-Family=GCSE&Qualification-Subject=Sciences%20\(2016\)&Status=Pearson-UK:Status%2FLive&Specification-Code=Pearson-UK:Specification-Code%2Fgcse16-science](https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html?Qualification-Family=GCSE&Qualification-Subject=Sciences%20(2016)&Status=Pearson-UK:Status%2FLive&Specification-Code=Pearson-UK:Specification-Code%2Fgcse16-science)

but it's easier to find them here if you are not sure what to look for:  
<https://www.savemyexams.com/gcse/science/edexcel/combined-science/past-papers/>

Paper 1: Biology (Higher) 1SC0/1BH	There are 6 papers in total (for triple Science and combined)
Paper 1: Biology (Foundation) 1SC0/1BF	
Paper 2: Biology (Higher) 1SC0/2BH	Paper 1 and 2 are Biology Paper 3 and 4 are Chemistry Paper 5 and 6 are Physics
Paper 2: Biology (Foundation) 1SC0/2BF	

The H/F at the end tells you which tier

Your son or daughter will also be provided with revision checklists and resources in the coming weeks on specific 'high frequency' topics which come up repeatedly so make sure they understand that content well as a first port-of call.

**For the February mocks: Biology Paper 1**

**Chemistry Paper 4**

**Physics Paper 6**