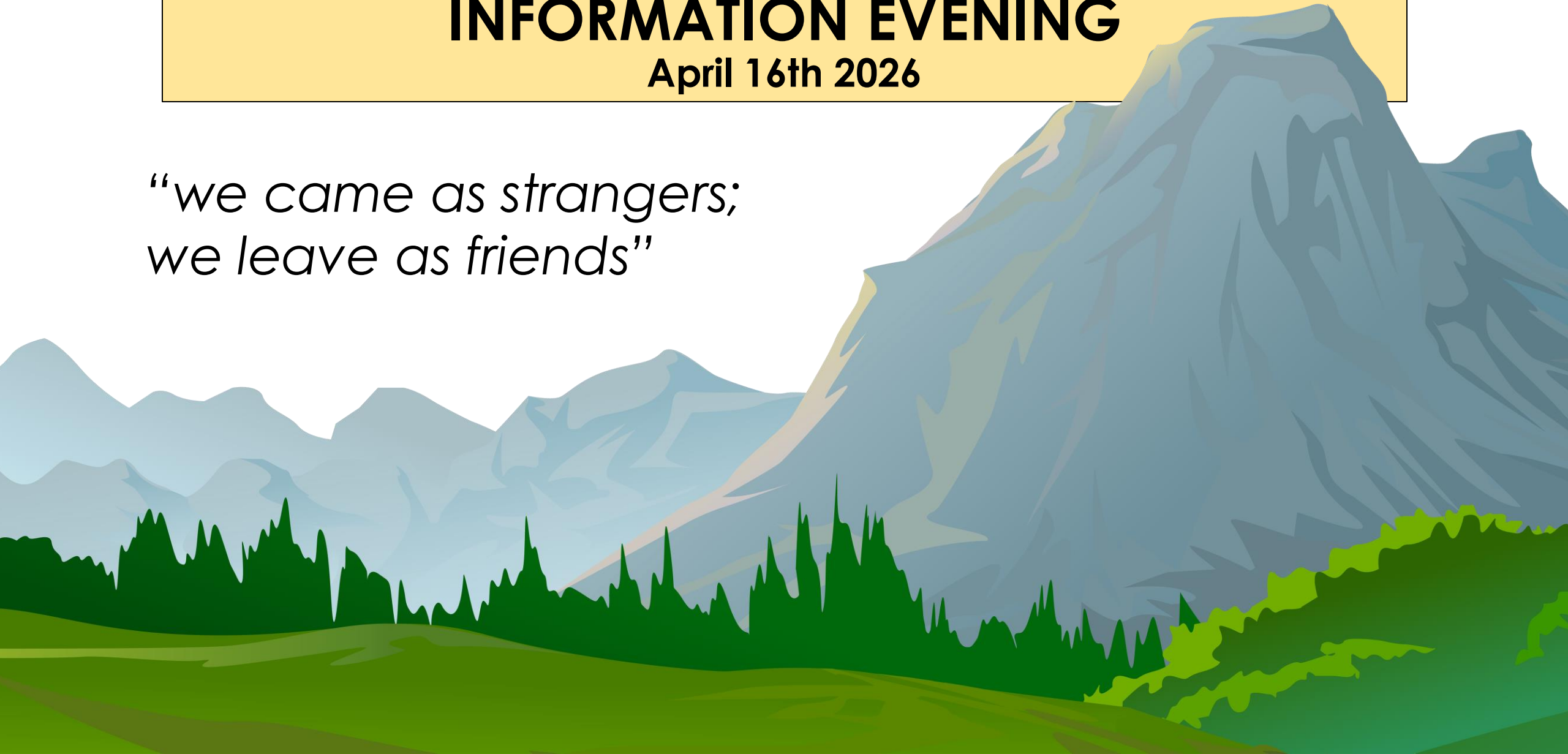


GCSE EXAMS INFORMATION EVENING

April 16th 2026

*“we came as strangers;
we leave as friends”*





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I will cover:

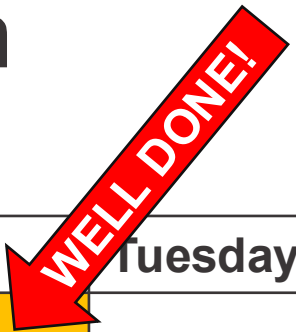
- ✓ Exam dates
- ✓ Plans for the exam season
- ✓ Exam logistics
- ✓ Malpractice
- ✓ Special consideration
- ✓ Exam technique
- ✓ Revision
- ✓ Wellbeing



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This half term



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	ENG LIT MOCK				5
Week 2	5	5	5	5	5
Week 3	5	5	5	5	5
Week 4	5	5	5 = 70 Hours	GCSEs Start	Exams
Week 5	Exams	Exams	Exams	Exams	Exams
Week 6	Exams	Exams	Exams	Exams	Study Leave



The Plan for the Remainder of Year 11

- ✓ Students will be **in school as normal until the May half term**
- ✓ They must be on site by **8:35am** as usual
- ✓ When they are not in exams, we will ensure they are revising/being prepared for their next exam by their teachers

MAY HALF TERM

- ✓ After May Half term, we will allow **study leave** for most students, but they can stay in school if they wish to
- ✓ They must be on site by **8:35am** for a morning exam
- ✓ They must be on site by **11:15am** for an afternoon exam
- ✓ We will run **pre-exam booster sessions** for the biggest exams. A timetable will follow.



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When are the exams?

- The **Master Exam Timetable** is on our website
- Your child's **individual timetable** has been sent to you electronically, and it has been sent home in hard copy.
- If you spot any issues, please contact rsexams@rs.rklt.co.uk



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Week	Date	Morning Exam	Afternoon Exam
B	Thursday 7 th May	BTEC Sport	
B	Friday 8 th May	ENGLISH LIT BOOSTER	Drama Economics, Paper 1*
A	Monday 11 th May	English Literature, Paper 1	Business Studies, Paper 1
A	Tuesday 12 th May	Philosophy & Ethics, Paper 1	Biology, Paper 1 Combined Science, Biology Paper 1
A	Wednesday 13 th May	Geography, Paper 1	Computer Science, Paper 1
A	Thursday 14 th May	Maths, Paper 1	HISTORY BOOSTER
A	Friday 15 th May	History, Paper 1	CHEMISTRY BOOSTER
B	Monday 18 th May	Chemistry, Paper 1 Combined Science, Chemistry Paper 1	ENGLISH LIT BOOSTER
B	Tuesday 19 th May	English Literature, Paper 2	Computer Science, Paper 2
B	Wednesday 20 th May	French, Listening French, Reading	Philosophy & Ethics, Paper 2
B	Thursday 21 st May	English Language, Paper 1	Business Studies, Paper 2
B	Friday 22 nd May	Physical Education, Paper 1** Economics, Paper 2	LEAVERS ASSEMBLY
Half Term – STUDY LEAVE BEGINS			



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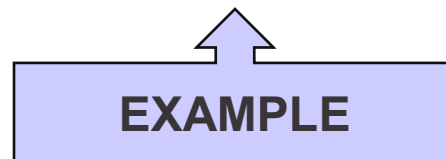


Week	Date	Morning Exam	Afternoon Exam
A	Monday 1 st June	Physical Education, Paper 2	Physics Booster
A	Tuesday 2 nd June	Physics, Paper 1 Combined Science, Physics Paper 1	Maths Booster
A	Wednesday 3 rd June	Maths, Paper 2	Geography, Paper 2 Health & Social Care*
A	Thursday 4 th June	History, Paper 2	French, Writing
A	Friday 5 th June	English Language, Paper 2	Music
B	Monday 8 th June	Biology, Paper 2 Combined Science, Biology Paper 2	IMedia Further Maths, paper 1
B	Tuesday 9 th June	Spanish, Listening Spanish, Reading	History, Paper 3
B	Wednesday 10 th June	Maths, Paper 3	Design & Technology
B	Thursday 11 th June	Geography – Paper 3	Food & Nutrition
B	Friday 12 th June	Chemistry, Paper 2 Combined Science, Chemistry Paper 2	Hospitality & Catering
A	Monday 15 th June	Physics, Paper 2 Combined Science, Physics Paper 2	Further Maths, Paper 2
A	Tuesday 16 th June	Spanish Writing	



- ✓ Lunch will be available to all Year 11s throughout the exam period at the earlier time of **12:10pm**
- ✓ We will run **pre-exam booster sessions** for the biggest exams. A timetable will follow.

	BOOSTER 8:45am English Main Hall	English Literature, Paper 1 9:30am	BOOSTER 11:15am Comp Sc (PC10)	Lunch 12:10	Computer Science, Paper 1 1:15pm
--	---	--	---	------------------------------	--





STUDY LEAVE

CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL

A-LEVEL
BIOLOGY
REVISION

MISSION START

FILA



Study Leave

- Study leave is a **double-edged sword**: it offers the gift of time, but without a plan, that time can evaporate into "procrastination" (doing everything except studying).
- Instead of planning what you *will* do, keep a log of what you *actually* did. This keeps you honest about how much time you're wasting.
- Work in blocks of 50 minutes with a 10-minute break. After four blocks, take a longer 30-minute break.



Master the Specification

- The **Exam Specification**

It is a literal checklist of everything the examiner can possibly ask you.

- **Print it out**

- **Traffic Light System:**

mark topics in **Red** (don't understand), **Amber** (understand but can't apply), and **Green** (mastered).



3.2.1.2 Structure of prokaryotic cells and of viruses

Content

Prokaryotic cells are much smaller than eukaryotic cells. They also differ from eukaryotic cells in having:

- cytoplasm that lacks membrane-bound organelles
- smaller ribosomes
- no nucleus; instead they have a single circular DNA molecule that is free in the cytoplasm and is not associated with proteins
- a cell wall that contains murein, a glycoprotein.

In addition, many prokaryotic cells have:

- one or more plasmids
- a capsule surrounding the cell
- one or more flagella.

Details of these structural differences are **not** required.

Viruses are acellular and non-living. The structure of virus particles to include genetic material, capsid and attachment protein.

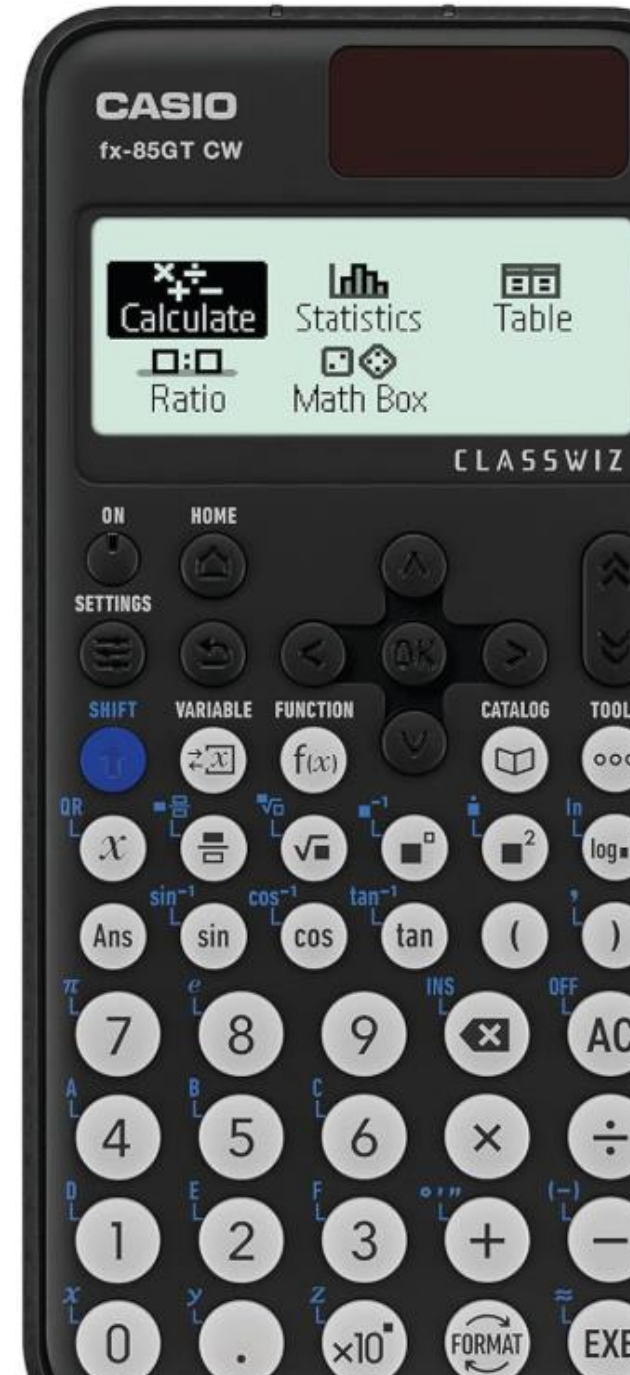


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Equipment

- You must bring with you the correct equipment for every exam
- 2 **black** pen – **no** fibre tips or gel pens
- Pencil, rubber, sharpener
- Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Geometry set

- PARENTS/CARERS – **WE NEED YOUR HELP**





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Special consideration

- Must be applied for **at the time of the assessment**.
- The grounds for special consideration are **very specific**
- The threshold is **very high**
- The resulting outcome is often **minimal**

- **Contact Mr Linnett (Exams Officer) if you have any reason to discuss special consideration.**

Find out more:

[JCQ A guide to the Special Consideration process \(pearson.com\)](#)



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Malpractice



What is considered **malpractice**?

- A. Having a label on your water bottle
- B. A pencil case you can't see through
- C. Phone going off in your pocket
- D. Phone spotted in your blazer pocket as the invigilator walks around
- E. Taking a smart watch into the exam hall
- F. Taking a regular watch into the exam hall
- G. Taking in an MP3 player
- H. Taking in notes in your pockets
- I. Taking in notes in your pockets – but not for a different subject than the exam you are sitting.
- J. Taking in headphones or AirPods
- K. Whispering on your way into the Sports Hall
- L. Whispering on your way out of the Sports Hall
- M. Turning around and looking behind you



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Lateness

Important Procedures

- **Contact the School:** If you are running late, call the school office immediately. They may advise you to remain under the supervision of a parent/guardian and give your phone to your parent
- **Report to Reception:** Never walk straight into the exam hall. Always go to reception first to be escorted.
- **Supervision:** To have the best chance of your paper being marked, you should be under "centre supervision" (a teacher or staff member) as soon as possible after the official start time.



You are considered 'very late' if you arrive:

- **More than 1 hour after** the published start time (i.e., after **10:00 am** or **2:30 pm**)
- **Warning:** You will be warned that the exam board may not accept your script.
- **Security:** The school must submit a Form JCQ/VLA to the exam board. They will need to provide the reason for your lateness and evidence that the security of the exam was maintained
- **Final Decision:** The exam board decides whether to mark your paper.



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Scenario 3: An exam that is 1 hour 30 minutes long starts at 9.00am. A student finishes their paper by 9.45am and leaves the room, despite the invigilator telling the student to stay seated until the end of the 1 hour 30 minutes.

Possible sanction: Potential disqualification.

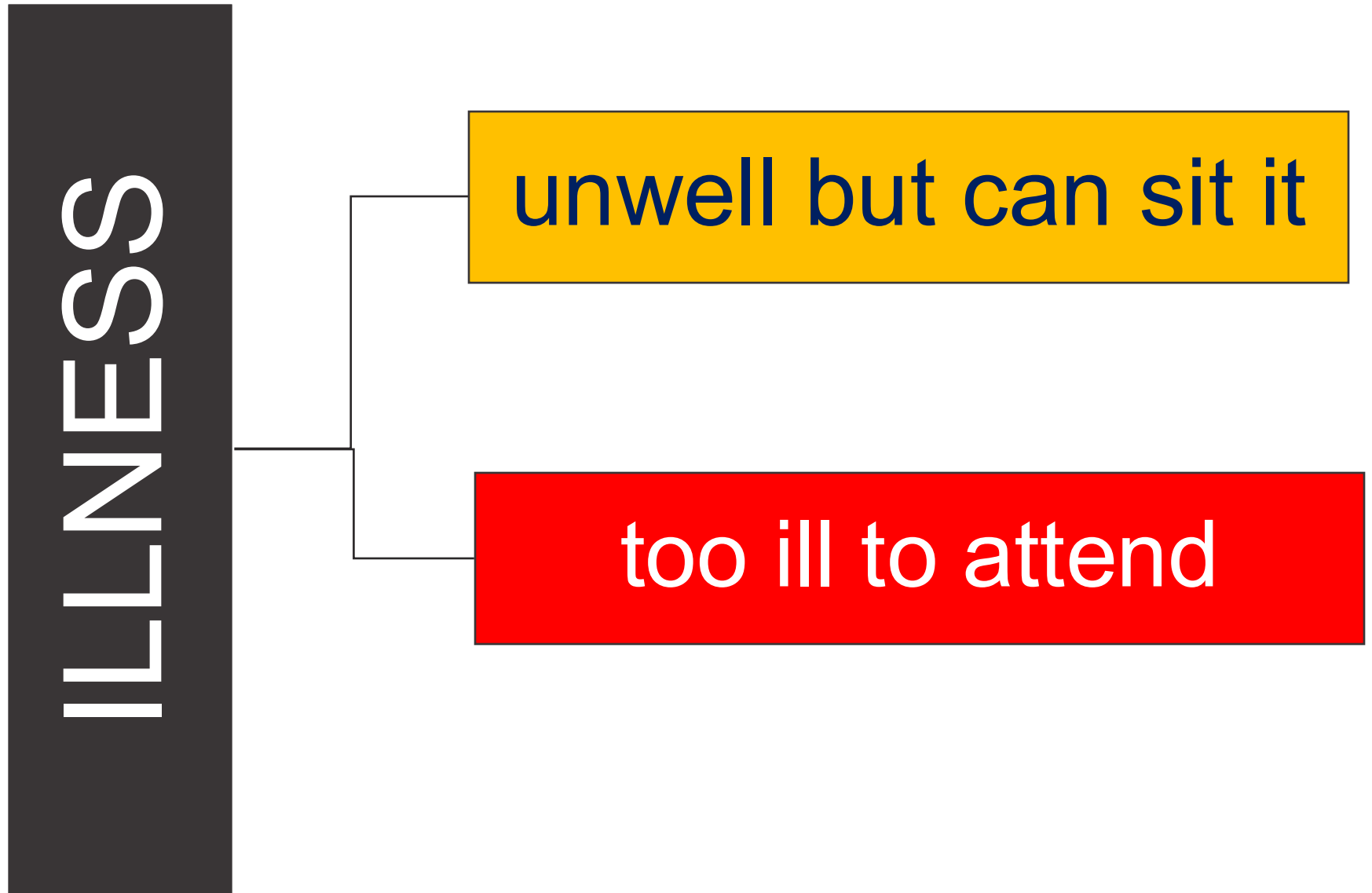




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If You Can Still Sit the Exam (Special Consideration)

- If you are unwell (e.g., flu, migraine, or a recent injury) but feel you can manage to sit the paper, you should still go.
- **Inform the School:** Tell the Exams Officer or an invigilator **before** the exam starts.
- **Adjustments:** They may be able to put you near an exit or in a separate room if you are likely to be sick or need frequent breaks.
- **The Application:** Because your illness may "materially affect" your performance, the school can apply for **Special Consideration**. This usually results in a small percentage increase (1% to 5%) being added to your raw mark to compensate for the disadvantage.



Too Ill to Attend (Missing the Exam)

- If you are physically unable to leave the house or are hospitalized, you will miss the exam.
- **Call Immediately:** parent/guardian must call the school office before the exam starts.
- **Medical Evidence:** You **must** get a medical note or a letter from a doctor dated the day of the exam. The JCQ is very strict; they will not accept an application for a missed exam without formal evidence.
- **Minimum Requirements:** To get a grade for a subject when you've missed a paper, you must have completed at least one other "component" (exam or coursework) for that specific qualification. The exam board will use your other marks to calculate a "calculated" grade for the missed unit.



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Top 3 ways to gain marks

WRONG METHODS



Following the exam instructions

Reading the question

Using time effectively



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WRONG METHODS



Following the exam instructions



Do not write
outside the
box

Using **Figure 5**, which **one** of the following statements is true?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

- A There are temperate grasslands in every continent.
- B Deserts are only found in the middle of continents.
- C Temperate deciduous forests are only found in the Northern hemisphere.
- D Coniferous forests occur in large areas of North America, Europe and Asia.

0 marks



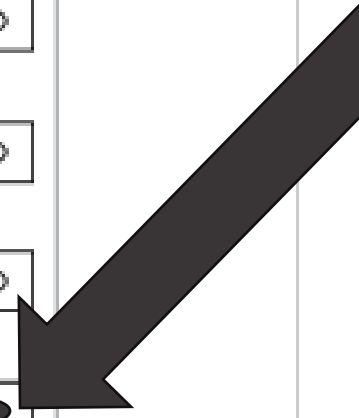
*Do not write
outside the
box*

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[1 mark]

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- C** Temperate deciduous forests are only found in the Northern hemisphere.
- D** Coniferous forests occur in large areas of North America, Europe and Asia.





For the multiple-choice questions, shade the circle next to the correct answer.

CORRECT METHOD



WRONG METHODS



If you want to change your answer you must cross out your original answer as shown.



If you wish to return to an answer previously crossed out, ring the answer you now wish to select as shown.



A close-up photograph of a student's hand holding a green pen and writing on a piece of paper. The student is wearing a white shirt. The background is blurred, showing other students in a classroom setting. A blue banner with white text is overlaid on the bottom part of the image.

Misreading the question

0 4 . 7

Hydrocarbon molecules containing seven and eight carbon atoms can be produced when heavy fuel oil is processed.

Which pair of hydrocarbon molecules would **both** turn bromine water colourless?
[1 mark]

Tick (✓) **one** box.

C_7H_{14} and C_8H_{16}

C_7H_{14} and C_8H_{18}

C_7H_{16} and C_8H_{16}

C_7H_{16} and C_8H_{18}

1 mark



0 4 . 7

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C_7H_{14} and C_8H_{18}

C_7H_{16} and C_8H_{16}

C_7H_{16} and C_8H_{18}

0 marks



Which **one** of the following events is **not** an example of a natural hazard?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Tsunami

B Earthquake

C Volcanic eruption

D Oil spill



2 (a) Study Sources A and B in the Sources Booklet.

How useful are Sources A and B for an enquiry into leisure activities in London during the Second World War?

Explain your answer, using Sources A and B and your knowledge of the historical context.

(8)



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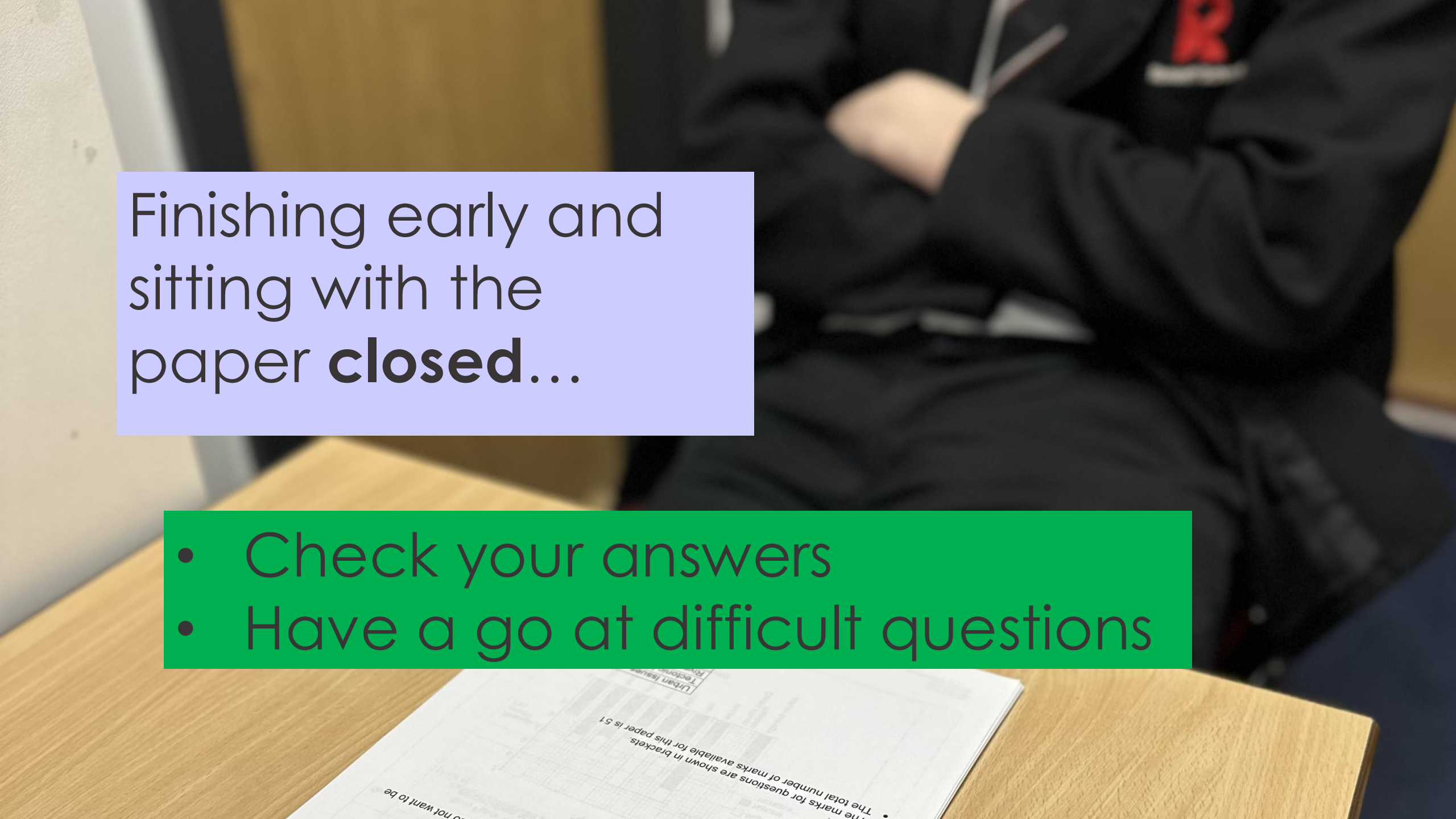


Using time effectively



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A student wearing a dark blue hoodie with a red 'R' logo is sitting at a wooden desk. The student's arms are crossed, and they appear to be looking down at a closed book or paper on the desk. The background is slightly blurred, showing a classroom setting.

Finishing early and
sitting with the
paper **closed**...

- Check your answers
- Have a go at difficult questions

do not want to be

• The marks for questions are shown in brackets for this paper is 51

Read again the first part of **Source A** from **lines 1 to 4**.

0 2

Choose **four** statements below which are **true**.

- Shade the **circles** in the boxes of the ones that you think are **true**.
- Choose a maximum of **four** statements.
- If you make an error cross out the **whole box**.
- If you change your mind and require a statement that has been crossed out then draw a circle around the box.

[4 marks]

- A The climbers were sheltered from the wind.
- B The glacier was higher up the mountain.
- C They had been on the mountain for at least five days.
- D Base camp was more than 3000 feet below them.
- E Joe thought they would make it back to base camp quickly.
- F There were no more uphill sections to climb.
- G The climbers were feeling more positive now than they were before.
- H On the ice cliff, the climbers had felt overwhelmed by despair.

0 3

0 4

You need to refer to **Source A** and **Source B** for this question.

Both writers are accompanied by another person on their adventure: Simon in Source A, and Marius in Source B.

Use details from both sources to write a summary of what you understand about the differences between the two companions, Simon and Marius.

[8 marks]

You now need to refer only to **Source A** from **lines 23 to 31**.

How does the writer use language to describe how he feels?

[12 marks]

For this question, you need to refer to the **whole of Source A**, together with the **whole of Source B**.

Compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on their adventures in the mountains.

In your answer, you could:

- compare their different feelings and perspectives on their adventures
- compare the methods the writers use to convey their feelings and perspectives
- support your response with references to both texts.

[16 marks]

45 minutes in total
1 mark per minute

45 minutes

Do not write
outside the
box

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.
Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

0 5

'People have become obsessed with travelling ever further and faster. However, travel is expensive, dangerous, damaging and a foolish waste of time!'

Write an article for a news website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

You are advised to plan your answer to Question 5 before you start to write.

05.3

An alloy of aluminium contains small amounts of other metals.

Explain why other metals are added to aluminium.

[4 marks]

*Do not write
outside the
box*



Optionality



- In some of the GCSE exams, students need to **choose** sections to answer
- This is because some GCSEs give schools the option to select the best topics/texts for their students
- For example, there is optionality in:

1. **English Literature**
2. **Geography**
3. **Music**



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

SECTION A

Shakespeare

	Question	Page
<i>Macbeth</i>	1	4–5
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	2	6
<i>The Tempest</i>	3	7
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	4	8
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	5	9
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	6	10

SECTION B

The 19th-century novel

	Question	Page	
Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	7	12–13
Charles Dickens	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	8	14
Charles Dickens	<i>Great Expectations</i>	9	16–17
Charlotte Brontë	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	10	18–19
Mary Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>	11	20–21
Jane Austen	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	12	22–23
Arthur Conan Doyle	<i>The Sign of Four</i>	13	24



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

SECTION A

Shakespeare	Question	Page
<i>Macbeth</i>	1	4–5
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	2	6
<i>The Tempest</i>	3	7
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	4	8
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	5	9
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	6	10

SECTION B

The 19th-century novel	Question	Page	
Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	7	12–13
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Jane Austen	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	12	22–23
Arthur Conan Doyle	<i>The Sign of Four</i>	13	24



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GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry

SECTION A

Modern prose or drama

		Questions	Page
JB Priestley	<i>An Inspector Calls</i>	1–2	4
Willy Russell	<i>Blood Brothers</i>	3–4	5
Alan Bennett	<i>The History Boys</i>	5–6	6
Dennis Kelly	<i>DNA</i>	7–8	7
Simon Stephens	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	9–10	8
Shelagh Delaney	<i>A Taste of Honey</i>	11–12	9
William Golding	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	13–14	10
AQA Anthology	<i>Telling Tales</i>	15–16	11
George Orwell	<i>Animal Farm</i>	17–18	12
Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>Never Let Me Go</i>	19–20	13
Meera Syal	<i>Anita and Me</i>	21–22	14
Stephen Kelman	<i>Pigeon English</i>	23–24	15

SECTION B

Poetry

		Questions	Page
AQA Anthology	<i>Poems Past and Present</i>		
	Love and Relationships	25	17
	Power and Conflict	26	19

SECTION C

Unseen poetry

27.1	20
27.2	21



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GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry

SECTION A

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SECTION B

Poetry	Questions	Page	
AQA Anthology	<i>Poems Past and Present</i>		
	Love and Relationships	25	17
	Power and Conflict	26	19

SECTION C

Unseen poetry	27.1	20
	27.2	21

Section C Physical landscapes in the UK

Answer **two** questions from the following:

Question 3 (Coasts), Question 4 (Rivers), Question 5 (Glacial).

Question 3 Coastal landscapes in the UK

Study **Figure 12**, opposite, a physical map of the British Isles.

0 3 . 1

Match the following descriptions of coastal landscapes in the UK with the correct letter shown on **Figure 12**.

[2 marks]

Description of coastal landscape	Letter
An uneven coastline with several large islands offshore	
A headland which marks the coastal limit of the South Downs	



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Wellbeing and support

- You have a lot of support in school
 - Mr Royles
 - Mrs Grimshaw
 - Mr Saunders
 - Mr Bainbridge
 - Form tutors
-
- We are here to help you through the tricky times.



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GCSE Results Day 2026 Thursday 20th August



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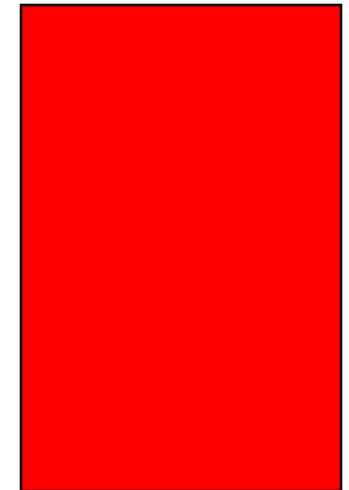
Presentation Evening, November 2026





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True or False





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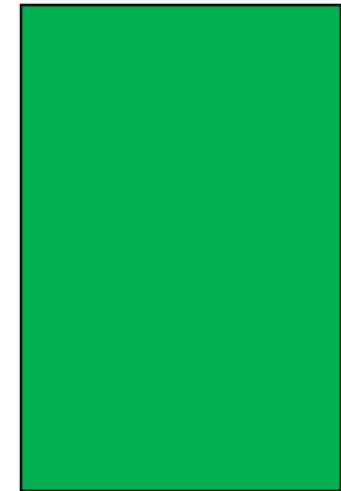
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True or False

Johnny is late for his exam because he missed the bus. He arrives at 10:15am

It is possible his paper won't be marked by the exam board.

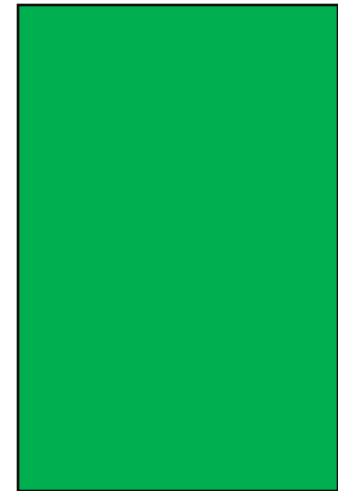




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True or False

Banned item?





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True or False



Banned item?

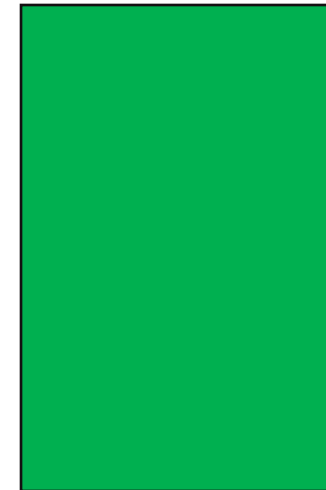




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True or False

Banned item?

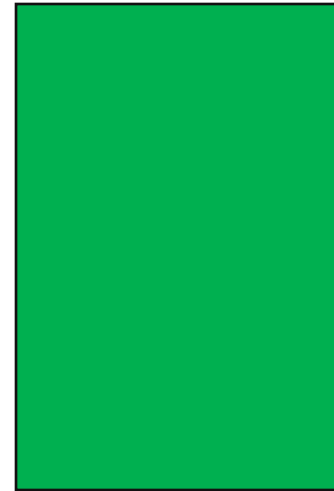




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True or False

Sophie turned and spoke to her friend in the Sport's Hall after the exam papers had been collected on the row. Sophie has committed malpractice.





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Pick a colour

Which set of poems do students answer in the English Literature paper?

Power
&
Conflict

Love
&
Relationships



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"We're here to support you every step of the way."

"Take breaks and remember to relax. You're doing great."



"You've got this. I believe in your ability to succeed."

"You're learning and growing, and that's what matters most."



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GOOD LUCK!



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