

# Key Stage 3 (Year 7)

## Challenge Cycle 2

### *Advice for Parents and Carers*



## Year 7

The second Challenge Cycle will commence on 3rd of February and conclude on 21<sup>st</sup> of March. This is the start of the termly period of assessment that benchmark progress and helps teacher know what needs to be reviewed as well help you understand your child's progress.

To reflect the lost learning time during the industrial action, summative assessments may be slightly shortened, as to not disadvantage pupils, but still be rigorous to gain an understanding of pupil's strengths and areas for development

Please note that dates may change due to staff absence or other factors affecting the delivery of the curriculum but this should be rare. The most up-to-date information will always be available on Google Classroom.

	Spr1				Spr2				Easter Break	
	03-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb	03-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	24-Mar	31-Mar	
Year 7	Art	Assessment	HT						Report	
	Computing	Assessment	HT						Report	
	D&T	Assessment	HT						Report	
	Dance	Assessment	HT						Report	
	Drama	Assessment	HT						Report	
	English	Assessment	HT	Assessment	Assessment				Report	
	Geography		HT		Assessment	Assessment			Report	
	History	Assessment	HT						Report	
	Maths	Assessment	HT						Report	
	MFL		HT	Assessment	Assessment				Report	
	Music		HT		Assessment				Report	
	PE	Assessment	HT				Assessment		Report	
	RP		HT						Report	
	Science		HT			Assessment	Assessment		Report	

The experience of exams can be overwhelming for pupils and, to put it simply, the more practice that pupils have with exams, the better they will do at the end of Year 11.

Pupils often underestimate how early they need to start revising and how organised they need to be. They often find it difficult to use the most effective revision strategies – just reading through notes is not an effective way of revising.

At school, your child will be doing work on how to prepare for assessments and how to revise. However, as most revision takes place outside classrooms, your role as a parent is invaluable.

### How can you help?

- Talk to your child about the importance of revision.
- Help them to plan out their revision making sure that they do not spend too long at any one time on revision but break it down into short chunks.
- Help them get organised with revision material, flash cards, felt pens, etc.
- Try to ensure that they have somewhere quiet to revise – you might want to make sure you are keeping a close eye on them!

### When should revision start?

One of the biggest reasons that pupils do not do as well as they can, is that they do not start revision in enough time. Most pupils have already begun their revision during their lessons.

### Coping with the pressure

We do want to avoid pupils becoming over stressed and worrying too much.

Advice for pupils	Advice for parents*
Do not suffer in silence. If you feel stressed, talk to someone and do not let things build up. Talk to parents, friends or members of staff .	Discuss nerves. Look out for signs of stress such as irritability, poor sleeping habits, appearing depressed and negative.
Try to eat healthily.	Make sure your child is eating well.
Make sure you sleep.	Encourage sleep.
Ask parents for help with revision if this helps. Telling someone what you do not understand about a topic is often a great way to help you understand it.	Assist them in their study if this helps, e.g. testing them, getting them to tell you why they do not understand something often helps to understand it.
Get exercise.	Encourage exercise.
Be aware of not wasting time.	Don't add to the pressure but keep things in perspective.
Do not waste time thinking about what you have not done. Be organised and try to move forward.	Be flexible with family routines and realise that exams do not last forever.

\*Taken from NHS Choices – Coping with exam stress

### Useful websites

Childline

<http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/SchoolCollege/Pages/exam-stress.aspx>

The calm zone

<https://www.thecalmzone.net/guides/exam-stress>

## **Basic guide to revision**

There are 3 main steps to revision:

- Make sure that you understand the work
- Make a revision resource, e.g. flash cards or mind maps and test yourself
- Test yourself a few days later and repeat

Before you start, make sure that you know what to learn by using the checklist.

Spread your revision out over a few weeks and do not try to cram the information in at the last minute.

Do not spend too long on one topic.

When you test yourself:

1. Do not look at the flash cards or mind map to start with.
2. If you have flash cards with questions on one side, then ask yourself the question or get somebody else to and then see if you are correct. Give yourself time to think about the answer – the longer you take, the more you will remember.

An alternative to this, is to write down everything you can remember about a topic and to then check to see if you are correct, and fill in the information you have forgotten.

3. Remember to come back to the topic again in a few days time and to repeat the process.

## What will my child be assessed on?

This booklet outlines the length and focus of each assessment/examination during this terms Challenge Week. This will ensure you know what to expect in each subject and so that you can help your child prepare.

All pupils will be assessed in the following subject areas during the term and these are listed on the following pages:

English	5
Mathematics	5
Science	5
Art	6
Dance	6
Drama	7
Geography	7
History	8
Computer Science	8
Design and Technology	9
Music	10
Food	10
Modern Foreign Languages (French)	11
Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish)	11
Physical Education	12
Religion and Philosophy	13

Some important information to note:

- Examinations will be held in normal lesson time when you are timetabled for the subject and will be in your usual classroom. There are some exceptions, where assessments may be held in a different room or in the Alan Hearn Hall.
- When the examination is going to begin the teacher will explain that the class are to remain in 'examination conditions' this means you are to remain in absolute silence and listen carefully to instructions. Do not interrupt instructions - wait until the teacher asks if there are any questions then raise your hand. Failure to adhere to the conditions of the examination may result in disqualification.
- **Equipment** - Pupils should ensure that they bring the correct exam equipment every day. This includes pens (x2), a sharp pencil, ruler, rubber and a calculator in a clear transparent pencil case.
- All phones, smart watches and devices/web enabled sources of information are prohibited during tests and exams and are also banned items in school.
- Possession of any unauthorised material will lead to disqualification and zero marks for your paper.
- Pupils will place their bag under their desk when they enter the exam venue and coats will be placed on the back of chairs.
- Pupils will be awarded extra time if they have literacy or processing difficulties that we are aware of. Formal exam access arrangements will be tested for in year 9 in preparation for GCSEs.

## English

**Topic:** Romeo and Juliet: Analysis of Act 1 Scene 5 of Romeo and Juliet (with a focus on love and relationships)

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Monday 10th February- Friday 7th March

**How long will the assessment last:** 1 hour

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Revise using notes made in class

**Additional resources here:**

BBC Bitesize KS3, Romeo and Juliet: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfdj6sq>

## Mathematics

**Topic:** All topics learnt since September up to the assessment

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** 10th February to 14th February

**How long will the assessment last:** 40 Minutes

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Use Revision document in Google classroom to revise on Sparx Maths

## Science

**Topic:** Particles, Reproduction and Energy

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Monday 3rd March - 17th March

**How long will the assessment last:** 50 minutes

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Revise using notes made in class, and use BBC bitesize

**Additional resources here:**

Particles: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z9r4jxs>

Reproduction: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zybbkqt>

Energy: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zc3q87h>

## Art

**Topic:** Formal Elements

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 10th February

**How long will the assessment last:** 47 mins

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:**

Continue to develop and practice their drawing skills. To research and observe the work of Salvadore Dali/Rene Magritte who will be the contextual links, however, it is not essential.

**Additional resources here:**

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-rene-magritte>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-salvador-dali>

## Dance

**Topic:** World Dance - Performance

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 10th February

**How long will the assessment last:** Pupils will perform a 30 second to 1 minute dance in a group. The dance will be filmed and the teacher will mark the performance out of 20. Pupils will be assessed on their ability to use technical, physical and expressive skills as well as shown the mood and meaning of the dance.

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Use PowerPoints, assessment criteria and video of Ms Walker performing the motif which will all be posted on Google Classroom. Pupils should make the most of their lesson time this term in order to be ready. They are also able to come and practice during KS3 open studio on a Friday lunchtime in the dance studio.

**Additional resources here:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011m4hh>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkjh7p3/revision/1>

## Drama

**Topic:** Refugee Boy - Scripted

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 10th February

**How long will the assessment last:** Pupils will perform a 2-3 minute scene from the play Refugee Boy. The performance will be filmed and the teacher will mark the performance out of 20. Pupils will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate physical and vocal skills, characterisation and their ability to creatively interpret a script.

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Use PowerPoints and assessment criteria which will be posted on Google Classroom. Pupils should make the most of their lesson time this term in order to be ready. They are also able to come and practice in the theatre during lunchtimes (this must be organised with a teacher in advance). Their homework this term will be to learn their lines.

**Additional resources here:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z84wh4j/articles/zm4jtcw#zt82nk7>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z84wh4j/articles/zcnb8p3#zx7dtdcw>

## Geography

**Topic:** Environmental Geography

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning March 3rd - 14th March

**How long will the assessment last:** 30 minutes

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Go back through both class and homework completed between September and December. All lesson materials are on Google Classroom.

**Additional resources here:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztgw2hv/articles/zhh6trd>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztgw2hv/articles/zppthcw>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztgw2hv/articles/znnhp4j>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztgw2hv/articles/zyysf82>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztgw2hv/articles/zbg3bqt>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx38q6f/articles/z773ydm>

## History

**Topic:** Life in the Middle Ages in Britain (spring 1) and Medieval Empires (spring 2)

**How many assessments:** Pupils will have one assessment in the Spring 1 term and one in the Spring 2 term (the Spring 2 assessment will not form a part of this assessment cycle)

**Assessment window/date:** the assessment will be completed on or around the week beginning the 10th of February - your child's teacher will update google classroom with the exact date of their assessment

**How long will the assessment last:** The assessment will consist of a persuasive speech, which will be no longer than five minutes, on an aspect of life for a group of people/a key individual in Middle Ages Britain

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** pupils should prepare by writing up their speech using the guidance and resources provided in their history booklets for the Spring 1 term as well as lesson materials uploaded by their teacher onto google classroom

**Additional resources here:** pupils can use this BBC bitesize site to help them prepare as well - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zbn7jsq>

## Computer Science

**Topic:** Computer Systems (Hardware and Software)

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 3rd February - Friday 14th February

**How long will the assessment last:** 30 minutes

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Pupils are encouraged to know that hardware are the physical parts of a computer (e.g., CPU, RAM, motherboard, monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc.). Software are programs and operating systems that run on hardware (e.g., Microsoft Word, Google Chrome, games, operating systems like Windows or macOS).

Revise Key Terms:

Create a glossary of key terms related to hardware:

- Input devices (e.g., keyboard, mouse, microphone)
- Output devices (e.g., monitor, printer, speakers)
- Storage devices (e.g., hard drive, SSD, USB)
- Operating System (e.g., what it is and examples)
- Application Software vs. System Software

**Additional resources here:**

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zmpsgk7>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zcxgr82/revision/1>



## Design and Technology

**Topic:** Textiles

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 3rd February

**How long will the assessment last:** 45 mins

**Revision of topics:** Using the sewing machines safely, parts and functions of the sewing machine, seams, hem and the applique process.

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Please encourage your child to use the lesson Google Slides posted on Google Classroom to help Graphics with revision.

**Topic:** Graphics

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 3rd February

**How long will the assessment last:** 1 hour

**Revision of topics:**

Illustrator tools

Pen tool, Fill & Stroke, Creating multiple points with star shape tool,

Design Brief, Mood Board, Target Market, meaning of Aesthetics, Product Analysis and Annotation

**Additional resources here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vhe3tGJH7JU&t=105s>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxywVI\\_PuQo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxywVI_PuQo)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyQPb2vhkWE>

**Topic:** Resistant materials

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 3rd February

**How long will the assessment last:** 45 minutes

**Revision of topics:** Safe use and function of the following hand tools; a coping saw, rasp and files (including the draw filing and cross filing technique). Safe use and function of the following power machines; a pillar drill, scroll/fret saw, bandsaw and disc and bobbin sander. Types of resistant materials, Names of natural and manufactured timbers and their differences

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Pupils can use resources which will be posted on Google Classroom. Pupils should make the most of their lesson time in this ½ term in order to be ready.

## Music

**Topic:** Composition 1: Suspense Scene

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 3rd March

**How long will the assessment last:** This will be the final lesson on this composition, which is being completed during January and February

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** They have the option to continue working on this composition in the music department during break times, lunchtimes and after school most days but will be given a lot of lesson time on this during these two months to complete this assessment.

**Additional resources here:** N/A

## Food

**Topic:** Food Practical lesson.

**How many assessments:** 1

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 3rd February

**How long will the assessment last:** 1 Hour

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Pupils can use resources which will be posted on Google Classroom.

**Additional resources here:** [Recipes - BBC Food](#)

Apple crumble, Pizza, fruit scones, Pasta salad.

## Modern Foreign Languages (French)

**Topic:** Module 3 Mon temps libre

Free time activities, weather, sports, things you do on your tablet/phone

The verbs 'Jouer' and 'Faire'

**How many assessments:** 2

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 24th February and 3rd March

**How long will the assessment last:** 30-45 minutes for both

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:**

Work through the revision PowerPoint posted on Google Classroom by your teacher, review your classwork, practise your writing skills and ask your teacher for help if required.

**Additional resources here:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zgdqxn timer>

## Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish)

**Topic:** Mi Insti

Facilities in school, adjectives, school subjects, days of the week, opinions

Present tense of er, ir, ar verbs

**How many assessments:** 2

**Assessment window/date:** Week beginning 24th February and 3rd March

**How long will the assessment last:** 30-45 minutes for both

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:**

Work through the revision PowerPoint posted on Google Classroom by your teacher, review your classwork, practise your writing skills and ask your teacher for help if required.

**Additional resources here:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zfckjxs timer>

## Physical Education

To reflect the lost learning time during the industrial action, summative assessments may be slightly shortened, as to not disadvantage the pupils, but still be rigorous to gain an understanding of pupil's strengths and areas for development

**Topic:** Half Term 3 - Scheme of Learning (depending on the carousel of learning, this will be either basketball, rugby, netball, football, table tennis or fitness).

**How many assessments:** Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Pupils will complete **one** practical assessment, in the scheme of /learning that they are currently studying. This will be made up of two parts. Pupils will complete a variety of progressively challenging drills, within their teaching groups and take part in some conditioned, full versions of the activity to demonstrate their abilities against opponents.

Pupils will be assessed in three different areas.

- 1) In their ability to perform the learned skills **(technical)**.
- 2) In their ability to demonstrate the required components of fitness appropriate to the activities **(physical)**.
- 3) in their ability to make tactical and strategic decisions relating to their performance **(tactical)**.

Teachers will assess whether pupils are performing less than expected, expected or more than expected progress compared to their peers.

**Assessment window / date:** Assessments will be completed in the final lessons of the scheme of learning.

**How long will the assessment last:** The practical assessments will each last for 40 minutes, in total.

**How should pupils prepare for the assessment:** Pupils should follow guidance provided by their PE teachers and distributed onto the PE Google Classroom page. This can be found under the 'Challenge Week' topic, or the 'Cover to Cover' topic.

## **Religion and Philosophy**

Pupils study Religion and Philosophy once a fortnight, therefore will not be assessed in the challenge cycle window. Data from their previous assessment (outside of Challenge Cycle 1), as well as classwork and Homework will form the Spring Term Report.

The next topic pupils will be assessed on will be – Christianity.

Pupils will be informed in class and via Google classroom when their assessment will take place, with advance notice.