

GCSE Maths Revision

Past Paper Revision Books:

April 2017

Dear Parent,

At Test Valley we want all pupils to achieve as well as possible – to be “in the pursuit of personal excellence”. To assist pupils with their revision they were told to do the following:

- Attempt all questions from a paper in the Practice Paper Revision Book.
- When the paper is finished - check and mark the answers to see if they were correct or not.
 - Answers – but not workings – were provided at the back of the papers.
 - If they got their answer correct – well done!
 - If not – **then** use any of the other revision materials* they have available to try and figure out how to answer the question correctly.
 - If a pupil still couldn't answer a question, *then* see their maths teacher.
- Record how well they had done.
- Move on to the next paper.

*A revision page was specially created within the Maths area on Moodle to help. This included links to two key sites that would help fill in any gaps in their knowledge – www.mathedup.co.uk and www.corbettmaths.com . Both sites have questions, worked solutions to exam questions and a “how-to” video for every possible maths topic.

When going through the mock exams it became clear that, whilst pupils understood most of the content required for their respective target grades, they were unused to the way that the questions were being asked and as such missed several marks. This is an unfortunate reality of the new curriculum, but also one of the reasons for producing the Practice Paper Revision Book.

What you can do:

To best support your pupil through what could be a challenging time, please do the following:

- 1) Check your pupil's Practice Paper Revision Book at regular intervals to see if it is being completed as recommended. There are 12 papers included in the Practice Paper Revision Book. The minimum expectation was that one paper would be completed each week. This means that by the end of this week each pupil should have completed at least 8 papers.
- 2) A minimum of 3 (if on track) or 4 (if behind) sessions of 45 minutes per week is recommended to ensure that pupils are revising properly.
- 3) Ensure pupils have all the required equipment. Pens, pencils, a ruler, compasses, protractor and a scientific calculator are essential.

What we are doing:

As well as Maths Clinic every Thursday, I will now be inviting pupils to attend extra sessions on a Tuesday. These will be focused on key topics from the mock exam. Only pupils who did not achieve as expected on these specific questions will be invited to each session – but the list of pupils invited will change each week to reflect how they did in the exam on the topic being studied.

The “Walking Talking” mock was very successful in helping pupils understand what will be expected of them in the exam – as well as giving useful advice and improving examination technique. We will run more of these prior to the final exams.

Revision sessions will also be run during the Easter holidays on Thursday 13th April. Those targeting grades 4 and 5 will be from 9am-11pm and those targeting grade 7 will be from 12pm-2pm. There will be the opportunity for extra help with Practice Paper Revision Books as well as structured support on key topics so will be very useful.

Finally there are five 40-minute webinars that are available from “Tutor2U”. These are aimed at pupils aiming for around grade 6 (grade B or higher in old terms) and cost £5 each – with downloadable resources and revision materials included. If this is of interest, go to <https://www.tutor2u.net/the-edge-maths> to have a look and book.

I can assure you that the Maths team at Test Valley are doing all they can to help support your child. By working together I am confident that we will once again achieve really good results and remain the best secondary school for Maths in the local area for our fifth year in a row.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E J Whatley.
Head of Mathematics.