



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



Key Stage 4 Year 10 Supporting Success Information Evening

KS4 Results Overview

	2025 %9-5	2019 %9-5		2025 %9-4	2019 %9-4
Basics En/Ma	67	61		85	81
EBacc	40	39		56	51

- 82% of students gained 5 standard passes including En & maths (2019 – 77%)
- 65% of students gained 5 strong passes including En & maths (2019 – 58%)
- 19% of grades were at 9 or 8 – 487 grades – **National = 12.3%**
- 7% of grades were at 9 – 174 grades – **National = 5.1%**

80% joined Sixth Form

Parent/Child/School – How can we be the most productive together?

- **Attendance**
- Keeping up to date
 - Parent letters
 - Half termly HGS Newsletter and weekly Student Newsletter
 - Website (Curriculum Information)
 - Arbor
 - Class Charts
- Keeping in contact with us
 - Nik Mason, Head of Upper School
 - Lesley Weston, Year Manager for Year 10

Procrastination

Reason - No motivation

Solution - Set a clear and specific goal

Reason - Overwhelmed

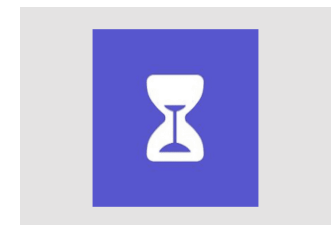
Solution - Break the work down, create a list

Reason - Dislike the work

Solution - Bribery, work with friends/parents

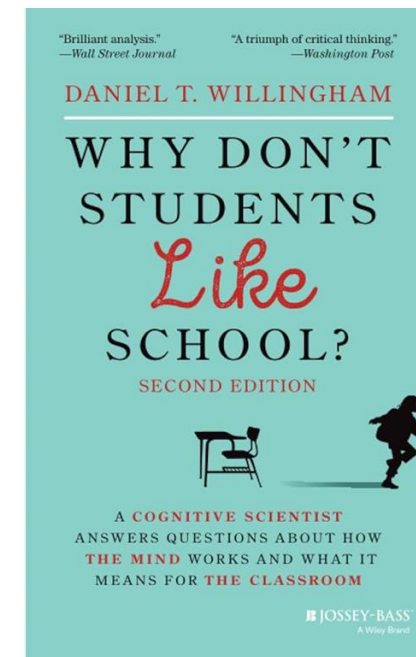
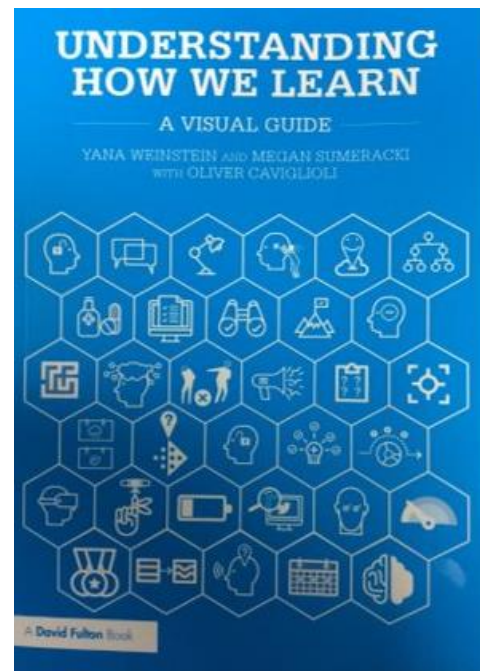
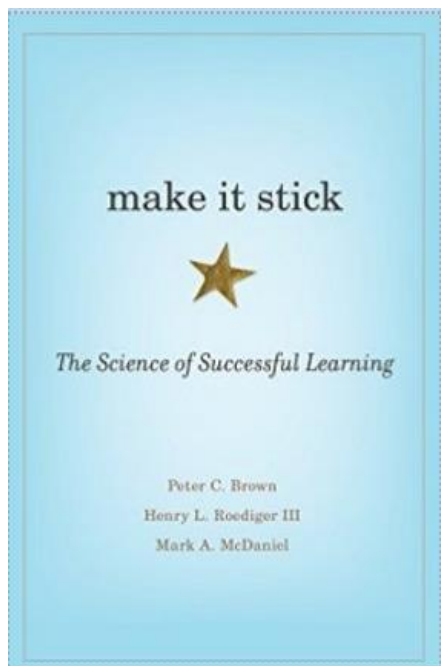
Reason - Social Media

Solution - Hold, Focus Me, Restrain Yourself





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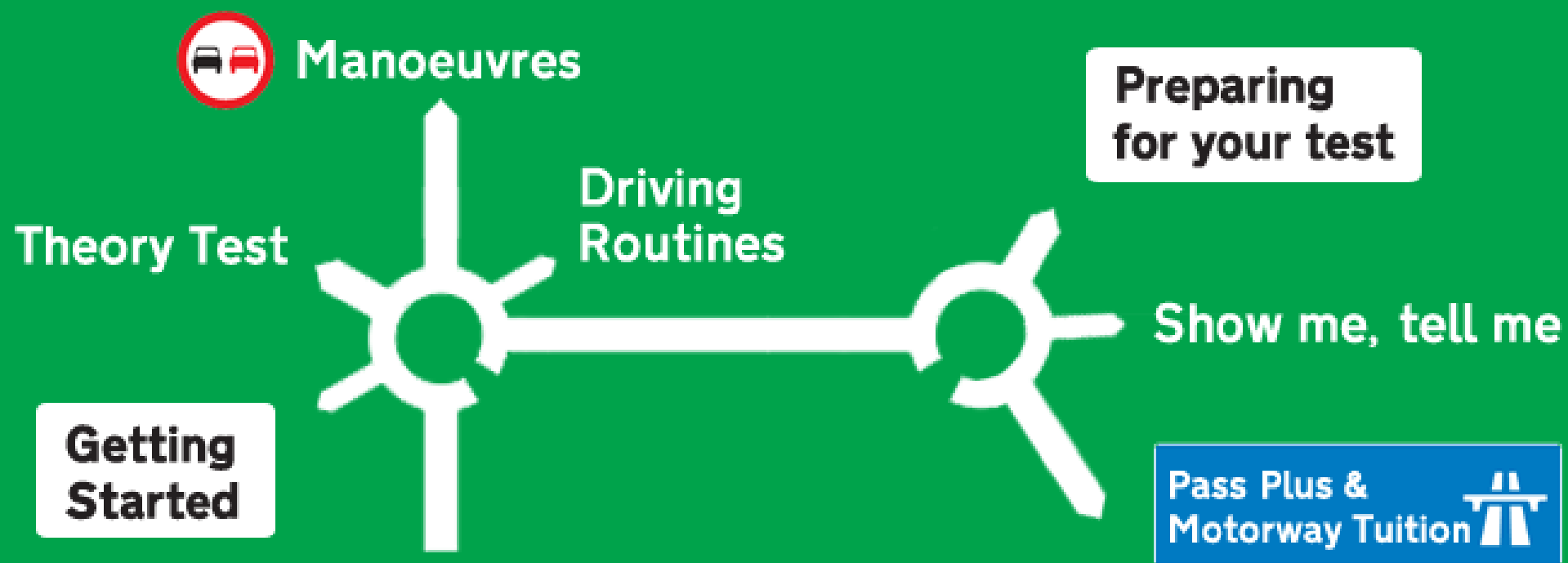


Making Learning Stick

Supporting Your Child to Learn More Effectively
and Develop Greater Memory Retention

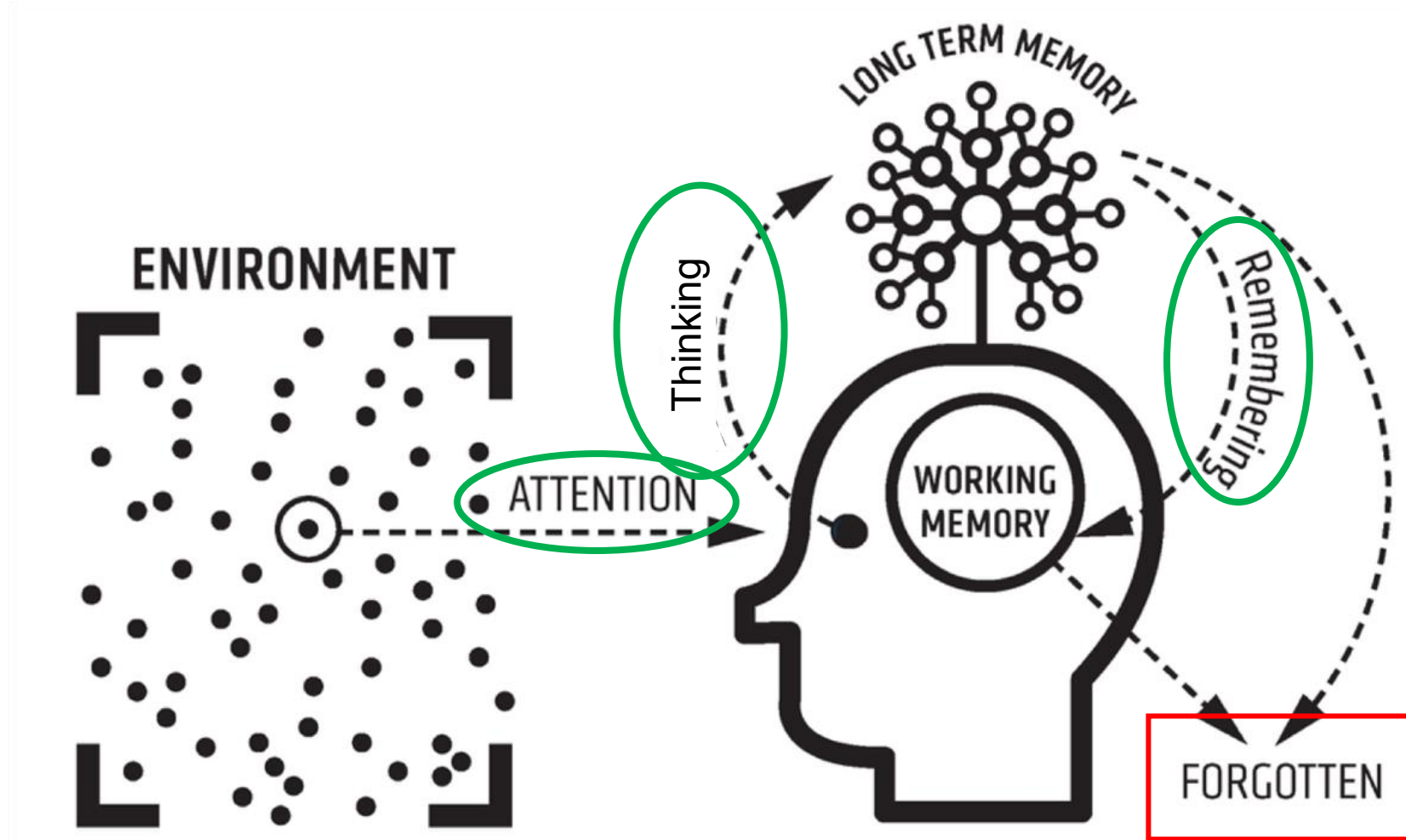


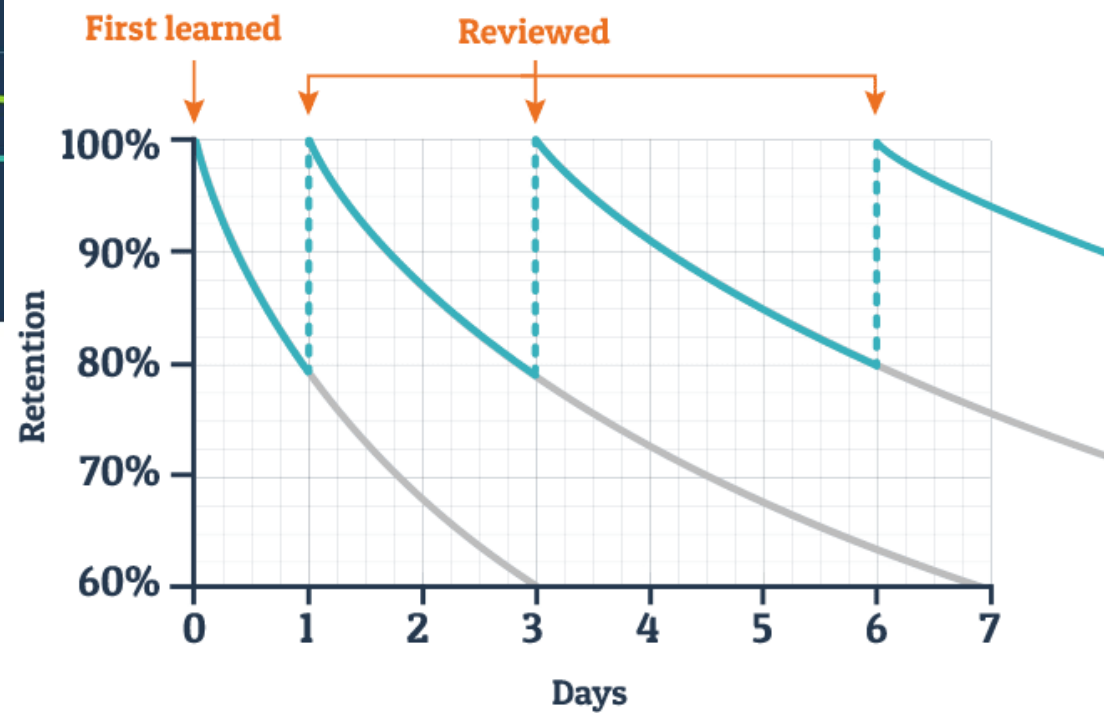
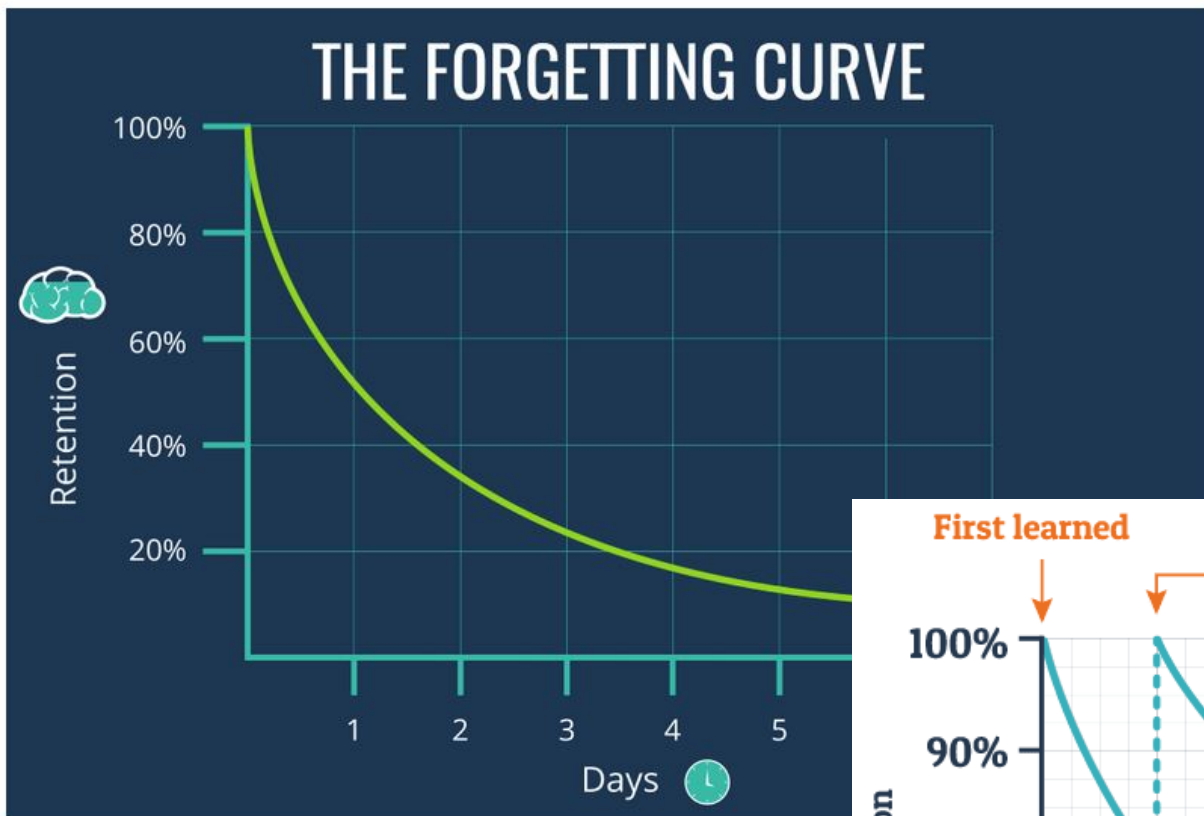
Learning to Drive





Learning = a change in long term memory





How we strengthen memory in lessons



Retrieval Practice



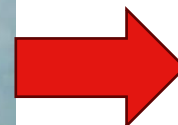
English Verb Tenses - Commands						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show Names <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show Responses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show Results						
NAME ▲	SCORE % ⬆	1	2	3	4	5
Aurora	✓ 100%	✓ C	✓ A	✓ D	✓ D	✓ B
George	✓ 60%	✗ A	✓ A	✓ D	✗ B	✓ B
Kevin	✓ 40%	✗ B	✓ A	✗ C	✗ A	✓ B
Mei	✓ 80%	✓ C	✗ B	✓ D	✓ D	✓ B
Pablo	✓ 80%	✓ C	✓ A	✓ D	✗ A	✓ B
Raj	✓ 100%	✓ C	✓ A	✓ D	✓ D	✓ B
6 Class Total		67%	83%	83%	50%	100%





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Becoming an independent learner



Home learning at HGS

- Regular so part of routine
- Set by the teacher on the same day each week
- Tasks should take a maximum of 40-45 minutes
- Set on Arbor
- Many subjects use Showbie for home learning tasks and resources – easy to find
- **Mainly designed to give students independent practice linked to lessons and to strengthen memory and teach effective revision techniques.**

Home Learning in KS4 – frequency and duration

	KS4
English	2 per week
Maths	2 per week
Science	1 per week per subject
MFL	
Geography and History	
RS	1 per cycle
Art and Design	
Music and Drama (8&9)	
All GCSE options	1 per week

KS4 – duration per task	
English, Maths, <i>Science</i> & RS	40 mins
Options	45 mins
Time per week	8 hours
Time per weekday	1 hour 36 mins

Study environment and equipment

Timing

Position

Hydration



Controlling
distractions

Location



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KS4

Supporting Success

English



English at HGS will foster a **life-long love of English**.

- English will teach students to **communicate** orally and in writing **with conviction** and **precision**; to develop an **independent voice** underpinned by the **wide vocabulary** necessary to express it. This will include the rhetoric of effective engagement.
- Students will **read widely** and learn to **decode inferentially** and **metaphorically, evaluate** the impact of language effectively and recognise patterning and literary tropes.
- Our curriculum will teach students key literary contextual knowledge and cultural capital from which to build skills and develop as **empathetic global citizens**.



2025

Best English outcomes:

- 9-7 = 41%
- 9-5 = 78%
- 9-4 = 89%

English Language
Paper 1:
Explorations in
Creative Reading
and Writing

Section A: Reading

- One literature fiction text (e.g. extract from 'Jamaica Inn' or 'Brighton Rock')

Section B: Writing

- Descriptive or narrative writing (e.g. response to picture)
- **Assessed through:**
- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

English Language Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

- **Section A : Reading**
- One non-fiction text (e.g. article from a broadsheet newspaper) and one literary non-fiction text (e.g. letter from 19th Century)
- **Section B: Writing**
- Writing to present a viewpoint
- **Assessed through:**
- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Spoken Language Endorsement

- Spoken language qualification which is a **compulsory external** exam which is delivered and graded internally.
- A student must speak independently on a topic of their own choice for between 5-8 minutes in front of an audience and then take and answer questions from that audience.
- Each presentation is filmed for submission to the exam board.
- The gradings are: **Distinction, Merit, Pass or Non-Complete (NC)**
- Every student must be entered for this qualification and must attempt it.
- Exemptions can only be made for students who have an existing, exempting medical or SEND need which would lead to special consideration in all their external examinations.
- Communication about the presentations will be shared with parents in the summer term.

English Literature Paper 1

Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

- One Shakespeare play ('Macbeth')
- One 19th Century novel ('Jekyll and Hyde')
- **Assessed through:**
 - Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
 - 64 marks
 - 40% of GCSE

English Literature Paper 2

Modern Texts and Poetry

- One post 1914 prose fiction - 'Animal Farm'
- One cluster of poetry – given by AQA.
- Unseen poetry

- Assessed through:
 - Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes
 - 96 marks
 - 60% of GCSE



- Attendance to lessons
- Complimentary home learning – **one Language Sparx Reader and one Literature** (40 mins each)
- Ask your child the big question – What is the main message of the text they are studying?
- Read over your child's work for clarity and literacy.
- Encourage independent reading of fiction and non-fiction.
- Debate key issues – encourage your child to share their viewpoint on key issues. Discussions about current affairs and how they link to ideas and themes in set texts.
- Encouraging the development of own opinions through independent learning e.g. use of revision guides, websites (for example BBC Bitesize, OAK National Academy),

Sparx Reader is an online platform that helps students develop their reading and literacy skills:

- Personalized tasks

Students are assigned books of their choice and tasks are personalized based on their reading ability.

- Progress tracking

Teachers can see how much each student is reading in real time, and the Sparx Reading Test measures students' progress.

- Regular reading

Students are encouraged to practice reading regularly to set them up for success in secondary school and beyond.

- Accessibility features

Students can change their settings to ensure the site is accessible to them.

- League table

Students can compete with other students for the most Sparx Reading Points(SPR).

- Support for lower-attaining students

Questions are carefully designed to be easy for students to pass if they have read carefully.



What is Gold Reader?



A Sparx Gold Reader is a status granted to motivated students who consistently read carefully and independently on Sparx Reader, allowing them to read any paperback book of their choice from home or the school library. To qualify, students must earn five "gold stars," with each star awarded for reading 300 SRP (Sparx Reading Points) above their weekly target. Once achieved, students record their reading onto the platform to track their personal reading and continue earning points.

Completion:

100% 

Accuracy:

Ok

SRP:

512/500

Checks passed:

4/5

Time spent:

34 mins

Books:

1 [show books](#)

Section 6: 1075 words



1 day ago Attempt 1

Time reading: 3 mins and 53 secs (277 wpm)

71 SRP

[Show questions](#) 

Time on questions: 23 secs

Questions correct: 3/4

Section 5: 1428 words



1 day ago Attempt 3


Time reading: 14 secs (6,300+ wpm)

0 SRP

[Hide questions](#) 

Time on questions: 12 secs

Questions correct: 3/4

Question 1 


Q1.

The hare had been eating something of theirs in the garden. What had it been eating?

Question 2 

Question 3 

Question 4 

Not in story 

Carrots

Cauliflowers

Potatoes

Aubergines

Strawberries



Setting: Minimum Expected Grades

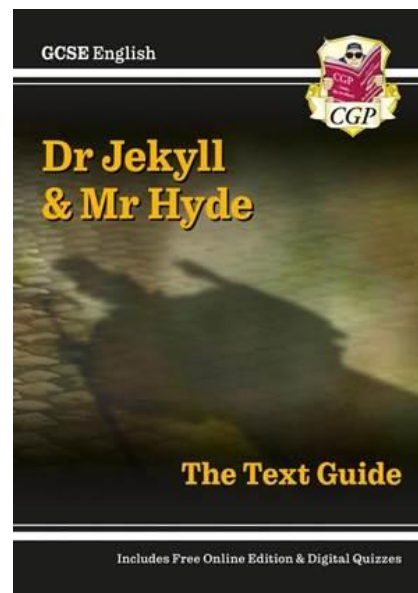
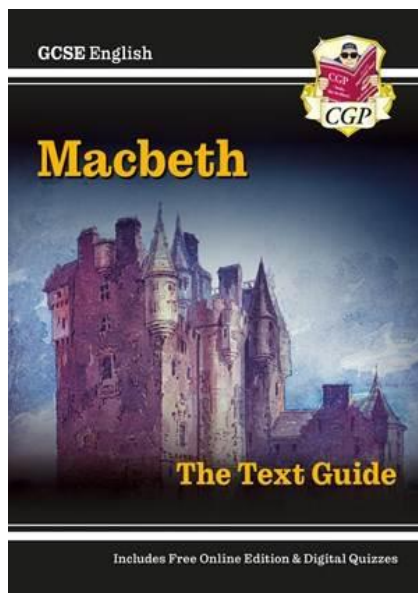
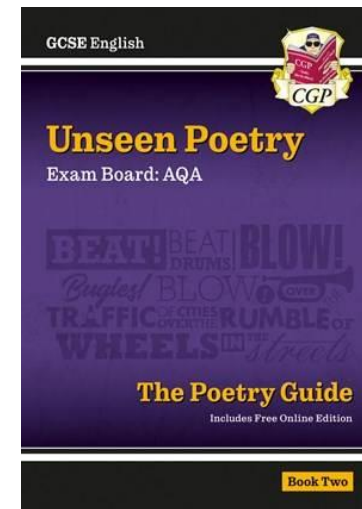
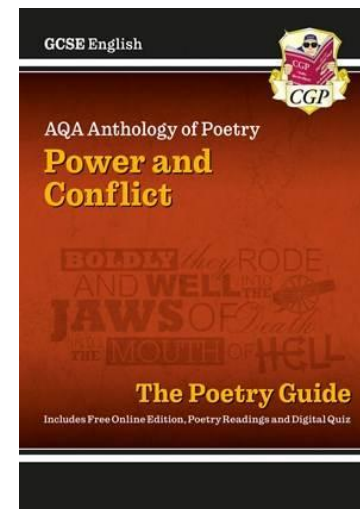
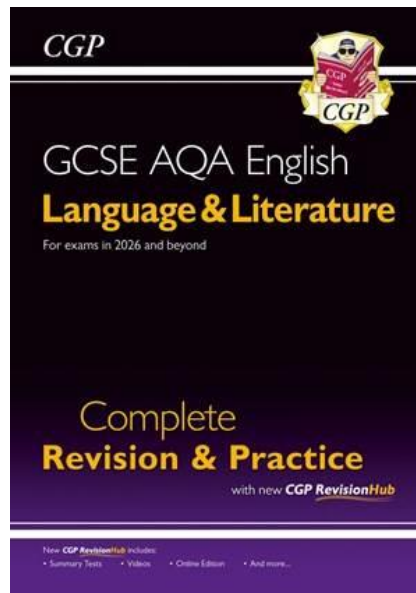
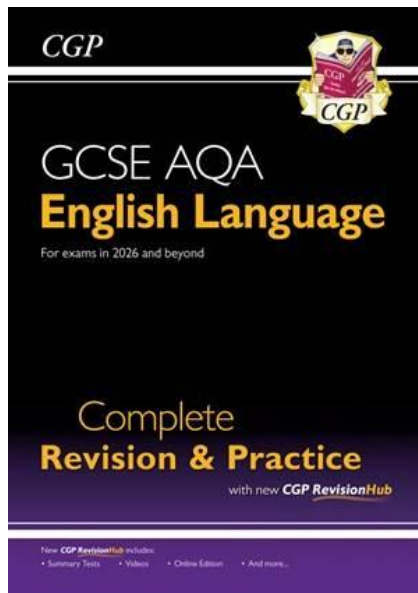
L & R Set 1	7
L & R Set 2	7
L & R Set 3	5
L & R Set 4	5
L & R Set 5	5



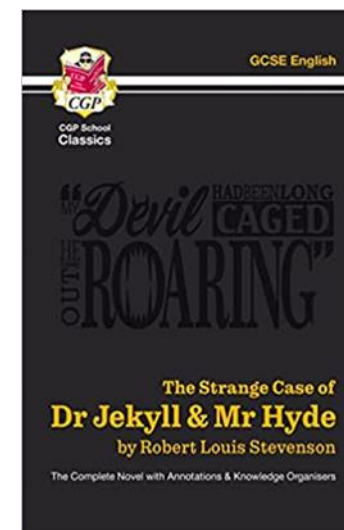
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Study Guides

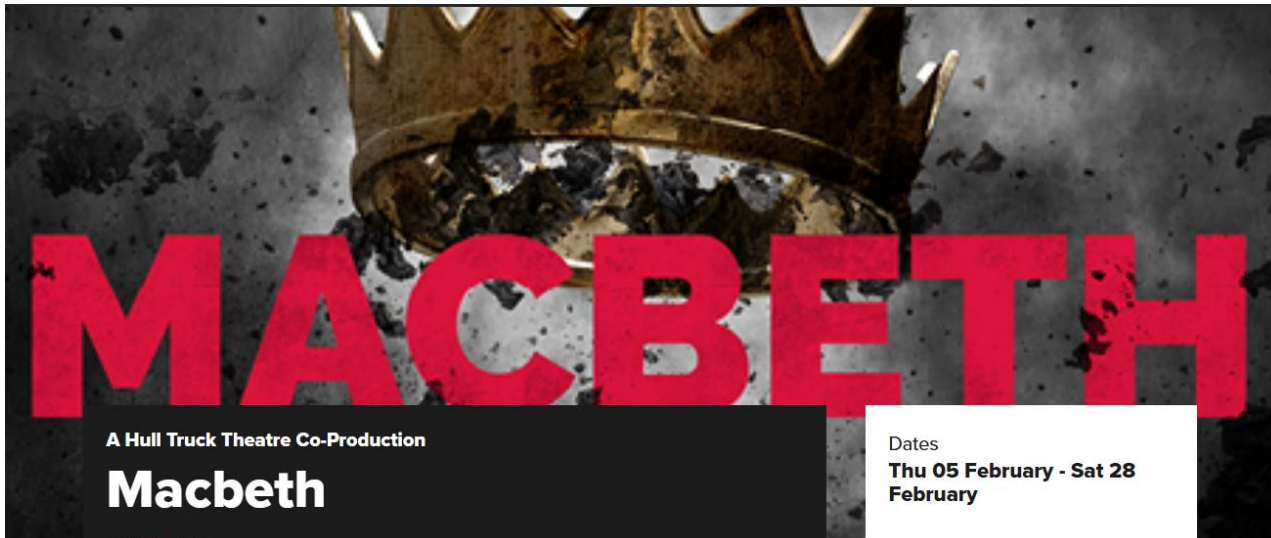


Purchased in Y9



www.harrogategrammar.co.uk

Watch texts in performance



MACBETH

A Hull Truck Theatre Co-Production

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare

HELL IS MURKY

In a country ravaged by war and rebellion, a fragile peace has finally broken out across an exhausted and wounded land.

Macbeth, returning from battle, meets three witches bearing a strange and fateful prophecy that begins a chain of bloody and brutal events.

Dates
Thu 05 February - Sat 28 February

Venue
Stage 1, Hull Truck Theatre

Tickets
£32 - £11
Concessions Available

DRAMA DEAL

[BUY TICKETS](#)



Revision On Tour: Dr Jekyll &
Mr Hyde
Grand Opera House York



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KS4

Supporting Success Maths



KS4 Maths – Key Contacts



Jason Hill
Assistant Headteacher
Maths

Mr Hill
Assistant Headteacher - Maths
HillJ@hgs.rklt.co.uk

The Maths Faculty - Vision

Maths at HGS aims to **spark a passion in maths** for all students, no matter what their starting point is, through the beauty of **discovering patterns, making connections and looking for the 'why'** behind mathematical formulae.

Results

GCSE	2025	National 2025
9%	5	3
% 9-8	20	10
% 9-7	32	18
% 9-6	46	28
% 9-5	73	44
% 9-4	88	62

Other highlights:

- SEN: Maths improvement stands out – 58% (9–5) vs 46% last year



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Legacy

65% of students in the Sixth Form
take a Maths course



Legacy – Year 13 and 12 Results (2025)

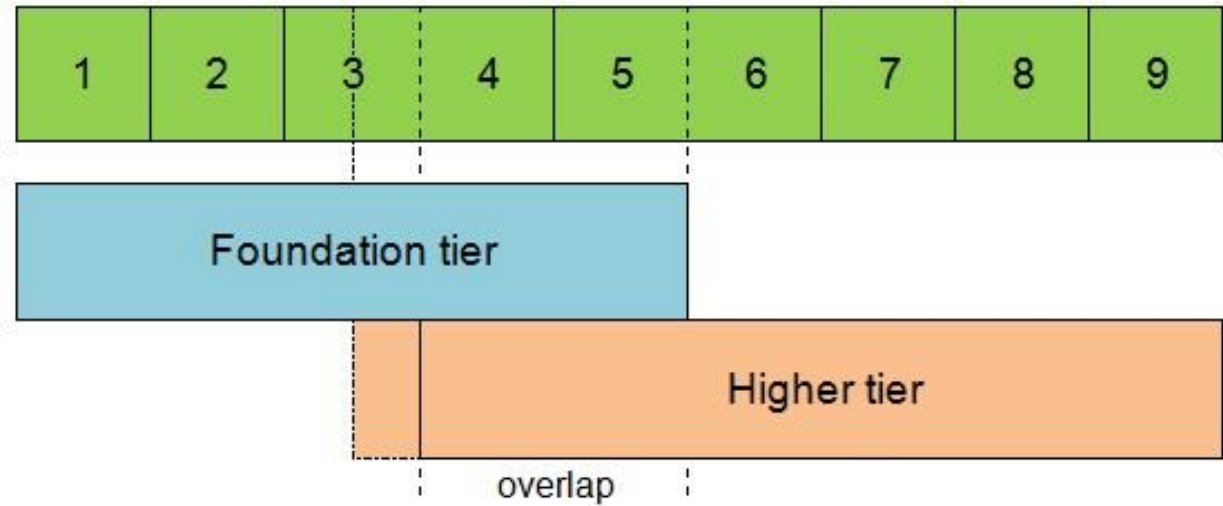
- A Level Maths: 36% of students achieved an A* grade. 69% achieved A*-A.
- A Level Further Maths: 41% of students achieved an A* grade. 73% achieved A*-A.
- Core Maths: 25% of students achieved an A grade. 76% achieved an A-C.
- AS Maths: 57% of students achieved an A grade. 71% achieved A-B.

Maths GCSE 9-1



- Exam board – **Edexcel**.
- Three equally-weighted written examination papers.
- Paper 1 is a non-calculator exam, and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 80 marks.

Tiering



- Two tiers of entry for Maths GCSE
- Higher – Grades 9-4 Foundation – Grades 5-1
- Higher Tier contains additional harder content not assessed on Foundation Tier
- Final decisions about tiering are not made until later in Year 11, but students 'on track' for one or the other depending on their set

GCSE 9-1 grade boundaries

- Higher Tier

Grade	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
4	18%	21%	20%	17.5%	22%
5	33%	30%	33%	30%	36%
7	57%	65%	60%	57%	65%
9	83%	81%	85%	82%	90%

- Foundation Tier

Grade	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
4	51%	56%	61%	59%	60%
5	65%	72%	75%	73%	73%

Maths Classes in Year 10

In Maths, there are 5 groups on each side of the year:

10L1				10R1	Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 are working towards entry on Higher
10L2				10R2	
10L3				10R3	
10L4				10R4	
10L5				10R5	Group 5 is working towards entry on Foundation

Although you will all study broadly the same area of maths the higher groups will cover more content in order for them to be able to sit the Higher Tier in their Maths GCSE. Tier decisions are made in Year 10 and in Year 11, so students in groups could sit either tier.

Weighting

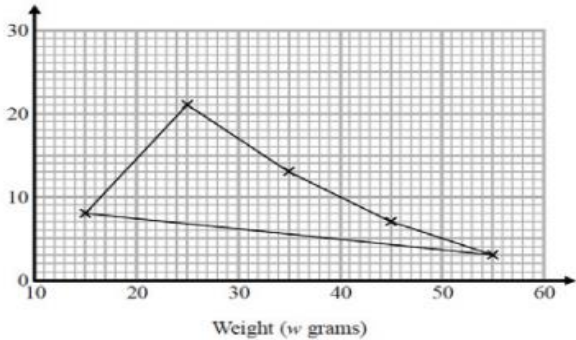
	Foundation Tier	Higher Tier
Number	25%	15%
Algebra	20%	30%
Ratio, proportion and rates of change	25%	20%
Geometry and Measures	15%	20%
Statistics	15%	15%
Probability		

GCSE 9-1

21 The table shows some information about the weights of 50 potatoes.

Weight (w grams)	Frequency
$10 < w \leq 20$	6
$20 < w \leq 30$	21
$30 < w \leq 40$	13
$40 < w \leq 50$	7
$50 < w \leq 60$	3

Iveta drew this frequency polygon for the information in the table.
The frequency polygon is **not** fully correct.



Write down **two** things that are wrong with the frequency polygon.

1.....

2.....

(Total for Question 21 is 2 marks)

14 Saffron wants to work out an estimate for the total number of fish in a lake.

On Friday, Saffron catches 180 fish from the lake.
She puts a tag on each of these fish and puts them back into the lake.

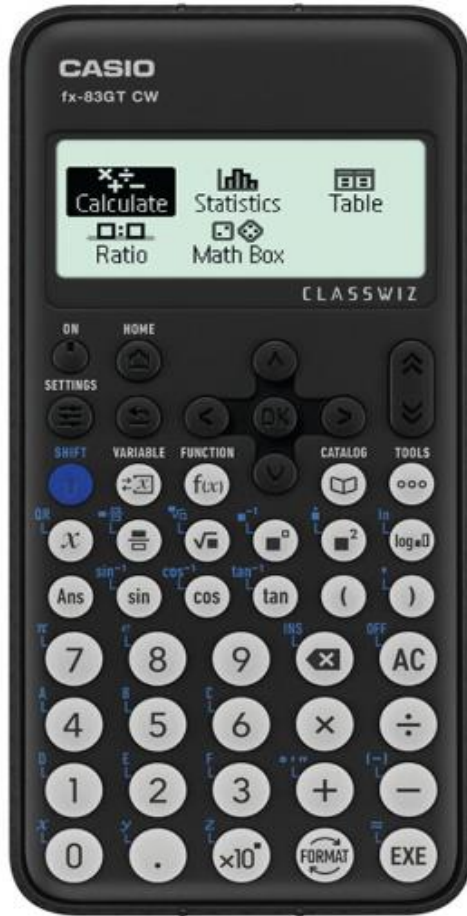
On Saturday, Saffron catches 305 fish from the same lake.
She finds that 45 of the 305 fish are tagged.

Work out an estimate for the total number of fish in the lake.

(Total for Question 14 is 3 marks)

- Greater emphasis on problem solving
- Greater requirements to apply techniques
- Range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts

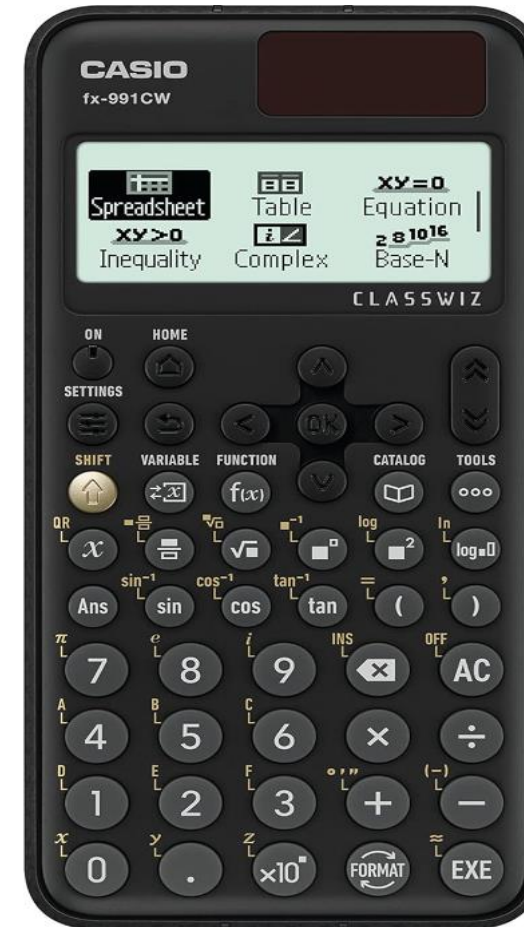
Which calculator?



This calculator can be purchased via most stationery shops and supermarkets (as well as online).

**Casio fx-
83GT CW**

**2/3 of GCSE Maths
requires confident use of
a scientific calculator**

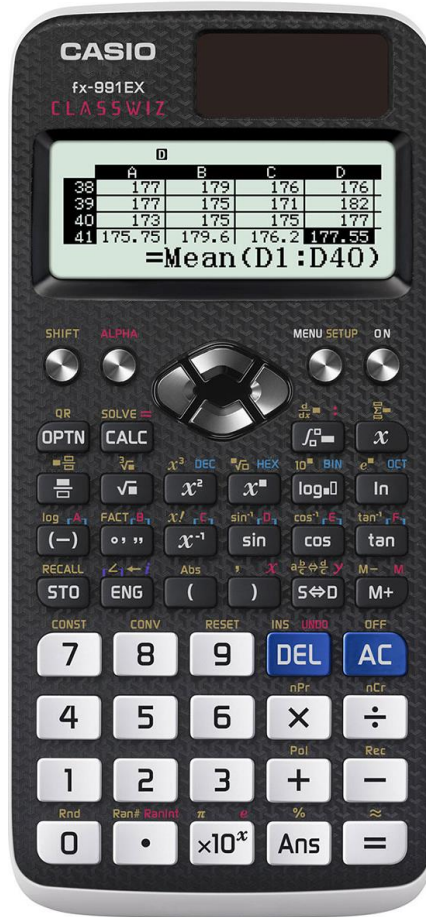


This calculator can be purchased via Arbor School Shop for a discounted price of £20.75. If you would like to purchase, please select this product from Arbor Shop (via Arbor Parent app).

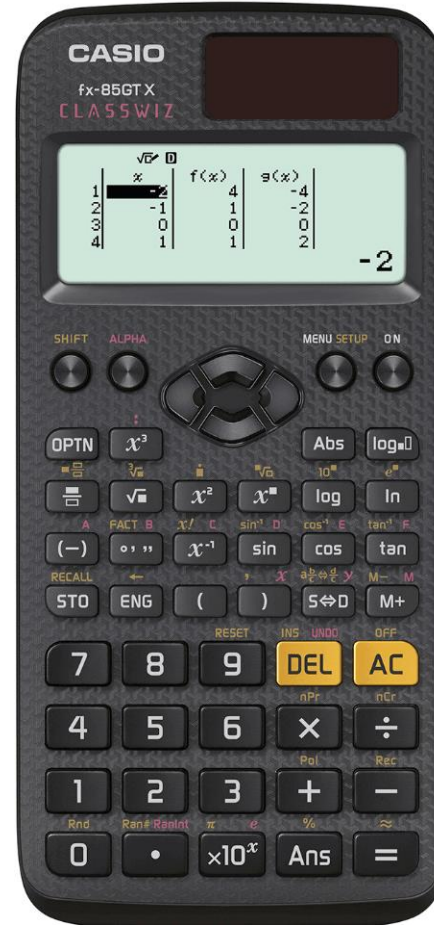
**Casio fx-
991 CW**

This is ideal if you plan to study GCSE Further Maths, or any Maths course in 6th Form.

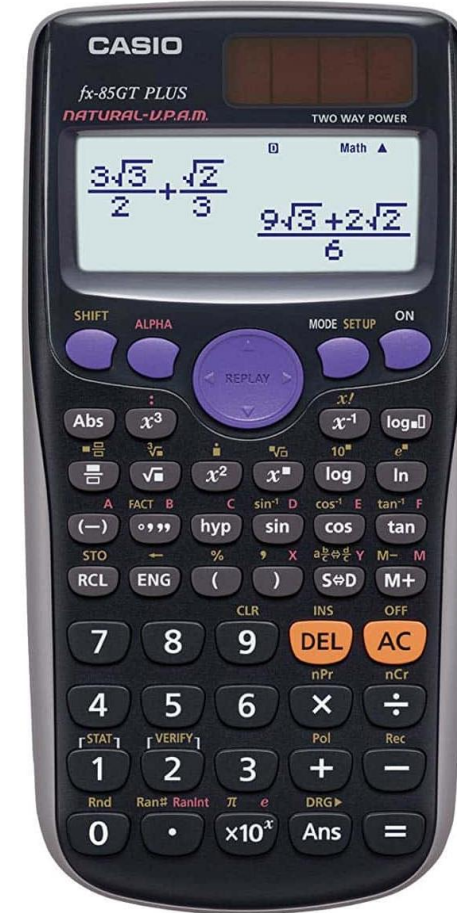
These are the previous models



Casio fx-991EX



Casio fx-85GTX



Casio fx-85GT PLUS

Home Learning (2 assignments)

- Please ensure you child completes their weekly assignments.
- Up to 60 minutes of home learning on Sparx Maths.
- Up to 20 minutes on 'GCSE Exam Question' – these are designed as retrieval style questions, giving students exposure to past paper questions.



Y10 Higher Exam Question Homework Week 2

Andrew and Bruce share some money in the ratio 5 : 6
Bruce gets £96

Andrew gives $\frac{1}{4}$ of his share to Carl.

Bruce gives $\frac{2}{3}$ of his share to Carl.

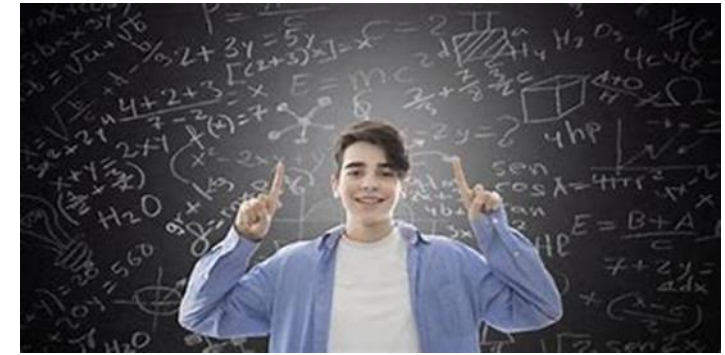
How much money does Carl receive?

[4 marks]

Answer £ _____



Additional Sessions



- Encourage your child to attend all extra Maths sessions.
- We run Tuesday lunchtime Sparx Drop Ins. A perfect opportunity to get support with the weekly two home learning assignments!
- We run Wednesday Lesson 6 GCSE Maths Drop Ins in A39. An excellent chance to go through topics being covered in lessons, as well as past papers.
- We will also be running further timetabled interventions throughout this year. These will be assigned on Arbor.

What can you do to help?

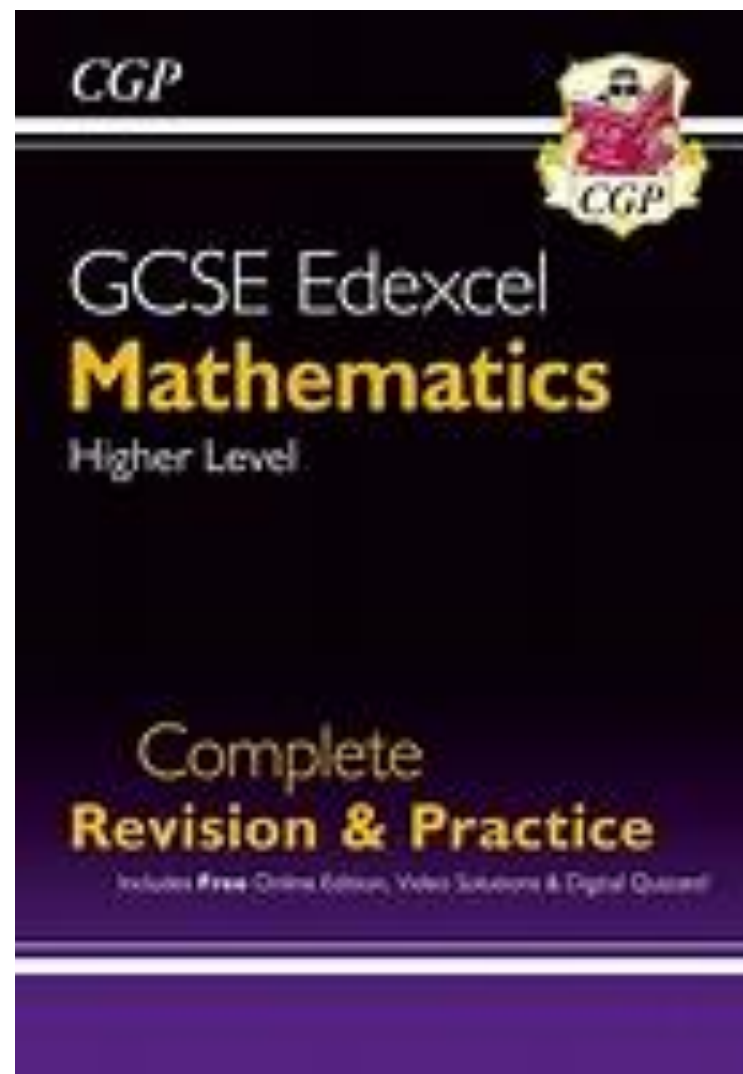
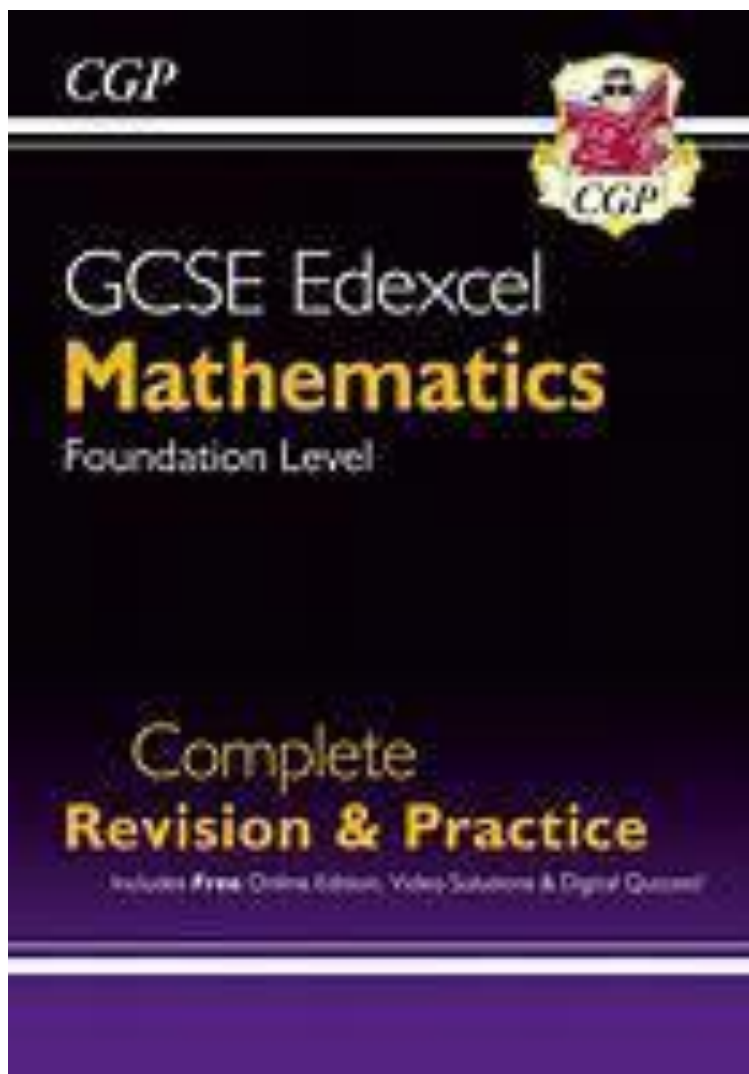


- Ensure your child completes their 2 assignments each week (100% on Sparx, the GCSE Exam question via Showbie).
- Invest in a new scientific calculator if your child currently does not own one - 2/3 of GCSE Maths requires a calculator. Your child needs to feel confident using one!
- Encourage your child to attend all extra Maths sessions, including: Tuesday lunchtime Sparx Drop Ins, Wednesday Lesson 6 in A39, any other timetabled interventions.



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- Revision Guides – you can order through School Shop on Arbor:





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Please use the link below if you have any further questions following this information evening.

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www.harrogategrammar.co.uk