



1 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Year Common Assessment Tasks (CATs) for Years 7, 8 and 9

Monday 1 June to Friday 12 June

The end of year Common Assessment Tasks (CATs) will take place in normal timetabled lesson time between Monday 1 June and Friday 12 June. Individual class teachers will inform students of the exact date and lesson for each assessment nearer the time.

This is the final, formal assessment of the year. It gives students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt in each subject over the year.

Subject teachers will guide your child through the process. Lesson time will be used to tell students what they can expect in each CAT and how long it will be. In the final two weeks of this term, home learning will be focused on specific revisions activities. Students will also have revision lessons. All resources will be available for students in Showbie.

Students will know what topics and skills will be tested in each assessment and will be advised how best to prepare.

If you have any questions, please contact the relevant [Year Manager](#).

We wish students every success in their assessments.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Moat

Associate Headteacher

Harrogate Grammar School Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 0DZ
☎ 01423 531127 ✉ mail@hgs.rklt.co.uk 📘 HarrogateGrammarSchool 📧 @HarrogateGS
www.harrogategrammar.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr N Renton, Associate Headteacher: Mrs K Moat



Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

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ENGLISH

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	This will test your reading comprehension and language analysis skills of gothic fiction.
Units/topics that should be revised:	<p>Look at gothic extracts you have read in lessons and be confident that you understand what is typical of the genre.</p> <p>Practise the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identifying language features accurately• summarising what gothic setting looks like• selecting evidence (quotations) <p>You could make sure you are confident with the choices of words in a text (such as adjectives, adverbs, nouns, verbs, imagery, sensory language, similes, metaphors and any other techniques you have been taught).</p> <p>Can you explain how these words make the reader feel?</p> <p>Make sure you know how to structure a what/how/why paragraph. The planning work on Showbie explains how to do this.</p>
Structure of CAT	<p>45-minute CAT (what/how/why paragraphs using a range of evidence from an extract)</p> <p>How has a gothic setting been presented in an unseen extract from a gothic novel?</p>

MATHS

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	To assess your understanding of the topics taught so far this year, and in preceding years.
Units/topics that should be revised:	<p>NUMBER – Multiples/Factors, Prime Factors, Standard Form, Calculations with FDP, Approximation.</p> <p>RATIO AND PROPORTION – Divide in a ratio, percentage of an amount with/without a calculator, Increase/Decrease by percentages, simple interest, using proportion to solve problems</p> <p>ALGEBRA – Expanding Brackets, Using Formulae and Solving Equations, Constructing Graphs of Linear Equations, Gradient and Intercepts, nth term of a sequence.</p> <p>SHAPE AND SPACE –Area and Surface area, Area and Circumference of circles, Transformations of shapes, Pythagoras' Theorem, Volume of prisms and cylinders.</p> <p>PROBABILITY – Simple probability, Probability scales, Venn diagrams, Sample space diagrams.</p>
Structure of CAT	<p>Two papers – one non-calculator, one calculator</p> <p>Each paper will take one lesson to complete.</p>

SCIENCE

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	To test understanding of the Year 8 science course as a whole. As well as your prior knowledge from Year 7.
Units/topics that should be revised:	<p>Light Types of waves and key wave terms. Light waves, reflection, refraction and the use of lenses. How we see colours. The human eye.</p> <p>Sound Sound waves, the speed of sound and human hearing.</p> <p>Healthy Living Healthy eating and diet. The effects of alcohol and drugs.</p> <p>Respiration Aerobic and anaerobic respiration.</p> <p>Environmental Chemistry Greenhouse effect and climate change, transport, acid rain, Earth's atmosphere</p> <p>Moments Moments and levers. Calculating moments. Balancing and using moments.</p> <p>Types of Reaction Chemical reactions to include combustion and thermal decomposition. Balancing chemical equations and the conservation of mass.</p> <p>Photosynthesis Plant cells and the structure of a leaf. Factors affecting the rate of Photosynthesis.</p>
Structure of CAT	Two 40 minute papers, to be sat in science lessons.

Computer Science

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	To assess your knowledge and understanding of all topics taught this year.
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer Systems and Binary representation• HTML and websites
How will you be examined? Structure of the exam/form of exam	The test will be online using Socrative. The questions will be a mix of multiple choice and open response questions.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	The questions relate to the projects you have made in design technology during the year.
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know the design methods, names of the tools, materials and processes that you have used in design technology projects• Understand the casting process – specifically casting with Pewter.• Metals properties and finishing techniques• Produce a flowchart to show the manufacture of your design including quality checks.• Be able to identify CAD and CAM processes – Techsoft vector software, laser cutting/3D printing• Input process and output• Soldering electronic components
Structure of CAT	Multiple Choice

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Revision outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	To establish learning of key principles throughout the course.
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Safety: Safe working in the food room.• Nutrition: Healthy eating in line with the Eatwell Guide, Energy Balance and Healthy Hydration.• Food Preparation skills – skills and Ingredients used to make the recipes this academic year.• Food Provenance – where different foods come from.• Food Choice – understanding the special dietary requirements of certain individuals and how to adapt meals to make them healthier.
Structure of CAT	Multiple choice questions

FRENCH

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	French Writing and Translation Skills
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family• Free time / hobbies• Going out / arranging to go out• Food and drink• Holidays• Jobs• TV shows / films• Weather <p><u>Note particularly the skills of:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• giving justified opinions• extending sentences with connectives and prepositions• using a broad range of qualifiers, adjectives and time phrases• using three tenses accurately: past tense (j'ai joué), present tense (je joue) and future tense (je vais jouer)• describe a photo
Structure of CAT	There will be various short answer listening and reading tasks, a photo to describe, followed by some sentences to translate into French.

GEOGRAPHY

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	To assess understanding of some of the key topics studied throughout Year 8.
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 2 - Hazardous Tectonics• Topic 3 - Deserts and Desertification• Topic 4 - Development• Topic 5 - Sustainable Resources
How will you be examined? Structure of the exam/form of exam	<p>There will be short written questions including definitions, descriptions, diagram labelling, comprehension questions, and explaining effects.</p> <p>There will be a 4-mark question that tests your ability to describe a choropleth map.</p> <p>There will be a 6-mark written answer using figures that requires you to explain knowledge from the Sustainable Resources topic.</p>

GERMAN

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	German Listening, Reading and Translation Skills
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Identification - Saying your name, age, birthday• Family- physical descriptions, personalities• School• Hobbies and Interests• Daily Routine (including telling the time)• Helping at Home• Out and about (transport and activities)• Weather• Town and environment• Describing a photo• Giving justified opinions• Extending sentences with connectives• Using a broad range of vocabulary including qualifiers, adjectives, opinions and time phrases• Using the present tense, future tense and the past tense accurately
Structure of CAT	There will be various short answer listening and reading tasks, a photo to describe, followed by some sentences to translate into German.

HISTORY

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	To assess your knowledge and understanding of changing ideas and the shifting balance of power from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Tudor World• Witchcraft in Scotland• Transatlantic Slave Trade• The American, French and Haitian Revolutions.
Structure of CAT	<p>Your assessment will be 40 minutes long and consist of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A long-term memory check covering topics from across Year 82. One question based on a source3. Short questions based on knowledge4. One longer question that will require you to write two paragraphs about revolutions.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	Islam/how do we know what is real/why is there suffering?
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a Muslim teenager in the UK: the Five Pillars of Islam • Can we prove or disprove the existence of God/s?: design argument, cosmological argument, religious experience, problem of evil. • Why is there suffering? Different types of suffering – physical, emotional, existential
Structure of CAT	<p>12 short answer knowledge questions. 2 questions requiring developed points. One extended answer requiring arguments for and against, religious responses and a conclusion.</p> <p>The exam will take place during a lesson.</p>

SPANISH

Revision Outline for Year 8

Purpose/focus of test:	Spanish Listening, Reading and Translation Skills
Units/topics that should be revised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Identification - Saying your name, age, birthday, interests• Food• Holidays• Family-physical descriptions, personalities, jobs, interests• Town• Clothes• Describe a photo• giving justified opinions• extending sentences with connectives and prepositions• using a broad range of vocabulary including qualifiers, adjectives, opinions and time phrases• using the present tense, future tense and the past tense accurately
Structure of CAT	There will be various short answer listening and reading tasks, a photo to describe, followed by some sentences to translate into Spanish.