



PARKSIDE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Small School ♦ Strong Values ♦ Great Experiences

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Dear Parents and Carers,

November 2023 RE: GCSE Mock Exams

I am pleased to be able to share with you the final details of the November mock exams that your child will complete over two weeks between Tuesday 14 November and Friday 24 November. These mock exams are an important part of the work that your child is completing to prepare for their GCSE summer examinations. At Parkside, we want to ensure that your child is thoroughly prepared for the summer examinations. These mock exams will ensure that your child fully understands the formal JCQ examination regulations, and how GCSE exams will run at Parkside.

The feedback that students will receive from their mock exams will indicate the areas where students need to focus their future revision. They will also provide your child's teachers with a clear indication of where they may need additional support to be able to achieve their full potential during the summer 2024 exam period, including being directed to any additional after school intervention sessions. You can find the mock exam timetable below which shows all written exams which will take place during the mock period.

Date	AM Exam	PM Exam
Tuesday 14 November	English Literature	Spanish Writing
Wednesday 15 November	Geography	Maths
Thursday 16 November	History	Business Studies
Friday 17 November	English Language	Spanish Reading
Monday 20 November	Science - Biology	Maths
Tuesday 21 November	Chemistry	Maths
Wednesday 22 November	Physics	History
Thursday 23 November	Geography	BTEC Sport
Friday 24 November	Creative IMedia	Health and Social Care

*Spanish Speaking exam – individual times given to students for Friday 24 November.

Attendance

Throughout the academic year we promote the importance of attendance to all of our students. During this mock examination period it is **critical** that Year 11 students attend school, on time at 8.35am, each day, in order for the exam process to run smoothly and for students to make the most of the experience. If your child is entitled to extra time, for some afternoon exams, they may be required to stay after school until 3.25pm in order to complete their exam. Details of this will be included on individual timetables which have been given to your child.



Expectations

All students must follow the expectations of Parkside and of the national exam regulations which are outlined below:

- Students must remain in silence at all times in the examination hall, and must not attempt to communicate with any other student.
- Students must not carry an electronic device - this includes mobile phones, headphones, and watches. These items will be collected prior to the exam and stored in a safe place.
- Students must only have a transparent water bottle, or pencil case. There should be no writing or markings on either. We will provide all equipment for students, but we will not be providing water. We would be grateful if your child could bring a transparent water bottle to the exam to stay hydrated.
- Students must leave any other belongings in the designated area outside of the exam room.
- Students must listen carefully to the exam invigilators, and follow their instructions in full.
- Students must arrive promptly for the start of their examinations. In the real GCSE examinations, very late arrivals must be reported to the exam board, who will then decide if their paper will be accepted.

These are the basic expectations of the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications). Student misconduct during actual GCSE examinations must be reported to the examination boards, to preserve the integrity of national qualifications. Misconduct can lead to being disqualified and not receiving a grade in one or more exams.

In the worse cases, it may also lead to a disqualification from that exam board for a number of years. It is important that students experience the same conditions during mock examinations so that they are familiar with them, and gain confidence and resilience tackling some relatively long papers.

Full details of the JCQ regulations can be found at <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents/>, or via the links on our website, www.parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk, school overview, examination information.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Leanne Asher
Deputy Headteacher Quality of Education