

GCSEs, or General Certificate of Secondary Education, are academic qualifications that students in England undertake principally in Year 11. GCSEs are intended to provide evidence of a student's achievements, and to prepare them for further study and employment.

GCSEs are graded 1-9, with 9 being the highest achievable grade. A grade 5 is referred to as a **strong pass** and a grade 4 a **standard pass**.

The GCSE exam period often starts in the second week of May (eg. 8th May 2025 for current Y11) and runs for approximately five weeks.

Key Dates

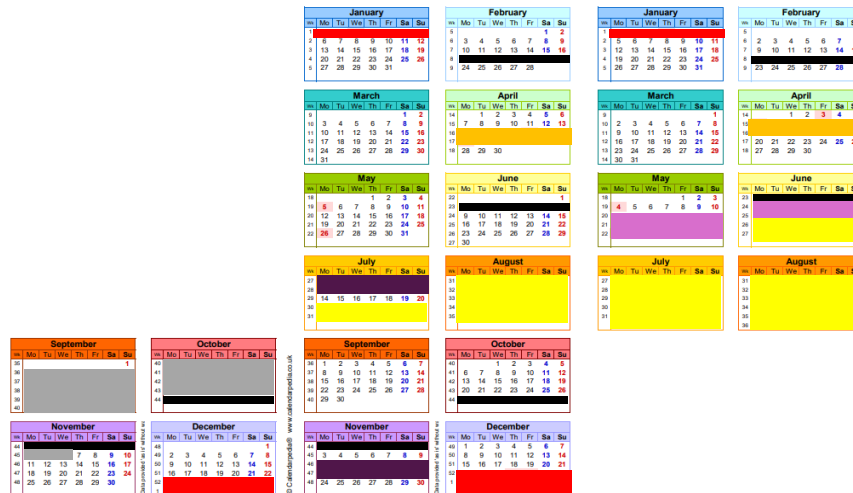
Progress Report I	Thursday 23 rd January 2025		
Y10 Parent/Carer Meeting	Thursday 13 th February 2025		
Progress Report II	Thursday 15 th May 2025		
Y10 Mock Period (Exam Hall)	Wednesday 18 th June 2025	-	Friday 20 th June 2025
Y10 Mock Period (Classroom)	Monday 23 rd June 2025	-	Friday 27 th June 2025
Work Experience	Monday 30 th June 2025	-	Wednesday 2 nd July 2025
Y10 Exam Results	Thursday 10 th July 2025		
Y10 Mock Interviews	Thursday 10 th July 2025	-	Friday 11 th July 2025
Y11 Revision Evening	October 2025		
Y11 Mock Period	November 2025		
Y11 Parent/Carer Meeting	January 2026		
GCSE Exam Period	May 2026		

Two-Year Journey!

2024

2025

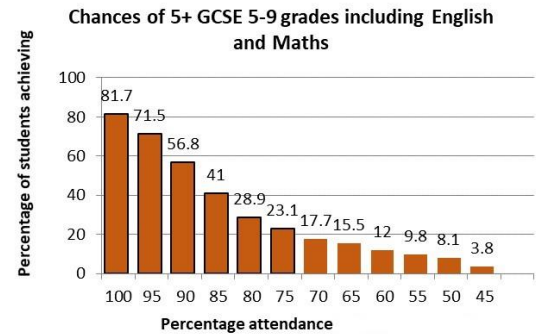
2026



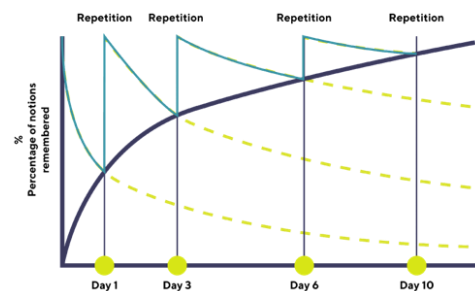
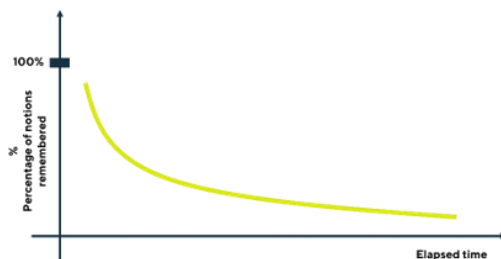
Attendance

The Department for Education published findings on the link between absence and attainment at Key Stage 4:

- Achievement is directly linked to attendance.
- An attendance figure of 90% may not sound very low, but it reduces a child's chance of achieving 5 or more 9-5 grades at GCSE from 81% to around 57%.
- A child who averages 80% attendance during their secondary school career effectively misses one whole year of education and significantly reduces their chances of securing good outcomes at the end of Year 11.
- Even for high-achieving students, poor attendance has a significant negative impact on their grades. It has been shown that missing just 17 days of school in Year 11 reduces final GCSE grades by one level across all subjects. This could easily be sufficient to prevent a student from getting into their sixth-form course, apprenticeship and the university or career of their choice.



Revision – Starts Now



Flash Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-sided flashcards are good; one for the title and the other for content. • Try to include 5-10 points on each card. • Keep them colourful – highlight, include images, colour code etc. • Try and create them from memory. Then check it is correct and add to the detail using your resources. • Use those to test yourself or ask friends or family to test you. • Repetition is key!
Mind Maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a mind map can really help your existing knowledge of a subject and help solidify that information in your mind. • Make mind maps eye-catching: big, bright and colourful. • Use capital letters, incorporate images and different colours.
Past Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answering past papers helps you to work out which topics you know well and figure out what gaps you need to focus on. • By testing your knowledge, you can check your revision progress and feel more confident about what you already know. • Past papers also help: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get used to the structure of a paper and the language they use. 2. Work on time management. 3. Understand the allocation of marks and mark scheme. 4. Practice communicating your knowledge.

GCSE Ready

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage good sleep habits • Minimise distractions during study time • Make sure you eat a good breakfast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use retrieval practice • Minimise procrastination • Teach someone else the material • Set high but realistic expectations |
|--|--|

- Provide motivation
- Get plenty of fresh air and exercise
- Avoid “all work and no play”

student
minds

The GCSE Journey can be stressful and at times overwhelming.

There are many ways that school can support...

- ✓ Speak to your teachers – they are the experts for your subject, and they will be able to help.
- ✓ Speak to your Form Tutor/PSM/Head of Year – they want the best for you and will support you to achieve.
- ✓ There are plenty of websites that can provide support for your mental health during GCSEs – just ask for more information.

