



NOTTINGHAM
ACADEMY

Greenwood Campus

Year 11

Independent Learning Support

“Independent learning is pupils having an understanding of their learning; being motivated to take responsibility for their learning; and working with teachers to structure their learning environment.” (DFSC).

Independent Learning



'Consistent actions create consistent results'

It is our intention at Nottingham Academy we encourage our students to go 'above and beyond' to exceed their own expectations and the expectations of others. We encourage independence and consistency in our approach to learning, with the hope that students achieve consistent results that they can be proud of.

Consequently, as a school we are looking to promote and develop the skills needed to become a successful independent learner. Evidence suggests that independent learning has many benefits, including improved academic performance, enhanced confidence and increased self motivation. These are all highly desirable characteristics for further education and employers alike.

It is crucial that students have the opportunities to learn and develop their knowledge at their own pace and it is our job to provide them with the foundations to do so. It is with this in mind that we have created this booklet to empower parents and students by providing the resources and opportunities to test their own learning outside the classroom. This in turn will help them to develop a true understanding of their subjects.

We hope that you can support us in encouraging your child to take full advantage of the opportunities provided and highlight the benefits of dedicating even just a little extra time each week to focus on the areas they feel less confident in.



How can I support my child?

Create a quiet, organised study space

Help your child set up a distraction-free area with all the materials they need to revise effectively.

Help build a realistic revision timetable

Support them in planning their time, balancing subjects, breaks, and rest to avoid burnout.

Encourage healthy habits

Promote good sleep, regular meals, hydration, and exercise to keep their mind and body ready to learn.

Stay positive and reassure them

Offer encouragement, celebrate progress, and remind them that effort matters more than perfection.

Get involved with their learning

Ask questions, quiz them using flashcards, or help them talk through tricky topics to boost confidence.

Useful links:

[10 ways parents can help their child revise \(innerdrive.co.uk\)](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/10-ways-parents-can-help-their-child-revise)

[How Parents Can Help Improve Grades \(innerdrive.co.uk\)](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/how-parents-can-help-improve-grades)

[Should parents pay their child for good grades? \(innerdrive.co.uk\)](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/should-parents-pay-their-child-for-good-grades)

[How Parents Can Help Their Child Thrive at School \(innerdrive.co.uk\)](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/how-parents-can-help-their-child-thrive-at-school)

[A Parent's Guide to Surviving the Exam Season \(innerdrive.co.uk\)](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/a-parents-guide-to-surviving-the-exam-season)

[#11 The One About ... Parents and Grades \(innerdrive.co.uk\)](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/11-the-one-about-parents-and-grades)

[What parents need to know about sleep \(innerdrive.co.uk\)](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/what-parents-need-to-know-about-sleep)

Independent Revision Activities

The 3 Phases of Practice



Phase 1 (learn content):

Activities to
memorise
information.

Good revision is
more than just
making notes



Phase 2 (develop skills):

Test yourself against
the demands of the
exam



Focus on the
things you don't
know. Not what
you already do.

Phase 3 (get feedback):

Check the quality of
activities in phase 2.
Identify areas of
weakness.

Independent learning activities

Reading through class notes

Watching online video and accessing relevant websites

Reading through course textbooks

Making mind-maps, diagrams and graphic organisers

Making and remaking class notes

Highlighting and colour coding information/notes/books.

Creating flashcards to cover what you have learned

Completing revision walls to display your learning

Writing under exam conditions

Reading through model answers

Completing past papers

Making your own mark schemes

Study mark schemes or examiners' reports

Working with other pupils in groups/pairs to
compare work

Comparing model answers against your own work

Creating your own exam questions

Handing in extra exam work for marking

One-to-on discussions with teachers or tutors

Art

Key information	
Exam board	OCR
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural forms• Man-made forms• Architecture• Animals• Portraiture• Students study a range of artists and art movements to support their work <p>Specification: GCSE – Art and Design (9-1) – J170-J176</p>
Independent learning	<p>It is the students responsibility to organise their time, identify areas to improve and set themselves related task to improve skills and knowledge. However, homework will be set once a week to support this.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to attend after school catch up session on a Monday or Thursday.</p>
Revision books	Sketchbooks given to students for free. Students able to work at home. Equipment packs available from school full of basic equipment and paper.
Past exam papers and mark schemes	<p>Mock exam will support students before their exam paper in January.</p> <p>Must demonstrate all four assessment objectives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop ideas through investigations.• Refine work by exploring media, techniques, and processes.• Record ideas, observations, and insights.• Present a personal and meaningful response.
Useful websites & social media accounts	<p>www.pinterest.com</p> <p>www.google.co.uk</p>

Child Development

Key information	
Exam board	OCR Cambridge National
Topics	RO58 (Year 10 coursework) RO59 (Yr 10/11 coursework) RO57(Exam- Year 11)
Independent learning	It is the students responsibility to organise their time, identify areas to improve and set themselves related task to improve skills and knowledge. Assignments set on Teams.
Revision book	My Revision Notes: Level 1 /Level 2 Cambridge National in Child Development: Second Edition: Amazon.co.uk: Adams, Judith: 9781 398351 196: Books
Specification	Cambridge OCR Level 1 /Level 2 Cambridge National in Child Development specification
Past exam papers and mark schemes	Cambridge Nationals – Child Development Level 1 /Level 2 – J809
Useful websites & social media accounts	https://www.babycenter.com/pregnancy?scrybrkr=00f1853c

Creative iMedia

Key information	
Exam board	OCR Cambridge National
Topics	R094- Visual Identity & Digital Graphics R097- Interactive Digital Media R093- Creative iMedia in the media industry
Independent learning	<p>All student are encouraged to consume a wide variety of media products in their own time. It is the students responsibility to organise their time, identify areas to improve and set themselves related task to improve skills and knowledge.</p> <p>All students are strongly encouraged to engage in the eRevision activities which they are subscribed to via their school logins.</p>
Specification	https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610942-specification-cambridge-nationals-creative-imedia-j834.pdf
Revision books	ClearRevise OCR iMedia J834
Past exam papers and mark schemes	Cambridge Nationals - Creative iMedia Level 1/Level 2 - J834
Useful websites & social media accounts	



SCAN ME!



YouTube Guide

100% FREE

What it covers: Multiple videos on all key exam topics.

Why choose this?

- It's free!
- Covers a wide range of exam aspects.
- Watch at your own pace, anytime, anywhere.



SCAN ME!

Clear Revise Guide

ORDER ONLINE (approx. £8)



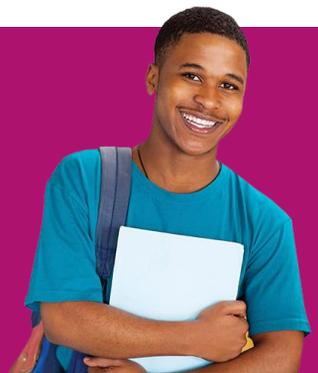
What it covers: Comprehensive revision guide, structured and focused on exam success.

Why choose this?

- A concise, easy-to-use reference book.
- Perfect for offline study.
- Trusted content, designed to help you succeed.

Creative iMedia at Nottingham Academy

EXAM REVISION



Engineering

Key information	
Exam board	OCR
Topics	Principles of Engineering Manufacture Manufacturing a One-Off Product Manufacturing in Quantity Specification: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-manufacture-level-1-2-j823/
Independent learning	It is the student's responsibility to organise their time, identify areas to improve and set themselves related task to improve skills and knowledge. However, homework will be set once a week to support this on MS teams.
Revision books	See revision guide available on teams OCR Engineering coursework textbook R014 revision
Past exam papers and mark schemes	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-manufacture-level-1-2-j823/assessment/
Useful websites & social media accounts	Student Guide to Non-Exam Assessments: https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/620499-student-guide-to-nea-assignments.pdf

Enterprise and Marketing

Key information	
Exam board	OCR Cambridge National
Topics	Topics to cover R068 (Year 10) R069 (Year 10 and Year 11) R067 (Year 11) Specification: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/enterprise-and-marketing-level-1-2-j837/specification-at-a-glance/
Independent learning	All coursework is set, marked and feedback provided on Teams, students can access this from home on Office365.
Revision books	ClearRevise Hodder Education Cambridge All available on Amazon second hand
Past exam papers and mark schemes	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/enterprise-and-marketing-level-1-2-j837/assessment/
Useful websites & social media accounts	https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpsvr82 https://www.tutor2u.net/business

English

Key information	
Exam board	AQA
Topics	<p>English language - creative reading and writing, writer's viewpoints and perspectives</p> <p>Shakespeare - Romeo and Juliet</p> <p>Poetry anthology – poems from Worlds and Lives</p> <p>Modern text - Blood Brothers</p> <p>Pre-1900s text - A Christmas Carol</p> <p>Unseen Poetry</p> <p>Specification: http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700</p> <p>http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702</p>
Independent learning	It is the responsibility of the students to organise their time, identify areas to improve and set themselves related task to improve skills and knowledge. However, homework will be set once a week to support this.
Revision books	<p>CGP English Language Revision guides and CGP Literature Workbooks for A Christmas Carol, Blood Brothers and Romeo and Juliet are strongly recommended.</p> <p>In addition, English Language Paper 1 and 2 workbooks will provided to further aid revision.</p>
Past exam papers and mark schemes	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources
Useful websites & social media accounts	<p>BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Seneca Learning</p> <p>www.cliffsnotes.com</p> <p>Youtube: Mr Bruff</p>

Geography

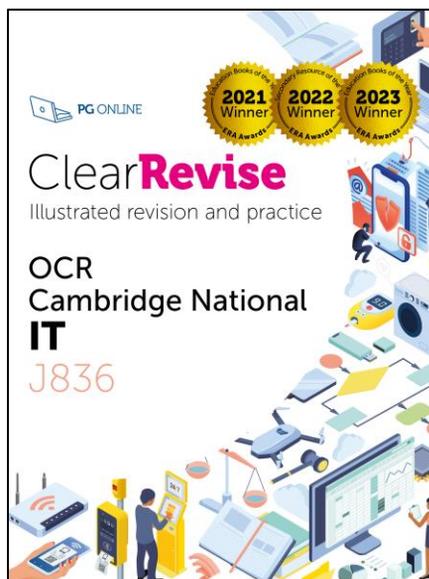
Key information		
Exam board	AQA Specification: http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035	
Topics	<p>Key topics for students to revise (Paper 1):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tectonic hazards 2. Weather hazards 3. Climate change 4. Ecosystems and Tropical Environments 5. Cold Environments 6. Coastal Landscapes 7. Glacial Landscapes 	<p>Key topics for students to revise (Paper 2)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The Urban World/ Lagos 9. Urban Change in the UK / Nottingham 10. Sustainable Urban Development 11. Resource Management 12. Energy Resources
	<p>Key topics for students to revise (Paper 3):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Issue evaluation <p>Fieldwork</p>	
Independent learning	<p>Using the feedback from your most recent PPE, identify areas to improve and set yourself related tasks to improve skills and knowledge.</p> <p>Revision Website: https://www.internetgeography.net/aqa-gcse-geography/ Revision Videos: Youtube, Tutor2u channel, AQA GCSE Geogrphy</p>	
Revision books	<p>Oxford AQA GCSE Geography revision guide (blue) We provide dual coded knowledge organisers and case study sheets. These are on teams and you have a paper copy.</p>	
Past exam papers and mark schemes	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/assessment-resources	
Useful websites & social media accounts	https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zy3ptyc https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5_KfK-etDdj-jLMt64rOEg	

History

Exam board	AQA
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Britain: Health and the People; c.1000 to the present day• Conflict and tension, 1918 to 1939• Elizabethan England• Germany 1890 - 1945 <p>Specification: http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145</p>
Independent learning	Use your personal learning checklist in your books and knowledge organisers to identify areas to improve, and set yourselves related tasks to improve skills and knowledge.
Revision books	'CGP GCSE AQA History Grade 9-1 Course Revision Guide'. A copy has been given to all students https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Student/books_gcse_history
Past exam papers and mark schemes	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/assessment-resources
Useful websites & social media accounts	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxjk4j6 https://www.revisely.co.uk/gcse/history/aqa

IT

Key information	
Exam board	OCR
Topics	R050 - IT in the Digital World R060 - Data Manipulation using Spreadsheets R070 - Augmented Reality to present information
Independent learning	All students are strongly encouraged to engage in the eRevision activities which they are subscribed to via their school logins.
Specification	https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610951-specification-cambridge-nationals-it-j836.pdf
Revision books	ClearRevise OCR Cambridge National IT
Past exam papers and mark schemes	Cambridge Nationals - IT Level 1/Level 2 – J836
Useful websites & social media accounts	



SCAN ME!



eRevision.uk

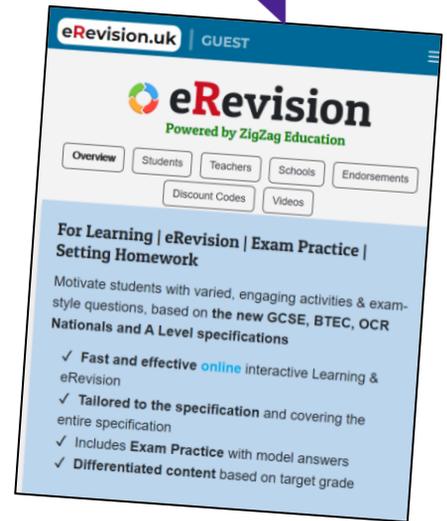
WEB BASED (£18)

AVAILABLE
NOW

What it covers: Web-based revision application accessible on any device with an internet connection.

Why choose this?

- Comprehensive, interactive revision tools.
- Accessible anytime, anywhere.
- Perfect for ongoing study and quick revisions.



SCAN ME!

Clear Revise Guide

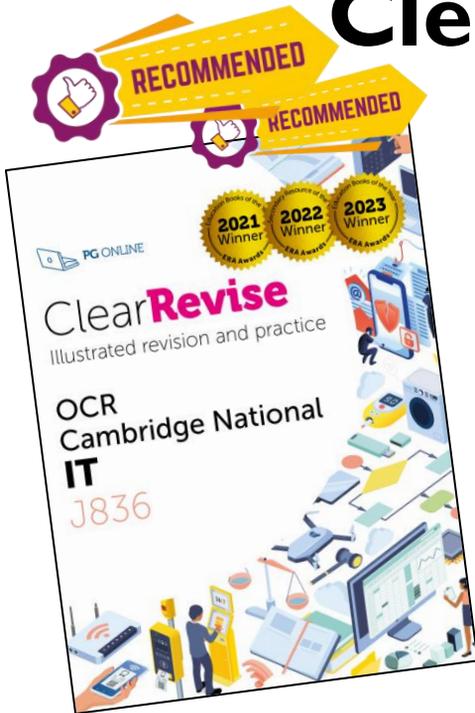
ORDER ONLINE (approx. £8)



What it covers: Comprehensive revision guide, structured and focused on exam success.

Why choose this?

- A concise, easy-to-use reference book.
- Perfect for offline study.
- Trusted content, designed to help you succeed.



Cambridge Nationals IT at Nottingham Academy

EXAM REVISION



Maths

Key information	
Exam board	OCR
Topics	Foundation grades 1-5 Higher grades 4-9 Specification: https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/168982-specification-gcse-mathematics.pdf
Independent learning	You all have access to Sparx maths and Dr Frost . These provide you with video explanations and practice questions for all maths topics. Ask your teacher if you need help to log in.
Homework	Homework is set weekly on Sparx maths . Homework is set on a Wednesday and is due the following Wednesday .
Revision & catch up sessions	Speak to your Maths Teacher, most will be offering revision at least once a week.
Revision books Calculators	These can be ordered through ParentPay . Additionally, these can be ordered at WH Smiths or online by visiting: https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk
Past exam papers and mark schemes	https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/OCRpapers.html
Useful websites & social media accounts	Sparx maths - https://sparxmaths.com Dr Frost - https://www.drfrostmaths.com Maths Genie - http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.html Corbett Maths - https://corbettmaths.com/

Performing Arts

Key information	
Exam board	Edexcel Level 1/2 Tech Award: Performing Arts
Topics	Component 1: Exploring The Performing Arts Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques In The Performing Arts Component 3: Responding To A Brief
Specification	Performing Arts (2022) BTEC Tech Awards Pearson qualifications
Independent learning	Students are encouraged to watch interviews, tutorials, and performances on YouTube or theatre websites so that they are exposed to different styles, roles, and techniques. Students are encouraged to be prepared for each lesson which will include learning lines. They are encouraged to do little and often as this will help them to retain their words. Students will cope better with the written elements if they keep detailed notes about the decisions they make during practical lessons.
Past exam papers and mark schemes	Mark schemes are available from your teacher as they apply to the specific brief you will be working on.
Useful websites & social media accounts	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zrnjwty You could also look at the other boards for drama

Photography

Key information	
Exam board	AQA
Topics	<p>Detail/Texture Out of Place Motion Assembled Creative landscape Architecture Choice of colour Image manipulation Freezing motion Natural Forms Outside</p> <p>Specification https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography</p>
Independent learning	It is the students responsibility to organise their time, identify areas to improve and set themselves related task to improve skills and knowledge. However, homework will be set once a week to support this.
Revision books	N/A - sketchbooks are provided and can be used at home. Worksheets are on Teams with examples.
Past exam papers and mark schemes	Must demonstrate all four assessment objectives : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop ideas through investigations.• Refine work by exploring media, techniques, and processes.• Record ideas, observations, and insights.• Present a personal and meaningful response.
Useful websites & social media accounts	Pinterest at home. Google is useful for most research and the AQA Art and design website for examples and grade boundaries.

Psychology

Key information	
Exam board	OCR
Topics	Criminal Psychology Development Psychological Problems Social Influence Memory Sleep and Dreaming Research Methods Specification OCR GCSE (9-1) Specification
Independent learning	Videos have been created for each topic that are uploaded on Teams. From Page 144 of student planners are Psychology Knowledge Organisers for every topic. To support their learning they could complete tasks in the revision booklets, practice “8 mark” questions, create mind maps and flashcards, quiz themselves or their friends.
Revision books	All students have their own copy of My Revision Notes: OCR GCSE (9-1) Psychology. This is to be returned at the end of the course.
Past exam papers and mark schemes	Some assessment materials can be found on the OCR GCSE Psychology website or here
Useful websites & social media accounts	https://passmorespsychology.weebly.com/revision-hub.html There are not many specific websites for OCR GCSE Psychology. If you're doing your own research, websites are often aimed at older students doing higher qualifications so are more difficult than they need to be. Try to stick to the resources and videos that Ms Smikle has created for you.

Religious Education

Key information	
Exam board	Edexcel
Topics	<p>Syllabus A - 9-1 Religious Studies</p> <p>Islam - Beliefs, Practices, Sources of Wisdom and Authority, Living the Muslim Life, Christianity: Beliefs and practices, Philosophy and Ethics through Islam</p> <p>Specification: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-a-2016.html</p>
Independent learning	Students should complete exam questions at end of the topic which are in the booklets provided. It is the students responsibility to organise their time, identify areas to improve and set themselves related task to improve skills and knowledge.
Revision books	Revision book will be given by the department - no fee.
Past exam papers and mark schemes	https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/rs-religious-studies/past-papers/edexcel-gcse-rs-past-papers
Useful websites & social media accounts	https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zb48q6f

Science

Key information	
Exam board	AQA Science (Trilogy / Separate sciences)
Topics	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463
Independent learning	It is the student's responsibility to organise their time, identify areas to improve and set themselves related task to improve skills and knowledge. Knowledge mats and retrieval questions on paper or on Sparx are provided.
Microsoft Teams	Revision resources uploaded on Teams; Past papers & mark schemes, knowledge mats, checklists, knowledge questions.
Revision books	We recommend CGP books or Collins revision guides.
Past exam papers and mark schemes	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/assessment-resources Physics & Maths Tutor Physics and maths tutor has all science past papers and mark schemes.
Useful websites & social media accounts	www.freesciencelessons.com www.fuseschool.com https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3 https://www.youtube.com/@Cognitoedu https://cognitoedu.org/home Sparx Science - Home

Spanish

Key information	
Examboard	Edexcel (2024 specification)
Topics	<p>All topics will be assessed in all 4 papers. Each paper is worth 25% of the overall GCSE: Speaking (practical exam conducted by MFL dept), Listening, Reading, Writing (written exams)</p> <p>Specification:https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/spanish-2024.html</p>
Independent learning	<p>Students will be given a printed booklet of revision activities covering grammar & vocabulary. They will also have speaking & writing booklets to support these specific skills. It is students' responsibility to organise their own revision time & prioritise tasks based on feedback they have been given by the class teacher.</p> <p>Students should also use the websites below to revise.</p>
Revision books	<p>CGP Revision guides are available to purchase on ParentPay at a reduced price of £6.30.</p> <p>CGP also sell a range of other workbooks via Amazon & other bookshops – ensure these are for the 2024 specification</p>
Past exam papers and mark schemes	<p>This is a new specification so there are no past papers, but example mark schemes can be found via the link above</p>
Useful websites & social media accounts	<p>www.Wordreference.net – online dictionary with examples of how to use the word correctly. Also has verb conjugation tables</p> <p>www.spanishdict.com – another very good online dictionary. Also has grammar lessons and quizzes – you need an account but it is free</p> <p>www.quizlet.com – excellent vocabulary learning websites. Search for Edexcel (2024) GCSE Spanish Foundation/Higher' (depending on your tier)</p> <p>BBC Bitesize – great grammar explanations</p> <p>Do not use Google Translate! It does not speak Spanish as well as you do 😊</p> <p>Whenever you look up resources, make sure to search for Edexcel (2024, exams from 2026) to get the new specification.</p>

Sport Science

Key information	
Exam board	OCR
Topics	<p>Y10 – Coursework unit R181 – Fitness Testing Y10/11 - Coursework unit R183 – Nutrition Y11 - Exam unit R180 – Sports Injuries</p> <p>Specification: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-science-level-1-2-j828/</p>
Independent learning	<p>Coursework: Students can access coursework materials on Teams and their coursework on OneDrive at home.</p> <p>All coursework can be accessed at by logging into Office 365. Any lessons or incomplete work must be completed as homework.</p> <p>Exam: use knowledge organisers, revision guide questions, end of topic tests and practice exam questions.</p>
Revision books	Students will be provided with a printed copy of the R180 revision guide for their exam.
Past exam papers and mark schemes	<p>https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-science-level-1-2-j828/assessment/ Will be provided on Teams</p>
Useful websites & social media accounts	<p>OCR Cambridge Nationals Sport Science content, use the revision materials supplied.</p> <p>Office 365 – log in using school email address to access work online at home.</p>

Urdu

Key information	
Exam board	AQA
Topics	<p>Theme 1: Identity and culture. Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest. Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.</p> <p>Specification: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/urdu-8648</p>
Independent learning	<p>Students should use the resources provided by teachers and the websites below to revise. It is students' responsibility to organise their own revision time & prioritise tasks based on feedback they have been given by the class teacher.</p>
Revision books	<p>Speaking and reading revision booklets provided by teachers.</p>
Past exam papers and mark schemes	<p>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/urdu-8648/assessment-resources</p>
Useful websites & social media accounts	<p>www.mylanguages.org - (Type Urdu in search) This is an online dictionary with examples of how to pronounce the words correctly. https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/urdu/specifications/AQA-8648-SP-2017.PDF https://www.urdu-english.com/ https://hamariweb.com/ https://www.urdupoint.com/ Learn Urdu - Simple, Fun & Easy to use uTalk</p> <p>Do not use Google Translate! It does not speak Urdu as well as you do 😊</p>



NOTTINGHAM ACADEMY

Greenwood Campus

**PROGRESS
NOT
PERFECTION**

By focusing on small, incremental steps and celebrating these achievements, individuals can build momentum, avoid self-doubt and procrastination, and achieve their goals more effectively than by waiting for the ideal or perfect moment.

This approach fosters resilience, learning from mistakes, and ultimately leads to significant growth over time.