

The Bourne Academy



ASPIRE

Year 8 Mid-year Assessment

Support Booklet

8th – 12th December 2025



English

Students will sit one 45-minute examination. This will assess the knowledge, and skills students have obtained throughout their time in Year 8 so far. The examination will assess their reading skills only. There will be a combination of multiple-choice questions as well as answers which require the students to write a detailed response in full sentences. The reading paper will form 50% of their grade. Students will also sit one 45-minute writing examination in class during the half term. Students will be prepared for this assessment in class time, and this writing examination will form 50% of their grade.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

- **Knowledge Organiser Section A:**
 - Definitions of key terms
 - Providing examples of key terms
 - Applying terms and knowledge to examples
- **Unseen fiction extract:**
 - Language and structure terminology
 - Identifying structural techniques
 - Inference skills
- **Reading - Section C: Unseen non-fiction extract**
 - Comprehension
 - Language terminology
 - Language analysis
- **Writing – Writing a narrative:**
 - Content and organisation
 - Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- **Section A: Knowledge Organiser**
- **Section B: Unseen fiction extract:**
 - Knowledge Organisers
 - Language and structure terminology (although this is aimed at KS4 students, this is also suitable for KS3 students): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zq6vg82/revision/1>
 - How to investigate structure: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfdh8xs/articles/z48cmfr#z3srbqt8>
 - Understanding inference: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zcxqg82/revision/1>
- **Section C: Unseen non-fiction extract**
[How to investigate language in non-fiction texts for KS3 English students - BBC Bitesize](#)
- **Writing – Writing a narrative**
 - Content and Organisation - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zn8tkmn>
 - Spelling - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zbm2sg>
 - Punctuation - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zr6bxyc>
 - Grammar - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4hrt39>

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Mathematics

Students will sit one 50-minute examination. This will be a non-calculator examination. It will assess the knowledge, and skills students have obtained throughout year 8 as well as their general mathematical and problem-solving skills.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

- Sequences
- Forming and Solving Equations
- Forming and Solving Inequalities
- Accuracy and Estimation

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Sparx Codes available on Satchel One
- Oak National Academy - [Maths lessons for Key Stage 3 students - Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](https://www.thenational.academy)

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Science

Students will sit one 50-minute examination. This examination allows the use of calculators. It will assess the knowledge, and skills students have obtained in the first term.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

- Breathing and Digestion
- Matter, Elements & Periodic Table
- Magnetism

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Link to Revision Monkey - all videos [Key Stage 3 Science - YouTube](#)
- Link to BBC Bitesize

Magnetism: [Electromagnetism and magnetism - KS3 Physics - BBC Bitesize](#)

Digestion: [Nutrition, digestion and excretion - KS3 Biology - BBC Bitesize](#)

Breathing: [What is respiration and gas exchange? - BBC Bitesize](#)

Matter, elements and the Periodic Table: [KS3 Chemistry - BBC Bitesize](#)

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Geography

Students will sit one 50-minute examination. It will assess the knowledge, and skills students have obtained in the first term.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

- Oceania and Southeast Asia - location and features
- Human and physical features
- Plate tectonics, structure of the Earth, continental drift and plate boundaries
- Natural Hazards: tectonics – causes and impacts of earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes
- Map skills

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- [Tectonic Hazards on BBC Bitesize](#)
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/ring-of-fire>

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History

Students will sit one 50-minute examination. It will assess the knowledge, and skills students have obtained in the first term.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

- Getting the vote (1800-2000) with a focus on women's suffrage
- Causes of the First World War

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- BBC Bitesize links:
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9hnn39/revision/2>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zpyqs82#zschrnm>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zx9887h/revision/3>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zh6nsk7#zspyvwx>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxwg3j6>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z9cvf82#zjwcqyc>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z9xyvwx>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zj82tcw#zb39wsg>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011n3n9>

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Spanish

Students will complete a short speaking assessment, in which they will be expected to answer the following questions:

1. ¿Qué haces cuando hace buen tiempo?
2. ¿Cómo es tu rutina diaria?
3. ¿Qué haces en tu tiempo libre?

They will be marked on their pronunciation and their ability to extend their answers to the questions with additional information.

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- A good way of revising is by producing flash cards (one for each question), with the questions on one side and the answer on the reverse in Spanish. You can then support your child by testing them. All the vocabulary they will need can be found in the Autumn term Knowledge Organiser.

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Music

Students will complete two assessments. 1x 20 min practical and 1x 20 min theory (written paper). The practical exam will assess their performance and technical skills on the keyboard. The theory paper will assess their knowledge on the styles of music they have studied and their ability to apply subject specific vocabulary.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

- Chords
- Ukulele
- Notes on the stave
- Rhythm
- Note durations

Practical:

- Group performance skills

Theory:

- Subject specific language
- Music theory knowledge

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organiser
- www.musictheory.net/exercises/note and Focus on Sound

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Instrumental Studies

Students will take part in two assessments. One 50-minute practical solo performance and one 20-minute Listening, Appraising and Theory assessment. The performance assessment will assess your solo performance and technical skills on the violin or trumpet, whilst the written paper will assess your knowledge on theory and listening skills.

Practical:

- Solo performance – Violin (D major scale and A String Hoe Down) Flutes (Wise Oak Tree)

Theory:

- Notes on the stave
- Note durations
- Rhythm
- Time signature
- Tempo

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organiser
- Focus on Sound
- Music on Satchel One

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Art

Students will complete one 50-minute practical assessment. This will assess the knowledge and skills that students have obtained during their time in Year 8. The assessment will measure both their drawing skills, and their application of colour.

Topics to be covered in the exam:

Practical:

- Pop Art (drawing and applying colour)

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Sketchbooks

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Dance

Students will sit a 25-minute theoretical examination (written paper). Within the theory exam, students will be assessed on their ability to understand subject specific vocabulary. Students will also undertake a 50-minute practical examination. Students will be assessed on their ability to complete a warmup, their choreographic abilities and rehearsing and performance skills.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

Practical:

- Choreographic Skills
- Performance Skills

Theory:

- Subject specific language

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Revision sheet on Satchel One
- [Dancing and the importance of working with others - Dance - essential skills and techniques - GCSE Physical Education Revision - Eduqas - BBC Bitesize](#)

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TED

Students will sit one 50-minute examination. This will assess the knowledge, and skills students have obtained throughout their time in Year 8. The examination will assess topics covered in the projects that students have studied so far.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

Knowledge and understanding from the following Year 8 projects:

- LDR Light Project (Electronics and Systems)
- Clock Project (2D CAD design and CNC manufacture)
- Trophy fabrication (Metals and Workshop skills)
- Iterative Design project (Concept designing, design iteration, User focused design)

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Revision handouts
- Satchel One Quizzes

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Drama

Students will complete two assessments. One practical and one theoretical (written paper). The practical examination will assess their devising and performance skills. It will focus on naturalistic and non-naturalistic theatre techniques, exploring the practitioners, Stanislavski and Brecht. Within the theory examination students will be assessed on their ability to apply subject specific vocabulary and their knowledge and understanding of non-naturalistic and naturalistic theatre.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

Practical:

- Ability to apply non-naturalistic or naturalistic theatre techniques with creative intent to create an original devised performance.
- Ability to apply non-naturalistic or naturalistic techniques and performance skills in a live performance to an audience.

Theory:

- Knowledge and understanding of non-naturalistic/naturalistic theatre techniques.
- Knowledge and understanding of performance skills.
- Bertolt Brecht and Stanislavski and their theatrical aims.

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Key word tests on Satchel One

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Catering (Food)

Students will sit one 40-minute examination. It will assess the knowledge, and skills students have obtained in the first term.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

- Kitchen Hygiene
- Health & safety (kitchen rules)
- Kitchen equipment
- Cooking skills and techniques

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- [Food groups and the Eatwell Guide - Food and nutrition for good health – CCEA - GCSE Home Economics: Food and Nutrition \(CCEA\) Revision - BBC Bitesize](#)
- [Seasonal eating - BBC Bitesize](#)

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Computing

Students will sit two 30-minute examinations, one paper-based and one computer assessment. They will assess the knowledge, and skills students have obtained throughout their time in computing so far.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

Knowledge and understanding from the following:

- Online Safety
- Programming
- Data Types
- Spreadsheets
- Databases

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Assignments on Satchel One
- Quizzes on Satchel One

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Physical Education

Students will sit a 30-minute written exam based on the knowledge they have gained throughout their lessons. This will make up 50% of their grade.

Topics covered in the exam:

- Invasion Sports
- Techniques
- Tactics
- Roles

Practical Assessment:

Students will be assessed in each of the practical sports that they have covered in lessons. An average score across all the sports will make up 50% of their grade.

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Satchel One Quizzes

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Religious Studies

Students will sit one 45-minute examination. This will assess the subject knowledge that the students have covered so far. It will also incorporate the application of key skills such as evaluation. There will be a combination of multiple-choice questions as well as questions which require a detailed response.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

Human Rights

- What are your human rights?
- What are the religious attitudes towards them?
- Who campaigned for human rights?
- How did they campaign?
- Can one individual make an impact?

Revision and preparation resources to support students:

- Knowledge Organisers
- Revision worksheet
- Revision handouts
- Class books
- Satchel One tasks

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