



Year 8
Revision Guide
Summer Examinations
2026

Name:	
Form Class :	
Parent Signature	

About this guide

At Cullybackey College our motto is 'creating opportunities for success'. Young people today are measured on their performances and grades across a host of subjects, so it is important that we help to support our students to achieve their very best.

We want our students to get into the good habits of working hard and preparing thoroughly for exams from an early age. We want them to experiment with different revision techniques and we want them to realise the importance that revision plays in making sure that they achieve the result that they are capable of and the result that they can be proud of.

This short guide gives a little bit of help and support as you plan for the exams that will be taking place between Monday 8th June and Friday 12th June 2026.

Don't forget that the grades you achieve are a direct result of the amount of effort, time and work that you put in.

All the very best for your exams,

Mr T Manson

Vice Principal



Getting ready for the exams . . .

Exams are not meant to be easy – they are designed to be something that will test your knowledge and understanding across the different subjects that you study.

Here are a few tips that might help

1. **Study environment:** try to find a quiet, peaceful place where you can work. Turn off the TV, the music and your computers and digital devices
2. **Know what you are meant to learn:** make sure that you know what you have been studying, that all missing notes have been copied up and that you know what might be coming up in the exam
3. **Take notes of your notes:** it is not enough to just sit with your book open to read – you need to rework your notes and try to remember the key points – why not . . .
 - a. reduce your notes down to sentences or key words
 - b. colour code your revision with highlighters
 - c. create a mindmap
 - d. turn your notes into pictures
4. **Memorise:** you need to get your subject notes into your head!
 - Use your hand to cover and check what you can remember
 - Use Post its – put a question on one side and the answer on the other side
 - Make posters for your bedroom with the key things you need to remember
 - Test yourself – ask a friend or parent to ask you questions.
5. **During the exam:** Close your eyes, take a deep breath . . .
 - Read every question carefully. Underline the key words in the question.
 - Show what you know!
6. **Stay fit and healthy:** During exams make sure that you drink enough

Art



The summer exam will give you the opportunity to show your understanding and learning based on the artist you have studied in class with your Art teacher.

In your exam you will be asked to write down facts about the artist and their work using key terms. You will need to research the artist before the exam and your teacher will help you with this in class.

You will be asked to produce a small copy of the Artist's work which focuses on an area of detail, or a close up section. Again you can practice this ahead of the exam.

You will then be asked to create your own study from an image provided and based on the Artist's style.

To prepare for the exam you should:

- Make sure you are not absent from class in the weeks running up to the exam.
- Make sure you have the materials you will need for the exam, pencil, rubber, ruler, sharpener and black fineliner pen.
- If you have colouring pencils and you want to use them in the exam you can – students who do not use colouring pencils will not be penalised.
- Your teachers will upload information and demos on Google Classroom as well as working with you in class to ensure you have the skills required for the exam.
- Practice at home! The biggest challenge students face is completing the work in the allocated time. Your exam will be 1 hour. Set a timer on your phone and have a go ahead of the exam.

English



The Year 8 summer exam will consist of a Reading and Writing Section.

Section A: Reading

Revise:

- Comprehension activities

Section B: Writing

Revise:

- Spelling and grammar
- How to paragraph
- Punctuation: full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, speech marks, apostrophes
- Linguistic devices: Similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, personification, alliteration, repetition, adverbs, engaging adjectives, verbs and adverbs



French



FRENCH

Greetings

How to greet people at different times of the day.

How you are feeling.

Age, dates and birthday

Numbers 1-31.

Days of the week and months.

Giving and understanding ages and birthday dates.

Family

Family members-talking about brothers and sisters.

Names of family members.

Use of mon/ma/mes with members of the family.

Give names and ages of family members.

Le Petit Nicolas

Plot and characters

Personal description

Description of friends and family – height/personality.

Hair colour and type /eye colour.

See all booklets for all relevant vocabulary and phrases.

Geography

Topic: What is Geography?

Key Questions: What is Geography?

What are the 3 main types of geography?

What is Global scale? (Map of the continents and oceans)

What is National Scale? (Map of British Isles)

What is Local scale? (Map of NI- Counties, towns, mountains and loughs)

Topic: Mapskills

Key Questions: How are maps created? (Bird's eye view)

How do I use direction? (4 and 8 point compass)

How do I use Ordnance Survey map symbols?

How do I use four figure grid references?

How is height shown on a map? (Spot heights and contour lines)

Topic: Earthquakes and Volcanoes

Key Questions: What are the main layers in the Earth?

What are plates and why do they move?

Where are earthquakes and volcanoes found?

What are the main characteristics of a volcano?

Why do volcanoes erupt?

What are the impacts of volcanic eruptions?

What are earthquakes and why do they happen?

What are the impacts of earthquakes?

What are tsunamis and why do they happen?

What are the impacts of tsunamis?

Also learn all WOW words – spellings and definitions



History



Pupils will be tested on the range of the Year 8 History course:

1. Life under the Normans

Pupils must know:

- What four problems did William face & how did he solve those problems.
- Problem 1: Money = Domesday Book
- Problem 2: Protection = Castles (strengths & weaknesses and be able to label)
- Problem 3: Control = Feudal System
- Problem 4: Loyalty of the nobles = Feudal System

2. The Normans in Ireland

- What was life like in Ireland before the Normans arrived?
- How did the Normans arrive in Ireland?
- How did John De Courcy control Ulster?

3. Life in Medieval times (possible)

Home Economics

1. Safety in the Kitchen

Know dangers in the kitchen and how to avoid.

Know the Home Economics safety rules.

2. Equipment

Know all pieces of equipment and their uses.

3. Getting Started in Home Economics

Know the correct order for the washing up routine.

Personal hygiene rules.

4. Knife Safety

Know the rules for using sharp knives and the names of the different knives.

5. Introducing Food

Know what food is needed for in the body.

Be able to sort plant and animal foods.

6. The Eatwell Guide

Know the 8 Healthy Eating Guidelines. Be able to name the 5 sections of the Eatwell Guide and be able to list the foods found in each group.

7. The Cooker

Parts of the cooker and examples of foods that are cooked in each.

Cooking processes.

Safety rules for using the cooker.

8. Weighing and Measuring

Pieces of equipment for weighing and measuring.

Alternative measures.



Maths

1. ANGLES

Understand and use the terms vertical, horizontal and perpendicular

Understand that an angle is a measure of turn

Recognise and name acute, obtuse and reflex angles

Know how to measure angles with a protractor up to 180° (or 360°)

Draw angles accurately up to 180° or 360° degrees

Know that there are 360° in a full turn, 180° in a straight line, 180° in a triangle and 360° in a quadrilateral

Calculate missing angles e.g. right angles, straight lines, around a point, triangles, quadrilaterals and angles outside a shape

Understand and use the 8 points of a compass and use the terms clockwise and anticlockwise

2. ALGEBRA

Know the difference in an expression, equation and formula

Use a letter to represent an unknown quantity

Collect 'like' terms

Multiply and expand simple expressions involving brackets

Factorise simple expressions

Identify and describe simple sequences (not to include Nth Term)

Solving simple equations e.g. $x + 5 = 7$ $2x = 20$ etc.

3. DATA HANDLING

Display and interpret data on Bar Charts, Bar Line Graphs, Pictograms, Pie Charts, Stem and Leaf diagrams and Frequency Polygons

Scatter Graphs – draw, interpret, line of best fit, correlation and understand the meaning of "outlier"

Calculate the mean, mode, median and range from discrete data

Calculate mean, mode, median and range from a frequency table

Interpret statistics from real-life situations



4. FRACTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

Convert a fraction into an equivalent fraction
Write fractions in their simplest form
Change between improper fractions and mixed numbers
Calculate the fraction of a quantity
Add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions
Understand what is meant by decimals and decimal place value
Convert simple fractions to decimals
Understand percentage notation
Change a percentage to a fraction
Convert between percentages and decimals
Find the percentage of a quantity (include VAT)
Calculate percentage increase and decrease/Profit and Loss

5. NUMBER

Understand and use the term multiple and factor
Identify HCF and LCM
Identify prime numbers
Complete calculations using square/triangular/cube numbers
Understand square and cube roots
Order of operations (BODMAS)
Rules of negative numbers
Add, Subtract, multiply and divide positive and negative numbers
Round numbers using decimal places and significant figures

6. METRIC UNITS AND SCALE DRAWING

Understand and use metric units of length
Know the connection between units
Measure lengths of objects
Estimate lengths of objects
Understand and use metric units of mass/weight
Know connections between units
Measure weights of objects
Estimate weights of objects
Be aware of connections between units
Make a simple scale drawing

Music

For your summer exam you will need to look back on everything you have learned this year so far. Your final mark will be made up of the following:

Summer Exam (Listening and Theory) – 75%

Tin Whistle (Performing) – 25%

YOU WILL NEED TO BRING A PEN AND PENCIL TO YOUR MUSIC EXAM.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>What do I need to know?</u>
Instruments of the Orchestra (Listening)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four families of the orchestra • The instruments belonging to these families • The role of the conductor • Two ways to play a string instrument • Pitched and unpitched percussion instruments • The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra (Set Work) • Ensembles e.g. string quartet, rock group etc.
Tin Whistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to play notes on the tin whistle
Notation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to read notes of the treble clef • Understand note and rest values such as semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, semiquaver • Understand time signatures (march and waltz)
Tempo, Dynamics and Articulation (Listening)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing tempo, dynamics and articulation using Italian Terms



RE

Topic 1: My Identity

- Bible Verses: Genesis 1 v 27 and Psalm 139
- What it means to be made in God's image
- DVD: Punchinello and Eli – key information about the story and what we learn from it
- Samuel chooses a new King of Israel
- Mother Teresa – life and work



Topic 2: The Bible

- Number facts about The Bible
- Identifying parts of a Bible reference
- The Bible Library – types of books
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Symbols used for the Bible
- The story of Mary Jones
- John Wycliffe
- Gideons



Topic 3 – Abraham

- Abraham – key information about his life
- God's three promises to Abraham
- The Story of Abraham and Lot
- The sacrifice of Isaac
- Words to describe Abraham
- What we can learn from Abraham's example



WOW Words for ALL topics

Science

Unit 1 I'm a scientist

- Safety rules
- Hazard Symbols
- Lab apparatus
- Bunsen Burner
- Measuring Cylinder

Unit 2 Cell-e-brate

- MRS GREN
- Microscopes
- Magnification
- Animal cell structure
- Plant cell structure
- Tissues, organs and organ systems

Unit 3 Despicable Chemistry

- Hazard symbols
- Names of acids
- Names of alkalis
- Indicators
- pH scale

- Neutralisation
- Acid rain

Unit 4 Birds and the Bees

- Chromosomes
- Male and female sex cells
- Reproductive systems
- Pregnancy
- Adolescence

Unit 5 The Zoo

- Germination of seeds
- Habitats
- Adaptions
- Seasonal / daily changes
- Predators and prey
- Food chains / webs
- Predator/prey
- Endangered species



Technology and Design

Safety

- General Safety in the Workshop.
- Safety using machines.
- Safety signs.

Plastics

- Main types of plastics.
- Working with acrylic.
- Finishing plastics.
- Shaping plastics.

Hand Tools

- Recognise and name hand tools used in the manufacture of projects during the year.

Electronics

- LED(light emitting diode) uses in circuits.
- Design simple circuit using switch, battery and LED.

Graphics

- Isometric Drawings.

Designing

- Design processes used.
- Modifications in design.

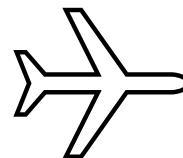
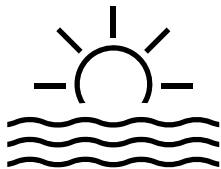
Spanish

Exam Content: *The exam will consist of everything you have covered this year.*

Exam Duration: *45 minutes*

Exam Format: *Series of multiple-choice questions, short reading comprehensions and a short essay section where you will have to write between 50-70 words describing yourself in Spanish.*

1. Los Basicos	<i>I can...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Introduce myself in Spanish✓ Say where I live and ask someone where they live✓ Count to 30✓ Say what day and month it is✓ Describe who is in my family✓ Compare two people✓ Talk about my pets	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
2. La comida <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Say what I like to eat✓ Describe food using a range of adjectives✓ Order food at a market✓ Order food in a restaurant	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
3. El tiempo libre <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Say what sports like to do in my free time✓ Say what other activities I like to do✓ Say how often you complete an activity✓ Talk about the weather	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>



FINAL Year 8 Exam Timetable

(from Monday 8th June to Friday 12th June 2026)

Year 8	Session 1 P1 - 3	Session 2 P4 – 6	Session 3 P7 – 9
Mon 8 th June	Art 1 hour	PtMaths tests Test 12	Spanish 45 mins
Tues 9 th June	PtEnglish tests Test 12	RE 45 mins	Music 30 mins
Wed 10 th June	Revision	Technology 45 mins	History 50 mins
Thurs 11 th June	Maths 1 hour	French 30 mins	Geography 1 hour
Fri 12 th June	Home Economics 45 mins	English 1 hour	Science 1 hour

**PtM and PtE tests will take place in a computer suite*

***Music exam to take place in the Boys Gym*

My Revision Timetable

Week beginning Mon 4th May 2026

Time	Monday 4 th May	Tuesday 5 th May	Wednesday 6 th May	Thursday 7 th May	Friday 8 th May	Saturday 9 th May	Sunday 10 th May
9 – 10am	OFF						
10 – 11am							
11 – 12am							
12 – 1pm							
1 – 2pm							
2 – 3pm							
3 – 4pm							
4 – 5 pm							
5 – 6pm							
6 – 7 pm							
7 – 8pm							
8 – 9pm							
9 – 10pm							

My Revision Timetable

Week beginning Mon 11th May 2026

Time	Monday 11 th May	Tuesday 12 th May	Wednesday 13 th May	Thursday 14 th May	Friday 15 th May	Saturday 16 th May	Sunday 17 th May
9 – 10am							
10 – 11am							
11 – 12am							
12 – 1pm							
1 – 2pm							
2 – 3pm							
3 – 4pm							
4 – 5 pm							
5 – 6pm							
6 – 7 pm							
7 – 8pm							
8 – 9pm							
9 – 10pm							

My Revision Timetable

Week beginning Mon 18th May 2026

Time	Monday 18 th May	Tuesday 19 th May	Wednesday 20 th May	Thursday 21 st May	Friday 22 nd May	Saturday 23 rd May	Sunday 24 th May
9 – 10am							
10 – 11am							
11 – 12am							
12 – 1pm							
1 – 2pm							
2 – 3pm							
3 – 4pm							
4 – 5 pm							
5 – 6pm							
6 – 7 pm							
7 – 8pm							
8 – 9pm							
9 – 10pm							

My Revision Timetable

Week beginning Mon 25th May 2026

Time	Monday 25 th May	Tuesday 26 th May	Wednesday 27 th May	Thursday 28 th May	Friday 29 th May	Saturday 30 th May	Sunday 31 st May
9 – 10am	OFF						
10 – 11am							
11 – 12am							
12 – 1pm							
1 – 2pm							
2 – 3pm							
3 – 4pm							
4 – 5 pm							
5 – 6pm							
6 – 7 pm							
7 – 8pm							
8 – 9pm							
9 – 10pm							

My Revision Timetable

Week beginning Mon 1st June 2026

Time	Monday 1 st June	Tuesday 2 nd June	Wednesday 3 rd June	Thursday 4 th June	Friday 5 th June	Saturday 6 th June	Sunday 7 th June
9 – 10am							
10 – 11am							
11 – 12am							
12 – 1pm							
1 – 2pm							
2 – 3pm							
3 – 4pm							
4 – 5 pm							
5 – 6pm							
6 – 7 pm							
7 – 8pm							
8 – 9pm							
9 – 10pm							

