Year 8

Revision Guide

Christmas 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 Mon 30th Nov to Thurs 3rd Dec 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



Year 8 – Observational Drawing

As you know you will be given the task of drawing your shoe for your exam. You will have practiced this in class with your teacher in order to help you with some of the more tricky aspects of drawing from life.

In order to prepare for your exam you should:

- Choose the shoe you are intending to bring with you to draw in your exam (if you are forgetful opt for your school shoe as you won't forget this on the day!)
- Practice drawing the shoe, you will be working on A3 size paper in your exam, remember this is twice the size of your normal A4 paper.
- Follow the instructions below to ensure you are not missing any vital elements of the drawing.

1. Set your shoe on the table so that you can clearly see it.
2. Think about the angle of the shoe, can you see inside it? How much?
3. Think about how much of the top of the shoe is the opening, a third? A half? Draw this first.
4. Draw the line from the opening down the front of the shoe to the toe, ignore any laces or buckles for now.
5. Draw the toe and heel, check carefully, are the edges rounded or sharp?
6. Draw on the heel and the sole of the shoe, you should now have an outline for your shoe and be ready to add detail.
7. Add any laces, buckles etc. Details like stitching are also important. When drawing laces notice how the laces sit over the top of the shoe, avoid stiff and straight lines as fabric bends!
8. Look for highlights and shadow, you are ready to add tone (shading).
9. Check if the shoe casts a shadow on the table, add this in.
10. If you are finished and have some time left produce a detailed close up study of a section of a shoe on a blank part of the page.

Included are a few images which might also help with your revision. If using a non – uniform shoe please remember to bring it with you!





French

Salut (Hi) **Bonjour** (Good day/Hello) **Bonsoir** (Good evening) **Bonne nuit** (Good night) **Au revoir** (Goodbye)	**Madame** (Madam) **Mademoiselle** (Miss) **Monsieur** (Sir)

Ça va ? (How's it going ? / How are you ?) **Pourquoi ?** (Why ?)

ça va (it is going)	**très bien (**very well) **bien** (well) **assez bien** (quite well) **mal** (badly) **très mal** (very badly) **çomme-ci, çomme-ça** (so-so)	**parce que** (because) **mais** (*but*)	**je suis** (I am) **Je ne suis pas** (I am not)	**content(e)** (happy) **détendu(e)** (relaxed) **fatigué(e)** (tired) **nerveux/euse** (nervous) **inquiet(e)** (worried) **stressé(e**) (stressed) **malade** (ill)

Et toi ? (And you ?)

Comment t'appelles-tu? (What is your name?)
Quel âge as-tu? (What age are you?)

Je m'appelle (I am called)	Alexandre Anthony Annabelle Charles Denis Isabelle Julien Marie Paul Tristan	**J'ai** (I have)	deux 2 trois 3 quatre 4 cinq 5 six 6 sept 7 huit 8 neuf 9 dix 10 onze 11 douze 12 treize 13 quatorze 14 quinze 15 seize 16 dix-sept 17 dix-huit 18	dix-neuf 19 vingt 20 vingt-et-un 21 vingt-deux 22 vingt-trois 23 vingt-quatre 24 vingt-cinq 25 vingt-six 26 vingt-sept 27 vingt-huit 28 vingt-neuf 29 trente 30 trente-et-un 31	**ans** (years old)

Quelle est la date de ton anniversaire? (When is your birthday?)

Mon (My)	**anniversaire** (birthday)	**c'est** (it is)	**le** (the)	**premier** 1st **deux** 2nd **trois** 3rd **quatre** 4th **cinq** 5th **six** 6th **sept** 7th **huit** 8th **neuf** 9th **dix** 10th etc…	**janvier** (January) **février** (February) **mars** (March) **avril** (April) **mai** (May) **juin** (June) **juillet** (July) **août** (August) **septembre** (September) **octobre** (October) **novembre** (November) **décembre** (December)

Où habites-tu? (Where do you live?)
Quelle est ta nationalité? (What is your nationality?)

J'habite (I live)	**à** (in (for a town))	**Ballymena** **Cullybackey** **Ahoghill** **Glarryford** **Kilrea** **Randalstown**	**en** (in (for a fem country))	**Irlande du nord** (Northern Ireland) **France** **Angleterre** (England) **Espagne** (Spain)	**Je suis** (I am)	**britannique** (British) **anglais(e)** (English) **allemand(e)** (German) **français(e)** (French) **espagnol(e)** (Spanish) **écossais(e)** (Scottish) **irlandais(e)** (Irish)
			au (in (for a masc country))	**Canada**		
			aux (in (for a plural country))	**États-Unis** (USA) **Pays de Galles** (Wales)		



Geography

Year 8

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)

Also learn all WOW words – spellings and definitions

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?



History



What is History?
Outline for revision topics

- Know the meaning of chronology and be able to put events into chronological order.
- Understand the meaning of decades and centuries.
- Know the difference between fact and opinion (bias).
- Understand what an artefact is.
- Understand the difference between primary and secondary sources.
- Understand what is meant by causes and consequences.

The Normans

Outline for revision topics

The Normans

- Who were the Normans and where did they come from?
- Why were they called Normans?

How did they come to rule England?

- To know why there was unrest in England in 1066.
- To identify the claimants to the throne.
- To know and understand why they had a claim to the throne.
- Chronological order of events:
    1. Stamford bridge.
    2. Battle of Hastings.

Home Economics

1. **Safety in the Kitchen**

   Know accidents that can happen in the kitchen and how to avoid each.

2. **Kitchen Equipment**

   Know all pieces of kitchen equipment and their uses.



3. **Getting Started in Home Economics**

   Know the correct order for the washing up routine.

   Know kitchen hygiene and kitchen safety rules.

4. **Knife Safety**

   Know the rules for using sharp knives.

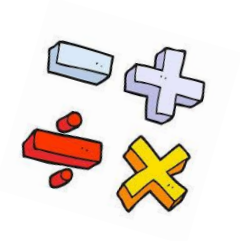
   Know the names of the different knives and the uses of each.

5. **First Aid**

   Know the contents of a first aid box.

   Causes of burns and scalds and treatment for these injuries.

Maths



Angles

- Understand that angle is a measure of turn
- Recognise and name acute, obtuse and reflex angles
- Know that there are 360^0 in a full turn
- Know how to measure angles with a protractor up to 180 (or 360)
- Draw angles accurately up to 180^0 or 360^0 degrees
- Understand angles in a straight line and angles at a point
- Understand that angles in a triangle add up to 180^0

Algebra

- Recognise the difference between an expression, an equation and a formula
- Use a letter to represent an unknown quantity
- Collect 'like' terms
- Solve simple equations
- Expand brackets
- Solve equations involving brackets
- Factorise expressions
- Complete a sequence

Data Handling

- Complete a tally chart using a list of data
- Display data in a bar chart
- Draw a bar-line graph
- Complete a pictogram
- Represent data in a stem-and-leaf diagram
- Draw a frequency polygon (line graph)
- Calculate angles for a pie chart and constuct it
- Interpret graphs and charts
- Mean, mode, median and range
- Mean, mode, median and range from frequency tables (includes grouped frequency tables)



Music



Christmas Exam (Listening and Theory) – 80%

Tin Whistle (Performing) – 20%

Your Music Christmas Exam will include questions on the following topics.

1. **Rhythm, Beat and Pulse:** Know what all three words mean.
2. **Note and Rest Values:** Know how to draw a semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver and semiquaver, know their names, how many beats they get and their equivalent rests.
3. **Musical Sums:** Be able to add different note values together.
4. **Stave:** Be able to label all parts of the stave (clef, time signature, bar lines).
5. **Treble Clef:** Know the notes of the treble clef and describe them correctly.
6. **Tin Whistle:** Know the notes of the tin whistle.
7. **Percussion instruments:** Know the names of some percussion instruments and understand whether they are pitched or unpitched.
8. **Listening:** Be able to identify a waltz or a march.
9. **Dynamics, Tempo and Articulation:** Be able to describe these when listening to a piece of music.



RE



Topic 1 – My Identity

- Genesis 1 verse 27 - Learn
- What does it mean to be made in God's image?
- The story and meaning of the video 'You are Special'
- Information on Mother Teresa
- Lessons we can learn from Mother Teresa's example
- The story of Samuel choosing a new King of Israel
- WOW Words



Topic 2 – God's Word – The Bible

- Key figures/numbers about the Bible
- Using the contents page in the Bible
- Looking up references in the Bible
- The discovery of the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Why is the Bible special for Christians?
- WOW Words



English



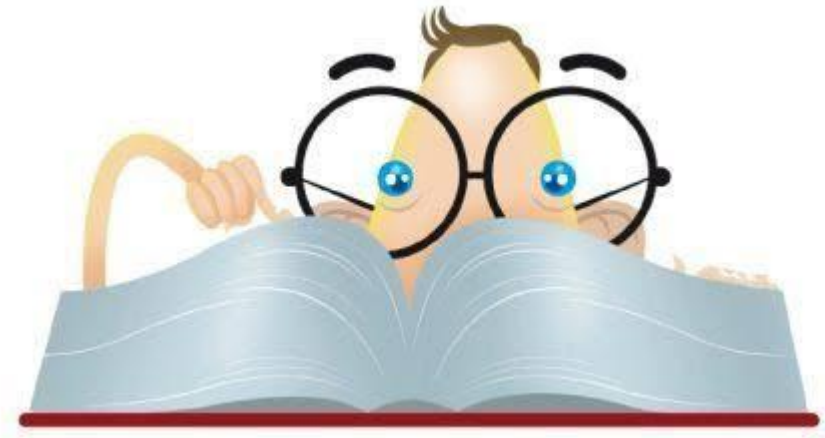
The Year 8 Christmas exam is a Reading paper.

- Practise comprehension activities.

Revise:

- Linguistic devices: Similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, personification, alliteration, repetition, adverbs, adjectives and verbs.
- How to use the PEE (POINT, EVIDENCE, EXPLAIN) structure effectively when explaining or analysing a writer's work.
- Use evidence effectively to support your ideas.

REMEMBER TO READ THE PASSAGE CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN



Science

1. **Introduction to Science**
    - Safety rules
    - Hazard symbols
    - Lab apparatus
    - Bunsen Burner
    - Measuring cylinder
    - Thermometer
    - Flame Tests



2. **Cells**
    - MRS GREN
    - Microscopes
    - Magnification
    - Animal cell structure
    - Plant cell structure
    - Specialised cells
    - Tissues, organs and organ systems
    - Living processes

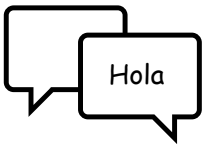
Spanish

Key Topic: "Mi familia y yo" – Me and My Family Booklet

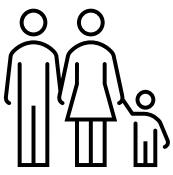
Learning Objective	***I know:***	***YES? NO?***
1	How to introduce myself and ask someone their name; how they are feeling and where they are from	
2	The numbers 1-100	
3	How to say when my birthday is and ask someone when their birthday is	
4	How to say who is in my family	
5	How to describe myself using a range of adjectives	
6	How to describe my hair and eye colour	
7	How to describe the people in my family using a range of adjectives	

Revision Materials:

Revision materials and spare booklets are available to access via Google Classroom. There you will also find links to Quizlet Vocabulary Sets for each learning objective.







Technology & Design



Your year 8 Technology Exam will be based on the following topics:

Health & Safety

- Know the Health & Safety rules you must obey when completing practical work in the workshop.
- The correct PPE that should be worn when using machinery.
- The 4 types of Health and Safety Signs: **Prohibition Signs**



Mandatory Signs

Warning Signs

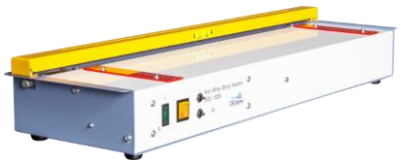
Safe Condition Signs

- How to use tools and machinery correctly.
- The steps to follow if an accident occurs.

Tools

- Know what a hand file is, and the two methods used to finish a material.
- Identify the different parts of a strip heater and know the steps you need to follow to bend a piece of material.
- Know the correct way to use the polishing machine.
- The different types of sandpaper. (From rough to smooth)







Materials

- Understanding of Plastics.
- Be able to identify the difference between a Thermosetting Plastic and a Thermoplastic.



You will receive a further revision guide in class to help with exam revision.

Year 8 Exam Timetable

from Monday 30th November to Thursday 3rd December 2026

Y8	1 8.55-10.20	10.00- 10.20	10.20- 10.40	2 10.40 – 12.30	12.30– 13.00	3 13.00 – 14.15	4 14:15 – 15:25
Mon	Geography 1 hour	PASS test	Break	English 1 hour	Lunch	HE 45 mins	Technology 45 mins
Tues	French ½ hour		Break	Maths 1 hour	Lunch	Art 1 hour	Spanish ½ hour
Wed	RE 45 mins		Break	Music* ½ hour	Lunch	Science 1 hour	History 50 mins
Thurs	Exceptional Closure						

PASS test to be taken by all students following first exam on Monday / Music exam in Boys Gym on Wednesday

My Revision Timetable

Week beginning Mon 2nd November 2026

Time	Monday 2 Nov	Tuesday 3 Nov	Wednesday 4 Nov	Thursday 5 Nov	Friday 6 Nov	Saturday 7 Nov	Sunday 8 Nov
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 9th November 2026

Time	Monday 9 Nov	Tuesday 10 Nov	Wednesday 11 Nov	Thursday 12 Nov	Friday 13 Nov	Saturday 14 Nov	Sunday 15 Nov
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 16th November 2026

Time	Monday 16 Nov	Tuesday 17 Nov	Wednesday 18 Nov	Thursday 19 Nov	Friday 20 Nov	Saturday 21 Nov	Sunday 22 Nov
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 23rd November 2026

Time	Monday 23 Nov	Tuesday 24 Nov	Wednesday 25 Nov	Thursday 26 Nov	Friday 27 Nov	Saturday 28 Nov	Sunday 29 Nov
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							