**Godalming College, History and Politics Department**

**Assessment and Predicted Grade Policy**

**2018-2019**

**The Importance of Feedback**

Learning will not happen instantly and takes time; attending lessons is not enough, you also need to be working outside of class, to learn new information and consolidate learning. In the process, you will make mistakes but hopefully feedback will enable you to learn from these mistakes. Better to make a mistake during the year and correct it, than make your first mistake in the actual exam! Feedback is essential for your learning and will consist of written (teacher marking), peer (where you feedback on someone else’s work in the class) and self (where you assess yourself).

**The Final Assessment**

The assessment and feedback schedule in the department gives you elements of all of these types of assessment.

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| **HISTORY (OCR)** | |
| **AS** | **A Level** |
| Assessment at the end of the AS year is made up of two examined units:  **Unit 1** – British Study - 1.5 hour exam, 50 marks, 50% of AS  **Unit 2** – Non-British Study – 1.5 hour exam, 50 marks, 50 % of AS | Assessment for the linear A level is composed of three examined units and one piece of coursework:  **Unit 1** – British Study - 1.5 hour exam, 50 marks, 25%  **Unit 2** – Non-British Study – 1 hour exam, 30 marks, 15%  **Unit 3** – Thematic Study – 2.5 hour exam, 80 marks 40%  **Topic Based Essay** – 3,000-4,000 words, 20% |

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| **Politics (EDEXCEL)** | |
| **AS** | **A Level** |
| Assessment at the end of the AS year is made up of two examined units:  **Unit 1** – UK Politics - 1 hour 45 minutes exam, 60 marks, 50% of AS Level  **Unit 2** – UK Government – 1 hour 45 minutes exam, 60 marks , 50% of AS Level | Assessment for the linear A level is composed of three examined units  **Unit 1** – UK Politics - 2 hour exam, 84 marks, 33 1/3% of A Level  **Unit 2** – UK Government – 2 hour exam, 84 marks, 33 1/3% of A Level  **Unit 3** – Comparative Politics - 2 hour exam, 84 marks, 33 1/3% of A Level |

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| **Ancient History (OCR)** | |
| **AS** | **A Level** |
| Assessment at the end of the AS year is made up of two examined units:  **Component 1** – Greek Period Study – 1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50 marks , 50% of AS Level  **Component 2** – Roman Period Study – 1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50 marks , 50% of AS Level | Assessment for the linear A level is composed of three examined units  **Component 1** – Greek Period Study – 1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50 marks , 25% of A Level  **Component 2** – Roman Period Study – 1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50 marks , 50% of AS Level |

**Weekly Independent Tasks (Homework)**

Homework does not necessarily need to be completed at home. You can use free periods during the day to complete these tasks outside of lessons. To keep a good work/life balance, you might like to treat College as an 0845 to 1615 day and use your free periods in the library completing tasks. This will minimise the work you need to complete at home and might make you more productive.

The classes are shared equally between two teachers for 2.25 hours, with each teacher delivering one of the two units. Each week, homework will be set and could take up to 5 hours in total. Each teacher therefore could set you up to 2 ½ hours homework per week. If the homework only takes you 1 hour for a week, then you will have a further 1 ½ hours to conduct further reading and consolidate learning. Homework tasks will consist of two types:

* *‘PREP WORK’:* Not all homework will be marked. It will be given a quick inspection in class and then will involve peer and self-assessment as part of a class exercise. This work will ‘prepare’ you for the lesson.
* *REVISION WORKSHEETS:* Throughout the year, for each unit, there will be 6-8 revision worksheets set. These revision worksheets should take you 2.5 hours to complete and consist of a summary of the work we have done in class on 2 sides of A4. These worksheets will be submitted to the teacher who will provide an effort/outcome grade from 1 (excellent), 2 (good), 3 (satisfactory) and 4 (cause for concern).

When work is taken in to be assessed (whether benchmark assessments, practice essays, revision sheets or consolidation tasks) it will be returned to students within 10 working days. If work receives a formal mark then it will be accompanied by a departmental feedback sheet outlining the different levels of the appropriate mark scheme.

Students can expect their work to be returned within an appropriate timeframe and with clear developmental targets. In return it is expected that students will meet the deadlines set by teachers and remain up to date. To help students do this they need to record homework carefully in a diary or planner, and organise their study periods each week to spread their workloads out evenly. The department also offers weekly support sessions (History and Ancient History room 211 Wednesday lunchtimes; Politics Monday room 212 Monday lunchtimes) to give students extra help if they are struggling with homework tasks.

If work is not submitted on time then the student will be spoken to by their subject teacher to find out the reason for this. If appropriate the student will then be given a warning and a revised deadline set. The department may also place a student on an action plan to give them a 3-5 week window to improve their performance, after which, if they have failed to do so, they will enter the college’s disciplinary system.

The department also reserves the right to not mark any work which is handed in after the set deadline.

**Benchmark Assessments**

Benchmark assessments are substantial, exam-style questions that are set, completed, and assessed during the course of the AS or two-year A level courses. The History and Politics department gives students four benchmarks in their first year and three benchmarks in their second.

Benchmark assessments are marked consistently across the department using OCR or Edexcel mark schemes and feedback is given on standardised feedback sheets. Results on these assessments are then recorded centrally using the college mark book.

The size of each benchmark is set in advance but the specific question may differ depending on what individual teachers think is most appropriate.

Benchmarks are extremely important and should be treated like the actual exam. They are an ideal point to see how you are progressing and to get valuable feedback. You will make mistakes in the benchmarks and so the follow up work is to test whether you have learned from those mistakes to become better at the subject and exam technique. When completing benchmarks you will receive some or all of the following:

* WRITTEN FEEDBACK: Each benchmark assessment will receive substantial written feedback in the form of comments on a cover sheet that relate directly to the assessment criteria of the exam board. Alongside this, symbols (representing comments) and questions will be posed about how to improve).
* VERBAL FEEDBACK: 1-2-1’s with your teachers will be held throughout the year. These may take the form of brief discussions following the return of benchmarks, or more general discussions in the build-up to student reviews and following end of year exams
* These benchmark assessments will feed directly into the student reviews (‘reports’) which get sent home to your parents.
* REFLECTION AND TARGET SETTING: After each assessment, students will be expected to reflect on the written feedback from their teacher and set themselves targets for improvement in the period in question.
* FOLLOW UP WORK: After each benchmark, work will be set to consolidate students’ understanding such as revision sheets. The idea is to learn from the mistakes in your written work. Students who perform particularly badly are encouraged to rewrite the assessment and submit to the teacher for another grade.

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| **History and politics benchmarks – A Level** | | | | | | |
|  | **Benchmark** | **Date** | **History D&D** | **History R&R** | **Ancient History** | **Politics** |
| ***Lower Sixth*** | **1** | **12.11.18** | 20 mark Essay Question  *(Unit 1)* | 10 mark Comparison and 20 mark Essay Question  *(Unit 2)* | 20 mark Interpretation  *(Greece)* | 30 mark essay question  *(Unit 1)* |
| **2** | **21.01.19** | 10 mark Comparison and 20 mark Essay Question  *(Unit 2)* | 30 mark Source-Based Essay  *(Unit 1)* | 30 mark Essay  *(Rome)* | 30 mark source essay question  *(Unit 2)* |
| **3** | **07.05.19** | 30 mark Source-Based Essay  *(Unit 1)* | 20 mark Essay Question  *(Unit 1)* | 30 mark Essay  *(Greece)* | 30 mark essay question  *(Unit 1)* |
| **4**  (Mid-Course) | **20.06.19** | Unit 1 & 2 exams | Unit 1 & 2 exams | Unit 1 & 2 exams | Unit 1 & 2 exams |
| ***Upper Sixth*** | **5** | **19.11.18** | 25 mark Thematic Question  *(Unit 3)* | 25 mark Thematic Question  *(Unit 3)* | 36 Mark Essay  *(Greece)* | 24 mark theory essay *(Liberalism – uploaded by teacher B)* |
| **6** | **04.03.19** | Unit 1 & 2 Mock Exams  *(Unit 3&4)* | Unit 1 Mock Exam  *(Unit 3)* | 36 Mark Essay  *(Rome)* | 30 mark essay question *(Global politics – uploaded by teacher A)* |
| **7** | **07.05.19** | Unit 3 Mock Exam  *(Unit 3)* | Unit 3 Mock Exam  *(Unit 3&4)* | Mock Exams | Unit 3 Mock |

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| **History and politics benchmarks – AS Level** | | | | | |
|  | **Benchmark** | **Date** | **History D&D** | **Ancient History** | **Politics** |
| ***Lower Sixth*** | **1** | **12.11.18** | 20 mark Essay Question  *(Unit 1)* | 20 mark Interpretation  *(Greece)* | 30 mark essay question  *(Unit 1)* |
| **2** | **21.01.19** | 20 mark Interpretation Question  *(Unit 2)* | 30 mark Essay  *(Greece)* | 3 x 10 mark questions  *(Unit 2)* |
| **3** | **07.05.19** | 10 and 20 mark Source Questions  *(Unit 1)* | 30 mark Essay  *(Rome)* | 30 mark essay question  *(Unit 1)* |
| **4**  (Mid-Course) | **20.06.19** | Unit 1 & 2 mock exams | Unit 1 & 2 mock exams | Unit 1 & 2 mock exams |

**Predicted Grades**

*A Level Students*

* The predicted grade for full A-level students moving from their first to their second year, will be based on the combined result of their two mock exams. These exams are used to produce an Annual Review Grade (ARG) for students.
* Students will have a full mock exam in both their Unit 1 and Unit 2 courses once the content of these courses has been completed.
* It is essential therefore that students approach these mock exams as significant assessments and revise accordingly. Failure to do so will not be seen as a reason to change the predicted grade.
* If a student has underperformed substantially in the mock exams then their benchmark results will be taken into account when deciding on their predicted grade.

*AS Students*

* For any AS students who upgrades to the full A-level at the end of the first year, their predicted grade will automatically be their achieved AS result.

Students will have a 1-1 in the summer term of their first year to discuss their predicted grade. It is essential that these grades are accurate reflections of a student’s performance and are based on the evidence of achieved results. It is the college’s policy that a predicted grade can only be one level higher than an ARG.

**Mock Exams**

A level students will sit a full mock exam in each of the units studied in the first year:

These exams will be sat in formal timed conditions and any students entitled to extra time or to word-process will be able to do so. Students will be expected to conduct substantial revision to prepare for these exams and will be supported with revision materials and revision sessions (either during lunchtimes or after college).

Completed mock exams will be marked using the full OCR mark schemes and feedback will be given using standardised feedback sheets.

**Coursework**

For a detailed explanation of the History and Politics department’s policy towards coursework, please see the separate ‘Coursework Moderation Policy’ available on Godalming Online

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is submitting another person’s written work as one’s own original work or using someone else’s idea without referencing the source or using pictorial work without permission or referencing the source. If there is a suspicion of plagiarism, the Head of Department and Senior Tutor will be informed and a meeting will take place. If a student is found guilty, they will be subject to disciplinary action by the College and the awarding body will be informed. Students should be aware that the College is subscribed to software designed to detect plagiarism.