

Year 8

**Mid-Year
Assessment
Countdown
Booklet
2025/26**

Head of Year
Miss Peers

Respect | Enthusiasm | Ambition | Determination | Resilience



Irlam and Cadishead Academy

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A Message from Mr Smith

Dear Student,

Year 8 Mid-Year Assessment

This booklet has been put together to help you prepare fully for your Y8 Mid-Year Assessments which are taking place from the 12th-16th January. These are important exams which your teachers will use to see whether you are working towards your full potential and to identify areas where you may need support to do so. As a result, it is critical that you prepare yourself fully to show your best on these assessments.

Use the following pages to form a revision timetable which will ensure you have looked over all the relevant information before your exam. If you are not sure about any of the topics or content listed then please speak to your teacher and ask for more guidance. They will be happy to help!

When revising try to use a variety of strategies and formats to help you. This could include making mindmaps, writing out key term definitions (and testing yourself!), doing practice questions on Seneca or Sparx, making flashcards with key facts, watching YouTube videos, and much more. When used together they will ensure you are fully prepared for your assessments. Don't forget to also use your knowledge organisers.

Have a look for more tips on BBC Bitesize by following this link [Top revision techniques for exams - BBC Bitesize](#)

Remember, the effort that you put in will be reflected in your achievements. We are all here to support you to achieve your full potential and if you need any additional guidance or have any concerns please speak to your subject teacher, form tutor, or Head of Year.

All the best,

Mr Smith
Assistant Principal

Top Revision Tips

- **HABIT** - Get into the habit of working in a regular routine.
- **PLAN** - Plan your weekly revision, homework and leisure time on the timetables provided. Make sure you can realistically keep to the schedule that you have planned.
- **PLACE** - Make sure that you work in the best possible environment:
 - The room should be well lit to reduce eye strain
 - Quiet with few distractions – no TV or Phones. Sit on a chair at a table or desk rather than lounging on your bed or so close to a window that you might get distracted.
 - Identify a set time and place for studying – most people study best in the mornings and evenings, but you need to work out the best time for yourself.
- **ORGANISATION**
 - Be fully prepared. Books, paper, pens, drinks etc. should all be organised before you start.
 - Break each subject down into manageable chunks so that you can read over a topic once or twice in about 20 to 30 minutes. If you come across topics that you really don't understand, make a note of them and ask the subject teacher for help.
- **VARIETY** - Get some variety into your revision. Vary your use of revision materials: notes, revision cards, books, websites, podcasts and videos. Keep a record of what you have done in this booklet to make sure you cover all topics and don't avoid the more difficult ones.
 - Begin your revision by re-reading your notes from the previous session. This will improve your recall. At the end of the week revise the whole week's work. Revision should involve checking your notes and writing down the main points may help you learn them more than you would by just reading them.
 - As the exam draws nearer have 'key words' which trigger your memory.
 - Saying things out loud can help you to learn and can improve your use of appropriate vocabulary. It is important to test yourself after each piece of work. Identify some questions you might think will be on the paper and write an outline answer for each one.
- **RELAX** - Try to stop revising at least an hour before you go to bed. Relax to help you sleep. Working late will make you feel tired the next day. Only watch TV programmes that you enjoy rather than to fill in time. Get up early to make good use of your time.
- **HONESTY** - Always be honest with yourself. Teachers can help you but they cannot do the work for you. Ask for help when you need it.
- **PERSEVERE** - Don't give up: it really is not a long time and it will be worth it! Good luck!

English

Reading Assessment – What to Expect

You will complete a 1-hour assessment divided into five short sections that test your reading comprehension, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. All questions will be based on an extract from the play Richard III.

The reading sections are:

Essential Technical Knowledge

- **Simile**- a comparison between two different things using “like” or “as”.
- **Metaphor**- a comparison between two things that are otherwise unrelated.
- **Personification**- Placing any human qualities on a non-human object.
- **Pathetic fallacy**- Placing emotions on something non-human.
- **Soliloquy**- when a character in a play speaks their inner thoughts and feelings out loud, usually alone on stage, so the audience can understand what they are thinking.

Punctuation and Grammar

This section of the text will assess your ability to apply grammatical rules – this is similar to the style of reading tests that you have completed throughout the year.

Vocabulary

You will be given a sentence with a word missing. You will choose the most appropriate word from a list to complete the sentence. The words are from the Frayer models that you have studied this year.

Recall

You will answer short questions based on your knowledge of characters and events from Richard III. These questions require brief, specific responses.

English

Method and effect

You will identify a language method used in the extract (taken from Richard III) and explain the effect it has on the reader.

Writing Assessment - What To Expect

You will complete a 1-hour extended narrative writing assessment, marked out of 36. You will need to be creative as you can.

You should include:

- the 'Drop, Shift, Zoom in, Link' structure
- begin using the sentence starter provided in the assessment
- use a wide range of descriptive and narrative methods to create effective writing
- aim for accurate and controlled spelling, punctuation and grammar
- produce writing that is engaging, creative and well structured

An example sentence starter for your story:

Fog rolled in...

Maths

Mid-Year Calculator Assessment

Unit	Topic	Sparx topics – highlight as you complete these clips using the independent learning function
8.01	Powers and Roots	M135, M608
8.02	Prime Factorisation	M322, M823, M108, M365, M227, M698
8.03	Rounding	M111, M431, M994, M131, M878
8.04	Fractions	M939, M410, M671, M601, M835, M931, M157, M197, M110, M265
8.05	Solving equations 1	M707, M509, M387, M554, M813, M795, M531, M957
8.06	Angles in Parallel Lines	M606, M319, M163
8.07	Circumference	M595, M169

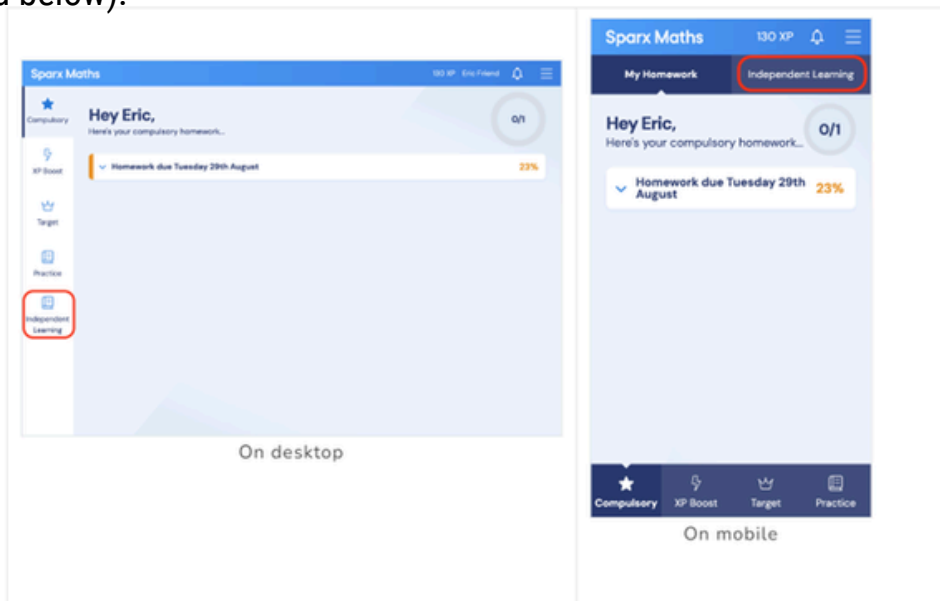
See the next page for how to use Sparx independently if you're not sure...

Maths

Revising Independently with SPARX

STEP ONE: Finding independent learning

When you log in you will see the independent learning feature in the top right hand corner (circled in red below).



You can choose to work on any topic by:

- Typing one of the following in the Search for topics field:
 - The name of a topic
 - A keyword
 - A code given to you in the list on page 5.
- Browse the content by clicking on one of the main Strands.

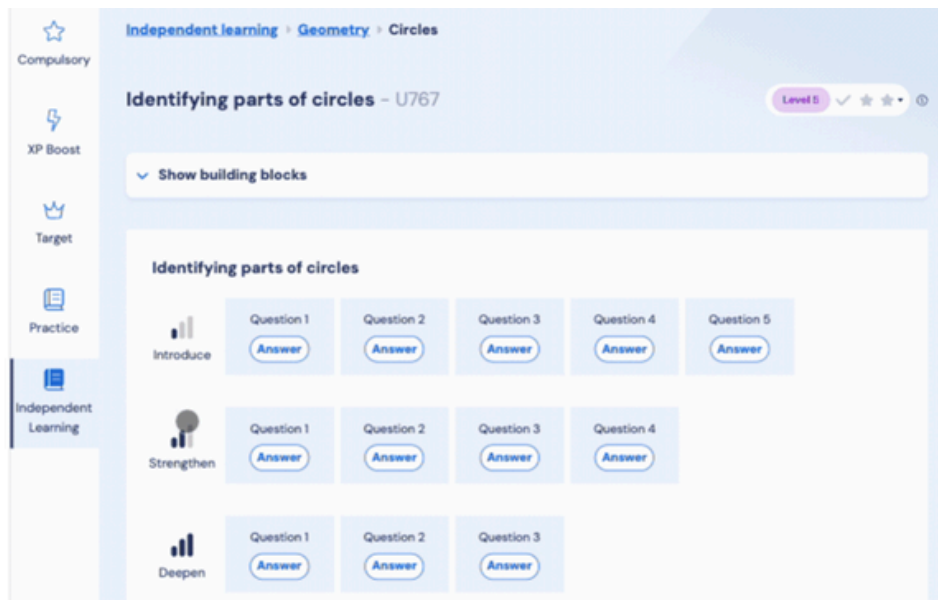
STEP TWO: Choosing the right work

The difficulty level will be in line with that of your normal homework.

You can choose to complete questions that introduce the topic if you don't remember much about it, strengthen the topic if you need a recap or deepen the topic if you are looking to increase your knowledge.

Revising Independently with SPARX

An example of this is shown on the right with the topic of circles.



You will see the difficulty level is set to 5 (in the top right corner) but you can change this if you are finding questions too hard or too difficult.

Science

Exam Format: 1 x 1 hour exam covering all topics below. Periodic Tables will be provided. Calculators will be necessary.

Topics to be covered in the exam:

Light and Sound

- Light waves
- Reflection
- Images
- Refraction
- Colour
- Infrared radiation
- Waves
- Sound waves
- Calculating the speed of waves

Periodic Table

- Elements
- Compounds
- Mixtures
- Atomic model
- Conservation of mass
- Group 1 and group 7

Digestion and Nutrition

- Healthy Diet
- Poor diet
- Food tests
- Digestion and enzymes
- Effect of temperature on enzymes

Working Scientifically and Prior Knowledge

You may also be tested on working scientifically skills. This involves: variables, presenting data in tables and graphs, analysing data from tables and graphs, evaluating scientific experiments for repeatability and reproducibility and suggesting improvements to methodology.

You may also be assessed on prior knowledge from year 7.

Revision

BBC Bitesize

Knowledge organisers - using look, cover, write, check

Sparx Science

Geography

1 x 60 minute exam covering Coasts and Population

Topics Covered:

Coasts

- Coastal erosion processes (hydraulic action, abrasion, attrition, solution)
- Landforms of coastal erosion – caves, arches, stacks, stumps
- Constructive and destructive waves
- Longshore drift

Population

- Sparsely and densely populated places
- Reasons for population density
- Population pyramids

REVISION

- Complete the revision topics and practice questions set on Seneca
- Use your knowledge organiser for key terms and processes
- Use BBC Bitesize – KS3 Geography – Coasts. Make revision mind maps and notes to supplement your learning. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6bd7ty>.
- Use BBC Bitesize – KS3 Geography – Population. Make revision mind maps and notes to supplement your learning. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg7nvcw/articles/zxv4cmn>

History

1 hour exam covering Units 1 and 2 of Year 8 curriculum.

Topics Covered:

Unit 1 - The Reformation and Tudors

- Henry VIII, why he wanted a divorce and the Break from Rome
- Differences between Catholic and Protestant Churches
- The reign of Edward VI
- The reign of Mary I
- The reign of Elizabeth I

England: A World turned upside down and add these bullet points underneath:

- Causes of the English Civil War
- Events of the English Civil War
- Oliver Cromwell
- Restoration England

REVISION

- Complete the revision booklet which will be given to you by your class teacher
- Complete the revision topics and practice questions set on Seneca
- Use your knowledge organiser for key terms and dates

Timetable

	Monday 12 th January	Tuesday 13 th January	Wednesday 14 th January	Thursday 15 th January	Friday 16 th January
Period 1 09.00 – 10.00		Science – Exam in lessons	English Writing – In the Sportshall	Geography – In Lessons	
Period 2 10.00 – 11.00					
Break					
Period 3 11.15 – 12.15	Maths – Exam in the Sportshall				Year 8 Reading – In the Sportshall
Period 4 12.15 – 13.15			Year 8 PRE Exam – In Lessons		
Lunch					
Period 5 14.00 – 15.00		Language – In lessons		Year 8 History – In lessons	