



GCSE English

Information for Parents



Your child is studying two GCSEs

GCSE Language

- Two 2 hour exams
- Completely unseen texts
- 20th narrative fiction
- Creative writing
- Comparison of 19th and 21st century non-fiction extracts
- Persuasive or transactional writing

GCSE Literature

- Two exams (2 hours and 2 ½ hours)
- Closed book exams
- Shakespeare play
- Poetry Anthology
- An Inspector Calls
- A Christmas Carol
- Comparison of two unseen poems



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How can your child revise for....?

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



Revising for Reading components



- Fiction component
- Non-fiction component

- The exams are essentially a comprehension test – how well do students understand what they've read?



At home, students can revise by:

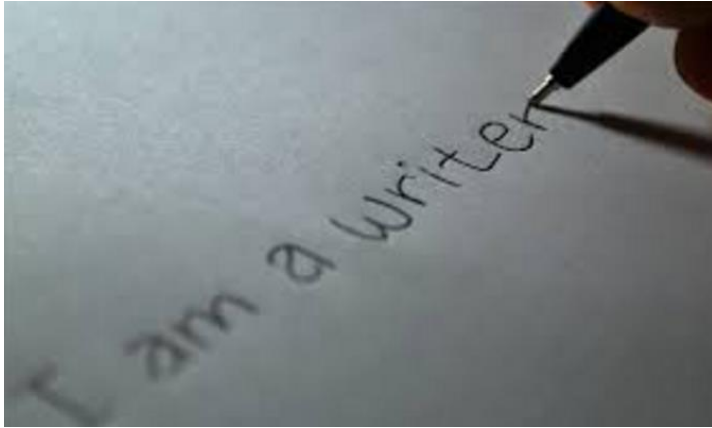
- Doing their homework!
- going through their folder and previous work looking at targets set by their teacher. Practise questions with these targets in mind.
- practising the questions/assessment objectives that they find challenging.
- using SAM Learning and GCSEPod to access further online fiction, 19th and 21st non-fiction resources.
- practising 'R.A.T.ing' questions.
- practising the timing for questions until they can be answered within the time allocations (usually 15 minutes for a 10 mark answer).
- review examples responses given to them by their teacher and try to use them to improve their own answers.
- ensuring they know the format of the exam papers: i.e. how many marks each style of questions is worth; how long is needed on each question; what reading skills is being assessed on each question.



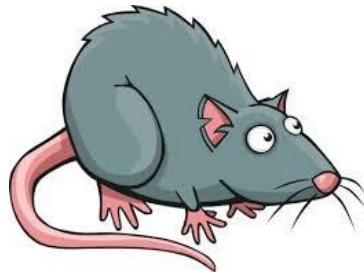
Revising for Writing components



- Write a short story
- Write two persuasive and/or transactional (real world situation) pieces
- Students are tested on their understanding of audience and purpose.



Reading and understanding the question before planning their answer.



Writing their answers: about five thoughtful paragraphs



Proofreading their answers.





At home, students can revise by:

- practising 'R.A.T.ing' a variety of writing tasks for paper 2.
- practising planning responses to both writing sections: they need to be able to plan within a very specific time frame.
- practising writing opening paragraphs; different paragraph structures; using different techniques; writing closing paragraphs.
- spending time improving their proof reading skills by practising this skill. They can also independently use GCSEPod and SAM Learning to revise key spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- the closer students get to their exams, the more they need to be practising writing in timed conditions.



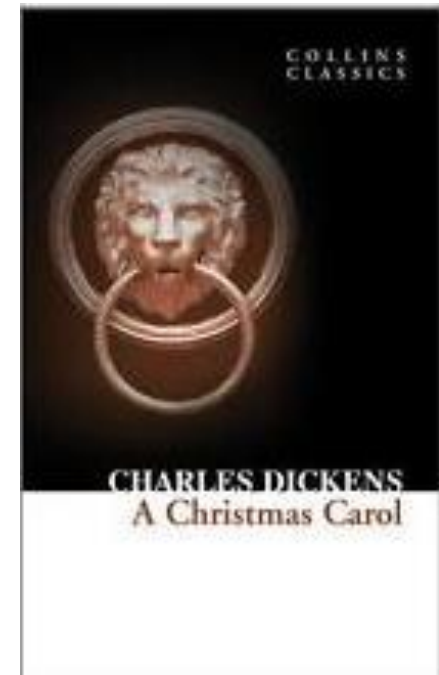
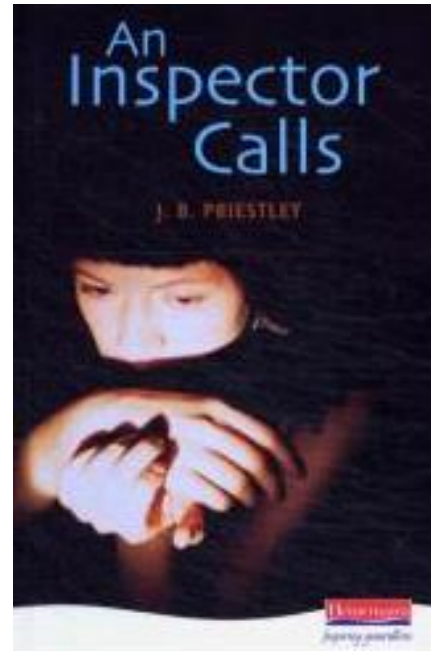
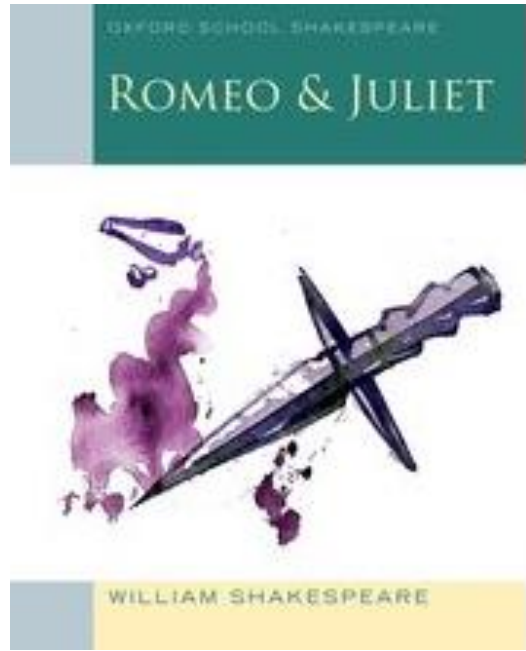
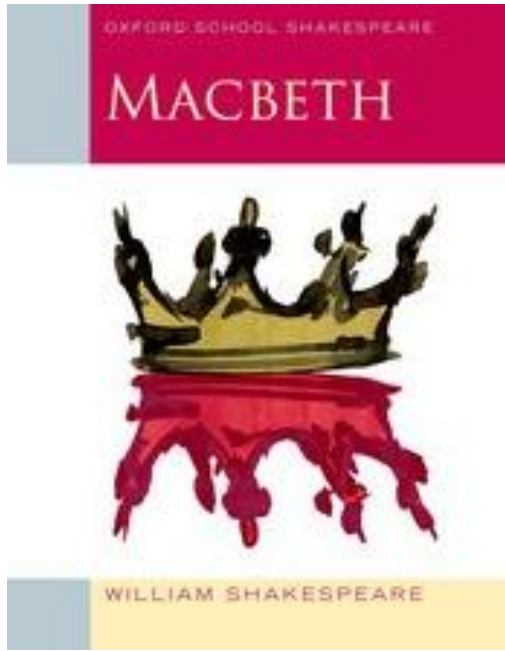
How can your child revise for....?

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



There's no substitute for reading the texts

Audio versions are available for free on YouTube or for purchase





Revising for literature isn't about writing lots of essays...



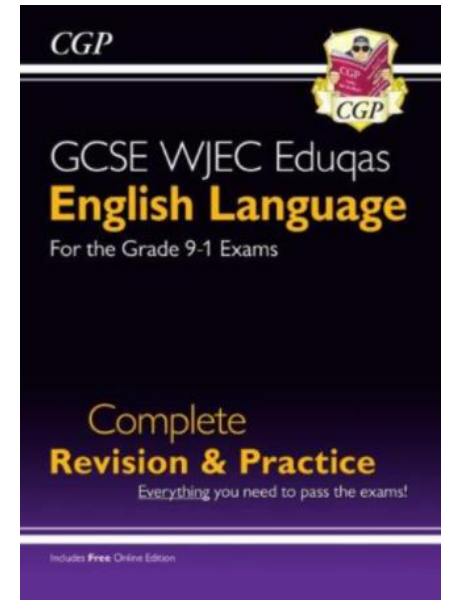
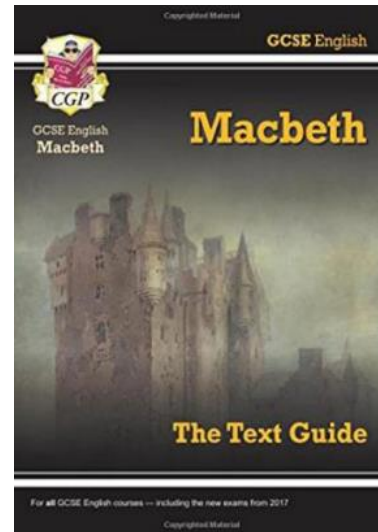
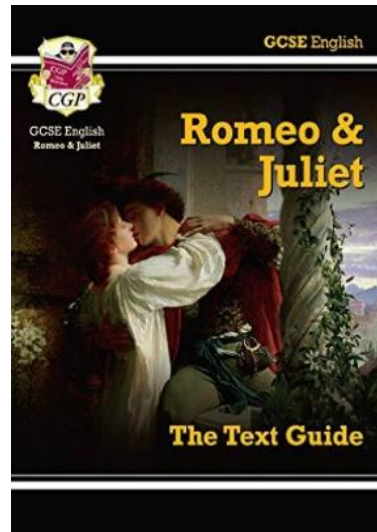
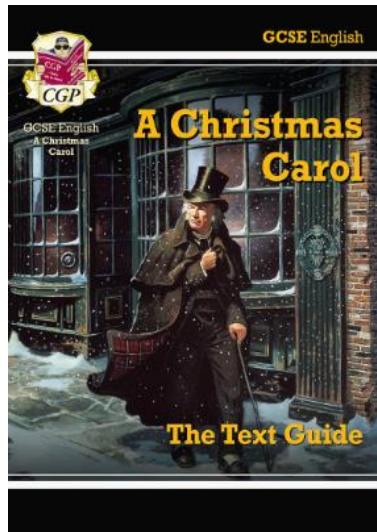
At home, students can revise by:

- creating mindmaps, timelines and knowledge organisers for each literature text (they need to know characters and themes).
- re-reading key sections of each text.
- completing knowledge recall tests (there are lots on SAM Learning and GCSEPod).
- picking out key extracts for different characters and themes and practise analysing them so that they're developing analysis skills AND learning quotes at the same time.
- practising planning a wide variety of essay questions – they **don't** need to be writing an essay for every essay plan.
- read different types of poetry and practise the skill of comparison.
- practise essay planning for poetry comparison, as well as writing some complete essays.



Revision books

- We have revision guides for both GCSEs.
- The school library also has a section of revision books that students can use





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GCSE Maths Revision

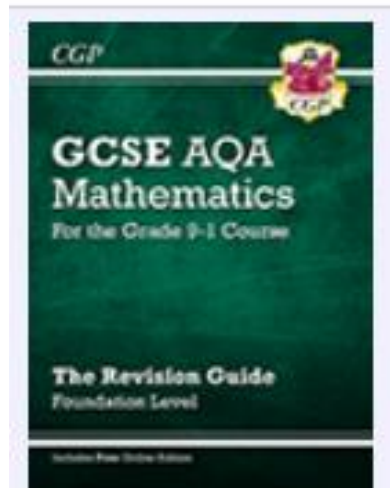
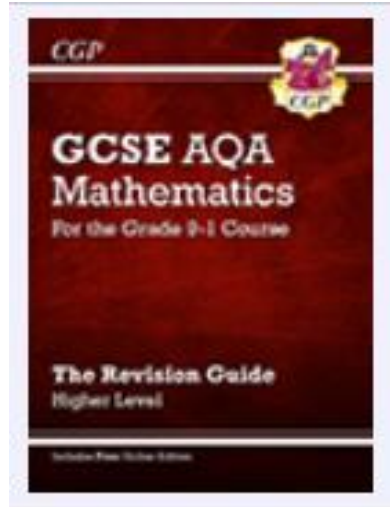


**How can you
help someone to
prepare for a
maths exam?**





1. Revise



Revision Guide £3.15

**Two Levels;
Foundation or Higher.**



1. Revise

Our “new” Maths
Homework and
Revision Website

sparxmaths.uk

All the maths teachers at Soar Valley will use this site to tailor work for your revision.

**Make sure you know how
To access this site.**

Sparx Maths
Student Login
You're logging in to Sparx at Soar Valley College.
[Not your school?](#)

Log in to Sparx using Microsoft

or

Use your Sparx login



1. Revise

Independent Learning

Find topics

My activity

Search for topics:

Enter topic name or code

Your curriculum:

GCSE

Default level:

Level 2

Select a topic:

Number



Algebra



Ratio and Proportion



Geometry



Probability



Statistics





1. Revise

Our other preferred
Maths Revision
Website

www.mathswatch.co.uk

MathsWatch

Classes Assignments Users Videos Usage

Clip 161 Cubic and Reciprocal Graphs One Minute Maths Interactive Questions Worksheet

Your s

Video

a) Complete the table for $y = 5x - x^3$

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
y	12	-2	-4	0	4	2	-12

$5 \times 0 - 0^3 = 0$
 $5 \times 1 - 1^3 = 4$
 $5 \times 3 - 3^3 = -12$
 $5 \times (-3) - (-3)^3 = 12$

b) On the grid, draw the graph of $y = 5x - x^3$

c) Estimate the x-coordinates of the turning points of the graph. $-1.2, 1.2$



2. Review

Students should reflect on all the revision work they do.

**They should always:
mark their work and make a record
of topics they find difficult.
These can be reviewed using their
revision guide or looking at Sparx and
Mathswatch.
Don't brush problems under the
carpet.**





3. Rehearse

From **January** maths teachers will provide past papers to complete.

These are **ESSENTIAL** preparation for their GCSE!!



3. Rehearse

Our chosen exam board and syllabus is **AQA GCSE Mathematics Code 8300**

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/m

Welcome » Soar Valley College MyMaths - Bringing maths aliv... AQA | Mathematics | GCSE [... X]

Contact us About us Log in Site search

Subjects Qualifications Professional development Exams administration

Subjects / Maths / GCSE / Mathematics (8300)

GCSE Mathematics

Teaching from: September 2015

Exams from: June 2017
Specification code: 8300
QAN code: 601/4608/4

With new content, assessment and performance measures, you need to change how you teach maths. Why not change for the better?

The Government's exam changes mean there's not going to be an easy option for GCSE Maths.

With content the same for all exam boards, how you choose which GCSE Maths will be right for your students will be down to how it is assessed and how it is supported.

We think we've put together the first-choice GCSE Maths for you and your students.

Download specification

Decided to teach our new Mathematics specification?
Sign up now

Talk to us

It has a comprehensive website with useful resources including Past Exam Papers.

Maths Genie is also another website for past papers
model answers included

www.aqa.org.uk/maths/gcse



Resilience

Revision for maths takes TIME

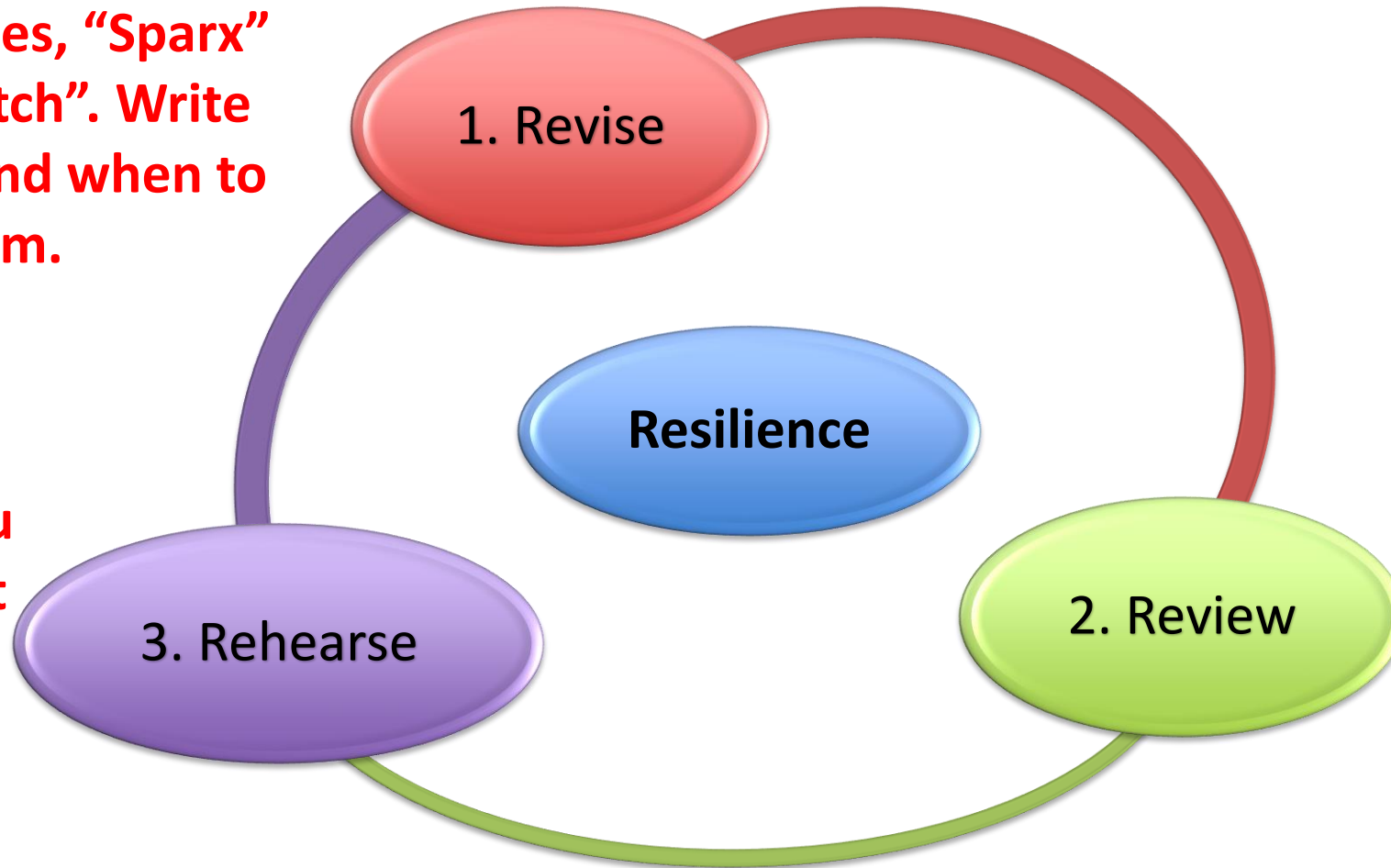
Mistakes are part of revising and help students to progress.

Encourage regular practice



Make sure you have access to Revision guides, “Sparx” and “Mathswatch”. Write a plan of how and when to use them.

Make sure you complete past papers



Make sure all the work is marked and there is a list of the topics you would like to improve. Make sure you review your “mock exams”.



GCSE Science

Information for Parents



GCSE Science Course



The Exams

Six papers:

2 Biology

2 Chemistry

2 Physics

Duration:

All exam papers are 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Triple science 1 hour 45 minutes





Revising Science



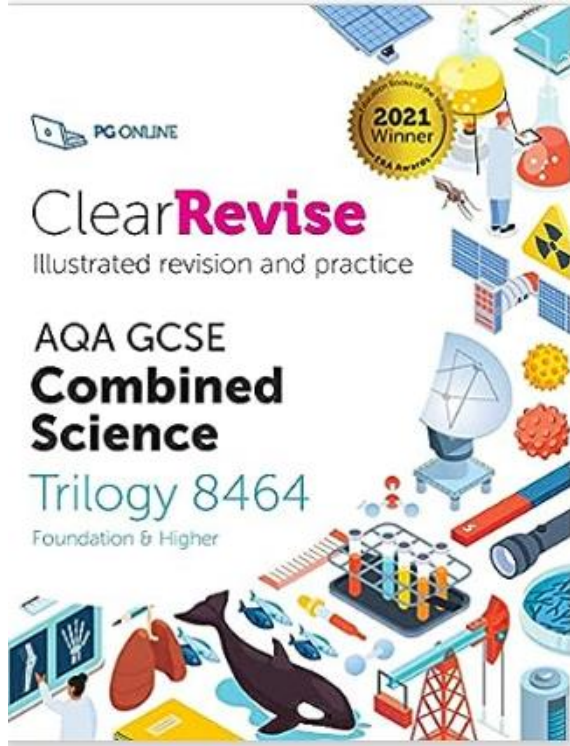
Knowledge



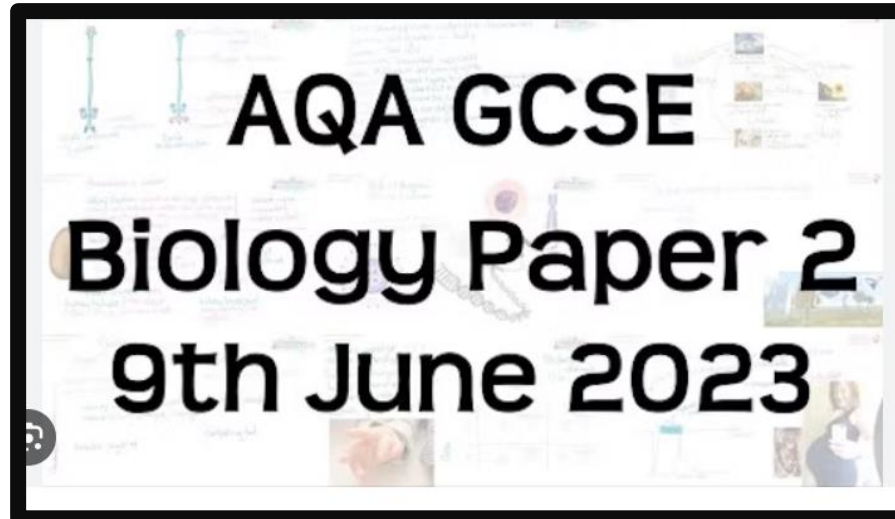
Retrieval



Practice



The key subject specific content.



- Workbooks
- Knowledge organisers

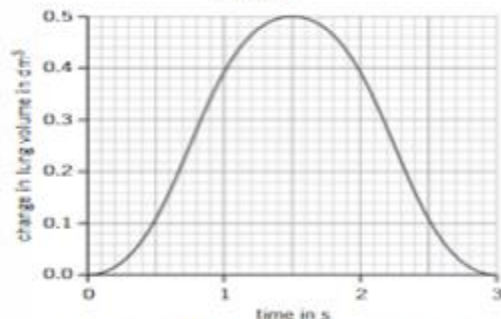


Exam-style questions

- 01** An athlete's lung volume was measured over a period of time. The data for one respiratory cycle is shown in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1



- 01.1** Describe how the athlete's lung volume changes over the three-second period shown. **[2 marks]**

- 01.2** Use **Figure 1** to determine the volume of air taken in when the athlete inhales. **[1 mark]**

_____ dm³

- 01.3** The athlete's total lung volume before inhalation was 5.00 dm³. Calculate their total lung volume after inhalation. **[2 marks]**

_____ dm³

- 01.4** Calculate how many respiratory cycles will take place in 60 s. **[3 marks]**

_____ cycles

Exam Tip

For this question you need to use the data and describe the shape of the line and how it changes.

- 01.5** Select which of the following changes take place in the athlete's chest cavity between 0 and 1.5 s. **[2 marks]**

Tick **two** boxes.

rib cage moves in and down

rib cage moves up and out

diaphragm contracts and moves down

diaphragm relaxes and moves up

Exam Tip

Read the question carefully, **01.5** only refers to the first part of the graph not all of it.

- 02** A student carried out a number of food tests on an unknown sample. Their results are shown in **Table 1**.



Table 1

Nutrient tested for	Reagent used	Result
starch	Y	yellow-orange
sugar	Benedict's solution	blue
protein	Biuret reagent	purple
X	ethanol	cloudy white layer formed

Exam Tip

A reagent is a chemical or solution that is used in a practical.

- 02.1** Identify nutrient X that is detected by adding ethanol to the food sample. **[1 mark]**

- 02.2** Identify reagent Y that is used to test a food sample for starch. **[1 mark]**

- 02.3** Biuret reagent is corrosive. Suggest **one** safety precaution that the student should have taken when using Biuret reagent. **[1 mark]**

Exam Tip

Make sure your suggestion is related to the practical.

- 02.4** The student thought that the food sample contained starch, sugar and protein. Is the student correct? Circle **one** answer for each of the statements below. **[3 marks]**

The food sample contains starch. yes no

The food sample contains sugar. yes no

The food sample contains protein. yes no



Scientific language

- Over 3700 subject specific words students should be able to define.

Key terms Make sure you can write a definition for these key terms.

alveoli amylase aorta artery atrium bronchi bronchiole capillary cardiac muscle
coronary artery double circulatory system lipase organ organ system plasma platelet
protease pulmonary artery pulmonary vein tissue vein vena cava ventricle

B4 Knowledge 33

- Working scientifically vocabulary such as **variables, accuracy, reliable, conclusion, precision, evaluation etc.**



Command words

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams that tell students how they should answer a question.

Most common: Describe, Explain, Compare, Define, Evaluate, Justify, suggest.....



(b) Scientists have genetically engineered a variety of wheat to be resistant to herbicides.

The herbicide resistant variety of wheat will give a higher yield than the non-herbicide resistant variety.

Explain why.

Response requires:

- Giving reasons how or why something has happened
- Giving reasons how or why 2 factors are related
- Giving reasons how or why a process works

(3)