

Testing policy

Knowledge tests are linked to the unit being studied. There are no mid year or end of year exams. Students in Science are only required to commit to memory the material being studied in the current unit.

Skills tests done near the middle of the year are content free. As such they do not relate to any specific unit of study. The best preparation for these items is to complete the skill sections attached to each homework set as they occur in the normal homework routine.

- Students are to sit separately with a bag in between to limit any copying opportunities – teachers will separate students if possible.

- Students must adhere to strict silence during a test. Any questions are to be made by raising a hand and waiting for the teacher to attend the student's bench.

- Students will be given 3 X 1 minute bookcheck opportunities. Students will be allowed to look at the text, their rough copy notes collected in class and any study notes that have been prepared for the test – these notes must be hand written as evidence that they are the result of the student's own research.

The bookcheck policy is intended to impact on students in two ways:

- it allows students to answer more questions in the exam, engaging more fully with the task and the subject, giving a greater sense of achievement
- it provides encouragement and reward for students who set about a rigorous study routine before a test.

Tests have been written with the bookcheck policy in mind. Questions have been designed at differing intellectual levels in a broadly Blooms Taxonomy approach. The A to E grading is directly linked to the quality rather than quantity of questions answered. Traditional recall questions only relate to the lower grades. The higher grade questions are unique and involve analysis, synthesis and evaluation skills. The bookcheck may help students unlock thinking they possess, but it will not give them the thinking of which they are not capable.

All students, regardless of their intellectual ability, will benefit greatly from familiarising themselves carefully with the unit being tested.