

SAM LEARNING PARENT / CARER GUIDE



at



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

Success Beyond Belief

A Church of England Academy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Revision Exercises	2
Exam Papers	3 - 5
Improved Activities – Key Content	6
How to Login to SAM Learning	7

Sam Learning Parent Guide

Aylesbury Vale Academy subscribes to an excellent independent learning resource called "SAM Learning" (www.samlearning.com). The essential single objective of SAM Learning is to improve the achievement of your children in their national exams at KS3, GCSE and post 16.

For students, SAM Learning appears as a web based service accessible from any internet enabled device at anytime. Students can tackle a choice of revision, using drag and drop and test practice which essentially means that students do and mark their own work. In exam practice, every single mark is identified by the examiners who wrote the question so we see time and time again that students benefit from improving their technique, their confidence and as a result their results.


The following are the benefits of use for students

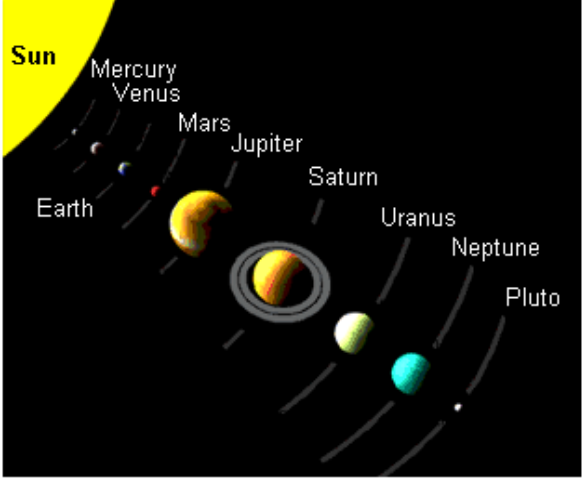
- Independently proven to boost exam results
- Online revision boosts confidence and motivation
- Students enjoy the online/ anytime flexibility
- 10 hours per subject helps improve final grades
- Students work at their own pace
- 50% of student usage outside school hours

SAM Learning has been proven to raise a student's achievement by 2 GCSE points (on average) with only 10 hours of use. Think how important that could be – in two subjects your child could get a C rather than D.

Take a look at some screenshots on the following pages, which will give you a better idea about how SAM Learning works.

Revision Exercises

 **Observing with the Naked Eye** Close X



The Solar system is comprised of the surrounded by planets and a distant small dwarf planet called . These planets have orbits (slightly squashed circles) around the Sun.

(Box 1) moon / Sun / Earth
(Box 2) 8 / 7 / 9
(Box 3) Goofy. / Pluto. / Neptune.
(Box 4) circular / ovular / elliptical

Drag and drop the correct word to fill each box

Marks:0/31

Screen:4/10

NEXT

CANCEL

This is an example of a revision exercise in Science. All revision exercises follow the same format. They are all interactive with the students doing the exercise live on a computer.

On the top right hand side you'll see the running score – a mark if the answer is correct first time, otherwise no mark, but learners can carry on until they get the right answer by trial and error. These exercises are confidence building and focus on points that frequently come up in examiners' mark schemes. At the end of the revision exercise, students get a score.

Revision is all about key concepts and facts – very suitable to introduce a topic or prior to practicing exam questions.

Exam Papers

Type your answers in the boxes below. If the answers require drawing, use paper or print this page. When you have finished click on Mark My Work.

09:41 *Time spent:*

Mark My Work

Print This Page

Q1

Use algebra to form an expression for each of these:

a

6 more than x

1 mark

b

5 less than x

1 mark

A student writes their answer down on paper to replicate exam conditions. There is a clock which ticks down. (The question paper can be printed first or the student can use a blank page in their exercise book. When they have finished they click 'Mark Your Work' to see the mark scheme.)

Q1

Use algebra to form an expression for each of these:

a

6 more than x

$x + 6$ (= 1 mark)

OR

$6 + x$ (= 1 mark)

1 mark

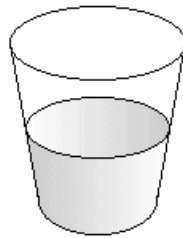
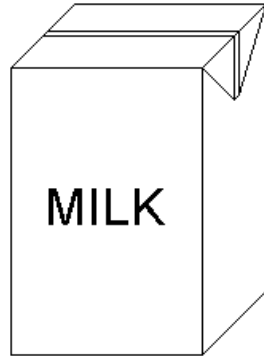
This is the mark scheme. The student clicks in a 'tick box' for each mark they scored. Most of the marks are not for science ability as such, but for knowing what the examiner is looking for.

Q1

Calculator allowed



CALCULATOR ALLOWED



A glass can hold 130 millilitres.

a

What is the maximum number of glasses of milk that can be filled from a 1 litre carton?

3 marks

.....
.....
.....
.....

7.69 1 mark for getting the calculation correct

Another example. Again a student writes their answer down on paper to replicate exam conditions. There is a clock which ticks down. And the question is 'What is the maximum number of full 130ml glasses that can be filled from a 1 litre carton of milk?'

The student will learn that they have to show their work to get all the marks for this question.

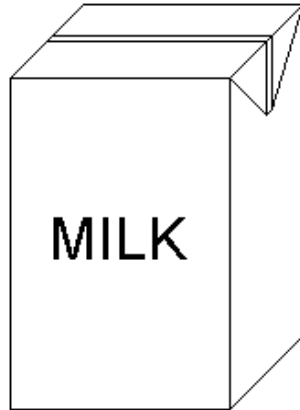
SAM will help you because it's re-enforcing good practice and students start to realise this. Again, students would click "Mark your Work" to see what they need to do to achieve all the marks.

Q1

Calculator allowed



CALCULATOR ALLOWED



A glass can hold 130 millilitres.

a

What is the maximum number of glasses of milk that can be filled from a 1 litre carton?

1000ml = 1l

$1000 \div 130$ (=1 mark) = 7.69 glasses (=1 mark)

= 7 whole glasses of milk. (=1 mark)

.....
.....
.....
.....

3 marks



- 1000 divided by 130 - **1 mark for method**
- 7.69 – **1 mark for getting the calculation correct**
- 7 whole glasses of milk **1 mark for rounding the answer DOWN** to the nearest whole number. Round down, not up, as the question asks how many **WHOLE** glasses of milk can be filled from the 1 litre carton.

Now in real life, the examiner would award three marks if you'd answer simply 7. But SAM Learning is re-enforcing good practice by showing the match mark scheme like this. **Getting students to write down their method is the bane of Maths teachers' lives.** SAM Learning gets them to DO it. That's how SAM Learning raises achievement with just a few hours use.

SAM Learning helps students understand and learn what exams are about. It really doesn't matter too much in what subjects students practice – the principle of exams is the same and therefore the concepts learned in Maths apply equally to other subjects.

Improved Activities – Key Content

Inform 09:26 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Try Again Cancel

START FINISH

Q Write a magazine article to **inform** your readers about **modern communication**.

Plan

Introduction

Conclusion

Mobile Phones

Communication

Letters

Internet and email

Stages of writing a paragraph.

Put these stages in order by dragging the options into place.

The final sentence of the paragraph.

The opening topic sentence.

The supporting sentences.

GO

Replay Last Sound

Brand new **Improve** activities are now available for GCSE Maths and English - with added Flash animation and voice over!

Aimed at C/D borderline students, Improve activities are designed to help students master the core skills and topics needed to improve their exam performance and secure a Grade C.

Activities are broken down into clearly explained steps, making difficult concepts seem really easy!

Helpful hints appear whenever students type in an incorrect answer – guiding them throughout and increasing their understanding and focus.

Sound bites and animation clips are used to engage pupils with reading difficulties.

HOW TO LOGIN TO SAM LEARNING



It is very simple to login to SAM Learning.

Everyone goes to www.samlearning.com and uses the cloud login area in the top right hand corner (highlighted in red on the slide above)



You are then asked for the Centre ID, which is **HP19AV** for Aylesbury Vale Academy.

You then have to provide the User ID and Password – for students this is their date of birth and initials. So for a student born on the 30th November 1992 called John Evans their User ID and Password would be 301192JE.