

## Introduction

We hope you find this booklet helpful as we come to the final preparation for the summer GCSE examinations. We want all of our students to leave college with the best possible results. Results that will not only enable them to take the next step in their chosen career pathway but that they will be proud to write whenever and wherever required for the rest of their lives.

For those students who are intending to continue their education beyond Sixth Form to University then the GCSE results will form a very important part of application process. For example, a number of medical courses ask for 5 or sometimes more A\* grades/Level 8 & 9 grades. Most Universities ask for at least a Grade 5 in English and mathematics and some (University College London 2012 entry) ask for a grade 5 or above in a modern foreign language. For Science and Engineering some Universities will ask for a Grade 6 in English and some at least a grade 6 in mathematics for Business and Psychology.

If you enter Sixth Form without at least a grade 5 in English or Mathematics you will be required to attend the resit GCSE groups and spend some of your curriculum time making sure that you gain these important qualifications.

If at any point in the revision or GCSE examination period you are concerned or worried then please contact us – we will help whenever possible.



## How to get good results



### Remember

- You can't revise it if you haven't learnt it.

Revision is re-looking at information you have learnt previously. The idea is that you know the information that will be tested and can remember it for the exam. Knowing depends on understanding.

- Every lesson counts and your attendance is vital.



Go to all lessons and make them work for you – it is not whether you like the teacher or not, whether you find it difficult, whether you find it boring – it is what you are getting out of it that matters. This is YOUR result.

- Your attitude is all important – success is 80% attitude and 20% skill



- Regardless of what's happened in the past you can always change your future



- You only fail if you give up.

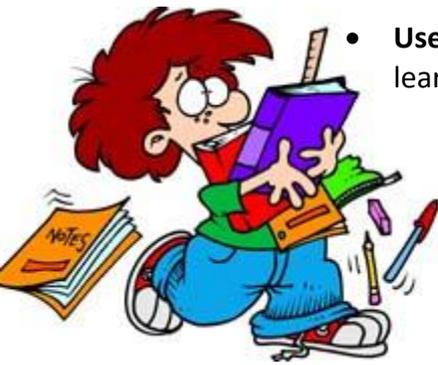


Revising **isn't** something that should be **challenging** or **difficult** at all. What revising is, unfortunately, is time consuming. **It takes a while.** That's why you might like to **start early** (nothing to do on a Sunday?)....



## Good revision techniques

- Have an **aim for each session** – by the end of this session I will have.....
- **Identify what you already know and the parts you need more time on** – self testing or using an internet test will help with this.
- **Break all topics into do-able chunks** and don't just read at this stage but do something active with it.
- **Short bursts of 20-25 mins** are more effective. Your concentration will lapse after an hour. Take short breaks.
- Find a **suitable quiet place** – refuse to be interrupted or distracted.
- **Produce notes** – which get shorter at each session as you remember more and need less prompts. Read notes out loud.
- **Use different techniques** – key word cards, flashcards, post-its, posters, learning maps, recordings, highlighting, chants and songs.
  - **Test yourself** or get someone to help test you.
  - Tick off what you have done so you can **see your progress**.
  - **Revisit notes** after a day, a week and a month really works. 5 repeats on different occasions to remember.
- Use **practice exam papers** – this is one of the most valuable methods of revision
- **Ask for help** when you need it – friends, parents, teachers.
- **Don't get stressed** and **eat and sleep properly**
- **Believe in yourself**, be positive. If you think you can succeed you will – if you convince yourself that you will fail then you probably will.
- **Do not be influenced by friends that appear to be doing little work** – your result does not matter to them and their result does not matter to you BUT YOURS DOES. Tell yourself that this is not for long and you have a very long summer break to look forward to.
- **Last minute revision is worth it** – breakfast sessions and before exam preparation lessons will help – just one thing may stick in your mind and get you those extra marks to raise your grade. Your key facts sheet can be read as you wait to go into the exam – it will all help.



**Successful revision involves doing something with the information – this is essential so your brain makes connections and remembers.**

## Use Your Learning Style

# What's Your Style?

### Lookers

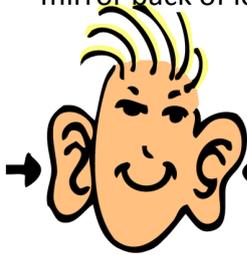
#### Do you.....

Learn best through pictures, learning maps, diagrams, watching videos, live performance.



#### You should.....

Draw pictures and diagrams and colour code your work. Use highlighters for key facts  
Create posters and use learning maps  
Use videos, TV programmes or plays of things you are studying  
Use post-it notes to label things  
Create visual displays of key words, facts and text in strategic places – bedroom wall, mirror back of loo door!



### Listeners

#### Do you.....

Like to hear the teacher explain things  
Summarise out loud or learn by repeat things to themselves  
Make up rhymes to help information stick

#### You should.....

Record onto MP3 players or your phone and play back repeatedly  
Read all your notes out loud repeatedly  
Create rhymes, raps, chants  
Remember lists by using mnemonics  
Close your eyes when you are listening so that you are only using that sense.

### Doers

#### Do you....

Like to get involved – experiments, “hands on”, moving objects around  
Prefer practical things like card sorts, matching activities

#### You should.....

Use movement when you are revising – walk around rather than sit still.  
Underline or highlight key facts  
Make learning maps

If you know what your style is you can use it to your advantage  
There is no right or wrong and do whatever you feel most comfortable with.

## Setting yourself up



- Get **files or folders for each subject** and start putting important information in at the end of each day. You will waste time looking under a mountain of paper for the one you want when you could have spend that time revising.

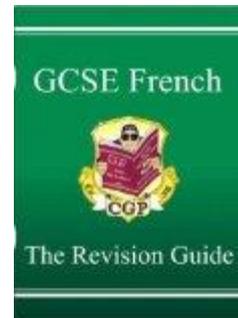
- **Start early** – the sooner you start the less you will have to do each day and the less stressed you will be.



	1700-1800	1800-1900	1900-2000	2000-2100	2100-2200
MON:	Rehearsal	MAKE REVISION TIME-TABLE.		COLOUR IN TIME-TABLE	Biology Revision
TUE:	Biology Extra Class??	DEUS EX	GENERAL STUDIES: Read Calvo & Hobbes	Biology: Calculating the number of the 1000	Rest Session
WED:	Rehearsal	Collect out 486!	KTAB	Revision Smash on Stage	
THUR:	File notes on Aquinas	Revise Bismark &c., &c.	ESSAY FOR R.S.	Revise JK III Missions.	Make Excuse For Biol Result
FRI:	ARTS & DEBATING Soc.	Duch. of New	Malfr. Vic!!	Make Revision Crisp.	Midweek on Telly

- Make a **realistic revision timetable** that will work for you. Allow time just to get this completed – it a good investment of your time – get parents/tutors to help if you find this difficult.

- Get **one good revision aid for each subject** – use the advice of your teachers and know what works best for you.



- **Keep all the equipment you need handy** (pens etc, calculator, paper, notebooks, postcards, post-its) – wasting 20mins looking for a pen is not good use of revision time!



## Quick Tips

- **Make yourself start** however much you don't want to – the hardest bit is now out of the way.
- **Take short breaks**



**DON'T PUT  
IT OFF!**



**Do frequent short exercises** – stand up and walk around, do stretches, especially your neck and shoulders

- **Drink water and get fresh air** – have your room cool enough or you will fall asleep!

- **Eat well** – not too many sugary snacks – little and often is best.
- Take **time out** and do something completely different
- **Don't leave the difficult bits until last**
- Do something more **relaxing between revision and bed.**

- **STOP when you feel frustrated**, angry, overwhelmed and take a break. Make a note of the problem and deal with it next lesson – move on to something else.



- Focus on what you have already done and not what is still to do – remember **every little helps.**

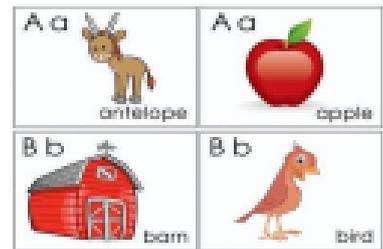
- Give yourself a **reward after a revision session**– favourite TV programme, magazine, going out with friends, favourite food.
- At the end of a session – clear away and put notes in the right file so you can start the next session straight away.

# Revision Techniques

## Flashcards

For key information and facts. You can carry them around with you and test yourself anywhere.

Use it to remind and test yourself on; Spellings Lists, A sequence of simple events



## Read-Cover-Recall-Check

Read the information you want to remember. Cover it up, write out what you remember. Check to see how much you forgot.

Use it to test yourself on; Spellings, Lists, A sequence of simple events

## Online quizzes or revision guide exam questions

Answer the questions, note down your score, revise the topic some more, have another go at the questions later. Did you improve?

Use it to test yourself on; Simple scientific facts and processes



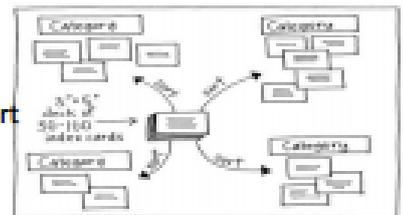
## Make a card sort

Make a set of cards that you can cut out, mix up and match.

Use them; When you need to remember pieces of information that go together.

## Key word cards

Include definitions on the back. You can test yourself on the definitions, sort them into scientifically relevant categories, put them into a sequence.



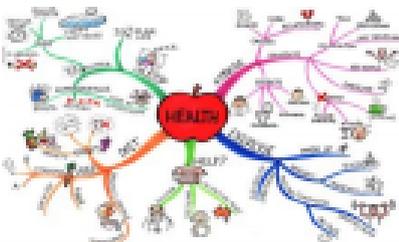
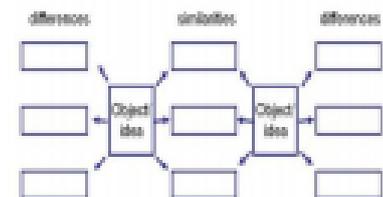
Describe or explain a process/scenario to someone who does not know it or a classmate.

They can ask questions to fill in any gaps you missed and if they are also revising it may help them understand the work better.

Use it when; Explaining a series of events or a process that has some detail

## Graphic organisers

Decide if you are describing, analysing parts, comparing, analysing cause and effect, predicting or evaluating and display your arguments in a graphic organiser. Use it to; look at topics in more detail.



## Mind maps

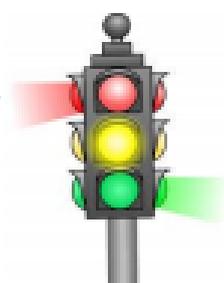
Start with a central theme and organise the information from it, grouped into subtopics. Label the branches with the relationships.

To summarise a whole topic after revising it in detail. Only put in the key words, everything else should come to mind when you read it.

## Past exam questions and analysis

Complete some past exam questions. Mark your answers. Fill in the answers you missed. Go through the paper and colour code each topic (Red-need to revise, Amber-Need to go over a few bits again, Green-I've got it)

Use it to test your ability to; recall the information you have revised, to answer the question asked, not just write down everything you know, to follow the command words in an exam.



## The Exams

### Before

- **Know your exam timetable** – highlight yours in colour and put them on your calendar.
- **Know where and when you need to be** and give yourself enough time not to be rushed.
- **Allow time for your brain to get into action** – have a shower. Eat breakfast – at home, at school or eat some fruit as you walk to school.

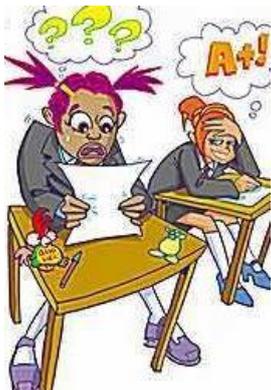


- **Check the exact subject of the exam**, how it will be structured (eg short answer section and an essay) and how the marks are awarded.
- **Make sure you have everything you need the night before** – books you are allowed to take in, equipment including a calculator for science and maths.
- **Keep to normal routines** – bed and getting up at normal time.
- Keep repeating to yourself “It is only 2 hours it will be over by 10.45”, “I will be fine”. If you keep having worrying thoughts then just say STOP and **think of something positive**.
- Leave yourself time to **go to the toilet before the exam**
- **Take water into the exam** - your ability to remember and your concentration improves by 70% if you are hydrated.
- Don't worry if you think you have forgotten it all before you go in - if you have revised it will all be there and will come back.



## During

- Turn off and **hand in your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment** when you enter the exam hall.
- **Being nervous is normal** and gives your brain extra adrenalin to help you make a final effort.
- Take some deep breaths and **say something positive to yourself** “I can do this” “If its hard for me its hard for everyone else”



- If you go blank at any stage leave that question, take a few deep breaths, turn over and do something else you can do. Come back to it and reread it slowly and calmly.
- **Listen to the invigilator** for any last minute instructions.
- **Read the instructions and then read through the paper** – don’t pick up your pen until you have done this.
- As you read **mark off questions you can do** and then choose the best ones for you – check that you have chosen the right number of questions.
- If you need to **spend the first couple of minutes writing down key formula or facts you are going to need** so you don’t forget them or leave them out.
- **Know how many marks each section or question is worth and how you should split your time.** If you run out of time write in note form to get some facts down but keep to your time limits – you can always come back if you have time at the end.
- **Do not make any contact** – even a smile – to any other candidate in the exam hall or you will be disqualified.

$$C = \pi d$$
$$A = \pi r^2$$

