

Year 11

Revision Guide



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Introduction

The aim of this revision guide is to provide you with some tools to help you prepare for the exams you are going to be taking this year. Everybody learns and revises differently as so this guide contains a range of strategies that can be used as well as subject specific information and hints.

Revising isn't always about working harder but more about working smarter. This involves organising your time and using better techniques to help you learn the information and the skills needed to show your full potential in the exam room.

Included in this guide is also tips for parents on how to support you through both the exams and the preparation for them.

It is hoped that the advice and techniques help you to reinforce your learning and help you to reach your full potential.



Revising isn't something that should be difficult or challenging at all. What revising is, unfortunately, is time-consuming.

It takes a while. That is why you need to start early

Organising Yourself

It is important that your revision time at home is organised. You have been advised to fill in revision timetables at school and hopefully this has proved useful. There is a blank revision timetable similar to the one below at the back of this revision guide which can be used as a template.

Revision Plan of: _____										
	4.00-4.30	4.30-5.00	5.00-5.30	5.30-6.00	6.00-6.30	6.30-7.00	7.00-7.30	7.30-8.00	8.00-8.30	8.30-9.00
Monday										
Tuesday										
Wednesday										
Thursday										
Friday										

Advice

- No more than 30-45 minutes per subject session – it is proven that “cramming” long periods of time on one topic area is not as effective as numerous shorter periods over time
- Fill in “non-negotiable” commitments that you do not control e.g. football training – socialising with friend is not “non-negotiable” but leisure time is important to build in to manage the pressure of the exams
- Design a plan which allows similar exposure to subjects as your school timetable - it may be useful to use your timetable to plan e.g. if you have four subjects on Monday in the day, plan to revise/consolidate this learning on Monday evening too
- 3-4 Subjects per day is likely to be sufficient
- Build in review times – it is important to test what you have revised. This will highlight what has successfully been memorised and what needs to further revision

Subject Revision Planning

The sheet below can be used to plan your weekly revision. It would be useful to refer to your subject PLCs to help decide which content to cover in each session

Monday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:
Tuesday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:
Wednesday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:
Thursday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:
Friday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:
Saturday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:
Sunday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:

Creating the Correct Revision Conditions

1. Have a suitable revision environment

- No clutter
- Good ventilation
- No interruptions
- Quiet and comfortable room
- Books and files to hand – These can be prepared prior to your revision time
- Comfortable chair
- Spacious desk/table
- Well lit room

2. Remove distractions – TV, phone, email, social media, music (music can be relaxing but can also be a distraction – especially if you hum or sing along)

How Parents Can Support

- Encourage your child to attend support/intervention sessions offered at school
- Make sure they are informing teacher if there are areas they are unclear about
- Make sure they have the right equipment for both their lessons and their exams
- Encourage the use of revision guides, workbooks and other relevant revision materials – these can be online (such as MyMaths, GCSE Bitesize, Gojimo and YouTube). However, the distractions mentioned above could impact on how usefully these are used
- Encourage a regular routine – sleep times, eating times etc.
- Agree a timescale together and keep a copy of their revision timetable
- Encourage physical activity – this is important to relaxation and to rest the mind!

General Revision Strategies/Techniques

1. Making Consolidation Cards

This is a method used at school. It involves writing terms/knowledge/quotes etc. on cards for students to use to memorise and test themselves

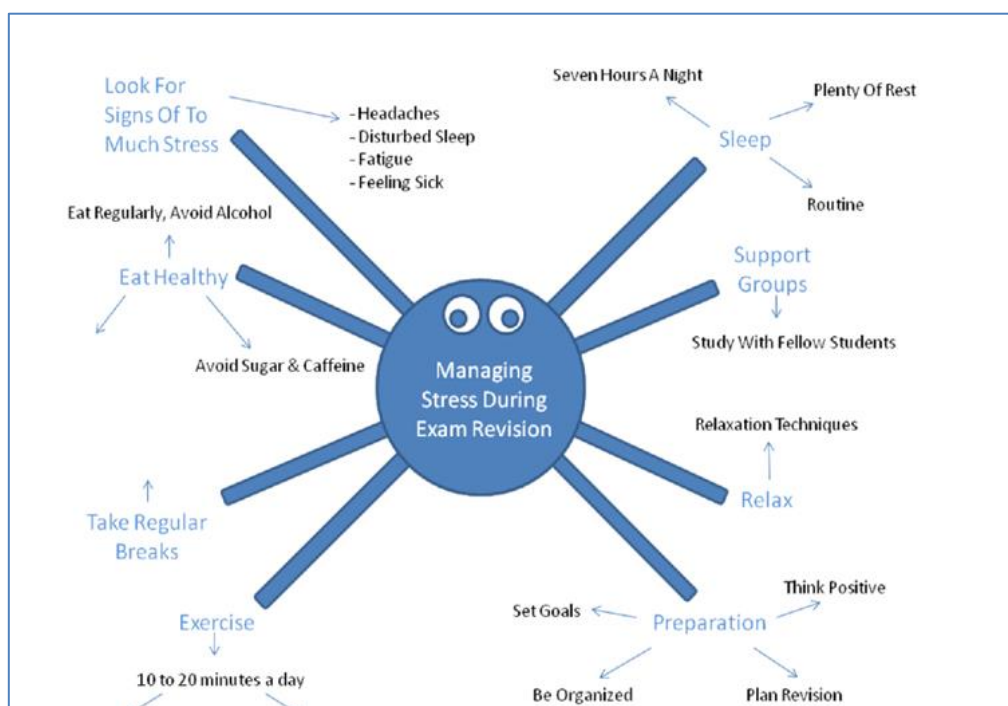
Highlight the most important information. Write short, concise notes on small cards. Cards can be white or different colours for different subjects or topics. Write in bright colours and try to use codes for key words, like "Reaction Time" could turn into "RT", to make it easier to remember. Make sure your writing is large, clear and well-spaced. Put diagrams on the cards. These can be very useful to flick through just before an exam.

Revision cards similar to consolidation cards can be bought in a shop. However, making them yourself can mean you revise as you produce them.

2. Mind Maps / Spider Diagrams

A Spider Diagram is like a giant Spider's Web with all the ideas around it. The spider (or main idea) is in the middle and everything is around it. The most important ideas are in the middle and the sub-topics go out further and further.

For example this one on managing exam stress!



3. Chunking

Chunking is breaking up a big piece of information into smaller chunks. It can be used for numbers and words. It involves using bullet points to break up information. An example would be:

Breaking up this.....

The average person can take in four numbers or words at a time, can concentrate on revision for a maximum of 45 minutes at a time and remembers information best shortly before bedtime.

To this.....

- **Remember 4 words/numbers at a time**
- **Revision max 45 mins**
- **Remember best before bedtime**

This information could then be transferred to flash cards.

4. Traditional – By Rote

Learning by rote is simply reading the text over and over until you remember it. It is the most basic kind of revision, but without the help of other techniques may not be very effective and it can be very boring. There are a few students with excellent auditory memories, who can learn effectively this way.

5. Highlighting

As you read through your notes use different coloured highlighters to pick out key words /themes/ideas/ points etc. You could try a different colour for each theme or topic. There are revision websites where you can read revision notes and highlight as you go. You can use very small post-its to highlight things as you go along.

6. Mnemonics

Mnemonics help you to remember lists by using short words and rhymes that stand for something to help you. For example for Trigonometry in Maths SOHCAHTOA – Silly Old Harry Caught A Herring Trawling Off America. There are lots out there already but if you can think of them yourself they are more likely to stay with you.

7. Post-Its

This is similar to using flash cards but with the ability to move them around and leave them stuck in various places around the house. Write information on post-it notes and place them on the wall, door, large sheets of paper etc. You can then rearrange them according to a variety of ideas:

- Group various things together
- Organise them into what you know and don't know – rearrange as you learn more
- Follow trends or themes

8. Study Buddies

Working with other people and teaching them what you know can be a very powerful learning tool - Devise questions and answers about a topic for other people and quiz each other. You could think of doing a "Who wants to be a millionaire" game where the questions are graded according to the difficulty you choose

9. Card Cover

There are 2 ways to use card cover, both of which are useful ways of checking that you know key facts. The first is to put questions on one side of the card and answers on the back and to simply test yourself. The second method would be to have a written list or set of questions and move the card down to slowly reveal the answers, again testing whether or not you know the answer before it is revealed.

10. Past Papers & Mark Schemes

Exams are like anything else – the more you do, the better you get. That is why past papers are very important to your exam preparation as you get to know:

- Their layout, names/numbers of questions?
- The format of instructions?
- The range of questions: multiple choice, short answers, essays etc.
- What the examiner is looking for
- Which type of question turns up most often?

Preparing for the Exam Itself

Prior to the Exam

- Get a good night's sleep
- Have a nourishing breakfast and drink water – dehydration and lack of food to start the day damages concentration
- Get to school early. You'll be in a state if you arrive late. Remember panic is pointless.
- Make sure you have all the equipment you will need for each exam, such as extra pens, colouring pencils, calculator, anthology, texts etc.

All of these elements ensure that you are refreshed, relaxed and do not have to be concerned about a rumbling tummy in the exam room!

In the Exam Room – Prior to Starting the Exam

- Ensure that you do not have items with you that you should not have e.g. mobile phones
- While you are waiting for everyone to settle, read the front of the exam booklet and check how many questions you have to answer i.e. how many from each section? How long does this allow for each question?
- Get your equipment ready and yourself comfortable

One of the most frustrating feelings for a student is to know that they ran out of time or answered too many/too few questions

During the exam

- Ensure that you read the question carefully – understand what the question is asking you to do e.g. does it want you to write everything you know or apply your knowledge?
- Beware of your emotions
 - If you see a question that you cannot answer, the immediate response is to go onto the next one straight away.
 - If you see a question that you have revised it can lead to excitement, meaning that you write everything you know rather than answer the question

In both situations, sit back and think of something else for a short while e.g. something funny or something nice (holiday for instance). This will relax your brain and enable you to stay calm – this in turn means you will answer better

- Remember, in most exams they allow 1 minute per mark at least.
- A good tip is to write at least 1 sentence per mark also to ensure you write enough

APPENDIX

1. Revision Timetable Template
2. Subject Revision Planning Template
3. Notes Pages

Monday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:
Tuesday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:	Content I will cover:
Wednesday		
Subject:	Subject:	Subject:
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