

# Revision

A Guide for Students, Parents and Carers



## How to revise more effectively ...and get the results you deserve.



Have you ever heard the phrase 'work smarter not harder' and wondered exactly how you can work smarter? Recent research into how our brains work and especially into how the teenage brain works is helping us to find those ways to work smarter, especially when it comes to revising for GCSE examinations.

It turns out that some of the 'traditional' methods of revising actually do not help at all and can in some instances actually have a negative impact on the future retention of knowledge. Some of this advice may seem counter-intuitive when first encountered but when you actually think about it, it does make sense.

So what are these big no nos? Well, the first of these is high- lighting or underlining notes, copying notes, and re-reading important texts. Research shows that this is basically 'busy work'; you are doing something but the end result of the process is that you have rainbow hued notes, not that you have retained much of the information. If you really want to retain information you have to do some- thing with it. One of the best activities for this is to prepare to teach it to someone else.

This means you have to really understand the concepts and be ready to explain them in a number of different ways. You have to have anticipated questions your 'student' might ask and have thought about how you might answer these.

Learning keyword mnemonics or inventing elaborate mental imagery are more examples of ways of revising that are less impactful. Studies have shown that these techniques can improve recall on a random list of words, but 5 years of learning at Atrium Studio does not cumulate in a random list of words but a thick web of understanding of interconnected ideas. And GCSEs are not simply about recall. You need to explain how things are, why things work, how you know that things work, the motivations, the feelings, the logic..... Richard of York Gave Battle in Vain does not help explain how or why rainbows form in the sky.

Another revision fallacy is that summarising the material, or writing out revision cards will help the information to sink in. As of itself this is again just busy work where the information passes from lesson notes to revision cards without necessarily passing into long term memory. Research shows that you are likely to be much more successful in recalling the information if you use revision cards to quiz yourself frequently, rather than writing out endless cards that you then leave collecting dust in a 'done' pile on your desk.

So what other top tips can we offer? Alternating group work with individual revision is a good strategy especially if key elements of discussion and problem solving are followed up in a solo session to secure the new understanding. The advice is also that many shorter sessions are better than one long session and will result in a better retention of the material in your long term memory. All night 'cramming' sessions are just not helpful as the research also indicates that teenage brains are receptive to new information until about 4pm (interestingly movement skills work the opposite way around). As taking breaks is also crucial to retaining the information, try giving your brain a rest and doing some exercise in the evening.

Finally the advice is to just do it. You may have procrastinated, put revision off, buried your head in the sand or generally failed to start any revision up to this point..... so forgive yourself and start today. The resulting positivity can allow you to feel better and do better. Will power is like a muscle, -the more you use it, the stronger it gets.

Good luck to all our Year 11 students taking exams this summer, we hope this guide supports you in your revision and, remember your best re- source is always your teacher!

Subject specific advice from teachers on where to find useful material to aid revision.

English	
Websites	<p><b>Literature:</b></p> <p><i>A Christmas Carol</i>  <a href="http://www.litcharts.com/lit/achristmas-carol">http://www.litcharts.com/lit/achristmas-carol</a></p> <p><i>Romeo and Juliet</i>  <a href="https://www.litcharts.com/lit/romeo-and-juliet">https://www.litcharts.com/lit/romeo-and-juliet</a></p> <p><i>Telling Tales</i> (AQA Short Stories anthology)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cD1Ox6wTJo0qtllQBijhHoj">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cD1Ox6wTJo0qtllQBijhHoj</a></p> <p><i>Poetry Past and Present</i> (AQA Poetry anthology)  <a href="http://thebicesterschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Poetry-Support-Booklet.pdf">http://thebicesterschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Poetry-Support-Booklet.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Writing:</b>  <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english">http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english</a>            Writing non-fiction: <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z27cmnb/revision/1">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z27cmnb/revision/1</a>            Writing fiction: <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zy47xsg/revision/1">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zy47xsg/revision/1</a></p> <p><b>Reading:</b>            Analysing non-fiction: <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/z8n487h">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/z8n487h</a>            Analysing fiction: <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zgkj39g">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zgkj39g</a>            Comparing texts: <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zyg9nbk">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zyg9nbk</a></p>
Set texts	<p><b>A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens</b>  <b>Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare</b>  <b>Telling Tales (AQAs short story anthology)</b>  <b>Poetry Past and Present (AQAs poetry anthology)</b></p>
Revision Guide	<p><a href="https://collins.co.uk/collections/revision-gcse-ages-14-16-snap-revision-english">https://collins.co.uk/collections/revision-gcse-ages-14-16-snap-revision-english</a></p>

Science	
Websites	<p><b>Websites</b></p> <p>Microsoft Teams – has copies of the specification in the form of checklists. A brilliant way to <b>know what you need to know</b>. It also has past papers there to use to <b>practise</b>.</p> <p>Seneca Learning – great for getting a quick overview of the content for a topic. It should only be used as a quick introduction, not relied upon for all of your revision.</p> <p>BBC Bitesize is still a useful resource for revision. It is always a good place to start if students are finding something a challenge.</p> <p>Quizlet – great for making flashcards, revision resources</p>
Apps	<p>There are a huge collection of APPs available to aid revision. CGP have an APP that compliments the revision guide.</p>
Revision Guide	<p>We would recommend that students use the CGP Science revision guides, or their combined revision and workbooks. These are available from the ParentPay, as well as other distributors. Other revision guides are available.</p>
Past papers	<p>As the course is new we have a very limited supply of past paper questions. Sample material is available on AQA's website. There are also a collection of past paper questions organised by topic on the student shared drive (under Science/Past Papers/). Collections of past papers can also be bought via ParentPay.</p>

**PE**

Websites	<p>GCSE PE Bitesize: <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/znyb4wx">http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/znyb4wx</a></p> <p>Revision World: <a href="https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/pe-physical-education">https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/pe-physical-education</a> (make sure you access the AQA one)</p> <p>AQA PE: <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-4890">http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-4890</a></p> <p><b>Twitter:</b></p> <p>Follow the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- @thebizpe (This is Kirk Bizley who used to write the GCSE PE Exam Papers)</li> <li>- @MrFallickPE (brilliant revision and activity ideas).</li> </ul> <p><b>Moodle:</b> There are interactive Daydream PE presentations and Boardworks Powerpoints, which are packed with information and quizzes.</p>
Past papers	<p>These can be found on the AQA website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582">http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582</a> (this takes you to the new specification as well as links to exam papers)</p> <p><a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-4890">http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-4890</a> (this take you to the OLD specification, where you can access more past papers)</p>
Show My Home- work:	<p>There will updates on here regularly for ALL classes. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Powerpoint presentations from all Y11 class teachers.</li> <li>- Exam practice questions and mark schemes.</li> <li>- Vocabulary sheets to help you learn your definitions.</li> </ul>
Revision Guide	<p>SDCC PE have written a revision guide to help you with your learning- this is highly recommended.</p> <p>You can also purchase a revision guide online: <b>CGP, GCSE Physical Education (For the Grade 9-1 exams)</b>. This is a complete <i>revision and practice</i> book so it includes activities and exam practice questions.</p>

**Spanish**

Websites	<p><b>Linguascope</b> <a href="http://www.linguascope.com">www.linguascope.com</a> (username and password available from teacher)</p> <p><b>BBC Bitesize</b> <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish/">www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish/</a></p> <p><b>Memrise</b> <a href="http://www.memrise.com">www.memrise.com</a></p> <p>A website to help you learn vocabulary off by heart</p> <p><b>Duolingo</b> <a href="https://www.duolingo.com/">https://www.duolingo.com/</a></p> <p>A website and app to help you learn vocabulary</p> <p><b>Language Gym</b> <a href="http://www.language-gym.com/#/">http://www.language-gym.com/#/</a> A website to help you practice vocabulary and grammar</p>	<p><b>WordReference</b> <a href="http://www.wordreference.com/">http://www.wordreference.com/</a> A website that translates words <b>Acapela</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.acapela-group.com/">http://www.acapela-group.com/</a></p> <p>A website that allows you to practice your pronunciation</p> <p><b>Lyrictraining</b> <a href="http://lyricstraining.com/en/">http://lyricstraining.com/en/</a></p> <p>A website that allows you to develop your listening skills</p>
Specimen Papers	<p><a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698/assessment-resources">http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698/assessment-resources</a></p> <p><a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/spanish-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FTeaching-and-learning-materials&amp;filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Document-Type%2FSpecimen-paper-and-mark-scheme">https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/spanish-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FTeaching-and-learning-materials&amp;filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Document-Type%2FSpecimen-paper-and-mark-scheme</a></p>	
Revision Guide	<p>a) New GCSE Spanish AQA Revision Guide - for the Grade 9-1 Course (with Online Edition) Paperback – 20 Jul 2016 by CGP Books (Author, Editor)</p> <p>b) New GCSE Spanish AQA Complete Revision &amp; Practice (with CD &amp; Online Edition) - Grade 9-1 Course</p> <p>c) New GCSE Spanish AQA Exam Practice Workbook - for the Grade 9-1 Course (includes Answers)</p>	

Maths	
Websites	<p>Lots of activities on teams. Each student has a booklet aimed at their target grade. <a href="https://app.mymaths.co.uk/myportal/student/9/intro/booster-packs">https://app.mymaths.co.uk/myportal/student/9/intro/booster-packs</a> Mathswatch – now interactive - <a href="http://www.mathswatchv1w.com">www.mathswatchv1w.com</a> Maths Genie – practice galore– click on GCSE revision - <a href="http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk">www.mathsgenie.co.uk</a> ON Maths – Interactive practice -<a href="https://www.onmaths.com/">https://www.onmaths.com/</a></p>
Past papers	<a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html?Qualification-Family=GCSE&amp;Qualification-Subject=Mathematics%20(9-1)%20from%202015&amp;Status=Pearson-UK:Status%2FLive&amp;Specification-Code=Pearson-UK:Specification-Code%2F-gcse15-maths&amp;Exam-Series=June-2017">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html?Qualification-Family=GCSE&amp;Qualification-Subject=Mathematics%20(9-1)%20from%202015&amp;Status=Pearson-UK:Status%2FLive&amp;Specification-Code=Pearson-UK:Specification-Code%2F-gcse15-maths&amp;Exam-Series=June-2017</a>
Revision support	<p>Download the Key Cards maths app – ready made maths facts – the app remembers which ones you know and which ones you need to practice – currently 99p <a href="https://www.keycardsrevision.co.uk/">https://www.keycardsrevision.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Go to Corbett maths and order a set of revision cards £8.99 + P&amp;P <a href="https://corbettmaths.com/revision-cards/">https://corbettmaths.com/revision-cards/</a></p>

History	
Modules	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International Relations: 1918-2001</li> <li>2. The USA 1919–1948: The People and the State</li> <li>3. War and British Society c.790 to c.2010</li> <li>4. Personal Rule to Restoration 1629–1660</li> <li>5. Castles: Form and Function c.1000–1750</li> </ol>
Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AUDIOPI - is a series of blogs created by OCR that cover various aspects of the course -- again you will need to find the right course. These are really good for revision on the move or for students who find reading difficult to revise from.</li> <li>• GCSE Bitesize.</li> <li>• The OCR website has plenty of materials related to the exam. Look for the 2016 Modern World A specification</li> </ul>
Past papers	As this is a new course there are no past papers, however there are sample papers available on the OCR website – please look for the History A ,Explaining the Modern World, (from 2016) section.
Apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCSE POD -- an APP that you can download with lots of revision material for various courses, including GCSE History (make sure you focus on the correct units)</li> </ul>
Textbooks	<p>Both of these books are essential reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: Modern World History Period and Depth Studies – ISBN 9781471860188</li> <li>• OCR GCSE History Explaining the Modern World: War &amp; Society, Personal Rule to Restoration and the Historic Environment– ISBN 9781471862472</li> </ul>
Revision guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCSE History OCR A: Explaining the Modern World Revision Guide - for the Grade 9-1 Course – ISBN 9781782946069</li> <li>• Please note; this is currently the only revision guide available for the 9-1 course. Any older revision guides, whilst useful for parts of the course, will not cover everything.</li> </ul>

Engineering	
Websites	<p>Engineering-WEBSITES</p> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z342tfr/resources/1">http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z342tfr/resources/1</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zmprkqt/resources/1">http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zmprkqt/resources/1</a></p> <p><a href="http://technologystudent.com/">http://technologystudent.com/</a></p>
Past papers	<a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a>
Revision support	Course book: <a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Engineering-Students-Book/dp/140850412X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&amp;qid=1505835562&amp;sr=8-1&amp;keywords=GCSE+engineering">https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Engineering-Students-Book/dp/140850412X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&amp;qid=1505835562&amp;sr=8-1&amp;keywords=GCSE+engineering</a>

Music	
Websites	Websites: <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpf3cdm">http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpf3cdm</a> <a href="https://www.memrise.com/course/192900/aqa-music-gcse-listening-exam-vocab/">https://www.memrise.com/course/192900/aqa-music-gcse-listening-exam-vocab/</a>
Apps	Music GCSE Questions by Steve Curtis £1.99
Revision support	Revision Guide: There are CGP revision guides available from the library at a discounted price. There is also a study guide published by Nelson Thornes (28 May 2009) available to purchase online.

Geography	
Websites	Geography on the internet <a href="http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/gcse/index.html">http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/gcse/index.html</a> Bitesize – see geography section <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z98jmp3">http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z98jmp3</a> Cool Geography <a href="http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/">http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/</a> Fieldwork <a href="https://www.geography-fieldwork.org/">https://www.geography-fieldwork.org/</a>

Drama	
Websites	<b>Websites:</b> <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zbckjxs">http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zbckjxs</a>
Past papers	<b>Textbook/Revision Guide:</b> AQA GCSE Drama by Annie Fox <b>ISBN:</b> 978-1-911208-21-1 <a href="http://www.illuminatepublishing.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&amp;products_id=144">http://www.illuminatepublishing.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&amp;products_id=144</a>
Revision support	<b>Revision Advice:</b> Ensure your Live Theatre notes are well organised. Take pride in the annotation of your copy of Hansel and Gretel – and ensure all performance/design/directorial areas are covered within your annotations. Create a revision plan and seek support as early as possible. Create revision posters and/or cue cards.
Exam Preparation Advice	<b>MHW:</b> There will be regular updates on SMHW with resources such as: Revision PowerPoints, revision questionnaires, useful revision posters etc.

## Business studies

Apps:	<p>Unit 1 GCSE Business Studies App          This can prepare you for the multiple choice paper Quizlet - flashcard ad learn (free)          Create your own flash cards for testing knowledge and definitions I am learning: GCSE Business          i Education Ltd          Quizzes to test knowledge and understanding</p>
Revision Guide:	<p>You should have the Purple revision guide but the CGP book along with the course textbook which you could find in the library and in the classroom for use.</p> <p><a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/REVISE-Edexcel-Business-Revision-Guide/dp/1446903737">https://www.amazon.co.uk/REVISE-Edexcel-Business-Revision-Guide/dp/1446903737</a></p>
Revision support	<p>Top tip for GCSE Business revision</p> <p><b>Step 1</b> - RAG rate your syllabus (Red, Amber, Green)</p> <p><b>Step 2</b> - Create a revision plan choosing the red sections as a priority</p> <p><b>Step 3</b> - BBBB (<b>Brain</b>, create a mind map of the topic from memory, <b>Buddy</b>, chat with a friend or find a Youtube clip, GCSE Bitesize clip on the topic and supplement your mind map in a new colour, <b>Book</b> - read your revision guide and textbooks along with resources online to supplement your notes in another colour, <b>Boss</b> - come along to the intervention sessions on Wednesday and/or Thursday lunchtimes with specific questions on areas you do not understand.</p> <p><b>Step 4</b> - after a few days attempt the mind map again to see how much more you have remembered from the topic.</p> <p><b>Step 5</b> - choose formulas and definitions you are not sure of and create posters and cue cards for these topics. Simple large letters and one poster at a time in a key area such as the bedroom or bathroom door</p> <p>This process allows you to take ownership of your revision and prioritise the areas you need to focus on.</p>
Past papers	<p>As this is the new specification there are no past papers available to you. However, <b><i>you will have access to the mock papers you have already completed/due to complete throughout year 11 on SMHW</i></b> as the exam season approaches.</p>
Revision support	<p>There is an intervention timetable running throughout Year 11. The sessions will take place on <b><u>Thursday's in DA1 from 3:45-4:45pm</u></b>. Please use your GCSE Dance Calen- dar to ensure you don't miss the sessions that will help you.</p>
Exam Preparation Advice	<p><b>Practical elements:</b> it is so important that you make an effort to attend scheduled re-hearsals &amp; intervention support to fully prepare for each practical element of the course. <b>Half term rehearsal clinics will be available for all students prior to the filming of examination work &amp; parents will be informed of this on a half termly basis.</b></p> <p><b>Theoretical element:</b> make the most of the intervention sessions in the spring/summer term as these will be targeting the written paper. <b>Revision booklets will be provided in the spring term and these will support your notes in the blue exercise books.</b></p>

# What to do now.....

Print off a copy of the revision timetable on the next page for each week between now and your exams.

Schedule in when you are going to commit to revision for each of your subjects. Don't forget to schedule in sports activities and breaks.

Share your weekly timetable with parents/carers and put it somewhere you will see it often - like on the fridge or noticeboard.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9am							
10am							
11am							
12 noon							
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							