GCSE Revision Tips For Students and Parents/Carers

We are respectful

We are ambitious

We are responsible

We are resilient

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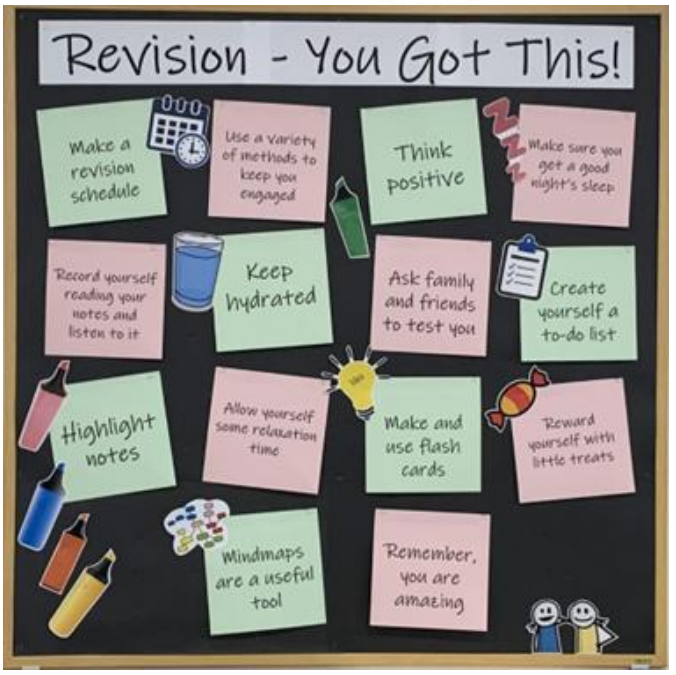

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Know Your Exam

Know the Exam Board

Ask your teacher for the exam specification or download it from the exam board website. This is what the exam will be created from and you can use this to cover all the topics you need to know.

Know the Paper

Make sure you know how many papers you have to take for each subject. Know how many questions you have to answer, what type of questions you will be asked and how long the exam is.

Past Papers

Revision is not just about knowing facts and information, it is also vital that you can use the information to answer the exam questions. Using past papers is great way to test your exam technique.

Time

Knowing how long the exam is can be very useful for revision. Use your knowledge of the length of the exam to break it down to think about how long you should spend on the different parts of the exam. Some of your revision sessions should include a timed period under exam conditions, this means turning off your music / TV. This will help
you get used to working under pressure of time for that exam.

As the exam gets closer you should aim to have one revision session that goes nonstop for the whole length of the exam..

Revision Notes

Writing notes is a great way of being active in your revision. It is also a good way of tackling bulging folders or many exercise books that you have used over the years.

Revision notes should be made in the early stages of your revision. Do not attempt to memorise all your lesson notes – it is beneficial to condense them first.

Revision notes are very useful for any subject where you have to recall information like dates, quotations, definitions or equations. By writing notes you will reduce the amount of work but still get all the important information.

There are many ways to make revision notes such as: Paper, revision flashcards, patterned notes (e.g. Mind maps).

Revision guides that you can buy are very good and helpful for revision but there is no substitute for making your own notes. It is important you write your own.

Write a set of notes for each topic – don't work on too large a topic at a time.
- Use your **own words.**
- Make sure your notes are **spaced out.**
- Use large writing and **CAPITAL LETTERS** for key terms.
- Use colours, boxes, underlining, circles etc to make it look **interesting.**

Flashcards

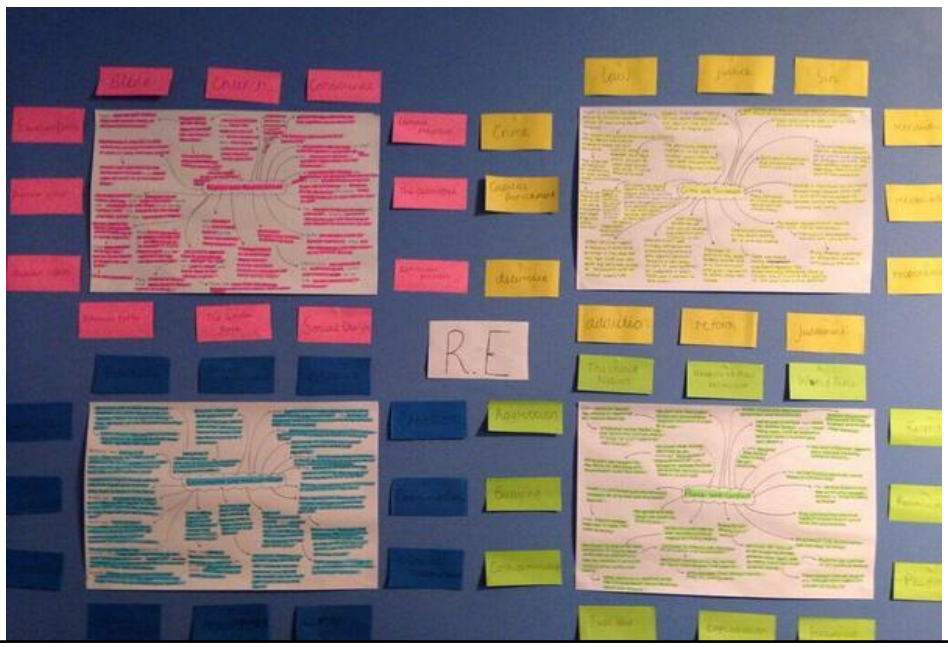
Revision Cards – often called flashcards, can be a convenient and favourable method for many to revise. They are easy to transport which means that you can fit revision in whenever you have a spare moment. This could be during meal time, while walking to/from school, in the car etc.

As they contain a small amount of information or just one topic per card, they don't make you feel swamped by the workload.

Tips for Flashcards

- Draw a 'Margin' down the left-hand side so you can add more information if needed.
- Always write the subject on the top corner of the card.
- Highlight key words.
- Develop your own method for numbering the cards.
- Don't be afraid to rewrite a card if you are not happy with it.
- If you need more than one card for a topic, keep them together, hole punch the corner and tie with string.

Post-it notes can be used as basic flashcards for key terms and can be stuck all over the house for revision, e.g. while brushing your teeth or getting a glass of water!

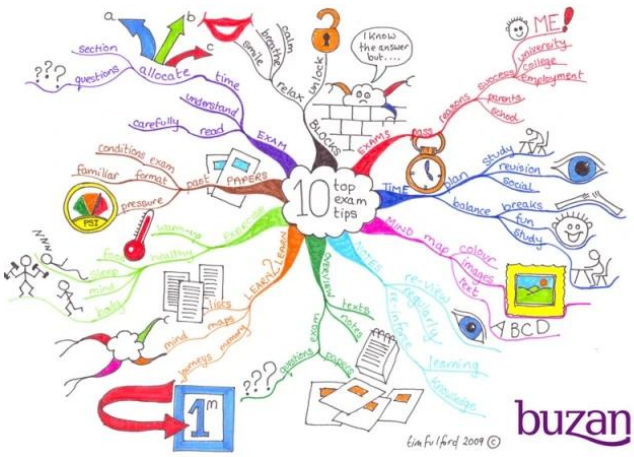


Mind Maps

Some students may find Mind Maps or other patterned notes (such as Spider diagrams, concept maps) a more fun and interesting way to revise. They are good for topics which have a lot of links and connections.

When writing mind maps remember:

- ❑ Write the main topic in the middle of the page and draw a circle round it.
- ❑ For each key point draw a branch from the circle
- ❑ Write a key word or phrase on each branch
- ❑ You can then branch off from each one by adding more detail in the form of diagrams, pictures or symbols to it.



Using revision notes

- ❖ Choose a topic to revise
- ❖ Read through your revision notes
- ❖ Once you have read through your notes, you then need to test yourself on how much you know. You can either rewrite the information or recall it to a friend or family member.

Memory

Short-term memory
'Last minute cramming' is something that many students will do in the lead up to exams, but it is important to understand how your memory works.

Your Short-Term Memory

- Has a limited capacity – it can only store about 7 pieces of information.
- Stores information for a limited duration – information can be lost with a simple distraction.
- By doing revision you are more likely to retain information in your long term memory store.

Long-Term Memory

Your long-term memory has an unlimited capacity. Here are some tips to improve your memory and help keep that revision stored ready for the exam.

- Read, write, recall the information many times. The more times you do it, the more likely it is to be remembered.
- Use Mnemonics or Acrostics to remember groups of information – this is a clever way of engaging the brain when revising.

For example,when remembering the points of the compass.

Never Eat Shredded Wheat – N,E,S,W Or
SOH CAH TOA – which you might have used in Maths.

Ensure that you get enough sleep.

Eat well – the nutrients and minerals in a good diet can help the functions of the brain, this includes how it retrieves information stored in the long-term memory.

Other Revision Techniques

There are many ways in which you can revise, you need to find what works for you and what you enjoy. Here are a few more techniques:

- **School Intervention Sessions** – your teachers are the best aid to revision you have and can help with any questions you have with regards to misconceptions about the exam and answer any questions about topics you are struggling with.

Work with class mates – test each other, organise a quiz with a friend. Create 5 questions on a topic before you meet and then start by asking each other.

- **Family** - ask family members to test you, use them to recall information to.

- **Use School Friends** - who may understand a topic you are struggling with, it sometimes helps to hear it from another student. I'm sure you can repay the favour with your knowledge of another topic.

- **Websites** - there are many revision websites you can use, ask your teachers for subject specific revision sites. There is a list on the next page.

- **Videos** - use YouTube to search for videos on topics that can help with a more visual way to understand a topic.

For some subjects there are **podcasts** you can download so you can listen to on the go. You may even want to record your own voice and then play it back.

Revision Websites

Here are some websites you might find useful:

Generic revision websites
SENECA learning- https://www.senecalearning.com **(covers a whole range of topics)**
New BBC Bitesize site - http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels
Doddle - www.doddlelearn.co.uk
English
https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff
The CGP revision guides are recommended.
Maths
www.mymaths.co.uk
www.hegartymaths.com
www.corbettmaths.com - **five a day!**
www.mathedup.co.uk - **exam questions by topic**
www.physicsandmathstutor.com
Science
http://www.s-cool.co.uk/
Youtube – SciShow
Geography
http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/gcsen/
History
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/germany/
for
Germany unit only
http://www.johndclare.net/ - **for Germany unit only**
www.schoolhistory.co.uk – **Great for revision quizzes Languages**
www.languagesonline.org.uk
http://www.language-gym.com/
http://www.tapis.com.au/studentbook1/index.html **Art**
www.tate.org.uk
www.nationalgallery.org.uk www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk

Organisation

The key to good revision is the organisation, this is more than just time spent revising or where you revise but also requires a bit of thought about how often you revise certain subjects and what range of techniques you use.

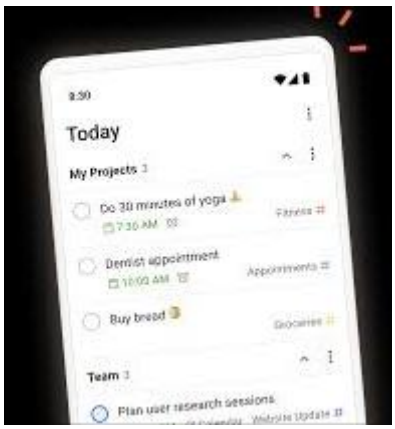
- Avoid the last-minute rush the night before the exam.
- Set up a routine that you can cope with.
- Share your time between subjects.
- Make sure you continue with other activities that occasionally take your mind off exams.
- Avoid wasting time when revising by thinking about topics before you start your revision session.

Revision Timetables

Revision timetables are a great way of ensuring you spread your time across the range of subjects, but it is important they are flexible.
They are most useful during study leave and holidays when you have full days. Many students split the day up into 3 revision sessions of about an hour and half each.

Please feel free to use the revision timetable on the next page.

Remember



- Revision timetables need to be flexible, and it is unlikely that you will stick rigidly to your timetable. This does not mean it is not working and do not worry if you are unable to do everything you have planned.
- The timetable needs to be suited to you and the way that you work best. Do not feel pressured into following the same timetable as a friend.
- Review your timetable every week and adapt it based on how successful you feel it has been.

YOUR SUBJECTS

Look at how many exams you have to revise for and cross off those that you have completed - either when the coursework is all done or you have sat the exam:

Subject	Teacher	Exam	Coursework Only				Notes; Eg - Revision Sessions
GCSE English Language							
GCSE English Literature							
GCSE Maths							

THINK ABOUT THE COURSES YOU HAVE ALREADY GOT RESULTS IN - VOCATIONAL COURSES... COURSEWORK... IN SO MANY SUBJECTS YOU ARE ALREADY THERE...

Weekly Revision Timetable

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Session 1 Time	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic
Session 2 Time	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic
Session 3 Time	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic	Subject Topic

Coping Strategies

It is only natural that many of you will be nervous and worried about your exams but there are many things that you can do to help over the next few months.
Revising and being well prepared is just one way that will help you with the stress of exams, here are a few more:

- **Talk about it**

Don't bottle it up. Talk to friends and family about how you are feeling. People can only help when they know that there is an issue.

- **Ask for help**

This is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign that that you are mature enough to realise that you have weaknesses and difficulties and that you feel confident enough to ask others.

- **Exercise/have fun**

Be sure to take time away from revision and do what you enjoy, one of the best ways is to exercise.

- **Think positive**

Having a positive mental attitude is a little bit of cliché, but it really does make a difference. Thinking positively boosts confidence. Avoid comments like "I can't do this" or "I'm going to fail."

- **Eat well**

Ensure that you eat breakfast, particularly on the day of an exam.

- **Get into a regular sleeping pattern**

Avoid late nights or revising into the early hours. Being well rested and getting a good night's sleep will have a big impact on the success of your revision sessions and will help you feel better overall.

How parents/carers can help?

All parents/carers will want to support during revision and encourage their children to perform to the best of their ability. The following are some hints and tips to help support your child through their revision and exam period.

DO:

- Discuss with them what their revision schedule is and any support they would like from you.
- Provide a positive environment for revision. Ideally a quiet, well-lit area where interruptions are kept to a minimum.
- Respond positively if asked for help.
- Give plenty of praise and encouragement if they complete revision sessions.
- Keep them well supplied with food and drink.
- During exam season they may be more emotional so be prepared to listen to any problems or concerns they may have.
- Encourage them to take breaks during long periods of revision.
- Allow them to have some time away from revision doing the things they enjoy. Although it should be earned by completing revision sessions.

DON'T:

- Make comparisons between brothers, sisters or their friends.
- Try not to add to their worries by constantly mentioning exams.
- Relate to when you were sitting exams or how you revised.
- Worry if their techniques for revision seem a bit strange.
- Make it into an argument as to whether they listen to music or not during revision.
- Distract them unnecessarily.

GCSE REVISION PLAN - SUMMER 2025

This calendar is designed to help you to plan out your revision for the Summer exams which will have a huge impact on your future life.

If you fill it in, plan your work out carefully, get advice from teachers and parents, and work hard on the revision, then you will do better in your exams.

NAME		TUTOR GROUP	

Handy Hints for Revision

The most common mistake students make when they revise is that they think all they have to do is to read through their notes. This is called **passive revision** and can have some effect but is **NOT** a good strategy to use as your brain will struggle to take in the information.

Instead, your brain will remember the information far better if you do **active revision**. This means that you actually do stuff with the information you are trying to remember. This approach forces your brain to think about the information and the following examples give you some ideas on how to do it:

REVISION GUIDES	REVISION BOOKLETS	REVISION CARDS	PAST PAPERS
These can be bought on every subject - just make sure you buy the right one for your Exam Board.	Many teachers will give these to you to help you revise - make sure you do them !	Make or buy cards - no bigger than a small envelope - and make colourful notes on 1 topic per card.	See your teacher for Past Paper questions - read them, jot down answers, and have a go at them !
SELF-TESTING	**BULLET POINT NOTES**	**PEEL PARAGRAPHS**	**MIND MAPS**
Write a list of questions on topics you think you should know - cover the answers and test yourself or get someone to test you.	Condense your notes over and over by listing information under bullet points and sub-headings - use signs and symbols too.	For written exams write notes on answers using PEEL - give a Point, an Example, Explain it and Link it to another topic.	
POST ITS	**APPS & ON-LINE**	**ANNOTATION**	**REVISION SESSIONS IN SCHOOL**
Write down key facts and keywords and put them around the house - see them everywhere and get family to learn them too !	There are loads of free or cheap apps that you can use to revise - and join www.getrevising.co.uk for BBC Bitesize for great stuff.	Get your exercise book, notes, etc, and read them, highlight them, cut them up, link points - anything to makes them work for you.	Even after Study Leave begins there will be lots of sessions in school - talk to your tutor and listen and look out for details.