

# **KES Revision and Trial Exam Guide for Year 11 Students and Parents/Carers 2025/26**



**Welcome to your preparation and revision guide for your December trial exams.**

**This guide is intended to help support you in the run-up to the trial exams but also to create good habits and preparation that will significantly help you for your final exams in May/June 2026.**

**As a result of these trial exams, some of you might feel more confident about the revision strategies which work best - others may realise that they need to spend more time on revision in order to succeed. The most important thing is to use these trial exams to learn from your experience.**

**The trial exams offer an excellent and early opportunity to find out what you know and what you don't know so that you can improve your study habits and your subject knowledge.**

**Preparing for and completing trial exams to the best of your ability is one of the most important ways you can prepare for exam success in 2026.**

**Trial exams are useful because:**

- You will better understand your strengths & gaps in each subject and how best to close those gaps through revision.
- You will be further exposed to exams in exam conditions.
- The feedback activities (in lessons) which follow the trial exams will help you to improve in each subject.
- There will be a designated results day, in late January 2026, where you will receive your results.

# WHEN ARE MY EXAMS?

1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER - 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

## WEEK ONE

Start time	Mon 1 Dec	Tue 2 Dec	Wed 3 Dec	Thu 4 Dec	Fri 5 Dec
09:00	Art (Option L)	French Reading /Writing German Reading/Writing	Biology	Child Development Art (option L)	Religious Studies Paper 1
13:15	Mathematics Paper 1 (non-calculator)	History Paper 1	Geography Paper 1	PE Comp Sci Paper 1	Art (Option H) H&S Care Perf Arts

## WEEK TWO

Start time	Mon 8 Dec	Tue 9 Dec	Wed 10 Dec	Thu 11 Dec	Fri 12 Dec
09:00	Physics	English Literature	Art (Option H) H&S Care Perf Arts	Media Paper 1 Business	Chemistry
13:15	Art (Option L)	Mathematics Paper 2	Geography Paper 2	Religious Studies Paper 2	Art H H&S Care Perf Arts

## WEEK THREE

Start time	Mon 15 Dec	Tue 16 Dec	Wed 17 Dec	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec Proposed trip to Meadowhall.
09:00	Art (Option L) Food Prep	English Language	Mathematics Paper 3	
13:15	French Listening German Listening	Music Design & Technology	Media Comp Science Paper 2 History Paper 2	

# TRIAL EXAM FAQS



## Q. What do 'exam conditions' mean?

Exam conditions mean that:

- You must always remain silent - on entry to the exam room, during the exam, and while your paper is collected at the end of the exam.
- You must not talk, turn around in your seat or signal to any other student.
- You may raise your hand if you require assistance and the invigilator will come over and speak quietly with you.
- You are expected to behave in the same way for trial exams as is expected in your formal exams in the summer. This is your chance to rehearse.
- You will have an exam briefing assembly beforehand.

## Q. Why are exam conditions important for my trial exams?

Exam conditions during your trial exams will allow you to rehearse for the real thing. Take advantage of this by sticking strictly to the conditions described above. Another vital reason for sticking to these conditions is to ensure that everyone in Year 11 gets a fair chance to give each exam their very best shot without distraction or interruptions.

## Q. What equipment do I need?

Black pen (biro, not gel pens), pencil, ruler, eraser in a clear pencil case or clear plastic (sandwich) bag. Additional equipment might be needed for maths exams e.g. protractor. You may bring in a calculator only for the exams where you need to use one. You cannot take the lid of your calculator into the exam venue. Water bottles must be see-through/clear without a label.

## Q. What isn't allowed?

Mobile phones and watches (of any kind) are not allowed. They must be switched off and placed in your bag. You may choose not to bring your watch on the day of an exam. It is malpractice to have a watch or mobile phone in an exam hall and if this happened in a real exam, your grade in that subject would be a U and possibly the same for all your other subjects.

## Q. What if I need to go to the toilet during an exam?

Go to the toilet during break and lunchtime or before the line up to enter the exam hall. You will not be allowed out to the toilet, unless you have a known medical need/card. Leaving the room during an exam disturbs your own focus and concentration and will disturb the entire room and disrupt the focus of others. Make sure you go before you enter the exam hall and then you do not need to worry.

# RESOURCES: SUBJECT SPECIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

For each of the qualifications you study, the exam board website contains links to your **course specification** (a list of what you will have studied). **The table below contains the information for all subjects.**

Course	Exam Board	Website Link
Art & Design (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">AQA   Subjects   Art and Design</a>
Biology (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">GCSE Biology 8461   Specification   AQA</a>
Business (GCSE)	Edexcel	<a href="#">Edexcel GCSE Business (2017)   Pearson qualifications</a>
Chemistry (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">GCSE Chemistry 8462   Specification   AQA</a>
Child Development and Care in the Early Years (NCFE)	NCFE	<a href="#">NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years   NCFE</a>
Computer Science (GCSE)	OCR	<a href="#">Computer Science   GCSE</a>
Design & Technology (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">Design and Technology   GCSE</a>
English Language (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">English   GCSE   English Language</a>
English Literature (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">English   GCSE   English Literature</a>
Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)	Eduqas	<a href="#">Food Preparation and Nutrition   GCSE</a>
French (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">GCSE French 8652   Specification   AQA</a>
Geography (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">Geography   GCSE</a>
German (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">AQA   Languages   GCSE   German</a>
Health and Social Care (BTEC)	Edexcel	<a href="#">Health &amp; Social Care (2022)   BTEC Tech Award   Pearson qualifications</a>
History (GCSE)	Edexcel	<a href="#">Edexcel GCSE History (2016)   Pearson qualifications</a>
Maths (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">Maths   GCSE</a>
Media Studies (GCSE)	OCR	<a href="#">GCSE - Media Studies (9-1) - J200 - OCR</a>
Music (GCSE)	Eduqas	<a href="#">Music   GCSE</a>
Performing Arts (BTEC)	Edexcel	<a href="#">BTEC in Performing Arts   Pearson qualifications</a>
PE (GCSE)	Edexcel	<a href="#">Edexcel GCSE Physical Education (2016)   Pearson qualifications</a>
Physics (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">GCSE Physics 8463   Specification   AQA</a>
Religious Studies (GCSE)	OCR	<a href="#">GCSE Religious Studies 8062   Specification   AQA</a>
Science Combined Trilogy (GCSE)	AQA	<a href="#">GCSE Science 8464   Specification   AQA</a>

# WHAT AM I PREPARING FOR? OVERVIEW OF KEY EXAM INFORMATION

The following section details the number of papers per subject, a brief guide to the relevant topics and content so that students can target their revision and a series of suggested useful revision resources and activities to help support independent study.

Subject	No. of exams	Exam paper/structure	Key content/topics	Useful revision sources/activities
Art	1	Students will continue with a piece of their personal investigation coursework in exam conditions.	Students' own choice of topic – this will be discussed and signed off beforehand with class teacher.	Depending on their idea students will be working with materials personal to them. Reference photos need printing to size <b>ahead</b> of the mock. Materials need to be prepared and in school.
Business	1	Paper 1	1.1 Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, 1.2 Spotting a Business Opportunity, 1.3 Putting Business Ideas into Practice, 1.4 Making the Business Effective, 1.5 Understanding the External Environment	CGP revision book / online Digital Revision Booklets Past Papers (edexcel.com) BBC Bitesize Seneca Notes taken in class recorded in the Theme 1 workbooks (1.1-1.5)
Computer Science	2	Paper 1 – Computer Systems	1.1.1 Architecture of the CPU 1.1.2 CPU performance 1.1.3 Embedded systems 1.2.1 Primary storage 1.2.2 Secondary storage 1.2.3 Units 1.2.4 Data storage 1.3.1 Networks and topologies 1.3.2 Networks, protocols and layers 1.4.1 Network threats 1.4.2 Prevention methods 1.5.1 Operating systems 1.5.2 Utility software 1.6.1 Ethical Legal	- Teach-ICT website J277 <a href="#">Teach-ICT OCR J277 Syllabus</a> - <a href="https://www.csnewbs.com/ocr-gcse">https://www.csnewbs.com/ocr-gcse</a> - GCSE (J277): OCR Video Playlists <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@craigndave">https://www.youtube.com/@craigndave</a> - Collins revision book - Notes taken in class.
		Paper 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming	2.1.2 Computational thinking 2.1.3 Searching and sorting algorithms 2.2.1 Programming Fundamentals 2.2.2 Data types 2.2.3 Additional programming 2.3.1 Defensive design methods 2.3.2 Identify syntax and logic errors 2.4.1 Boolean logic 2.5.1 & 2.5.2 Languages & IDE	- Teach-ICT website J277 <a href="#">Teach-ICT OCR J277 Syllabus</a> - <a href="https://www.csnewbs.com/ocr-gcse">https://www.csnewbs.com/ocr-gcse</a> - GCSE (J277): OCR Video Playlists <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@craigndave">https://www.youtube.com/@craigndave</a> - Collins revision book - Notes taken in class.
Child Development and Care in the Early Years	1	Examined assessment	1. Child development 2. Factors that influence the child's development 3. Care routines, play and activities to support the child 4. Early years provision 5. Legislation, policies and	- NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years Second Edition <b>Author(s):</b> Louise Burnham, Penny Tassoni - Revision pack provided within lesson

			<p>procedures in the early years</p> <p>6. Expectations of the early years practitioner</p> <p>7. Roles and responsibilities within early years settings</p> <p>8. The importance of observations in early years childcare</p> <p>9. Planning in early years childcare</p>	
Performing Arts	1	Students will continue with Component 3 practical and written coursework under examination conditions.	<p>1. Students will create an original piece of devised theatre from an examination brief given by the examination board.</p>	<p>All practical elements need to be created in school. They will create rehearsal timetables, collect resources and plan out props and costumes needed.</p> <p>They will access Digital Theatre Plus and other online resources for inspiration.</p> <p>They will look at examples from past pupils and the examination board.</p> <p>These resources are given by the teacher.</p>
DT	1	3 sections in the paper (seen next column for detail)	<p><b>Section A- Core Technical Principles</b> (materials and their working properties, systems and <del>and</del>)</p> <p><b>Section B- Core Specialist Principles</b> (Processing and production techniques, dealing with Forces and stresses, use of maths in design, social and environmental footprint)</p> <p><b>Section C- Designing and Making Principles</b> (specification and product analysis, calculating material needs, production techniques, design communication and drawing, CAD and CAM, Quality control, evaluation and development of designs)</p>	<p>You will be provided with a 'revision crib sheet'. This will be a brief overview of what to expect on the exam paper. This should provide you with the structure required for your revision.</p> <p>You will be required to answer mathematical based questions. It is therefore important that you revise basic mathematical concepts such as working out percentages, angles, area and ratio.</p> <p>Your Design &amp; Technology folder has a significant number of resources that have built up over time. Looking through your knowledge booklets and revisiting past papers will help in your preparation.</p> <p>Below are some useful websites that can help you in consolidating your knowledge.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.technologystudent.com/">https://www.technologystudent.com/</a></p>
English Lang	1	Paper 2 Sections A (reading Q 1 – 4) and writing – Q5 (80 marks)	<p>Non-fiction writing (two texts from different time periods. These could be diaries, articles, letters, speeches)</p> <p>Transactional writing – non-fiction</p>	<p>Practicing exam-style questions (this could be spending time on a careful plan rather than on a complete responses); regular reading of a range of non-fiction texts- so that students are used to reading unseen texts and can analyse them; online revision resources that test and</p>

				<p>extend knowledge of the skills examiners are looking for; practicing answering questions 1- 4 and revising the formulas for answering these reading questions (these are all very different so students must go into the exam with a good working knowledge of how to approach each one).</p> <p>Practicing crafting their writing and how to write non-fiction texts to create deliberate effects on their readers. Revising rhetoric and persuasive writing skills.</p> <p><b>Study guides are useful but should be used alongside and not instead of the work produced in exercise books.</b></p>
English Lit	1	<p>Section A - 1 extract and whole text question on A Christmas Carol (30 marks).</p> <p>Section B - 1 essay question comparing 2 poems from the power and conflict cluster (30 marks)</p>	<p>A Christmas Carol and the Power and Conflict poetry</p>	<p>Revising the plot, themes, context and characters in the novel, creating and using flashcards (for learning quotations); practicing exam-style questions (this could be spending time on a careful plan rather than on a whole essay); online revision resources that test and extend knowledge of the studied Literature texts (Seneca, Shmoop, York Notes, Spark Notes, Mr Bruff videos on YouTube). Revision of the 7 steps of analysis for the A Christmas Carol question and the 10 steps of analysis for answering the poetry comparison questions. Revising all the exemplar responses that have been studied in lessons with a focus on HOW to answer the English Literature questions. <b>Study guides are useful but should be used alongside and not instead of the work produced in exercise books.</b></p>
Food Preparation and Nutrition	1	<p>Section A - Questions relating to cooking and food preparation with visual stimulus supplied for the first question. This will make up 15 marks of the paper.</p> <p>Section B – covers numerous question styles relating to nutrition, diet and good health, food science, commodities and food origins. This makes up 85 marks of the paper.</p>	<p>1. Food commodities 2. Principles of nutrition 3. Diet and good health 4. The science of food 5. Where food comes from 6. Cooking and food preparation</p>	<p>Practice questions as well as learning resources have been set for homework which covers all sections of the paper; all PowerPoints are accessible through Microsoft Teams. Seneca can be used as an online revision resource. (Eduqas GCSE Food and Nutrition course)</p> <p>Class folders should be used to help with revision of all topics.</p> <p>CGP Revision guide.</p>
Geography	2 (there will be a third paper completed in class in April)	Paper 1 - Living with the Physical Environment	The challenges of natural hazards and the living world	Exercise book; CGP revision guide and revision cards; Revision packs, Seneca, internet geography. You will be set specific revision to complete using a range of these sources.
		Paper 2- Challenges in the human environment	Urban issues and challenges, resource management and the changing economic world	As above

Health and Social Care	1	Pearson Set Assignment (PSA)/ Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A1 Healthcare services</li> <li>• A2 Social care services</li> <li>• A3 Barriers to accessing services</li> <li>• B1 Skills and attributes in health and social care</li> <li>• B2 Values in health and social care</li> <li>• B3 The obstacles individuals requiring care may face</li> </ul> <p>B4 The benefits to individuals of the skills, attributes and values in health and social care practice</p>	<p>N/A - No preparation needed. Students to use exercise books and prior knowledge to complete tasks.</p>
History	2	<p>Full Paper 1 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicine Through Time and The Western Front</li> </ul> <p>Full Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany</p>	<p>Paper 1 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WW1 injuries and treatments</li> <li>• Plague and Cholera Case Studies</li> <li>• Impact of the Germ Theory</li> <li>• Medieval and Renaissance Causes of Disease</li> <li>• Care and Treatment in the Early Modern and Modern periods.</li> </ul> <p>Paper 3 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nazi Popularity 1929-1932</li> <li>• Nazi Youth Opposition</li> <li>• Life in Nazi Germany</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise Books</li> <li>• Revision Homework</li> <li>• <a href="#">Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 - Weimar Germany overview - Edexcel - GCSE History Revision - Edexcel - BBC Bitesize</a></li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Change and continuity across time - Medicine in Britain overview - Edexcel - GCSE History Revision - Edexcel - BBC Bitesize</a></p>
Maths	3	Non-calculator	Any topic can be tested on any paper	<p>Use Sparx to revise topics, watching the videos and completing the questions. In particular, use your QLA from the end of year 10 assessments to identify what you need to work on.</p> <p>You can also use packs of exam practice questions, available on the following websites:</p> <p><a href="https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/">https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/</a></p> <p><a href="https://corbettmaths.com/contents/">https://corbettmaths.com/contents/</a></p>
		Calculator		
Media Studies	2	Paper 1 - Television and promoting media	<p>Section A – TV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avengers</li> <li>- Vigil</li> </ul> <p>Section B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lego Movie Promotional Materials – advert, ad break, posters, game.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">GCSE Media Studies - BBC Bitesize</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Paper 1. Section A: Television   GCSE OCR Media Studies (specification code: J200) (wordpress.com)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Mrs Fisher - YouTube</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Coombe Media &amp; Film Studies - YouTube</a></li> <li>- Hodder – My Revision Notes revision guide.</li> </ul> <p>Class notes</p>
		Paper 2 - Music and news  <i>MUSIC SECTION ONLY FOR TRIALS</i>	<p>Section A – Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Videos: Teenage Dirtbag vs Sk8er Boi</li> <li>- Magazines: Mojo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">GCSE Media Studies - BBC Bitesize</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Paper 2. Section A: Music   GCSE OCR Media Studies (specification code: J200) (wordpress.com)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Mrs Fisher - YouTube</a></li> </ul>

			Radio: Radio 1 – Live Lounge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Coombe Media &amp; Film Studies - YouTube</a></li> <li>- Hodder – My Revision Notes revision guide.</li> <li>- Class notes</li> </ul>
Music	1	Paper with 8 questions; 2 from each area of study	Badinerie section A; Romantic music; Jazz and Blues; Musicals ensuring acknowledgement of Key signatures, time signatures and rhythms; film; Toto with a focus on the chorus, in particular the final chorus; Pop music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students are advised to revisit key signatures, time signatures, revision summaries and practice questions of their set works as well as blues/Jazz and film; they will need to know which features belong to which element and have an element mat to support this revision; Sams assessment material on the Eduqas site will give them a fuller understanding of the question styles</li> </ul>
PE (GCSE)	1	Paper 1: 80 Marks. 1hr 30mins.  A series of 1-9 mark questions based on Physical Factors affecting performance	<i>Applied Anatomy and Physiology:</i> Skeletal, Muscular, Cardio, Respiratory Systems, Components of Fitness, Movement Analysis, Injury, short/long term effects of exercise, aerobic/anaerobic systems and Physical Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The revision book offered by the department. Hot Quiz booklets used within lessons. Online OCR 9-1 Past Paper 1 and Mark Schemes (J587 series only). Seneca. YouTube - The PE Classroom (best one!), The Everlearner, Planet PE, BBC Bitesize (OCR). Reading through exercise book.</li> </ul>
RS	2	Three exam papers. Papers One and Two are on the religions (Christianity and Hinduism) 1 hour and 3/4 and Paper Three is on two ethical sections (50 mins)	Paper 1 - Christian beliefs & practices Paper 2 - Hindu Beliefs & Practices Paper three Religion and relationships Religion and Life	Exercise books, A more detailed and comprehensive list will be given on what to revise, school booklets, resources on SMHW Quizes, ppts and activities, BBC Bitesize (AQA), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@MrMcMillanREvis">https://www.youtube.com/@MrMcMillanREvis</a></li> </ul>
Science	3	Biology 1h 45 for triple 1h 15 for combined	Topics 1–5: Cell biology; Organisation. Infection and response; Bioenergetics. Homeostasis and Response	<p>A calculator, pen, pencil and ruler are essential for all science exams</p> <p>Kerboodle gives all students access to the digital AQA Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science textbooks and resources such as checklists, glossaries and knowledge organisers.</p> <p>Physics and Maths Tutor Websites – AQA Biology/Chemistry/Physics section has links to flashcards and booklets of past paper questions plus mark schemes</p> <p>Carousel Study Packs – teachers are setting up study packs on Carousel shared by Satchel One to allow students to do regular practice of the key knowledge and definitions.</p> <p>CGP revision guides and question cards use the same topic headings as the specification and are useful to check that there are no gaps in students learning and provide a colourful summary.</p>

<b>French and German</b>	4	Section A: Q+A in English. Section B: Dictation – Foundation 4 sentences Higher 5 sentences	1. Past papers: <a href="#">French GCSE Past Papers   Revision World</a> <a href="#">German GCSE Past Papers   Revision World</a>
	Listening	Section A: Q+A in English. Section B: Translation into English.	2. Kerboodle online textbook: End of Theme 1, 2 and 3 tasks.
	Reading		3. Padlets (QR code on passbook): read / listen for pleasure.
	Writing Speaking	<p><u>Foundation tier</u></p> <p>Q1: describe a photo Q2: 50-word task Q3: grammar task Q4: translation into Fr/Gm Q5: 90 word task</p>	<p><u>Higher tier</u></p> <p>Q1: translation into Fr/Gm Q2: 90-word task Q3: 150-word task</p> <p>1. Learn the key verbs in all 3 tenses from your passbook. 2. Higher tier: learn passbook key vocabulary from pages 6-11. 3. Revise speaking questions and answers from Speaking booklet – you can easily adapt these to use in the essays. 4. Past papers (see above): write a plan for the 90- or 150-word tasks. 5. Kerboodle online textbook: End of Theme 1, 2 and 3 tasks.</p>
		<p>1. Roleplay 2. Reading aloud and follow-up questions 3. Photo cards 4. General conversation questions</p>	<p>Speaking booklet:</p> <p>1. Learn the answers to all speaking questions. 2. Practise all role plays, photo cards and reading aloud tasks. 3. Kerboodle end of Theme tasks.</p>

# RESOURCES: HAVE YOU GOT WHAT YOU NEED?

Preparing for your mock fortnight, it's crucial that you have the materials you need. Here is a handy checklist!

- Revision guides/study aids for the subjects that you are studying.** The notes in your exercise books will be useful, but for a complete set of notes (alongside questions, model answers etc.) any revision resources that have been given to you or suggested by each subject.
- Online resources/apps.** Do you have your login details handy? Check the information on the back page of this guide and get yourself up and running online.
- Materials for note-making/flashcards.** Pens (black ink), pencils, highlighters, post-it notes, flashcards.
- Materials for maths/science.** A scientific calculator (which you have practiced using before the exam!), a compass and a protractor.
- A plan.** Do you have a plan for tackling your gaps in different subjects? Use the **Revision Planner in this guide** to help you get started.

## GUIDANCE: REVISION - WHAT WORKS?

To be effective, **revision must be active, it must cause you to 'think hard'**. Passively reading through notes or flicking through a revision guide is a very poor form of revision. Active revision leads to more chance of committing information and learning to your long-term memory.

Students are most successful when they use a revision timetable (**see the revision planner at the end of this booklet**) because it allows you to plan your time more effectively and ensure that you are splitting your time across your subjects, as well as making sure that the right subject is tackled at the right time (particularly in relation to the mock exam timetable). In addition:

- **You should aim for 25–35-minute bursts of revision activity, with 10- minute breaks in between** (going for a walk can be the most effective type of break);
- **Identify and tackle your knowledge gaps** - don't just revise the topic you like or are better at – it is tempting to do so, but you need to prioritise the topics and areas you know you would struggle with in an exam.

**The following pages describe some of the ways in which you might improve the effectiveness of your revision.** They summarise some of the methods that the Learning Scientists recommend. The Learning Scientists are a group of scientific researchers in cognitive science who have focused on how students best learn and revise. Their website explains why these approaches are so successful and has downloadable resources for more information and guidance

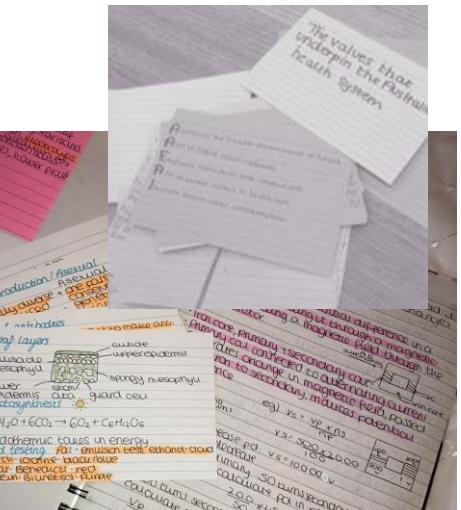


# HOW TO MAKE YOUR REVISION ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL!

## 1. Using flashcards

**The ultimate portable revision strategy!** There are different ways to create and use flashcards to target your knowledge gaps. You could simply record a keyword, definition or idea on each card. You could use both sides of the card: question on one side, answer on the other.

Lots of students find that they can recall information more effectively when they use colour and pictures on their flashcards. **Self-testing with flashcards has been shown to be a very effective way to prepare for exams.** Using the **Leitner system** (below) has been shown to be a brilliant way to super-charge your revision/learning.



**Leitner System:** Get hold of three small boxes, envelopes or three different coloured elastic bands

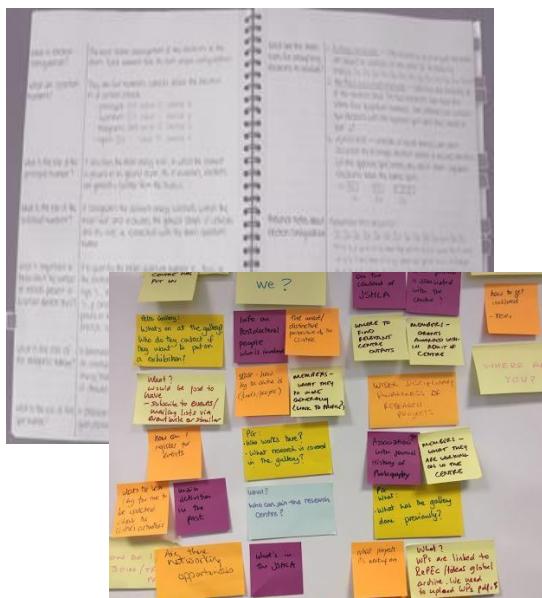
**Quiz yourself on your flashcards.** If you recall the information on the flashcard, put it in box 2. If you don't recall, put the card in box 1.

Now, come up with a revision schedule e.g. review box 1 twice a week, review box 2 once a week and review box 3 once a fortnight.

The next time you review a box (quizzing yourself on the cards), move any card you can recall into the next box (e.g. box 2 to box 3)

and any card that you can't recall back to the earlier box (e.g. box 2 to box 1).

**The cards that you recall (know), move towards box 3, the ones you don't know, move towards box 1.** This way you will always be focussing your energies where they are needed most.



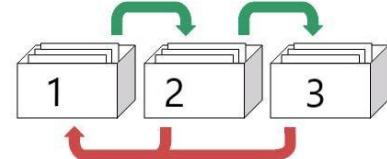
## 2. Making summary notes

Once you have identified your gaps, try **transforming** the notes you already have from your revision guide, exercise book, websites/online and other resources. Don't fall into the trap of copying out lots of text – **turn the information into short paragraphs, bullet points, lists or pictures.**

Transforming notes in this way will help you to memorise the information by getting you to think harder about it! Often students find it useful to summarise their notes onto post-it notes and make a display of them in a place they visit regularly. The post-it notes can also be used to test your memory later.

### Correctly answered cards

Box 1  
Reviewed  
most often



Box 3  
Reviewed  
least often

### Incorrectly answered cards

**Video explanation/demonstration at:**

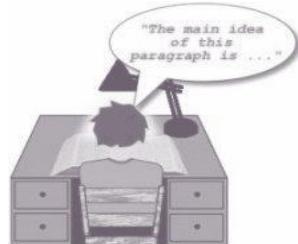
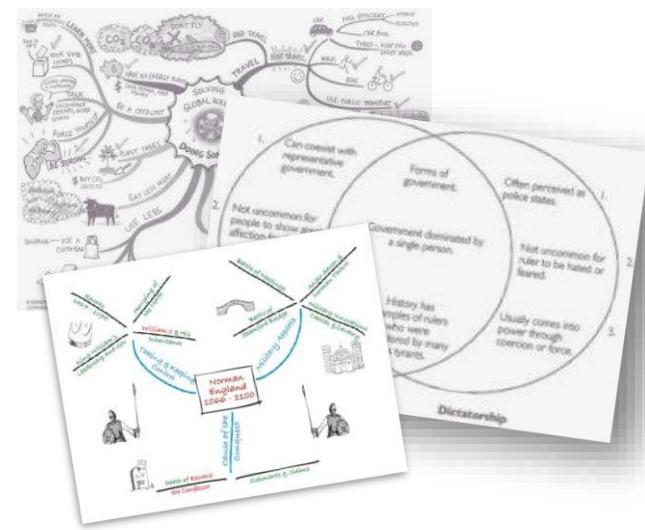
[\*\*How to study flashcards using the Leitner system\*\*](#)

### 3. Graphic Organisers (Mind maps, Spider diagrams, Venn diagrams etc.)

Most students find that graphic organisers are a memorable way to organise ideas on a page. Different organisers support different types of revision e.g. memorising a sequence (Chain), finding out how much you remember about a particular topic (Spider), thinking through how two ideas compare with one another (Venn) or organising pros & cons (T-chart).

There are lots of useful graphic organiser templates (which can be downloaded and printed) at:

<https://freeology.com/graphicorgs/page/4/>



### 4. Memorising! Read-recite-review

A significant part of exam success is memory work - what can you recall? There are lots of memory techniques you can try. One approach which works for lots of students is:

1. **Read** (your notes on a particular topic).
2. **Recite** as much as you can from memory (you could record this on your phone) then re-read your notes.
3. **Review**: get someone to test you on your notes or answer questions on the topic (use questions from your revision guide or past paper).

Testing straight-away increases your ability to remember later.

### 5. Question practice (past papers & others)

Answering test questions (and marking/correcting your answers, if possible) is another effective way to prepare for exams. This is because it helps you to figure out where your gaps are, giving you the opportunity to do something about them. Most revision guides have tests, quizzes and exam-style questions (often with model answers alongside).

It can also be just as effective to carefully plan answers to longer/high mark questions in subjects where you write more extended answers (for example, English Literature, history, Drama etc.). Planning is as effective a revision task as actually completing practise questions in full.

It is very important to practise reading and interpreting exam-style questions to ensure that you understand what the different command words mean.

For past-papers, mark schemes and information about command words for a particular subject, please visit the relevant Exam Board website. For example, here are the command words for AQA Combined Science <https://bit.ly/33DbHBN> and the subject specific vocabulary

<https://bit.ly/2lsJDAu>

Higher Tier	
Write your name here	Other names
Surname	Centre Number
Candidate Number	
Pearson Edexcel	
Level 1/Level 2	
GCSE (9-1)	
<b>Mathematics</b>	
<b>Paper 1 (Non-Calculator)</b>	
Thursday 25 May 2017 – Morning	Paper Reference
Time: 1 hour 30 minutes	1MA1/1H
You must have: Ruler graduated in centimetres and millimetres, protractor, pair of compasses, pen, HB pencil, eraser.	

# ONLINE REVISION RESOURCES FOR A RANGE OF SUBJECTS

## GCSE - England - BBC Bitesize

Years	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>
Subjects	<b>All</b>
Activities	Expert lecturers deliver short, accessible, high-quality videos on all topics- with quizzes and questions.
Login	<b>Free to use.</b>

## Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 (senecalearning.com)

Years	<b>All</b>
Subjects	<b>All</b>
Activities	Facts, pictures, quick-fire questions to test your knowledge & understanding.
Login	<b>Free. Use your school email to create an account.</b>

## Planet PE - YouTube

Years	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>
Subjects	<b>PE</b>
Activities	Expert lectures, videos, quizzes, exam questions
Login	<b>The best place to access the content for this is on Youtube which has free access. If you are unsure, speak to your PE teacher.</b>

## Carousel | Teach smarter, learn better (carousel-learning.com)

Years	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>
Subjects	<b>Science</b>
Activities	Class teachers will set you work and revision activities to complete online.
Login	<b>Use your usual school login details to access.</b>

## Padlet - Maths Higher

Years	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>
Subjects	<b>Maths (higher)</b>
Activities	<b>Video &amp; tasks for every maths topic.</b>
Login	<b>Free to use.</b>

## Padlet - Maths Foundation

Years	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>
Subjects	<b>Maths (foundation)</b>
Activities	<b>Videos &amp; tasks for every maths topic.</b>
Login	<b>Free to use.</b>

## Technology Student - Design and Technology

Years	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>
Subjects	<b>Design Technology</b>
Activities	<b>Videos, revision notes, guides on a huge range of DT topics.</b>
Login	<b>Free to access.</b>

## Mr Bruff - YouTube

Years	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>
Subjects	<b>English</b>
Activities	<b>Videos, revision materials, tutorials and practice exam questions.</b>
Login	<b>Free to access</b>

# FINALLY, THE DOS AND DON'TS OF EFFECTIVE REVISION - A QUICK SUMMARY

DO:	DON'T:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revise for about 30 minutes at a time – take short breaks regularly</li><li>• Get lots of sleep</li><li>• Eat well and drink plenty of water</li><li>• Take time for you and have some fun and relaxing planned activities amongst the revision</li><li>• Get some exercise</li><li>• Have a plan – work out what you will revise and for how long</li><li>• Use effective strategies for revision – active ones (flashcards, practice questions, planning, creating useful and summary notes)</li><li>• Use your teachers and their resources/support/suggestions to support your revision</li><li>• Remove distractions (put your mobile phone away when revising)</li><li>• If possible, have a study area (if not, clear it away when you finish revising so that your room reverts to a place for relaxing)</li><li>• Accept that exams and Year 11 can cause stress and feelings of anxiety and that this is normal BUT speak to people about how you are feeling so that you can get support if needed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Try and revise for long periods of time without breaks</li><li>• Try and revise late into the night</li><li>• Try to exist on fast food and sweets</li><li>• Resolve to revise all the time and never take time for yourself to have fun</li><li>• Abandon hobbies and interests</li><li>• Put your head in the sand and not plan out revision (makes things harder!)</li><li>• Take part in passive revision (re-reading notes, reading text guides... you need to DO something)</li><li>• Ignore a really important place of support and resources... your teachers!</li><li>• Try to revise with your phone/access to social media/internet/gaming etc.</li><li>• Try to revise in a noisy or chaotic location OR turn your bedroom into an office and never clear away the revision</li><li>• Clam up and not share how you are feeling – stress and learning how to manage it is part of Year 11, but if you are feeling upset or anxious you must speak with someone trusted so that you can get support if needed</li></ul>

REMEMBER... TRIAL EXAMS ARE THERE TO HELP GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT IS COMING BUT THEY ARE NOT THE REAL THING. THESE EXAMS ARE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ALL KNOW HOW TO BEST PREPARE YOU FOR THE ONLY EXAMS THAT ACTUALLY MATTER... THE REAL ONES!



