KING EDWARD VI
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

KES YEAR 11 REVISION BOOKLET FOR TRIAL EXAMINATIONS 2026

NAME:

TUTOR GROUP:

Trial Exams:
2nd December 2026 - 16th December 2026

Welcome to your preparation and revision guide for your December trial examinations. 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 in your final exams in May/June 2027.

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. Regardless of how well you score in each exam, these are not the final exams. The most important thing is to use these trial exams to learn from your experience.

The trials 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 2027. Trial exams are useful because:

- You will better understand your strengths and knowledge 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 on 21st January 2027 when you will receive your results.

WHEN ARE MY EXAMS?

2nd December 2026 - 16th December 2026

Your individual timetable (containing venues and timings) will be sent to your school email account.

Start Time/ Date	Wed 2nd Dec	Thurs 3rd Dec	Fri 4th Dec
09:00 *Line up by 08:45*	• English Language	• Maths - Paper 1 (Non-calculator)	• Physics (Triple) • Physics (Combined)
13:15 *Line up by 13:00*	• History - Paper 1	• PE • Computer Science	• Geography – Paper 1

Start Time/ Date	Mon 7th Dec	Tues 8th Dec	Wed 9th Dec	Thurs 10th Dec	Fri 11th Dec
09:00 *Line up by 08:45*	• Religious Studies – Paper 1	• Maths – Paper 2 (Calculator)	• Chemistry (Triple) • Chemistry (Combined)	• French Reading and Writing • German Reading and Writing	• Music • Art (Option H) • Health and Social Care • Performing Arts
13:15 *Line up by 13:00*	• German Listening	• Media Studies – Paper 2	• History - Paper 2	• Food Preparation and Nutrition • Engineering • Child Development	• Geography – Paper 2
14:15 *Line up by 14:00*	• French Listening	• Art (Option W)		• Art (Option L)	

Start Time/ Date	Mon 14th Dec	Tues 15th Dec	Wed 16th Dec
09:00 *Line up by 08:45*	• English Literature	• Biology (Triple) • Biology (Combined)	• Business
13:15 *Line up by 13:00*	• Media Studies – Paper 1 • Design and Technology	• Religious Studies – Paper 2	• Maths – Paper 3 (Calculator)

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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 final exams in the summer. This is your chance to rehearse
- You will have an exam briefing assembly beforehand on Thursday 22nd October 2026.

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 room. 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.



ADVICE: LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF DURING EXAM SEASON

Dealing with Exam Stress and Anxiety

Everyone feels stressed during exams and often this stress encourages us to do that extra bit of revision, listen a little more to the information in a lesson and work a bit harder. However, too much pressure and anxiety can affect your ability to concentrate on your work.

Try to reduce anxiety because it uses up working memory. This is where trial exams can help, as they give you the opportunity to try test papers under exam conditions and experience what being in an exam venue is like. You can also lean on your family/friends, talk to your teachers about what might help, organise a revision timetable and establish good habits in terms of sleeping, eating and keeping active.

Get plenty of sleep during exam season!

- There's evidence that suggests students who sleep for at least 7 hours a night do 10% better on average than those who get less sleep
- Good sleep will improve thinking and concentration so try and get between 8 and 10 hours' sleep a night
- Allow half an hour or so to wind down between studying, looking at a screen and going to bed
- Make sure that your bedroom is dark and cool as these are the best conditions for sleep and if possible ensure that where you sleep is separate from where you revise
- Cramming all night before an exam is usually a bad idea - sleep is much better for you than a few hours of panicky last-minute study, so set yourself a time for bed.

Make sure you eat and drink!

- Research shows that students who eat breakfast perform better in exams
- A balanced diet is vital for your health, and can help you to feel well during exam periods
- Too many high-fat, high-sugar and high-caffeine foods and drinks (like cola, sweets, chocolate, crisps, burger & chips) can make you hyperactive, irritable and moody
- At night, try to avoid eating three hours before sleep
- The best way to help concentration is to keep hydrated, as even mild dehydration can lead to tiredness, headaches, reduced alertness and concentration.

Put away your mobile phone when studying

We know that smartphones are brilliant 'distraction devices'. We also know that there is research which shows that using mobile phones (as a break from studying) can be mentally draining, reducing your performance (they pull your attention in lots of different directions). So, when you're not using a revision app, keep your head 'recharged' and ready to learn by putting away your mobile phone when preparing for an exam.

ADVICE: HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP WITH INDEPENDENT STUDY

- **Create the right environment for study -** Ideally, this would be quiet, well-lit and free from interruptions. They also need plenty of paper, cue-cards, pens, highlighters etc.
- **Make sure they have a balanced diet -** including plenty of water
- Support your child with the **preparation of a revision timetable/schedule.** An example Revision Planner template has been provided in this guide
- **Be a revision buddy! -** Help your child to track their progress through their revision timetable/schedule. What tasks have been completed? What is there still to do?
- **Be prepared to listen -** Students can often become more emotional during this period and need someone to listen to their anxieties
- **Encourage exercise -** Exercise can help boost energy levels, clear the mind and relieve stress. It does not matter what it is – walking, cycling, swimming, football and dancing are all effective



TRY TO AVOID:

- Focusing on grades. Instead, praise for the effort put into preparation rather than results obtained. How hard they try is the part of this process which students have most control over
- Constantly mentioning the exams and piling the pressure on (i.e. avoid nagging)
- Making comparisons with siblings, cousins, friends etc. This is never productive
- Worrying if some of their revision approaches seem unfamiliar or different to when you were at school
- Expecting them to study all of the time. Taking breaks and some time to relax will have an overall positive effect on their ability to revise effectively.

RESOURCES: SUBJECT SPECIFICATIONS

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	Art and Design | Subjects | AQA
Biology (GCSE)	AQA	Biology | Subjects | AQA
Business (GCSE)	Edexcel	Edexcel GCSE Business (2017) | Pearson qualifications
Chemistry (GCSE)	AQA	Chemistry | Subjects | AQA
Child Development and Care in the Early Years (NCFE)	NCFE	Child Development and Care in the Early Years Qualification Specification
Computer Science (GCSE)	OCR	GCSE - Computer Science (9-1) - J277 (from 2020)
Design & Technology (GCSE)	AQA	GCSE Design and Technology 8552 | Specification | AQA
Engineering	OCR	Cambridge Nationals - Engineering Manufacture Level 1/Level 2 - J823
English Language (GCSE)	AQA	English | Subjects | AQA
English Literature (GCSE)	AQA	English | Subjects | AQA
Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)	Eduqas	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition | Eduqas
French (GCSE)	AQA	GCSE French 8652 | Specification | AQA
Geography (GCSE)	AQA	Geography | Subjects | AQA
German (GCSE)	AQA	GCSE German 8662 | Specification | AQA
Health and Social Care (BTEC)	Edexcel	Specification - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care 2022
History (GCSE)	Edexcel	Edexcel GCSE History (2016) | Pearson qualifications
Maths (GCSE)	AQA	Mathematics | Subjects | AQA
Media Studies (GCSE)	OCR	GCSE - Media Studies (9-1) - J200
Music (GCSE)	Eduqas	GCSE Music | Eduqas
Performing Arts (BTEC)	Edexcel	Performing Arts (2022) | BTEC Tech Awards | Pearson qualifications
PE (GCSE)	Edexcel	Edexcel GCSE Physical Education (2016) | Pearson qualifications
Physics (GCSE)	AQA	Physics | Subjects | AQA
Religious Studies (GCSE)	AQA	GCSE Religious Studies 8061 | Specification | AQA
Science Combined Trilogy (GCSE)	AQA	GCSE Science 8464 | Specification | AQA

WHAT AM I PREPARING FOR? KEY TRIAL 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 Resources
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 ahead of the Trial. Materials need to be prepared 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 Digital Revision Booklets Past Papers (edexcel.com) BBC Bitesize Seneca Notes taken in class recorded in the Theme 1 workbooks (1.1-1.5) Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Business Revision Guide, Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Pearson Edexcel GCSE Business Revision Cards Business Revision Workbook
Child Develop-ment	1	1 hour 30 minutes (50% of final grade)	1. Child development 2. Factors that influence the child's development 3. Care routines, play and activities to support the child 4. Early years provisio 5. Legislation, policies and procedures in the early year 6. Expectations of the early years practitioner 7. Roles and responsibilities within early years setting 8. The importance of observations in early years childcare 9. Planning in early years childcare	NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years Second Edition **Author(s):** Louise Burnham, Penny Tassoni Revision pack provided within lesson NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years Second Edition **Author(s):** Louise Burnham, Penny Tassoni Revision pack provided within lesson NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years Second Edition **Author(s):** Louise Burnham, Penny Tassoni Revision pack provided within lesson

Computer Science	2	**Paper 1** - Computer Systems **Paper 2** - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming	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 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 https://www.csnewbs.com/oc r-gcse GCSE (J277): OCR Video Playlists https://www.youtube.com/@craigndave Collins revision book Notes taken in class.
D&T	1	**3 sections in the paper**	Section A - Core Technical Principles (materials and their working properties, systems and controls) Section B - Core Specialist Principles (Processing and production techniques, dealing with Forces and stresses, use of maths in design, social and environmental footprint) Section C - Designing and Making Principles (specification and product analysis, calculating material needs, production techniques, design communication and drawing, CAD and CAM, Quality control, evaluation and development of designs)	You will be provided with a 'revision crib sheet'. This will be a brief overview of what to expect on the trial paper. This should provide you with the structure required for your revision. You will be required to answer mathematical based questions. Revise basic mathematical concepts such as working out percentages, angles, area and ratio. Looking through your knowledge booklets, and revisiting past papers will help in your preparation. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm https://www.technologystudent.com/
English Language	1	Paper 2 Sections A (reading Q 1 - 4) and writing - Q5 (80 marks)	Non-fiction writing (two texts from different time periods. These could be diaries, articles, letters, speeches) Transactional writing - non-fiction.	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 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). Practicing crafting their writing and how to write non-fiction texts to create deliberate effects on their readers. Revising rhetoric and persuasive writing skills.
English Literature	1	Section A - One extract and whole text question on A Christmas Carol (30 marks). Section B - One essay question comparing two poems from the power and conflict cluster (30 marks	A Christmas Carol and the Power and Conflict poetry	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.
Engineering	1	**R014: Principles of engineering manufacture** 1 hour 15 mins	**Manufacturing processes** 1.2.1 Wasting processes 1.2.2 Shaping processes 1.2.3 Forming processes 1.2.4 Additive manufacturing 1.2.5 Joining processes 1.2.6 Finishing processes **Engineering materials** 2.1 Mechanical properties of materials 2.2 Other properties influencing manufacturing 2.3.1 Metals: 2.3.2 Polymers: 2.3.3 Engineering ceramics 2.3.4 Composite materials 2.3.5 Smart materials **Manufacturing requirements** 3.1 Interpreting orthographic third angle projection drawings	You will be provided with a 'revision crib sheet'. This will be a brief overview of what to expect on the trial paper. This should provide you with the structure required for your revision. Looking through your knowledge booklets, and revisiting past papers will help in your preparation.

Food Preparation and Nutrition	1	**Section A** - One 6 part question about cooking and food preparation **Section B** – covers nutrition, diet and good health, food science, commodities and food origins	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	Revision of all topics should be completed using the following. CGP Revision guide Revision folders collated in Year 10 Class power point resources on Teams Past Paper Booklets Completion of quizzes set on satchel Additional resources should include BBC Bitesize Seneca (Eduqas GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition)
French & German	4	Listening Reading Writing Speaking	Section A: Q+A in English. Section B: Q+A in Fr/Gm. Section A: Q+A in English. Section B: Q+A in Fr/Gm. Section C: translation into English. Foundation tier Q1: Describe a photo Q2: 40 word task. Q3: Translate into Fr/Gm Q4 - 90 word task. Higher tier Q1: 90 word task. Q2: 150 word task. Q3: Translate into Fr/Gm 1. Role play 2. Photo card General conversation questions	For Listening: Past Listening, Reading and Writing papers from Revision World For Writing: Revise speaking questions and answers from Speaking booklet. Remember to read the questions carefully and adapt your answers if needed. For Speaking: Speaking booklet Practice role plays and key vocabulary Practice photo cards and key vocabulary Practice all speaking questions with a partner AQA GCSE French Past Papers - Revision World AQA GCSE German Past Papers - Revision World
Geography	2 - a third paper completed in class after Christmas	**Paper 1 -** Living with the Physical Environment **Paper 2 -** Challenges in the Human Environment	The challenges of natural hazards; the living world Urban issues and challenges and resource management	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.
Health and Social Care	1	2 hours (40% of final grade)	Key content/topics: Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values Understand the different types of health and social care services and barriers to accessing them Understand the skills, attributes and values required to give care Useful revision resources: N/A – all work to be completed in lesson.	BC Bitesize - Health and social care - Essential Skills Communication (Levels 1 and 2) - BBC Bitesize Tutor2U - Free Health & Social Care resources | tutor2u

History	2	Full Paper 1 and Full Paper 3	Paper 1 - Medicine Through Time and Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany. Topics to revise are: Nazi popularity 1929-1932, Nazi youth opposition, life in Nazi Germany. WW1 treatment and injuries, plague and cholera, impact of the Germ Theory, Medieval and Renaissance causes of disease, as well as care and treatment in the early modern and modern periods.	Exercise books, revision material shared via satchelone, Seneca, source practice from packs.
Maths	3	Non-calculator Calculator Calculator	Key content/topics: Any topic can be tested on any paper: Non-calculator: Surds - Calculations with fractions - Testing calculation skills – with decimals and long multiplication / division -Estimating answers - Product of prime factors - Standard form - Fractional and negative powers (H) - Exact trig values -Solving quadratics by factorising (H) Calculator: -Area of sectors/arc lengths -Pythagoras' Theorem - Trigonometry - Solving quadratic equations using the Quadratic Formula (H) -Sine/Cosine rule (H) -trig graphs (H).	Use the padlets https://padlet.com/kesmaths/gcse-foundation-maths-revision-53ac3p2zdboo and https://padlet.com/kesmaths/gcse-higher-revision-z1k2whh2e9a7 for access to many resources. Start with past papers and your QLA from the end of year 10 assessments to identify what topics you need to work on. Use Sparx, Corbett Maths or Maths Genie to revise these topics and practice some questions. Then try another past paper and repeat.
Media Studies	2	Paper 1 - Television and promoting media Paper 2 - Music and news MUSIC SECTION ONLY FOR TRIALS	Section A – TV: Avengers, Vigil Section B: Lego Movie Promotional Materials – advert, ad break, posters, game. Section A – Music Videos: Teenage Dirtbag vs Sk8er Boi Magazines: Mojo Radio: Radio 1 – Live Lounge	GCSE Media Studies - BBC Bitesize Paper 1. Section A: Television | GCSE OCR Media Studies (specification code: J200) (wordpress.com) Mrs Fisher - YouTube Coombe Media & Film Studies - YouTube Hodder – My Revision Notes revision guide. Class notes
Music	1	Paper with 8 questions; 2 from each area of study	Badinerie section A; Romantic music; Jazz and Blues; Musicals ensuring a knowledge of Key signatures, time signatures and rhythms; film; Toto with a focus on the chorus, in particular the final chorus; Pop music	Set works: Badinerie, Africa - make sure you know which section is which, any important differences between sections, important features, melodies, motifs and chords Features of musical eras How to identify major and minor key signatures Reading treble (G) and bass (F) clef Film music, Pop music (including Jazz/Blues), Musical theatre. Students are advised to use their CGP revision books, class books, knowledge organisers, vocabulary lists, revision summaries and practice questions of their set works as well as the question packs for other music. Students should make sure they know the DR PATT SMITHS elements, what each element means, critical questions for that element and key vocabulary for

				that element. The question packs they have will give them a fuller understanding of the question styles Teoria can be used to practise dictation.
PE	2	Paper 1: 80 Marks. A series of 1-9 mark questions based on physical factors affecting performance Paper 2: 60 Marks. A series of 1-9 mark questions based on Socio-cultural Issues and Psychology.	Applied Anatomy and Physiology: Skeletal, Muscular, Cardio, Respiratory Systems, Components of Fitness, Movement Analysis, Injury, short/long term effects of exercise, aerobic/anaerobic systems and Physical Training. Sport in Society: Health, Fitness, Well-being, Diet, lifestyle choices, sedentary lifestyles and classification of skill.	The revision book offered by the department. Online Pearson 9-1 Past Papers and Mark Schemes for papers 1&2 . Seneca. Youtube - The PE Classroom (best one!), The Everlearner, Planet PE, BBC Bitesize (EDEXCEL). Reading through exercise book.
Performing Arts	1	Component 1: 40% of final grade Exam Activity Set: Ideas Log 1 : Performing to a Brief 1 Hour Skills Log 2 : Performing to a Brief 1 Hour Workshop Performance: Performing to a Brief 2 Hours Evaluation Report: Performing to a Brief 1 Hour	The course is made up of three components: two Person Set Assignments (PSA) and one that is externally assessed. • Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (coursework) - 30% of the total course • Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (coursework) - 30% of the total course Component 3: Responding to a Brief | Externally assessed assignments (exam) - 40% of the total course	Revise BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts Revision Guide Drama Online - Home Frantic Assembly Studio | Frantic Assembly
Religious Studies	1	Three exam papers. Papers One and Two are on the religions (Christianity and Hinduism) 1hour and ¾ and Paper Three is on two ethical sections (52 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 Quizzes, ppts and activities, BBC Bitesize (AQA), https://www.youtube.com/@MrMcMillanREvis

Science	3	Biology (Combined – 70 marks) (Triple – 100 marks) Chemistry (Combined – 70 marks) (Triple – 100 marks) Physics (Combined – 70 marks) (Triple – 100 marks)	Bioenergetics, Biological response (nervous and endocrine system) and Genetics and Reproduction/ **For TRIPLE** Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and the properties of matter, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, The rate and Extent of Chemical Reactions, Chemical Analysis, Alternative methods of extracting metals (HT only), Corrosion and its prevention, The Haber process and the use of NPK fertilisers (chemistry only) **For Combined Science:** Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and the properties of matter, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, The rate of Reactions, Chemical Analysis, Alternative methods of extracting metals (HT only) Energy, Waves, Electricity, Particle Model of Matter, Forces and Working Scientifically (this includes the scientific method, designing investigations, graphs, drawing conclusions, risk assessments, collecting and analysing data)	https://padlet.com/hridgway/king-edward-vi-gcse-biology-yntemj8mlxpl873g Oxford Smart AQA GCSE Sciences on Kerboodle to see textbooks, knowledge organisers, glossaries and other resources. CGP revision guides and workbooks - many families ordered these via school in year 10. Physics and Maths tutor website past paper questions, mark schemes, notes and mindmaps for all science topics. Issac Science website to practice calculations for all sciences. Cognito website and youtube videos for all GCSE science topics.

RESOURCES: HAVE YOU GOT WHAT YOU NEED?

Preparing for your trial exam 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 trial exam timetable). In addition:

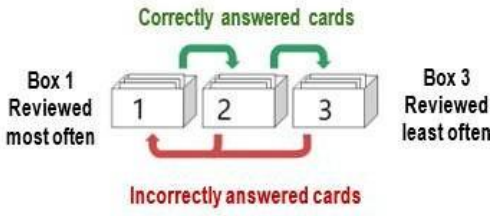
- **You should aim for 25-35 minute bursts of revision activity, with 10 minute breaks inbetween** (going for a walk can be the most effective type of break);
- **Identify and tackle your knowledge gaps** - don't just revise the topic you like or are better at - it is tempting to do so, but you need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

2. Making summary notes

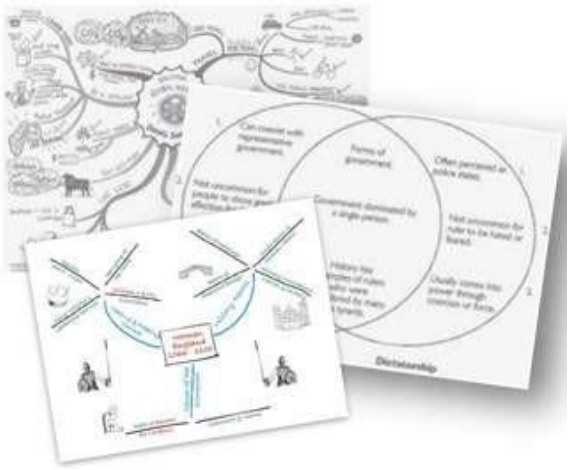
Once you have identified your gaps, try transforming the notes you already have from your revision guide, exercise book, websites/online and other resources. Don't fall into the trap of copying out lots of text - **turn the information into short paragraphs, bullet points, lists or pictures.**



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 at a later date.

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 etc)

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.

ONLINE REVISION RESOURCES
FOR A RANGE OF SUBJECTS

This page has a summary of key revision websites and online resources that students can either access for free or have access to because we have paid for subscriptions. If students need log-in information or access, they should speak to their subject teacher.

BBC Bitesize - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3
Free to use
Subjects - All
Activities - Expert lecturers deliver short, accessible, high-quality videos on all topics - with quizzes and questions.

Seneca Learning - https://senecalearning.com
Free to use - login using your school email and create an account
Subjects - All
Activities - Facts, pictures, quick-fire questions to test your knowledge and understanding.

Planet PE - http://www.youtube.com/@PlanetPEgcsepe
Free to use
Subjects - PE
Activities - Expert lectures, videos, quizzes and exam questions.

Carousel Learning - https://www.carousel-learning.com/
Free to use - login using your school details
Subjects - Science
Activities - Class teachers will set you work and revision activities to complete online

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Padlets - Higher - https://padlet.com/kesmaths/z1k2whh2e9a7
Foundation - https://padlet.com/kesmaths/53ac3p2zdboo
Free to use
Subjects - Maths (Higher and Foundation)
Activities - Videos and tasks for every maths topic.

Technology Student - https://technologystudent.com/
Free to use
Subjects - Design & Technology
Activities - Videos, revision notes, guides on a huge range of DT topics.

Mr Buff - https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff
Free to use
Subjects - English
Activities - Videos, revision materials, tutorials and practice exam questions.

FINALLY, THE DO'S AND DONT'S OF EFFECTIVE REVISION

DO

- Revise for about 30 minutes at a time – take short breaks regularly
- Get lots of sleep
- Eat well and drink plenty of water
- Take time for you and have some fun and relaxing planned activities amongst the revision
- Get some exercise
- Have a plan – work out what you will revise and for how long
- Use effective strategies for revision (flashcards, practice questions, planning, creating useful and summary notes)
- Use your teachers and their resources/support/suggestions to support your revision
- Remove distractions (put your mobile phone away when revising)
- 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)
- Accept that exams and Year 11 is going to 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.

DON'T

- Try and revise for long periods of time without breaks
- Try and revise late into the night
- Try to exist on fast food and sweets
- Resolve to revise all the time and never take time for yourself to have fun
- Abandon hobbies and interests
- Put your head in the sand and not plan out revision (makes things harder!
- Take part in passive revision (re-reading notes, reading text guides...you need to DO something)
- Ignore a really important place of support and resources... your teachers!
- Try to revise with your phone/access to social media/internet/gaming etc.
- Try to revise in a noisy or chaotic location OR turn your bedroom into an office and never clear away the revision
- 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.

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!

