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KS4 SUCCESS - CRITICAL FACTORS

1. Attendance is vital
2. Know your targets and how to achieve them
3. Attend additional study sessions
4. Organise your work – identify and fill any missing gaps before Easter
5. Know the exam requirements and practise using past papers
6. Plan your revision carefully and pace yourself
7. Ask your parents/carers for help to revise

Introduction

Dear Year 11 Student,

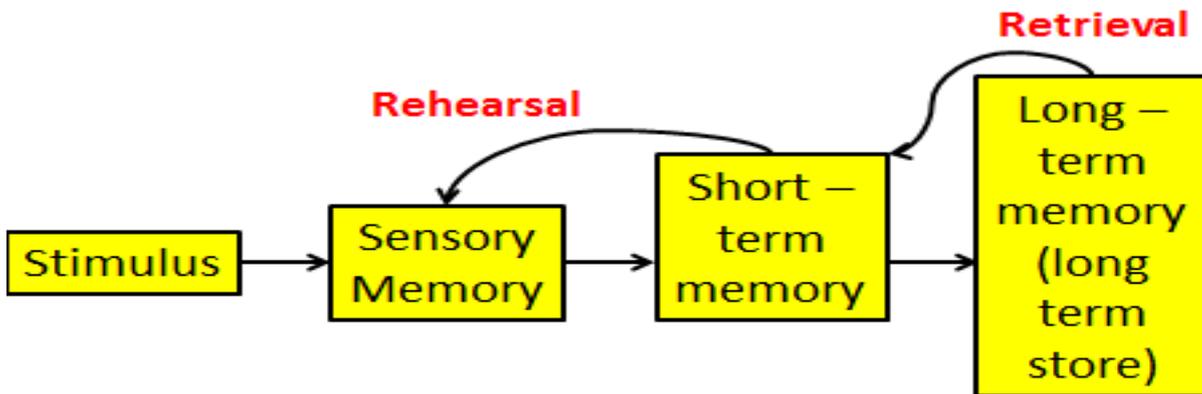
This guide has been produced to provide some assistance with your examinations this year. You have worked hard for 11 years of school and it is now time to ensure that you are rewarded for your investment in your education. We want you to be able to compete with every other school leaver in the country. It is now up to you, working with your teachers, to put a plan into place that will give you maximum success. You will have already gained many revision skills over the years and you should continue to use these if they have been successful in the past. However, be open minded to change and try out new strategies as they may be more effective. This booklet offers a few more tips to help you. They are not to be used in isolation, but should be used alongside all the other information you will receive such as:

- Listen carefully to subject specific information given to you by your subject teachers as the exams approach and when you are in full revision mode in lessons.
- Pay attention to the revision skills you will learn in Learning for Life in term 4.
- Use the exam entry statement issued to you to identify a detailed revision plan. Make sure these crucially important dates are entered onto calendars around the house.

13 tips for revising

1. Make a timetable for revising.
2. Know the individual topics for each subject you need to revise.
3. Use good quality notes and refine them further, if possible, into lists or diagrams and transfer them on to index or postcards.
4. Practise jotting down answers and making plans for longer answers.
5. Practise writing against the clock (within the allocated time) using past exam papers.
6. Check that you have really answered the question and have not strayed off the point.
7. Familiarise yourself with past papers (question types, mark allocation).
8. Keep in touch with other students - it's a good idea to form study groups as you can use these to clarify points you don't understand.
9. Use practice materials on GCSE websites.
10. Have regular breaks and keep well hydrated.
11. Be ACTIVE – don't just read your notes – this is not the most effective revision method or the best use of your time.
12. Revisit topics you have already revised, to keep this knowledge fresh in your mind.
13. Mix up or 'interleave' your revision sessions, to cover a range of subjects.

Why do we revise?



The aim of effective learning is to ensure that new material progresses from short – term memory to long – term memory. Once there, effective revision keeps retrieving previously learned material and bringing back into short – term memory, so that this material can be used to respond to questions.

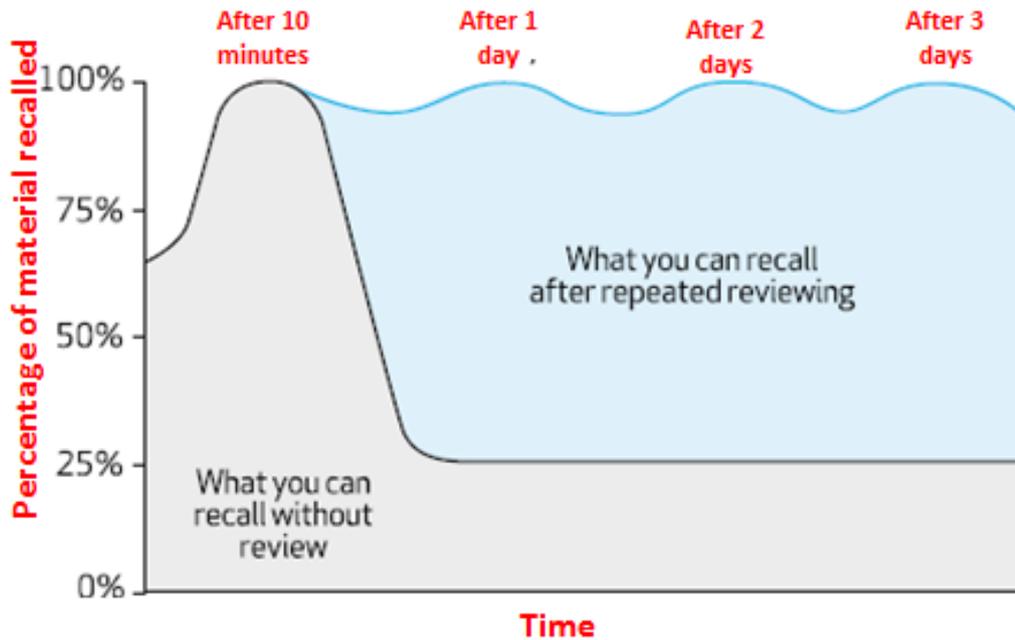
Regular Practice Testing: There is a strong scientific consensus that regular practice testing and short sessions that revisit material have the greatest impact so: make sure you test yourself regularly using the kinds of questions you are going to be asked in the exam. This technique has been shown to have the highest impact in terms of supporting learning. Some ways in which you can do this easily:

- Create flashcards, with questions on one side and answers on the other – and keep testing yourself.
- Work through past exam papers – many can be acquired through exam board websites.
- Simply quiz each other (or yourself) on key bits of information.
- Create ‘fill the gap’ exercises for you and a friend to complete.
- Create multiple choice quizzes for friends to complete.

Distributed Practice: Spread out revision and revisit topics several times.

Rather than cramming all of your revision for each subject into one block, it’s better to space it out – from now, through to the exams. Why is this better? Bizarrely, because it gives you some forgetting time. This means that when you come back to it a few weeks later, you will have to think harder, which actually helps you to remember it. Furthermore, the more frequently you come back to a topic, the better you remember it.

Memory performance over time



Revisiting material you have learned several times in the days before an examination means you will remember far more than if you rely on a single burst of revision the night before the examination.

Elaborate Interrogation: One of the best things that you can do (either to yourself or with a friend) to support your revision is to ask why an idea or concept is true – and then answer that why question. For example;

- In science, increasing the temperature can increase the rate of a chemical reaction....why?
- In geography, the leisure industry in British seaside towns like Barry Island in South Wales has deteriorated in the last 4 decades....why?
- In history, in 1929 the American stock exchange collapsed. This supported Hitler's rise to power....why?

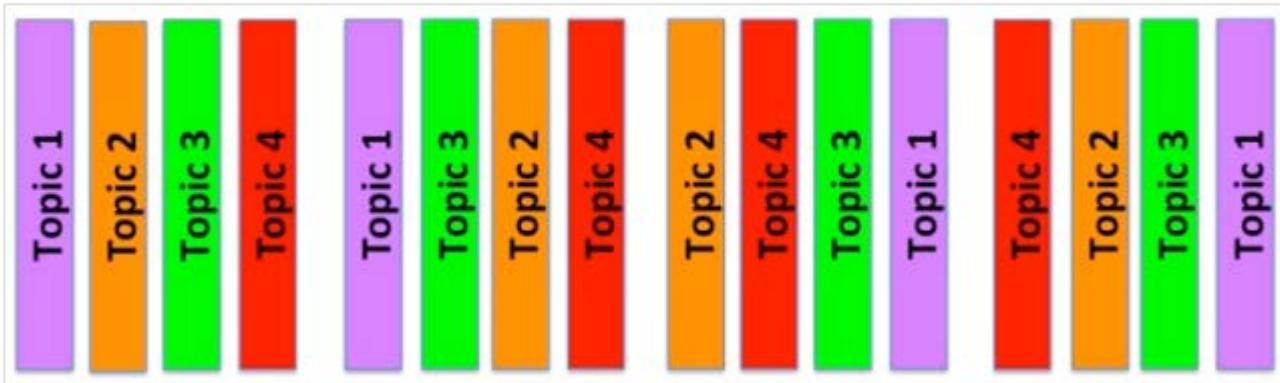
So, rather than just trying to learn facts or ideas by reading them over and over, get into the habit of asking yourself why these things are true.

Self-Explanation: Rather than looking at different topics from a subject in isolation, try to think about how this new information is related to what you know already. This is where mind- maps *might* come in useful – but the process of producing the mind map, is probably more useful than the finished product. So, think about a key central idea (the middle of the mind map) and then how new material, builds on the existing knowledge in the middle. Alongside this, when solving a problem e.g. in maths, should explain to someone the steps they took to solve the problem.

Interleaved Practice: When you are revising a subject, the temptation is to do it in 'blocks' of topics. Like below:



The problem with this is, is that it doesn't support the importance of repetition – which is so important to learning. So rather than revising in 'topic blocks' it's better to chunk these topics up in your revision programme and interleave them:



Does music help you to learn?

- A recent study by Perham and Vizard (2010) shows music did **not** improve learning and the
- The material being revised will be recalled in the silence of the examination room. It therefore makes sense for the material to be learned under the same conditions, so that the conditions of recall replicate the learning conditions.

So minimise distractions when revising. Put the phone away, turn the TV/music/radio off, so that the conditions in which you learn the material are as similar as possible to the conditions in which you will recall the material, in the examination. Turn notifications on electronic devices off so you are not distracted or tempted away from your revision.

Revision Tips for Mathematics

The best way to revise Maths is to do Maths

First - Get Organised

- Use your PLC list to focus on your specific areas for improvement.
- Make sure you know whether you are taking a Higher or Foundation paper.
- Use your self-assessment record sheets to identify weak areas from class or homework. A record of all topics is available – ask your teacher.
- Get all the revision materials together: exercise books, text books, revision guides, web addresses, past papers and equipment (you will need a calculator, black pen, pencil, ruler rubber, protractor, pair of compasses).
- Make a list of the formulas you will be given on the paper and the formulas you need to learn.
- Listen carefully to the common mistakes your teacher tells you about in each topic.

Questions Practice

- **Past papers** are the best source of revision materials. You can do the same paper more than once and use mymaths or books when you can't do a question. Very rarely should you give up!
- Exam type or review questions in your textbook or revision guide are the next best questions.
- Finally try questions from the exercises in your text book that you missed out in lessons or simply did not do before.
- When you have completed any revision, make a note of which topics you got wrong and add these to your 'difficult' list.
- Work on topics using mymaths by doing the lesson then test yourself with the online homework. Have a pen and paper on your desk for working out.
- Show all of your working out clearly when doing questions – then it will be easier to repeat this in the exam.
- Learn the rules and formula that you need to remember. Put them on cards or post-it notes around your room.

Using your calculator

- Practise using **your** calculator that you will use in the exam (not your friend's!)
- Make sure you know what to do if the answer to a calculation comes up as a fraction.
- For trigonometry questions, make sure there is a D in the screen at the top.
- Write down the calculations you put into your calculator so that you get your working out marks.
- Know how to do fractions, standard form and powers on your calculator.

Use these websites:

www.mymaths.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/maths

Revision Tips for English Language

Revision tips and Activities

- Read through your notes in your exercise books. Summarise each page in 5 bullet points or less
- Revise subject terminology. Make prompt cards for each term with a definition and an example for each.
 - Word and sentence types
 - Linguistic Features and Techniques (alliteration/metaphor/personification etc)
 - Structural Features and Techniques (Analepsis / Repetition / Focus shift etc)
- Go through your mock exam papers and attempt your responses again, acting on the feedback that has been given by your teacher.
- Read a newspaper article or short story. Write a summary of what you have read. Focus on what the viewpoint or attitude of the writer is.
- Create mind-maps for each of the questions on each of the papers.
- Practice writing to describe, narrate, persuade and argue. Spend 40 each minutes writing:
 - a short story about a day you felt challenged or scared
 - a description of a photo of a landscape or location
 - an article to argue that teenagers lives are difficult/easy
 - a speech to persuade people to think a certain way
 - a leaflet giving some advice and information on a topic of your choice
- Hand this work in to your teacher and ask for feedback on how to improve.
- Attend Tuesday Lunchtime revision sessions with Mr McGettigan. Bring work you have done at home (practice answers) for your teacher to give you feedback on.
- Visit one of the websites below, watch a video or do a quiz. Summarise what you have learned in bullet points or a mind map.
- Visit the AQA website. Attempt a specimen paper. Bring your work to your teacher for feedback.

Use these websites:

- AQA our (exam board) (www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources) here you will find exam materials to practice on.
- YouTube (www.youtube.com), subscribe to these channels
 - MrBruff
 - MissW
- BBC Bitesize GCSE English Language (www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty)
- Education Quizzes (www.educationquizzes.com/gcse/english)

Revision Tips for English Literature

Revision Tips and Activities

- Read through A Christmas Carol, Romeo and Juliet, Animal Farm and Poetry Anthology again.
- Make notes on plot, characters, and themes.
- Create revision cards for key characters and themes. State which events in the texts develops each character and theme
- Learn context for key texts.
- Plan answers for sample questions.
- Go through your mock exam papers and attempt your responses again, acting on the feedback that has been given by your teacher.
- Attend Tuesday Lunchtime revision sessions with the English Team. Bring work you have done at home (practice answers) for your teacher to give you feedback on.
- Read through your notes and the booklet. Condense them into main points on cue cards.

Use these websites:

- **YouTube, Mr Bruff.** www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff (subscribe to this channel)
- **BBC Bitesize GCSE English Literature**
www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zckw2hv
- **Shmoop eg:** www.shmoop.com/christmas-carol/
- **Sparknotes eg:** www.sparknotes.com/lit/christmascarol/

Revision Tips for Media Studies

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

External Assessment (40%)

Thinking about the Media: Newspapers

Section A: Newspapers (50 minutes)

Four questions: You will have to analyse a printed text. Your knowledge of the key areas of Media will be tested:

Remember, **TA GRANI...!**



Textual Analysis

Genre

Representations

Audience

Narrative

Industry

This section will also assess the way the contemporary media is convergent.

Section B: Planning - Radio News(50 minutes)

A series of tasks: You will have to design, label and explain aspects of radio news. This section tests your **creative skills** along with your knowledge of television advertising. **REMEMBER TO USE YOUR REVISION GUIDE.**

Genre, conventions, audiences, stars, industry, representation, synergy, convergence

In your labels and explanation, you will need to use the **key terms**.

5 TOP TIPS

1. Use **terminology** in every point you make for every answer – it's the key to a 'C' grade.
2. Make the most of the **note making time** – quality notes = quality answers.
3. **Read the questions carefully** – which of the key areas of Media (see above) is it asking you to focus on?
4. Refer to **specific details** from the texts you're analysing.
5. Refer to **intertexts** to show your genre knowledge – what other texts does this remind you of? What is the effect of these intertextual references?

Use these websites:

www.mediaknowall.com – includes definitions of key terms and an advertising section

Advertising Standards Authority www.asa.org.uk the regulator of print and television advertisements in the UK

Revision Tips for Science

- Summarise your work on to post cards. For example, condense three sides of exercise book or one page of your revision guide on to a post card. It's not the end product that counts, but the process: the doing it.
- Create mind maps and posters for specific topics. Use colour and diagrams to help explain difficult concepts. Put them up around your room at home and look at them every day.
- Try creating card sort activities – where you pair up each key word or concept with its definition.
- Test a friend and get him/her to test you. Explain to a friend a chemical concept. For example, what is meant by diffusion?
- Use the CGP Revision app to test yourself; check your revision is working to identify your strengths and weaknesses. Remember to review the questions you get wrong so that you learn from your mistakes.
- Seek help from a teacher and be persistent!
- Attempt as many past paper questions as possible AND CRUCIALLY check and correct all your answers using mark schemes provided.
- Make your answers to structured questions fill the space available; not too little, not too much.
- Attend the weekly Science revision sessions.
- For “calculate” or “show that” questions, read the question carefully, looking for the numbers you are given. Don't forget to add the units to your answer if the question asks you to.
- Read questions very carefully, particularly if there is a diagram. Many students don't read vital information written above and below diagrams.
- Don't answer in brief "Headlines". If there is space, keep on digging deeper and asking why/how etc. Here's an example:

Why are high voltages used to transmit power long distances?

To save money

This is a feeble answer: you need to explain Why?/How?

If you add

The wires get heated up less at high voltages.

this becomes a better answer, but still Why?/How?

If you add

High voltages mean lower current and it is the current that causes the heating effect.

This is a better answer still. Why?/How?

Adding

$V = IR$, thus if "I" can be kept to a minimum, less energy (voltage) is lost as heat to the resistance of the wires, making the power lines more efficient.

This is an impressive answer.

Use these websites:

www.s-cool.co.uk

www.fuseschool.org

www.my-gcse-science.com

www.lovebiology.co.uk (biology specific revision)

www.gradegorilla.com (physics specific revision)

For GCSE exam past papers and mark schemes:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

Search under these specification codes

Triple:

Biology (4401)

Chemistry (4402)

Physics (4403)

Double:

Science A (core) (4405)

Additional Science (4408)

Revision Tips for Computing

Remember the following basics (the paper):

- Read the instructions on the front of the examination paper carefully.
- Read the questions very carefully, paying particular attention to words of instruction such as State or Describe or Explain or Show or List or Compare.
- Carefully note the time available to complete the examination. Aim to divide up your time before you start. The examination is one hour long (60 mins) and contains questions totalling 45 marks, so allow yourself about one minute for each mark. Therefore a 5 mark question should take around 5 minutes.
- You should aim to attempt all questions rather than spending all your time on a few, but also attempt the questions you are confident with first and go back to others later.
- Examination papers tell you how many marks are available for each answer. The number of marks gives you a guide to the importance of the question and often to the amount you ought to write.
- Check before the end of the examination that you have not missed out any pages. Remember to turn over the last page, too.
- Try to leave time to check your work through carefully

Remember the following basics (answering the questions):

Short Answer Questions (1 -3 marks)

Medium Answer Questions (4-5 marks)

Long Answer Questions (6 marks)

- Circle all of the words and phrases that give you a clue about what you should include in your answer
- Write a list of Keywords you will need to include in your answer
- Start with an introduction that tries to explain the terms of the question. This may include a statement of your own views or opinions
- Write in paragraphs which
 - Keep to one main point of the question
 - Contain supporting facts, details, figures, examples, evidence, etc. which demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of the subject area.
 - Are in a logical order and link at the end to the next paragraph
- Reach a conclusion in the final paragraph, related to the original question and tying up the main points.
- Faultless spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Knowing what the question means

Examiners choose their words carefully. For example, if you are asked to **name** a piece of equipment, then you really have to name it!! If you do not name it and instead describe it you will get no marks no matter how correct you are. Get to know what they are looking for:

State Write briefly the main point

Define Give the meaning of

Describe Write in detail

Criticise Use the evidence to support your opinion on the value of merit of ideas, facts or views of others

Differentiate Explain the difference between 2 things

Discuss Write about important aspects of the topic, are there two sides to the question? Consider the arguments for and against

Evaluate Judge the importance of success/failure

Explain Make clear

Illustrate Give examples which make the point clear

Interpret Explain the meaning in your own words, for example you may have to interpret a graph

Justify Give reasons to support and argument of action

Outline Choose the most important aspects of a topic. Ignore the minor details

Relate Show the connection between things

Summarise Bring together the main points

Compare/Contrast/Distinguish This will require you to consider a few options and explain how they are alike and different , which do you think is best and why?

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE exam is worth 40%

Course Textbook

OCR Computing for GCSE Students Book Paperback – 31 Aug 2012 by:
Sean O'Byrne (Author), George Rouse (Author)

Use these websites:

<https://www.gcsecomputing.org.uk/index.html>

<http://www.cs4fn.org/>

<http://www.dineshbakshi.com/igcse-gcse-ict.html>

<http://www.mztek.org/>

<http://www.sketchpatch.net/index.html>

<http://www.codecademy.com/groups/programming-after-school>

<http://csnotjustforgeeks.com/>

<http://www.computingatschool.org.uk/index.php?id=newsletter-spring-2013>

Revision Tips for Business Studies

As the exam approaches, we will be putting more guidance and revision material on the School website so regularly visit the following page. This also contains past papers for students to work through to practice the key skills listed under 'Getting The Grade'. Parents can help by reading homework and checking these skills are used.

<https://www.wellswayschool.com/subjects/ict-and-enterprise/key-stage-4-business-and-enterpr/gcse-business-studies/>

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE has 3 components Coursework (worth 25%) and 2 exams, each 1 hour long. Unit 1 (Setting up a Business) is worth 40% and Unit 2 (Growing as a Business) is worth 35%:

Course Textbook.

The textbook for this course is GCSE Business Studies AQA Revision Guide- **ISBN-10: 1847623174**. This can often be purchased second hand from Ebay for around £6-9 **Students have also been invited to purchase a revision guide. If they haven't yet done so, please pay the fee on the online payment system, provide proof of purchase and students can collect a set of guides from their teacher. These cost approximately £8.**

Tips for parents to support students

Please take every opportunity to discuss your work, the jobs available within your industry and what it's like working in a modern organisation. Encourage your son/daughter to discuss the same with your wider family and friends. Listening to the news and watching episodes of the Dragons' Den and Apprentice and actively discussing the decisions made helps embed the importance of Business concepts.

Getting the Grade in Business Studies

The starting point is always knowledge/content. Go through your exercise book and the revision guide to make sure you are confident you understand the different

- Knowledge/content will underpin every answer that you give; not just the knowledge questions that ask you to state or describe. You must learn the key term definitions and the advantages/disadvantages in order to access questions.
- You need to answer in context for all questions – this means referring to the PARTICULAR situation described in the case study eg is it a new business, does it have a lot of competition, does the entrepreneur have experience in the industry – or of running a business?

- An 'explain' question is asking you to demonstrate your knowledge/content and your application skills. So you MUST support your answer by using information/data given to you in the case study: again, put your answer in context. A good way to check this is by reading your answer and asking yourself if you could have written this without reading the case study. If your answer could relate to any business, then you have not 'applied to the context'.
- For the 9 mark questions not only do you have to demonstrate your knowledge and answer in context, but you have to analyse and evaluate.
- Analysis means explaining the arguments clearly. "If he puts up his prices this will cause fewer people to buy which will mean less money is taken, reducing his revenue." Try to show a 'chain of thinking' - this will cause this, which will cause this, etc.
- Evaluation questions (9 mark each). You usually have to choose between two options. You need three paragraphs about the same length. E.g. for a question about Jim relocating his garage:-
 - Your first paragraph should be a line of argument (analysis) supporting the relocation of the garage; using the case study in your argument (application).
 - Your second paragraph should be a line of argument (analysis) against the relocation of the garage; using the case study in your argument (application).
 - Your third paragraph should be your conclusion; advise Jim if this is a good idea or not, explain in detail what he should do (evaluation). It doesn't matter which you go for as long as you support your views. This means coming up with extra points that you haven't already used in your analysis.

Use these websites:

In addition there are several good websites for GCSE Business Studies

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpsvr82> Theory notes and Video clips on case studies

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32339576> Examples of business decisions in recent times

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006vq92> Gives examples of Business case studies that have been through the Dragon's Den. This is great for building awareness of the sort of problems faced in Business

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/smallbusiness> up to date and easy to read stories of business success and failure.

Revision Tips for Languages

- Writing and Speaking are finished by Easter – your exams concentrate on Listening and Reading (40% of final grade). This means you need to recognise and understand words and phrases
- Be clear about which level you will be sitting (Foundation or Higher)
- Revise vocabulary regularly from vocab books and textbooks – you will be tested on this by your teacher
- Do lots of past papers, so you are familiar with the format
- Listen to guidance about any language specific “traps” in the papers
- Look at the types of question and know how to answer them
- If you’ve bought the Edexcel revision workbook, make sure you use it – the questions are graded so challenge yourself
- Make a list of topics you need to revise and make sure you know the basic words in each section. Look at the end of each chapter in your books
- Start now – do little at a time - BUT often!

How to learn new words and short phrases

- For the Listening and Reading papers you will need to hear/see the French/German and know what it is in English
- Regular but short – you will learn more if you revise for a few minutes each day – about 10 minutes per day on vocabulary
- Set yourself a target for each session – maybe 10 words – but make sure you achieve it
- Write out word lists or mind maps, use post it notes
- Ask friends/family to test you
- Keep a record of what you have done – ask someone to challenge you on it
- Variety – try different ways – lists, topic cards, labelling objects in the house, testing friends, iPods, reading texts
- Do not forget to learn verbs – you will meet one in every sentence, and you need to recognise how they change i.e. what they look like in different tenses



Use these websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize

www.s-cool.co.uk

www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum/modlang

www.gcse.com

www.vokabel.com

www.mflgames.co.uk

www.revisiontime.com

www.sunderlandschools.org/mfl

www.yjc.org.uk

www.edexcel.com

www.quizlet.com

www.memrise.com

Revision Tips for PE

Theory

- Ensure that you revise from all of the resources you have: lesson notes, hand outs, pieces of homework, text book and 'mypeexam'; this will ensure you are well prepared and are aware of the different ways information/questions can be presented.
- Remember the exam has three sections – multiple choice, short answer questions and the scenario. Each section requires you to show your knowledge and understanding in a different way.
- Revision for the multiple choice section requires knowledge of subject specific terminology.
- Revision for short answer questions requires additional explanation of knowledge and the application of what you know to show understanding – remember 2 mark questions require an answer and an explanation, more marks require more answers and further explanation and examples.
- The Scenario – when this is provided it is extremely important to write in continuous prose, no bullet points, you need to practice this skill in relation to the scenario, plan how you can use the information provided to show greater understanding of the subject.
- The Scenario will be available from February and therefore preparation can begin on this section. Your subject teachers will begin this preparation process, but it is vital that you continue to prepare in your own time along with preparation for the other sections of the examination paper.
- Ensure you use all the past papers that were e-mailed to you by your subject teacher; these will give you the best insight into what the exam will be like. Use past papers with the mark schemes for extra support. Please see www.aqa.org to access these.

Practical – Controlled Conditions Assessment

- Ensure you know what activities you are having assessed and in what way i.e. player/performer, coach, official, choreographer.
- Make sure you have been assessed in all the sports/activities you want to, this is particularly important for off-site activities.
- The course requires a Key Process C piece of work (analysis of performance) completed for one of your assessment activities. Utilise all the support available and use the practice material before the assessment takes place.
- Ensure all risk assessments and session plans are completed for activities you are coaching/leading/choreographing/officiating.

General

- Attendance at the GCSE revision club on Monday lunchtimes.
- Attendance at the GCSE revision club on Tuesday mornings 8am-8:30am.
- Attendance at the GCSE practical session on Thursday lunchtimes.
- Attend any extra-curricular clubs that will support your practical grades.
- Bring correct PE kit to every practical lesson.

Use these websites:

www.mypeexam.org

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/pe

www.s-cool.co.uk

www.brianmac.co.uk

www.teachpe.co.uk

www.aqa.org.uk

Revision tips for Geography

The Exams

You have been studying the **AQA A GCSE Geography Syllabus** and will be sitting **2 exams**:

1. Physical Geography Paper 1

Written paper **1 hour 30 mins** 75 marks (25 marks for each question)

You answer **3** questions.

Q1, 5 and 7: Restless Earth, Water on the Land and the Coastal Zone

2. Human Geography Paper 2

Written paper **1 hour 30 mins** 84 marks – an additional 9 to the physical paper to account for the new SPG mark (28 marks for each question)

You answer **3** questions.

Q1, 3 and 6: Population Change and Changing Rural environments and Tourism

You should know whether you will be taking the Foundation Paper grades C-G or Higher Paper Grades A* - D. If you do not then please check with your teacher.

General advice

- We have studied 6 units (3 Physical and 3 Human). Book mark the relevant pages in the revision guides you have bought. You need to do this because most revision guides cover more units than you have studied! The **CGP guide** is the best.
- Use your PLCs (personal learning checklists) to focus your revision on the areas you are weakest in first.
- Ensure that you have downloaded all of the electronic resources (PowerPoints, sound bytes, glossary of key terms and command words etc. from the Student Drive).
- You will be completing a revision booklet in class over the coming weeks. Once completed this can be used to aid your revision.
- **Case studies** are vital to ensure the best marks possible. Make sure you learn key points (facts) of case studies e.g. how Blackpool developed a seaside resort – remember, some case studies in your revision guide will be different to the ones we studied in class (you can use whichever you feel more comfortable with). There are powerpoint slides with all the case study notes you need in the student drive. **You must use these in 6 / 8 mark questions.**
- Get some **past papers** from your teacher/the AQA website (there are also some on the Student drive described above). Practice answering the

questions especially the ones worth 8 marks or more. Remember these are level marked so it is the quality of your work and the detail that will count!

- Make a note of the revision session dates (given to you class). Attend as many of these as you can.

Use these websites:

Visit the BBC GCSE Bite Size website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zkw76sg> and click on the 'revise' and 'test' sections. This is a great way to sum up the learning you have done at home and in class and will give you some indication of where you are with each unit – ensure that you are using the **new site** using the link above

Another excellent website is the student room:

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/content.php?r=2992-GCSE-geography>. Here you can connect with other students, post questions to other users as well as find useful revision tools and advice.

Revision Tips for History

The Exams:

You have been studying the OCR Schools History Project syllabus.

Paper 1 :

Written Paper: 2 hours, 45% of you GCSE.

The exam includes the Development Study: Medicine Through Time and the Depth Study: Germany 1919-45.

Paper 2:

Written paper: 1 hour 30 mins, 30% of your GCSE.

This is the source paper and based on Public Health 1800-1945.

General advice:

- Make sure you know the content for each topic and paper you need to revise for.
- Make sure you have purchased the OCR Revision Guide: 'My Revision Notes OCR (A) GCSE Schools History Project 2nd Edition'.
- Make sure you have accessed the past papers and have practiced answering questions. The more practice the better so make sure you are completing practice papers for paper 1 and paper 2.
- Remember there are revision sessions and revision resources on the student shared area. Make sure you are accessing all these tools to help you.
- Ensure you understand the mark scheme for each paper and the demands of individual questions- this is crucial in aiding your progress.

Remember the ideas of **P.I.E.**²

Point of Information **Identify a reason** **Explain the reason**
Explain a **Second**, different reason.

Use these websites:

Visit the BBC GCSE Bite Size website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/shp/> click on the 'revise' and 'test' sections. This is a great way to sum up the learning you have done at home and in class and will give you some indication of where you are with each unit.

Another excellent website is the student room:

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/content.php?r=3008-GCSE-history#navgcse>.

Here you can connect with other students, post questions to other users as well as find useful revision tools and advice.

Revision Tips for Art

Your Exam Paper

The exam paper is issued in January, it is your exam paper to keep and you can make notes on it about the questions. You need to select one question/ option that you find most interesting to create your exam unit of work.

The Assessment Objectives are on your exam paper, in brief they are:

AO: 1 – Develop ideas through artist and context research

AO: 2 – Refine ideas by experimenting with art media and techniques

AO: 3 – Record ideas through drawings, photographs and annotations

AO: 4 – Present a personal response. Your final piece

Presenting your work on sheets is a good idea for the exam unit, one or two sheets per Assessment Objective will suffice, but you may choose to work in a sketchbook if preferred.

AO: 1 – Develop ideas through artist and context research

Your teacher can support with artist suggestions but even better to be an independent learner and research some of your own original artists as well as starting with those suggested in the exam paper. Remember to record all the websites you visit, use printouts to draw and paint from, copying your artist's work and practising with their ideas and techniques. Create a visually exciting mind map of all your initial ideas from your selected question.

AO: 2 - Refining ideas and experimenting with art media

Once you have researched your artists you can start to develop your ideas, use mixed media and experiment with different techniques and processes. Annotate your work with brief notes to evaluate your experiments and plan next steps. Show how you are refining your skills by practicing in your chosen art medias.

AO: 3 – Recording ideas through drawings, photographs and annotations

Make sure you focus on producing lots of skilful drawings throughout your art media experiments and when developing your ideas. Draw from your own photographs where possible, using the styles and techniques of the artists you've researched. work with brief reflective notes that describe what you have learnt and what you plan to do next. Annotate your work with brief reflective notes that describe what you have learnt and what you plan to do next.

AO: 4 – Present a personal response. Your final outcome

This is what you will make on your two exam days. Your final piece produced in the exam only accounts for 10% of your final mark. The rest of your exam unit grade (30%) is awarded from the quality of your preparation sheets, so they are very important. Your actual exam final outcome does not count for a large proportion of your final grade, so it is relatively low stakes. However, working conscientiously throughout the exam period and independently at home is very important to be successful in this unit of work.

The final piece you will create in the exam will be influenced by your artist research and art media experiments; it should ideally come from primary source material (i.e. drawn/sculpted etc. from your own photographs or something in front of you). It should demonstrate how you have developed and refined your skills in your chosen art media from your preparatory work.

You can bring all your preparation material into the exam to work from, but by the end of the second exam, you will need to submit all work to your teacher.

Use these websites:

Provide evidence to meet the Assessment Objectives

There are many websites that can help you gather ideas and show you exemplar work. Try using the art gallery websites e.g. <http://www.tate.org.uk/> <http://www.npg.org.uk/> <https://www.guggenheim.org/> and www.art2day.co.uk, for searching for artists. Use www.studentartguide.com, for examples of student exam units that achieved top marks, or exam resources on www.pinterest.com (type in AQA Art exam 2017 for lots of exam paper question ideas and artist suggestions).

Revision tips for Drama

Preparation for Unit Three

Script Work

- **LEARN YOUR LINES-** the sooner you are 'off script', the sooner you will be able to explore the character, the space and the relationships
- **REHEARSAL UNITS-** divide your script up into units of action. A unit changes when there is an emotional change in the character or a new character enters/exits. This will make rehearsal and line learning easier

Devised work

- **STRUCTURE** – make sure your piece tells the story to achieve the maximum impact on the audience. Does the **SCENE ORDER** work? What changes could you make to increase the emotional impact?
- **EXPLORATIVE STRATEGIES-** avoid the obvious way of telling a story. **NARRATION, STILL IMAGE, MOVEMENT, CROSS CUTTING** are imaginative ways of presenting material to challenge your audience
- **BE CLEAR** – is the story and theme clear? Get friends to watch rehearsals to make sure they 'get it'

General advice

- **COMMITMENT-** write a **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE** and stick to it. Attend all rehearsals that you have committed to. **DO NOT LET OTHERS OR YOURSELF DOWN**
- **USE YOUR TEACHER-** let your teacher know when you are rehearsing and book times outside of lessons for them to help you shape the work
- **KNOW YOUR CHARACTER-** know how your character thinks and feels about other characters in the piece. Know the 'emotional journey' of your character across the whole play and how and why these emotions change
- **COMMUNICATION OF YOUR CHARACTER-**how will you communicate your character to your audience. Make conscious decisions about **AGE, VOICE, MOVEMENT, GESTURE, STATUS** and **USE OF STAGE SPACE**.
- **TRANSITIONS-** make sure the movement between scenes is smooth and does not break the mood of your piece. Use of **MUSIC** can really add to the impact
- **CRITERIA** - know the marking criteria and base all your decisions around this. Criteria available on Student Resources(M:)/Drama/GCSE/GCSE Unit Three Assessment Criteria

Revision Tips for Religious Studies

- Your exams are in May Start revising now to ensure that you have time to revise all the topics. Do a little often.
- Make your revision practical and active e.g. design PowerPoint slides, draw simple pictures next to key words / points, make it colourful. These will help you to remember what you have learned.
- Use the revision PowerPoints found on the school website along with your revision guide. Tick the boxes in the revision guide when you have revised that aspect of the topic.
- Attend revision sessions in school. You will get specific help with exam technique and course content.
- Look at exemplar papers; remember each question is testing a different skill.
- Practice answering these questions. Remember to time yourself so you can manage the timings effectively in the exam.
- Revise quotes from sources of authority (e.g. bible, church statements); these will help develop your answer and enable you to attain a higher grade. A supporting document can be found on the schools website for Religious Studies revision.
- You will have a choice of questions; select carefully (e.g. decide which c) and d) question you could answer the best – these are worth the most marks).

Specific Tips On The Exam Paper Questions

(See the revision guide for a list of helpful websites)

(a) Questions

- Revise all the key words in bold on the revision sheet for each section. The examiners will only choose from these words. Easy to get full marks!!

(b) Questions

- You must write about your own viewpoint on the issue. Don't write facts about the issue. State what you think, then give **two** reasons why you hold this view. You will lose half the marks if you only give one reason. You will get no marks if you do not give any reasons.
- Read the question carefully; make sure you know what it is asking you. Make sure your answer relates to this question and not the one you wished they had asked!

(c) Questions

- This question is asking you to explain either one or two issues – often they relate to Christian and / or Islamic beliefs or views about this issue.
- You should include four points and develop them for maximum marks.
- You can develop a point by giving a reason for this belief, where the belief comes from, which group of Christians might take this view rather than another view. You can compare with a non – religious belief.
- You will also be marked on the quality of written English here.

(d) Questions

- You must state your own view with two developed reasons.
- You must then give two developed reasons why some people may disagree with you.
- You must refer to Christianity or Islam in your answer.

Revision tips for Food and Nutrition

- Use the text book and the list at the bottom of this page to help you write a list of topics that you need to do most revision on.
- Go through the 'Glossary of terms' sheet and make sure you understand each of them.
- Go through all your past papers and use them to test yourself. Practise writing the long 12 mark essay questions in 15-20 mins.
- Use the text book revision questions.
- In school you can use the ORCA revision programme on the school network. It has a revise and test section and can be accessed through subjects, Food, ORCA Education.

You will be tested on your knowledge of the following.

Nutrition and health throughout life – function and role of macro and micro nutrients, the relationship between diet and health and energy and food. The digestion of food.

Nutritional, physical, chemical and sensory properties of foods in storage, preparation and cooking – loss of vitamins during preparation and cooking, food additives, acids and alkalis. Effect of heat on macro nutrients.

Techniques and skills in food storage, preparation and cooking –correct storage of foods, safe use of energy saving equipment, methods of heat transfer, sensory analysis of foods, different cooking methods. Modification of recipes to reduce fat, sugar and salt and increase fibre. Convenience foods. meat, fish, eggs, milk, cheese, fruit and vegetables and cereals.

Factors affecting consumer choice – different types of shops and their advantages and disadvantages. Choosing energy saving equipment, energy saving issues eg packaging and food miles. Advertising and regulations. Rights of the consumer when purchasing food and equipment. Relevant legislation.

Food hygiene and safety – spoilage and poisoning organisms. Growth conditions and control of bacteria. Cross-contamination and its control, 'use by dates'. Scientific principles of preservation. Food packaging.

Use these websites and books:

AQA Home Economics Food and Nutrition by Margaret Hague

Home Economics Revision app available for £1.99 from Ridgwell Press.

www.nutrition.org.uk *Explore the whole site but particularly the Nutrition / life stages section*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/foodtech/>

www.foodstandards.gov.uk

<http://www.bmesonline.org.uk/resources/downloads/activitysheets>

Exam technique

Read the question carefully: do you need to list, describe, explain, compare, evaluate? Pay attention in the long answer questions to how the marks are allocated. Do not repeat yourself. Include 8 tips for eating well, 5 fruit and veg a day and the eatwell plate in any answers looking at diet/lifestyle.

Do not use terms such as 'healthy' or 'nutritious' without explanation. Name specific vitamins and nutrients.

Revision Tips for D&T Product Design

Unit 1: Written Paper (45551)

40% of total marks

2 hours

120 marks

The exam consists of a **pre-release element**, you will be told to research a topic prior to the exam. The first question on the exam, worth 30 marks, will be based on this topic and always includes a design element – so remember to pack drawing equipment. In previous years topics have been ‘Memphis’ ‘Fragrance Packaging’ etc... We will research these elements in depth and prepare you so you can achieve the highest possible marks within this first section.

Revision Tips

- Research the theme given to you in the **pre-release material** thoroughly.
- Make sure you have thorough knowledge of **paper/card** and at least **one other material**.
- Analyse your **mock paper** – which sections did you find most difficult? Work on these. Attend extra revision session (see your teacher for specific dates).
- Practise with **past papers**.
- When asked select a material / process in a design-based question, choose one that you are **experienced** with and **confident** about.
- Use your **revision guide** as the main source for revision.
- Use the **workbook** to practise answering questions in the revision guide.
- **Other useful sources:** M:\Technology\KS4\PRODUCT DESIGN GCSE\RESOURCES;
www.TechnologyStudent.com

Other Common topic areas to revise

- CAD/CAM and computers in manufacturing.
- Production methods e.g. Batch production and how you could apply this method to a product.
- Anthropometrics and Ergonomics.
- Quality control and Quality assurance.
- Social, Moral and Ethics within design.
- Materials and properties – Woods, Plastics, Metals and New/Smart materials

- Manufacturing processes – Vacuum forming, Injection moulding, laser cutter, CNC machining and a variety of hand tool processes.

Revision guides and workbooks are available for purchase from the technology department, the cost is £5.00. or you can happily purchase these guides yourselves, detailed below is the relevant information.

AQA Design and Technology Product Design – Nelson Thornes – ISBN 978-1-4085-0276-1

CGP GCSE D&T Product Design AQA Specification, Revision Guide – ISBN 978-1-84762-354-6

CGP GCSE D&T Product Design AQA Specification, Exam Practice Workbook – ISBN 978-1-84762-390-4

Good luck to you all.

Remember to ask if you are not sure or
require help.