



Revision advice for  
Year 7 to Year 11

# REVISION HINTS & TIPS



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# Introduction

We hope you find this booklet helpful and useful.

Good GCSE results are the gateway to level 3 qualifications including Vocational Qualifications, A Levels, Diplomas and Apprenticeships. For those of you who are intending to continue their education beyond Post 16 to university then the GCSE results will form a very important part of the application process.

For example a number of medical courses ask for 5 or sometimes more A\*,8/9 grades. Most Universities ask for at least a grade 5 in English and Mathematics and ask for a grade C or above in a Modern Foreign Language.

For many courses some universities will expect at least a grade 5 in both Maths and English.





## Command Words used in Examinations

Keyword	What you must do	Hints and Tips
<b>Calculate</b>	Use numbers given in the question to work out the answer.	Include units in your answer. Show your working.
<b>Compare</b>	Describe the similarities and/or differences	Use comparative such as 'however', 'whereas' 'but' and 'on the other hand'.
<b>Complete</b>	Answers should be written in the space provided, eg on a diagram, in spaces in a sentence or in a table.	Sometimes the words need to be picked from a list. It will say if they can be used more than once.
<b>Describe</b>	State facts, events, a trend in results or a process.	Make sure you use the correct scientific keywords.
<b>Evaluate</b>	Describe the advantages and disadvantages. A more detailed version of compare.	Use comparative words such as 'better', 'more than', 'less than', 'quicker', 'more expensive', 'on the other hand.'
<b>Explain</b>	State the reasons why something happens scientifically.	Suitable linking words could be 'so', 'therefore', 'because', 'due to', 'since', 'this means' or 'meaning that'.
<b>State, give, name, write down</b>	Only a short answer is required, not a detailed explanation. Often only one or two words are required.	If the question asks you to state, give, or write down <b>one</b> example, you should write down <b>only</b> the specified number of answers or you may lose marks.
<b>Suggest</b>	You need to apply your knowledge and understanding to a new situation.	Useful words to use are 'may', 'might', 'could', and 'I think that'.
<b>Use the information in the passage /diagram /graph/table to...</b>	The answer <b>must</b> be based on the information given in the question.	Unless you are specifically asked to, use only the information in the question.



**NO IPODS, IWATCHES,  
MOBILE PHONES,  
MP3/4 PLAYERS**

**NO POTENTIAL  
TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB ENABLED  
SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

**Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile  
phone, is a serious offence and could result in**

**DISQUALIFICATION**

**from your examination and your overall  
qualification.**

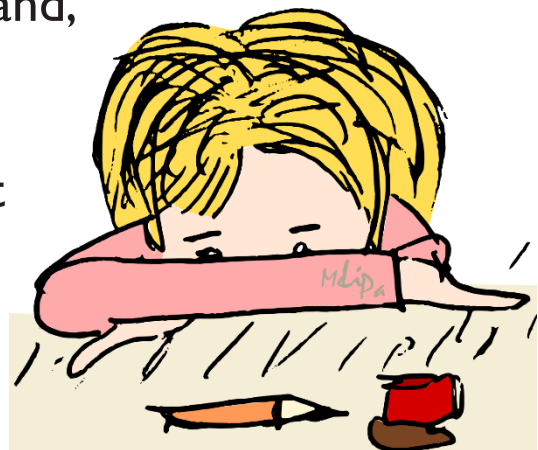
**This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.**

## Attendance

- Every lesson counts and your attendance is vital.
- Go to all lessons and make them work for you.
- It is what you are getting out of it that matters.
- This is YOUR result, so make it count.
- You will get out of it what you put in.

## Are feeling stressed?

A little bit of stress can be a good thing as it motivates us to knuckle down and work hard. But exams can make stress levels get out of hand, which can stop us from performing at our best. So it's important to address it and get it back under control.



## Important Tips!

Know when exams/tests are.  
Know what will be expected of you - topics, time, number of questions.  
Have the correct equipment.



Be on time.

Know your seat number and exam/test room.



Follow ALL exam rules as exams are a national test.

Food and water - fuelled and hydrated.

Revise for tests to help you perform well.







A break or a chat will help to put things into perspective.

Give yourself a reward after a revision session- favourite TV programme, magazine, going out with friends, favourite food.



### “Begin with the end in mind!”

- Visualise where you want to be in the future.
- Visualise yourself opening your result on result day.
- Have a goal / career aspiration to keep you motivated.
- But remember..... effective revision helps you reduce exam stress as you feel prepared to perform and do well.



## Revision Techniques

This list is not an exhaustive list of revision techniques, but includes some key techniques which might just work for you.



## **A** Spider Diagrams/Mind Maps

This is a very effective way of representing large amounts of information in an attractive, easily-remembered way. You may have used “spider diagrams” - which are very similar.



Your finished Mindmap could contain diagrams, names (and caricatures!) of important people, dates, places, etc. If it gets too crowded, you could do a separate Mindmap for that particular section.

To make Mindmaps more memorable:

- 1) Use doodles, pictures and diagrams
- 2) Use different colours
- 3) Use different styles of writing
- 4) Use humour (cartoons) etc.

5) Design your own (don't just copy other people's)

## **B Chunking**

Chunking is breaking up a big piece of information into smaller chunks rather like steps in a ladder. It can be used for numbers and words. Often people use bullet points to break up information.

Try to remember this by breaking it up into chunks:

Chunked:

- Remember 4 words/numbers at a time
- Revision max 45 mins.
- Remember best before bedtime.

## **C Mnemonics**

Mnemonics act as memory aids by helping you to remember by using short words that stand for something to help you, and they allow personalisation and creativity. Here are some examples:

1) The colours of the rainbow - RoyGBiv ('Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain' to remember red, orange,

**ROYGBIV** yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet).

2) The four compass points - Naughty Elephants Squirt Water (North South East West).



## **D** Re-writing notes in bullet form/images

You may want to start this technique by highlighting the key points of your work.

- You can then re-write these key points in to bullet points.
- You can also produce small diagram/images that may help you remember the key points.
- The average person can take in four numbers or words at a time, can concentrate on revision for a maximum of **45** minutes at a time and remembers information best shortly before bedtime.

## **E** Flash Cards

Flash cards are a good way to review work covered. Making the flash cards will help you to learn the work and then you have an excellent resource to test yourself from, over and over again, until you know the answers.



## **F** Revision Journeys

### **What is a revision journey?**

This is a diagram that links a physical journey you take regularly (e.g. from home to school) and key words, facts or processes from a particular subject.

What can you do with it?

You can use these as a visual display in a place you see regularly. This could be your bedroom, bathroom or back of the toilet door! Revision notes can be easily made into a revision journey providing you pick out the relevant key terms.



## **G** Useful Websites

Here is a list of some useful websites

S-Cool

CPD Revision Guides

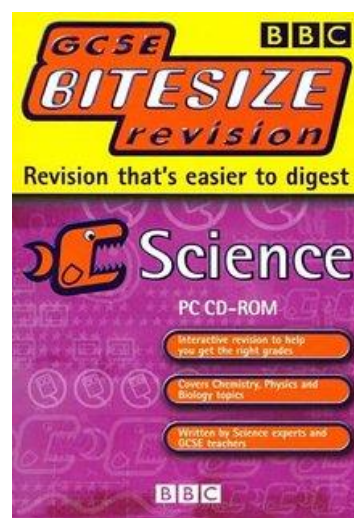
Revision World

Get Revising

BBC Bitesize

My Maths

Maths Watch



## **And Finally.....**

### **Points to remember**

- You can't revise it if you haven't learnt it.
- Revision is re-looking at information you have learnt previously.
- The idea is that you know the information that will be tested and can remember it for the exam.
- Knowing depends on understanding.
- Regardless of what's happened in the past you can always change your future.
- Your attitude is important.
- You only fail if you give up.
- If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

**Believe in yourself, be positive.  
If you think you can succeed you will.**





# Home revision timetable

	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sun</b>
8.30am							
9.30am							
10.30am							
11.30am							
12.30pm							
1.30pm							
2.30pm							
3.30pm							
4.30pm							
5.30pm							
6.30pm							
7.30pm							
8.30pm							

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4.30pm							
5.30pm							
6.30pm							
7.30pm							
8.30pm							

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Students first:

Raising standards and transforming lives

