

RCS

Study Skills

Guide

For Parents & Students



Dear Parents / Guardians

The purpose of this revision booklet is to give you and your child a variety of ideas and practical ways to revise on a daily basis.

Your child can and should get into the habit of revising regularly from the start of Y11 and you will be surprised at the number of ways you can help them. This booklet should give you some ideas to put into practice.

Good Luck!

Team RCS

Preparing to Revise

Before you start revising you must know the basics:

- How many exams do you have?
- When are your exams?
- How long does each exam last?
- What units are in each paper?

Your teachers will be handing this information out to you in lessons before your summer exams

Make sure you have the following for each of your subjects:

- The syllabus/specification
- A revision guide, text book or class book
- Past papers

The following will be useful to have at home:

- Folders
- Plastic wallets
- Highlighters
- Coloured Pens
- Card and Paper

Construct a Revision Schedule

You will find a blank schedule in this revision guide. This can be used to structure your revision.

- Be disciplined, self-discipline is crucial for you to be successful in life, not only in exams
- Put away your phone. We cannot emphasise enough how putting your phone in a different room is essential whilst you are revising
- Get in a routine, use the same times each evening and weekends to revise. If you are in a routine, you are more likely to stick to it
- Timing, work around your commitments, don't give up on your hobbies they are important to continue with. Most research says work for about 30 - 45 minutes and then have a 5-10 minute break
- Start early, do not leave everything to the last minute. It takes time to commit things to memory
- Spread out your revision, is it more effective to do small chunks and keep revisiting a subject then to spend a whole day on the same subject
- Give yourself time to relax

Your study environment should be:

- Calm and quiet
- Well lit, natural light is best or the main light on during evenings
- Somewhere with all your equipment at hand
- Equipped with water and snacks
- Don't forget there are places in school until 5:30 if you are struggling to concentrate at home

Revision Techniques

There are lots of different ideas that you could try, they won't all work for you, you need to find the ones that suit you the best.

Create a video

Creating a video of a topic you are finding difficult to remember is a great revision technique. Support your research by ensuring accurate information is used from your exercise books and the internet.

Free video apps include:

- Loopster
- Shadow Puppet
- PowerPoint
- 30 Hands

Post-Its

Write information on post-it notes and place them on the wall, door or large sheets of paper. You can then re-arrange them according to a variety of ideas:

- Categorise items into similar groups
- Organise them into what you know and don't know, re-arrange as you learn more to show your progress
- Follow trends or themes

Put any revision notes/post-its around the house especially in your favourite places like on the fridge, the backs of doors or mirrors. When you pass them, stop and consider what's on the note and expand and explain it to yourself in more detail.

Straight Away

As you read through your work, start to make notes straight away – don't wait for it to become clear. Get your thoughts and ideas down quickly as you read and just record the small details. At the end you may look back over what you have done to look for patterns or bigger pictures.

Flashcards

These can be made for all sorts of topics and can be quite small. The idea here is to put key words and ideas on the cards. Finally, shuffle the cards and then turn them over, one at a time, explaining each key word or idea out loud, to someone else if possible.



Helpful Tip...

Allow your child to teach you:

- How to do a key question from an exam
- How the circulatory system works
- How to conjugate a verb in Spanish

Draw Spider Diagrams

These are not as organised as mind maps, but for getting all of your ideas down to start with they are excellent. You can then organise your ideas from your spider diagram onto your mind map.

Mimes

Make up mimes for key words, concepts, people or places. You need to think through what mimes are suitable for the work that you are revising. Each character in a book can have a mime that fits them. A chemical group could have a linked mime to remember all the elements in it.

Problem Page

Before you start to revise a topic make a list of the typical problems or questions that you think you or other students might have. Now go through your notes and look for the answers. Finally, compose an explanation that you might share with others to make things clearer.

‘What I know’

Spend some time before your revision to record what you already know. This could be in the form of a spider diagram, a mind map or list. As you read through your notes, check if you really do understand each item. Are there things you have forgotten? If so, add them in. Are there things that aren't right? If so, correct them.

Helpful Tip...

Google documents can be used to work collaboratively:

- Create revision sheets or essays that can be peer assessed
- Use the comment boxes to allow discussion of ideas
- Share with a Teacher for feedback



Concept Mapping

Go through a topic and pick out key words, ideas, symbols or pictures and transfer them onto different pieces of paper or post-its. Group them together if they have any connections. Arrange them on a bigger sheet of paper using blue tack so that you can re-arrange them. Use arrows to link words and add phrases along them to show the connections.

Funny Stories

If you can introduce humour into your learning it will be more memorable. You can just imagine the image in your head, write it down or draw it.



Helpful Tip...

Make revision cards to test your child and ask them develop their answers! Flash cards can include:

- The meanings/ definitions of key words
- Diagrams
- Worked examples of calculations
- Q&A

Create Gap-fill Exercises

Go through your notes and recreate them leaving _____ key words. Then see if you can fill in the gaps later. If you _____ the exercise you can print copies regularly and keep testing yourself. You _____ wish to change where the gaps appear.

Make Lists

- Bullet point them
- 1. Number them
- a) Letter them

Do this according to what suits you best. Numbers will definitely suit those who like using numbers, letters for those who prefer reading and writing, but if you have no strong preference, try all of them.

Order/Sequence

Make notes, cut them into sections and then try to order or sequence them. Check against the original work to see how well you have done.

Visuals

Make good use of drawings and diagrams in your revision. Use different colours. Replace key words, ideas, people or places with pictures.

Posters

Make a poster of each topic. After reading all the information, condense it onto one poster. Use lots of different colours and pictures, but limit the number of words. Think carefully about which words you will use before you start.

Rhymes

Think of words that are similar to or rhyme with the words you are trying to learn. You only have to think how you still know nursery rhymes or the words of songs to know that this works.

Games

Use guessing games as part of your revision. Things like Pictionary, Scrabble and Taboo work as well. You have to change the rules so that you can only use words that are linked to the topic you are learning. You will need to make your own cards to play some of these games.



Helpful Tip...

Make models to help you remember key information:

- What does it look like?
- How does it fit together?
- How does it work?
- Explain to a adult how it works whilst creating the model

Sound-alike

You can split harder words up and have a series of pictures, for example, chromatogram = crow - mat - gram a crow sitting on a mat with a gram weight all on a colour strip of paper.

Reading Out Loud

Read your revision notes out loud to a particular rhythm – this could be set by music playing in the background or tapping your foot or by walking calmly and steadily. This is a sort of walk and talk.

Helpful Tip...

You can help your child revise by recording yourself reading key information:

- Play it back over and over
- Pause it at key points and have your child continue the explanation “live”
- Encourage them to transcribe their explanation
- Have them listen, make brief notes and then explain it back to you in their own words using their notes



Question and Answer (Q&A)

Devise questions and answers about a topic and quiz each other. You could create a version of ‘Who Wants To Be A Millionaire’ where the questions are graded according to the difficulty that you choose.

Underlining and Highlighting

As you read through the work in your exercise book underline or **highlight** keywords. You could come up with a predicted list of what you are expecting to read before you start or you could make a list of the key words as you work through the notes.

Use Colour

Most people like colour and will remember things much more easily if they use it. For example, you might want to make notes, putting **all important words in red**, **the importance concepts in green** and **the important dates in purple**.

Create a Rap, a Song or a Poem

If you like music, the rhythm of these sorts of activities will help you to learn. Get used to singing or talking your work to a set rhythm, perhaps use different rhythms for different topics.

Questions

Ask questions before you revise anything. Think about the topic to be studied and take some time out to think about the questions you would like to have someone answer for you. Write them down and as you read through your notes jot down any answers that you find. The brain likes looking for answers. When done, research carefully for the answers that you cannot find.



Helpful Tip...

Mind-Maps are a fantastic way to revise and breakdown important information - focus on exploring why and making connections between topics!

Symbols and Abbreviations

Look at all the key words in a particular topic and come up with a symbol or abbreviation instead – think hard about each word and match to an appropriate symbol or abbreviation. Write out revision notes using these instead of the key words.

Role-Play

Get together with a group of friends and create a role-play, perhaps for part of a novel that you are trying to learn or to re-enact a poem. You can try this on less likely topics, for example role-play the water cycle for Science or Geography.

Helpful Tip...

Be inventive when creating notes, make them a format that is memorable to you!



Useful Revision Websites

There are lots of school approved revision sites you can access which are full of resources, advice and topics to help you!

- BBC Bitesize
- Seneca - using your student log in
- Quizlet
- Active Learn
- Languages Online
- Active Learn
- MathsWatch
- Google Classroom
- Chat GPT - to clarify questions and exam style questions
- Goconqr



Helpful Tip...

Adults can use revision guides to quiz your child to help them with their studies. Setting your child a mini-quiz for each section can help to check how well they know a particular topic.

- Write these on cards and test the regularly
- Keep them in colourful pack for each unit
- And remember, revise 'a little, but often'

Subject	Exam Board	Content (exams, coursework, % of each)	Useful links	Revision guide
English Language GCSE	AQA	Paper 1: Fiction (50%) Paper 2: Non-Fiction (50%) 5x questions per paper - 50% of the marks based on reading, 50% based on writing.	www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702	Various, mainly for writing.
English Literature GCSE	AQA	Paper 1: 40% • Macbeth • A Christmas Carol Paper 2: 60% • An Inspector Calls • Power & Conflict Poetry • Unseen Poetry Each of the five sections is worth 20%.	www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700	Each component has its own CGP revision guide.
Maths GCSE	OCR	3 Papers - 1hr 20mins each 2 x Calculator, 1 x Non-Calculator	www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/mathematics-j560-from-2015/	Revision guides available from CGP
Art, Craft & Design GCSE	AQA	Component 1 - 60% Y10-Y11 Component 2 - 40% Y11 (January-April) 100% coursework		
Biology GCSE	AQA	2 papers for Biology GCSE (each paper 50% of GCSE) paper length 1hr 45mins	www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse	CGP AQA Revision Guide and Workbook Biology - Available to buy through Parent Pay.
Chemistry GCSE	AQA	2 papers for Chemistry GCSE (each paper 50% of GCSE) paper length 1hr 45mins	www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse	CGP AQA Revision Guide and Workbook Chemistry - Available to buy through Parent Pay.
Digital IT GCSE	Pearson BTEC	3 components, 2 internally assessed (coursework), 1 exam. Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques. Coursework - completed in Y10 (May window). Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data. Coursework - completed in Y11 (December window) Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices. Exam completed at the end of Y11 Exam - 1hr 30mins (60 marks)	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology-2022.html	PG Online Clear revise All students are given a subscription to "Knowitall Ninja (KIAN)" - Revision website with learning resources and quiz activities covering all components of the BTEC DIT course.

Subject	Exam Board	Content (exams, coursework, % of each)	Useful links	Revision guide
Drama GCSE	WJEC	Component 1: 40% Component 2: 20% Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (40%) Written paper - 1hr 30mins Section A: 45 marks Macbeth Section B: 15 marks Everybody's Talking About Jamie	https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2021-22/wjec21-22_1-2/pdf/macbeth.pdf www.everybodystalking-aboutjamie.co.uk/uploads/2024/07/ETAJ-Post-Show-Resource-Pack-v3.pdf www.everybodystalking-aboutjamie.co.uk/uploads/2024/07/ETAJ-DramaResource-Pack-May2018.pdf	
French GCSE	Pearson	Speaking exam: Foundation - 7-9mins + 15mins prep Higher - 10-12mins + 15mins prep (50 marks) Listening Exam: Foundation - 45mins Higher - 60mins (50 marks) Reading Exam: Foundation - 45mins Higher - 60mins (50 marks) Writing Exam: Foundation - 1hr 15mins and Higher - 1hr 20mins (50 marks) All exams are worth 25% each.	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/French/2024/specification-and-sample-assessments/gq000023-gcse-french-specification-2024-issue-2.pdf www.languagenut.com www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zh647h	Pearson French revision guide ISBN number: ISBN-10 1292739746 All students have a subscription to languagenut.com - website with revision exercises in all 4 skills.
Geography GCSE	AQA	3 Papers total: Paper 1 Physical Geography 90mins Paper 2 Human Geography 90mins Paper 3 Geographical Skills 90mins	www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification-at-a-glance www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc	Revision guide available from CGP
Health and Social Care GCSE	OCR	Exam 1hr 15mins - R032 Principles of care in health and social care settings (40%) Coursework - R033 Supporting individuals through life events (30%) R035 Health promotion campaigns (30%)	www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835/	My revision notes, Health and Social care, www.hoddereducation.com/health-and-social-care/my-revision-notes-level-1-level-2-cambridge-national-in-health-social-care-second-edition

Subject	Exam Board	Content (exams, coursework, % of each)	Useful links	Revision guide
History GCSE	Pearson	3 papers total: Paper 1 Crime & Punishment 75mins Paper 2 Cold War & Elizabeth I 105mins Paper 3 Weimar & Nazi Germany 80mins	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html	Pearson Revise - Revision Guide and Workbook available for each topic studied.
Physical Education GCSE	OCR	Coursework - 14 hours in class (20 marks) Practical in class (60 marks) Exam 1 and 2, 1hr each (60 marks per exam 120 marks total)	www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/	My revision notes - OCR GCSE PE (9-1) Sarah Powell
Physics GCSE	AQA	2 papers for Physics GCSE (each paper 50% of GCSE) paper length 1hr 45mins	www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse	CGP AQA Revision Guide and Workbook Physics - Available to buy through Parent Pay.
Spanish GCSE	Pearson	Speaking exam: Foundation - 7-9mins + 15mins prep Higher - 10-12mins + 15mins prep (50 marks) Listening Exam: Foundation - 45mins Higher - 60mins (50 marks) Reading Exam: Foundation - 45mins Higher - 60mins (50 marks) Writing Exam: Foundation - 1hr 15mins and Higher - 1hr 20mins (50 marks) All exams are worth 25% each.	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Spanish/2024/specification-and-sample-assessments/gq000027-gcse-spanish-specification-2024-issue-2.pdf www.languagenut.com www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z799hbk	Pearson Spanish revision guide ISBN number: 978-1-292-73968-7 All students have a subscription to languagenut.com - website with revision exercises in all 4 skills.
Sport Studies GCSE	OCR	R184 Contemporary Issues - 1hr exam sat at the end of Y11. Other units are coursework.	www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-studies-level-1-2-J829/	Revision guide loaned to pupils
Statistics GCSE	Pearsons Edexcel	Paper 1: 50% 1hr 30mins Paper 2: 50% 1hr 30mins		Revision Guide: CGP GCSE Statistics Edexcel Revision Guide

GCSE Mock Exam Information 2026/27

Mock Exams	Information	Dates
Mini Mocks	This includes core subjects only (English, Maths, Science) No mock on Friday 16 th - this is Sponsored Walk day.	Monday 12 th - Thursday 15 th October 2026
December Mocks		- Week Commencing 23rd November - MFL Speaking mocks. - Monday 30th November - Friday 11th December written mock exams. (Core + option subjects) - Monday 14th and Wednesday 16th December - one day will be Art 5 hours, the other will be Photography 5hrs - TBC
February/March 2027 Mocks		23 rd February - 5 th March 2027
Year 10 Mocks	Will take place after GCSE exams Have finished - dates TBC	June/July 2027

GCSE Exam Timetable 2026/27

Subject	Exam Board	Paper	Exam Dates
English Language	AQA	Paper 1	24/05/27 AM
		Paper 2	08/06/27 AM
English Literature	AQA	Paper 1	12/05/27 AM
		Paper 2	19/05/27 AM
Maths	OCR	Paper 1 & 4	14/05/27 AM
		Paper 2 & 5	27/05/27 AM
		Paper 3 & 6	14/06/27 AM
Art, Craft and Design	AQA		April 2027
Biology	AQA	Paper 1	11/05/27 AM
		Paper 2	10/06/27 AM
Chemistry	AQA	Paper 1	17/05/27 AM
		Paper 2	15/06/27 AM
Computer Science	OCR	Paper 1	10/05/27 AM
		Paper 2	19/05/27 PM
Digital Information Technology	Pearson BTEC	Component 3	04/05/27 PM
Drama	WJEC	Written Paper	14/05/27 PM

Subject	Exam Board	Paper	Exam Dates
French	Pearson	Listening	26/05/27 AM
		Reading	08/06/27 PM
		Writing	14/06/27 PM
Geography	AQA	Paper 1	18/05/27 AM
		Paper 2	26/05/27 PM
		Paper 3	10/06/27 PM
Health and Social Care	OCR	Written Paper	07/06/27 AM
History	Pearson	Paper 1	20/05/27 AM
		Paper 2	28/05/27 AM
		Paper 3	09/06/27 PM
Spanish	Pearson	Listening	09/06/27 AM
		Reading	16/06/27 PM
		Writing	17/06/27 PM
Sports Studies	OCR	Written Paper	11/05/27 PM
Statistics	Pearson	Paper 1	07/06/27 PM
		Paper 2	16/06/27 AM
Y11 GCSE Results Day			19/08/27 AM

Please note that exam dates may still be subject to change. Additionally, exam boards have set aside a contingency date of June 24th, which may be used if any issues arise with the scheduled exams.

Revision Timetable

[illegible]

**NO MOBILE PHONES
NO SMART GLASSES
NO WATCHES**

NO STORAGE OR WEB-ENABLED DEVICES



**Possession of unauthorised items
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.