

# YEAR 11 - Tips and Techniques for GCSE Revision and Success



## 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.

- **Every lesson counts and your attendance is vital**

Go to all lessons and make them work for you – it is not whether you like the teacher or not, whether you find it difficult, whether you find it boring – it is what you are getting out of it that matters. This is YOUR result.



- **Regardless of what's happened in the past you can always change your future**
- **You only fail if you give up.**



- **Your attitude is all important – success is 80% attitude and 20% skill**

# Introduction

This booklet contains useful ideas on how you can become an even more successful student. To help you, think about the things that you have difficulty with and in the space below answer the following questions

My strengths are

--

The things that I need help with are

--

The things that motivate me are

--

My goals for year 11

Short term	
Medium term	
Long term	

# Good revision techniques

- Have an aim for each session – by the end of this session I will have.....
- Identify what you already know and the parts you need more time on – self testing or using an internet test will help with this.
- Break all topics into do-able chunks and don't just read at this stage but do something active with it.
- Short bursts of 20-25 mins are more effective. Your concentration will lapse after an hour. Take short breaks.
- Find a suitable quiet place – refuse to be interrupted or distracted.
- Produce notes – which get shorter at each session as you remember more and need less prompts. Read notes out loud.
- Use different techniques – key word cards, flashcards, post-its, posters, learning maps, recordings, highlighting, chants and songs.
- Test yourself or get someone to help test you.
- Tick off what you have done so you can see your progress.
- Revisiting notes after a day, a week and a month really works. 5 repeats on different occasions to remember.
- Use practice exam papers – this is one of the most valuable methods of revision
- Ask for help when you need it – friends, parents, and teachers.
- Don't get stressed, eat and sleep properly
- Believe in yourself, be positive. If you think you can succeed you will – if you convince yourself that you will fail then you probably will.
- Do not be influenced by friends that appear to be doing little work – your result does not matter to them and their result does not matter to you **BUT YOURS DOES**. Tell yourself that this is not for long and you have a very long summer break to look forward to.
- Last minute revision is worth it – breakfast sessions and before exam preparation lessons will help – just one thing may stick in your mind and get you those extra marks to raise your grade. Your key facts sheet can be read as you wait to go into the exam – it will all help.



**Successful revision involves doing something with the information – this is essential so your brain makes connections and remembers**

# Use Your Learning Style

## Visual

Do you.....



Learn best through pictures, learning maps, diagrams, watching videos, live performance.

You should.....

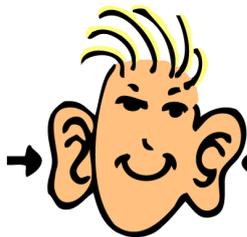
Draw pictures and diagrams and colour code your work. Use highlighters for key facts

Create posters and use learning maps

Use videos, TV programmes or plays of things you are studying

Use post-it notes to label things

Create visual displays of key words, facts and text in strategic places – bedroom wall, mirror back of door!



## AUDITORY

Do you.....

Like to hear the teacher explain things

Summarise out loud or learn by repeating things to yourself

Make up rhymes to help information stick

You should.....

Record onto MP3 players or your phone and play back repeatedly

Read all your notes out loud repeatedly

Create rhymes, raps, chants

Remember lists by using mnemonics

Close your eyes when you are listening so that you are only using that sense.

## KINAESTHETIC

Do you....

Like to get involved – experiments, “hands on”, moving objects around

Prefer practical things like card sorts, matching activities

You should.....

Use movement when you are revising – walk around rather than sit still.

Underline or highlight key facts

Make learning maps

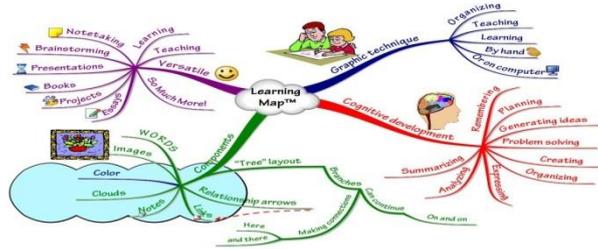
If you know what your style is you can use it to your advantage

There is no right or wrong and do whatever you feel most comfortable with.

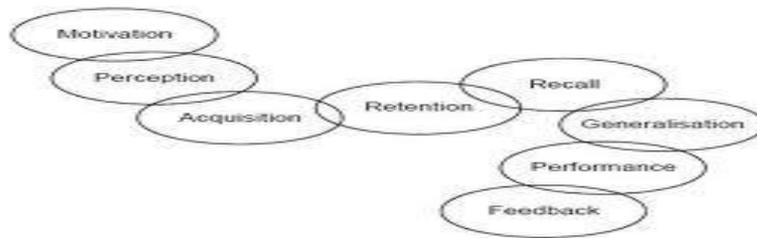


# Techniques

**Learning Maps** – organises your thoughts, summarises, and helps you to see all the issues



**Memory Aids** – image chains



## Mnemonics

Create a tongue twister to sum up the key ideas from a topic.  
For example:

Macbeth murdered many men madly

Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain

Rhymes – the Circle Song

$\Pi r^2$  sounds like area to me  
When you need a circumference you need  $2\pi r$

# Setting yourself up

- Get files or folders for each subject and start putting important information in at the end of each day. You will waste time looking under a mountain of paper for the one you want when you could have spent that time revising.
- Start early – the sooner you start the less you will have to do each day and the less stressed you will be.
- Make a realistic revision timetable that will work for you. Allow time just to get this completed – it is a good investment of your time – get parents/tutors to help if you find this difficult.
- Get one good revision aid for each subject – use the advice of your teachers and know what works best for you.
- Keep all the equipment you need handy (pens etc, calculator, paper, notebooks, postcards, post-its) – wasting 20mins looking for a pen is not good use of revision time!



	1700-1800	1800-1900	1900-2000	2000-2100	2100-2200
MON:	Rehearsal	MAKE TABLE	REVISE AND TEST	CALCULATORS	Reading
TUE:	Biology Exam Class??	DEAS EX	GENERIC STRATEGIES: Best of both worlds	Reading	Rest Session
WED:	Rehearsal	Collect all 486!	KTAB	Revision Strategy	KTAB
THUR:	File notes on Appendix	Review Bigman	ESSEY FOR R.S.	Review JKAB	Make time for Bul Results
FRI:	Notes of DEBATTING	Duch. of @ News	Malfi	Malfi	Malfi



## Quick Tips

- Make yourself start however much you don't want to – the hardest bit is now out of the way.
- Take short breaks
- Do frequent short exercises – stand up and walk around, do stretches, especially your neck and shoulders
- Drink water and get fresh air – have your room cool enough or you will fall asleep!
- Eat well – not too many sugary snacks – little and often is best.
- Don't leave the difficult bits until last
- STOP if you feel frustrated, angry, overwhelmed and take a break. Make a note of the problem and deal with it next lesson – move on to something else.
- Focus on what you have already done and not what is still to do – remember every little helps.
- At the end of a session – clear away and put notes in the right file so you can start the next session straight away.



# The Exams

## Before

- Know your exam timetable – highlight yours in colour and put them on your calendar.
- Know where and when you need to be and give yourself enough time not to be rushed.
- Allow time for your brain to get into action – have a shower. Eat breakfast – at home, at school or eat some fruit as you walk to school.
- Check the exact subject of the exam, how it will be structured (eg short answer section and an essay) and how the marks are awarded.
- Make sure you have everything you need the night before – books you are allowed to take in, equipment including a calculator for science and maths.
- Keep to normal routines – bed and getting up at normal time.
- Keep repeating to yourself “It is only 2 hours it will be over by 10.45”, “I will be fine”. If you keep having worrying thoughts then just say STOP and think of something positive.
- Leave yourself time to go to the toilet before the exam
- Take water into the exam - your ability to remember and your concentration improves by 70% if you are hydrated.
- Don't worry if you think you have forgotten it all before you go in - if you have revised it will all be there and will come back.



## During

- Turn off and hand in your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment when you enter the exam hall.
- Being nervous is normal and gives your brain extra adrenalin to help you make a final effort.
- Take some deep breaths and say something positive to yourself “I can do this” “If it’s hard for me it’s hard for everyone else”



- If you go blank at any stage leave that question, take a few deep breaths, turn over and do something else you can do. Come back to it and reread it slowly and calmly.
- Listen to the invigilator for any last minute instructions.
- Read the instructions and then read through the paper – don’t pick up your pen until you have done this.
- As you read mark off questions you can do and then choose the best ones for you – check that you have chosen the right number of questions.
- If you need to spend the first couple of minutes writing down key formula or facts you are going to need so you don’t forget them or leave them out.
- Know how many marks each section or question is worth and how you should split your time. If you run out of time write in note form to get some facts down but keep to your time limits – you can always come back if you have time at the end.
- Do not make any contact – even a smile – to any other candidate in the exam hall or you will be disqualified.

