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GCSE REVISION GUIDE 2019

What type of learner are you?

Not everyone can revise by copying notes out of a text book. Establishing what type of learning suits you best will mean you can revise in the most effective way. See the examples below of different revision techniques for different types of learners. You might be a combination of all three, so mix them up to make your revision dynamic!

Learner type		Revision techniques
Visual	Strong visual memory, retain images more easily	Make and read through notes. Use and draw diagrams, flow charts, mind maps, tables and colour code. Search YouTube for good revision videos on the topic you're focusing on. Visual learners tend to study better alone—without the visual distraction of friends!
Auditory	Learn best through listening	Audio record lessons or revision sessions and listen back over them (check first with your teacher). Study with friends and discuss topics or test each other verbally. Read your notes/ textbook aloud. Make up rhymes or songs for key points/ dates/ equations you want to remember.
Kinaesthetic	Movement assists learning	Create and use flashcards. Place key words or diagrams on different walls for different subjects or topics; move between them when revising. Make up routines or tap a rhythm to remember key points/ dates/ equations. Make group revision active—throw a ball to one another while asking & answering quick fire questions.

Creating your revision timetable

A revision timetable will mean you are aware of how much time you are dedicating to each subject. Count out how many weeks you have before your exams and print out a timetable for each week.

Revising for long periods of time without breaks is not effective. Factor in time for short 10 minute breaks as well as lunch, dinner, exercise and free time.

Mark on your timetable how well you knew each topic once you've finished it so you know which topics to revisit.

The importance of practice papers

You don't have to wait until you have revised the whole subject to do a practice paper, try taking them throughout your revision, as they will help you to identify which topics you might need to spend more time on. They also gives you an idea of the types of questions to expect in the exam.

If you feel like you're not ready to start under exam conditions, use your text book or notes to help you write out the answers, then try again afterwards without your text book—you'll be surprised how much you remember!

You can also find mark schemes online; these are what the examiners use to mark your paper. By marking your own paper you can see exactly what the examiners look for as well as understanding the small changes you could make to get that extra mark!

Make the most of your revision

- Anshul Raja, author of **Ace your A-Levels** visited SFX to speak to Year 13 students. He told the students about his revision method **the scribble technique**: read a page of your text book, cover it up, then write down as much as you can remember. Look back at the page to see what you missed and go again!
- **Go over notes before sleep.** Many psychological studies have shown that information learnt just before sleep is more likely to be remembered, as your brain consolidates the information while you are sleeping.
- One study found that just the sight of a mobile can be a distraction and lower your attention level. **Put your phone away** out of sight during revision and check it during your breaks.
- **Eat healthily** during revision and exam time. Eating a good breakfast will boost your concentration and memory over the course of the morning. Find healthy snacks to keep you going while you revise, as sugary food will boost your energy briefly before causing an energy slump.
- Solo revision is best in **a quiet environment**. If you can't find a quiet place or struggle to revise in complete silence, search "white noise" on YouTube—some people find listening to white noise helps them to focus.
- Many studies have shown that **aerobic exercise** improves cognitive function. It boosts blood flow and oxygen to the brain as well as relieving tension and improving sleep, all important factors during the exam period! Make time in your revision schedule each day for 20 minutes or so of exercise.

Free online resources

Past papers

AQA www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes

Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com>

OCR www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/gcse/

WJEC www.wjec.co.uk/students/past-papers/

Websites

BBC Bitesize [HTTP://WWW.BBC.CO.UK/BITESIZE](http://WWW.BBC.CO.UK/BITESIZE)

Revision World [HTTP://REVISIONWORLD.COM/GCSE-REVISION](http://REVISIONWORLD.COM/GCSE-REVISION)

S-COOL WWW.S-COOL.CO.UK/GCSE

Online & Mobile Apps

Gojimo take tests catered to subject, exam board and exam entry

miMind a mind-map building tool

Quizlet online flashcards—create your own or search for sets

Stay Focused blocks your chosen apps for a set time frame to avoid distractions

Headspace A meditation App to help you relax during the stressful exam time!

Work hard so that when it comes to results day you know you've done the best you can.

You can check the entry requirements for your chosen courses in the back of our prospectus and on our website.

The best of luck from everyone at SFX 6th Form!