



Highfields School

Exam preparation & revision advice from sixth form students



Be the best you can





Sixth form students have offered advice on what went well for them in year 11 to enable for them to achieve their GCSEs.

As everyone is different, there are a variety of different ideas given on how to approach your exams from the experience of students who achieved this last year.

Revision tips and advice

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General

1

START EARLY! (but not too early or you'll be fed up and worn out by the time it gets to the exam!).

Don't wait until the week before.

Think about where you want to be in the future and then whatever you do, think "how is this helping me get there?"

2

Make a revision timetable and stick to it.

Revise two subjects per night.

Revise at least one hour per night.

If revising at the weekend, start early and finish with a good amount of time to relax in the evening – don't get up late and revise all day until late at night.

What works for someone else might not work for you! Try a variety of different tactics (flashcards, mind maps, past papers).

Week No.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							

3

Just reading your notes won't help. Revision is all about repetition.

Make notes simple but understandable for all topics.

Organise your notes clearly in a logical order.

Copy out exercise books onto mind maps or A4 etc.

Write notes and cover them up and try to create an identical piece of paper and check your work.

Don't put too much effort into making the notes look nice – use colours as it may help you remember.

Create summaries of your notes, for example:

- A colourful mind map
- Use different colours or highlighters
- Bullet points / Q cards





Look at older siblings' revision notes.

   
eat. sleep. revise. And repeat.

4

Use your revision guides and do past paper questions, even if you have to use a prompt card to start off with.

Go through the revision guides and make notes for each page.

Don't just read the page – it doesn't stick in your head!

Reading is revising, as long as you read through your notes after you have learnt them.

5

Revision cards are really useful, you can learn definitions on them and use them for Q&A. They're also really good for group revision.

Start them early so you can go through them later.



Make sure they are organised in a way you can revise from easily.

6

Make a revision-only place with no distractions.

Turn your 'phone off whilst revising. **DO NOT LOOK AT IT!** – it is only a distraction. Seriously, give it to your parents if you need to.

Do not watch TV or Netflix while revising – you may think it works but it really doesn't.

7

Past papers are the most important thing.

When doing past papers make sure you go through the mark scheme – remember the correct answer – what answer they are looking for.

Use past paper questions as flashcard questions – instead of



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writing long 7 markers from the text use the PPQ mark scheme to note down key bullet point to what is needed in each question.

Go over past essays and tests.

Look at the examiner report as things that were done badly the year before usually come up again.



Make flashcards to test yourself – repeatedly test yourself on little facts.

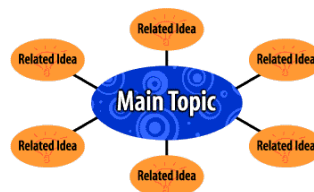
Create question and answer cards.

Get parents, friends or siblings to test you.

When sat with your friends, mention a topic and bounce information off each other until you get it all.



Mind maps – I used to stick mind maps all around my house to make me constantly read them with little effort, eg in the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom.



Revise in 20min chunks with 5-10min breaks in-between. In these breaks try to do something active – it helps your memory. Reward yourself with something nice like chocolate in the break.

45 min revision (25 min revising topic / 20 min questioning self on topic) and 15-20 min break (chill and forget about revising for a bit).

10 mins (going over yesterday's work) – 50 mins (30 mins revising topic and 20 mins questions on topic) – 10 min break.



Put post-it notes on walls everywhere!



Talk to teachers and go over things that you don't fully understand.



Have a motivation board with pictures of your goals.



Visual things using models – Lego, brother's to represent ideas.



Revision Websites:

- Brainscape
<https://www.brainscape.com/>
- GetRevising
<https://getrevising.co.uk/>
- Gojimo app
<http://www.gojimo.com/>



Text books and anthologies for essay subjects.

Do the questions in the text book.

Pay attention to the small things as they usually come up.



Quizzes.



Go to lunch time revision sessions.



*Listening to music can help - Coffee and instrumental music
(not words)*



*Water and fruit also help your memory, so incorporate them
in to your diet.*



Core subjects

– revision tips that worked for students last year



Maths Revision:

- Past papers.
- Mobile apps for on-the-go revision – Memrise GCSE Maths
<https://www.memrise.com/courses/english/maths-science/>
- Corbett Maths – <https://corbettmaths.com/>



English Revision:

- English Literature – Create a quote bank for each character and theme, in a mind map
- Mr Brooks – English Literature (YouTube)
- English Literature – mind maps with themes, characters and quotes.
- GCSE bitesize – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>
- Mr Sallas/Mr Bruff.
- Slideshare – English Literature.
- Past papers.
- Text books and anthologies.



Science Revision:

- Revision cards.
- Past papers.
- BBC Bitesize (making notes from the revision section)
- My GCSE Science – www.mygcscience.com
 - got me from E's to C's and B's.
 - worth the money, especially for triple.
- Mobile apps for on-the-go revision (Memrise GCSE Science)
<https://www.memrise.com/courses/english/maths-science/>
- YouTube – My GCSE Science Videos
<https://www.youtube.com/user/myGCSEscience>
- For Science revision videos – www.gcsciencelessons.co.uk
- Free Science Lessons website – freesciencelessons.co.uk



Helpful tips for other subjects

As well as the general tips given which can be used when revising any subject, a few other useful revision techniques and tips for other subjects may be helpful ...



History revision:

- *“Reading is not revision, repetition is the mission” – listen to Mr Hoben!*
- *Make it active, eg in History make silly connections with dates to help remember.*
- *If you struggle memorising large chunks of information in History for example, I found it's helpful to make fortune tellers with a title on top of the flap and the key points underneath; then make it a game with friends to list as many of the key points as you can.*
- *Revision cards, mind maps, text books and anthologies.*
- *Planning questions.*



Geography revision:

- *Revision cards, case studies and mind maps are great for Geography revision*
- *Look at websites like coolgeography.com and GCSE Bitesize <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/>*



Film Studies Revision:

- *Watch superhero films for Film Studies*
- *Planning questions*



General Revision Websites

1

Memrise (app/website) is amazing for revision, it's used a lot in languages, maths and science but you can actually use it for any subject and if you can't find your course on it, you can make your own.

<https://www.memrise.com/>

2

Websites like GCSE Bitesize (especially for Science) and YouTube (videos and documentaries) – but careful not to get distracted by websites.

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

3

Highfields School VLE

<http://moodle.highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/moodle30/>

4

Brainscape

<https://www.brainscape.com/>

5

GetRevising

<https://getrevising.co.uk/>

6

Gojimo app

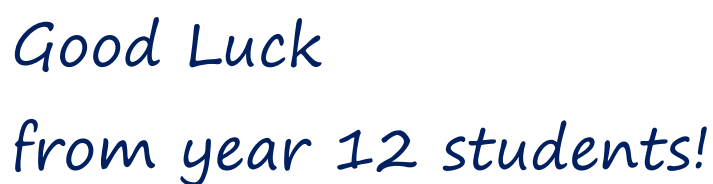
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Notes





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