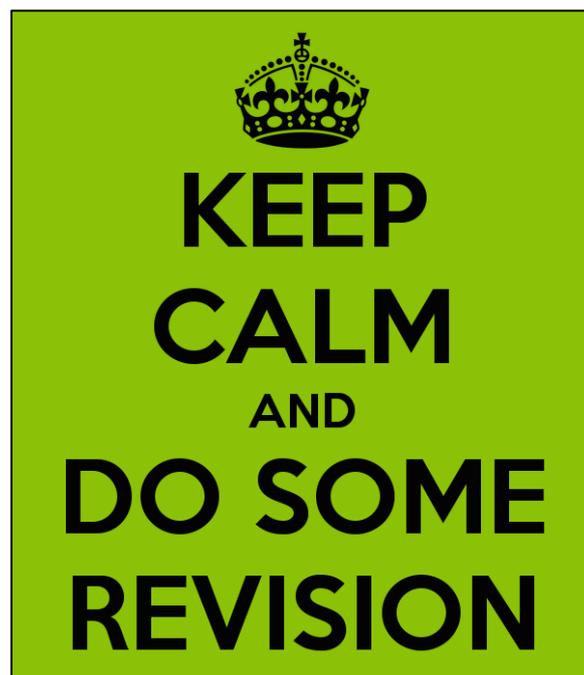


Year 11
Revision and
Exam Guide
2018



Dear Students

The aim of this booklet is to support you so that you are able to go in to the exams with confidence, fully prepared to do your absolute best.

You must have:

- A belief that hard work pays off
- A belief that listening to good advice is vital for improvement

And you must start revising NOW!

Revision Tips:

The following revision techniques are based on what works best according to educational research. 'The Learning Scientists', cognitive psychologists at Univeristy of Massachusetts, have identified six evidence informed approaches that will maximise your efforts:

Elaboration – explaining ideas in detail

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQRzW24KrDc>)

Retrieval Practice – practice 'remembering' what they have been taught (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pjrqc6UMDKM>)

Spaced practice – spacing out your studying over time.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WJYp98eys8>)

Dual coding – combining pictures and words to help you remember things. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xCZ4XnkpCc>)

Interleaving – switching between the topics that you study.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kV64Bu6sec0>)

Concrete examples – using specific examples to understand abstract ideas. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wF0ICBMh9Y>)

Top Tip One – *Be Specific, Break it down*

Each subject area is broken up into different sections that will be tested at different points during the examinations.

- Know exactly the examination format and what will be in each exam paper
- Know what you are expected to do and how to do it for each section

When revising, create a 'hit-list' for each subject and each topic within a topic. Focus your revision on the 'hit-list'.

Top Tip Two – *Make a revision timetable*

Be organised and make sure that you cover each subject. To do this, create a revision timetable.

- Include exam dates and times
- Do short sessions of each subject/topic (20-30 minutes)
 - It is better to do little and often rather than lots and infrequently
 - Keep revisiting topics
- Plan in rests and leisure activities

There is a template available – but you may find it best to use a digital version because it is easier to amend – both in its creation and as time goes on.

Some tutor times will be set aside to help you complete these – and after school 'Drop-in' sessions will also be available in the coming weeks.

Top Tip Three – *Practise testing*

This technique is pretty straightforward – you keep testing yourself on the material – on what you have to learn.

This approach has been shown to be the most effective way of preparing for examinations. It's obvious really – whenever we need to do something, we practise doing it until we are able to always get it right.

- Create some flashcards, with questions on one side and answers on the other – and keep testing yourself
- Work through past exam papers – many can be acquired through exam board websites
- Simply quiz each other (or yourself) on key bits of information
- Create 'fill the gap' exercises for you and a friend to complete
- Create multiple choice quizzes for friends to complete

How can parents help?

Although you are independent young adults – and we want you to take responsibility for their own revision – parents have a vital role to play. Here are some ways that parents can help:

- **Take an interest!**...*help them construct their revision timetable. It is a complex document and requires a logical approach.*
- **Be their audience!**...*explaining things to someone else is a key way that they can understand a topic.*
- **Reward and encourage them!**...*their true reward will come in August when they get their results...but small rewards for working hard during the revision period keep motivation high. There are bound to be moments when they don't feel positive about things – that's when your praise and encouragement really counts!*
- **Ensure they sleep and eat!**...*once they exams are under way they will need to feel at their best first thing in the morning. We all feel better after a good night's sleep and breakfast!*



On the day...

The exams always start at the same time:

Morning: 9.10am

Afternoon: 1.00pm

- You need to sit your exams in **proper school uniform**.
- It will make for a much smoother start to the exam if you **know your seat number and position**. This will be posted up on the exams noticeboard at least the day before the exam.
- Have a **good breakfast or lunch** – you will not be able to concentrate if you are hungry.
- Make sure you have been to toilet before the exam – only in exceptional cases will you be able to leave the exam hall to visit the lavatory.
- Check your equipment. You will need a clear pencil case with two good quality black pens, pencils, eraser and a ruler. You are allowed highlighters – they are a good idea. For Science and Maths exams you will also need: a calculator (GCSE Maths Papers 2 & 3, and all science exams allow calculators); a protractor; a compass; coloured pencils.
- Just before the exam ensure that any mobile phone or music devices have been switched off and are in your bag. If these are found in your pockets, you risk disqualification.

Finally...calm down. Nerves are quite natural – but you will have seen lots of past papers and know what to expect. Get yourself prepared to work slowly and methodically through the paper. Some students every year rush through the paper in a burst of adrenaline – only to find they have finished half an hour early.

We all wish you good luck – but if you have worked hard on your revision you won't need it!