

Key Stage 4 Revision Guide & Checklists

Top Tips for Successful Revision

REVISING ISN'T SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE CHALLENGING OR DIFFICULT AT ALL.

WHAT REVISING IS, UNFORTUNATELY, IS TIME CONSUMING. IT TAKES A WHILE.

THAT'S WHY YOU MIGHT LIKE TO START EARLY (NOTHING TO DO ON A SUNDAY?)...

This booklet aims to outline specific examples of best practice in revision to support you to achieve outstanding grades in exams.

Introduction

Students how to revise

Some useful resources

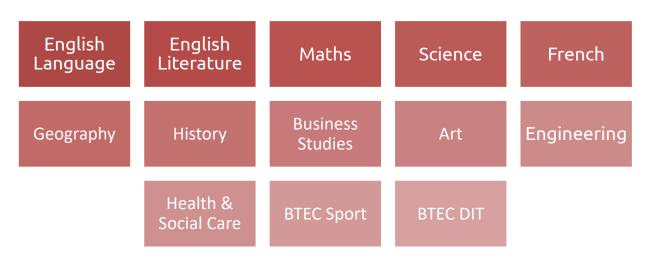
Parents how you can help Revision timetable Summer exam schedule Mental health and wellbeing

You don't need us to tell you how important the following weeks are in terms of preparing for your GCSEs. This booklet aims to help guide you through that process, with reminders about effective revision techniques, an overview of what you need to revise for each of your subjects and some pointers about how to look after yourselves throughout the next few months.

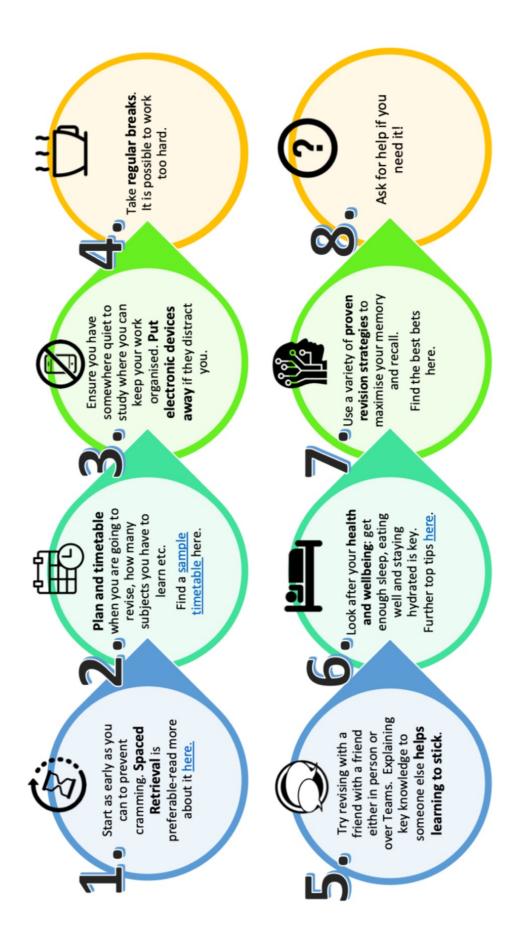
We want to see you all achieve your full potential in the summer. You can do this with:

- ✓ A clear revision schedule (samples later on in the booklet)
- Identification of key areas for improvement and concentration on these areas in revision;
- ✓ Hard work, determination and sustained effort;
- Support from family, peers and staff;
- ✓ A sensible and good balance between work and relaxation.

If you have any concerns or questions, please either speak to your form tutor, subject teacher or Mr Khalil.



Healthy & Effective Revision

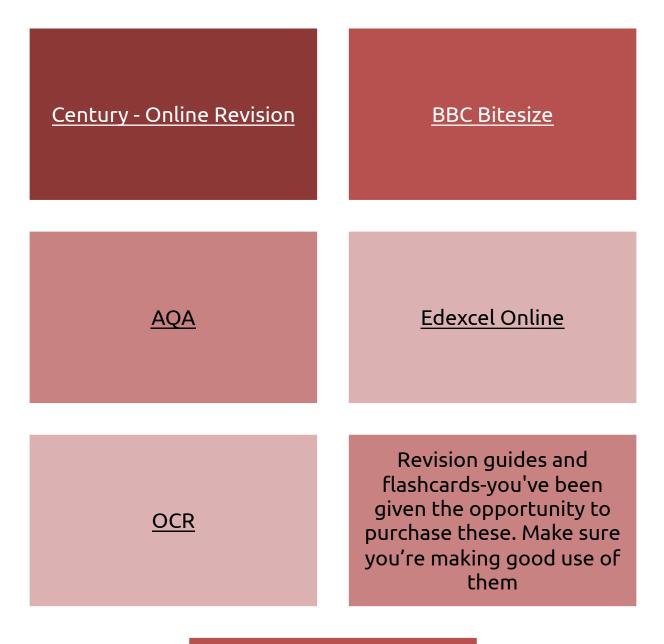


SPECIFIC REVISION STRATEGIES

	*
Get active Get creative	Don't just read the text over and over. That'll never work. Let your brain play with the material, in as many ways as you can. Make notes, figure out the key points and how they link together. Drawing a spider diagram, mind map or using a graphic organiser can help to clarify how everything connects. Boil those endless paragraphs into nuggets of information. This will help you to understand the subject in a deeper way than by just reading it.
Use Flashcards	Note down the 'powerful knowledge' on one side of the card. Write questions regarding the knowledge on the other. Test yourself, test others, get others to test you.
Test Yourself!	Create ways of testing your knowledge as you go along. This forces your brain to practise retrieving the information from its memory banks. If you're sitting exams, get your hands on as many past papers as possible, so that you can put your new knowledge to the crucial test – do you know enough to convince an examiner?
Explain it to someone else	If you can explain a concept to someone else and field any follow-up questions they have, then you'll know you've understood it. This also prompts your brain to work with the material in a new way, which will help to lodge it in your long-term memory. And if your friend asks you a question you can't answer, how great to find that out before the exam
Rehearse It	Your brain has a massive memory bank, but unlike a computer, it needs you to go over new information several times for it to really sink in. Creating a new memory involves a new pathway being laid down between brain cells, but this pathway will disappear unless it's strengthened by being thought back over many times. Look back over what you've learned at the end of every study session to consolidate the memory. And have another quick look the next day, week, and month. Otherwise all your hard study will slip through your neurons like water through a sieve

SPECIFIC REVISION STRATEGIES

Some useful resources:



Showbie-remember your teachers are uploading a range of revision resources onto Showbie for your use.

SPECIFIC REVISION STRATEGIES

Help your child understand the big reason for doing their studies. If they know the big reason it can be very motivating and can help to create good habits. e.g. "You are doing exams to help you get to the career you want or the University or College course that you want to do." "You are doing maths to help you in later life when you need to do use it in everyday tasks like business accounts or online banking". "These are all things I've had to do at work."

Help them find out what works best for them – what keeps them motivated and engaged? Try different strategies. You'll find a combination that works. Encourage them to talk to their positive friends, the friends that'll keep them going and on task. A good positive chat is so helpful.

There is merit in team or paired revision-sometimes! Quizzing is a brilliant way of recalling powerful knowledge, little and often. You can help your child by quizzing with them too. Revision, rest and recreation all go together. Twenty minutes focused study followed by a fiveminute break is better than 1 hour staring into space. Find the best timings to suit their brains. Use kitchen timers or countdown apps to time their study times.

Have plenty of snacks and drinks for them to keep energy levels up. Try to give them a quiet space to work, away from distractions.

The best revision is the revision that was started weeks or months ago, the next best is the one that is started now.

We all have 86,400 seconds a day, no matter who we are. It's all about how we use that time in the run up to exams.

Sample Timetable

	TARGETS: what I want to achieve this week							
Subject	Target	Deadline						
English	Learn literature essay structure/flashcards for Macbeth quotes.	Mon 16th						
Maths	Properties of number/Corbett Maths	Tues 17th						
Biology	Prep for unit 4 knowledge check/practice questions.	Wed 18th						
French	Create a mind map for House and Home topic, including past participle revision.	Friday 20th						
Art	Update portfolio	ongoing						

Timing	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9 - 10						Macbeth themes	football
10 - 11						Macbeth themes	football
11 - 12						Macbeth themes	Maths overview of week
12 - 1						Football	Maths overview of week
1 - 2						Football	Maths revise week's notes
2 - 3						Science revise week's notes	Maths revise week's notes
3 - 4						Science revise week's notes	
4 - 5	Macbeth- themes	Cell biology	Geog-the living world	Business- what is entreprene urship?	History- medicine		
5 - 6	Maths- Properties of number	Physics- forces	Macbeth- themes linked to characters	Biology-Cell biology, infection.	living world		
6 - 7	French-free time/cinem a reading		Chem-the periodic table	Chemistry- the periodic table			

Blank Timetable

	TARGETS: what I want to achieve this week							
Subject	Target	Deadline						

Timing	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9 - 10							
10 - 11							
11 - 12							
12 - 1							
1 - 2							
2 - 3							
3 - 4							
4 - 5							
5 - 6							
6 - 7							
7 - 8							

Exam Timetable 2023

			May 2023			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Engineering 9am – 10am	Biology P1 9am – 10.15am	English Lit P1 9am – 10.45am	History P1 9am – 10am	Maths P1 9am – 10.30am		
			Business P1 1.15pm – 3pm	Health & Social Care 1.15pm – 3.15pm		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Chemistry P1 9am – 10.15am	French Listening Foundation 9am – 9.35am French Listening Higher 9am – 9.45am	English Lit P2 9am – 11.15am	Physics P1 9am – 10.15am			
Geography 1.15pm – 2.45pm	French Reading Foundation 1.15pm – 2pm French Reading Higher 1.15pm – 2.15pm BTEC DIT 1.15pm – 2.45pm		Sports 1.15pm – 2.45pm			

Exam Timetable 2023

			June 2023			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
English Lang P1 9am – 10.45am		Maths P2 9am – 10.30am		Geography P2 9am – 10.30am		
French Writing Foundation 1.15pm – 2.15pm		History P2 1.15pm – 3pm		Biology 1pm – 2.15pm		
French Writing Higher 1.15pm – 2.30pm						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
English Lang P2 9am - 10.45am	Chemistry 9am – 10.15am	Maths P3 9am – 10.30am	History P3 9am – 10.45am	Physics 9am – 10.15am		
Business P2 1.15pm – 3pm				Geography P3 1.15pm – 2.30pm		
Japanese Reading and Writing 1.15pm						
Monday						
19						
Japanese Writing 9am – 10.15am						
Torrodin						

Exam Timetable 2023

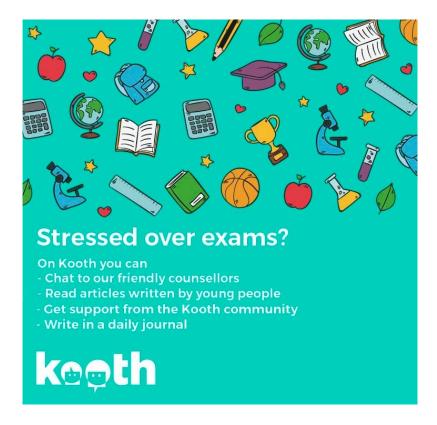
Many young people experience feelings of anxiety in the lead up to and during the exam period. This is perfectly normal. However, there might be times when you feel that your feelings of anxiety are taking over or becoming a blocker for your studies. It's really important that you share these feelings with a trusted adult and ask for support if you need it.

Young Minds has a great range of support available on their website:

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/copingwith-life/exam-stress/

https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/feelings-andexperiences/exam-stress/

https://www.studentminds.org.uk/examstress.html



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

You will sit two papers for English Language: Language Paper 1 (Fiction) and Language Paper 2 (non-fiction). You have knowledge organisers for both exams in your books. Use these to plan your revision in terms of your strengths and areas for development. Remember to use your mock papers too.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

You will sit two papers for English Literature: **Paper 1 (Macbeth and A Christmas Carol)** and **Paper 2 (An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry).** Again, you have knowledge organisers for all of these areas and valuable notes in your exercise books. Use these and your mock papers to plan your revision.

Key Dates

17th May English Literature Paper 1 (Macbeth and A Christmas Carol)
24th May English Lit Paper 2 (AIC/P&C poetry/Unseen poetry)
5th June English Language Paper 1
12th June English Language Paper 2

Weds 29 th March	Fri 7 th April
<u>Macbeth</u>	English Lang P2 Q5
Character focus – Banquo *for each character you need to know: what they do in the play;	Revise the structure of an argument. List discourse markers and connecting phrases.
what they represent; three key quotes from throughout the play; what Shakespeare wants the audience to learn from them.	Plan an answer to this question: 'Social media is dangerous and is a negative influence on children today.' Write a speech for your school assembly in which you give your opinion on this statement.
Thurs 30 th March	Mon 10 th April
<u>Macbeth</u>	<u>P&C Poetry</u>
Character focus – The witches *for each character you need to know: what they do in the play; what they represent; three key quotes from throughout the play; what Shakespeare wants the audience to learn	*for each poem you need to know: poet's message about power or conflict; three key quotes; two poems you could compare it to and why! Today = Remains
from them.	Write down everything you can remember. Look on bitesize. Make notes. Choose three key quotes – explode them. Two poems you would compare it to and why.
Fri 31st March	Tues 11 th April
Go to bitesize and answer the Macbeth	<u>P&C Poetry</u>
question: <u>Macbeth - Sample exam question -</u> <u>Sample exam question - AQA - GCSE English</u> <u>Literature Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize</u>	*for each poem you need to know: poet's message about power or conflict; three key quotes; two poems you could compare it to and why!
	Today = War Photographer
	Write down everything you can remember. Look on bitesize. Make notes. Choose three key quotes – explode them. Two poems you would compare it to and why.

Mon 3 rd April	Weds 12 th April
English Lang P2 Q2	P&C Poetry
What does summarise mean? What are the sentence starters you need to structure your answer? How many paragraphs?	*for each poem you need to know: poet's message about power or conflict; three key quotes; two poems you could compare it to and why!
	Today = Kamikaze
	Write down everything you can remember. Look on bitesize. Make notes. Choose three key quotes – explode them. Two poems you would compare it to and why.
Tues 4 th April	Thurs 13 th April
English Lang P2 Q3	Poetry comparison
Language analysis. How much do you need to write? What goes into an analytical paragraph. Read an example. Highlight the quote/method/analysis etc sections.	Choose two poems from P&C and write two comparative paragraphs. Compare the thoughts and ideas/themes within the poems – Poet's message!
Weds 5 th April	Fri 14 th April
English Lang P2 Q4 What do you need to compare? How much do you need to write? Look on bitesize at the sample paper and write an answer or part of an answer.	Create an AIC spider diagram – write down each of the characters and everything you can remember about them. Quotes, what they do, what they represent.
Thurs 6 th April	Mon 17 th April
English Lang P2 Q5	Eng Lang P1 – Section A
Revise persuasive devices. Write a list of as many as you can remember. Then write an example of each. How much should you write for Q5? Remind yourself of the mark scheme.	Mind map what you need to do for each question in Section A – what skill is being tested? How long should you spend on it? What strategies do you know?
Tues 18 th April	Thurs 27 th April
Eng Lang P1 - Section B	Unseen Poetry
Find the notes you made for two narratives from Fri 21 st Jan. Write up one of those narratives in 45 minutes.	Steps to approaching the first question/ how much to write/read an example
Weds 19 th April	Fri 28 th April
Eng Lang P1 Section A	<u>Unseen Poetry</u>
Using the booklet or an example from your teacher or internet. Complete a Paper 1 Section A in one hour.	Comparing poems *Also V useful for P&C poems! Comparative connectives, read an example, write your own.

Thurs 20 th April	Mon 1 st May				
<u>P&C Poetry</u>	ACC				
*for each poem you need to know: poet's message about power or conflict; three key quotes; two poems you could compare it to and why!	Character focus – Scrooge *for each character you need to know: what they do in the novel; what they represent in wider society; three key quotes from throughout the				
Today = Exposure	novel; what Dickens wants the audience to learn from them.				
Write down everything you can remember. Look on bitesize. Make notes. Choose three key quotes – explode them. Two poems you would compare it to and why.					
Fri 21 st April	Tues 2 nd May				
P&C Poetry	ACC				
*for each poem you need to know: poet's message about power or conflict; three key quotes; two poems you could compare it to and why!	Character focus – Bob Cratchit *for each character you need to know: what they do in the novel; what they represent in wider society; three key quotes from				
Today = Poppies	throughout the novel; what Dickens wants the audience to learn from them.				
Write down everything you can remember. Look on bitesize. Make notes. Choose three key quotes – explode them. Two poems you would compare it to and why.					
Mon 24 th April	Weds 3 rd May				
<u>P&C Poetry</u>	<u>ACC</u>				
*for each poem you need to know: poet's message about power or conflict; three key quotes; two poems you could compare it to and why!	Character focus –The Ghosts *for each character you need to know: what they do in the novel; what they represent in wider society; three key quotes from				
Today = Storm on the Island	throughout the novel; what Dickens wants the audience to learn from them.				
Write down everything you can remember. Look on bitesize. Make notes. Choose three key quotes – explode them. Two poems you would compare it to and why.					
Tues 25 th April	Thurs 4 th May				
<u>P&C Poetry</u>	ACC				
*for each poem you need to know: poet's message about power or conflict; three key quotes; two poems you could compare it to and why!	Theme focus – Poverty *for each theme you need to know: where is it seen in the novel; three key quotes linked to theme; what Dickens' message is about that				
Today = The Prelude	theme.				
Write down everything you can remember. Look on bitesize. Make notes. Choose three key quotes – explode them. Two poems you would compare it to and why.					

Weds 26 th April	Fri 5 th May
Poetry comparison	ACC
Choose two poems from P&C and write two comparative paragraphs. Compare the thoughts and ideas/themes within the poems – Poet's message!	Theme focus – Class *for each theme you need to know: where is it seen in the novel; three key quotes linked to theme; what Dickens' message is about that theme.
Mon 8 th May	Tues 9 th May
ACC Theme focus – Redemption/forgiveness * for	<u>AIC</u>
each theme you need to know: where is it seen in the novel; three key quotes linked to theme; what Dickens' message is about that theme.	Theme focus – Class differences *for each theme you need to know: where is it seen in the play; three key quotes linked to theme; what Priestley's message is about that theme.
Weds 10 th May	Thurs 11 th May
<u>AIC</u>	AIC
Theme focus – Political ideologies (Capitalism/Socialism/Patriachal)*for each theme you need to know: where is it seen in the play; three key quotes linked to theme; what Priestley's message is about that theme.	Theme focus – Gender *for each theme you need to know: where is it seen in the play; three key quotes linked to theme; what Priestley's message is about that theme.
Fri 12 th May <u>AIC</u> Theme focus – Poverty *for each theme you need to know: where is it seen in the play; three key quotes linked to theme; what Priestley's message is about that theme.	

Curriculum Areas - Maths

Higher Papers

Dates	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
13 th March	<u>June 2017 MS</u>	<u>June 2017 MS</u>	<u>June 2017 MS</u>
	ANS	ANS	ANS
20 th March	<u>Nov 2017 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2017 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2017 MS</u>
	ANS	ANS	ANS
27 th March	<u>June 2018 MS</u>	<u>June 2018 MS</u>	June 2018 MS
	ANS	ANS	ANS
3 rd April	<u>Nov 2018 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2018 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2018 MS</u>
	ANS	ANS	ANS
10 th April	<u>June 2019 MS</u>	<u>June 2019 MS</u>	June 2019 MS
	ANS	ANS	ANS
17 th April	<u>Nov 2019 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2019 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2019 MS</u>
	ANS	ANS	ANS
24 th April	June 2020 MS	June 2020 MS	June 2020 MS
	ANS	ANS	ANS
1 st May	<u>Nov 2021 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2021 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2021 MS</u>
	ANS	ANS	ANS
8 th May	Specimen 1 MS ANS	Specimen 1 MS ANS	Specimen 1 MS ANS
			AND
15 th May	Specimen 2 MS	Specimen 2 MS	Specimen 2 MS
	ANS	ANS	ANS
22 nd May	Practice Set 1	Practice Set 1	Practice Set 1
29 th May	MS Practice Set 2	MS Practice Set 2	MS Practice Set 2
2.5° IVIdy	MS	MS	<u>MS</u>
5 th June	Practice Set 3	Practice Set 3	Practice Set 3
1 Oth Lung a	MS Describes Cost 1	MS	MS
12 th June	Practice Set 4 MS	Practice Set 4 MS	Practice Set 4 MS

More Exam Papers including "Aiming for a 7" and "Aiming for a 9" papers

Curriculum Areas - Maths

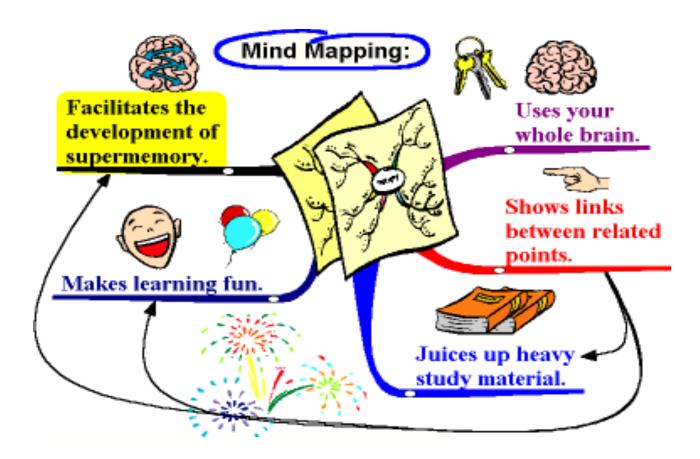
Foundation Papers

Dates	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
13 March 23	<u>June 2017 MS</u>	<u>June 2017 MS</u>	June 2017 <u>MS</u>
	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough
20 March 23	<u>Nov 2017 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2017 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2017 MS</u>
	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough
27 March 23	<u>June 2018 MS</u>	<u>June 2018</u> MS	<u>June 2018 MS</u>
	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough
3 April 23	<u>Nov 2018 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2018 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2018 MS</u>
•	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough
10 April 23	<u>June 2019 MS</u>	<u>June 2019 MS</u>	<u>June 2019 MS</u>
	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model
			Walkthrough
17 April 23	<u>Nov 2019 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2019 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2019 MS</u>
	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model
			Walkthrough
24 April 23	<u>June 2020 MS</u>	<u>June 2020 MS</u>	<u>June 2020 MS</u>
	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model
			Walkthrough
1 May 23	<u>Nov 2021 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2021 MS</u>	<u>Nov 2021 MS</u>
-	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model
			<u>Walkthrough</u>
8 May 23	Spec Set 1 MS	Spec Set 1 MS	Spec Set 1 MS
	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model
			Walkthrough
15 May 23	Spec Set 2 MS	<u>Spec Set 2</u> MS	Spec Set 2 MS
-	Model Walkthrough	Model Walkthrough	Model
			Walkthrough
22 May 23		Sample 1 MS	Sample 1 MS

Mind-mapping

This is a very effective way of representing large amounts of information in an attractive, easily-remembered way. You may have used 'spider diagrams' – which are very similar.

- Use a large piece of paper turned landscape
- In the centre write a name of the topic that you are going to revise and add a simple illustration if you wish
- Now draw lines like branches (coming out from the centre) to represent the main areas of the topic. Each of these can be illustrated or could be in different colour – or a different type face
- In turn, each of these could sub-divide into several more sections. Continue adding more branches until all the main information is on the mind map
- Finish your mind map: include diagrams, names (and pictures) of important people, dates, places, etc. If it gets too crowded, you could create a separate mind map for that particular section



Case studies

Case studies guarantee you WILL have questions which will require detailed answers to show your understanding.

Case studies help to bring a theory to life; they illustrate key points, key messages and how things are done in practice, but there is a lot of detail to remember so to break this down into manageable chunks. A case study card can be used, for example:

Case Study:				
Topic:				
Section Of Syllabus:				
Location:	Town/City/Region:	Country:	Continent:	
What?		What were the causes?		
When				
Facts And Figures:				
What were the effects?		How can the changes be managed or solved? By whom?		
		What are the options for the future?		
Key Words:				

Book:			
Author:			
Date:		Genre:	
Main Characters and Relationships:		Synopsis:	
Key Chapter Plot:		Author Techniques:	
Key Quotes:			

Try making case study snap cards or dominoes.

Reduced notes

Read your notes, identify the key points and write a summary. Then read your summary and summarise again.

Underwater Cameras

Regular cameras obviously will not function underwater unless specially protected. Though housings are available for waterproofing 35 nm and roll-film cameras, a few special models are amphibious -they can be used above or below the water. Most of these cameras are snapshot models, but one, Nikonos, is a true 35 mm system camera. Though lenses and film must be changed on the surface, the camera will otherwise function normally at depths down to 70 mm. Four lenses are available : two of these , which have focal lengths of 90 mm and 35 mm, will function in air and water; the other two of these, which have focal lengths of 90 mm and 35 mm, will function in air and water; the other two, the 28 and 15 mm lenses, work only under water. Lenses are also available from other manufacturers.

Underwater Cameras

1. Regular Cameras special housing necessary

2. Amphibious

- a) snapshot models
- b) Nikonos (35 mm)

Lenses

- i) air & water 35 mm 90 mm ii) only under water 28 mm
 - 15 mm

Source: Freeman, M 1994, The encyclopaedia of practical photography, Quartro Books, London, p. 283

Reduce, reduce, reduce

- · Make notes from original notes
- · Make notes from notes etc
- · Each time, make notes on smaller piece of paper
- Emphasis on the process of summarising the information, rather than the notes themselves
- · Reduce to main points

Not enough to make notes and leave (repeat, repeat, repeat) - making notes does not mean copying out the book



Reduce topic to a tweet!

Spaced learning

After a one hour memorising session:

10 minutes later revise the topic for 10 minutes 1 day

later revise the topic for 5 minutes

1 week later revise the topic for 2-5 minutes 1 month

later revise the topic for 2-5 minutes

Before exams revise the topic as required.

Each time knowledge is reinforced; it enters deeper into the long-term memory and becomes more stable.

