



Summer Exams

10

Guide to Revision at Home



HOW should I revise?

Begin by **organising** your work space and your study material. If possible, separate the area you intend to use for study from that in which you relax. Try to keep your 'entertainment gadgets' out of sight when you are studying.

Make a **revision plan**, include all the subjects and areas covered by your upcoming exams, using the checklists in this booklet to help. Make sure that your plan is realistic. Give yourself enough time to revise properly as well as having breaks for relaxation and other commitments. The revision plan needs to be flexible enough to allow for some things taking longer than expected. Use the 25-5 rule: 25 minutes study followed by 5 minutes break.

Revise subjects and topics that make you feel anxious earlier on in the revision plan. This will help reduce anxiety because you will feel that you have more time to deal with them. You don't need to tackle the difficult areas first. Revising subjects you know well will boost your confidence – **but don't put off the difficult areas until the last minute.**

Active revision is far more effective than passive. So, **make notes** as you revise, make further summaries of the notes this could be in the form of mind maps, mnemonics, recordings, flash cards or knowledge organisers depending on how you revise. They act as very useful prompts for your memory. Review these notes and summaries regularly. Read them out loud and test yourself on each area you cover.

Make use of past test papers and worksheets. Get used to the type and style of questions asked. Practice answering the questions previously asked.

WHEN should I revise?



Creating an effective revision timetable is crucial for success in summer school exams. It provides structure and helps you manage your time efficiently, ensuring you cover all necessary topics without feeling overwhelmed.

A good timetable helps to balance study with other activities, preventing burnout and promoting well-being, so schedule time for taking a walk, going to a youth club or playing sports.

Planning your revision allows you to prioritise weaker areas and allocate more time to subjects you find challenging. By visually mapping out your revision, you will gain a sense of control over your preparation, boosting confidence and reducing exam anxiety.

When creating a revision timetable...

- First list all the subjects and topics you need to revise (use this booklet to help with that).
- Next, allocate specific time slots for each subject, considering which subjects you find hardest - they will need to get more time!
- It's important to break down revision sessions into manageable chunks (e.g., 25 minutes of focused study followed by a 5-minute break) to maintain concentration.
- You should aim for a balance between different subjects and avoid overloading any single day.
- Finally, the timetable should be flexible and adaptable, allowing for adjustments as needed. Regularly reviewing and updating the timetable will ensure it remains effective throughout the revision period.

WHERE should I revise?

When doing your study and revision sessions at home it is important to find a suitable space to work without any distractions.



SET A DESIGNATED AREA FOR LEARNING

Find a space away from distractions that you can use solely to study and complete homework and revision.



KEEP YOUR DESK TIDY

A clean and tidy work environment can boost productivity and help your focus.



AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Remove distractions so that you don't split your attention, as this will reduce our learning potential. Put your phone in a different room so you're not tempted to check it.



AVOID LISTENING TO MUSIC

If you have to, listen to calming music without lyrics. Many studies on the subject found that music can impact your recall of information and your ability to focus.

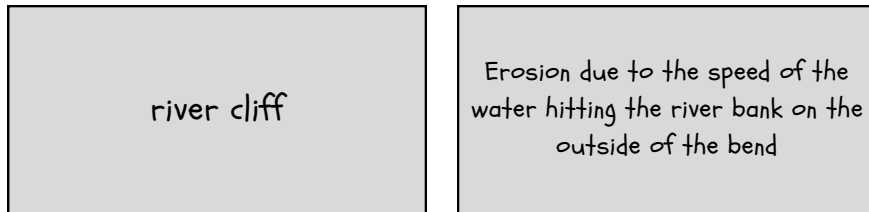


MAINTAIN A ROUTINE

Having a routine allows us to divide out time and prioritise what is important.

Flash Cards

Flash cards promote studying through active recall, which is one of the practices through which our brains learn most effectively. Before we can use them, we need to know what a powerful flash card looks like...



1

Tip 1:

Create your own revision cards - it will help to retrieve information.

2

Tip 2:

Adding pictures or diagrams to your flash cards will help make them more memorable.

3

Tip 3:

Use mnemonics, rhymes and acronyms to help you remember important points about a topic.



4

Tip 4:

Stick to one point per card. It's important not to overload them with too much information.

You can use your flash cards in a number of different ways. Recalling from memory rather than just copying from flash cards is most powerful.

You can test your memory by asking a friend or family member to read out a question/key word on the flash card and you recall it. Keep the ones you get wrong in a separate pile so you can come back to them later.

If you are revising independently you can recall the information out loud and then check the answer. If you get it wrong, put it into a separate pile and come back to them later.

Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

It is important to be able to recall knowledge from memory, not just copying from one piece of paper to another.

This is where the strategy of look, cover, write, check can really help. When repeating this process, leave at least an hour between attempts. Try it again a few days later - can you still remember it? Space attempts out over a period of time helps to commit the knowledge to your longer term memory.



Look

Look at your revision/summary notes and identify something you want to focus on. Read over it.



Say

Say the knowledge out loud to yourself, a friend or family member.



Cover

Cover your notes so that you can't see it anymore.



Write

Write down what you can remember from your revision notes.



Check

Check back at your revision notes to see if you got it write. Correct any mistakes or missing parts in a different coloured pen.



Repeat

Repeat this process every few days until you can remember all the content needed.

Other strategies

Different strategies will work best for different people and different subjects - try a variety of methods and find what works best for you!

MAP IT

Create a mind map or spider diagram of the key points



PRACTICE IT

Use past papers to test yourself and practice exam technique and timing.



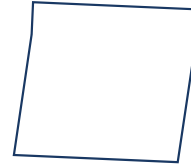
STORY IT

Create a weird and vivid story using the key points



POST IT

Write key words and formulas on to Post Its and stick them around your room



INDEX IT

Transfer the key points to index cards. Organise them into piles



WATCH IT

Watch videos that explain and summarise the content



MNEMONIC IT

Use the first letter of key words to create a sentence

A well known example:

Never
Eat
Shredded
Wheat



TIMELINE IT

Place key points along a line in date order



Dos & Don'ts of Revision



EAT BREAKFAST

Research has found that skipping breakfast significantly reduces your attention and ability to recall information.



PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY

Phones are such a big distraction and reduce your ability to focus.



START EARLY

Committing something to memory takes time. Spreading out your revision sessions on a particular topic is more effective than spending the same amount of time in one go.



TEST YOURSELF

Testing yourself is one of the most effective ways to improve your ability to recall information, and identify any gaps in your knowledge.



GET FRESH AIR AND EXERCISE

Revision has to be about quality as well as quantity. Going outside and getting some fresh air helps you feel refreshed and improves your focus afterwards. Exercise also helps to reduce anxiety.



GO HIGHLIGHTER CRAZY

Quite often, students end up highlighting whole chunks and passages of text. Research suggest this is of little value. Highlighting less helps to connect smaller bits of information.



LISTEN TO MUSIC

If you study in a quiet environment you'll be able to recall more than if you revise while listening to music.

Subject Revision Checklists

1 Tick the list

Use the revision lists to structure your revision. Tick the topics off the list when you have revised them and are confident in that knowledge. This will also help you to track your progress and reduce anxiety.

2 Practice the questions

For the subjects that have provided practice questions (eg. Maths), use your revision time to work through and practice as many of the questions as possible. Check your answers and make sure you ask for help if you don't know how to correct your answer.

French

	Higher numbers (dates and time)
	Holiday accomodation (hotel and campsite vocabulary)
	Holiday activities
	Food and drink (fruit, vegetables, meat, etc)
	Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner vocabularly)
	Recognise past tense (eg. j'ai mangé = I ate)
	Future tense - how it is formed using the verb "aller" = to go

Persuasive Writing

Pupils will be provided with a topic, along with a selection of facts, opinions and ideas to support them. They will then be required to write a persuasive article using the structure and techniques practised in class in preparation for their summer exam. As well as being assessed on content, the quality of written work, including spelling, punctuation and grammar, will also be assessed.

A persuasive article is a piece of non-fiction writing that presents a clear viewpoint on an issue and aims to influence the reader's opinion. It should sound confident, engaging and well-structured.

Suggested Structure

1. Title/Heading
2. Introduction
3. Paragraph 1 – Strong main argument
4. Paragraph 2 – Second argument
5. Paragraph 3 – Counter argument
6. Paragraph 4 – Back to your opinion
7. Conclusion

This structure helps your writing remain logical, coherent and convincing.

1. The Importance of a Title / Heading

Your title is the first thing the reader sees.

A strong title should:

- Be engaging and persuasive
- Clearly hint at your viewpoint
- Make the reader want to continue reading

Examples:

- Why Social Media Is Doing More Harm Than Good
- The Truth Behind School Uniforms

2. A Strong Introduction

Your introduction should:

- Introduce the topic clearly
- Grab the reader's attention
- State your opinion confidently

Effective introduction techniques:

- Rhetorical questions
- Shocking facts or statistics
- Bold statements
- Anecdotes

Example: *In a world dominated by technology, it is impossible to ignore the damaging effects social media is having on young people.*

3. Clearly Conveying Your Opinion

Your viewpoint must be clear throughout the article, not just at the start.

- State your opinion clearly in the introduction
- Use assertive, confident language
- Reinforce your opinion in every paragraph

Useful phrases:

- It is clear that...
- There is no doubt that...
- This demonstrates that...

4. Addressing the Audience

Persuasive articles should make the reader feel personally involved. You can:

- Use direct address (you, we, our)
- Ask rhetorical questions
- Appeal to the reader's emotions or values
- Use imperatives such as consider, imagine, think

Example: *Do we really want future generations to suffer the consequences of this decision?*

5. Using Connectives Effectively

Connectives help link ideas clearly and improve flow; using a wide range of connectives shows control and sophistication.

Useful persuasive connectives:

- Firstly, secondly, finally
- Furthermore, moreover, additionally
- However, on the other hand
- Therefore, as a result
- In conclusion

6. Using Punctuation for Effect

Punctuation can strengthen your argument and tone. Use:

- Exclamation marks for emphasis or urgency
- Short sentences for impact
- Dashes or colons to develop ideas
- Rhetorical question marks to engage the reader

Example: *This is unfair. This is unnecessary. This must change.*

7. Including a Counter Argument

A persuasive article should acknowledge opposing views. Including a counter argument strengthens your credibility.

How to do this:

- Briefly present a different viewpoint
- Explain why you disagree
- Reinforce your own argument

Example: *Some may argue that this policy is beneficial; however, this overlooks the long-term consequences.*

8. Using a Range of Persuasive Devices

A successful article uses varied techniques. Revise AFORESTPIE (copies in books). A wider range of devices leads to higher marks. Some examples include:

- Rhetorical questions
- Facts and statistics
- Emotive language
- Repetition
- Anecdotes or examples
- Triples (rule of three)

9. A Strong Conclusion

Your conclusion should:

- Summarise your key arguments
- Restate your opinion clearly
- Leave a lasting impression

✗ Do not introduce new ideas.

Effective endings include:

- A call to action
- A strong final statement
- A warning or prediction

Example: *Let me leave you with one final thought: it is clear that urgent action is needed before the damage becomes irreversible!*

Final Exam Checklist

Before handing in your article:

- Is my opinion clear from start to finish?
- Have I used paragraphs and connectives effectively?
- Have I included a counter argument?
- Have I used persuasive devices and punctuation for effect?
- Does my conclusion clearly sum up my argument?

	<p>Map Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labelling continents & oceans• Map symbols• Directions (8-point compass)• Grid references (4 and 6 figure)• Measuring distance• Settlement types
	<p>Population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MEDCs and LEDCs• Densely and sparsely populated areas

	World War I
	The Partition of Ireland
	Unionism and Nationalism
	Home Rule
	Solemn League and Covenant
	Formation of UVF
	Formation of IVF
	Easter Rising
	How to evaluate a source - Useful and Reliable Content Author Date Omissions
	How to Evaluate a Source using DAMITAL (Date Author Motive Information Tone Audience Limitations)



Home Economics

	The Eatwell Guide
	8 tips for healthy eating
	Nutrients
	Nutrition through the lifecycle
	Evaluate questions
	Practical work



Learning for Life and Work

	Northern Ireland Assembly / Good Friday Agreement
	Northern Ireland Assembly suspended
	Elections and MLAs
	Constituencies
	Assembly spending eg. Education
	Westminister decisions
	Political parties
	Government departments
	Voting
	MPs
	Introduce a new legislation to improve schools in Northern Ireland

You will need to bring your calculator, ruler and protractor to your Maths exam.

	Solving equations
	Fractions
	Pythagoras' Theorem
	Averages from ungrouped data
	Scatter diagrams
	Trial and improvement
	Bearings and constructions
	Angles in polygons
	Rounding and estimating calculations
	BIDMAS
	Forming and solving equations
	Value for money
	Line graphs and gradient
	Distance-Time graphs (travel graphs) and speed calculations
	Percentage change (increasing/decreasing by a percentage)
	Volume of a cylinder
	Enlargement and rotation
	Averages from grouped data
	Quadratic graphs
	Data collection
	Relative frequency
	Compound interest
	Product of prime factors, HCF and LCM



Religious Studies

	Definitions: prejudice, self-esteem, sectarianism, discrimination, stereotype
	Biblical story of the Good Samaritan
	Biblical story of the Unforgiving Servant
	Meaning of the Christian term “universalism”
	Explanation of the 'Equality Act' 2010
	A world religion view on equality
	Why is it important that everyone in school feel valued?
	Meaning of the term “pacifism” and different types
	Example of a famous pacifist
	Causes and consequences of war
	World religions views on war
	Just War Theory
	Understanding the term “capital punishment” and two countries that use it
	Symbol for Amnesty International
	Definition of reconciliation
	Definition of forgiveness
	Notes on film 'Zootopia'



Science - Biology

	7 food groups Know their names, what they do for the body and examples of foods
	Food tests - Protein, Fat, Reducing sugar and Starch How the test is carried out, what chemical is used, examples of food that have that food group present
	Calculating the energy content in foods/meals
	Differences between cells, tissues, organs and organ systems
	Structure of the tooth Different parts, the names and functions (what the different parts of the tooth do) The 4 different types of teeth and what they do to food
	Tooth decay - how it happens and what you can do to prevent it from happening.
	Digestive system - the different organs in the system and what they do



Technology & Design

	Health and Safety: hazard, prohibition, mandatory and safe condition signs
	HASAWA: the law including the responsibilities of employees and employers
	Risk Assessment: the definition and completing a risk assessment
	Design Process: the meaning of specification factors and market research
	Thermoplastic and Thermosetting Plastic: characteristics and examples
	Tools: identify and explain the purpose of workshop tools
	Finishing plastic: the process of finishing plastic
	Line bending: the process of line bending
	Pneumatics: examples of pneumatic applications, advantages of using pneumatics and health and safety rules when using pneumatics
	Pneumatic symbols: the symbols of pneumatic components
	Pneumatic SAC: how a single acting cylinder operates including outstroke, instroke and exhaust air
	Pneumatic 3/2 valve: how a 3/2 operates including the actuators
	Pneumatic circuits: AND, OR and speed control circuits including the purpose of a shuttle valve and unidirectional flow restrictor
	Ferrous and Non-ferrous metal: characteristics and examples

EXAM REVISION TIMETABLE



TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURDAY	FRIDAY

TIME	SATURDAY	SUNDAY

1. Write in times in 30 minute blocks (25 minutes studying and then a 5 minutes break).
2. Block out sessions when you have other commitments, like sports, family, a youth group, etc.
3. Spread out your subjects over the week.
4. Start with subjects that you feel comfortable with to help boost your confidence.
5. Include subjects that you are anxious about earlier in your plan.

**BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE,
PREPARATION IS THE KEY
TO SUCCESS**

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL



Nendrum College
Darragh Road
Comber, BT23 5BX

028 9187 2361
nendrumcollege.co.uk