



Summer Exams

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.

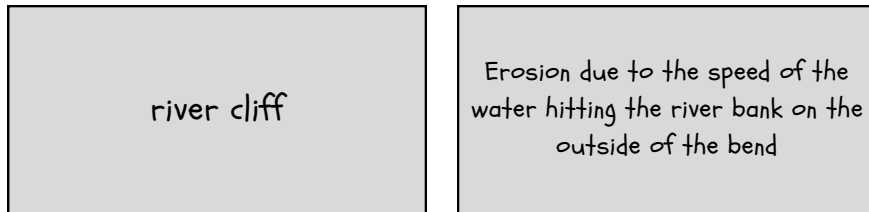


MAINTAIN A ROUTINE

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.



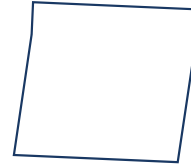
STORY IT

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.

Drama

This assessment will take place during class time.

Written task for Drama Exam

You will be expected to complete a diary entry either as Kevin or Sadie from 'Across The Barricades'.

You have already completed a plan in class.

You should pretend to be this character in your diary entry.

If you can use quotations from the play you will get higher marks.

You can have a copy of the play in your exam with you.

Success Criteria

- Writing is in paragraphs
- A range of punctuation is used (. , ! ?)
- Includes thoughts and feelings
- Attempts to write in detail
- Talks to the reader
- Use language devices (AFOREST)
- Quotes

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 speech 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 speech is written to be spoken aloud. While you will not be delivering your speech aloud, your aim is to clearly express your opinion and convince your audience to agree with you using strong arguments, persuasive language and effective techniques.

Suggested Structure

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

This structure helps ensure your speech is logical, engaging and convincing.

1. A Strong Introduction

Your introduction must:

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

Effective ways to open a speech:

- A rhetorical question
- A bold or shocking statement
- A short anecdote or fact

Example: What if I told you that this issue affects every single person in this room?

2. Clearly Conveying Your Opinion

Your viewpoint should be clear from start to finish.

- State your opinion clearly in the introduction
- Use confident, persuasive language
- Link every argument back to your main stance

Useful phrases:

- I strongly believe that...
- There is no doubt that...
- This clearly shows that...

3. Addressing the Audience

A speech should feel direct and engaging.

To address the audience:

- Use direct address: you, we, our
- Ask rhetorical questions
- Make the audience feel involved or responsible

Example: We all want to feel safe, respected and heard—don't we?

4. Using Connectives Effectively

Connectives help your ideas flow clearly.

Persuasive connectives to use:

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

5. Using Punctuation for Effect

Punctuation is especially important in speeches because it helps:

- Create dramatic pauses
- Emphasise key points
- Control pace and tone

Examples:

- Exclamation marks to show strong emotions/feelings: *This must change!*
- Ellipses (...) to create tension or to signal a pause to make a point more dramatic and important
- Dashes or short sentences for impact

6. Including a Counter Argument

A strong speech acknowledges opposing views.

How to include a counter argument:

- Briefly explain what others might argue
- Clearly explain why you disagree

Example:

Some people may argue that this change is unnecessary, they argue that.... However, this ignores the real impact it has on young people today.

7. Using a Range of Persuasive Devices

Persuasive devices help influence the reader. Revise AFORESTPIE (copies in books).

Some examples include:

- Rhetorical questions – Do we really want this?
- Facts or statistics – Studies show that 89% of....
- Emotive language – unfair, dangerous, harmful
- Repetition – repeating key words for impact

The wider the range of devices you use, the higher your marks. Using varied techniques shows skill and improves marks.

8. A Strong Conclusion

Your conclusion should:

- Summarise your main points
- Clearly repeat your opinion
- Leave the audience with a final powerful message

✗ Do NOT add new ideas.

Ideas for endings:

- A strong statement
- A call to action
- A memorable final sentence

Example: *For all of these reasons, it is clear that action must be taken—now!*

Final Exam Checklist

Before finishing, check:

- Is my opinion clear throughout?
- Have I addressed the audience directly?
- Have I used connectives and punctuation effectively?
- Have I included a counter argument?
- Does my conclusion sum up my argument powerfully?



French

	Free time activities and opinions (horse-riding, swimming, etc)
	3 key verbs (je vais = I go) (je fais = I do) (je joue = I play)
	Numbers 70 - 100
	Daily routine phrases and times
	Countries (J'habite + country)
	Languages (je parle + language)
	Nationalities (je suis + nationality)
	Compass points




Technology & Design

	Health and safety: hazard, prohibition, mandatory and safe condition signs
	Design Process: the meaning of specification factors
	Manufactured board: characteristics and examples
	Wooden joints: butt joint and mitre joint
	Tools: identify and explain the purpose of workshop tools
	Electronic stages: understand the input, process and output including an example
	Electronic symbols: the symbols and meanings
	Electronics VIR: VIR calculations



Geography - 9G

	<p>Extreme Climates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot and cold deserts • Animal adaptations • Sahara desert • Climate graphs
	<p>Economic Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job sectors (primary, secondary, and tertiary) • Systems diagram (inputs, processes, and outputs) • Types of industrial pollution
	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDCs and LEDCs • LEDC example (Nairobi, Kenya) • Key words e.g. GNP and indicators



Geography - 9S/9K/9D

	<p>Rivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage basin features
	<p>Economic Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job sectors (primary, secondary, and tertiary) • Systems diagram (inputs, processes, and outputs) • Types of industrial pollution
	<p>Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable and non-renewable resources • Equipment needed for renewable energy • Global warming – meaning and cause

	The Reformation
	Henry VIII
	Slavery
	Slave Trade and Middle Passage
	Civil Rights
	Rosa Parks
	Little Rock School Protest
	Martin Luther King Jr
	Plantation of Ulster
	Results of the Plantation
	Different viewpoints of the Plantation - Unionist and Nationalist
	How to Evaluate a Source using DAMITAL (Date Author Motive Information Tone Audience Limitations)



Home Economics

	Weighing and measuring
	Dietary goals
	Breakfast
	Healthy lunch
	Traditional foods
	Practical work



Learning for Life and Work

	What is human trafficking?
	Human trafficking exploitation
	Controlling behaviour of traffickers
	Signs of trafficking
	Raising awareness in Northern Ireland on Human Trafficking
	Feelings associated with Human Trafficking

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

	Fractions
	Sequences
	Brackets
	Comparing averages
	Bearings
	Forming and solving equations
	Rounding and estimation
	Line graphs and y-intercept
	Perimeter and circumference
	Substitution
	Translation
	The 'OR Rule' for probability
	Time and speed
	Stem and leaf diagrams
	Types of numbers
	Area of circles and compound shapes
	Directed numbers
	Percentages
	Angles in parallel lines
	Venn diagrams and bar charts
	Enlargement
	Fraction Decimal Percentage conversions
	Listing strategies and two way tables
	Pie charts
	Volume



Religious Studies

	Definition of “environment”
	Definition of “pollution” and the different types of pollution
	Meaning of the term “stewardship”
	What happened on each day of the Christian Creation Thoery
	A world religion view on caring for the environment
	WaterAid symbol
	Reasons why clean water is important
	Human Rights - UDHR document, when it was crated, examples of rights
	Life of Dr King (eg. when/where was he born
	Dr King’s famous “I have a dream” speech
	Why the city where he made the speech so important
	One famous quote by Dr King,
	Qualities of positive friendship
	Definition of “peer”
	Definition of “responsibility” and two examples of jobs with requirie responsibility
	A world religion view on responsibility
	A world religion view on equality
	Definition of term 'authority figure' and two examples
	Definition of 'peer pressure' and two feelings linked to peer pressure
	Definition of 'positive emotions'



Science (Biology)

	Puberty What changes occur for males and females?
	Variation Genetic and environmental. Understand the differences between them and know examples for each.
	Male reproductive system Know the different parts and their functions (what they do)
	Female reproductive system Know the different parts and their functions (what they do)
	Male sex cell What it looks like and their adaptation (special features that they have)
	Female sex cell What it looks like and their adaptation (special features that they have)
	Fertilisation - the different stages of it and where these stages occur
	The menstrual cycle How long it lasts for, the stages of the cycle (when they are and what happens)
	Placenta and umbilical cord What substances can pass through it to or from the baby and/or mother
	Stages of pregnancy
	Stages of labour
	What a mother can do to help the baby / not help the baby
	Contraception - the different types of contraception and how they work
	STIs

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**

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