



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.

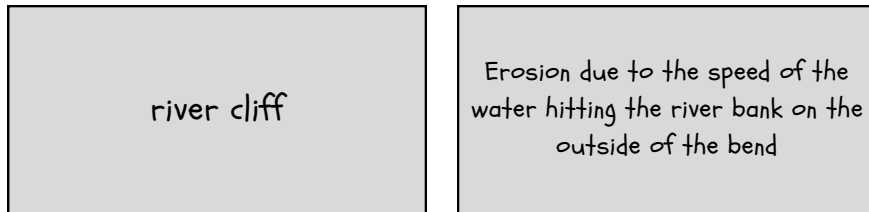


MAINTAIN A ROUTINE

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.



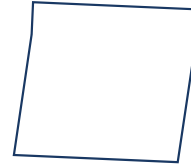
STORY IT

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 Macbeth or Lady Macbeth. 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.

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)

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 essay 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 essay is a piece of writing where you give your opinion on a topic and convince the reader to agree with you using clear arguments, evidence and persuasive techniques.

Suggested Structure

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

1. A Strong Introduction

Your introduction is very important because it:

- Grabs the reader's attention
- Introduces the topic
- Clearly states your opinion

Try to Include:

- A hook (question, bold statement, fact or statistic)
- A clear sentence that says what you believe

Example hook ideas:

- Have you ever wondered why...?
- Imagine a world where...
- School uniforms should most definitely be banned because...

2. Clearly Stating Your Opinion

Throughout your essay, the reader should never be unsure what you think.

- Use confident language
- Re-state your opinion in different ways, making a range of points
- Link every paragraph back to your main viewpoint

Sentence starters:

- I strongly believe that...
- In my opinion...
- This proves that...

3. Addressing the Audience

Persuasive writing works best when you speak directly to the reader.

- Use pronouns like you, we, our
- Ask rhetorical questions
- Appeal to the reader's emotions
- Use imperatives like imagine, think, consider

Examples:

- Would you want to be treated unfairly?
- We all deserve to feel safe and respected.
- Imagine a world where.....

4. Using Connectives

Connectives help your writing flow smoothly and show how ideas link together.

Useful persuasive connectives:

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

5. Including a Counter Argument

A counter argument shows that you understand the other side of the issue. This makes your argument stronger and more convincing.

- Explain what someone who disagrees might say
- Then explain why they are wrong

Example:

- Some people argue that... However, this is untrue because...

6. Using a Range of Persuasive Language Devices

Persuasive devices help influence the reader. Revise AFORESTPIE (copies in books). The wider the range of devices you use, the higher your marks.

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

7. A Strong Conclusion

Your conclusion should:

- Summarise your main points
- Re-state your opinion strongly
- Leave a final impression on the reader
- ✗ Do NOT add new ideas.

End with:

- A strong final statement
- A call to action or powerful message

Example ending:

- For these reasons, it is clear that change is needed now!

Final Exam Checklist

Before you finish, ask yourself:

- Have I clearly stated my opinion?
- Have I used paragraphs and connectives?
- Have I included a counter argument?
- Have I used persuasive devices?
- Does my conclusion sum everything up clearly?

	Numbers, days and months		
	School life (subjects and opinions)		
	Mon, ma, mes (3 words for my) and family members		
	Pets		
	Age (I have + number of years)		
	Adjectives to describe yourself		
	J'ai (I have)	tu as (you have)	il a / elle a (he has/she has)
	Je suis (I am)	tu es (you are)	il est / elle est (he is/ she is)
	Colours		
	<p>Questions to answer in French about yourself: How are you? What is your name? Where do you live? When is your birthday? What age are you? Do you have a pet? Do you have any brothers or sisters? Describe yourself e.g. I am tall and intelligent</p>		
	Rooms in the house		
	<p>Items in your bedroom. Use colours to describe the items in your bedroom. The adjective (colour) may change in spelling depending on what you are describing. E.g. un lit blanc = a white bed Une lampe blanche = a white lamp (lamp is a feminine noun)</p>		

	<p>Map Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drawing a plan
	<p>Weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weather elements• Measuring elements of weather inc. units used• The water cycle
	<p>The Active Earth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Layers of the earth• Plate tectonics• What is an earthquake?• What causes an earthquake to occur?• Volcano diagram• Positive and negative impacts of volcanoes

	What is History?
	Types of Evidence
	Centuries
	1066 and the Battle of Hastings
	William takes control
	Castles
	Feudal System
	Domesday Book
	Normans in Ireland
	Story of Dermot MacMurrough
	John de Courcy
	How to Evaluate a Source using DAMITAL (Date Author Motive Information Tone Audience Limitations)



Home Economics

	Hygiene
	Equipment
	Cookers
	First aid and safety
	Food storage
	Practical work



Learning for Life and Work

	Diversity
	Inclusion
	Identity/factors influencing identity.
	Racism/key figures
	The Assembly Story

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

	Sequences and patterns
	Rules of algebra and simplifying
	Angles and constructions
	Angle facts and calculations
	Fractions
	Number skills
	Mean and range
	Negatives and decimals
	Solving equations
	Operations with power of 10
	Substitution
	Presenting and interpreting data
	Properties of shapes
	Rounding and estimation
	Reflection and symmetry
	Area and perimeter
	Median and mode
	Fractions and decimals
	Rotation
	3D shapes



Religious Studies - 8E

	<p>World Religions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christianity• Judaism• Hinduism• Islam• Sikhism• Buddhism.
	<p>Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which religion celebrate Easter?• Who left the Last Supper meal and why?• How much was Judas paid to betray Jesus?• How do Christian Churches celebrate the Last Supper today?• Who led the trial against Jesus?• What punishment did Jesus face when he was found guilty?
	<p>The Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sections in the Bible• Books in the Bible• The 12 Disciples• The 10 Commandments• The 10 Plagues of Egypt
	<p>Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is a good decision?• What is a bad decision?• What is a consequence?• What is a conscience?
	<p>Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is bullying?• Different types of bullying• Ideas to promote 'Anti-bullying' in Nendrum College



Religious Studies - ALL other classes

	<p>World Religions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christianity• Judaism• Hinduism• Islam• Sikhism• Buddhism.
	<p>The Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sections in the Bible• Books in the Bible• The 12 Disciples• The 10 Commandments• The 10 Plagues of Egypt
	<p>Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is a good decision?• What is a bad decision?• What is a consequence?• What is a conscience?
	<p>Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is bullying?• Different types of bullying• Ideas to promote 'Anti-bullying' in Nendrum College



Science - Biology

	7 characteristics of a living thing (MRS GREN) - what they are and what they mean.
	Animal and plant cells - the different parts of the structure and what those parts do in the cell, the similarities and differences between animal and plant cells.
	Microscope - labelling the different parts of the microscope and what each part does.
	Specialised cells - the names, what they do and their adaptation (what special feature do they have to help them do their job).
	Know how to prepare (make) a plant cell (onion skin) slide and an animal cell (cheek cell) slide.
	Animal classification - Vertebrate and Invertebrate - MRFAB.
	MRFAB - know the different characteristics for each vertebrate group.
	Keys - how to read from an identification key.
	Habitats - why do animals live in particular places.
	Adaptations - what sort of adaptations do some animals have and why?

	Health and Safety: Workshop rules
	Design process: the meaning of specification factors
	Thermoplastic: characteristic and examples
	Finishing plastic: the process of finishing plastic
	Laminating and cross section: the meaning of laminating and the definition of files including the cross section
	Motions: 4 different motions including examples
	Levers: class 1, class 2 and class 3 levers and identifying the position of the load, fulcrum and effort
	Gears: the symbols of a gear and gear train, the purpose of an idler gear and identifying driven and driver, including calculating gear ratio
	Manufactured board: 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**

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