

GCSE EXAMINATIONS REVISION HINTS

Name

11:



The secret of examination success is careful preparation. Your teachers will try to help you prepare properly for your exams but here are some general points to consider.

1. **Make sure that you have a full set of notes for each subject you are studying.** Many students miss at least one lesson or piece of homework over the period of a term. (However, remember if you borrow a friend's book to catch up on those missing notes, they will need that book for the next lesson - so return it as soon as possible).
2. Make sure you know which subjects you will be examined in. You will be given details by your Subject teacher.
3. Prior to the examination, you will be given a **revision checklist by your teachers.** You should ask your subject teacher how your examination will be laid out and what is expected of you. For example, you may have multiple choice answers, essays to write, short sentences to complete and so on. Find out how much choice you have and how long you have to finish the exam. **Most important of all, ask what topics you will be expected to revise.** It would be a waste of time to revise work that was not going to appear on the exam paper!
4. Complete an **Examination Timetable** so that you know exactly when and where your exams will be held.
5. Begin your revision **NOW.** It may be that at present you are only able to spend a short period each evening on revision because you have to fit it around other homeworks. Still include some revision - even 20 minutes is better than nothing. Perhaps concentrate initially on those topics you find most difficult.

WHAT TO DO IN EACH 20 MINUTE SESSION

Your revision should not be just reading your exercise book - you will remember nothing and you will become bored very quickly.

1. **Make notes as you go through your subject. Head the notes with the topic** and underneath **write numbered 'key words and phrases'** to help remind you of the main points in each subject. For example,

Methods of Input and Output and Storage

1. Input – Keyboard, mouse, USB stick, OMR, OCR
2. Output – Monitor, Speakers, Printer, USB drive
3. Storage – hard drive, USB stick
4. Memory – RAM (random access memory), ROM (read only memory)
Etc., etc., etc.



2. Next - **learn this list.**
3. **Turn the list over** and, on another piece of paper, **write down all that you can from your memory.**
4. **The following day begin your session with the same test** to see how much you have remembered. If you can, **get a member of your family to test you too!**
5. **Repeat the test in a couple of days time - then again the following week.** You will actually increase the amount you remember each time.
6. Before the examination you can **use the topic notes for final revision.**
7. **Remember to try out some of the ideas your teachers have given you.** They may suit you.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE EXAMINATION

If you have followed your timetable honestly, you should not need any last minute revision. everyone has their own views about the night before an examination: some people like to relax, others like to have a final read through of their notes.

Never revise late into the night before an exam - have a good sleep and have PLEASANT DREAMS!

THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION



1. **Get up early and have a good breakfast.**
2. **Check** that you have plenty of pens, pencils and the necessary ruler, protractor, calculator, coloured pens etc.
3. **Check** you have your revision material for before the exam.
4. **Get to school in good time!**

HOW TO REVISE

There are many different methods of revising. Some of your teachers will give you special help with their subject. **LISTEN!** They have specialist knowledge and a lot of experience in preparing for exams. Research has shown that the method outlined below is one extremely successful way to revise for examinations.

1. **You should begin your Year 11 revision now.** Research shows that **short, sharp, silent sessions**, repeated over a length of time, will **slowly improve your powers of recall**. **It is not sensible in areas of the house where you can be distracted by background noise.**
2. Complete a **revision timetable**: for example;

Week One

<i>Monday</i>	Maths	Physics	French	Recall
<i>Tuesday</i>	Geography	IT	Food Tech	Recall
<i>Wednesday</i>	Chemistry	Economics	Biology	Recall
<i>Thursday</i>	Maths	Physics	French	Recall
<i>Friday</i>	Food Tech	Geography	IT	Recall
<i>Saturday</i>	Chemistry	Physics	Biology	Recall
<i>Sunday</i>	Economics	IT	Maths	Recall

Allow yourself extra time for your weaker subjects and always tackle these subjects early in the revision session. **Allow some time each day for recall tests** i.e. What can you remember from the previous revision sessions?

3. **Revise 2 or 3 subjects each night** so that you do not get bored. Use a variety of methods e.g. spidergram; tape recording; colour coding; mnemonics; funny voices etc.
4. Break periods of revision into short sessions (for many 20 to 25 minutes is an appropriate length then **have a break for 10 minutes** - award yourself little prizes: drink, biscuits, etc. Alternatively, you could plan your revision around your favourite 'Soap Opera' - revise up until the start of EastEnders, then continue afterwards!

Forcing yourself to undergo much longer than 25 minutes of concentration will result in you remembering few of the details revised.

A Typical Evening

4.30 - 5.30 pm	Homework/revision.
5.30 - 6.30 pm	Dinner.
6.30 pm	Revision continued.
6.55 pm	Stop for 10 minutes and some brain food!
7.05 pm	Back to work and your books!
7.30 pm	Stop for another break.

Do not work late into the evening. Have a break before sleep time.

5. At weekends plan your days so that you have a total break at some stage; i.e. evenings off.
6. **Always work somewhere quiet**, on your own, probably in your bedroom. Have a table to put your books on and a good reading light so that you do not strain your eyes.
7. Ask your teachers for advice about revising for their particular subject.