

YEAR 11 GCSE SUPPORT BOOKLET 2025/26

**Exam information for EVERY SUBJECT & effective revision habits & strategies:
A study guide for pupils & parents.**



Simple Varied Organised Revisit Diet

Exam Success

Memorable Personal Timing Test Sleep

A graphic titled "Exam Success" featuring ten icons arranged in two rows. The top row includes icons for "Simple" (lightbulb), "Varied" (crosshair), "Organised" (list), "Revisit" (refresh), and "Diet" (apple). The bottom row includes icons for "Memorable" (head), "Personal" (fingerprint), "Timing" (clock), "Test" (checkmark), and "Sleep" (alarm clock).

Ludus Admirandus

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English Language Exams Information

Your exam board is EDUQAS.

What exams will I do?

- You will sit 2 final exam papers in May/June 2026 covering a wide range of topics.
- **Component 1** is 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing.
- **Component 2** is Non-Fiction 19th and 21st Century Non-fiction Reading and Persuasive Writing.

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

- Read set articles and summarise the main points.
- Select ten words from the article to revise to apply to your own writing.
- Read fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Revise basic skills: Punctuation, spellings and grammar.

2. GCSE Pod

- Watch GCSE Pod for English Language and Achieve in English.
- Create revision notes from the pods that you watch and practise the exam techniques.

3. Complete Practice Exam Questions

Practice questions are available from https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-language-gcse/#tab_pastpapers

Speak to your teacher if you would like some past exam papers.

Where can I get revision materials?

Go to the class files section on the class team for revision material.

What will I be assessed on?

The exam papers cover a wide variety of viewpoints. This is not a complete list.

- **Component 1, Section A:** You will read and analyse an extract from a fiction prose. You should spend 1 hour on this section.
- **Component 1, Section B:** There will be four tasks and you will pick ONE to write your own creative story. You should spend 45 minutes on this section.
- **Component 2, Section A:** You will read TWO non-fiction texts and analyse the writer's viewpoint. You should spend 1 hour on this section.
- **Component 2, Section B:** You will write TWO non-fiction texts.

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after- school
- Come and talk to your teachers for one-to one support.

English Literature Exams Information

Your exam board is **EDUQAS**

What exams will I do?

- You will sit 2 final exam papers in May/June 2026 covering the following topics.
- **Component 1** is 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare and the Poetry Anthology.
- **Component 2** is 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell and Unseen Poetry.

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

Create revision character or theme profiles.

Create quotation banks and learn off-by-heart.

2. GCSE Pod

'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/13399/80453>

'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10266/62834>

'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10255/62508>

Poetry Anthology:

https://members.gcsepod.com/content?subject_id=6062&exam_board_id=1023&topic_id=8050

Unseen Poetry:

https://members.gcsepod.com/content?subject_id=6062&exam_board_id=1023&topic_id=8132

3. Complete Practice Exam Questions

Practice questions are available from https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-gcse/#tab_pastpapers

Speak to your teacher if you would like some past exam papers.

Where can I get revision materials?

Go to the class files section on the class team for revision material and BBC Bitesize and the EDUQAS Website: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-gcse/?sub_nav_level=digital-resources#tab_resources

What will I be assessed on?

The exam will include questions from texts you have not studied. Ignore those and answer on the texts listed below ONLY.

Paper 1: 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare. You will answer an extract question which requires you to track through the extract. You will then answer an essay question which requires you to analyse a character or theme from across the whole play.

Paper 1: 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell. You will need to write one essay on a character or theme, including your analysis from the extract provided.

Paper 2: 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. You will need to write one essay on a character or theme, including your analysis from the extract provided. You will be assessed on your ability to link Dickens' intentions to the social-historical context.

Paper 2: Poetry Anthology. You will answer one question on a selected poem. You will need to analyse the language and structure and comment on its effect on you. Then you will have a second question which requires you to compare that poem to another selected poem. You can compare the ideas, language, poetic techniques and structure. You will be assessed on your ability to link the poet's intentions to the social-historical context.

Paper 2: Unseen Poetry. You will answer one question on an unseen poem. You will need to analyse the language and structure and comment on its effect on you. Then you will have a second question which requires you to compare that poem to another unseen poem. You can compare the ideas, language, poetic techniques and structure.

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after- school.
- Come and talk to your teachers for one-to one support.

Maths Exams Information

Your exam board is **Edexcel**.

What exams will I do?

- You will sit 3 final exam papers in May/June 2025 covering a wide range of topics.
- Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper and is worth 80 marks. Paper 2 is a calculator paper and is worth 80 marks. Paper 3 is also a calculator paper and is worth and is 80 marks.
- You will be given a formula sheet to use during your exams, although this does not include all the formula you need to learn.

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

Complete the Pinpoint booklets by first watching the videos highlighted on the front of the booklet. This will allow you to gain a better understanding of the topics highlighted through the booklet.

2. Pinpoint

Use your pinpoint booklets to identify areas of weakness then use the videos and tasks in the independent learning section of Sparx to help you improve.

3. Complete Practice Exam Questions

Practice questions and past papers are available from your class teacher. Use the exam analysis of your weekly in class past papers to revise topics you need to improve on. Use Onmaths to work through online past papers.

Where can I get revision materials?

Your class teacher will provide you with your personalised Pinpoint booklets to complete at home. Use the revision websites below to watch maths tutorials and complete practice questions:

www.corbettmaths.com

www.mathsgenie.com

www.onmaths.com

www.mrmorleymaths.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.sparxmaths.com

You can also request extra practice papers to work through at home if you prefer working on paper.

Need help?

- Come to any revision sessions.
- Come and talk to your teachers for one-to-one support.

Science Exams Information

Your exam board is **AQA**, for either Combined Science Trilogy or Separate Science.

What exams will I do?

- You will sit 3 final exam papers in May/June 2025 covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- There is a paper 1 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and a paper 2 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each exam is 1 hour 15 minutes long.

For pupils taking the Combined Science qualification, each exam is 1 hour 15 minutes long. For those taking Separate Science each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

You will be provided with a periodic table in your Chemistry exams and a complete formula sheet in your Physics exams, this will include all of the formulae you will need.

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. **Homework** – you have been completing a revision homework each week for Science. Make sure you use the resources you have made to revise. Keep making sure you complete your homework.
2. **GCSE Pod** – make use of GCSE Pod videos for each of your topics. Complete the check and challenge activities.
3. **Complete Practice Exam Questions** – your teacher will provide you with lots of papers to practice. This is really important as helps you to understand a range of questions and command words. This is only helpful if you use a markscheme to check your answers afterwards.
4. **Make revision materials** – such as revision cards, posters, mindmaps etc. Different coloured materials often help people to recall information better than ‘boring’ looking notes. Think of mnemonics to help you remember things and pictures to illustrate complex ideas.
5. **Make use of your teacher** – if you revise something at home and you are unsure of it, make sure you ask your teacher the next day to ensure you go back over it.
6. **Youtube videos** – there are some handy YouTube videos made by ‘freesciencelessons’ which may help you to get a summary of a topic or understand it.
7. **Seneca learning** – another great website with resources to help you understand topics.
8. **BBC Bitesize** – a great website written in a way you will understand. Make sure you are on the right exam board – either AQA trilogy if you are doing combined science or AQA separate science if you are in the triple class.

Where can I get revision materials?

- Go to the class files section on the class team for each of your sciences.
- Ask your teacher to print off resources if you need them printed.

What will I be assessed on?

<u>Biology Paper 1</u>	<u>Chemistry Paper 1</u>	<u>Physics Paper 1</u>
Cell biology Organisation Infection and response Bioenergetics	Atomic structure and the periodic table Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter Quantitative chemistry Chemical changes Energy changes	Energy Electricity Particle model of matter Atomic structure
<u>Biology Paper 2</u>	<u>Chemistry Paper 2</u>	<u>Physics Paper 2</u>
Homeostasis and response Inheritance, variation and evolution Ecology	The rate and extent of chemical change Organic chemistry Chemical analysis Chemistry of the atmosphere Using resources	Forces Waves Magnetism and electromagnetism Space physics (Triple only)

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after-school
- Come and talk to your teachers for one-to one support.

Spanish Exams Information

Your exam board is Edexcel.



What exams will I do?

Your **speaking exams** will come first in the **first week of May**. This is a one-to-one interview with your class teacher which is recorded and sent off to Edexcel for marking externally.

Listening and understanding in Spanish Foundation Tier	Tuesday 09 June	Morning	0h 45m
Listening and understanding in Spanish Higher Tier	Tuesday 09 June	Morning	1h 00m
Reading and understanding in Spanish Foundation Tier	Tuesday 16 June	Morning	0h 45m
Reading and understanding in Spanish Higher Tier	Tuesday 16 June	Morning	1h 00m
Writing in Spanish Foundation Tier	Wednesday 17 June	Morning	1h 15m
Writing in Spanish Higher Tier	Wednesday 17 June	Morning	1h 20m

Paper 1: Speaking 25%

- Read aloud: Read out a short paragraph and then answer a few questions about the topic.
- Role play: Act out a short transaction task between yourself and the teacher.
- Picture Description: Describe a picture based on a theme of your choice and then answer two questions about it and have a short conversation on the same theme.



Paper 2: Listening 25%

- Listening Comprehension: Multiple choice and short answer questions in English about the recording you hear.
- Dictation: Listen to a recording and transcribe what you hear.

All recordings are played three times.



Paper 3: Reading 25%

- Reading Comprehension: Multiple choice and short answer questions in English about the text you read.
- Translation: Translate short sentences or a short paragraph into English from Spanish.



Paper 4: Writing 25%

- Picture Description: (Foundation only) Describe a picture in Spanish. (Very similar to the speaking task).
- Written essays: You will have two choices of topics and bullet points in English about what you need to write about.
- Translation: Translate short sentences or a short paragraph into Spanish from English.



How do I prepare for the speaking and writing exams:

Use your Speaking preparation booklets and rehearse your answers regularly. Test your learning by writing down your answers from memory (this will also help your writing skills) and try recording them or reciting them to someone (this could be another student, a parent or your teacher). It is absolutely essential that you test yourself or get someone to tell you when you have missed a word. Remember Spanish is a phonetic language and every letter should be sounded out.

What do I revise?

We have created a revision schedule to follow each week and you have also been given a Revision workbook. You have access to Pearson's on-line revision guide and the audio files you require are accessible via the QR codes in the workbook and on the on-line guide. You need to ensure all the activities that are set are completed on-time and you can go back through the workbook, using the on-line guide to access other useful topics or topics we covered in year 10 until the workbook has been completed. You also have the speaking preparation booklets we gave you to complete after each module in which you have written your own answers to the exemplar questions set relating to the 6 themes. Learn these.

- **My personal world**
- **Lifestyle and wellbeing**
- **My neighbourhood**
- **Media and technology**
- **Studying and my future**
- **Travel and tourism**

Homework and classwork:

You are the key to your own success and full concentration and effort in the classroom is vital. We still have two topics to cover and a tight schedule in order to get through the course on time and get you ready for your exams. Therefore, adhering to deadlines for homework and completing all classwork set is of paramount importance. You will continue to receive homework on Activehub, our on-line homework platform, in addition to the work in the revision schedule and we will set this weekly via teams also to remind you. Between Jan and Feb half term we will complete the "My neighbourhood" theme and learn about global issues such as the environment. Then in February and March we will complete the "Studying and my future" theme, looking at the world of work and career plans.

Further information

From the 6 themes these are the sub topics which we have learnt about and may fit into one or more theme:

If you need any extra help or support please come and see your teacher or any of the other Spanish teachers. We will be happy to help.

Conversation classes will start after February half term.

family	friends	relationships	equality
physical well-being	mental well-being	food and drink	sports
places in town	shopping	transport	the natural world
environmental issues	social media and gaming	future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)	school
music	TV and film	accommodation	tourist attractions

Geography Exams Information

Your exam board is **AQA**.

What exams will I do?

- You will sit 3 final exam papers in May/June 2025 covering a wide range of topics.
- Paper 1 is Physical Geography. Paper 2 is Human Geography. Paper 3 is Issue Evaluation and Fieldwork.

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

Complete your weekly home workset by your teacher. These will be accompanied by work booklets for each specific topic.

2. GCSE Pod

Watch the Pods on each topic set for homework and complete the check and challenge activities.

3. Complete Practice Exam Questions

Practice questions are available within your work booklets, set on TEAMS and in class too. Speak to your teacher if you would like even more past exam papers.

Where can I get revision materials?

Please see Mr Coward if you require any additional revision support.
Geography revision guide.

Alongside this GCSE Pod and BBC Bite size are all other interactive platforms you can use to support your revision.

What will I be assessed on?

The exam papers cover a wide variety of content. Some topic areas are shown below.

Paper One

The challenge of natural hazards (Section A)

- Tectonic hazards
- Weather hazards
- Climate

The living world (Section B topics below)

- Ecosystems
- Tropical rainforests
- Hot deserts

Physical landscapes (Section C topics below)

- UK landscapes
- River landscapes
- Coastal Landscapes

Paper Two

Urban issues and challenges (Section A)

Changing economic world (Section B)

Resource management (Section C topics below)

- Resource management
- Food management

Paper Three

- Geographical applications (pre-release material)
- Fieldwork

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after-school
- Come and talk to your teachers for one-to one support.

PE Exams information

Your exam board is **OCR**.

What exams will I do?

- You will sit 2 final exam papers in May/June 2025 covering a wide range of topics.
- Paper 1 is Anatomy & Physiology and Physical Training (1 hour) Paper 2 is Socio-cultural issues and Sports psychology (1 hour)

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

Complete the A3 revision sheets weekly, leading up the exam. Watch the relevant GCSE pod first, complete the revision sheet with no help, then check and fill gaps using the colour version from your folders.

2. GCSE Pod

Watch the Pods on each topic set for homework and complete the check and challenge activities.

3. Complete Practice Exam Questions

Speak to your teacher if you would like some past exam papers.

Where can I get revision materials?

Go to the class files section on the class team for all revision sheets and resources.

What will I be assessed on?

The exam papers cover a wide variety of content. Some topic areas are shown below.

This is not a complete list.

Paper 1 Topic 1: Skeletal System

Paper 1 Topic 2: Muscular System

Paper 1 Topic 3: Planes, Axes and levers

Paper 1 Topic 4: Cardiovascular system

Paper 1 Topic 5: Respiratory System

Paper 1 Topic 6: Short-term and long-term effects of exercise

Paper 1 Topic 7: Components of fitness

Paper 1 Topic 8: Principles of training, warm-up/cool-down, preventing injury

Paper 2 Topic 1: Socio-cultural influences

Paper 2 Topic 2: Commercialisation

Paper 2 Topic 3: Ethical and social issues

Paper 2 Topic 4: Sports Psychology

Paper 2 Topic 5: Diet and Nutrition

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after-school
- Come and talk to your teachers for one-to one support.

History Exams Information

Your exam board is **Edexcel**.

What exams will I do?

- You will sit 3 final exam papers in May/June 2025 covering 4 topics.
- Paper 1 is Medicine Through Time c1250-present (1hour 20 mins). **15th May 2026**
- Paper 2 is Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991 and Elizabethan England 1558-1588 (1 hour 50 mins). **4th June 2026**
- Paper 3 is Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939. (1 hour 30 mins). **9th June 2026**

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

Complete your weekly homework set by your teacher to a high standard. Use your flashcards to recall and recap knowledge.

2. Revision Checklists

Use the revision checklists on the front of your work booklets to rate how confident you feel with each topic. Anything you mark as 'red' should be a priority for revision and revisited more often. Anything marked as 'green' needs to be revisited less often.

3. Utilise websites – GCSE Pod, BBC Bitesize and Educake

Watch videos about certain topics and either recall knowledge beforehand, or make notes after based on memory.

4. Complete Practice Exam Questions

Complete exam style questions to practice your skills. Speak to your teacher if you would like additional exam questions and to receive further feedback

Where can I get revision materials?

- Flashcards that have previously been completed for homework
- GCSE Pod, BBC Bitesize and Educake
- Revision guides
- Ask for your teacher for specific worksheets for certain topics

What will I be assessed on?

The exam papers cover a wide variety of content and skills. Some topic areas are shown below. This is not a complete list.

Paper 1 – Source skills and extended writing

Paper 2 – Extended writing

Paper 3 – Source skills, interpretation skills and extended writing.

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after-school
- Come and talk to your teachers for one-to one support.

Design and Technology Exam Information

Your exam board is **Eduqas**.

What exams will you do?

- You will sit 1 final exam paper on **June 2026** covering a wide range of topics.
- Component 1 is the NEA which is 50% of the final exam which is completed in school
- Component 2 is the 2 hour written exam taken in June 2026

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. **Homework** – Complete the weekly homework set by your teacher
2. **GCSE Pod** – Watch the Pods on each topic set for homework and complete the check and challenge activities.
3. **Complete Practice Exam Questions** – Practice questions are available from your teacher
4. **Use GCSE bitesize** for exam topics, revision materials and quizzes
5. **Use the Eduqas website** for knowledge organisers, access to exam questions, past papers and mark schemes and revision materials

Speak to your teacher if you would like some past exam papers

Where can I get revision materials?

Go to the class files section on the class team for useful resources:

- specification check list
- knowledge organizer
- links to mind maps
- worksheets

What will I be assessed on?

The exam paper covers a wide variety of content. Some topic areas are shown below.

This is not a complete list.

Core Knowledge and Understanding including:

- The impact of new and emerging technologies
- Developments in Smart materials, composites and technical textiles
- Electronic systems and programmable components
- Mechanical Components and devices

In-depth knowledge and understanding including:

- Natural and manufactured timber
- Textiles

Designing and making principles including:

- Explore and develop ideas, testing, critically analyzing and evaluating and evaluating their work
- Make informed and reasoned decisions respond to feedback about existing products to identify potential for further development and modifications

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after-school
- Come and talk to your teacher for one-to one support.
- Come to catch up sessions that run at lunch times when required

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Exam Information

Your exam board is **Eduqas**

What exams will I do?

- You will sit 1 final written exam paper in June 2026 covering a wide range of topics.
- Paper 1 is 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of your overall grade
- You have already completed 50% which was your written NEA work and your Practical exam.

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

Homework

- Please hand in on time – the revision is set to help you remember key topics.
- Use GCSE Pod with the set homework.
- Use the topic when asked to produce Revision Cards - try and write things that you don't know about the topic rather than all of the information you already know.
- Create quiz trade cards to be used in class – use questions that you need to practice retrieval of knowledge (things you can't remember).
- Brainstorm topics of what you can remember and what you need to know- the food room is always open if you want to use the text books.
- You can also use BBC bitesize Food nutrition website for videos and questions.

GCSE Pod

- Watch the Pods on each topic set for homework and complete the check and challenge activities.
- These activities will be set for homework although you can access the pods at any time to help you revise

Complete Practice Exam Questions

- Practice questions are available in the food room – the food room is always open at lunch and you can pop in to revise
- Speak to your teacher if you would like some past exam papers.

Where can I get revision materials?

- Go to the class files section on the class team for spring 1 and 2 use the class work and all of year 10 booklets.
- GCSE POD, BBC Bitesize food nutrition.

What will I be assessed on?

The exam papers cover a wide variety of content. Some topic areas are shown below.

This is not a complete list.

Topic 1: Food Commodities – where foods come from and how they are grown and reared and farmed.

Topic 2: Principles of Nutrition – Macro and Micronutrients – what they are and what they do for our bodies.

Topic 3: Diet and Good Health - energy requirements for individuals – what they need and the ideal foods to eat.

Plan balanced diets, Different diets, religious and supporting different needs of others.

Calculating energy and nutritional values of recipes, meals and diets .

Topic 4: The effects on cooking on food - Food spoilage.

Topic 5: Food provenance – food security and sustainability - Food manufacture.

Topic 6: Factors affecting food choice - Preparation and cooking techniques, developing recipes and meals.

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after-school.
- Drop us a message on the pupil help team.
- Come and talk to your teachers for one-to-one support.
- I am always available at lunch times for revision – please pop in and bring your lunch and we can complete some revision.

Sociology Exams information

Your exam board is **AQA**.

What exams will you do?

- Paper 1 is 1hr 45 minutes on 8th May 2026, in the afternoon.
- Paper 2 is 1hr 45 minutes on 15st May 2026, in the afternoon.

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. **Homework** – Complete the weekly homework set by your teacher
2. **lash cards** – use the flash cards you have bought as part of the revision guide order, or create your own using your exercise books and the revision guides.
3. **Seneca** – You may want to use Seneca, which has a GCSE AQA Sociology section. This was highly recommended by pupils in the past.
4. **Complete Practice Exam Questions** – Practice questions are available from Mr Porter, in the class team files section and in your 2026 revision booklet.

Your Sociology 2026 revision booklet has every past paper question, key study and all of the advanced information that has been released by the exam board; plus more! Use it, it is there to help you achieve the best grade possible!

What will I be assessed on?

Please see the advance information in the 2026 revision booklet, or in the class team files section. This gives the topics for the 12 mark questions which make up 50% of your exam papers. Remember, any topics not included in the advance information will be examined in the other lower mark questions.

Paper 1 – Families and Education, including sociological research methods.

Paper 2 – Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification, including sociological research methods.

Need help?

- Come to the revision sessions after-school
- Come and talk to your teacher for one-to-one support.

Computer Science Exams Information

Your exam board is **OCR**.

What exams will I do?

You will sit 2 final exam papers in May 2026. The two exam titles are:

- Paper 1: Computer systems
- Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

Complete any challenges on Seneca and other websites as directed. If you need to recap specific content, visit CragDave's YouTube channel. You should also be making and using revision cards to break down larger topics into smaller, manageable pieces.

2. GCSE Pod

Pods will be set frequently either as part of a homework task or additional work. Use the Pods to help recap knowledge and complete any supporting quizzes.

3. Complete Practice Exam Questions

SmartRevise is designed to ask questions in a specific order depending on how many times you have answered it correctly. Engage with this frequently to recap key information and practice exam technique.

Where can I get revision materials?

Go to the class files section on the class team for Computer Science. In addition to lots of different material, you will also find a knowledge organiser for every topic.

What will I be assessed on?

The exam papers cover a wide variety of content. The topic areas are shown below.

Paper 1

Topic 1: Systems Architecture

- Architecture of a CPU
- CPU performance
- Embedded systems

Topic 2: Memory and storage

- Primary storage
- Secondary storage
- Units of measurement
- Data storage
- Compression

Topic 3: Computer networks, connections and protocols

- Networks and topologies
- Wired and wireless networks, protocols and layers

Topic 4: Network security

- Threats to computer systems and networks
- Identifying and preventing vulnerabilities

Topic 5: Systems software

- Operating systems
- Utility software

Topic 6: Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

- Impacts of digital technology on wider society
- Legislation relevant to Computer Science

Paper 2

Topic 1: Algorithms

- Computational thinking
- Designing, creating, and refining algorithms
- Searching and sorting algorithms

Topic 2: Programming fundamentals

- Programming basics
- Data types
- Additional programming techniques

Topic 3: Producing robust programs

- Defensive design
- Testing

Topic 4: Boolean logic

- Simple logic diagrams using the operators AND, OR and NOT
- Truth tables
- Combining Boolean operators
- Applying logical operators in truth tables to solve problems

Topic 5: Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

- Languages (high and low)
- Translators, compilers and interpreters
- Features of an IDE (editors, error diagnostics, run-time environment and translators)

Need help?

- Use **Smartrevise** and **Seneca**
- Be an active participant of the lesson
- Complete the revision activities as part of your personalised revision plan
- If you are unsure, speak to Mr Huntbatch for support.

Business Exams Information

Your exam board is **Edexcel**.

What exams will I do?

You will sit two exam papers in May 2026. The two exam titles are:

- Theme 1: Investigating small business
- Theme 2: Building a business

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

Homework/revision activities will be provided through your personalised revision plan and supplementary booklets provided to go with this. You should engage with the weekly tasks to help develop your knowledge.

2. Complete Practice Exam Questions

SmartRevise is an excellent platform to complete exam questions and can be tracked by your teacher. Try to use some of your free time to complete some questions on this platform (little and often).

3. Seneca

Seneca is a useful platform that recaps exam content whilst also asking examination questions targeted at specific areas of the specification. It is a useful tool and should be used in conjunction with other techniques explained to you.

Where can I get revision materials?

Go to the class files section on the class team for Business. In addition to lots of different materials, you will also find a knowledge organiser to support memory and retrieval.

What will I be assessed on?

The exam papers cover a wide variety of content. The topic areas are shown below.

Paper One

- Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
- Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
- Topic 1.4 Making the business effective
- Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Paper Two

- Topic 2.1 Growing the business
- Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions
- Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions
- Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions
- Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

Need help?

- Use **online resources you have been directed to**
- Look at key textbooks that have been highlighted
- Be an active participant of the lesson
- Complete all revision tasks
- Visit W2 at lunch time for support or independent revision
- If you are unsure, speak to Mr Arnold for support

Drama Exam Information

Your exam board is **AQA**.

What exams will I do?

You will sit one final exam paper in May 2026 which covers:

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre - Multi-choice
- Study of Blood Brothers
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre - A Monster Calls

How do I revise?

These are some ideas on how we are expecting you to revise each week:

1. Homework

Complete your weekly home work set by your teacher. There will be a different question to answer on TEAMS every week.

2. Complete Practice Exam Questions

Practice questions are available on TEAMS and in class too. Speak to your teacher if you would like more past exam papers.

Where can I get revision materials?

Please see Miss MacPherson if you require any additional revision support.

Alongside this GCSE Pod and BBC Bite size are all other interactive platforms you can use to support your revision.

Practical Exam – Monologues and duologues

Your exam for this practical unit is at the end of January. The date is still to be confirmed by the external examiner. Miss MacPherson is available on every Wednesday lunch for extra rehearsal time.

Log Books

Miss MacPherson will be in the study room every Monday. If you still need to complete your logbook you must attend these sessions.

Top Revision Tips for GCSE Drama!

Exam Breakdown:

Section A: Theatre Roles & Terminology

4 multiple choice questions (4 marks) 5 mins / 6 mins ET

Section B: Blood Brothers

06.1: Design Question (4 marks) 5 mins / 6 mins ET

06.2: Perform a line (8 marks) 10 mins / 13 mins ET

06.3 Grey Section & Interaction Skills (12 marks) 15 mins / 20 mins ET

06.4: Acting Skills for exam extract and the play as a whole (20 marks) 25 mins / 32 mins ET

SECTION C: Live Theatre Evaluation – A Monster Calls

Answer ONE Question – find the performance one!

(32 marks) 40 mins / 50 mins ET

Total time: 1hr 45 mins

Acting/Vocal Skills:

Pitch
Tone
Pace
Pause
Emphasis
Intonation
Expression
Body Language
Facial Expressions
Gait
Gesture
Posture

Remember: describe your actions in detail! Make sure your examiner can IMAGINE your scene perfectly through your writing.

Things you could be doing at home:

- Making Flashcards with key moments, quotes, themes in BB and Monster Calls
- Read Blood Brothers again
- Watch A Monster Calls again, focussing on your three key scenes
- Make quizzes for Acts, characters and key quotations
- Attempt practise essay questions
- Create a glossary of techniques and key evaluative vocabulary
- Go through your previous work and improve

Evaluative Language (Live Theatre):

Clearly
Effectively
Immediately
Consistently
Concisely
Crucially
Accurately
Evocatively
Vitality
Meaningfully
Humourously
Engagingly
Impeccably,
Phenomenally
Intriguingly

Useful GCSE resources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zrn1wty>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztpdk7/revision/1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YQkSHaFd0>

Structuring Exam

Answers

WHAT did the actor do?

HOW did they do it? (acting skills)

WHY did they do it? What does it show the audience?

Highlight what you need to work on in each Section to help guide your revision:

Section A

Revise theatre roles
Revise stage configurations
Revise stage directions
(upstage/downstage/left/right etc)

Section B

Revise costume and living styles and materials of the 60's, 70's and 80's
Revise key drama acting skills terminology
Practise WHAT HOW WHY answers
Revise timings for exam

Section C

Learn what you will write in the introduction
Choose 3 key moments and know them well
Focus on the physical and vocal skills
Practice timed responses to this question – you have about 40 minutes
Answer this question 1st

Art Exam information

ART GCSE EXAM PREPARATORY DEADLINES 2026. Worth 40% of overall mark

Deadlines are guidelines - work can be completed before the date given.

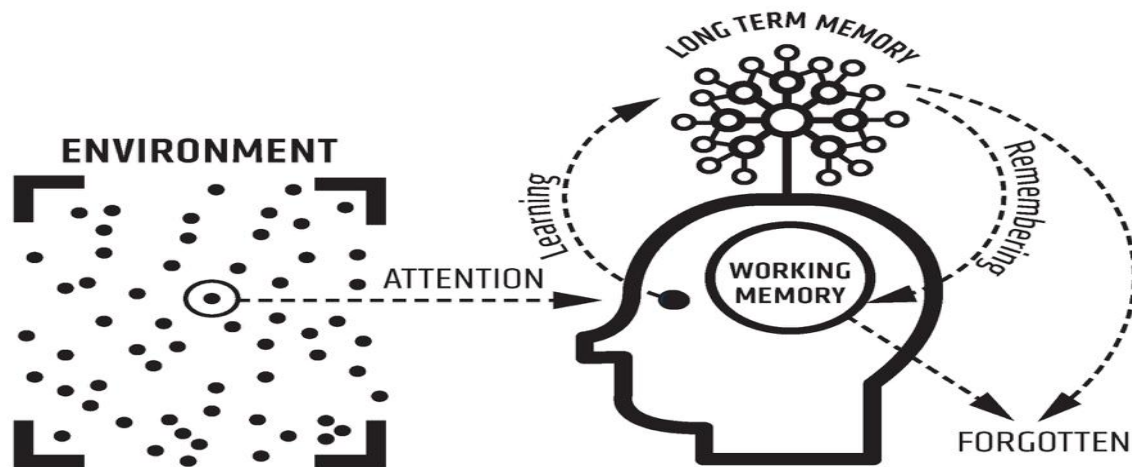
Week	Day	Lesson	Task	Due Date
Homework				
A	Monday	5.01	Complete mind map based on your chosen theme Stick in artists you are interested in with names	8.01
	Monday	12.01	Exploration of theme Using laptop, research images that link to mind map Take Photos that relate to theme Draw Print out.	
Homework Complete Photos and images linking in with theme				
B			Present work in sketchbook, include ideas you may have to take forward	15.01
	Monday	19.01	Artist analysis collect images from laptop stick into sketchbook, make sure presentation links to artist write down key words relating to artist, link to content, form, process, mood, explain what you want to take forward from the artist (use of certain formal elements, theme, media techniques)	21.01
Homework Draw idea for Personal response explain your thoughts				
A	Thursday	22.01	Personal response Create your personal response Use chosen media, compositional techniques, themes from mind map, chosen ideas from artist to create your work	
			Complete personal response	29.01
	Monday	2.02	Artist research collect images from laptop stick into sketchbook, make sure presentation links to artist write down key words relating to artist, link to content, form, process, mood, explain what you want to take forward from the artist (use of certain formal elements, theme, media techniques)	4.02
Homework Take further photos relating to theme, draw rough ideas thinking about your theme				
B	Thursday	5.02	Personal response Create your personal response Use chosen media, compositional techniques, themes from mind map, chosen ideas from artist to create your work	
			Complete personal response	12.02
16.02 HALF TERM CATCH UP SESSION c/w and exam. To be confirmed if needed				
	Monday	23.02	Identification of area of focus Summarise what you have found so far	

			Explain what your next step is, what are you taking forward, what images do you need to collect	23.02
A	Wednesday	25.02	Additional research	
			Take further photos collect images linking to what you want to take forward, Draw ideas	26.02
B	Monday	2.03	Media samples and idea development	
			Initial Idea 1 create a personal response using favourite media techniques, compositional techniques from your additional research	
			Initial Idea 2 create a personal response using favourite media techniques, styles from your additional research	
			Complete ideas	
			Explain how you will develop your work	9.03
Homework			Research additional artist	
B	Monday	9.03	Additional artist work	
			use a laptop find further artists to help you tweak any ideas.	
			Stick in and present in book	
			Add words to describe the art work	
			explain what you want to take forward to help you refine	11.03
B	Thursday	12.03	Further Experimentation	
			Create further ideas, develop ideas you previously liked. Think about colour, composition, different media choices, look at media that links with formal elements e.g Line = mono print, continuous, pen and ink, stitch, wire....	
			Idea 1	
			Idea 2	
			Idea 3	
			Idea 4	19.03
A	Monday	23.03	Refine ideas	
			Choose an idea you want to refine, look in your booklet to help you. You should only be tweaking your idea	
			compositional idea 1	
			compositional idea 2	
			compositional idea 3	
			Complete refinement	17.04
			Personal response	EXAM
			EXAM 23rd, 24th April	

Memory – the science of learning

In recent years, there has been lots of research around the science of learning and how we learn and retain information.

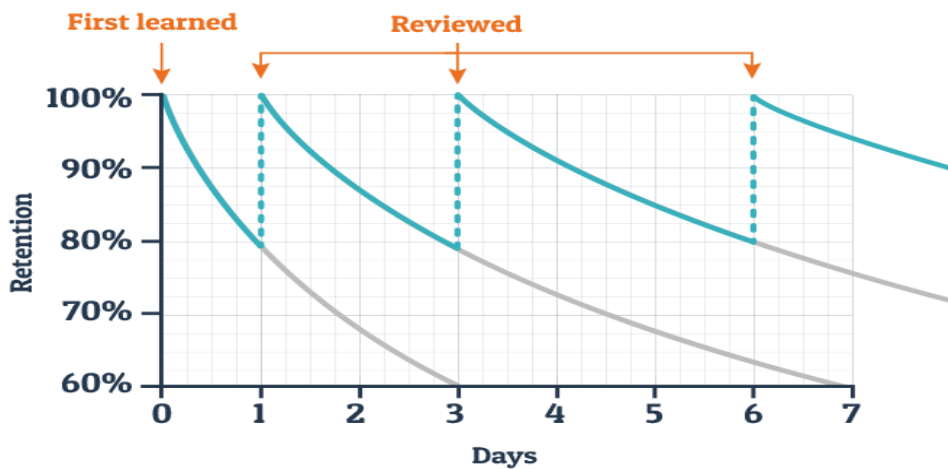
In summary, if we think of the learning process using the following diagram, it will help us have a greater awareness of the most effective revision strategies based upon the available research.



1. We have a certain amount of attention to pay and this can be limited and can dramatically vary depending on the individual or the environment. In the diagram above, '**attention**' means we acknowledge new information and this is then transferred into our working memory.
2. Our **working memory** is finite and we can only absorb a limited amount of information at a given time. This may be up to 30 seconds. *As an example, if you write down a 'long number' and try and remember it every 30 seconds, you will be surprised how difficult this is to do!*
3. Information is processed into our **long-term memory** through '**learning**'. This long-term memory is effectively unlimited, and we can retrieve information from here back into our working memory as needed in a given moment. *As an example, this might be your phone number or address. We don't walk around thinking about those two things every second of the day but it is in our long-term memory ready to be used and retrieved when needed.*
4. Information in our **long-term memory** is interconnected and linked with prior knowledge. Anything that is not connected or not successfully stored well enough in our long-term memory is forgotten and this is completely natural.
5. If students undertake enough **retrieval practice**, generating the information in our long-term memory, it increases a level of fluency within the subject. Practice makes perfect!

As stated on the previous page, forgetting is completely natural. The following diagram outlines this process and is called the **Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve** (1885).

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



Ebbinghaus proposed that humans start losing ‘memory of knowledge’ over time unless the knowledge is consciously reviewed time and time again. He conducted a series of tests on himself which included the memorization of a meaningless set of words. He tested himself consistently across a period of time to see if he could retain the information. He found that:

- **Memory retention is 100% at the time of learning any particular piece of information (in the moment). However, this drops to 60% after three days.**
- A range of factors affect the rate of forgetting including motivation, the meaningful nature of the information, the strategies for revision and also psychological factors (sleep for example).
- **If each day, repetition of learning occurs and students take time to repeat information then the effects of forgetting are decreased.** According to research, information should be repeated within the first 24 hours of learning to reduce the rate of memory loss.

In summary, what do we know about **memory**?

- Consistent practice and revisiting previous material strengthens memory and boosts learning.
- Information, if not revisited, is ‘lost’ from our memory.
- Our working memory is finite and limited and so overloading this or cramming for revision doesn’t work.

The key principles of effective revision

Therefore, let's explore a number of different strategies to ensure your revision is as effective as it can be.

Retrieval Practice

Simply put, recalling information from memory is simple and powerful. Retrieval practice is a learning strategy which makes you think hard and brings information to mind. It is the action of actively retrieving knowledge that boosts learning and strengthens memory. **It means trying to remember previously learned information as opposed to simply re-reading it.** Examples include:

- Knowledge quizzing and low stakes testing.
- Multiple choice tests.
- Completing past paper questions or practice answers.
- Answering verbal questions asked by teacher/peers/parents.
- Creating flashcards or revision materials where you can 'test' yourself.

One particularly effective strategy is the creation and use of **flashcards**. Flashcards are generally a card containing a small amount of information as an aid to learning. The use of flashcards are for low stakes testing to improve recall and to strengthen memory.

An effective flashcard may include the following (*in each subject they will be used in a different way*):

- A key term/key word with definition on the back.
- A key date with the event on the back.
- A key equation with its use in practice on the back.
- A past paper question and a model answer on the back.

ATTRITION

The action of rock fragments colliding into each other causing them to become smaller and rounder over time.

In order to use flashcards most effectively, the **Leitner System** is a desired strategy. Once you have created a set of flashcards, create three boxes/areas marked as the following.

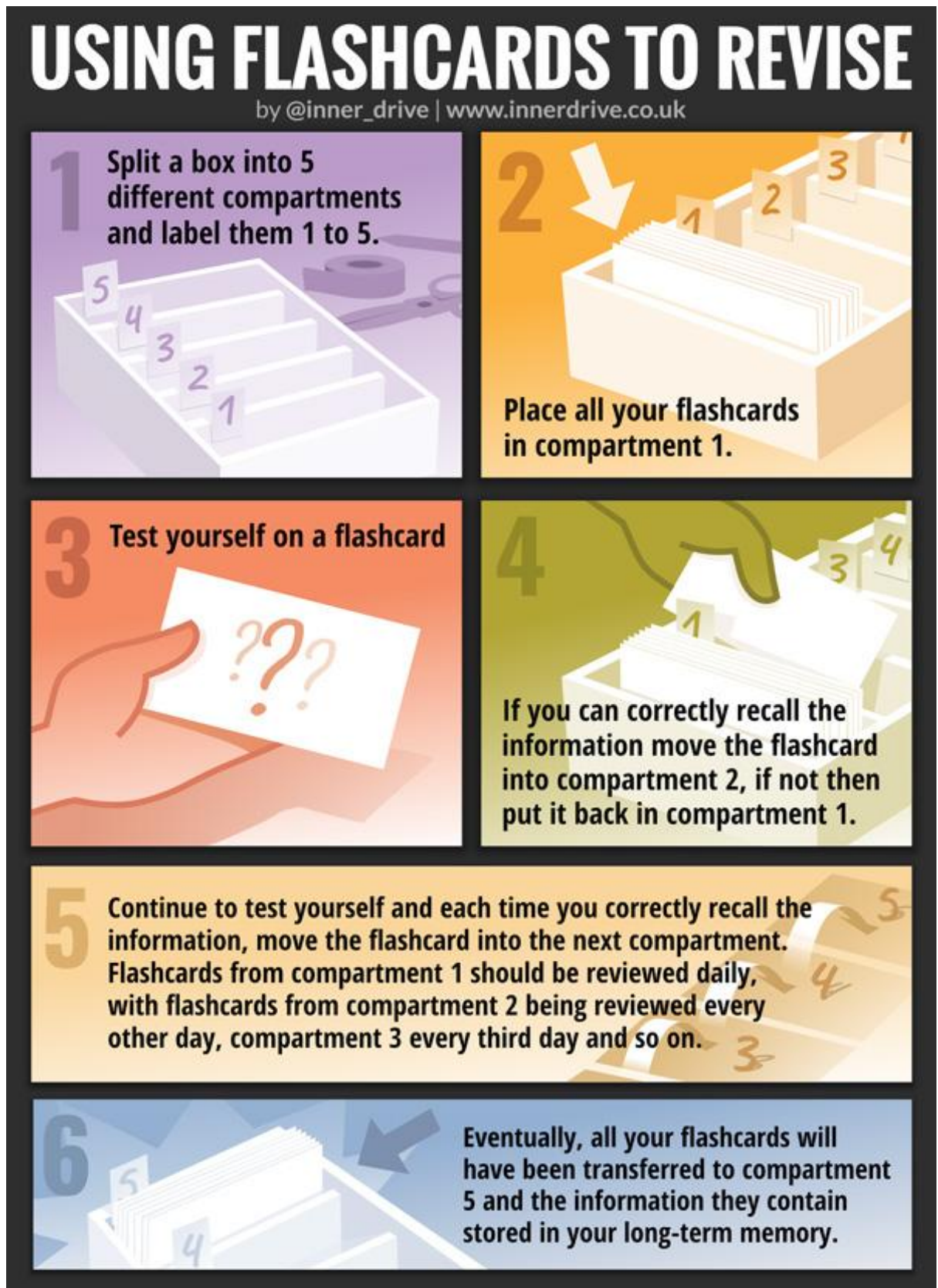
BOX 1: Every day	BOX 2: Twice a week	BOX 3: Once a week
----------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------

- Test yourself on the flashcards in the Box 1 pile. If you get the answer correct on the flashcard, move it to the Box 2 pile. If you get it incorrect, it stays in Box 1.
- Twice a week, test yourself on the flashcards in Box 2. If you get the answer correct on the flashcard, move it to the Box 3 pile. If you get it incorrect, it stays in Box 2. The aim is to get all of the flashcards to Box 3.

This video will help support you in using the Leitner system:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C20EvKtdJwQ>

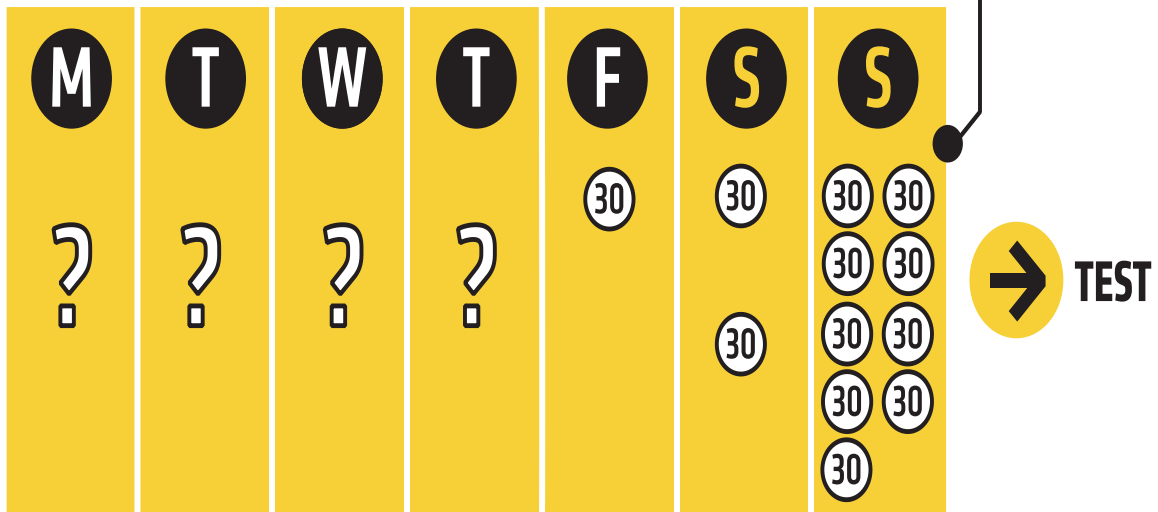
This diagram will also further support your implementation of the **Leitner System**.



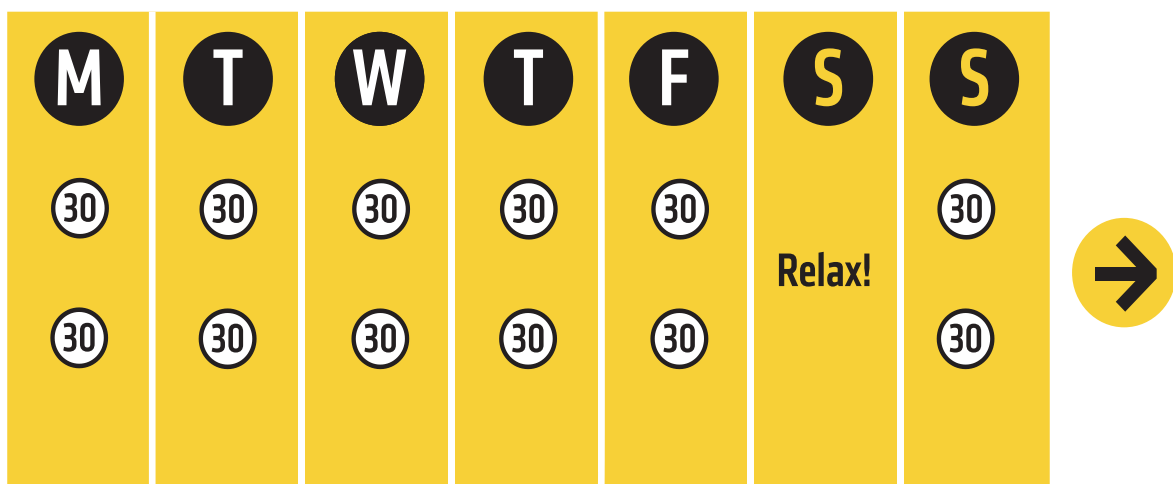
Spaced practice and Interleaving

Spaced practice “Spaced practice involves planning for exams early and set aside a little bit of time every day. Five hours spread out over two weeks is better than the same five hours all at once.” This is spaced practice & it is regarded as one of the most effective revision strategies.

Let's say you have a test one week and you have 5 hours to prepare for it broken down into 30 minute chunks. Very often that process looks like this.



Instead of mass practice, a much more effective way of revising is to space out your revision like this:



By breaking up your revision into 30 minute chunks and spacing out the time between revision, you will consolidate what you have learned and retain the material much more effectively.

Interleaving “Interleaving is a process where students mix & combine multiple subjects & topics while they study in order to improve their learning. Blocked practice on the other hand, involves studying one topic very thoroughly before moving to another. Interleaving has been shown to be more effective than blocked practice leading to better long-term retention.”

As we have seen with spaced practice, leaving gaps between studying is very effective but what if you are studying multiple topics within a subject? Interleaving means mixing it up and not studying all the material at once.

For example, instead of organising your revision week like this:

M	T	W	T	F
MACBETH	AN INSPECTOR CALLS	CREATIVE WRITING	UNSEEN POETRY	JEKYLL AND HYDE
MACBETH	AN INSPECTOR CALLS	CREATIVE WRITING	UNSEEN POETRY	JEKYLL AND HYDE
MACBETH	AN INSPECTOR CALLS	CREATIVE WRITING	UNSEEN POETRY	JEKYLL AND HYDE

A much more effective way of organising your revision would be like this:

M	T	W	T	F
MACBETH	UNSEEN POETRY	AN INSPECTOR CALLS	JEKYLL AND HYDE	CREATIVE WRITING
AN INSPECTOR CALLS	JEKYLL AND HYDE	CREATIVE WRITING	MACBETH	UNSEEN POETRY
CREATIVE WRITING	MACBETH	UNSEEN POETRY	AN INSPECTOR CALLS	JEKYLL AND HYDE

As you are doing this, another highly effective strategy is to try to think of connections between topics you are studying considering similarities and differences.

Studying one topic for a long time can give them impression you have mastered it but often this can be misleading.

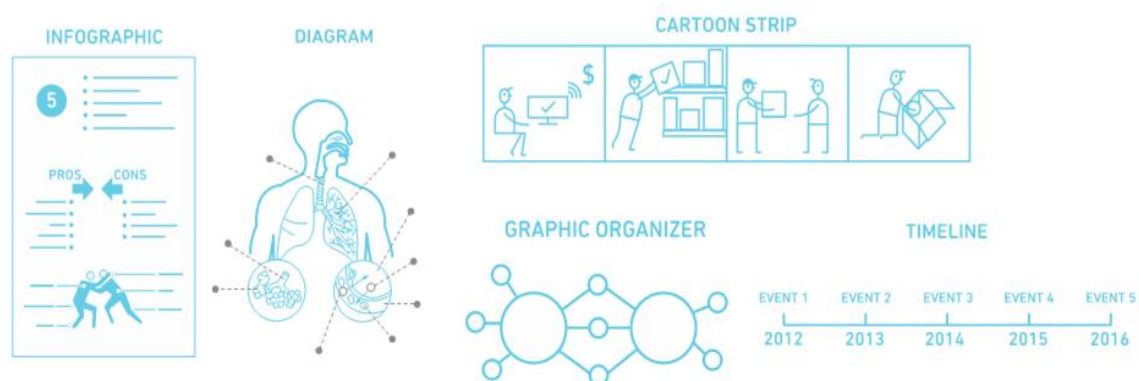
Deliberate Practice

This follows a simple process to support your revision. Start by spending time reviewing a topic/unit before quizzing/testing yourself **with no notes and from your memory (this is vital for revision)**. Once you have finished, check your answers. **This will support you in showing where your 'knowledge gaps' are and where focus needs to be in your future revision.** Revision shouldn't keep you in your comfort zone, you need to be thinking hard and identifying your own areas for development. Avoid simply revising topics you enjoy. A technique to support deliberate practice is the **Pomodoro Technique**.



Dual Coding

When reviewing something you have learnt, combining words and pictures can be powerful. Examples of this include creating a:



Ineffective revision strategies

With the above in mind, it is vitally important to think about strategies that students may employ that have a limited or no real benefit on learning or memory. These include:

- **Simply writing out notes or copying from a textbook/exercise book.**
- **Reading and doing nothing with the information. Trying to focus on 'too much information' on a single page and cramming revision.**
- **Highlighting information for the sake of it.**
- **Not enough silent work or attention to a given task. Attempting to revise while multitasking and doing other things.**
- **Comfort zone revision of easy material that you have already mastered because it makes you 'feel good'.**

The importance of habits and routines

Within your revision, it is vitally important to establish a strong routine. Having goals are good for setting a direction. What do you want to achieve in *this* revision session?

In order to support the forming of good revision habits, there are a number of areas to consider:

- **Start small and build up** – reduce distractions where and when you revise and get your family to encourage the creation of a revision timetable and placing it somewhere visual in your house. Ensure someone else is knowledgeable of this timetable to enable accountability and aid support.
- **Make it attractive** – collaborative focused revision is beneficial (alongside attending interventions or revision sessions) but you could also ensure there is a 'reward' at the end of a revision session. *If I complete this, I can do this.*
- **Make it satisfying** – challenge yourself, track your own revision progress and ensure you stick to your revision timetable. Small steps build success and motivation. Use PLCs or checklists to support.
- **Make it obvious** – revise in one area, leave your materials out ready to support organisation and ensure routines are stuck to. Ensure your environment is clear, uncluttered and comfortable.

The Five Step Study Plan

- 1. Make a list** - What do you need to know?



- 2. Timetable a spaced schedule** - Study each topic little but often, and leave yourself enough time.



- 3. Use effective study strategies** - Test yourself and keep the re-reading and highlighting to a minimum.



- 4. Identify the gaps in your knowledge**
What do you need to study more?
What can you move on from?



- 5. Close the gaps** - Repeat steps 3 & 4 as many times as you need until you are comfortable with everything.



Exam vocabulary - command words

There will be subject specific key terms that you need to learn for each subject.

Below are a range of command words that could be used in your exams. Do you understand what the exam question is asking you? Command words can vary slightly across different subjects so it is important you understand the command words in the exam question & in the correct context.

Analyse – Examine something in detail and try to explain or interpret it.

Annotate – Add to a diagram, image or piece of text to illustrate or describe features, rather than just identify them which is labelling.

Assess – Consider different options/arguments/factors and weigh them up to reach a conclusion about their effectiveness or validity.

Calculate – Work out the value of something.

Compare – Give a point-by-point identification of similarities and differences.

Define – This means what is meant by... give the precise meaning of a term or concept.

Describe – Provide an account in detail of an event/individual/concept etc.

Discuss – Set out both sides of an argument & reach a conclusion, including evidence.

Evaluate – Consider different options/factors & reach a conclusion about their importance/impact/value/worth.

Examine – Consider carefully & provide a detailed account of the topic.

Explain – Provide a detailed description or interpretation of a term/concept etc.

Identify – Point out & name from a number of possibilities.

Illustrate – Refer to a specific case study or example (not illustrate as in draw).

Label – Point out specific features on a diagram, image or piece of text.

Justify – Explain why your selected choice/judgement is better than other options.

Summarise – Sum up the main points/arguments. This can be the similar to outline.

Well-being during exams

The exam period can be stressful that is why it's very important that you revise & prepare as this can help to reduce exam anxiety. In addition to revising there are other strategies you can do to look after your mental & physical health.

Eat. Diet is important so don't neglect it during the exam period. Don't skip meals, stay consistent with a healthy balance of meals & stay hydrated.

Sleep. Staying up late to revise is a bad idea! Sleep deprivation can have a very negative impact on concentration, performance & memory.

Exercise. Take regular breaks from revision with exercise. Take part in a sport you enjoy, go for a walk or any activity that is active & part of your daily routine.

Relax. Relax during the exam period? Yes! It is essential that you do make time to switch off & have a break. Watch Netflix, read or talk to friends.