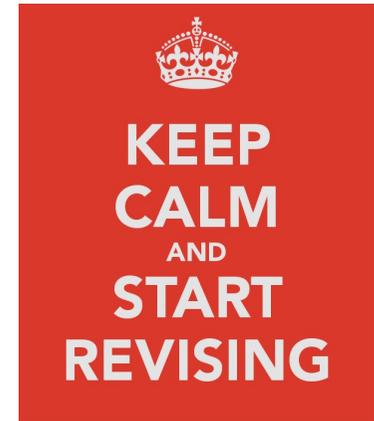




Get Revising



A guide of handy hints, tips and practical ways to revise

Name:

Form:

REVISION TIPS



If you're one of a thousand teenagers revising for GCSEs, AS and A-levels, here are ten revision tips to help you get prepared:

GO PUBLIC

Make a detailed revision timetable and post it up somewhere so that everyone can see it. Letting other people know about your plans lightens the load and then it's not just down to you to motivate yourself.

Question yourself

Awaken facts through the power of questions. So when you're making notes, don't just write down 'The Battle of Hastings was fought in '1066'; instead, put 'When was the Battle of Hastings?' in one column, and write '1066' in an opposite column. Cover up the answer and each time you get it right give yourself a pat on the back.

SWITCH OFF

Unplug your internet connection as it's too tempting to surf the web and turn off your mobile phone (one distraction too many).

RISE EARLY

Facts are more digestible first thing in the morning. Start at 9am and you can get the bulk of your revision done early.





QUALITY TIME

Ask friends over for a revision session. With things like dates and vocabulary, it's always better if someone else is testing you, rather than you testing yourself.

Clear and legible handwriting



Writing clear, legible notes is a vital tool in the revision process. Use different colours to highlight sub headings, key dates, names etc.

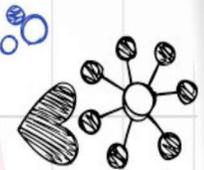


Add variety

You may find it helpful to change from one subject to another at 'break' time, for example doing one or two sessions of maths and then changing to Geography, or alternating a favourite subject with a more difficult one. It helps to build in some variety.

Believe in bananas

Eat sensibly as your brain cells need energy to function well. Bananas are rich in potassium and will raise your energy levels. Make sure you also drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated. Dehydration makes you tired and reduces concentration.

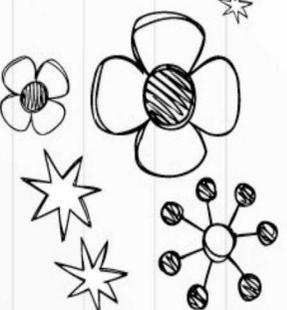


LOOK AHEAD

IT IS EASY TO FALL IN TO THE TRAP OF WONDERING HOW WELL YOU PERFORMED AND TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS. YOUR TIME WOULD BE BETTER SPENT LOOKING AHEAD TO YOUR NEXT EXAMINATION.

Relax

The most important thing to remember is not to panic. The exams are going to happen so you might as well give yourself the best chance of doing well by starting to revise early and keeping calm.



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MITSUBISHI PENCIL



Before you start revision

- Put your phone on silent, switch off or leave somewhere else that you cannot easily access it.
- Log-out or temporarily disable social media like Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.
- Also science proves that our brains tend to work better if we're a little too cold, or on a rigid chair sat at a desk.
- Sit at a desk or table if possible, it's more formal and re-creates the environment you'll be tested in.



Planning



1. Draw up a timetable for your revision and stick to it (blanks provided).
2. What do you hope to cover by the end of the week?
3. By the end of the day?
4. Which subjects should you be focusing on?
5. Working from a revision timetable helps you to make clear goals for each revision session and allows you to check them off as you progress.
6. Revision plans can reduce anxiety, reassuring you that you've taken the necessary steps.
7. Alternatively if this isn't your style write, up a tick list/ to-do list of all the subject areas or units you need to cover.
8. You can do a separate colour or page for each of your subjects and see clearly exactly what what you've covered or what needs doing.
9. This allows for chunk revision or a variation of topics in one day.



Revision Timetable



1. Plan in what and when you will revise.
2. Set reasonable study targets that you know you can reach.
3. This can be small chunks of time or larger blocks depending on which you prefer.
4. We all like to revise subjects we are good at, but prioritize subjects that you need to focus on.
5. Also refer to your exam timetable to see which exams are up and coming.
6. DO NOT PANIC- it is NEVER too late. You've already started the journey here!

Revision Timetable
Week beginning:

	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						

Revision Timetable
Week beginning:

	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time
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Revision Timetable
Week beginning:

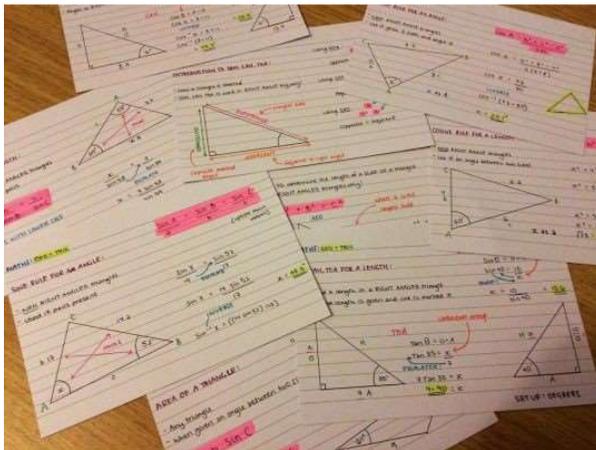
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Revision Timetable
Week beginning:

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Q Cards

1. Pick a specific topic.
 2. Cut out cards.
 3. What are the key terms or pieces of information you need to know?
 4. Make short notes and/or diagrams/pictures on that topic.
- E.g Maths
What formulas must you know
 - You can create your own q cards on getrevising online



Flash/Triggercards

1. Pick a key topic.
2. Cut out cards.
3. Write a key term on 1 side of the card.
4. On the other side write the definition
5. Test your self. Can you remember the definition and vice versa, the key word.



Key Notes

(Minimizing key text into note form)

1. What is the key information or key terms/formula/quotes etc you need to know.
2. Make clear concise notes
3. Minimize the text to a size that you can read all at the same time in one glance (font size 8 – 10)
4. Look at this information regularly throughout the day/time of revising or studying.
5. Test yourself, what can you remember, what links can you make.

Example Biology

Class made/revision guide/online notes

Nervous system

Receptors are groups of specialised cells. Receptors are in the eyes, ears, tongue, nose and skin.

Nerve cells are also called **neurones**. They are adapted to carry electrical impulses from one place to another:

Central nervous system includes the brain and spinal cord

Receptors cause stimulation and signal neurons to the brain which trigger a response.

Neurones send electrical signals which there are 3 types

The sensory the spinal cord to brain

The relay central nervous system to another part of the body

The Motor central nervous system to effectors

Key notes (once minimized font 9)

Nervous system

Receptors specialized. eyes ears tongue nose skin

Cells nucleus cytoplasm

central nervous system (CNS) brain spinal cord

Receptor stimulation signal neurons brain response

Neurones electrical signals 3 types

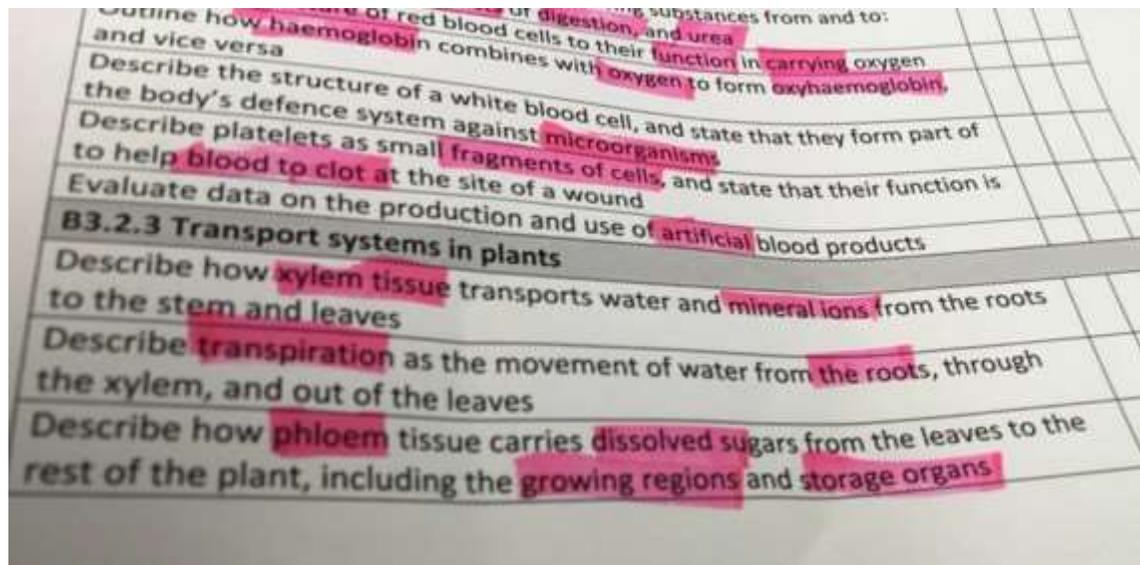
sensory spinal cord brain

relay CNS to another part

Motor CNS to effectors

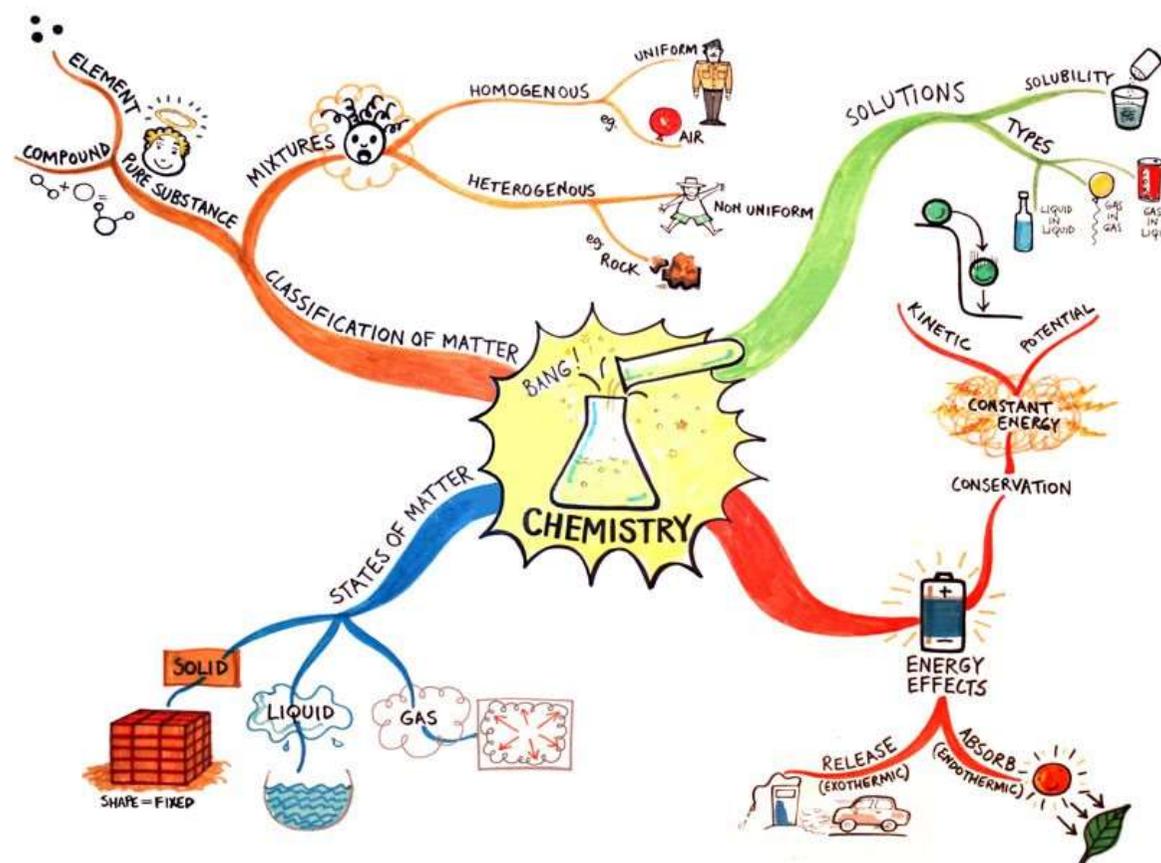
Highlighting

1. By highlighting key points in the material, you will have visual clues guiding your revision come exam time.
2. Highlight key terms, quotes, characters etc on notes you have made
3. When practicing exam questions, highlight the command and key words.
E.g explain, evaluate, discuss
4. Be precise when choosing what to highlight or else you will end up with a page filled with highlighter.
5. You can colour code information relating to subject or topics



Mindmap

1. Pick a topic and place in a starting bubble in the middle
2. Start writing down what you know about this topic
3. Can you make links between topics
4. Used text and images to record your thoughts
5. Go back to your mind map the day after and see what you can remember and if there is anything new you can add

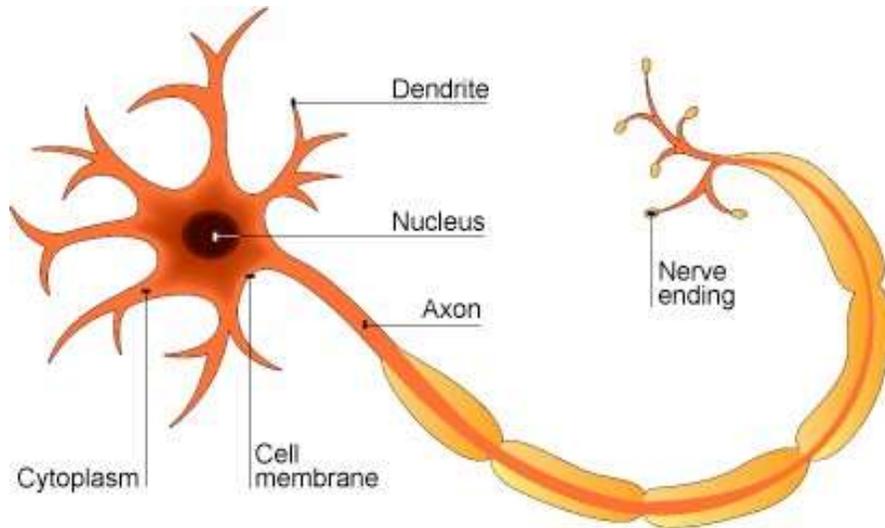


Pictures and Diagrams

1. Draw and test yourself labeling diagrams or key processes
2. Try draw an image from memory and label it
3. Check your work compared to your notes/book
4. Add missing parts
5. Arranging your notes in a pictorial fashion helps your brain to remember information linked to images.

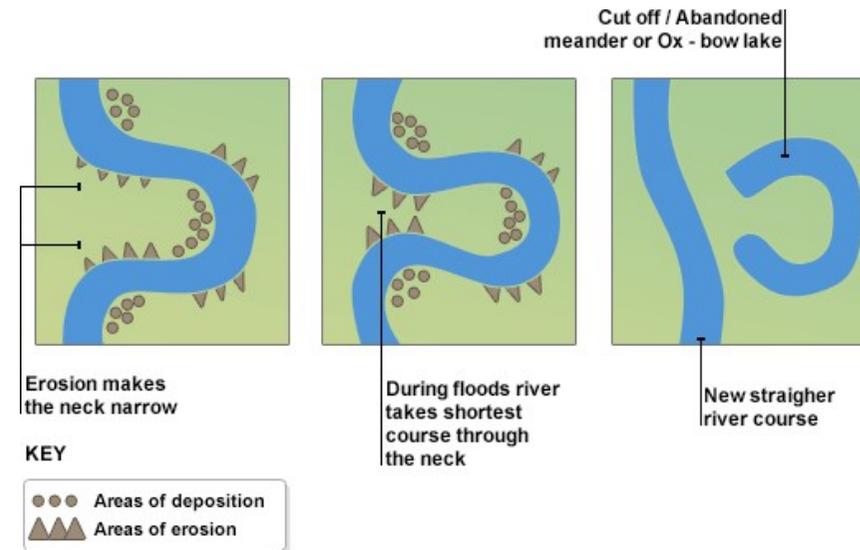
E.g. Biology

Parts of a nerve cell



E.g. Geography

Drawing out the process of creating an ox bow lake



Key word lists

1. You can make key word lists and definition for any subject
2. Look over your notes, use textbooks, online and identify the key terms for specific topics (highlighting may be useful)
3. Once identified you can write the definitions on the list

E.g. English Literature Key Terms

1. **Simile** - the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind
2. **Metaphor**
3. **Alliteration**
4. **Rhetorical question**
5. **Rhyme**

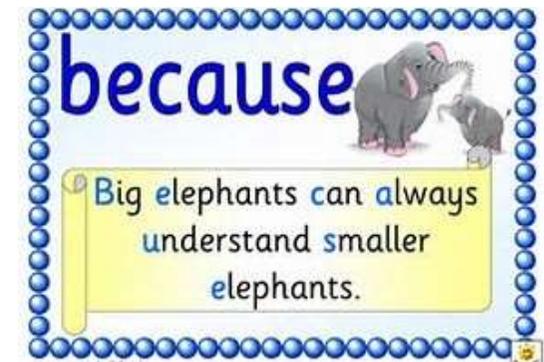
Mnemonics

1. Mnemonics are a set of words linked to a key topic.

E.g. Remembering the solar system.

My very easy method just speeds up naming planets

- Mercury
- Venus
- Earth
- Mars
- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Uranus
- Neptune
- Pluto



Memory/Mind Palace

1. Visualize a building or road. Populate your mental image with details, such as what you see in each room or what's on either side of the road.
2. Mentally connect an image of each of the features you see – such as a chair in your imagined house, or a tree by the side of your imagined road – with a manageable chunk of information (such as a chemical formula). Think about the two together in depth and make sure you've really learned the information and its associated image.
3. To recall the information in the exam, simply retrace your steps through the building or down the road and pick out the objects you've associated with the information.
4. When you want to add additional information to your memory bank, you can simply add another room to your imaginary building or take a turn off your imaginary road that will house this new information

For example, if you need to memorize a complicated chemical formula, you could name the molecules with human names beginning with the same letter (Carol = Chlorine, for example) and make up a little story in which the actions of the characters mirror those of the molecules in the formula.

Youtube

How to Improve Your Memory with the Memory Palace Technique

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIg73ppoVZw>

Mind Palace Technique From Sherlock Holmes - Memory Training: Build a Memory Palace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vlpQHJ09do>

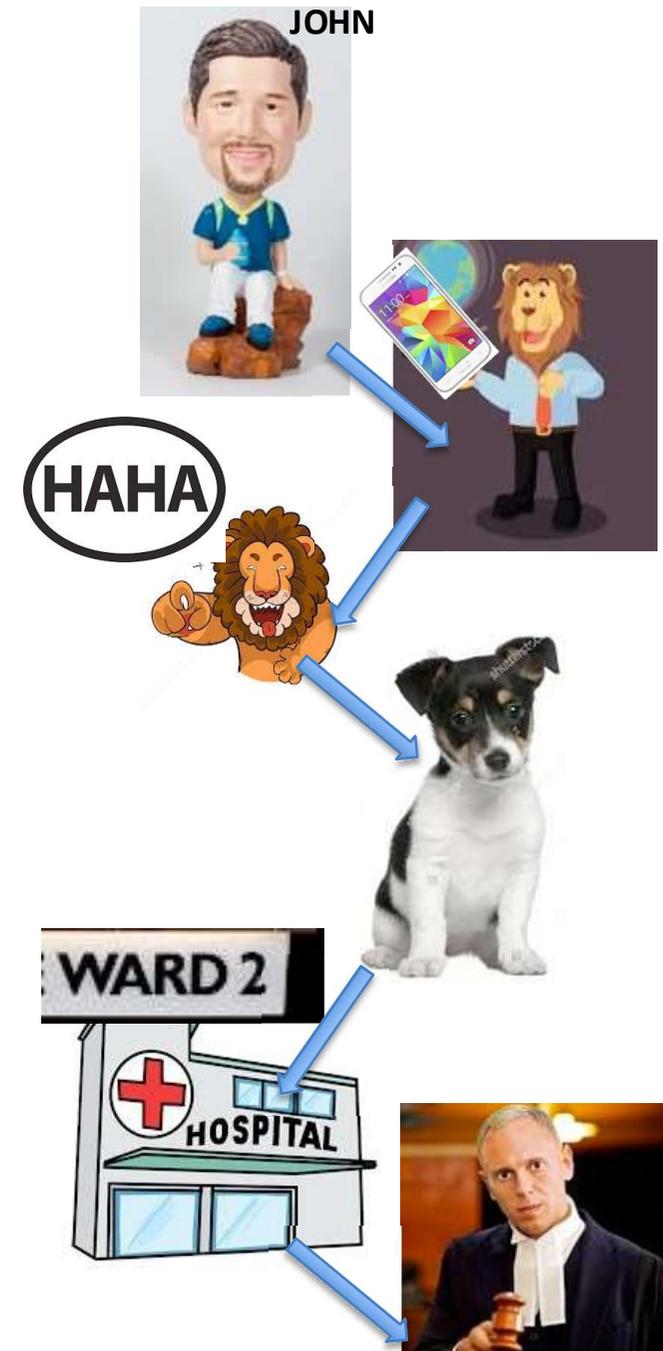


Memory Palace

1. Create a visual story in your mind to link and remember key facts, quotes, themes, characters etc.

Example Key characters in Blood Brothers

- Mrs Johnstone
 - Mrs Lyons
 - Sammy
 - Mickey
 - Edward
 - Linda
 - Russell (Willy Russell author) Visual Story
- John sits on a stone (Mrs Johnstone) at the front door. He opens the door and sat on the floor is a lion (Mrs Lyons). The lion is holding a samsung (Sammy). He is taking the mickey (Mickey) out of a Jack Russell (Willy Russell). The dog walks to ward 2 (Edward) in the hospital to see judge Rinder (Linda).
- [Useful website](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationadvice/9900341/Revision-techniques-how-to-build-a-memory-palace.html)
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationadvice/9900341/Revision-techniques-how-to-build-a-memory-palace.html>





Rhymes

1. Putting information into a rhyme is another way of making it easier to remember.
2. An example is the rhyme that helps people remember how many days there are in each month

E.G

30 days hath September, April, June, and November.

All the rest have 31

Except February my dear son.

It has 28 and that is fine

But in Leap Year it has 29.

Mean, Median, Mode and Range Rhyme

Here is a fun rhyme to help you remember the three M's and the R:

Hey diddle diddle, the median's the middle,
You add then divide for the mean.

The mode is the one that you see the most,
And the range is the difference between.

Songs



1. Putting key information into a song or singing it to music creates a audio clue for your brain.
2. When you sing the information (even in your head), a memory is trigger to help your remember.
3. Try singing parts of the periodic table or mathematical formulas to your favourite song
4. There are many songs already created online for you to look at

[Youtube](#)

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

– Periodic table

The GCSE Maths Revision Song (2015)

All About That Base (No Acid) (Chemistry)

What do you know?

Write your own exam questions

1. Write your own exam questions based on knowledge you know.
2. How would you ask or test somebody to see if they knew the information?

E.g. Geography – physical earthquakes

Possible questions:

- What is the cause of earthquakes
- Give 1 case study of an earthquake
- Discuss the after effects of an earthquake

3. Write your own mark schemes for the questions you have made. How would you answer the question? What key information would you be looking for?

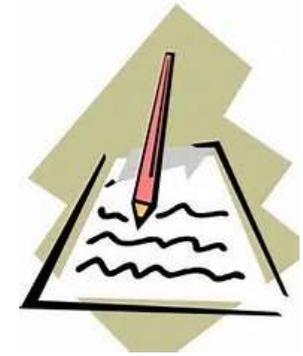
Practise what you have revised.



1. Spending hours reading, revising and making notes will help you remember the content, but you must put this knowledge into practice.
2. Use past papers and example questions to test yourself. Each exam board has past papers online



Written Exam Preparation



When in your exam:

1. Read the question twice
2. Circle, underline or highlight key words
3. What is the question asking? What is the command word? E.g. Evaluate, discuss
4. **PEEL** on your work: Point, Evidence/Example, Explain, Link back to question.
5. Remember case studies you have watched or learnt about. Make your **point** linked to the question, give **evidence** or and **example** and **explain** the example linked to the first point made. Finally **link** back to the question.
6. Check how many marks the question is worth. Have you made as many points
7. DO NOT leave questions blank. Give every question a go, even if it's a guess
8. Briefly plan out your answer before starting to write your final answer e.g quick notes or mind map.
9. Re read your answer.
10. Plan your time accordingly. Do not rush. Spend more time on large mark questions.
11. Check your handwriting. If the examiner cannot read it they **will not** mark it.
12. Leave enough time for you to go over your paper to check your answers

Useful Websites and Apps

- Google Classroom
- Seneca
- Maths (depends on year group) Hegarty / Sparx / Complete Maths Tutor
- BBC bitesize
- Past papers and markschemes online. Exam boards: AQA, OCR, Edexcel.
- School website – Staff and Student portal – revision.