

Kingsmead School

Revision Guide



Name:

Which exam board am I studying?

English Language	AQA
English Literature	AQA
Mathematics	PEARSON EDEXCEL
Biology	AQA
Chemistry	AQA
Computer Science	OCR
French	PEARSON EDEXCEL
Geography	AQA
History	PEARSON EDEXCEL
Physics	AQA
Spanish	PEARSON EDEXCEL
Animal Management	BTEC TECH AWARD 2022
Art	OCR
Art (Photography)	OCR
Business	PEARSON EDEXCEL
Creative Media	BTEC TECH AWARD 2022
Dance	BTEC TECH AWARD 2022
Early Years	BTEC TECH AWARD 2022
GCSE PE	OCR
Health & Social Care	BTEC TECH AWARD 2022
Hospitality & Catering	WJEC
Information Technology	OCR NATIONAL
Music	OCR
Performing Arts	BTEC TECH AWARD 2022
Psychology	OCR
Religious Studies	AQA
Sports Studies	BTEC TECH AWARD 2022
Technology	AQA



REVISION TIPS

Revision isn't just about memorising material—it's about approaching your learning strategically. There are three key types of revision: content-based, which focuses on understanding and retaining information; skills-based, which develops your ability to apply what you have learned; and reflective, which involves evaluating your progress and identifying areas for improvement. To achieve a strong grade, it's essential to work on all three, creating a balanced and purposeful approach to your revision.

- 1. Content based revision tasks focusing on recall and consolidation of knowledge.**
- 2. Skills based tasks applying this knowledge to exam scenarios or skills required within the exam, such as evaluation.**
- 3. Reflective tasks focusing on addressing weaknesses and acting to improve these areas.**
This is the most powerful form of revision as it prevents repeat errors.

Content based revision	Skills based revision	Reflective tasks revision
Creating revision cards Creating mind maps Watching video summaries Reading over class notes Studying course textbooks Making condensed notes	Completing exam papers and self assessing with the mark scheme Reading model answers Comparing model answers to your own	Revising in groups and questioning each other. Creating your own exam questions Handing in additional exam practice to teachers to analyse Completing further reading around the subject.

When revising, it's important to stay actively engaged with the material rather than just passively reading or highlighting notes. While these methods might feel productive, they don't always help information stick in your long-term memory. Mix up your revision techniques to keep things interesting, these strategies force your brain to retrieve and apply knowledge, which strengthens your understanding and recall.

01

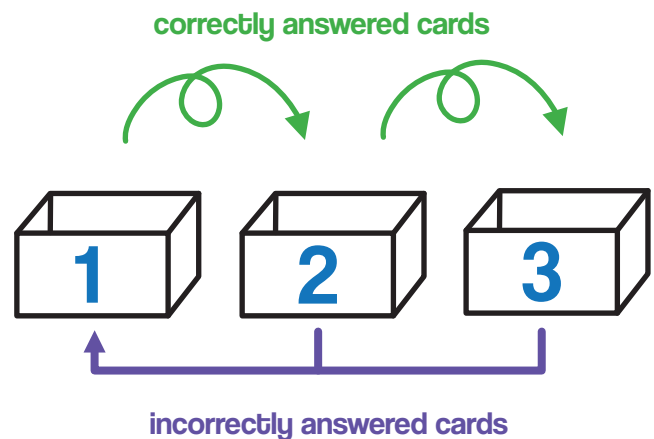
FLASH CARDS

Flashcards are very commonly used, but how effectively do you use them? Do you spend longer making them than you do testing yourself?

Whilst presentation and visuals are important, don't spend longer on them than necessary. The trick is to use them whenever you can and as often as you can because they are small and portable. They can also be used to help friends and family test you on core knowledge or facts / formulas you need to memorise.

The Leitner System

The Leitner System is a simple way to revise using flashcards that helps you remember things for longer by focusing more on what you don't know yet.



Step 1: Set up your boxes

You have a few boxes (or piles), usually 3–5:

- Box 1 - hardest cards (you don't know them yet)
- Box 2 to 4 - cards you're getting better at
- Last box - easiest cards (you know these well)

Step 3: Move cards based on your answer

- If you get it right, move it to the next box
- If you get it wrong, send it back to Box 1

Step 2: Start studying

- Begin with all your flashcards in Box 1
- Look at a question, try to answer it

Step 4: Study boxes at different times

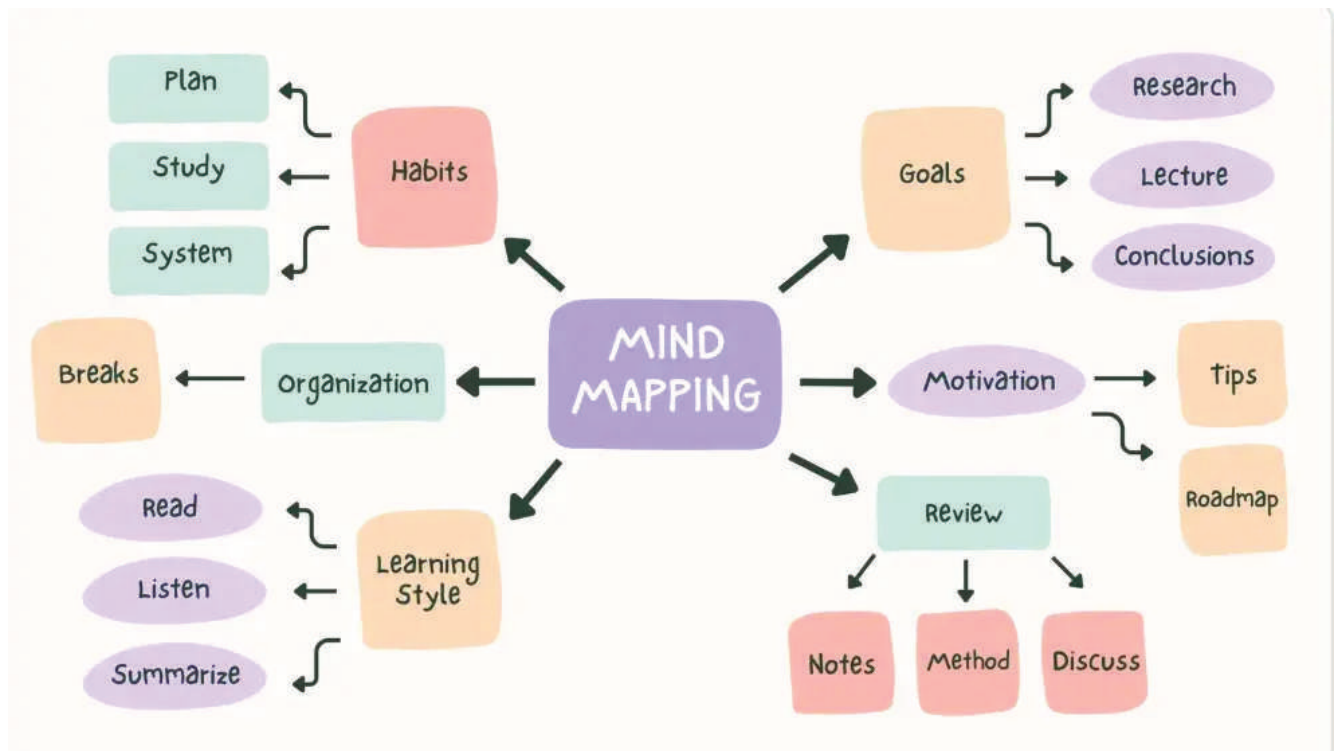
- Box 1 - every day (hard stuff)
- Box 2 - every couple of days
- Box 3+ - less often (because you already know them better)

02

MIND MAPS

Often underrated, if done well mind maps can be very powerful to build and strengthen neural connections to jog your memory.

The two most important parts students often miss are the use of different colours and labelling the branches so they are not just blobs of information scattered around randomly.



How to make Mind Maps effective:

- Make the initial subject clear and visible in the centre.
- Use main branches for big ideas and smaller sub branches for details.
- Colour code according to your methods (different characters, etc.)
 - Add images and symbols to represent key themes and ideas.
 - Make connections between ideas.
- Keep in personal to you, write however you feel will help you remember.
 - Don't overcrowd your mindmap, you want it to be easy to read!

03

QUIZ, QUIZ, TEACH!

For this one you need a friend to compete with! Either at home or virtually.

You Will Need:

- Paper or index cards
- Pens or highlighters
- Your textbook or class notes
- A timer (phone is fine)
- A partner to work with

How to Play

1. Create your revision cards

Use your textbook or notes to write 10–15 challenging questions, each on a separate card.

- Focus on deeper thinking
- Avoid simple recall questions where possible

2. Pair up and get ready to quiz:

- Sit with your partner and shuffle your cards. Decide who goes first.

3. Take turns asking questions:

- One person asks a question from their cards
- The other person answers out loud
- Switch roles after each question

4. Keep score:

- Award 1 point for each correct answer
- Keep track as you go to add a competitive element

5. Explain your answers:

Try to fully explain your reasoning, not just give short answers. This helps deepen understanding.

6. Finish and review:

At the end, total your scores and see who wins. Go over any questions you struggled with together.

Why This Works:

- It makes revision active, not passive
- Testing yourself improves memory retention
- Explaining answers strengthens understanding
- Working with a partner keeps you motivated and engaged

04

DUAL CODING / CONVERSION

Dual coding is the process of blending both words and pictures. Take your revision notes and add drawings / pictures to help you remember or take chunks of text and turn them into mind maps / brainstorms.






















Your brain is more likely to remember as you have made visual connections with the words or text.

YOU CAN ALSO TRY CONVERSION:

Take information in one format and 'convert' it into a different format.

- A flow chart into text
- Text into a mind map
- Text into a graph
- A graph into a news report
- Text into a picture
- Diagrams into a poem / story

EXAMPLE:

		PAPER 1: ROMEO AND JULIET	
	'Do you bite your thumb at me, Sir?'		'For this alliance may so happy prove to turn your households rancour to pure love'
	'Peace! I hate the word As I hate hell, all Montagues and thee: Have at thee coward!'		'These hot days, is the mad blood stirring'
	'O brawling love! O loving hate'		'O am fortune's fool'
	'My child is yet a stranger in the world'		'O I have bought the mansion of a love, but not yet possessed it'
	'If love be rough with you be rough with love'		'O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face'
	'O she doth teach the torches to burn bright'		'Hold thy desperate hand. Art thou a man?'
	'It is the east, and Juliet is the sun'		'O God, I have an ill divining soul. Methinks I see thee now...as one dead in the bottom of a tomb'
	'What's in a name? That which we call a rose would smell as sweet'		'Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither'
	'It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden, too like the lightning'		'O bid me leap, rather than marry Paris, from off the battlements of any tower'
			'Love give me strength, and strength shall help afford'
			'Then I defy you stars!'
			'Beauty's ensign yet is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks, and death's pale flag is not advanced there'

05

MATCH IT UP!

Revision Match-Up Game

Turn your revision into a fast-paced memory challenge that helps you actively recall key information.

How to Set Up

- Choose a topic from a subject with lots of content (e.g. Biology, Chemistry, Physics).
- Write 20 questions about the topic on one colour of cards. Focus on things you're not fully confident about.
- On the other colour cards, write the matching answers using your notes or textbook.
- Keep the question and answer cards in separate piles.
- Shuffle both piles thoroughly.

You Will Need

- 40 revision cards (or small pieces of paper)
- 20 in one colour (for questions)
- 20 in another colour (for answers)
- A pen or marker
- Your textbook or exercise book
- A timer (phone or stopwatch)
- A flat surface (table or floor)

How to Play

1. Spread all 40 cards face up across a table or the floor.
2. Start your timer (set it to 5 minutes).
3. Match each question card with its correct answer as quickly as you can.
4. Stop the timer once all matches are complete.

Winning the Game

If you match all pairs correctly in under 5 minutes, try again and aim to beat your time. If you make mistakes, review those questions and repeat the game to improve.

Challenge Mode!

Give your cards to a friend and see if they can beat your time. Or compete by creating different sets of cards for each other.

06

SUPERCHARGE YOUR VOCABULARY

Keywords and embedded subject vocabulary is the key to higher grades!

Step 1: Hunt the Keywords

Pick a topic and find 6–7 important keywords. Use your textbook glossary, the index at the back, or your exercise book to track them down.

Step 2: Decode the Definitions

Write out the official definition for each keyword. Then, rewrite each one in your own words so it actually makes sense to you.

Step 3: Make It Yours

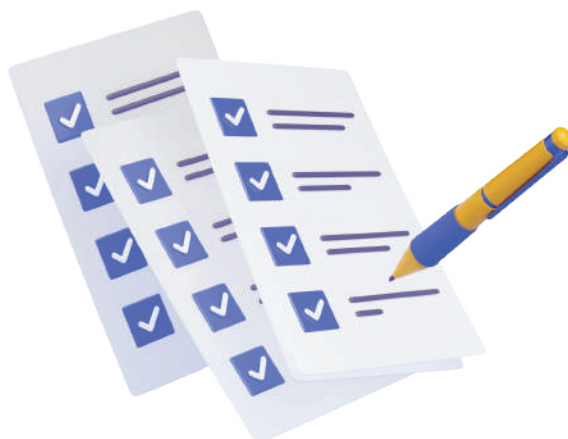
Create a sentence for each keyword. Try to link it to real-life examples or something memorable—it'll stick better in your brain.

Step 4: Check & Improve

Go back and check your definitions and sentences. Fix anything that's a bit off and level up your answers.

Challenge Mode!

Turn it into a quiz: cover your definitions and see if you can remember them, or test a friend! Keep it quick, keep it active, and you'll be surprised how much you remember.



07

BRAIN DUMP

Ready to level up your memory? This technique is all about training your brain by pulling information out (not just reading it over and over). The more you do it, the stronger your memory gets!

You Will Need

- A blank sheet of paper
- A pen + a different coloured pen
- A timer (your phone works perfectly)
- Your notes or textbook (for checking after)

1. Pick your topic

Choose something you've already studied and kind of understand—but still need to improve.

2. Set a 5-minute timer

No distractions, no peeking at notes!

3. Brain dump time!

Write down everything you can remember about the topic. Facts, dates, keywords and anything that comes to mind.

4. Check your work

When the timer ends, grab your notes or textbook and see what you missed.

5. Fill the gaps (in colour!)

Using your different coloured pen, add in the missing bits. These are your weak spots—aka your next revision targets.

6. Boost your memory

Turn those tricky bits into flashcards or review them over the next few days.

7. Repeat the challenge

Come back to the same topic a few days later and do it again. Can you remember more this time? (You probably will)

Why It Works:

Every time you retrieve information from your brain, you make that memory stronger and easier to access in exams. It's like a workout but for your brain!

08

MODEL ANSWER!

Model answers are either provided by your teachers or they can be found on the exam boards' website. Wherever you find them, use them by comparing them to your answers.

Apply the generic mark scheme to both answers and consider how the skills in the model answer differ to the skills in your own. How can you replicate these skills?

09

SPACING

If you want revision that actually sticks, your brain needs a bit of breathing room. That's where spaced practice comes in.

Instead of trying to cram everything in the night before (stressful, exhausting, and not very effective), you revisit your learning in short bursts over time. Think of it like training for a sport, you wouldn't do one massive session and expect to improve!

Here's how to make it work for you: break your revision into small, manageable chunks (no one needs a 5-hour marathon). Then spread these chunks across the week, mixing up your subjects so things stay interesting. The key is to come back to the same topics again and again, leaving little gaps in between. Each time you return, your brain strengthens those memories, ready for your exams.

10

BUDDY UP!

Research has shown that if the person with you is working hard you are likely to follow and copy their work ethic.

Find a friend who you know you can work with and then arrange to spend some of your social time studying together, testing each other or helping each other make study resources. As long as you can stay away from too many distractions (phones away!) this is a perfect way to not only revise but also support one another during a time that can be stressful and tiring. Link this revision strategy to some of the earlier techniques throughout this guide and seriously level up your revision tactics!

11

PAST PAPERS

Deliberate practice refers to a special type of practice that is purposeful and systematic.

Whilst regular practice might include repetition, deliberate practice requires focused attention and conducted with the specific goal of improving performance.

To gain maximum marks on a question you need to fulfil all the exam criteria often using specific key words and subject vocabulary. This is hard when you are studying lots of different subjects and are working under time pressure in exam conditions.

One way to improve performance is to keep going over your technique so it becomes automatic. Deliberate practice is best done in small chunks so take an old past paper question you may have lost marks on, usually a 4, 6 or 8 mark question is best, and then attempt the question.

Before you try it, look at the feedback from your teacher and any specific areas to improve, then practice answering it a few times within a set limit. This is usually around a minute per mark. In some subjects, your teacher may also be able to give you the criteria to help you gain the most marks.



12

MAKE THE MOST OF MARK SCHEMES

Most students use past papers to practice exam questions which is great, but a lot of them miss the most powerful part: actually learning from the mark scheme afterwards.

A mark scheme isn't just for checking your score. It's basically a guide to how examiners think, and that's exactly what you need to understand if you want to improve your grades.

Here's how you can use mark schemes in smarter ways:

First, use them to mark your answers properly. Don't just give yourself a rough score — look at exactly where you gained or lost marks. Did you miss key words? Did you not develop your point enough? This helps you spot patterns in your mistakes.

Second, use the mark scheme to improve answers you found difficult. If you struggled with a question, read the mark scheme carefully and compare it to your response. Then rewrite your answer so it would get full marks. This is one of the fastest ways to level up.

Third, use mark schemes to help you plan answers. If you're stuck on how to start a question, the mark scheme shows you what kinds of points are needed. It's like a checklist of what good answers include.

Finally, take it a step further: think like an examiner. Look at the structure and patterns in mark schemes, then try creating your own question and a matching mark scheme. This might sound strange, but it helps you really understand what earns marks — and what doesn't.

In short, past papers show you the questions. Mark schemes show you how to win the marks.

If you start using both together, your revision becomes much more effective — and you'll go into your exams knowing exactly what examiners are looking for.

Exam Checklist

Everything you need ready to sit your exams!

Being prepared and having the right equipment during exam season is crucial because it allows you to focus fully on demonstrating your knowledge rather than worrying about avoidable problems. Turning up with the correct pens, a working calculator, and any subject-specific tools means you can approach each question with confidence and work efficiently without interruptions. It also helps reduce stress—knowing you have everything you need creates a sense of control in what can be a high-pressure situation. Good preparation sets the conditions for you to perform at your best and make the most of the effort you've put into revising.

Essentials to Bring to Every Exam

- Know which exam you are attending!
- At least 2–3 black pens
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Ruler (preferably 15–30 cm, transparent)
- Transparent Pencil Case

Subject-Specific Equipment

Bring these only when needed:

- Calculator
- Protractor

Nice to Have Extras

- Water bottle (clear, label removed)
- Tissues

Before Leaving Home

- Make sure all your equipment is in working order
- Get a good night's sleep
- Eat a proper breakfast / lunch (helps concentration)
- Arrive to your exam early
- Check your pockets and make sure there is nothing in them you do not need for the exam

During the Exam

- Read instructions carefully
- Keep an eye on the time
- Answer all questions you can (even partial answers can earn marks)
- Stay calm - if stuck, move on and come back later

What NOT to Bring

- Mobile phones (keep them switched off and stored as instructed)
- Watches (both smart watches and normal ones)
- Any electronic devices (including headphones of any kind)
- Notes, revision cards, or textbooks
- Food (unless permitted for medical reasons, needs to be in clear packaging)
- Pencil cases that aren't transparent

Exam Calendar

Fill in your exams, this will help with your revision schedule!

May

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
PM	PM	PM	PM	PM

Mathematics



1st Class Maths



The GCSE Maths Tutor



Dr Frost Maths



1st Class Maths



MathsGenie

English Language



2026 Paper 1 Guide



2026 Paper 2 Guide

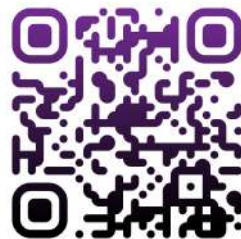


Seneca Learning



AQA Past Papers

Biology



Cognito



emmatheteachie



Physics and Maths Tutor



AQA Past Papers
(Combined)



AQA Past Papers
(Triple)

Chemistry



Atoms and Ions



Seneca Learning



Physics and Maths Tutor



AQA Past Papers
(Combined)



AQA Past Papers
(Triple)

Physics



Required Practicals



Kinetic Energy



BBC Bitesize
(Combined)



BBC Bitesize
(Triple)



Past Paper 1
(Combined)



Past Paper 1
(Triple)



Geography



tutor2u Geography



Physics and Maths Tutor
(Geography)



Internet Geography



Revision World
Past Paper



AQA Past Papers

Design Technology



DTtoolbox



BBC Bitesize



Seneca Learning



AQA Past Papers

French



Languagegenut



BBC Bitesize French



Edexcel Past Papers

Spanish



Languagegenut



BBC Bitesize Spanish



Revision World
Past Papers

Music



OCR Music Playlist

Physical Education



OCR PE Complete



BBC Bitesize PE

BTEC Sport



BTEC Sport video



Pearson BTEC Sport

Religious Studies



Summary videos
Bitesize



Religious Studies
Playlist



Seneca Learning



SaveMyExams RS



AQA RS Past Papers

Hospitality and Catering



WJEC H&C Revision
Question Cards



H&C Educational
Resources



eRevision



Computing Revision



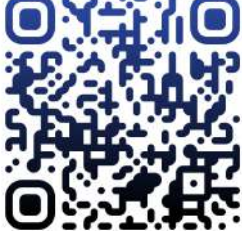
OCR Past Papers

Information Tech

Performing Arts



Theatre Beard



BBC Bitesize Drama



Performing Arts Past Papers

