

Preparing for Tests

(Planning, Revision Timetables)

Key Stage 4



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I must start some revision!
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You will do a lot of assessment tasks this year.

They come in all shapes and sizes: little quizzes, end-of-unit tests, speaking and listening tests, assessed practical tasks, and of course School Exams in May.

Some (but only few!) will be unannounced. You will get a fair bit of warning about the others.



These tests require you to prepare, usually by revising. Revision makes you feel more confident, reduces stress levels and therefore helps you get better results.

So how does the well-organised student approach preparation for tests and exams?



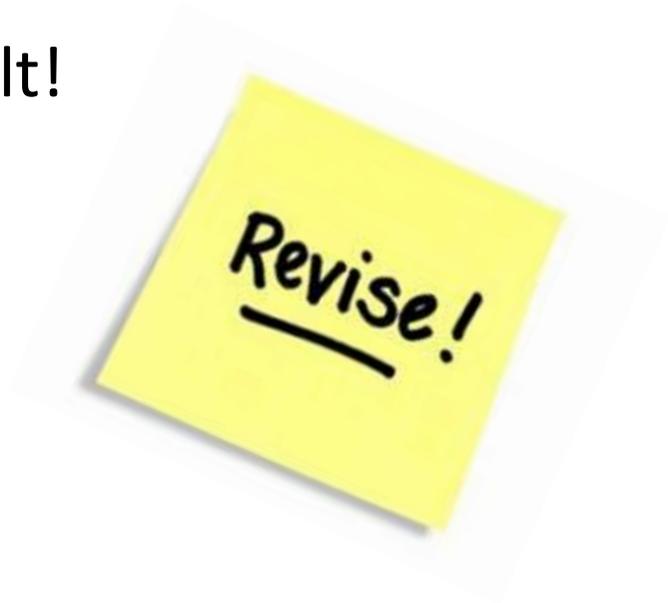
Step 1: Find out about the test

- What type of a test is it?
- What knowledge or skill will be tested?
- When will it be and how long will it be?
- What type of questions will be asked?
- What equipment do you need?



Step 2: Decide what to revise

- Make a list of all the topics which might come up.
- Not sure? Ask the teacher
- Check that you have a full set of class notes for the required topics
- Revise the topics one by one and tick them off when you have finished.
- Spend most time on topics which you find most difficult!



Step 3: Plan when to revise

There are three golden rules:

1. Start your revision as soon as your teachers suggests that you should. Don't push it into the future.
2. Don't leave your revision to the last minute. That would add to your stress, not relieve it.
3. If in doubt, start straight away.



Step 4: Develop a plan

- You will revise best if you re-visit the same topic several times over several days.
- **For School Exams in May, develop a revision timetable which incorporates all your subjects.**
- Build sport and leisure activities into your revision timetable. You will need those breaks.

Step 5: Plan where to revise

- Have all the correct equipment ready in a quiet study space. This stops you from interrupting your work again and again to collect equipment from elsewhere.
- **Switch off all distractions (phone, music, internet, TV...)**
- Ask your family not to disturb you.



Step 6: Structure your revision

- For most students between 20 and 40 minutes is a good time to work on one topic before having a short break.
- Use this pattern: Revise, test, rest.
- Ask a member of your family or a friend to ask you test-type questions.
- Allow 30 minutes between the last revision session and going to bed.



Revision Cracked

These are kept in Mrs Bates's Office

revision cracked!

The essential guide for **GCSE Students**
preparing for their exams.

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