



Key Stage Four

Review and Revise

You will have to recall a huge lot of information in the few weeks allocated to your GCSE exams in all your subjects. You will only be successful if you prepare for these exams throughout your KS4 years.



There are four distinct steps here:

- Learning facts
- Understanding the topic
- Reviewing the topic
- Revising the topic for a specific progress test or exam



Step 1: Learning Facts

- This will happen under the guidance of your teacher, in lessons, at during private study. It can only be effective if your notes are organised and up-to-date. *(Find examples of facts which you are currently learning in Biology)*



Step 2: Understanding the topic

You will pull together a variety of facts which you have learned mainly in lessons, but also through private study, into a cohesive whole. This understanding allows you to answer questions such as *(please apply these to your most recent Biology topic)*:

- What?
- Who?
- How?
- When?
- Why?

What is important here is that you can show connections between facts and explain why such connections exist and how they impact.

In most cases you will be able to answer these questions (at the very latest) at the end of your class work on one particular topic.

Step 3: Review

Reviewing means revisiting something which you have learned and understood. This is what you can do:

Read through your notes on the topic. This is fine, but not very active, so you are likely to forget again quite soon.

Read through your notes and interact with them. Interacting means that you have to think through the topic in order to create something new. This could be:

- A mind map
- A list of key statements
- An illustration, with speech bubble style comments
- Note cards
- Highlights, colour codes or post-it notes on a copy of your original notes
- You could even turn your notes into lyrics to go with the melody of a favourite song

Give your notes to somebody else and ask them to test you on them.

Give your notes to somebody else and ask them to argue with you

Do you know what your best learning styles are? Actively use them at the review stage.

You should work on reviewing throughout the academic year. Good review work will make revision for exams massively easier.



Step 4: Revision

- Revision happens in the final few weeks and days before major exams or in the few days before a progress test.
- It works best on materials which you have learned and understood, and which you have already reviewed. All you now need to do is look at the notes you created in the review stages and interact with them again.
- You might want to look at how you memorise things and develop useful techniques, since you need to be able to remember a lot of facts in the exam room.
- *(This should be followed up with a review task homework from one of the major departments, maybe Biology)*
- We will do more work on revision closer to the School exams (for Year 10) and the Mock exams (for Year 11)