

Revision Guidance

- A grades are achieved through effective revision followed by successful application of knowledge. Both are based on technique, not necessarily IQ. In other words, exam technique is as important as learning facts.
- Revision is RE vision, i.e. revisiting work already covered. The best place to start is the subject syllabus, obtainable from the exam website or your teachers. Use this to identify areas you may have missed, or where your notes are insufficient. Read up on missing sections.
- Divide the syllabus into manageable chunks or topics.
- Don't spend days making colour-coded, laminated revision charts but set daily, flexible, realistic targets and include incentives to keep you working. This means waking up before midday so you can give yourself a reward in the evening – socialise!
- Quality not quantity! Short frequent bursts are better as most people lose concentration after 45 minutes.
- Vary your revision techniques because we all learn in different ways e.g. visual learners use mind maps, diagrams and posters; auditory learners discuss ideas with friends in study sessions. Revision doesn't have to be a solitary business! Split up topics, learn them, present back and then test each other.
- Make use of the media. There are countless revision websites.
- Tuning into a satellite foreign channel or reading a foreign newspaper or making vocab cards helps language revision. You could bung the cards into your handbag and test yourself, even just waiting for the bus.
- Sort your working environment. Working to music diverts attention, as does outside noise, so shut the windows.
- No point spending hours writing what you already know; start on the topic you feel least secure about.
- Read through friends' essays to help develop your own ideas and to appreciate the value of a good structure.
- On the morning of the exam, get up in good time, have a hearty breakfast and read through the salient points of your revision notes.
- During the exam season, try to get 7 hours of quality sleep each night. Cramming is rarely as successful as you think. 'I work best under pressure' is nonsense – you may produce more in terms of quantity but the quality reveals all! A sensible routine is helpful.
- Try to maintain the daily routine of the school day – don't be tempted to lie in for hours; you'll find it easier to reach that morning exam if you don't.