



Sprowston Community



High School

GCSE Revision Guide 2016/17



Student revision guide for
preparing and succeeding in the
GCSE Exams

GCSE Revision 2017 at SCHS – Revision... Where to start?



The top tips for revision are...

1. Revise in **small chunks**, giving yourself a short break after **30-45 minutes**.
2. Find somewhere that you will be able to **concentrate and not be distracted**. Listen to music, get a drink and snack, settle down, then get on with it! **Don't keep putting it off!**
3. Turn **phones off**, close all social media, unless being used for revision, so you can **fully concentrate**.
4. **Get organised**. What do you need to revise from? When are you doing what subject or topic? – do you need a revision plan? **Do NOT leave it until the last minute**. Exams are earlier this year, so be prepared. Try to do revision at the **same time**, so a **routine develops**.
5. Revision material can be sourced at – BBC Bitesize, My Maths, SAM Learning (all linked from school website), Subject areas within Year 10/11 Revision on school website, s-cool revision etc.
6. **Believe in yourself**. **Do not worry about other people or put unnecessary pressure upon yourself**.

GCSE Revision 2017 at SCHS– Revision Techniques



In order to maximise your chances of success in the mocks and summer exams, revision needs to start **NOW** if it hasn't already. It is proven that '**distributed practice**': in other words chunking and spreading out revision: is the best approach. This leads to repetition which helps. The revision needs to be active and can be in the form of –

- **Pair work** – asking each other questions following revision on a small topic.
- **Testing yourself** – watch a video clip or re-read work or a page in the revision book, then test yourself. What can you remember? What links to what? What was the order? This re-testing and tasting failure or success engrains the information into your long term memory.
- **Internet** - BBC Bitesize, MyMaths, and the school's website Yr11 Revision Zone are the first places you should go to when using the internet for revision. It can be easy to be distracted or go off on tangents from the core area you started to revise. However the variety and accessibility can not be questioned.
- **Highlighting revision booklets** – many subjects have provided revision books. These need to be working documents, with notes added, points highlighted etc. These have already chunked information into pages/chapters/sections so do a small amount reading, underlining and absorbing.
- **Using past exam papers** – this could be timed and in exam conditions, but could also involve answering questions using revision guides, or unpicking questions, highlighting the command words and topic and then briefly planning a possible answer.
- **Using Marking schemes** – if you do complete exam papers, use these to look at what the examiner would be awarding marks for and what you should have included.
- **Reading through you're your books** - simply re-reading your work from GCSE lessons does suit some people, or even re-writing certain aspects.
- **Revise words not whole paragraphs** – a key word can trigger the rest of the information, so make sure you know these and in what order. You can then add the detail and reasons etc. Mnemonics may help here.
- **Making revision cards** – these can be in the form of notes/bullet points from your work, with one card per topic. An alternative is to have a key term on one side and the definition on the back to test your understanding of key vocabulary (pair activity also).
- **Bullet Points/Notes** – re-reading your work or revision books and jotting down the key concepts or specifics can help build a library of key points. Use post-its to stuck around your room or house or colour to organise and link.
- **YouTube** – although possibly tempting to stray away from revision, you have numerous resources here to watch videos concerning key processes or subject specific videos e.g. Geography, History, Science
- **Mind Maps** - a very common approach in turning large amounts of content into a logical, interconnected colourful, single diagram. Key concept/topic in the centre with arms per sub topic, with specific information coming off this e.g. Vietnam War in centre, 'Causes' arm coming from this with linked information off the end.
- **Images and Audio**– it doesn't have to be all words, using images /audio to test understanding or recall.
- **Imagining a route** – as demonstrated by Mr C at the Revision evening, imagining a route you are familiar with or the rooms of your house and placing certain items or pieces of information from revision in these can help recall and keep ideas in an order e.g. hall way see a wave, into kitchen where there is a cliff face etc.

