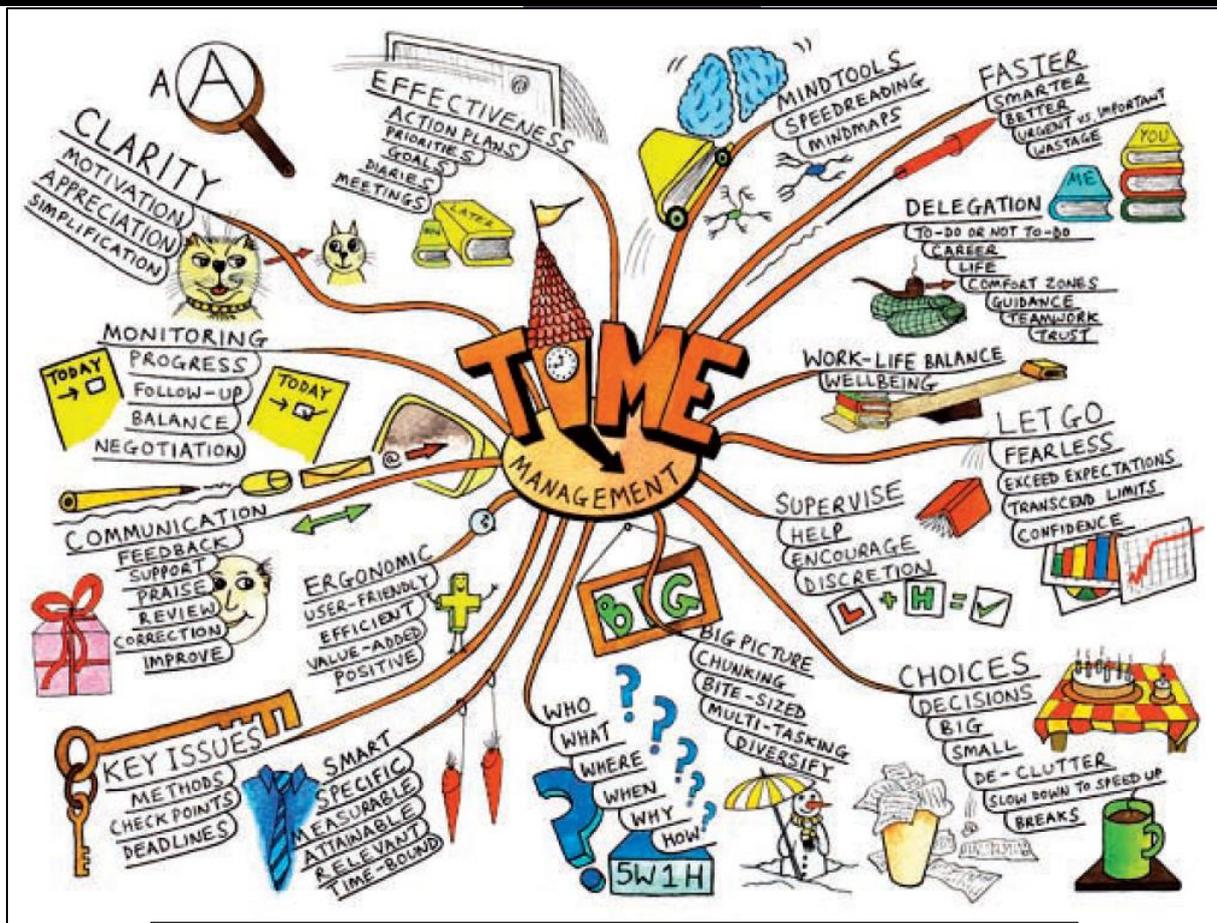




# Y11 Revision Skills



A Guide for Parents  
and Students

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The purpose of this revision skills guide is to give you and your child a variety of ideas and practical ways to help them revise on a daily basis.

As you are aware, the vast majority of **GCSE exams are now linear**, meaning that students will sit a large number of final exams in the May and June of Year 11 as coursework is disappearing in some subjects.

In order to succeed in these final exams, there are many ways in which your child can effectively revise at home to accelerate their chances of achieving their full potential in each examination.

*Studies show that we retain:*

- **90%** of what we learn when we teach someone else or use immediately.
- **75%** of what we learn when we practice.
- **50%** of what we learn when engaged in a group discussion.



- **10%** of what we learn from just reading notes.

Therefore, your child can and should get into the habit of **revising now and regularly**. This booklet outlines a range of strategies for successful and effective revision which you and your child can use in preparation for the final exams.

As well as home revision, your child can also attend **period 7 sessions**. These sessions are available for your child to attend for extra revision after school **2:50-3:50pm**.

## **Contents**

Page 2 - 4	Revision Strategies to try at home.
Page 5	Making a Revision Timetable
Page 6	Revision Websites & APPs

## Revision Strategies

### Note Cards

Use small note cards to record your revision. There should be only one topic on each card. You could use key words, ideas, symbols or pictures – that depends on you and your preferences. The hard part will be reducing the notes from a number of pages onto a small card. The other side might have a worked problem or a question with some hints on how to answer it. Regularly expand the notes into a fuller explanation, either by writing it down or verbally.

### Flashcards

These can be made for all sorts of topics and can be quite small. The idea here is to put key words and ideas on the cards. Finally, shuffle the cards and then turn them over, one at a time, explaining each key word or idea out loud, to someone else if possible. You don't need fancy cards either, just cut up paper / card and make your own.

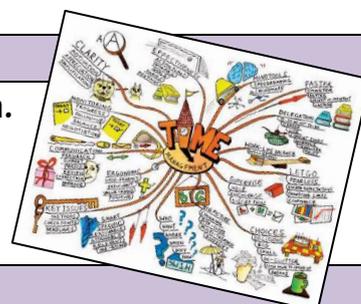


### Make Notes Straight Away...

As you read through your work, start to make notes straight away – don't wait for it to become clear. Get your thoughts and ideas down quickly as you read and just record the small details. At the end, you may look back over what you have done to look for patterns or bigger pictures.

### Draw spider diagrams / Mind Maps

These are great for getting all of your ideas down to start with. You can then organise your ideas from your spider diagram / mind map using different headings for each exam topic / question.



### Make yourself a Problem page...

Before you start to revise a topic, make a list of the typical problems or questions that you think you or other students might have. Now go through your notes / use the internet and look for the answers to these problems. Finally, write an explanation for each problem that you might share with others to make things clearer.

### What do I know?

Spend some time before your revision to record what you already know. This could be in the form of a spider diagram, a mind map or list. As you read through your notes, check if you really do understand each item. Are there things you have forgotten? If so, add them in. Are there things that aren't right? If so, correct them.



### Post-Its

Write information on post-it notes and place them on the wall, door or large sheets of paper. You can then re-arrange them according to a variety of ideas. Put them somewhere you can always see them.

- Categorise items into similar groups.
- Organise them into what you know and don't know, re-arrange as you learn more to show your progress.
- Follow trends or themes.



### Create gap-fill exercises

Go through your notes and recreate them leaving gaps (\_\_\_\_) for key words / key ideas. Then see if you can fill in the gaps later. If you keep the exercise you can print copies regularly and keep testing yourself. You may wish to change where the gaps appear.

### Make lists

- bullet point them
- 1. number them
- a) letter them

Do this according to what suits **you** best. Numbers will definitely suit those who like using numbers, letters for those who prefer reading and writing, but if you have no strong preference, try all of them.

### Order/Sequence

Make notes, cut them into sections and then try to order or sequence them. Check against the original work to see how well you have done.

### Visuals

Make good use of drawings and diagrams in your revision. Use different colours. Replace key words, ideas, people or places with pictures. These can be doodles – you don't need to be Picasso for this to help you!

### Posters

Make a poster of each topic. After reading all the information, condense it onto one poster. Use lots of different colours and pictures, but limit the number of words. Think carefully about which words you will use before you start.

### Games

Use guessing games as part of your revision. Things like Pictionary, Scrabble and Taboo work as well. You have to change the rules so that you can only use words that are linked to the topic you are learning. You will need to make your own cards to play some of these games.

### Reading out loud

Read your revision notes out loud to a particular rhythm – this could be set by music playing in the background or tapping your foot or by walking calmly and steadily. This is a sort of walk and talk. If you read something out loud and you think – what does that mean again? Go back and review it.

### Question and Answer (Q&A)

Create questions and answers about a topic and quiz each other. You could create a version of The Chase / Multiple choice Quiz where the questions are graded according to the difficulty that you choose. Swap quizzes with friends to test each other.

### Underlining and highlighting

As you read through the work in your exercise book, underline or **highlight** keywords. You could come up with a predicted list of what you are expecting to read before you start or you could make a list of the key words as you work through the notes.



### Use Colour

Most people like colour and will remember things much more easily if they use it. For example, you might want to make notes, putting **all important words in red, the importance concepts in green and the important dates in purple.**

### Group Your Notes

Try to group, categorise or put revision notes into hierarchies (orders). Sort your notes or note cards into particular groupings based on bigger themes.

### Create a Rap, a Song or a Poem

If you like music, the rhythm of these sorts of activities will help you to learn. Get used to singing or talking your work to a set rhythm, perhaps use different rhythms for different topics.

### Practice Exam Questions

Using your notes, write yourself a series of exam questions. When you return to this subject revision again, try to answer your own questions in timed conditions.

### Revision Videos

If you like visual learning, watch revision videos online. YouTube and BBC Bitesize websites have lots of useful videos.



### Favourite Places

Put any revision notes/post-its around the house especially in your favourite places like on the fridge, the backs of doors or mirrors. When you pass them, stop and consider what's on the note and expand and explain it to yourself in more detail.



# Making a Revision Timetable

Plan out your revision times and remember to:

- Keep revision session short – **30 to 40 minutes** with regular breaks.
- Be specific when planning revision e.g. write down which subject, topic and exam questions you are going to focus on.
- Revise in a quiet environment, away from distractions.
- Drink plenty of water and get a good amount of sleep. Staying up late to revise won't be of any benefit to you.

Sunday													
Saturday													
Friday													
Thursday													
Wednesday													
Tuesday													
Monday													
	9:00am	10:00am	11:00am	12:00am	1:00pm	2:00pm	3:00pm	4:00pm	5:00pm	6:00pm	7:00pm	8:00pm	9:00pm



# APPs and Websites



- **My Study Life:** an app to use throughout the year, not just during your revision period. Track homework and assignments, and organise your daily and weekly schedule. Everything is stored in the Cloud for easy access on multiple devices.
- **Timetable:** Timetable is one way to manage school life across your devices.

**Technology**  
[www.technologystudent.com](http://www.technologystudent.com)  
[www.gcseproductdesign.weebly.com](http://www.gcseproductdesign.weebly.com)  
[www.design-technology.info/revisionguides](http://www.design-technology.info/revisionguides)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design)  
[www.mr-dt.com/revisiontests.htm](http://www.mr-dt.com/revisiontests.htm)

**Business Studies**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/gcse/business/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/gcse/business/)

**ICT**  
[www.reviseict.co.uk/](http://www.reviseict.co.uk/)

**Music**  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/music>

**Computer Science**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z34k7ty](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z34k7ty)  
[www.teach.ict.com/](http://www.teach.ict.com/)    [www.codecademy.com/](http://www.codecademy.com/)  
[www.greenfoot.org/door](http://www.greenfoot.org/door)    <http://flowlab.io/>



**English**  
<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/contents.htm> - English Literature/English Language  
<https://www.examtips.com/gcse/revision-tips/> - Useful revision tips  
<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/frankenstein/> - Frankenstein revision  
<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/flies/> - Lord of the Flies Revision

**MFL**  
[www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com) - also an app    [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) - also an app    [www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com) - also an app  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

**Health & Social Care**  
[https://getrevising.co.uk/revision-tests/health\\_and\\_social\\_care\\_revision](https://getrevising.co.uk/revision-tests/health_and_social_care_revision)

**Art**  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)  
[www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org)  
[www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)

**Core Science**  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/aqa/>  
**Additional Science**  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/add\\_aqa/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/add_aqa/)  
**Further Science**  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/triple\\_aqa/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/triple_aqa/)  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

**RS**  
<http://www.rsrevision.com/GCSE/index.htm>  
<http://goffrs.com/edexcel-gcse-revision/>  
<http://www.winterhill.org.uk/page/?title=Religious+Studies&pid=51>

**O2**  
[www.o2learn.co.uk/index.php](http://www.o2learn.co.uk/index.php)

**Maths**  
<http://www.corbettmaths.com>

**History**  
 Medicine through Time - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zhphvcw>  
 Medicine through Time - <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/a-history-of-medicine/>  
 American West - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zv3v4wx>  
 American West [http://www.historyonthenet.com/american\\_west/americanwestmain.htm](http://www.historyonthenet.com/american_west/americanwestmain.htm)



**Geography**  
 GCSE revision materials - <http://www.acegeography.com/wjec-b-and-yr11-revision.html>  
 Past papers - <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/geography>  
<http://www.sln.org.uk/geography/schools/blythebridge/GCSERevision.htm>

**PE**  
 S-cool - <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/pe> S-cool  
 OCR GCSE PE website (all past papers are on here) <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-physical-education-j586-j086-from-2012/>  
 GCSE Bitesize - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z46pyrd/resources/1>  
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts.html>  
<http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/FEAndVocational/SportsStudies/BTEC/BTEC-Firsts-Sport-2012/BTEC-Firsts-Sport-2012.aspx>