



Preparation for success

How to revise

C PRESS

Chunk it!

- Studies show however you revise the optimum time spent is 10 minutes.
- After 15 minutes the revision is less useful (unless it's a past paper, poster, diagram or similar).

Plan it!

- Having a plan is vital as it can get overwhelming.
- Knowing how you are dealing with your exams will reduce stress.
- Stops over / under revision (you have your exam times, plan for them).
- Have it in a public place (fridge).

Rewards!

- Make sure to have rewards planned:
- Little ones during revision (every time you get an answer right then
- Bigger ones towards the end
- Maybe results based rewards.....

Environment!

- Quiet.... (or maybe some music but no TV!)
- Technology sparse.... (if you need a tablet / laptop / smart phone for revision only have it in the room when you are using it. It WILL distract you).
- Plenty of fluids....
- Snacks....

Stick to it!

- This will be a hugely stressful time.
- The plan will relieve stress and support success.
- Re-plan if you need, don't ignore it!

Exam revision strategies

Past papers

This is what you are preparing for. Do as many as you can. You can download them and the mark schemes from the examination board website.

Flash cards

Get some index cards and rewrite your notes. You can then revise anywhere (on the bus, in the car), use them as test cards and even order them into a mindmap.

Test cards

Make cards with questions on for key facts. Even better cut up past papers and use these to make test cards (the mark schemes can be on the other side). Remember to get someone to test you!

Posters

Turn your notes or revision guides into a visual reminder for your room! You can revise from opening your eyes in the morning!

Memory Tricks: Mnemonics

Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain is the easiest example for memorising the colours of the rainbow. Make up your own to memorise lists.

Memory Tricks: Stories / association

If you have a list or set of information to remember wind it into a story where the key bits pop up bit by bit.

Memory Tricks: Mind palaces / room lists

Use this to imagine a room or journey (e.g. your journey to school). At each bit link something you see or hear to a bit of information and

when you need to remember it you just imagine the journey or room again to remind yourself of the key bits.

Memory Tricks: Poems and songs

Change the information you need into a song e.g.

πr^2 sounds like area to me

When you need a circumference you need πd

Memory Tricks: Chunking

If you have a large amount of information to remember then group them into smaller chunks (e.g. 4 words or numbers at a time)

Memory Tricks: Lists

If you have to remember a process or steps first memorise the number of steps. If you wanted to remember how to make toast memorise 'Toast 4'. You then know that there are 4 steps and will be able to either leave space in the exam or it will help you split it up.

Other ways are by memorising the first letters of a list, just like C PRESS.

Memory Tricks: Rote learning

This is basically repeating something over and over and over either aloud or written (think about your times tables).

Memory Tricks: Memory training

Go to www.luminosity.com

Post it notes

When you have key facts to remember, post them around the house (toilet door, kettle, front door) and every time you pass them read them or test yourself.

Podcasts

If you have something that won't 'stick' in your mind then make a recording of what you need to know and play it again and again and again!

Re-write notes / revision guides

Just reading a revision guide or your books doesn't work that well. Re-write in a different (shorter) way and that's a revision activity in itself.

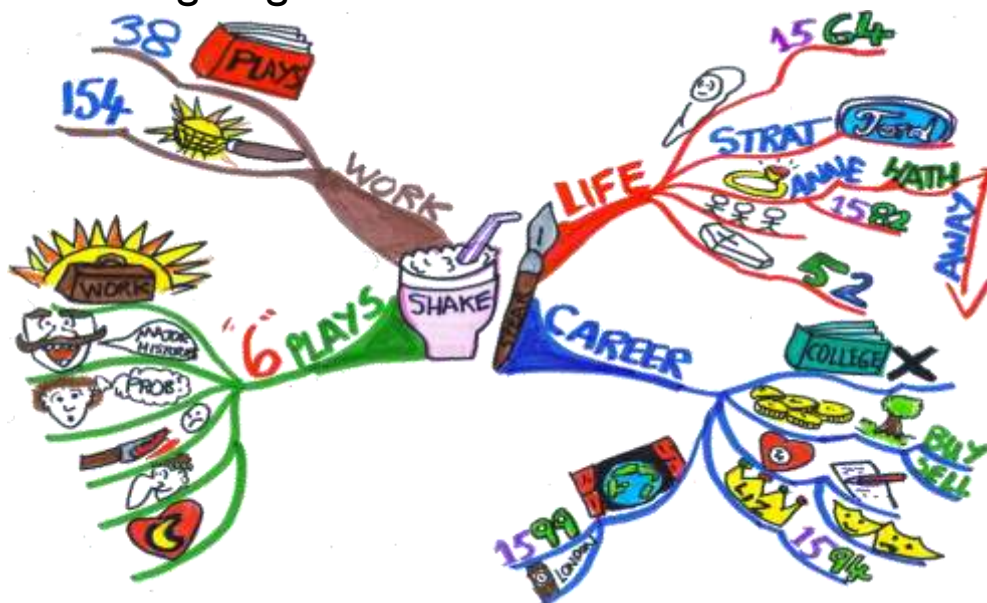
Study groups

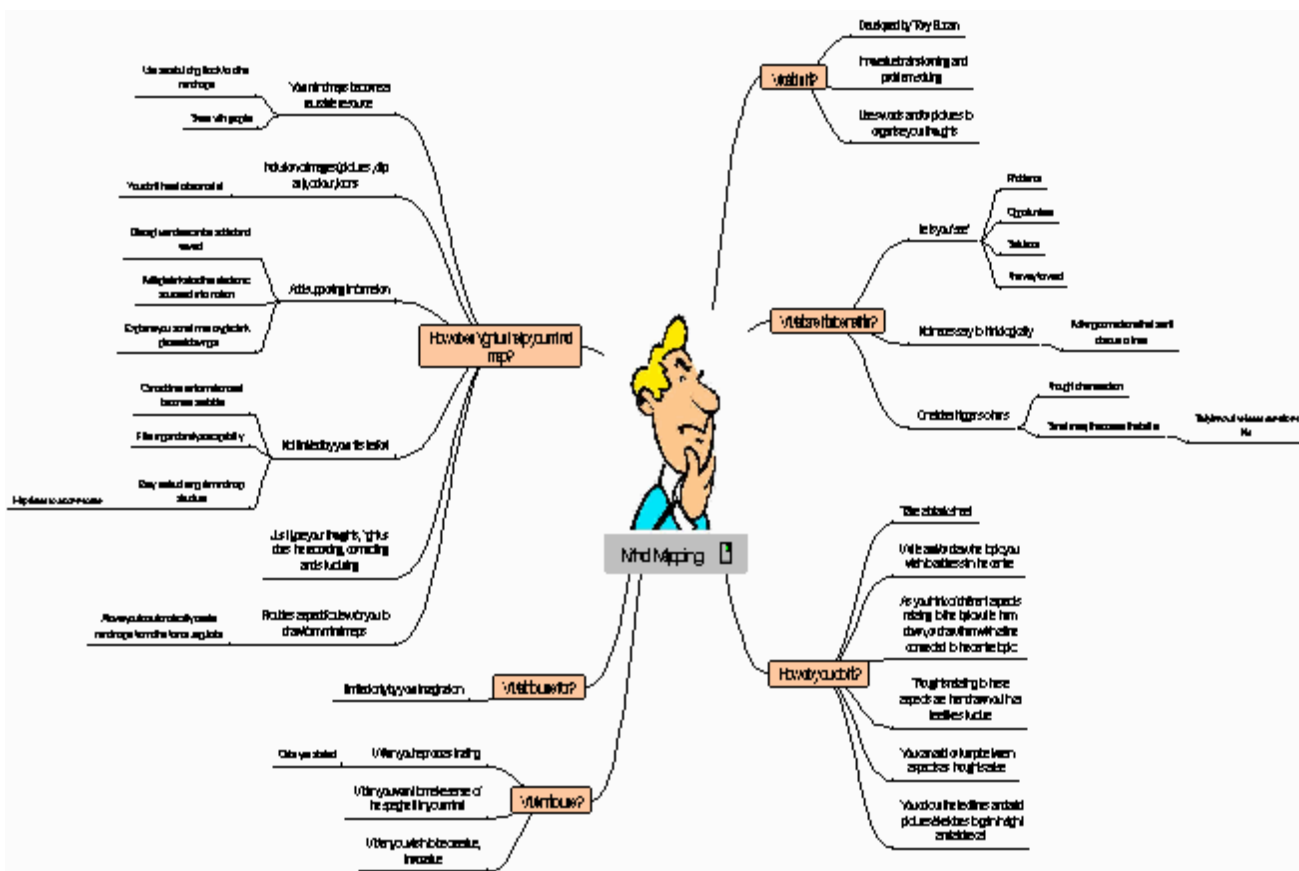
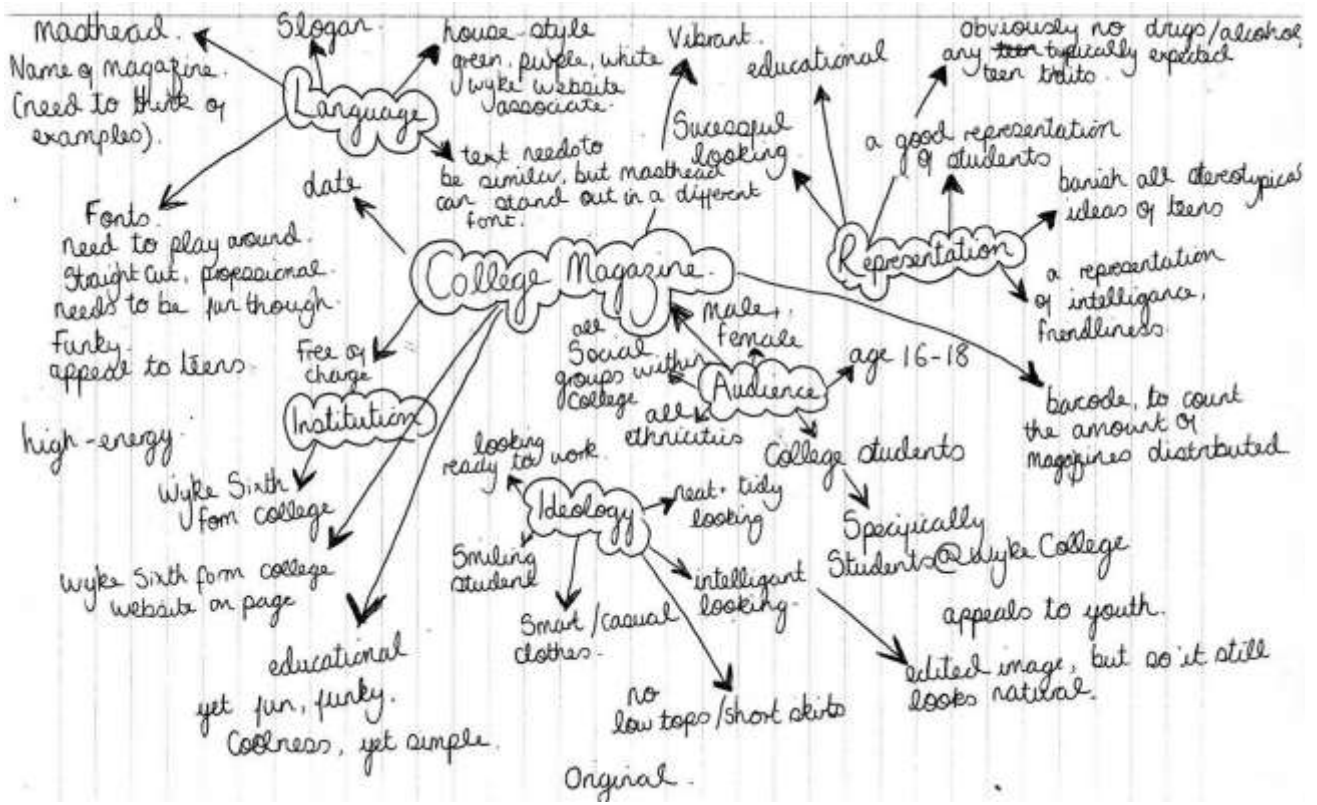
Explaining something to someone else is a great way to learn and revise. They can check your work and you can motivate each other.

Choose the right people though! Don't get distracted.

Mind maps / spider diagrams

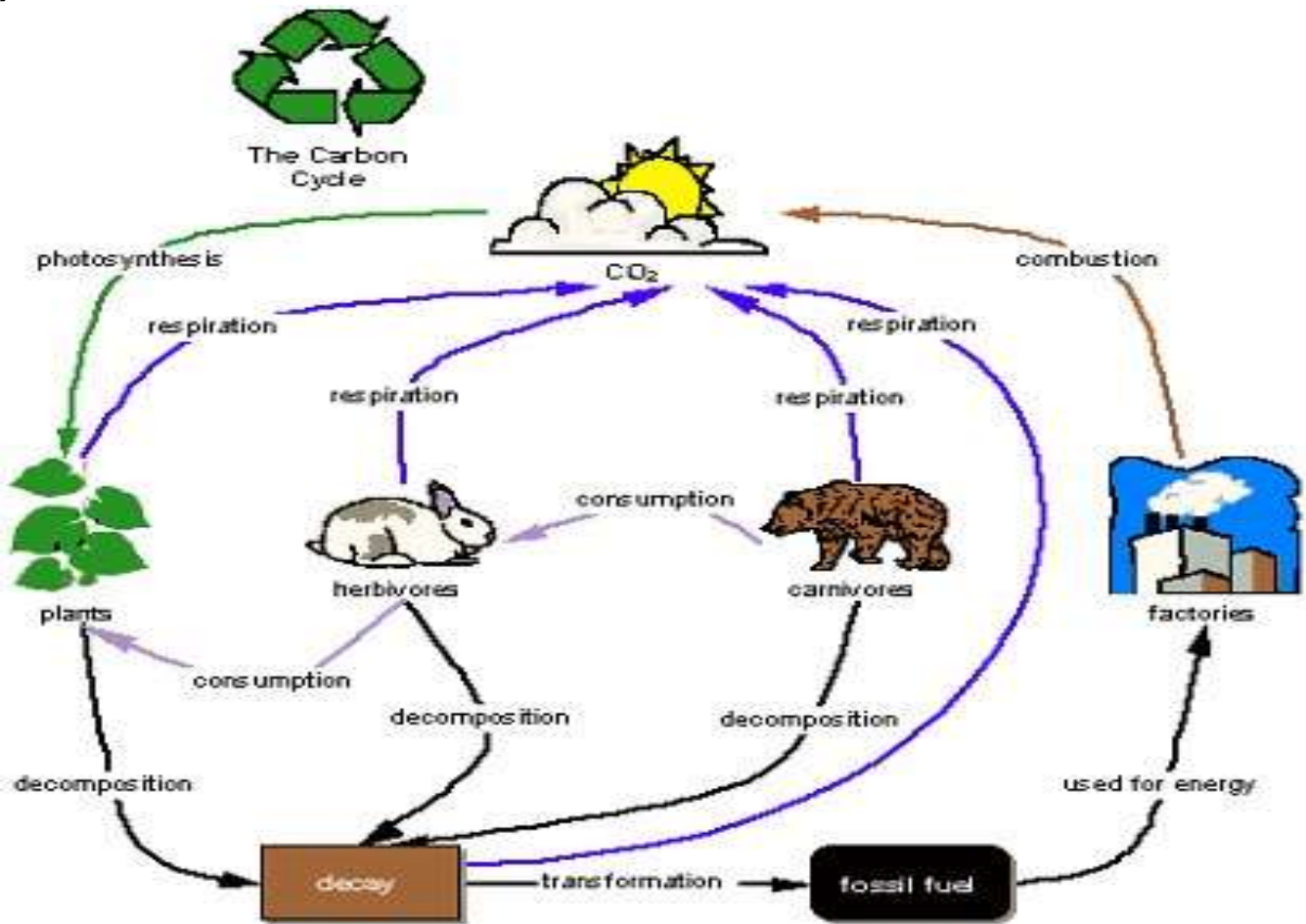
These are great ways to organise your thoughts and show the links between areas using diagrams / words / numbers etc.





Concept maps

Concept maps are a little different and show how different things are linked together to show a big, overall, concept works like the carbon cycle



During your revision period

- Make yourself start however much you don't want to – the hardest bit is now out of the way.
- Take short breaks
- Do frequent short exercises – stand up and walk around, do stretches, especially your neck and shoulders
- Drink water and get fresh air – have your room cool enough or you will fall asleep!
- Eat well – not too many sugary snacks – little and often is best.
- Take time out and do something completely different
- Don't leave the difficult bits until last
- Do something more relaxing between revision and bed.
- STOP when you feel frustrated, angry, overwhelmed and take a break. Make a note of the problem and deal with it next lesson – move on to something else.
- Focus on what you have already done and not what is still to do – remember every little helps.
- Give yourself a reward after a revision session– favourite TV programme, magazine, going out with friends, favourite food.
- At the end of a session – clear away and put notes in the right file so you can start the next session straight away.

Before the exam

- Know your exam timetable – highlight yours in colour and put them on your calendar.
- Know where and when you need to be and give yourself enough time not to be rushed.
- Allow time for your brain to get into action – have a shower. Eat breakfast – at home, at school or eat some fruit as you walk to school.
- Check the exact subject of the exam, how it will be structured (eg short answer section and an essay) and how the marks are awarded.
- Make sure you have everything you need the night before – books you are allowed to take in, equipment including a calculator for science and maths.
- Keep to normal routines – bed and getting up at normal time.
- Keep repeating to yourself “It is only 2 hours it will be over by 10.45”, “I will be fine”. If you keep having worrying thoughts then just say STOP and think of something positive.
- Leave yourself time to go to the toilet before the exam
- Take water into the exam - your ability to remember and your concentration improves by 70% if you are hydrated.
- Don't worry if you think you have forgotten it all before you go in - if you have revised it will all be there and will come back.

During the exam

- Turn off and hand in your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment when you enter the exam hall.
- Being nervous is normal and gives your brain extra adrenalin to help you make a final effort.
- Take some deep breaths and say something positive to yourself “I can do this” “If it’s hard for me it’s hard for everyone else”
- If you go blank at any stage leave that question, take a few deep breaths, turn over and do something else you can do. Come back to it and reread it slowly and calmly.
- Listen to the invigilator for any last minute instructions.
- Read the instructions and then read through the paper – don’t pick up your pen until you have done this.
- As you read mark off questions you can do and then choose the best ones for you – check that you have chosen the right number of questions.
- If you need to spend the first couple of minutes writing down key formula or facts you are going to need so you don’t forget them or leave them out.
- Know how many marks each section or question is worth and how you should split your time. If you run out of time write in note form to get some facts down but keep to your time limits – you can always come back if you have time at the end.
- Do not make any contact – even a smile – to any other candidate in the exam hall or you will be disqualified.

Subject	EXAM BOARD AND CODE	MATERIALS, WEBSITES AND REVISION GUIDES
ART & DESIGN	Fine Art AQA 4202	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.aqa.org.uk
ART: PHOTOGRAPHY	Photography AQA 4206	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.aqa.org.uk
BUSINESS STUDIES	EDEXCEL 2BS01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/business/ • http://www.startups.co.uk/ • www.tutor2U.net • www.bized.ac.uk • www.edexcel.com
COMPUTING	OCR J275	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ocr.org.uk
DRAMA	EDEXCEL 2DR01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama platform has examples of controlled assessments • You tube has examples of GCSE Script pieces • Independent research will enhance devised pieces • Previous examples of scripted work available on DVD from teacher
D&T FOOD	D&T-Food Technology AQA 4547	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.aqa.org.uk • www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/ • Lonsdale revision guide
D&T TEXTILES	D&T-Textiles AQA 4572	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.aqa.org.uk • www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/ • Lonsdale revision guide
D&T RESISTANT MATERIALS	D&T-Resistant Materials AQA 4562	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.technologystudent.com/ • Past papers: http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcscs/dandt/new/resistant_materials.php?id=07&prev=07 • www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/ • Lonsdale revision guide

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ENGLISH	English Only WJEC 4190LA English Language WJEC 4170LA English Literature AQA iGCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/ sections on reading & writing Exam on 23rd May- worth 40% of English Language grade. • CGP English language revision guide. • Specification, past papers and markschemes available at www.wjec.co.uk • http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/ sections on reading & writing Exam on 7th June- worth 40% of English Language grade. • http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/ • CGP and Lonsdale English English/English Language AQA Unit 1 revision guide are recommended (available online and from some book shops)
FRENCH	French AQA 4655	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.languageskills.co.uk • www.linguascope.com • www.Kerboodle.com • www.linguascope.com • GCSE bitesize
GEOGRAPHY	Geography AQA 9030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.geographyalltheway.com • www.juicygeography.co.uk/ • GCSE bitesize • www.geography-site.co.uk/pages/revision • www.s-cool.co.uk • www.revisioncentre.co.uk • www.aqa.org.uk • www.coolgeography.co.uk/ • VLE resources (past papers, revision booklets)
GERMAN	German AQA 4665	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.languageskills.co.uk • www.linguascope.com • www.Kerboodle.com • www.linguascope.com • GCSE bitesize

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HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	EDEXCEL 2HS01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision folders created in class • Sam Learning • HSC text books from school library • www.edexcel.com – Examiners’ reports, past papers and mark schemes.
HISTORY	History OCR (A) SHP J415 or (B) Modern World J417	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past papers from tutors • Revision guides issued after Easter • www.ocr.org.uk • www.bitesize.co.uk • www.samlearning.co.uk
ICT	EDEXCEL 2IT01	Students can access all resources/feedback/marks etc. online via their class sites. Parents can access the content there also.
MEDIA	AQA 4810	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/media-studies/#bm-GCSE
MUSIC	Music AQA 4270	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.aqa.org.uk • www.dsokids.com/listen/instrumentlist.aspx • www.musicalintervalstutor.info/listenpg.html • http://www.thirteen.org/publicarts/orchestra/orchestra03.swf • plus LOTS of relevant videos on YouTube

Subject	EXAM BOARD AND CODE	MATERIALS, WEBSITES AND REVISION GUIDES
MATHS	Core Maths Either Edexcel IMAO or OCR J567 Additional Maths – Top set Either AQA 8360 or OCR 6993 Statistics Edexcel 2ST01	Past papers (see your maths teacher) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGP Revision Guides and Workbooks for the right board are recommended and can be ordered through school • Easter Holidays Revision Booklet (see your maths teacher) • www.mymaths.co.uk (login:horsforth, password: fraction, all pupils have a login) • www.mangahigh.com (all pupils have a login) • www.studymaths.co.uk • www.getrevising.co.uk (this is a site for all subjects that is free for students and teachers and has revision notes on it as well as tools for making them)
PE	AQA 4892	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Papers • GCSE Bitesize • Student booklet • Past Papers and Mark Schemes on school website • www.aqa.org.uk
RE	AQA 4057 Unit 3: Religion and morality and unit 6: Worship and beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs • www.mmiweb.org.uk/gcsere • www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/re • www.rsrevision.com • ALL STUDENTS WILL HAVE A REVISION GUIDE MADE BY STAFF – THESE HAVE PAST PAPERS FOR STUDENTS TO COMPLETE AS PART OF REVISION

Subject	EXAM BOARD AND CODE	MATERIALS, WEBSITES AND REVISION GUIDES
SPANISH	Spanish AQA 4695	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.languageskills.co.uk • www.linguascope.com • www.Kerboodle.com • www.linguascope.com • GCSE bitesize
SCIENCE: BIOLOGY	Biology AQA 4401	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE bitesize • http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse.html • http://www.what2learn.com/examgames/science/
SCIENCE: CHEMISTRY	Chemistry AQA 4402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE bitesize • http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse.html • http://www.what2learn.com/examgames/science/
SCIENCE: PHYSICS	Physics AQA 4403	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE bitesize • http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse.html • http://www.what2learn.com/examgames/science/ • http://www.astronomygcse.co.uk/AstroGCSE/New%20Site/IndexNew.htm
SCIENCE: DOUBLE	Core and Additional Science A AQA 4405 and 4408	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE bitesize • http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse.html • http://www.what2learn.com/examgames/science/
SPORT	Level 1/2 in Sport Studies OCR Cambridge Nationals J813	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ocr.org.uk

How to plan a revision timetable

1. Write in your times and days
2. Decide on when you start, how long each session is and how you will work best
3. Look at which exams are when and how many sessions before your exam
4. Allocate your time carefully to subjects
5. Look at what you need to cover and when in each subject
6. Plan breaks (15 mins max for trying to memorise but longer for past papers etc.)
7. Stick to it!

	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Session							
1 Start: Finish:							
2 Start: Finish:							
3 Start: Finish:							
4 Start: Finish:							
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