

STUDENT REVISION GUIDE



GCSE REVISION GUIDE

Preparing for your GCSEs can feel overwhelming, but with the right approach, you can effectively manage your revision and achieve your goals. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you succeed:

1. Understand the Exam Requirements

- **Know Your Syllabus:** Download the syllabus for each subject from your exam board's website (e.g., AQA, Edexcel, OCR). This will help you know what to study.
- **Understand Exam Structure:** Familiarise yourself with the number of papers, topics covered, and the weight of each section.

2. Create a Revision Timetable

- **Prioritise Subjects:** Spend more time on subjects or topics you find challenging.
- **Break It Down:** Plan 2-3 subjects per day, with short sessions (25-50 minutes) and breaks.
- ** Assign dates for completing each topic and stick to them.

3. Gather the Right Resources

- **Textbooks and Notes:** Use your school books and any revision guides recommended by your teachers.
- **Online Tools:** Websites like BBC Bitesize, Seneca Learning, and Quizlet offer interactive revision tools.
- **Past Papers:** Download past exam papers and mark schemes from exam board websites.

4. Active Revision Techniques

- **Summarise Notes:** Rewrite your class notes in your own words, focusing on key points.
- **Flashcards:** Use them for quick recall of key facts, formulas, and definitions.
- **Mind Maps:** Create mind maps to visually link ideas and topics.
- **Teach Someone Else:** Explaining concepts to a friend or family member helps reinforce your understanding.



5. Practice, Practice, Practice

- **Past Papers:** Complete them under timed conditions to simulate the exam experience.
- **Check Your Answers:** Use mark schemes to identify areas for improvement.
- **Self-Quizzing:** Test yourself regularly to reinforce learning.

6. Stay Organised

- **Organise Materials:** Keep your notes, flashcards, and other resources in one place.
- **Digital Tools:** Apps like Google Keep, Evernote, or Microsoft OneNote can help organise your revision digitally.

7. Stay Healthy

- **Take Breaks:** Use techniques like the Pomodoro method (25 minutes study, 5 minutes break).
- **Stay Active:** Regular exercise helps reduce stress and improve focus.
- **Eat Well:** Include brain foods like nuts, fish, and fruits in your diet.
- ** 8-9 hours of sleep per night.

8. Manage Stress

- **Meditation and Relaxation:** Try mindfulness exercises or breathing techniques.
- **Positive Mindset:** Focus on what you can achieve, not on the obstacles.
- **Talk About It:** Share worries with friends, teachers, or family members.

9. Adapt and Reflect

- **Evaluate Progress:** Regularly review your timetable and adjust as needed.
- **Focus on Weak Spots:** Allocate extra time to topics you struggle with.
- **Celebrate Successes:** Reward yourself when you achieve your goals.



10. **The Night Before the Exam**

- **Relax:** Avoid last-minute cramming.
- **Prepare Materials:** Pack pens, pencils, a calculator, and any required equipment.
- **Get Enough Sleep:** A well-rested mind performs better.

11. **Exam Day Tips**

- **Arrive Early:** Give yourself time to settle in and reduce anxiety.
- **Stay Calm:** If you feel nervous, take deep breaths.
- **Read Questions Carefully:** Ensure you understand what's being asked before answering.

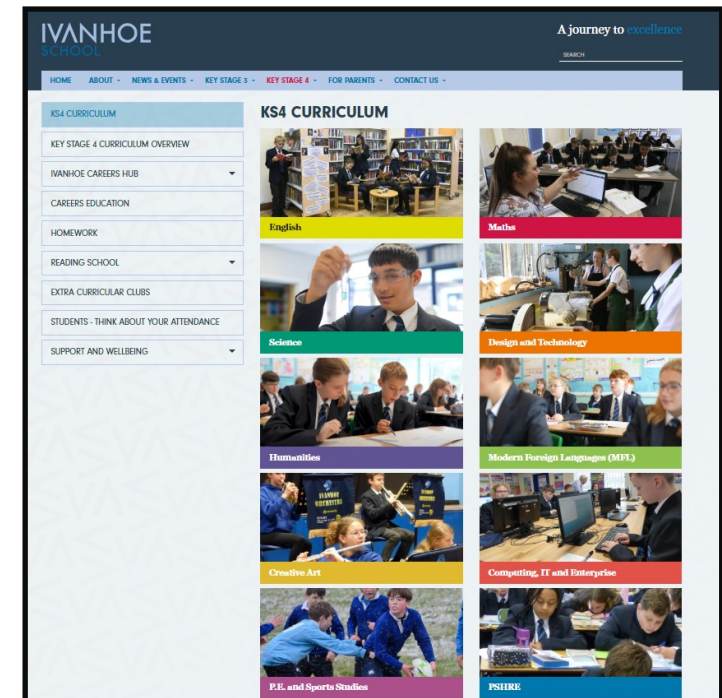
Bonus Tips

- Use music or white noise if it helps you focus.
- Mix up subjects to keep things interesting.
- Practice exam-style questions to get used to the format.

By staying organised and consistent, you'll build confidence and be ready to tackle your GCSEs with success!

IF YOU NEED TO CHECK ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR COURSE CONTENT - VISIT THE IVANHOE WEBSITE:

[KS4 Curriculum](#) | [Ivanhoe School](#)



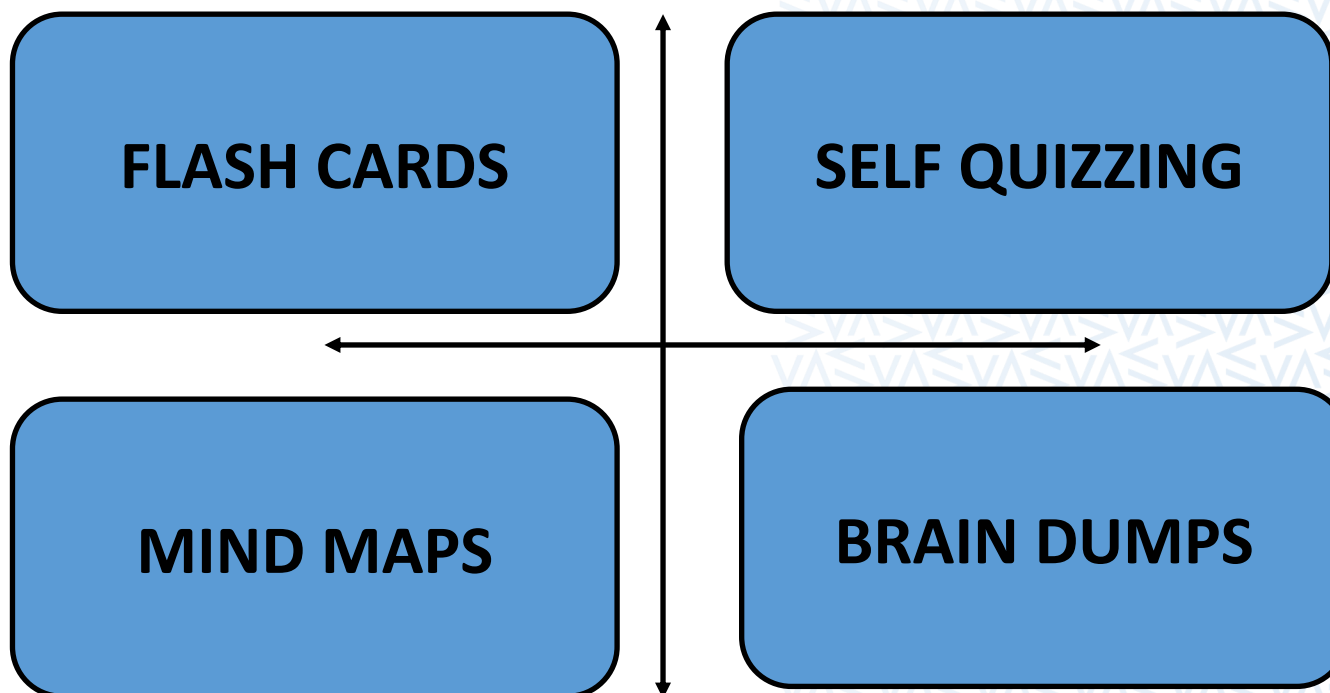
THE CORE FOUR REVISION TECHNIQUES

Doug Lemov states,

practice does not always make perfect, but it does make permanent.

Students should have a bank of well practised revision and study methods that they can confidently select from.

The core four revision techniques can form a basis for revision in most subjects. Your teachers will practice these techniques with you. Use them in combination to discover what works best for you.








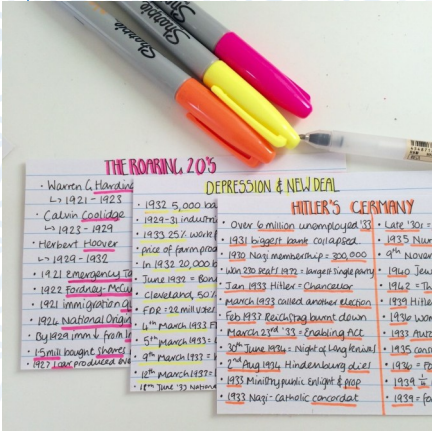
ONLINE APPS AND REVISION SITES

There are a whole range of revision sites and apps that you may also find helpful during your revision.






Speak to your subject teachers about subject specific recommendations to ensure you are using quality resources.

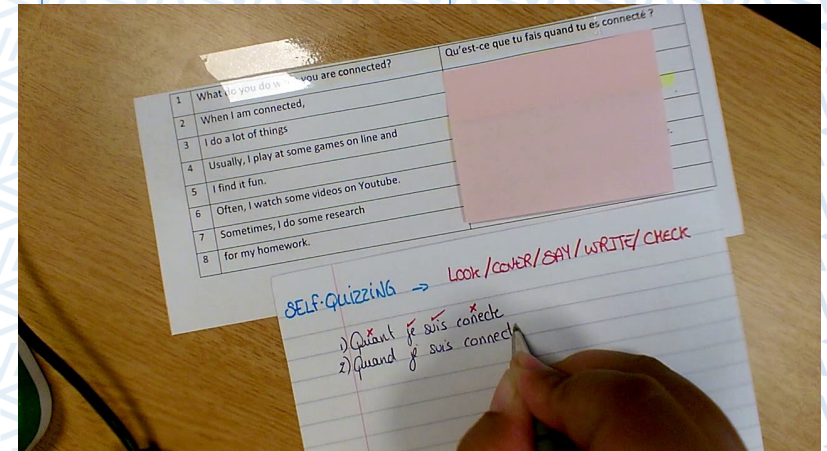


SUMMARY: HOW TO CREATE FLASH CARDS






				
1: IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE	2: COLOUR CODING	3: DESIGNING	4: USING	5: FEEDBACK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are you creating flash cards on? • Do you have your knowledge organiser? • Use your book to look at previous misconceptions from whole class feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use different coloured flash cards for different topics. This helps with organisation NOT recall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One question per flash card • Making them concise and clear • Use a one word prompt, so that you can recall as much as you can. • No extended answer questions. • Number your flash cards for self quizzing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write your answers down, then check. Or say answers out loud. This really clearly shows the gaps in knowledge. • Do not just copy and re-read. • Shuffle the cards each time you use them. • Use the Leitner system to use flash cards every day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have you performed when you look back at your answers? • Is there anything you need to revisit in more detail? • Is your knowledge secure? If so, move onto applying knowledge in that area in specific extended exam questions.

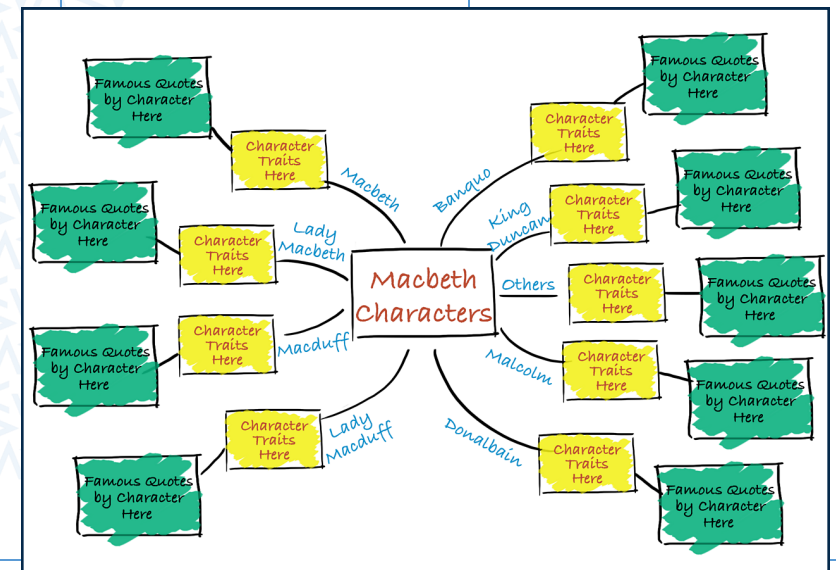
SUMMARY: SELF QUIZZING

				
1: IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE	2: REVIEW AND CREATE	3: COVER AND ANSWER	4:SELF MARK AND REFLECT	5:NEXT TIME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify knowledge/ content you wish to cover. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend around 5-10 minutes reviewing content (knowledge organisers/ class notes/ text books). Create x10 questions on the content (if your teacher has not provided you with questions). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover up your knowledge and answer the questions from memory. Take your time and where possible answer full sentences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go back to the content and self mark your answers in green pen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit the areas where gaps in knowledge, and include these same questions next time.








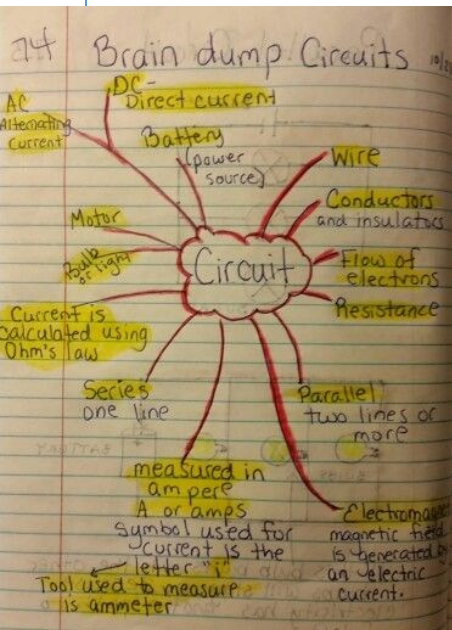
SUMMARY: HOW TO CREATE A MIND MAP

				
1: IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE	2: IDENTIFY SUB TOPICS	3: BRANCH OFF	4: USE IMAGES AND COLOUR	5: PUT IT SOMEWHERE VISIBLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select a topic you wish to revise. Have your class notes/knowledge organisers ready. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place the main topic in the centre of your page and identify sub topics that will branch off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branch off your sub topics with further detail. Try not to fill the page with too much writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use images and colour to help topics stick into your memory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place completes mind maps in places where you can see them frequently.



SUMMARY: BRAIN DUMPS

				
1: IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE	2: WRITE IT DOWN	3: ORGANISE INFORMATION	4: CHECK UNDERSTANDING	5: STORE AND COMPARE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the knowledge/topic area you want to cover. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take a blank piece of paper/white board and write down everything you can about that topic (with no prompts). Give yourself a time limit (e.g. 10 mins). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once completed and you cannot remember any more, use different colours to highlight/underline words in groups. This categorises/links information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare your brain dump to your knowledge organiser of book and check understanding. Add any key information you have missed (key words) in a different colour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your brain dump safe and revisit it. Next time you attempt the same topic, try and complete the same amount of information in a shorter period of time or with more information.



EXAM RULES - NO EXCUSES

It is incredibly important that you are aware of all the official guidelines for your exams and coursework. Full guidelines are on our website.

Malpractice

Failure to follow the guidelines either intentionally or unintentionally is called 'malpractice'. Any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice will be investigated and reported to the relevant awarding bodies. This could lead to your disqualification from an exam or subject.

JCQ provides the following information regarding what constitutes malpractice:

- Introduction of unauthorised material into the examination room
- Breaches of examination conditions
- Exchanging, obtaining, receiving, or passing on information which could be examination related (or the attempt to)
- Offences relating to the content of candidates' work
- Undermining the integrity of examinations/assessments



Malpractice can also occur outside of the exam room. Below are some details about how candidates could be caught out outside of the exams.

- Things not to do on social media:
- Buy/ask for/share exam content
- Pass on rumours of what's in exams
- Share your work
- Work with others so that your coursework is not your own independent work

Non-examination assessments and coursework, as an example:

Research and using references

Where computer-generated content has been used (such as an AI Chatbot), your reference must show the name of the AI bot used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 25/01/2024. You should retain a copy of the computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts, ideas or outputs and trying to pass them off as your own. It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.

GET READY FOR YOUR EXAMS



On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- ☐ the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- ☐ who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you will need:

- ☐ a clear pencil case
- ☐ at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**
- ☐ an approved calculator for relevant exams
- ☐ appropriate apparatus such as a ruler or protractor for relevant exams
- ☐ a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in – it **must not** have a label

Contingency sessions:

- ☐ There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2025 exam timetable – the afternoon of 11 June 2025 and the morning and afternoon of 25 June 2025. Make sure you are available on all three dates even if you do not have an exam.

What you cannot take into exams:

- ☐ any type of phone
- ☐ revision notes
- ☐ any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)



Other important information:

- ☐ Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- ☐ Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- ☐ If you need additional answer sheets, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will provide you with one. Remember to add your details to this booklet.
- ☐ If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will escort you from the exam room.
- ☐ Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer.



You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

What should you wear to your exams?

You are expected to wear full school uniform for all examinations. In the exam you cannot put clothing on the back of the chair, so you may decide to leave your blazer with your belongings to ensure your comfort during the exam.

What items are prohibited (not allowed) in the exam room?

The following items are prohibited and should not be brought into the exam room:

- Mobile phones
- Any smart device that can connect to the internet
- Wristwatches (of any kind)
- Items to fidget with unless approved by the SENCo
- Food/chewing gum
- Tipp-Ex/correction pens



What calculators can I use?

We recommend that students use the Casio FX83GT CW Calculator to ensure that it meets JCQ requirements. If you have a different calculator please check if it is exam compliant with your teacher. Some examinations explicitly ban the use of a calculator. If you have one in your possession during one of these exams it will be classed as unauthorised material - that is malpractice.

What to do if you are unwell on the day of your exam

If you are unwell on the day of an exam, the examinations officer must be informed as soon as possible. Either by email exams@ivanhoe.co.uk or by phone (01530 412756 Ext 291)



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A journey to excellence

5 EXAM PREPARATION TIPS TO HELP YOU ACE YOUR TESTS



START STUDYING EARLY

The best way to do well in your exams is to start revising for them as soon as you can.

CREATE A REVISION PLAN

Make sure you have a plan for how you'll approach your revision.



PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

The best way to master a topic is to practice it.

TAKE BREAKS

Take frequent breaks while studying to recharge your brain and stay focused.



GET ENOUGH SLEEP

Make sure to get enough sleep the night before the exam.



DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE TO SPEAK TO YOUR TEACHER IF YOU'RE UNSURE OF ANYTHING YOU NEED TO REVISE.

WHAT REVISION TECHNIQUES WORK BEST FOR YOU?

- FLASH CARDS
- BRAIN DUMPS
- SPIDER DIAGRAMS
- SELF QUIZZING
- PAST PAPERS QUESTIONS
- REVISION GUIDES
- YOU TUBE VIDEOS
- VOICE NOTES

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MAKING REVISION SUCCESSFUL

1

GET AHEAD BY PLANNING

CREATE A REVISION TIMETABLE SO YOU DON'T GET STUCK ON ONE SUBJECT. PLAN FOR REVISION SESSIONS AND FLEXIBLE TIME

2

DON'T STUDY THINGS YOU ALREADY KNOW AND UNDERSTAND

USE YOUR TIME WISELY AND FOCUS ON REVISING THE THINGS YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WELL

3

DON'T BE A PASSIVE REVISER

READING OR COPYING NOTES WILL NOT HELP. USE REVISION TECHNIQUES THAT REQUIRE BRAIN ACTIVITY LIKE MAKING FLASH CARDS, DOING A BRAIN DUMP OR ANSWER PAST PAPERS

4

CONSIDER DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES

WHAT REVISION TECHNIQUES HELP YOU?
ARE THEY DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT SUBJECTS?

5

MANAGE YOUR EXAM STRESS

IT IS NORMAL TO FEEL ANXIOUS. BUT IS YOUR ANXIETY AN UNHELPFUL THOUGHT OR A GENUINE WORRY



DO YOU KNOW YOUR EXAM DATES?

DO YOU KNOW YOUR EXAM TIMETABLE?

DO YOU HAVE THE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU REVISE?

DO YOU KNOW WHO TO ASK IF YOU NEED HELP?