

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION SCHOOL

Revision Guide for Parents **and Pupils**



HOPE ° WISDOM ° FRIENDSHIP ° FORGIVENESS ° COMPASSION

HOW TO GET ORGANISED

Key tasks for students:

- Buy a set of files especially for your revision – one for each exam you will take or revision cards.
- Start revision early – the sooner you start, the less you will have to do each day and the less stressed out you will be.
- Make a realistic revision timetable and plan that you will stick to.
- Get one good revision book, CD or aid for each subject.
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Doing the revision:

- Go to all lessons and make them work for you.
- You are working for you; make the most of your knowledge about the subject, revision and exam techniques.
- The key thing is to reduce the notes you work from to a single A4 page by the night before the exam – look briefly at the notes you make a day later, a week later and just before the exam. This WORKS!
- Match the revision notes you make to the sort of questions you will be asked in the exam. Get hold of old papers from school or from the internet.
- Have clear and specific goals for each revision period, for example at the end of two hours, I will be able to label a diagram of the heart and answer a question on how the heart works.
- Get into routine of following your revision plan.
- STOP and take a break if you are becoming frustrated, angry or overwhelmed.
- Don't be influenced by friends who talk about how little work they are doing, and get your head down – your results don't matter to them.

REVISION TIPS

WHAT IS REVISION?

It means literally “re-looking” at information you have learnt previously. The aim is that you know the information you will be tested on and can remember it for the exam. Knowing something depends on understanding it.

THE AIM OF REVISION:

The aim is to reduce the amount of information relating to a subject to a series of key-points, any of which you can expand upon in an exam answer.

THE STRUCTURE OF REVISION SESSIONS:

Good revision techniques always include:

- An aim for session, e.g. “ by the end of this two hour revision session I will understand and be able to answer questions on photosynthesis”.
- Thinking about what you know already and identifying the bits, you need to spend more time on.
- Breaking down each topic into “do-able” chunks.
- Producing notes (shorter each time you revise a particular area) of the key points, phrases or words.
- Testing yourself to see what you have learnt.
- Ticking off the subject on your “overall list” so that you can see regular progress.
- Revisiting your notes briefly after one day, one week and one month, as well as just before the exam – THIS REALLY WORKS!

REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Drawing “spider maps “on large pieces of paper – to show how different parts of a subject hang together.
- Use pictures and big flip charts sheets and colour to make posters with key points and display these on the walls or where you will see them regularly (e.g. kitchen or bathroom).
- Put revision aids up around the house, especially for any “rote learning”.
- Record yourself making 10 key points about a particular topic, then play it back when you are travelling, running etc.
- Highlight key areas of notes or books (if yours), picking out the important points or summaries.
- Listen to podcasts of books and plays and discuss them with another person.
- Read a page and shut the book – what can you remember?
- Get people around you to test you on “rote knowledge” have a family quiz.

Acronyms: using the first letter of each word to make a word to prompt your memory) e.g. you may find it hard to remember this sentence “What I Never Did Only Wasted Space”. However. Turn it into an acronym and it becomes much easier: WINDOWS.

Mnemonics: are also useful – make up a silly sentence to help you remember the order of something e.g. Never Eat Shredded Wheat (North, East, South, West).

Later on: when you have revised and revisited each topic, have a go at some old exam questions. Make sure you set the appropriate time limit and try to work under exam conditions.

It is really important to understand WHAT the exam question is actually asking. Once you know the topic, it is vital that you explain it properly for an examiner!

PARENTS

Supporting your child in setting themselves up for revision:

- Talk to your child about how you can support them and what they would find helpful.
- The simplest things often get in the way of starting revision. Get around these by simply providing the files, dividers, wall-charts etc. your child will need for the revision period.
- Help your child to plan revision timetables.

Supporting your child in doing the revision:

- Support your child in sticking to their revision plan and keeping to the start and finishing times they have agreed.
- Quietly top-up the “workbox” with pens, rulers, paper pads etc.
- Provide favourite snacks and water for revision periods.
- Be sensitive to the pressure your child is feeling.
- Keep up with regular “check-ins” show an interest in how the revision is going, talk through any difficulties and be prepared to help them reschedule their planning as necessary.
- **DISPLAY EXAMINATION TIMETABLE SOMEWHERE VISIBLE.**