

# GCSE REVISION HANDBOOK

MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL

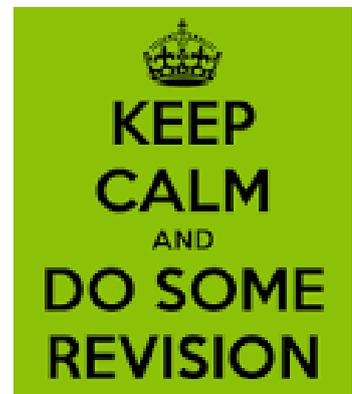


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***“Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire.”***

***W.B.Yeats***

I must do my revision  
I must do my revision



# REVISION

What is revision?

Revision is looking back at information that you have previously learnt.

You need to understand the information, know the information and remember it for the exam!



What aim revision?

The aim is to make a series of key-points relating to a subject

You need key points, phrases, or words to prompt you to remember the information stored in your brain

You should aim to have a card or A4 sheet with the key points for each topic or sub-topic

How should I structure my revision?

- ✓Have an aim for the session. E.g by the end of this session I want to be able to answer questions on...
- ✓Think about what you already know and identify the bits you need to spend more time on
- ✓Break topics down into chunks
- ✓Make notes with key points, phrases or words
- ✓Test yourself
- ✓Have a tick list so that you can see your progress
- ✓Look over your notes 1 month, 1 week and 1 day before the exam

What can I do to revise?

- Put revision aids around the house
- Tell someone what you have learnt
- Make spider diagrams
- Record yourself saying key points and play back
- Ask parents or friends to test you
- Make posters and stick them on the wall
- Use pictures to associate with keywords
- Read a page - shut the book, make notes on what you can remember
- Use Mnemonics - making a rhyme from the first letters
- Highlight key points in notes or books

## STEP 1: GETTING STARTED.....



- Before you start, download the exam and revision timetable from the school website
- Work out how many weeks until the first exam takes place
- Work out how many weeks you have until **all** controlled assessments are due. (See the worksheet at the back of this booklet)
- Serious revision should start 6-8 weeks before each exam:
  - A week is a grade, so 1 week will likely get you a Grade G in the exam, 2 weeks a Grade F, 3 weeks a Grade E and so on.
  - If you want the higher grades you will have to complete **at least 8** weeks revision
- You will need to fill in time to:
  - Work on outstanding controlled assessments
  - Revise specific topics for exams

***The best way to divide the day is to stick to the school routine.***

As you are still in school, these sessions are determined by your timetable but don't fall into the trap of "free lessons".

***For any session where the classwork is finished, assign some revision or other controlled assessments into the slot***

## STEP 2: DRAWING UP A REVISION TIMETABLE.....



You will find two example templates for REVISION TIMETABLES at the end of this revision handbook.

You may choose to adapt or structure these for your revision.

### TEMPLATE 1

- The working week has been divided into 6 days (one off for a rest!) and into 4 sessions per day.
- As you add a subject to a particular revision session you should add a tally to the tally chart; this will help you ensure that you do not over or under-revise particular subjects
- Colour code each of the subjects as this will give you a visual aid as to how much time you have committed to revision on each subject.
- You should be aiming to revise at least **4 – 5 hours a day** during holiday periods and in the run up to your GCSEs, but **be realistic** – don't plan a schedule you can't manage.

### TEMPLATE 2



- Make a list of all the subjects and topics for which you are taking exams.
- Make enough copies of the weekly timetable to take you up to the end of your exams.
- Enter all your commitments such as lessons, clubs and work and, most importantly, time to relax.
- When drawing up your revision timetable remember the following:
  - Leave time for leisure activities
  - Balance revision time between different subjects
  - Space out revision for each subject over the week
  - Vary the subjects revised in one day
- When it comes to the end of the week, review how well it worked and make changes to the next week if you need to
- Review and re-do each weekly timetable until your last exam

*Put copies of the timetable up at home for all to see. If they know you are revising, they will leave you alone to get on with your work.*

## STEP 3: ORGANISING YOUR REVISION .....

### TO DO LIST

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#### Make a topic checklist

- For each subject, make a list of the major topics you have covered – this is called a topic checklist. If you find it difficult to list the topics, ask your teacher.
- For each of the subjects, look at the topics and decide the order. Start with a topic you liked or found easy. Remember you do not have to revise the topics in the same order you were taught them.
- Re-write the topic checklist in the order you want to revise. Pin up the topic checklist in your bedroom. Write the topics on your timetable too.
- Check your timetable to see which subject you have chosen to study and check the topic list for which specific part you have chosen to revise

#### Organising your time

- Set a definite time to start and finish revision sessions and stick to them. The best advice is to stick to the same routine as a school day
- Revision sessions should be 1½ hours, about the same length as your exams
- Work in a good light, at a table and not in front of the TV. Some people like to revise to music. Just be careful, if you find yourself being distracted or singing along, turn it off as it isn't helping. Keep the volume low. When you have a break, play the music loud and lively!
- Try working on difficult topics in the morning when your mind is fresh



#### Improving your concentration

- Start with short sessions and gradually build up to longer sessions. Try revising for 40 mins, 10 mins testing and 10 mins resting.
- For every hour you work, have a 10 mins break.
- It will help your concentration if you vary the subject or topic during the revision session
- Always attend revision sessions and remain focussed
- Walking around whilst reading aloud can help concentration
- When testing yourself, answer out loud
- Give yourself a reward when you complete a revision session



## STEP 4: THE HARD BIT – REVISING!



- ❖ **Revision should be as active as possible** – the best way to do this is to take the information you have and put it in a different format
- ❖ Active revision means using your eyes, ears and hands in a variety of ways. Active methods include:
  - Writing revision notes
  - Reading notes aloud
  - Recording key notes on iPods, MP3 players etc.
  - Discussing topics with a friend
  - Testing yourself
  - Getting others to test you
  - Re-writing notes
  - Using websites
  - Trying past exam questions
- ❖ Passively reading through your

