

Bournville School

Year 11

Revision Techniques Booklet



Name:

Contents Page

Topic	Page Number
Top Revision Tips	1
Mind Maps	2
Making Notes	3
Post-its and Posters	4
Mnemonics	5
I-Pods and MP3 Players	6
Revision Websites	7
BBC Bitesize TV	8
Exam Technique	9
Final Exam Tips	10



Top Revision Tips



These are the biggest exams of your life so don't pretend that forgetting about them will make them go away. It is important to remember not to panic and if you are organised and revise effectively you will find that the exams won't be as bad as you think.

It is important to remember that we all have our own learning/revision styles so what works for one person will not always work for another. Experiment with different types of revision until you find the one that suites you best.

This booklet is designed to give you examples of different ways that you can revise, so you can find a technique that works best for you. It also provides you with advice for preparing for and sitting the exams, along with information on where you can get extra information support through the internet, Moodle and TV programmes.

Find a good place to work

It must be quiet, uncluttered and away from distractions. Make sure it isn't in a place where you will get disturbed regularly.

Have the right attitude

Having the right attitude to revision makes a massive difference to how successful you are. Make revision your number 1 priority for the next few weeks, you only get one chance!

Ask for help!

If you get stuck talk to someone like parents/carers, friends and teachers!

Time Out

Make sure you take breaks, 15mins for every 60mins. Take time to relax, eat properly and exercise.

Revision Guides and Past Papers

These are a great way to revise and help you remember the key points. Exam papers allow you to practice real questions so you know what to expect.

Planning

Make an exam timetable and make sure you know all the dates of your exams so that you can plan what to revise when. Maybe revise the hardest subject first so you can spend more time on it.



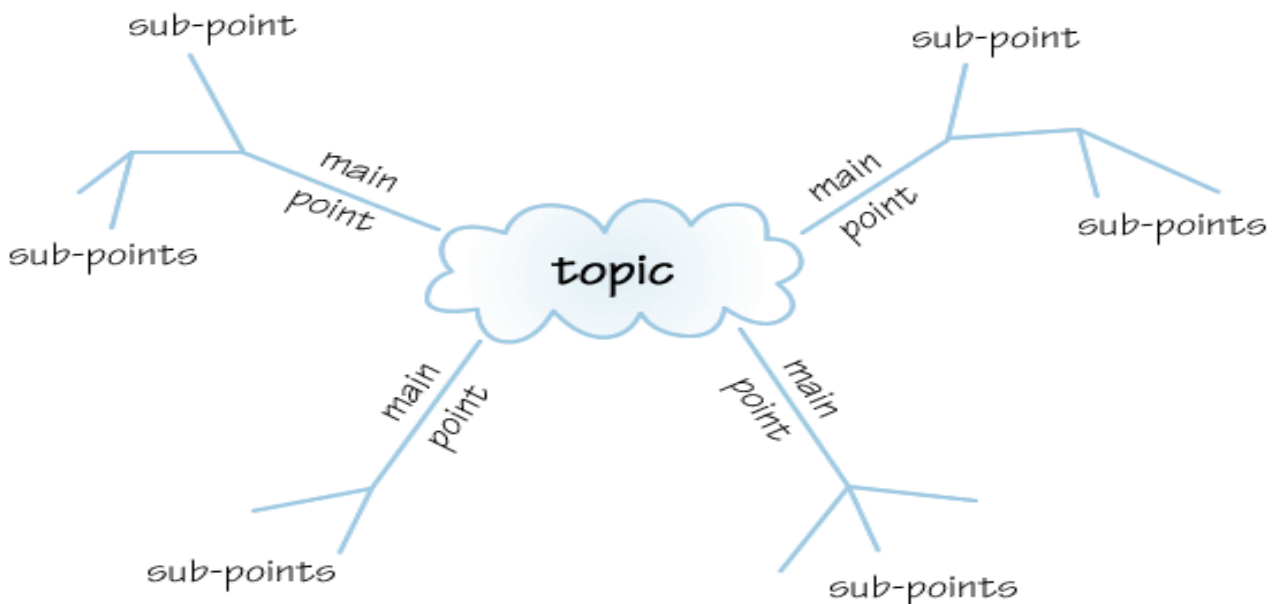


Mind Maps



Mind maps are a great way to summarise class notes, information on case studies, help plan an essay answer or classify your ideas on a topic.

- Start from the centre of the page and work outwards, you could maybe make the centre point a strong visual image that represents the theme of the mind map.
- Use key words and images if these help you remember things.
- Put the key words on main lines and then have lines coming of this which defines/expands on the word.
- Don't use too many words otherwise it will become confusing and unusable.
- Use colour to show the different themes of the mind map and make things stand out.
- Use arrows, cartoons or other visual images to make the mind map more memorable as you might be able to picture it more in your head.



Concept Mind Maps

This type of mind map involves making links between key words for a unit/topic. Try to make links between all of the words writing a sentence on the arrow explaining how the words are connected. This is a great way of making sure you know what all the key words mean and can see the links between different ideas/themes.



Making Notes



Notes are meant to be a summary of a topic/issue and act as short memory joggers. There is no point re-writing entire sets of class notes as you will still not remember it. Instead of copying out lots of information from text books, class books and revision guides try these methods below:

- For each topic create summary sheets on A3 or A4 paper
- Instead of whole sentences try using key words, symbols, colour and pictures to summarise and highlight important facts and concepts.
- The brain remembers things best by seeing them and storing them in different ways. For example if you read about the causes of World War 1 draw them in a diagram and try to summarise the issues in a few words. These will then hopefully jog your memory and let you explain them in more detail in an exam question.

Using Annotations

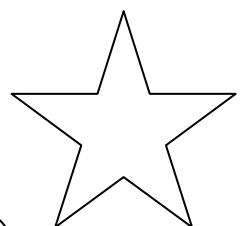
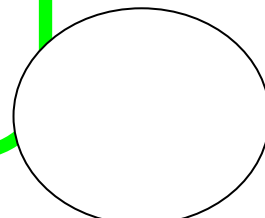
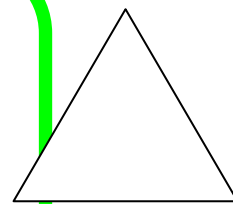
When studying texts it is very helpful to make annotations (e.g. using key words or symbols) in the margins. You can highlight different themes/issues in different colours.

Symbols

Symbols represent or remind us of something else. A symbol with a number next to it might help you remember the date of a key event for example.

Summary Shapes

You can use these to split information/text into different sections to help you remember them. For example if you want to split the text into 3 sections you would use a triangle or 4 sections would be a square. For larger numbers of sections you could use a circle that has been divided into a range of different sections.





Post-its & Posters



Post-its

Buy yourself some post-its which can then be used to write keywords, concepts, vocabulary, quotes, formulas, dates, case study names, etc and then stick them around rooms in your house that you spend a lot of time in (with permission obviously). This means that when you spend times in these rooms you will be reminded of the words and you will keep thinking about them more often. The post-its can also be used to summarise a topic into a couple of sentences or picture to help jog your memory.



Posters

Get yourself some A3 or A2 paper and use it to make a poster on a particular topic or whole subject. By using key words, pictures and including definitions it will help you remember the points you are trying to revise.

Put the poster up in your room and as you spend time in there have a look over every so often and read what is on there. Even if it's a few minutes a day it will help you remember what is on the poster for the exam.



Mnemonics



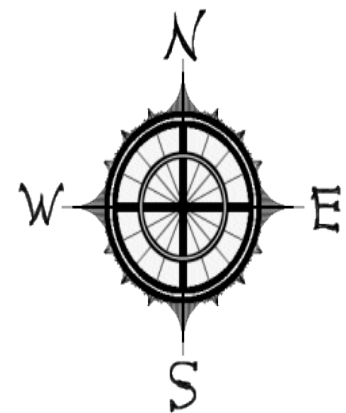
A mnemonic is something that helps you remember information; it is about putting something into your mind that will help you recall information. You create a code using rhymes, phrases or acronyms which help you recall information that you will need to remember for an exam.

The mnemonics do not need to be complicated and should be something simple so that you can remember it easily. You probably already know some mnemonics, like the ones shown below:

Never **E**at **S**hredded **W**heat

Never **E**ver **S**upport **W**olves

These refer to the points of the compass
North, **E**ast, **S**outh and **W**est



Richard **O**f York **G**ave **B**attle **I**n **V**ain

These refer to the colours of the spectrum

Red, **O**range, **Y**ellow, **G**reen, **B**lue, **I**ndigo and
Violet

The point is that you have fun making up your own to remember keywords, formulas and key facts for any subject you like. Remember that mnemonics should be short, memorable and even funny if they are going to help you recall information in an exam.

Have a go at making some of your own up then maybe write them on a post-it or poster and stick them around your house and memorise them.



I-Pods & MP3 players

You may learn/revise best by listening, so why not use your I-Pod, MP3 player or phone to revise when you are walking around, sitting in the car/on the bus or lying in bed. Try out some of the ideas below to see if they help:

- Record yourself reading out notes or information and play this back to help you remember it.
- Record your French/Spanish speaking exam script and keep listening to it to help you remember what you need to say and in what order.
- Download podcasts from revision websites, i-tunes or Moodle.
- Use your phone to download movie clips/revision/You Tube videos that can be watched for revision. This could be done in Geography by watching a You Tube about an earthquake you have studied to help you remember what happened.



Revising with Friends

Another great way to revise is to talk to friends about your revision, what you can remember and revision ideas. You can take it in turns to listen to each other and ask each other questions about the topic. By doing this you can check each others understanding and maybe learn from one another by clearing up any issues that you might have.

It can also be good to talk to other people about revision so that you remember that everyone is in the same position as you. Be careful however when using your revision time with friends to make sure you don't waste time chatting about other things.



Revision tips!

Revision Websites

Revision tips!

The internet can be a great source of information and provides you with different ways to complete revision. There are a variety of activities on revision websites from notes, interactive games, quizzes and exam papers which you can get marked. Remember that these websites will contain lots of information which may not always be relevant to your GCSE specification so make sure you check this. Many departments in the school also have information and revision activities Moodle so make sure you also check this out!

revision websites



www.mymaths.co.uk

contains revision pages, games, puzzles and offline activities



www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize

written and audio revision resources for every GCSE subject



www.s-cool.co.uk

contains revision materials for GCSE and gives hints and tips for passing exams



www.gcseguide.co.uk

exam papers, coursework help and more for the English and Maths GCSE exams



www.revisioncentre.co.uk

revision help and advice for both students and parents

Bournville School

Virtual Learning Environment

Welcome to Bournville School and Sixth Form Centre, Online Curriculum. Pupils will be able to access; Lesson information and resources, assessment data, quizzes, discussion forums as well as many other features in the future.

Centre ID = B30BS

User ID:
your date of birth and your initials

e.g. 030694js

is the username for Jess Slade, born on 3 June 1994

Password:
this is the same as your username until you change it (which would be sensible to do after the first log on)





BBC Bitesize TV



BBC 2 runs a great series of revision programmes for GCSE students to help them with their revision and exams. Programmes are shown on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 04:00 – 06:00am. Obviously you would not be awake to watch these but you can set them to record the night before so that you can watch them later on. The programmes provide great information on different topics, tips for revision, answering exam questions and using mark schemes.

To check out the TV schedule for the different subjects follow the following website link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/guide/secondary/>

The screenshot shows the 'Secondary Programme Guide' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'You are in:' followed by radio buttons for 'England' (selected), 'Northern Ireland', 'Scotland', and 'Wales'. Below this is a 'TV Schedules' section for 'BBC TWO' with a note: 'On Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 0400-0600. Remember to set the video the night before.' To the right is a 'Keyword Search' box with a search button. Below these are 'Subject Listings' with a grid of subject categories: English, Expressive Arts, Geography, History, Languages, Mathematics, Modern Studies, PSHE/Citizenship & Careers, Religious Education, Science, Special Needs, Technology, and Revision.

Then just click the subject you want and it will show you what the programme is about and the date it is being shown.

The screenshot shows the 'English Programmes' section. It has a header with 'English Programmes' and buttons for 'New Search' and 'Print'. Below the header are three tabs: 'AUTUMN', 'SPRING', and 'SUMMER' (which is selected). Under the 'SUMMER' tab, there is a table of programmes:

Bitesize Revision			
GCSE Bitesize English		Age 14 - 16	BBC TWO
English Literature 3	02 FEB '11	04.00 - 06.00	120 minutes

They also have a section on revision providing you with more tips and techniques.



Exam Technique



When opening the exam paper remember to read the questions slowly and think about what the question is asking you to do. Read the command words in the questions carefully and think about what they mean.

Exam Command Word	Meaning
Describe	Talk about what something shows in detail, if appropriate use numbers, place names, look out for patterns and use any sources that have been given to you.
Explain	Give reasons for something.
Compare and Contrast	Talking about similarities and differences between something.
Define	Give the meaning of.
Interpret	Explain the meaning of something in your own words and think about different points of view and perceptions.
Discuss	Talking about a topic thinking about the different points of view and if appropriate what you view is.
Evaluate	Looking at the strengths and weaknesses of something and how it could be made better.
Justify	Give reasons to support an argument.

Using **PEEL** in your exam answers – Use a writing technique when questions ask you to explain something. Following this model ensures that you back up your points and explain them fully. PEEL can be used in lots of different subjects so think about where you could use it effectively.

Point: What is the point that you are trying to make?

Evidence: What is the evidence that backs up this point?

Explain: Explain how this evidence supports/shows your point

Link: Make a link to your next point

Revision tips!

Final Exam Tips

Revision tips!

By the time that your exams come round you will need to give yourself the best chance possible by following some basic advice.

The Night before

Only do light revision using your notes and posters etc, and try not to do new revision that might confuse you or make you forget the other things you have learnt.

Compose yourself

Don't get too nervous and resist temptation to start answering the questions straight away.

Read the questions carefully and think about how you are going to answer them.

Equipment

Get all the equipment ready that you will need for the exam, black pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, calculator etc.

Instructions

Read the instructions for the exam carefully and only answer the questions that you need to/have studied in class.

Taking care

Make sure the night before the exam you get an early night so you can sleep properly. Exam time is not the time to stay up all night.

Make sure you eat properly the night before and the morning of the exam.

The Exam

Make sure you underline any key command words in the question (describe, explain, evaluate etc), and think about what they mean.

Maybe tackle the bigger questions first in case you run out of time.

Plan your time effectively by thinking about the number of marks per question.



After the exam do not dwell on the questions and what you could have done. Relax, so that you are ready to start revision for the next exam.

Good Luck!