

BVGS visit to Washwood Heath Academy

WEDNESDAY 27TH Feb 2019

Alice Tinsley

Revision Tips

Revision ⌚ POWER HOUR



STEP
01

Choose a past
paper question

Google your subject,
level and exam board
e.g. "Geography A-Level
Past Papers AQA"

STEP
02



Revise
Spend 20 minutes
revising what you need
to know to answer your
chosen question

STEP
03

Do the question

Set a timer for 20
minutes and answer the
past paper question you
chose



STEP
04

Get feedback

Show your teacher your
work. Ask them whether
your marking is accurate
and how you could
improve your answers



Mark your answer

Using the mark scheme
for the past paper mark
your answer. This will
help you to think like an
examiner



STEP
05

Point to consider/include	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise number of words 	Brain not evolved to remember words Challenge memory / cognition / not an explanation If you don't understand use a revision guide.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substitute words with symbols (= ->) 	Less to read – more efficient – more revision cycles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear titles (number) 	Roadmap to information (location as well as retention). Number – testing tool
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chunks 	The magic number 7 +/- 2 Definitions – flashcards Different 'sections' on different pages/cards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include mnemonics 	Roadmap to remembering information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include simple diagrams/flowcharts 	Logical sequence – roadmap to remembering information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant Pictures 	Brain evolved to remember them

Write a list of all the topics/
subtopics you will be
examined on.

RAG rate your
understanding of the topics.

Start revising the **RED** first
As they are the topics you
do not feel so confident on.

Improve your grade in a week

Working on mistakes and
misconceptions from the
GCSE paper

Topic	Status	Date	Time	Mark	Notes
...	Red	...	...	20	...
...	Amber	...	...	65	...
...	Green	...	...	107	...
...	White	...	...	48	...
...	White	...	...	193	...
...	White	...	...	82	...

Work on your **red** topics first
Then work on your **amber** topics
Then complete the extension questions
of your **green** topics
Finally have a look at the separate
extension task (white paper)

WE REMEMBER

10% of what we read

20% of what we hear

30% of what we see

70% of what we discuss with
one another

90% of what we teach someone
else

Josh Russell

Revision Tips

getrevising.co.uk

- ▶ Revision resources for all subjects
- ▶ Includes tests, puzzles, crosswords, worksheets and model answers
- ▶ Make your own timetable to fit your life

4th - 10th March

	Mon 4th	Tue 5th	Wed 6th	Thu 7th	Fri 8th	Sat 9th	Sun 10th				
08:00 - 09:00	School	School	School	School	School						
09:00 - 10:00							spanish 1	psychology 1			
10:00 - 11:00								psychology 1	History 1		
11:00 - 12:00											
12:00 - 13:00										psychology 1	History 1
13:00 - 14:00											History 1
14:00 - 15:00											
15:00 - 16:00						Gym	Gym	Gym	Gym	Gym	
16:00 - 17:00											
17:00 - 18:00	spanish 1	spanish 1	psychology 1	psychology 1	psychology 1						
18:00 - 19:00	psychology 1	psychology 1	History 1	History 1	History 1						
19:00 - 20:00											
20:00 - 21:00	psychology 1	psychology 1	History 1	History 1	Focus						
21:00 - 22:00											

Make the most of your time

- ▶ Podcasts
- ▶ TED talks
- ▶ YouTube
- ▶ Books
- ▶ On the bus
- ▶ In the gym
- ▶ Going for a run
- ▶ Before you sleep

Music

- ▶ Classical
- ▶ Chilled
- ▶ No lyrics
- ▶ Radio
- ▶ Bluetooth headphones

Ellen Concannon

- ▶ Revision Tips

Alternatives to the typical revision timetable...

Make a **'to-do'** list of topics that have to be covered by the **end of that week**, so you are leaving enough time to cover all the topics and allow time for repeated exam practice before your exams. You could organize this by covering a theme from your chosen play for English Literature, or doing practice questions on evolution for biology.

Also, you could write out all of the topics for all of your subjects and colour them either: **red**, **orange** or **green**. The topics you have coloured in red start with first as you will want to dedicate the most time to those topics to understand them and practice more, then work on the orange topics and finally look over the green topics as exam season approaches and then you can re-evaluate. Most topics should be green and maybe a few orange. You will then easily see which topics you need even more practice on as the exams approach.

'Blurting'

- ▶ This is an effective revision technique to highlight your gaps of knowledge in a specific topic. For example you can read over all the pages for one chemistry topic in your revision guide. Grab a piece of paper and write down the headings for the topic, cover your notes and write as much as you can remember and try to fill the page, then look back at your notes and add anything you missed, highlighting it so you know for future reference. This is a quick way to realise your strengths and weaknesses and it is a great form of active recall.

The atom

- electron ($m = 9.1 \times 10^{-31}$ kg, charge = -1.6×10^{-19} C)
- proton ($m = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg, charge = $+1.6 \times 10^{-19}$ C)
- neutron ($m = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg, charge = 0)
- Isotopes = same # of protons, different # of neutrons
- same # of protons, different # of neutrons = different isotopes
- same chemical properties, different physical properties (e.g. density)

Atomic structure

- Identify formula worksheet
- Use atoms & ions
- EMM (Average mass of atom, not always whole #)
- IM (Isotopic mass) = mass of atom of isotope based on ^{12}C being 12 exactly
- AMM = average mass of molecule. Add up all EMMs
- FM = formula mass of EMM but ionic compounds are not made of molecules so can't have FM

Relative mass

Relative mass (A_r)

- $\text{H} = 1.008$
- $\text{C} = 12.011$
- $\text{O} = 15.999$
- $\text{N} = 14.007$
- $\text{S} = 32.06$
- $\text{Cl} = 35.45$
- $\text{Br} = 79.90$
- $\text{Mg} = 24.31$
- $\text{Ca} = 40.08$
- $\text{Fe} = 55.85$
- $\text{Zn} = 65.38$
- $\text{Cu} = 63.55$
- $\text{Ag} = 107.87$
- $\text{Au} = 196.97$
- $\text{Pb} = 207.2$

Mass Spectra

Different isotopes

Mass Spectra

- Identifying elements
- Patterns (fingerprints) of certain elements
- Quantitative abundance of m/z ratio

Atomic structure

Ionisation energies

Electronic configuration

- Subshell notation: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6$
- Arrows in boxes: $\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow$
- Energy level: $1s < 2s < 2p < 3s < 3p < 4s < 3d < 4p < 5s < 4d < 5p < 6s < 4f < 5d < 6p < 7s < 5f < 6d < 7p$

Exceptions:

- Cr and Cu elements on $4s$ & $3d$ shells
- Cr = $[Ar] 3d^5 4s^1$ (not $3d^4 4s^2$)
- Cu = $[Ar] 3d^9 4s^1$ (not $3d^10 4s^0$)

Music

- ▶ The use of music while revising is mostly effective for subjects such as Maths and Physics as it does not interfere with the thought process of words and writing.
- ▶ **Classical music** is the best form of music to stimulate your brain while revising however the psychology of using different albums for different topics is key.
- ▶ Similar to highlighting key words/phrases in different colours, dedicating an album or a specific song to a topic helps in exams as you can think back to that album/song and remember what you have studied whilst listening to it.
- ▶ However, the use of music while revising can be distracting for some people and they prefer to work in silence, determine what kind of environment **suits you best.**

Memory palaces

- ▶ An imaginary location where you can store **mnemonic images**.
- ▶ This is useful for lists, or processes. It is a great alternative to a timeline for history, remembering key dates .
- ▶ Firstly, choose a place that you know well for example your house, or a room in your house or even a classroom.
- ▶ You need to **plan a route**- maybe going clockwise will be useful or picture yourself walking through the room and picture what you will walk past.
- ▶ You need to assign a date or a step in a process to each object.
- ▶ At first, write it down as you do not want forget it, then use prompts and using spaced repetition, increasing intervals of time between reviews, it will be a part of your **long-term memory**.

Post-it notes

- ▶ An effective way of remembering key dates or vocab for languages or even poetic devices is writing them on a post-it note and on the reverse side is the word in English or the event. Place these post-it notes on **places you go frequently** in the house for example, the fridge, kettle, doors or your wardrobe. Every time you approach the post-it note you have to test yourself, this is such a simple yet highly effective way to help you remember the smaller but important things.

Teach it to others

This method may work best with someone who also studies the same subject, because as you are teaching it to them they can ask some of the harder questions and they can point out any key areas you may have missed out.

However, there are benefits to teaching a topic to your parents or siblings if they have no prior knowledge on the topic because you have to simplify and define certain words that you may not have thought about, and particularly for science it will highlight any gaps in your basic understanding which is crucial for those first marks .

Understanding what kind of learner you are

- ▶ Not all of these techniques may work for you, some of you may prefer using flashcards or copying notes however a **variety of techniques** is key to keep you motivated and focused on your revision.
- ▶ If you don't know what kind of learner you are there are many quizzes you can take online but here are some highly effective forms of revision for all three different types:
- ▶ Visual learner: mind-maps, flow charts, diagrams, video tutorials (YouTube)
- ▶ Auditory: recording yourself speaking about a certain topic and listening back to it, video tutorials (YouTube), verbal brainstorming
- ▶ Kinesthetic: activities encouraging full body movement such as matching terms to definitions by flipping them over, mnemonics, flashcards.

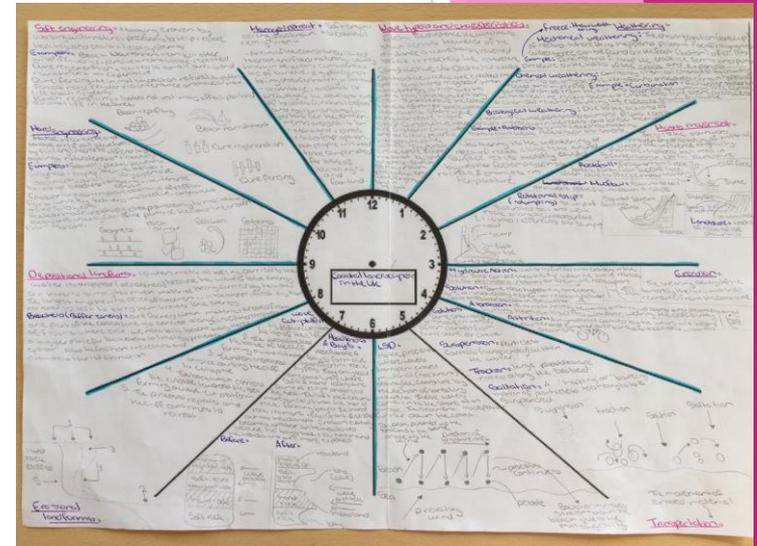
Revision Techniques

FREYA ROBINSON

Avoid pages of notes

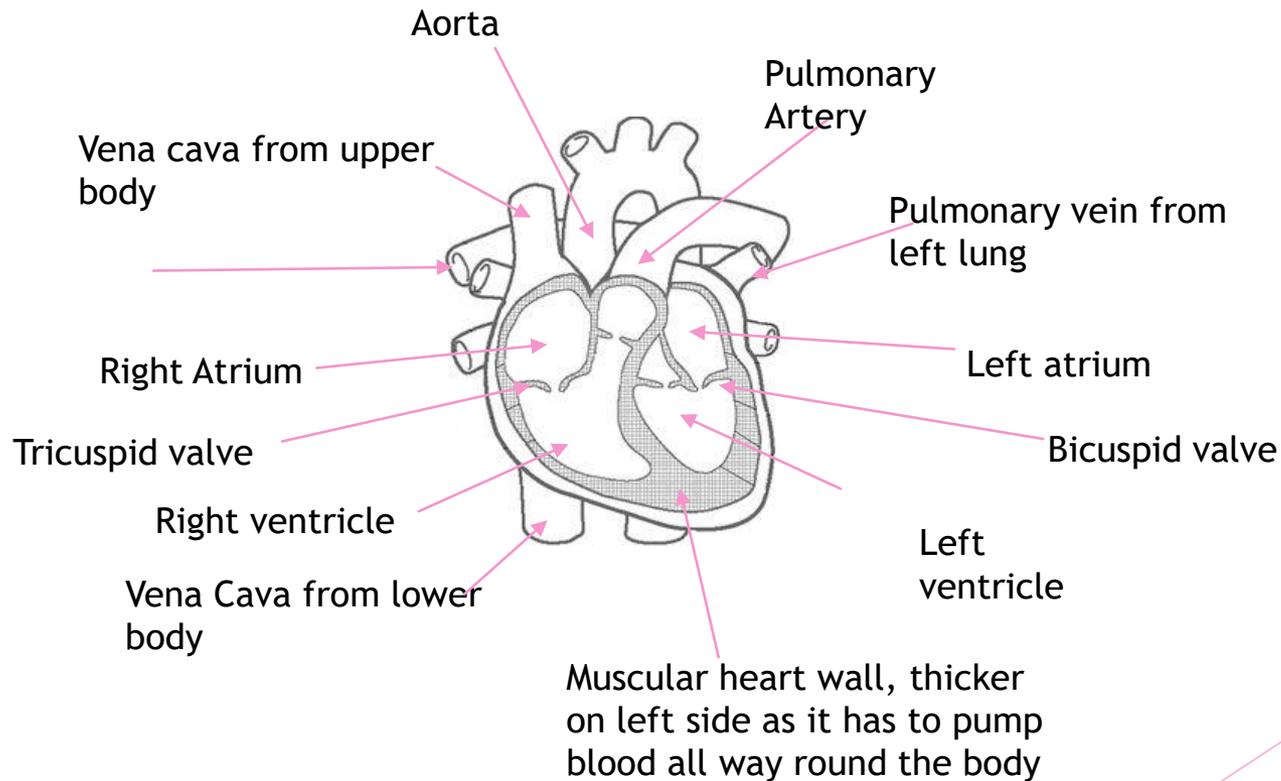
- ▶ Writing out notes is time consuming and inefficient
- ▶ It isn't active revision
- ▶ It doesn't test your knowledge
- ▶ However I did write brief notes in other forms:
- ▶ Flashcards
- ▶ some notes on one side and questions on the other
- ▶ Start doing these as early as possible so time isn't wasted close to the exams writing them out
- ▶ Once they're all written you can quickly read them to refresh your knowledge, then turn them over and test yourself
- ▶ You could get other people to test you on them

- ▶ Revision clocks
- ▶ The page is split up into 12 sections
- ▶ You spend 5 minutes on each section, making notes on one area of the topic you're revising
- ▶ Good to recap a topic you've already revised
- ▶ You can identify any specific parts of the topic you need to spend more time on
- ▶ The whole topic is covered within one hour, if you keep to the time and keep your notes brief.



- ▶ PowerPoints
- ▶ Typing things is quicker than writing them
- ▶ I would add questions into the PowerPoints so when looking back at them I would know all the information on the slide without having to read it
- ▶ Its interactive and tests your knowledge once the PowerPoint is made, so do it as early as possible so time close to the exam isn't wasted.

An example from my Biology Revision



An example from my History Revision Power point

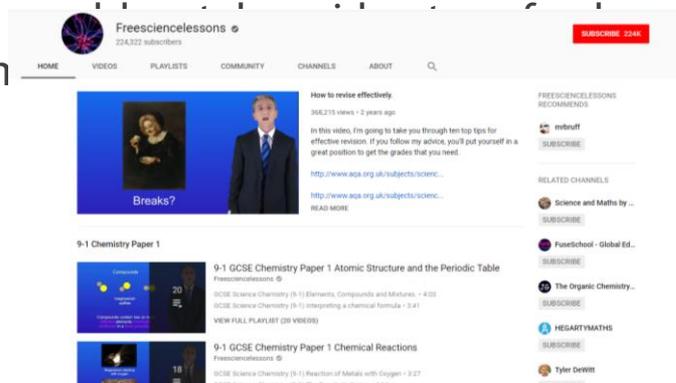
The Corfu Crisis

- ▶ When was it?
- ▶ 1923
- ▶ What caused the crisis?
- ▶ The murder of an Italian General on the Greek side of the Greece - Albania boarder whilst he was supervising the decision over the new boarder.
- ▶ What was Mussolini's reaction?
- ▶ Demanded that Greece pay Italy compensation and execute the murderers. Greece refused
- ▶ Mussolini invaded Corfu, went against the covenant of the league. Killed 15 people so Greece appealed to the league .
- ▶ What was the league's response?
- ▶ condemned Italy's actions, but suggested the Greece pay the compensation.
- ▶ What did Mussolini do next?
- ▶ Claimed council of the League weren't contempt to deal with the matter, should be decided by a conference of the ambassadors
- ▶ Britain and France couldn't agree, Britain wanted to intervene to force Mussolini out of Corfu but France backed Italy. If they had worked together Mussolini would have failed, but because they didn't Mussolini got his way.
- ▶ Conference of ambassadors ruled for Greece to pay compensation and apologise to Italy. 27th September 1923 Mussolini withdrew from Corfu.

YouTube videos

- ▶ In chemistry especially I found note taking too time consuming, there was a lot of content and I needed to spend more time practising questions rather than hours writing notes
- ▶ I watched Free science lessons on Youtube
- ▶ He covered all topics on the AQA biology, physics and chemistry syllabus for higher and foundation tiers in short videos
- ▶ He would have practice questions in the video and explain how to answer them.

- ▶ I used his videos to gain knowledge, then find past paper questions to test
- ▶ I used his videos to check my work and check where I went wrong.



GCSE REVISION TIPS

By Miles Shelley

Mind and body

- ▶ Whilst studying, it is important to maintain a work/life balance
- ▶ Be sure to schedule breaks in your revision plan, as if you're working for too long at a time it becomes hard to concentrate and to revise effectively.
- ▶ One of the most effective ways to achieve this is through exercise, which can simultaneously break up revision sessions and be an enjoyable and healthy activity.
- ▶ Drink lots of water and stay hydrated
- ▶ Eat breakfast, it really wakes you up in the morning

How to revise

- ▶ Everybody learns differently. However, here are some things which I find to work especially well:
 - ▶ Flash cards, especially for definitions and for speaking exams
 - ▶ Reading your notes aloud
 - ▶ After revising a topic, try to explain it to one of your parents/ family members, as this really helps consolidate learning
 - ▶ Voice recording yourself reading through notes, especially for speaking exams
 - ▶ Ask your friend/ sibling to test you. This works especially well if they are competitive, as it encourages you to know the exact answers
 - ▶ For sciences and maths, the best way to revise is past questions. Take a look online, you can find past exam questions grouped by topic, e.g Quadratic equations in Maths
 - ▶ Revise in short bursts - I recommend half an hour sessions focusing on one particular topic, e.g homeostasis in Biology
 - ▶ Most importantly, be sure to remove distractions while you revise. I recommend putting your phone/laptop in another room, as this removes any temptation

Time Management

- ▶ Surprisingly, I find that the more things you have planned to do in a day (sports, meeting friends etc.), the more revision you end up getting done. Those days when you have nothing planned seem to be the ones when you get less work done.
- ▶ As mentioned previously, revise in short bursts with breaks in between.
- ▶ Don't waste time trying to decide what to revise. Instead, you should plan ahead, either by making a revision schedule or making a list of each topic, in order, from the ones you know least to the ones you know best.
- ▶ Organise all your class notes and books so you know where everything is

In the exam

- ▶ In the exam, you may find that you come across a question that you don't know how to answer. This is normal, and it is important to remember that this will also apply to everyone else sitting the exam. Just move on and come back to it later
- ▶ If you can, try to have chewing gum before and/or during the exam
- ▶ If you don't know the answer to a question, think about what the examiner might be looking for in your answer. Think back to the lessons where you covered that topic and try to visualise your book/notes.
- ▶ Its better to write something than nothing. Don't leave any question blank

Top tips

- ▶ Do as many past exam questions as you can. This helps in a few ways:
 - ▶ After a few questions, you understand how to do the topic
 - ▶ After a few more, you become quicker at those kinds of questions
 - ▶ Eventually, you'll have seen enough of those questions to be able to predict what the mark scheme answers will be
- ▶ CGP books and other revision guides are your best friend

Elliot BROWN - TIME MANAGEMENT



Where to start:

- ▶ Make a time table including:
 - First free time/leisure
 - - time for homework
 - 1 / 2 revision sessions a night
 - Identify what kind of task you will be doing in each session
 - This can be paired with a rough weekly plan

WEEK 1	MORNING (6:00)	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	TASK 1 (6:00)	TASK 2
MONDAY	SPANISH QUIZLET	MATHS ALI	ART ROWLANDS	PSYCHOLOGY DROP FOLDERS	SPANISH SLATER	ART ANNOTATION	GYM BACI/SHOULDERS	MATHS ALI NOTES
TUESDAY	<i>LISTENING</i> PSYCHOLOGY Qs	PSYCHOLOGY CATCH UP NOTES	PSYCHOLOGY	ART HEER	MATHS GREEN	SPANISH DAVISON	RUGBY	ART
WEDNESDAY		ART ROWLANDS LEAVE FOLDER	MATHS CATCH UP NOTES	MATHS ALI	PSYCHOLOGY	GAMES	GYM CHEST	SPANISH KERBOOKLET/ CATCH UP
THURSDAY	SPANISH QUIZLET	SPANISH DAVISON	ART HEER	MATHS ALI	SPANISH SLATER VOCAB	PSYCHOLOGY TAKE FOLDERS	PSYCHOLOGY NOTES	ART
FRIDAY		PSYCHOLOGY	SPANISH KERBOOKLET/ CATCH UP	SPANISH DAVISON	ART ROWLANDS TAKE FOLDER	MATHS GREEN		
SATURDAY	READ	MATHS	SPANISH DAVISON NOTES	GYM			ART	
SUNDAY	READ	PSYCHOLOGY PORTFOLIO	MATHS				ART	PLAN

Calendar

- ▶ Buy a calendar, preferably with a grid of dates for each month.
- ▶ First put in your exam dates - this should give make them real, but also give you a direction and goal.
- ▶ Put in deadlines that you want to have your notes done for each subject.
- ▶ Put in deadline for different stages of revision: review of notes; review of specification; untimed practice papers then finally timed practice papers.
- ▶ Maybe put your holidays in for after, another goal.

About time:

- ▶ You still have a lot of time.
- ▶ However be practical with your time. Work smart not hard.
- ▶ Review your work and progress, be ready to make adjustments.
- ▶ Don't forget to have fun. Protect your free time use it as a short term goal and work towards it.

About procrastination:

- ▶ If you don't set a time you will be too late.
- ▶ If you don't set a task you will spend time looking for one.
- ▶ If you work too long you will be inefficient.
- ▶ Distractions are real, know yourself and if you cannot manage them remove them.

When you get to Exams:

- ▶ Have a routine before exams, I did my last papers the day before for morning exams and hours before for the day ones.
- ▶ Eat well, sleep well and try to calm down. Use your last practice exams mark as indication for how you will do.
- ▶ Allocate free time outside. Be with your friends.
- ▶ Bring a flash card cheat sheet with you to exam.
- ▶ You can write on the front of your paper.

When you get to Exams:

- ▶ Have a routine before exams, I did my last papers the day before for morning exams and hours before for the day ones.
- ▶ Eat well, sleep well and try to calm down. Use your last practice exams mark as indication for how you will do.
- ▶ Allocate free time outside. Be with your friends.
- ▶ Bring a flash card cheat sheet with you to exam.
- ▶ You can write on the front of your paper.