GCSE Revision Information Booklet

Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to give you some useful tips when revising.

Top 10 Revision Tips

1. Start revising as soon as possible.

2.Plan your revision using a timetable.

3.Set up a tidy study space.

4.Revisit topics several times with a gap in between.

5.Vary your revision with different activities.

6.Do lots of practice papers and questions.

7.Set aside time to do fun things.

8.Keep your phone and other distractions away.

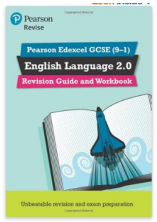
9.Sleep and eat properly.

10.Don't panic!

2024-2025 GCSE Timetable

Date:	Session	Duration	Board	Subject	Spec	Qualification
Monday 12th May	Morning	1 hour 45 mins	Pearson	English Literature 1	1ETO 01	GCSE
	Afternoon	1 hour 30 mins	OCR	Computer Science	J277	GCSE
Tuesday 13th May	Afternoon	1 hour 15 mins	AQA	Combined Science Biology 1	8464	GCSE
Thursday 15th May	Morning	1 hour 30 mins	Pearson	Maths 1	1MA1 01	GCSE
Friday 16th May	Morning	2 hours	AQA	History 1	8145	GCSE
Monday 19th May	Morning	1 hour 15 mins	AQA	Combined Science Chemistry 1	8464	GCSE
Tuesday 20th May	Morning	2 hours 15 mins	Pearson	English Literature 2	1ETO 02	GCSE
Thursday 22nd May	Morning	1 hour 15 mins	AQA	Combined Science Physics 1	8464	GCSE
	Afternoon	1 hour 30 mins	OCR	Computer Science	J277	GCSE
Friday 23rd May	Morning	1 hour 55 mins	Pearson	English Language 1	1EN2 01	GCSE
HALF TERM						
Wednesday 4th June	Morning	1 hour 30 mins	Pearson	Maths 2	1MA1 02	GCSE
Thursday 5th June	Morning	2 hours	AQA	History 2	8145	GCSE
Friday 6th June	Morning	1 hour 55 mins	Pearson	English Language 2	1EN2 02	GSCE
Monday 9th June	Morning	1 hour 15 mins	AQA	Combined Science Biology 2	8464	GCSE
Wednesday 11th June	Morning	1 hour 30 mins	Pearson	Maths 3	1MA1 03	GCSE
Friday 13th June	Morning	1 hour 15 mins	AQA	Combined Science Chemistry 2	8464	GCSE
Monday 16th June	Morning	1 hour 15 mins	AQA	Combined Science Physics 2	8464	GCSE

English Revision

Key Topics to revise:	• Writing to persuade/argue/inform • Reading non-fiction • Transactional Writing (Letters/emails/speeches, blogs etc) • Creative writing • Reading fiction • Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives • Writing to compare/evaluate • Analysing language & structure • Identifying explicit & implicit information • Language techniques & devices • Structural techniques & devices
Revision guides that would be useful for English:	https://files.schudio.com/mayfield-school/files/documents/EnglishRevision/Revision_Checklist.pdf (Language section only) Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) English Language 2.0 Revision Guide & Workbook 
Links to websites that would be useful for revision for English	https://www.teachwire.net/news/5-of-the-best-last-minute-gcse-english-language-revision-resources/ https://s-cool.co.uk/gcse/english https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty https://www.edplace.com/gcse-revision/english-language

English Revision Tips

Read/do past papers:

You can find past exam papers on the exam boards website… or ask your teacher

- Get used to the types of questions you will be asked
- Practice planning and writing answers in full
- The exam involves analysing unseen texts, make sure you:
  - **Read** the text carefully
  - **Underline** the key words as you read the text
  - **Note** the writers view after reading the text

During the exam you need to show the following skills:

- Write critically and clearly
- "Use quotes to back up your points"
- Analyse language, form and structure
- Show you understand how context affects the text

Do some creative writing to prepare for the exam:

- You need to practice writing both fiction and non-fiction texts
- Practice writing for different audiences and purposes, for example:

Write an article for a **newspaper** in which you **explain** your point of view

Write a speech for a debate at your **school** in which you **argue** for or against a statement

- Your writing needs to be interesting, accurate and well organised. This includes using a variety of techniques, such as figurative language and rhetorical devices throughout your writing.
- Get someone to read your writing so you can get feedback

Maths Revision

Key Topics to revise:

Aiming for Grades 2 and 3, you will need to understand:

Geometry and Measures	3-D Shapes, **e.g. cubes, cuboids, prisms**
	Congruent and similar shapes: **'congruent' means identical; 'similar' means same shape but different size**
	Geometrical terminology and diagrams
	Measuring lines **(e.g. in cm)** and angles **(in degrees)**
	Properties of quadrilaterals **(4-sided shapes)**
	Properties of triangles **(names, angles)**
	Translations and vectors
	Using standard units **(e.g. mm, cm, m, km)**

Algebra	Coordinates in four quadrants, **e.g. (2, 4) or (-1, -5)**
	Plotting straight line graphs **(e.g. $x = 5$, or $y = 2x$)**
	Position to term rules
	Sequences of square, triangular and cube numbers. **Squares (1 x 1, 2 x 2 etc), 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100, 121, 144.** **Cubes (1 x 1 x 1 etc) 1, 8, 27, 64, 125.**
	Using Formulae
	Sequences and Rules **('nth term', e.g. 3n+2)**

Statistics	Describing Probability **(e.g. 'Impossible', 'Likely')**
	Averages **('mode', 'mean', 'median' and 'range')**
	Charts and Diagrams
	Pie Charts
	Types of data
	Vertical Line Charts

Ratio, Proportion, Rate of change	Convert standard units **(e.g. 1km = 1000m)**
	Express one quantity as a fraction of another, **e.g. 30 out of 80 = $\frac{30}{80}$ which simplifies to $\frac{3}{8}$**
	Use ratio notation, **e.g. 2:1 means '2 parts to 1 part'**
	Use scale factors, diagrams and maps: **Scale factor 2 means lines double in length;** **Scale factor ½ means lines become half as long.** **On a 1:100,000 map, 1cm represents 100,000cm (= 1km)**

Maths Revision Continued

Key Topics to revise:

Number	Decimals (e.g. 0.2 × 0.3 = 0.06, 1.2 ÷ 3.04 = 4.24)
	Prime numbers (only divisible by itself and 1. So 2, 3, 5, 7 etc)
	Using standard units
	+, -, × and ÷ "integers" (integer means whole number)
	Ordering numbers (e.g. from smallest, e.g. 0.008, 0.29, 0.3)
	Place value (e.g. the 2 in 6213 means 200)

Aiming for Grade 4, you will also need to understand:

Geometry and Measures	Alternate and corresponding angles
	Area of a circle (area of a circle = πr^2)
	Areas of composite shapes (e.g. split a composite shape into 2 or more simples shapes and total their areas)
	Area of triangle½ (base x height), trapezium height x average length and parallelogram base x height
	Bearings (e.g. Due East is a bearing '090')
	Circle terminology (diameter, radius, circumference)
	Circumference of a circle (circumference = πd)
	Congruent triangles
	Enlargements and fractional SF
	Perimeter of 2D shapes (total length of all sides)
	Plans and elevations (views from above and front)
	Polygons: pentagon (5 sides), hexagon (6 sides) etc
	Solve geometrical problems (e.g. angles, areas, volume)
	Vector arithmetic
	Volume of prisms (cross-sectional area × height)

Algebra	Changing the subject (if $a + b = 10, then\ a = 10 - b$)
	Collecting like terms (a + 2b + 3a = 4a +2b)
	Expressions
	Factorise single bracket
	Finding the equation of a line (needs a gradient and a point at which it crosses the y axis)
	Graphs of linear functions
	Graphs of quadratic functions
	Linear equations one unknown
	Multiplying single brackets, e.g. 6(2b + 10) = 12b + 60
	Non-standard real-life graphs
	nth term of a linear sequence, e.g. 3n + 4
	Number machines
	Substitution (if a = 3 and b = 12, 2a × b = 6 × 12 = 72)
	Using "y = mx + c"

Maths Revision Continued

Key Topics to revise:

Statistics	Finding Averages from Frequency Tables
	Probability: Outcomes and Sample Space Diagrams
	Probability: Experiments and Frequency Trees
	Comparing data using graphs
	Comparing Distributions
	Correlation (strong or weak, positive or negative)
	Population
	Sampling
	Scatter Diagrams

Ratio, Proportion and Rate of change	Compare Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
	Compare lengths, area, volume
	Comparing quantities as a ratio
	Division of a quantity as a ratio e.g. divide 50 in the ratio 4:1 = 40 : 10
	Express one quantity as a % of another, e.g. 20 marks out of 80 = (20 ÷ 80) x 100 = 25%
	Percentage change
	Problems involving ratio
	Proportion and ratio
	Ratio and fractions (ratio 2:5 means $\frac{2}{7}$ and $\frac{5}{7}$)
	Ratio Sharing (e.g. sharing 24 sweets in ratio 1:2 means 3 parts in total, 1 part = 8 sweets, 2 parts = 16 sweets)

Number	Adding and subtracting fractions: requires a common denominator. e.g. $1\frac{3}{2}+\frac{2}{3}=\frac{3}{2}+\frac{2}{3}=\frac{9}{6}+\frac{4}{6}=\frac{13}{6}=2\frac{1}{6}$ when simplified
	Checking calculations
	Compound measures
	Converting metric units
	Estimation ($9.8 \times 23.4 \approx 10 \times 20 \approx 200$)
	Fractions and percentages
	Fractions and ratio problems
	Interpret calculator displays
	LCM and HCF. Lowest Common Multiple is the smallest number in both times-tables (so LCM of 6 and 7 is 42). Highest Common Factor is the biggest number that divides into two numbers (so HCF of 16 and 20 is 4, as it divides into both numbers)
	Multiples and factors (e.g. multiples of 10 are 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 etc; factors of 10 are 1, 2, 5 and 10)
	Multiplying fractions: multiply tops, multiply bottoms, e.g. $\frac{4}{5}\times\frac{6}{8}=\frac{24}{40}$ (which simplifies to $\frac{3}{5}$)
	Operations
	Order of operations: BIDMAS, so 4 + 3 x 2 = 10 (not 14)
	Powers (10^2 = 10 x 10 = 100; 10^3 = 10 x 10 x 10 = 1000)
	Rounding (round up if digit is 5 or more, e.g. 6.7 rounds to 7)
	Standard Form (e.g. in standard form, 4321 is 4.321×10^3)
	Terminating decimals and fractions

Maths Revision Continued

Key Topics to revise:

Aiming for Grade 5, you will also need to understand:

Geometry and Measures	Arc lengths and sectors
	Derive triangle results
	Enlargements and negative SF
	Loci
	Pythagoras ($a2 + b2 = c2$)
	Similarity and Congruence
	Standard constructions
	Surface Area: **the sum of the areas of every face, e.g. surface area of a 5cm cube = area of all six faces (5x5 x 6 = 150cm²)**
	Trigonometric ratios
	Volume **(cross-sectional area x height, in units³)**

Algebra	Algebraic terminology
	Cubic and Reciprocal graphs
	Deduce quadratic roots algebraically
	Derive an equation
	Equation of a line
	Expand the product of two binomials
	Factorising quadratic expressions **e.g. putting expressions like x² + 12x + 20 into brackets (x+10)(x+2)**
	Fibonacci, quadratic and simple geometric sequences
	Graphical solution to equations
	Inequalities on number lines
	Linear equations
	Quadratic graphs
	Reciprocal real-life graphs
	Simplify indices
	Simplify surds
	Solve linear inequalities in one variable
	Writing formulae and expressions

Statistics	Grouped Frequency Tables
	Probability: Venn Diagrams
	Histograms with equal class widths
	Scatter graphs

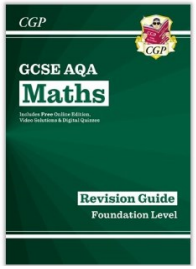
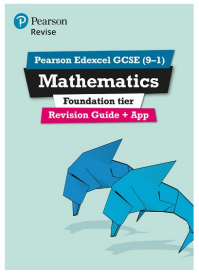
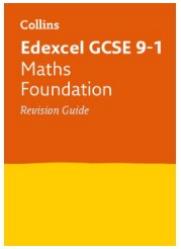
Maths Revision Continued

Key Topics to revise:

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	Compound Units
	Gradient & the rate of change
	Growth and decay
	Interpret Proportion
	Percentage change
	Problems with compound units
	Scale factors and similarity
	Simple Interest and Financial Maths
	Solve Proportion Problems

Number	Calculating with fractions
	Error intervals
	Index Laws
	Limits of accuracy

Maths Revision Continued

Revision guides that would be useful for Maths:	 CGP GCSE Maths AQA Revision Guide: Foundation inc Online Edition, Videos & Quizzes  REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics Foundation Revision Guide  MME Revise GCSE Maths Revision Guide  Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision - Edexcel GCSE 9-1 Maths Foundation Revision Guide
Links to websites that would be useful for revision for Maths	https//www.math-aids.com/ https://www.piximaths.co.uk/ https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.html https://corbettmaths.com/ https://mmerevise.co.uk/

Maths Revision Tips

Practice is the Best Revision:

1) The best way to revise maths is by doing practice questions.
2) Start by practising questions on specific topics once you've revised them.
3) Then do practice papers to test a mixture of topics - this will help you identify weak areas

Formulas:

1) Flash cards are good for learning formulas.
2) Some formulas aren't given in the exam so you need to learn those formulas as part of your revision.
Check with your teacher to see which formulas you need to learn.

Calculator:

Practise using the calculator you'll use in your calculator exam(s).

Understand What a Question is Asking:

1) Know what each command word wants you to do.
2) Use the number of marks as a guide to how much time you should spend on a question.
3) Show your working out-marks are given for it.
4) Answer in the correct units, or to the correct number of significant figures or decimal places.

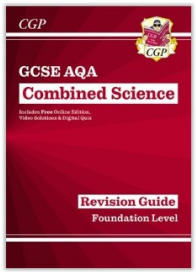
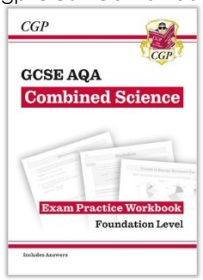
Check Your Answer Makes Sense:

1) Make sure your answer is sensible - a person can't be 22 m tall.
2) Check for silly mistakes - 3 x 3 is not 6.
3) If you've solved an equation, put the answer back into the equation to see if it's correct.
4) Expand factorised brackets to check they give you the original expression.

Science Revision

Key Topics to revise:	**Biology** Cell biology Organisation Infection and response Bioenergetics Homeostasis and response Inheritance, variation and evolution Ecology **Chemistry** Atomic structure and the periodic table Bonding, structure and the properties of matter Quantitative chemistry Chemical changes Energy changes The rate and extent of chemical change Organic chemistry Chemical analysis Chemistry of the atmosphere Using resources **Physics** Energy Electricity Particle model of matter Atomic structure Forces Waves Magnetism and electromagnetism

Science Continued

Revision guides that would be useful for Science:	CGP GCSE Combined Science AQA Revision Guide  Cgp GCSE Combined Science AQA Exam Practice Workbook 
Links to websites that would be useful for revision for Science:	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h https://s-cool.co.uk/gcse/biology https://s-cool.co.uk/gcse/chemistry https://s-cool.co.uk/gcse/physics https://mmerevise.co.uk/gcse-science-revision/

Science Revision Tips

Practical Skills

1)Set aside time specifically for revising practical-related skills:

2) Be familiar with how to record data - e.g. don't include units in the main body of a table.

3) Practise drawing graphs, using a ruler and sharp pencil for accuracy.

Know Which Formulas You Need to Learn:

1) You're only given some formulas in the exam - you need to learn the ones that aren't given.

2) Practise using every formula so you can use them all confidently in the exam.

Get Key Vocabulary into Your Answers:

1) Marks are awarded for using correct terminology.

2) Make sure you learn key words and their meaning as part of your revision.

3) In the exam, check that you've used relevant scientific terms correctly.

Art

Key Topics to revise:	The art exam started in January. Course work is worth 60 % of the grade should have already been completed. Between January and Easter students will earn 75% of their exam project mark. This is 30% of the final grade. The final piece of the project will take place over 10 hours after Easter and is worth 10% of the final grade. Students must attend and make the most of their time in all of their timetabled art lessons. All work done in these lesson count towards the final grade. Students should respond to feedback and bring their own thoughts and ideas to inform their journey around their chosen exam starting point.
Revision guides that would be useful for Art:	BBC bitesize Art and Design describes fully the 4 assessment objectives that need to be evidenced in projects.
Links to websites that would be useful for revision for Art:	Use the websites of chosen artists to inform research. Don't just "google" them

GCSE Revision Tips

Motivation and Procrastination

Knowing Why You're Revising Can Motivate You

1) Think about why you want to do well in your exams. It may be:

- to get into a good sixth form or college after your GCSES
- to help you one day get a job
- to prove to yourself and others that you can do it

2) Whatever your goal, it's best to start revising as soon as possible.

3) Be positive about revision - it can be tough, but it'll really help when exams arrive.

4) Focus on your goals and don't compare yourself to other people.

Tips for staying motivated:

Five Top Tips For Staying Motivated

1. Set small targets with rewards

2. Remind yourself of your long-term goals.

3. Plan a big treat for after your exams.

4. Use a topic planner to see the progress you have made

5.If you're dreading a particular topic, start with some easier topics first.

Procrastination Wastes Valuable Time

Procrastination means putting off a task that needs doing.

You need to avoid procrastination to make the most of your revision:

- Turn off your phone, television and other distractions.
- Give yourself regular breaks - it'll help you keep focused when you're revising.
- Break up your revision into small chunks
- Start with something small - this will ease you into focusing on your work.

Practice Papers

Do as Many Practice Questions as You Can

1) The key to GCSE success is to be well prepared for the exams. To do this, you need to have a go at answering some exam-style questions.
2) Do as many practice papers as you can you can find past exam papers on exam board websites
3) Practice papers and past papers also show you how long you'll have for the exam - this will give you an idea of how long to spend on each question.
4) When you start answering practice questions, you could use your notes to help you. As the exam gets closer, practise under exam conditions.

When using practice papers:

1 Practise under exam conditions

- Get the right equipment out.
- Time yourself.
- Find somewhere quiet, with no distractions.
- Don't use your revision notes to help you.

2 Use the mark scheme

- All practice papers should have mark schemes.
- These tell you how marks are allocated and how to get the right answer.
- Compare the mark scheme to what you wrote.
- Mark yourself, correcting what you got wrong.

3. Do it all again

- Once you've marked your exam and figured out where you went wrong,take a break from it.
- After a day or two, go back over your notes and then do the exam again. This helps the right answer stick in your head.

4. Don't panic!

- If you don't get a high mark at first, don't worry- the idea is to get a bit better each time.

Learn, Revise, Test Yourself

LEARN

Before you start revising a topic, you need to make sure that you understand it. If there's anything you're not sure about, you could:

- look back over your notes carefully and read the textbook again.
- do some research
- ask your teacher.

REVISE

When you're happy that you understand a topic, you can move on to revise it. Revising is the process of going back over what you've learnt so that you're ready to answer questions on it in an exam.

There are many different ways to revise - here are just a few examples:

- condensing your notes
- flash cards
- mind maps

You can also try techniques to help you remember and retrieve more.

TEST YOURSELF

Once you're happy that you know a topic, it's time to test yourself:

- You could start by doing some quick fact recall questions, and then go on to some practice exam questions.
- It's really important to do some realistic exam practice -some questions will ask you to apply what you've learnt in different ways so it's good to know you can do this.
- If there's something you can't remember, go back to your notes and revise it again.

Notes

Start By Gathering the Notes You Have

1) You'll have made notes in many ways
2) Arrange your notes in a sensible way, e.g. have a separate folder for each subject, and split each subject into topics.

Fill in Any Gaps

1) If you're missing notes on a topic, you can find information to fill in the gaps in lots of places- revision guides, textbooks, online resources, etc.
2) when you write notes, don't just copy things down word for word. Instead, you should write the key information in your own words. This will help you actively learn the content while you're studying. It will also make your notes easier to understand and refer to.

Make Sure Your Notes Are Neat and Clear

1)If your notes are muddled or hard to read, you won't be able to revise effectively from them.
2) Tidy them up and rewrite any parts that are particularly confusing and hard to follow.

Draw Attention to Key Information

1) Whether you're making notes from scratch or tidying up your existing notes, emphasising the most important information is a good idea.
2) Use a mixture of techniques to do this:

- Add subheadings to organise the information.
- Use highlighting to pick out the most important points.
- Colour-code information to show links, e.g. write all definitions in blue

Condense Your Notes In Your Own Words

1) Simplify and summarise your notes into key points so they're easier to revise from.
2) Aim to get each topic onto a single page.
3) Try to reorganise the material in some way, e.g. by grouping it differently or linking topics together.
4) How you present your notes might depend on the subject.
5) Condensing topics makes your revision interactive — it's better than just re-reading your notes. Plus, you're more likely to remember your own words than something someone else has written

Test Yourself On What You've Covered

When you've simplified a topic, it's time to test yourself:

1) Cover up your notes and write down as much as you can remember.
2) Compare what you've written to your notes, then fill in any gaps use a different colour so you know which bits you missed.
3) Keep doing this until you remember everything on the topic.
4) This is an active recall technique

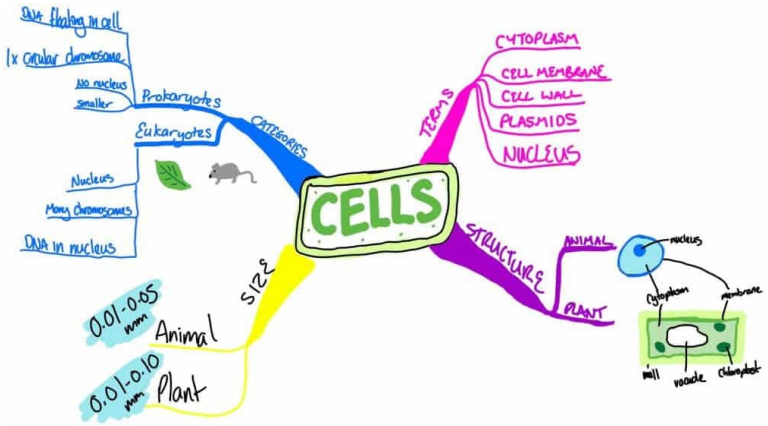
Mind Maps

A Mind Map is a Type of Diagram

1) Mind maps are a visual way to organise information.
2) One mind map usually represents one topic.
3) The name of the topic goes in the middle, with sub-topics and further detail added around it.
4) Details are short and to the point.
5) Boxes or bubbles around some of the information can help it stand out.
6) A good mind map uses colour and images.

Mind Maps Are Great For Revising Topics

1) Organising material visually can make it easier to recall in an exam.
2) Colour and images can help topics and information to stick in your memory.
3)Mind maps can help you to identify the key ideas of a topic and find links between them, which can help you see the topic in different ways.



Flash Cards

1) Flash cards are small cards with a question or prompt on one side, and the answer or information on the other side.

2) They're a great way to test yourself and find gaps in your knowledge.

3) Flash cards are useful for learning things like:

- language vocabulary
- key words and definitions
- formulae
- labelled diagrams

4) There are lots of flash cards available online, but it's a good idea to make your own. Working through your notes and picking out information is part of the revision process.