

KS3 Summer Exams Revision Guidance

This guide is designed to help you get your revision started and to give you some tips to make it effective.

Summer Exams in Years 7-9 should be taken seriously and we want you to do well. However, it is not a matter of life and death and you shouldn't worry about your exams. As long as you **do your best** in preparing for the exams you can be proud of your achievements.

This guide includes:

1. How to prepare an effective environment for studying or revising
2. How to manage your time effectively
3. Learning and memory tools – tips for revision
4. Exam day checklist
5. What to do during the exams

1. How to prepare an effective environment for studying or revising

It is important to find a place where you can concentrate and study properly. You need to have the resources you need available e.g. textbooks, revision guides, school exercise books and access to the internet for online resources. However, you should also try and avoid having too many distractions.

It is advisable to work in a quiet room with an open window for plenty of fresh air. Make sure you have a bottle of water as it's hard to concentrate if you are dehydrated.

Some pupils find listening to quiet music helps concentration. Having the television on or loud music is likely to be a big distraction. It would be a good idea to leave your mobile phone in a different room so this doesn't become a distraction.

Some pupils revise well in pairs or with help from an older sibling or parent. If you find this becomes distracting then you may also need to do some revision on your own.

2. How to manage your time effectively?

When should I start revising?

Revision can be done at any time throughout the year. Whenever you learn something new at school, or especially if you find something difficult, it is good to read through your notes again; then to test yourself to see whether you remember the information.

Most pupils like to start preparing for their Summer Exams a few weeks before they take place. Exam timetables and details of what to revise for the Summer Exams will be on the school website just before the Easter holidays. Many subjects will do some revision in lessons prior to the exams but it is important to do your own revision as well.

Do I need a revision schedule?

It is important that you know when your exams are taking place. The exam timetable will be on the school website. Your tutors and subject teachers will also tell you when your exams are taking place. It is a good idea to plan a revision schedule to ensure you are ready for each exam. You are likely to be better prepared if you plan ahead and don't leave your revision until the last minute. Some pupils will put a copy of their revision schedule on their bedroom wall. Others like to write their revision schedules in their school planner. Whilst it is important to do plenty of revision you can't revise the whole time so don't forget to schedule in breaks or fun activities as well! Once you have made a revision schedule try to keep to it as best you can.

How much time should I spend revising?

You will probably want to spend more time on subjects you find more difficult. 1-2 hours per evening in the build-up to exams is recommended though the amount will vary from subject to subject. Follow your teachers' advice.

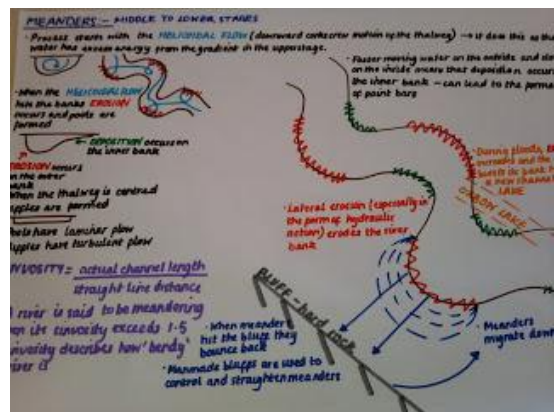
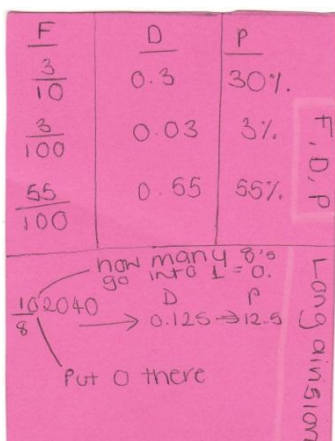
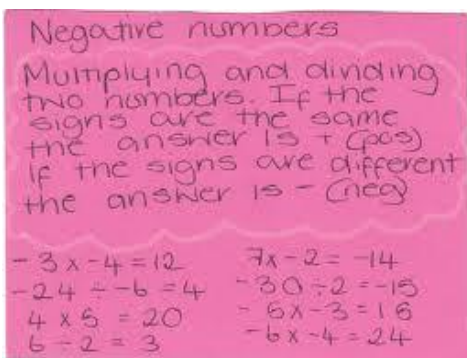
3. Learning and memory skills – tips for revision

What should I revise?

Follow your subject teachers' advice on what to revise. Use the revision information for your year group from the school website. You can also use the notes in your exercise books, revision guides and revision websites to help. If you are not sure ask your teachers!

Write revision notes/cards

This means writing you class notes or subject information in a shorter form. This can be done on paper, on revision cards or post it notes. It can be useful to write down key words, phrases, definitions or rules you need to learn. For example:



Use memory techniques

A variety of memory techniques can be used such as

- Making up rhymes/songs

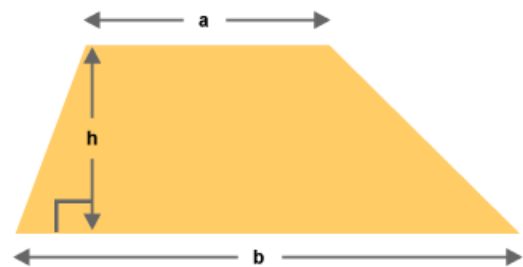
e.g. to learn the formula for the area of a trapezium sing the following to the tune of Pop

Goes The Weasel

Half the sum of the parallel sides
Times the height between them
That is how you calculate
The area of a trapezium

Trapezium

The area of a trapezium is $\frac{1}{2} \times h \times (a + b)$



- Mnemonics

e.g. to memorize the names of the planets, use the planetary mnemonic:

"MY VERY EDUCATED MOTHER JUST SERVED US NACHOS"

where each of the initial letters matches the name of the planets in our solar system (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune).

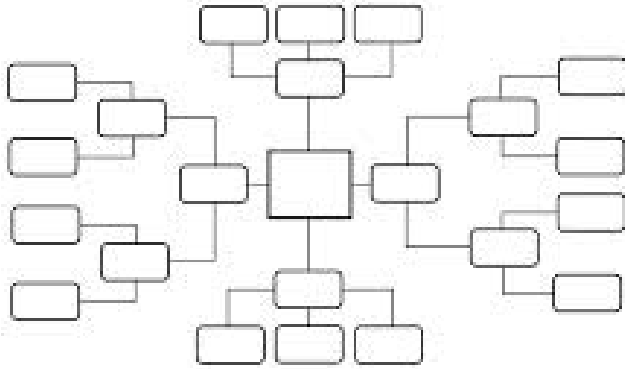
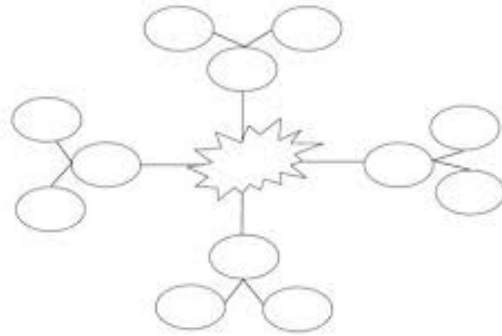
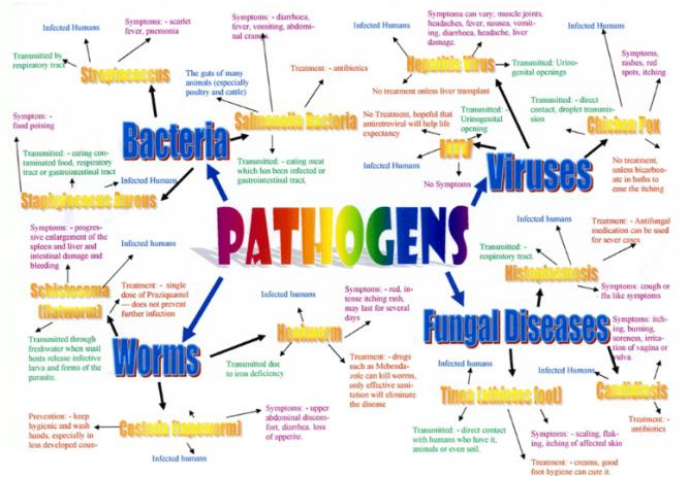
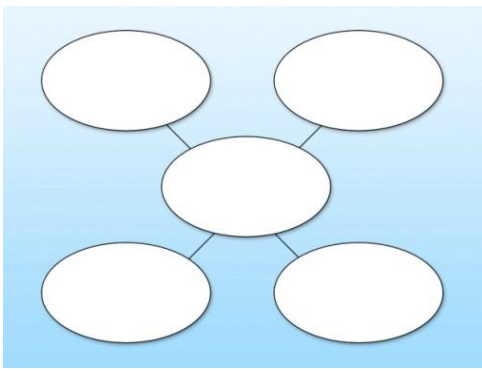
- Look, Cover, Write and Check

This is a really good method for learning spellings, facts and rules.

- Invent a memory game with a friend or sibling
- Draw pictures that help you remember things or make associations between a picture or image and a topic or fact you need to learn.

Draw mind maps

Mind maps (sometimes called flow diagrams or spider diagrams) are a great way to summarise things you have read, your ideas or what you have learnt. They can also be used to test what you can remember and can be applied to any subject. Examples are below:



Reading Around

Reinforce your knowledge by reading different textbooks and revision guides or using other websites with the same content as the topics you are learning/revising. Your teachers may suggest good resources to use.

Get Tested

Write down all you can remember about the topics you have been revising. Do this several times on different days just to make sure you can still recall the information. You can also ask your parents or older siblings to test you. Alternatively you could explain what you have learnt to a friend.

Do practice questions

Some subjects will provide revision sheets with practice questions. Revision guides and revision websites often include practice questions too. You can also make up your own practice questions to answer or ask a parent to do so for you.

Hint: Use techniques that have found effective in the past or that you have been shown in PSHE lessons or discussed in tutor time. Different people learn best (and revise best) in different ways. Over time you will find out which ways are most effective for you!

4. Exam day (or night before) check list

To do	✓ if done
Get a good night's sleep	
Pack your bag with the correct equipment	
Check the time of your exam so there are no last minute surprises	
Eat a healthy breakfast	
Have plenty to drink (water is best)	
Leave home in plenty of time so you are not rushed and are as calm as possible	
Read through any revision notes, revision cards and mind maps you have made the night before the exam or in the morning	

5. What to do during an exam

- Try to relax and not to worry
- Read the instructions on the front of the exam paper
- Read the questions carefully
- Highlight any key words/command words to help you understand the question
- Complete all the questions you are asked to
- Keep an eye on the clock – don't spend all your time on one question and then run out of time to answer others
- If you get stuck, move on to the next question and come back to it later
- Leave time at the end to check through your answers carefully
- If you are really unsure what the question is asking you then have a guess. You might be right. You won't get any marks if you leave a question blank!

GOOD LUCK!