



Beechen Cliff School

A Level Revision Guidance

For students and parents



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How much time should be spent revising?

Beechen Cliff has been an advocate for the 2-4-6 method of revision at A level for a number of years. It requires some forward planning and a decent calendar!

Using your calendar, mark on the dates and times of each of your exams (see the subject specific information in this booklet, or your individual exam timetable).

Second, black out every day on the calendar where revision cannot be completed e.g. work, family occasions, parties etc. Importantly, you have to be realistic, don't plan to fit in an hour revision session after a three hour drive back from Manchester. It won't happen!

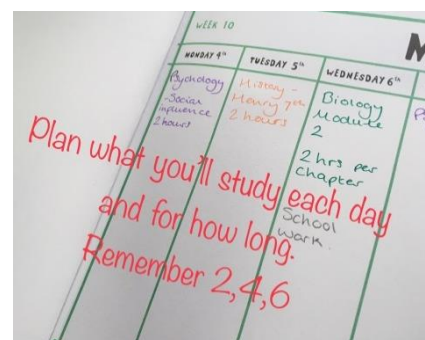


Then comes planning the actual revision;

On a school day – do your homework during your study periods in school, then allocate two hours of revision per night. If you need it, you can do some of this two hours in school (see the in school support section in this booklet).

On a weekend, during study leave or during holidays – allocate 4 hours per day for revision. Important; this is in two lots of two hours at most, NEVER all at once. We suggest a couple of hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the early evening, giving yourself plenty of time to relax or go out during the day.

One to two days before the actual exam – we suggest six hours of revision, in three lots of two hours.



The planning phase

Until the end of the Easter holidays we recommend that the two and four hour revision slots are divided evenly between the number of exams and that this time is used for note-taking, making flashcards etc. (see the revision strategies section of this booklet). Notes and revision materials must be finished by the end of the Easter holidays.

The testing phase

From Easter we recommend moving on to testing knowledge and recall, allowing for time to work on exam technique. For each exam this should consist of a review of the relevant content, followed by sitting the relevant exam paper in exam conditions. Then time should be spent with the mark scheme assessing performance. Advice – mark it harshly and make notes on where valuable marks were missed to ensure you don't make the same mistakes again. Make sure this content is reviewed again in a later revision slot.

We would urge those who have part time jobs to look carefully at how much time they're spending working. A Level studies should be the priority as much as possible.



Where should revision happen?

Study spaces need to be distraction free.

We have the silent study area at school but in addition many students choose to make use of the library in town, or the library at the university. What all these spaces have in common is that they are quiet/silent spaces where the entire focus is on studying. Our brains are very good at forming associations; if the space where you study is only used for studying then when you go to sit down in that location you are already priming your brain to be in a focused and productive state.

It is possible to create a good revision environment at home too.

- 1) Ideally try to select a place that you will only use for studying, so not in the same place as where you would play computer games, watch TV or have dinner.
- 2) Clear the desk or table you are going to use – remove anything that isn't related to what you're about to revise (even if its just put into a temporary pile on the floor out of the way).
- 3) Get rid of all distractions - ask whoever you live with not to disturb you or tempt you away, turn off the TV and any music (unless music **without lyrics** helps you), put your phone on silent and turn off all notifications, turn off the Wi-Fi on your phone and computer, you could even put your phone in another room or ask someone to look after it for you until you have finished your session.
- 4) Have some snacks and plenty of water next to you so that you don't need to get up for anything until you have finished your revision session.

What activities make the best revision strategies?

Anything active! So the only thing that's out is simply reading through notes or the textbook. Research suggests that doing this will only result in a retention rate of around 10%.

Recommended revision activities are listed below. These activities are different from note taking tasks, they need to be about recalling information rather than just selecting it/summarising it from a text. For further information on any of these techniques email Miss Fisher.

Flashcards

Draw/write down everything related to a topic, then go back and see what was missed out

Recreate a mind map you have made from memory, check to see what was missed out

Testing each other or yourself ('quizlet', 'kahoot', revision apps etc.)

Explaining/teaching concepts to someone else (or just pretend to!)

Practise questions

Where subjects do have online revision resources/apps these can be used during periods of time where you may not otherwise be able to revise e.g. on a long journey in the car/on the bus/on the train.



Subject specific revision information

Details of revision sessions/resources available from each subject can be found at the links below.

Subject	Exam Dates	Revision signpost link
Art	All day; 01.05.19 02.05.19 03.05.19	N/A
Biology	06.06.19, AM 13.06.19, AM 17.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-biology.pdf
Business	24.05.19, AM 03.06.19, PM 07.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-business.pdf
Chemistry	04.06.19, PM 11.06.19, PM 19.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-Chemistry.pdf
Classics	13.05.19, AM 20.05.19, PM 10.06.19, PM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-English-and-classics.pdf
Computing	03.06.19, AM 11.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-Computing.pdf
Economics	20.05.19, AM 23.05.19, AM 04.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-economics.pdf
English Lit	23.05.19, PM 03.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-English-and-classics.pdf
English Lit/Lang	23.05.19, PM 03.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-English-and-classics.pdf
French	13.06.19, PM 17.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-French.pdf
Geography	22.05.19, PM 06.06.19, PM 13.06.19, PM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-geography.pdf
German	05.06.19, AM 10.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-German.pdf
History	21.05.19, PM 05.06.19, PM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-History.pdf



Italian	12.06.19, AM 18.06.19, PM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-Italian.pdf
Law	04.06.19, AM 13.06.19, AM 17.06.19, PM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-law-and-politics.pdf
Maths	05.06.19, AM 12.06.19, AM 14.06.19, PM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-Maths.pdf
F. Maths	03.06.19, AM 06.06.19, PM 18.06.19, AM 20.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-Maths.pdf
Music	14.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-music.pdf
Music Tech	24.05.19, AM 05.06.19, PM	Has been explained to individual students
PE	23.05.19, PM 05.06.19, PM	Will be uploaded to the school website upon completion
Photography	All day; 01.05.19 02.05.19 03.05.19	N/A
Physics	20.05.19, PM 24.05.19, AM 03.06.19, PM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-physics.pdf
Politics	03.06.19, PM 06.06.19, AM 13.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-law-and-politics.pdf
Product Design	07.06.19, AM 14.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-product-design.pdf
Psychology	20.05.19, PM 07.06.19, PM 14.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-psychology.pdf
RPE	04.06.19, AM 11.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-rpe.pdf
Spanish	03.06.19, AM 07.06.19, AM	https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Revision-signpost-Spanish.pdf



In school support

In addition the silent study area is available exclusively to 6th form students all day every day and after school should they wish to use this space.

From February half term on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 3.30pm to 5pm the sixth form common room will be available for upper sixth students wishing to study. It will be monitored by members of staff and there will be tea and coffee available for purchase.

As the pastoral manager, Mrs Ingram is available (although it is likely to require making an appointment) for anyone struggling with the mental pressures of A level preparation and exams. There are also appointments available exclusively for 6th form students with listening support or counselling services, these are available via Mrs Ingram. susie.ingram@beechencliff.org.uk

As the 6th Form Progress leader, Miss Fisher is available for more general academic support. hannah.fisher@beechencliff.org.uk

A level teaching staff will be providing subject specific support, please see the links on the previous pages.

The Exams Officer, Mrs Davison, is available to answer any queries related to timetabling, exam clashes etc. exams@beechencliff.org.uk

On exam days

Morning exams start at 9am prompt, afternoon exams at 2pm.

You should report to the examination room stated on your timetable **at least 15 minutes** before the start of the exam, in 'uniform'. Most exams are held in the Sports Hall, although some are held in computer rooms. Those with special requirements may have exams in the bungalow. Check your timetable carefully for the location of your exam.

You are permitted to join the exam up to one hour after the start time, so if you are running late call 01225 485235 and leave a message. We will make every effort to get you here on time, but you must call and leave us a contact number.

If you experience vomiting or diarrhoea you must not come into school – if you have an exam within 48 hours please call 01225 485235 for instructions first.

Beechen Cliff School waive all liability for items lost or stolen on the premises. All your belongings should be in your bag and be ready to put into the changing room/bag store as you enter for your exam. You should have emptied your pockets, especially of all electronic items including mobile phones, iPods, headphones and smart watches – these items are not permitted in any examination room.



You may bring a normal watch into exam rooms but it must be removed and placed on the desk, fully visible.

Bottles of drink must be transparent, containing clear fluid, with the label removed. Food is only permitted (without wrappers) for those with a medical need.

You must bring a clear pencil case/plastic bag with **at least two black** ink pens or biros, plus pencil, eraser, ruler, and a calculator/mathematics equipment where necessary. **The school cannot provide these items.**

For listening exams please bring your own headphones for hygiene purposes.

Timetables do not show extra time but if you have JCQ approval this will have been arranged.

If you have two exams at the same time you will take one after another unless they total more than three hours. All clash arrangements requiring a change of time will be printed in red on final timetables.

Once it's all done!

Time to party! Celebrate having finished your A levels and your time at Beechen Cliff by coming to prom on Tuesday the 25th of June at the Hilton in Bath, starting at 7pm.

Results day; Thursday 15th August 2019 – School Hall – 8am until 10am.

It is important to be present for results day as there is a very short window of opportunity to make enquiries about your results should they not be as expected. Staff will be available for help and advice following results.

It is not possible to give results out to anyone other than the named individual on the certificates due to Data Protection laws, this includes via telephone. If you wish to send a family member to collect results then you must send written permission and ask them to bring Photo ID on results day. If you wish to receive results via email you must make a prior arrangement with the exams office. If you prefer to have your results posted home please provide a large envelope addressed to wherever you prefer, with relevant stamps attached before the end of July.

Work hard, and best of luck from all of us at Beechen Cliff.