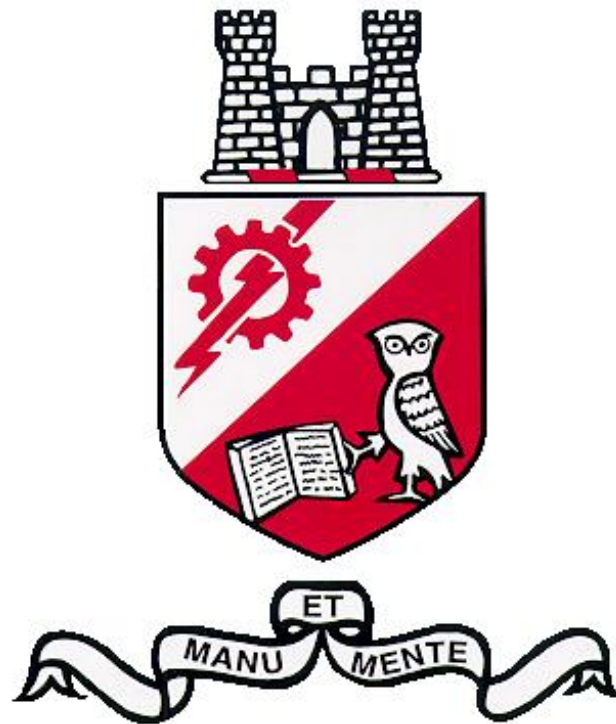


West Hatch High School



Guide to Revising

Revising properly is vitally important for any exam you take. You must always give yourself the best possible chance of being successful in your exams and taking the time to revise properly is the first step to achieving well. The following few pages outline some key information you should consider when revising for your exams:

- ✓ **Is your exam /revision calendar displayed somewhere important ?**
- ✓ **Have you highlighted the important controlled assessment and coursework date ?**
- ✓ **Have you shown your parents ?**

Starting revision the night before is not o.k !

You should be aiming for an hour or more each night when you are at school and 4 hours a day during holidays and study leave. Talk to your parents and family to make sure that they understand that you need to revise; you may need to plan any family events or activities into your timetable.

- ✓ **During Holidays – check that you have everything that you need to revise before your Holiday starts.**
- ✓ **Have you got your exam timetables, past papers, mymaths /learning gateway passwords ?**
- ✓ **Do you know what to revise for each exam?**
- ✓ **You have recently been given ‘Revision Cracked !’. Have you read it ?**

Making a Revision Timetable

There are many good reasons therefore to make a revision timetable:

- ✓ **Avoiding a last minute or night before rush**
- ✓ **Setting up a routine and disciplining yourself**
- ✓ **Sharing revision time between subjects**
- ✓ **Getting the balance right between revision and leisure time ✓**
Achieving what you need to progress in your career.

Many revision timetables don't work because they:

- ✓ **Cover too many weeks**
- ✓ **Give too much detail ✓ They are unrealistic and over-ambitious**

So here's some simple advice:

- ✓ You know yourself; if you are unlikely to revise in the morning then plan your day around when you work best.
- ✓ Work a trial timetable for one day and review it; what worked and what didn't?
- ✓ Write a new daily timetable and work through it!
- ✓ Revision sessions are best in 1 hour slots, so build in rest time and space subjects over the week and time to fall back on in case of emergencies.
- ✓ Revise one or two subjects each revision session and vary the subjects revised each day.

Organising your revision

Reading through notes is a poor way to revise so here are some ideas for how to start

1. Make a topic checklist: the major topics you have covered in a subject.
2. Put them in an order that you want to tackle them. Maybe start with something you know well to boost your confidence.
3. Make sure you cover what you are frightened or worried about.



4. Pin or stick your topics up somewhere that you will see them everyday— and maybe so that your family can remind you and ask you about them.
5. Tick off your topics as you complete your revision to make you feel that you're getting somewhere!
6. Start with short periods of time if you find it tough to concentrate and build up.

You might want to work on the 40/10/10 rule :

40 minutes revising

10 minutes testing

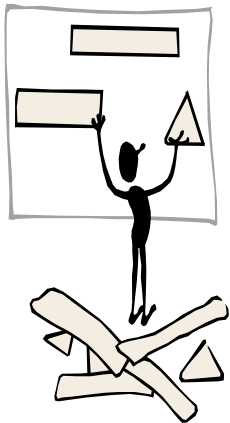
10 minutes resting

Start with 20/5/5 if it's too tough to concentrate



Some ways to revise

So if just reading your notes is not a good way to revise what is? Be active!



Write revision notes

Read through your notes and pick out the most important points on A4 paper or revision cards.

Make patterned notes or mind-maps; use pictures if you can.

And especially use colour— memories are triggered by colours.

Organise your notes on a wall.

Or group them in different ways!

Work with a friend or study buddy

Revise a topic section each and then test each other; become the expert on an area.

Write 'just a minute' topic tests and get a friend or member of the family to test you

Compare both of your notes on a topic and then share bits you may be missing.

Make sure you understand something first— before trying to remember it.



Timed Practice: Test, test, test yourself!

Use past papers and exam questions you've been given ,or you get from helpful n websites or study guides. Exam board websites have past papers.



Set the timer and have a go!

Stick Post its all over the place – even by the toothpaste !

Helpful websites !

There are many useful general websites you can visit:

- ✓ www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- ✓ www.bbc.co.uk/education/schools
- ✓ www.channel4.com/learning but also many specific ones for different subjects.

The following sites are directories for revision sites, linking you to many of the best subject specific sites:

- ✓ <http://www.revisionaid.co.uk/directory>
- ✓ http://www.revisionlink.co.uk/ks4_revision_notes.html
- ✓ <http://www.what2learn.com/examgames/science>
- ✓ <http://www.s-cool.co.uk>
- ✓ <http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/62.cfm?s=62&m=2856&p=2068,index>

So enough talk, no one can do it for you!

Get planning a revision timetable!