

Rosie Curl Year 11 2016-2017. Now Studying at Northgate Sixth Form

GCSE's are the first major hurdle that you will face within your time in education, and quite frankly, the stress is such a shock to the system but, if you don't stress, do you really care? I personally took stressing to the absolute maximum but it all comes from wanting to do my very best in all of my subjects.

Regarding revision, personalise it to suit you. Some people like to write countless amounts of notes, others will opt to make flash cards, stick notes on the walls, listen to podcasts, the options are endless - but it's so so important that you are doing the right revision which:

- A. Gets the relevant information into your mind *but most importantly*,
- B. Makes you enjoy revision. It shouldn't always be such a strenuous task. If you are enjoying it then you'll be motivated to do more...

Another question, which was always on my mind, was "when shall I start revising?" And the answer simply is, the sooner the better; let January be the month you start to get into the swing of school work again and after the February half term, start to devise a strict plan. If you're struggling to begin, go out and buy note books for each of your subjects, make them as colourful as your creative heart's desire. Then, simply start by writing all of the notes and knowledge you need for each subject, get the bulk of it down. Once the exam periods approach, begin to condense each section so that you're not faced with so much information in front of you every time you open up your revision. You'll then begin to go down to flash cards and over smaller ways of covering each topic so that you're fully equipped for each exam.

Regarding lesson 6 and 7, just attend! You're already at school so how's a couple more lessons going to hurt? They're not there to waste your time, teachers don't stay in school longer than needed if it's not completely necessary!

However, despite all of the revision it's so important that you make time to relax and step away from the books. I like to think I'm a sociable person so spending time with my friends and to go out was so important for me to include throughout my time in year 11. If I had plans to go out in the afternoon or evening for example, I'd do some work in the morning and think of my time going out as a reward for doing work. This motivated me so much because otherwise if I just went out 24/7 and did not do any work, results day would have been a completely different story.

So, overall in the words of the famous MBO, "if you don't do the work, you won't get the reward" and no matter how many times I mocked him for saying it about 500 times, it's a saying I will forever stick by, when I am working hard for something, and quite simply if I didn't put in the work, I wouldn't be currently sitting in Northgate Sixth Form working towards getting my desired A levels to go off to university. The stress for results day will always be there, but just think, how would you feel walking into that hall to collect your grades knowing that you haven't done any or enough work and that you've failed? Don't be that person. Be the person who is still worried but knows deep down inside that you've done everything you can...

ENJOY YEAR 11, because trust me you'll miss it, you'll miss the school and the teachers who you've been with for 5 years!!



Some of the extensive support resources that students have access to. All information relating to the above is regularly sent to students' school email accounts.

“From my experience, year 11 was the best year of my educational experience so far, whilst being challenging it provided me with the basis of all my knowledge and understanding to help me progress into the future. Now from my perspective, I can see that Westbourne was a fantastic school with staff that are passionate about the pupils and not just success rates due to this I found it so much easier to succeed as I had the support emotionally as well as physically. I’ve made friends I’m going to have for the rest of my life (teachers included) who have helped me tremendously through that time.”

Donell Harris Year 11 - 2016-2017

"It's what parents do [with their child], rather than who they are, that counts" Sacker (2002)

The 7 Myths of Revision by Students

When you start asking your child about revision, he/she may respond with one of the statements below.

All the statements are myths!

1

It's too early to start yet. It isn't! The most effective revision starts early and continues at a reasonable pace. Students, who revise regularly, make better progress. Establishing a revision timetable is crucial to success.

2

It's too late to start now. It's never too late to start! Better to start early but better late than never.

3

No-one else in Year Eleven has started revising. Yes they have! They just aren't telling people. Ultimately, your child needs to be primarily concerned with their own GCSEs and not worry about others.

4

You can't revise for...(English, Maths, RE, ICT etc, etc). Yes you can! There's always something to do; some way of helping you understand or know more.

For English Language, the exam boards use articles from newspapers such as 'The Guardian', 'The Times' etc. or use extracts from nonfiction books such as Travel Writing. Regularly reading two or three articles a week from an online newspaper such as 'The Guardian' will help with comprehension skills which are vital for success in English.

For Maths, students use Maths Watch to help with the key areas which they find difficult.

We are now running P6 revision sessions. All students are expected to attend, these run after school until 4pm. There is also "Night Club" study evenings Monday to Thursday 4pm to 6.30pm together with February, Easter and May HT holiday sessions in a number of subjects. In short we will provide as much support for your son/daughter to reach their potential.

5

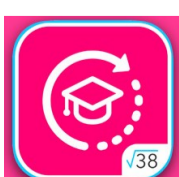
You don't need to do well in... (Drama, RE, ICT etc.) Employers and Universities prefer to see consistent results. All students are all capable of achieving across all subjects.

6

Revision is boring because it's just sitting staring at a book. No! Reading revision books or notes from exercise books is completely ineffective. This type of revision relies only on excellent skills. Unless you have a photographic memory, you would be unable to remember the majority of information and it is a very passive way of learning. Revision is all about "transforming" your notes, some examples can be found on the reverse of this page. There will be ongoing support in this area both in school and during a parent/child support evening scheduled for March.

7

I can revise and listen to pop music/watch the television at the same time. No! The focus will be on the next song playing on the iPod or what is currently happening in the latest episode of EastEnders. Revision needs to happen in a quiet place free from any possible distractions or with a set playlist which doesn't have lyrics. Many students now use Spotify and there are playlists now designed for revision.



EXAM COUNTDOWN
FREE/ANDROID/APPLE

Use this planner to schedule key dates for revision and exam dates, as well as add notes on goals and progress



GOJIMO
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Covers main GCSE topics, there are over 150,00 free questions



QUIZLET
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Revise using over 125m flashcard sets. Create your own and test against the clock

Revise, Write, Check!

Ingredients

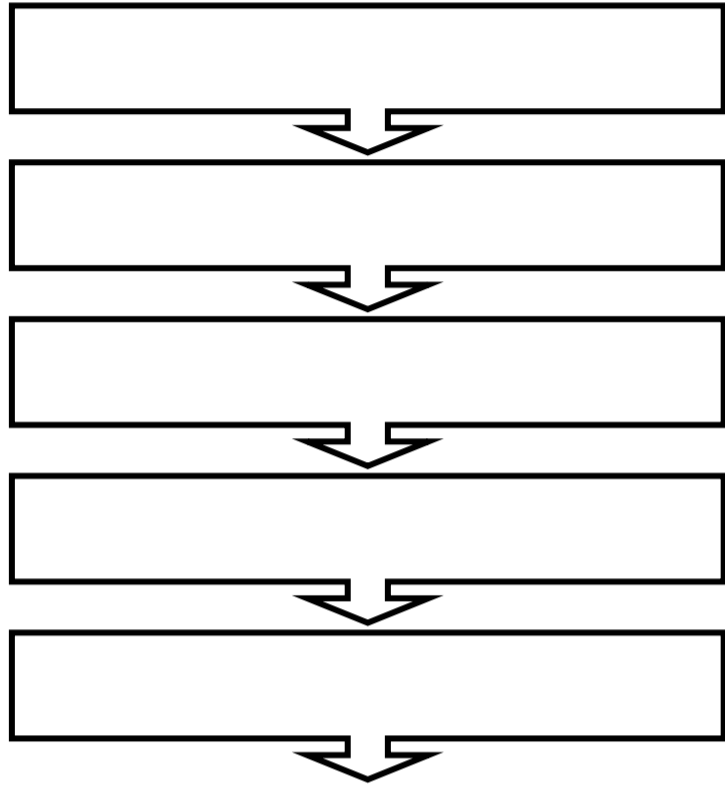
You will need:

- Paper.
- Black pen.
- Any type of coloured pen.
- Your notes.



Method

1. Take a piece of paper – either A4 or A5.
2. Choose your revision topic.
3. Without looking at your notes, think of at least ten things about your chosen revision topic. Write using the black pen.
4. Look at your notes. What have you missed?
5. Using a coloured pen, write down anything which you have missed from your notes.
6. Repeat on a daily basis until you feel that you have mastered the topic.



Flow Chart

This revision method is effective for recalling events or processes in subjects such as History, Geography and Science:

Ingredients

You will need:

- Paper.
- Pen.

Method

1. Take a piece of paper – either A4 or A5
2. Create a flow chart, using this template .

Word Clouds

This technique involves creating a word cloud related to a topic. The cloud can help you revise by focusing on the key words of a topic and maybe asking someone to test you!

Ingredients

You will need:

- Access to the Internet.
- A printer



Method

1. Go to www.wordle.net.
2. Type in or copy and paste relevant information in the text box.
3. Press CREATE.
4. Your Wordle is ready to print!



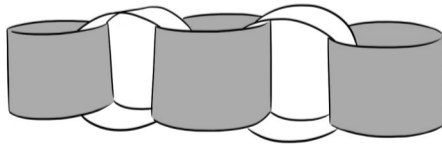
Paper Chains

Do you remember making paper chains at primary school? Well, here is the secondary school version!!

Ingredients

You will need:

- Strips of paper.
- A pen.
- Glue or a stapler.



Method

1. Take a strip of paper.
2. Write down a keyword/topic/person/quote on the strip of paper.
3. Write a connection/explanation/definition (for the strip above) on another strip of paper.
4. Start your chain and keep adding more chains.
5. Display the chain in your room so you will

Mind Palaces

Think of a route which you know well.

Ingredients

You will need:

- A3 paper.
- Pen/Pencil.
- A route which you know well or a room in your house.

Method

1. On the A3 paper, draw your route to school/town/favourite place or a room in your house.
2. Choose a topic.
3. Look at your picture and see how your topic fits in.
4. Write idea/keywords on your picture.

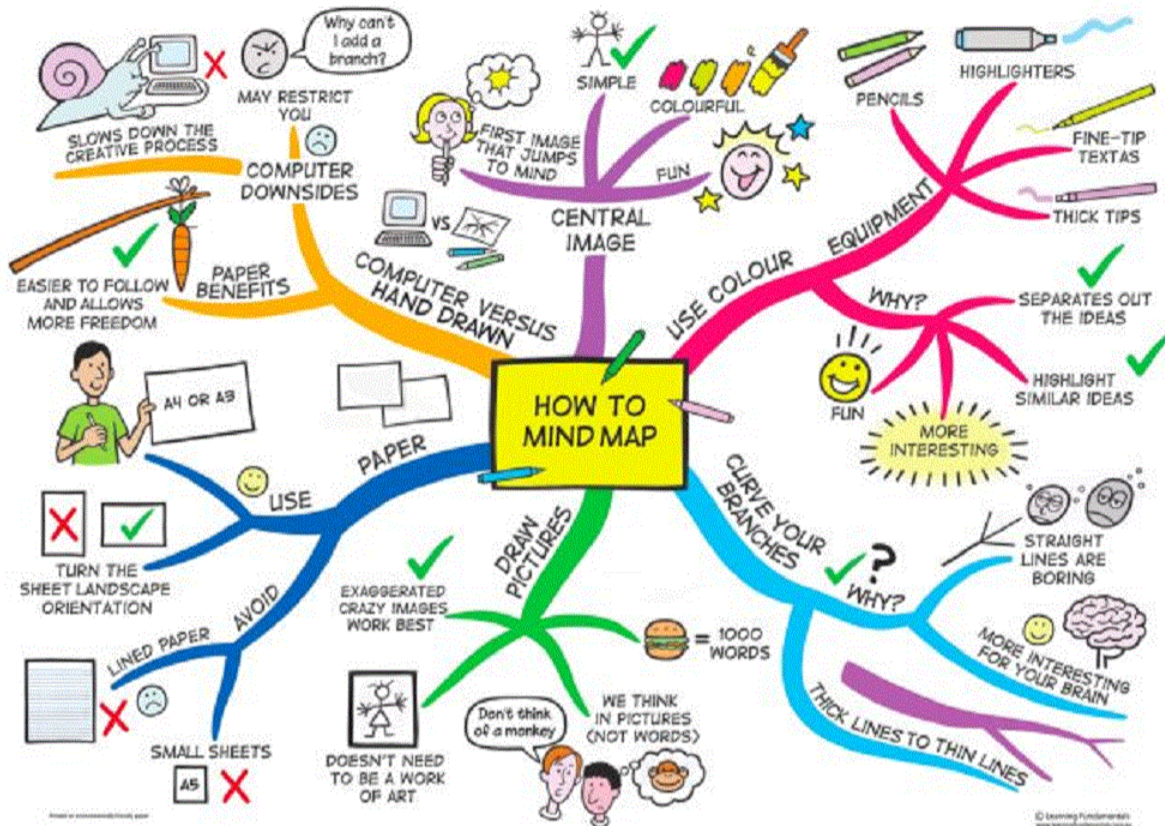
Mind Maps

A visual map which can be used for any topics.

Ingredients

You will need:

- A4 or A3 paper.
- Lots of different coloured pens OR
- Access to the Internet or your notes.



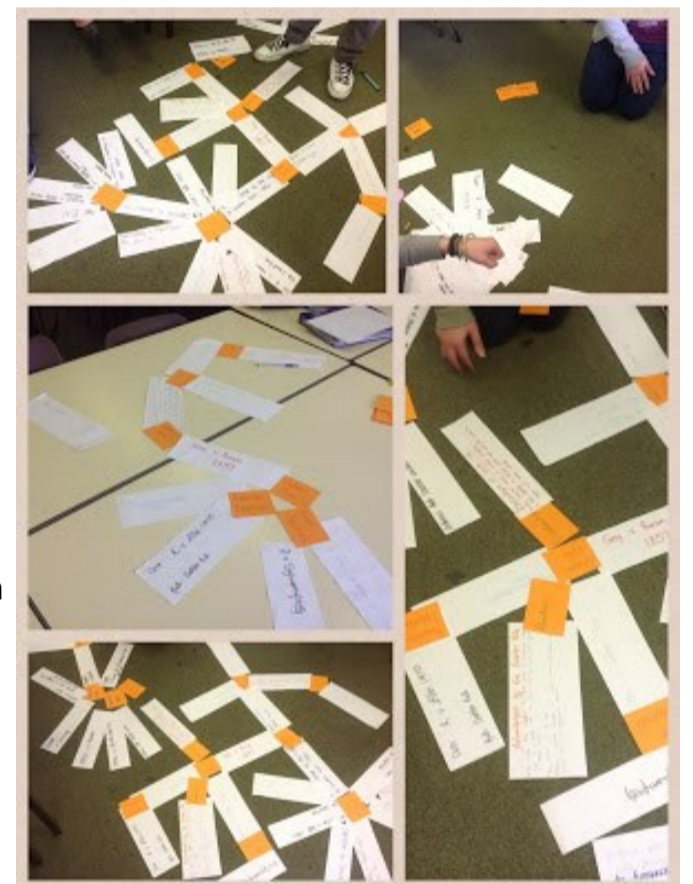
Method

1. Start from the centre of the page and work out.
2. Make the centre a clear and strong visual image that depicts the general theme of the map.
3. Create sub-centres for sub-themes.
4. Put key words on lines. This reinforces structure of notes.
5. Print rather than write in script.
6. Use colour to depict themes, associations and to make things stand out.
7. Use arrows, icons or other visual aids to show links between different elements.
8. Put ideas down as they occur, wherever they fit. Don't judge or hold back.
9. Be creative. Creativity aids memory.

OR

Create your mind map online by using

www.bubbl.us



The Big Floor Mind Map

This is a huge mind map!!

Ingredients

You will need:

- Squares of paper.
- Strips of paper.
- A pen

Method

1. Choose your topic.
2. On the squares of paper write down as many things as possible about the topic e.g. quotes, keywords etc. Give yourself three minutes.
3. Lay the squares out and use the



Draft/Redraft

How can you improve?

Ingredients

You will need:

- Paper.
- Past exam questions.

Method

1. Complete an exam question or an exam paper.
2. Look at your answers and with a different coloured pen, redraft some of the answers.

Flashcards

Test your knowledge!

Ingredients

You will need:

- Cards.
- Pen

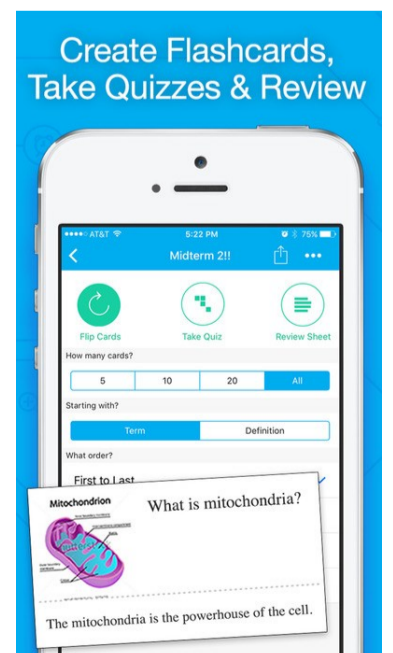
OR access to <http://www.studyblue.com>



Method

1. Choose keywords/events/dates which you need to remember.
2. Write the words individually on cards.
3. Keep testing yourself.

Studyblue allows you to do this online.



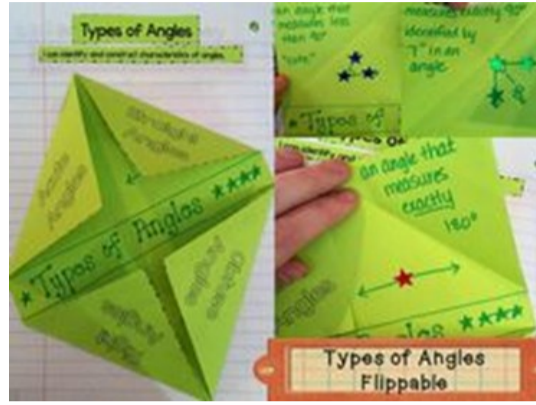
Foldables

For origami experts. A foldable is when you use paper to create an object or a book to help you revise for different topics.

Ingredients

You will need:

- Paper - different colours and sizes.
- Glue.
- Scissors.



Method

1. Choose your topic.
2. Look at foldables on line or at these pictures.
3. Create your foldables.



Recording your voice

Listen wherever, whenever!

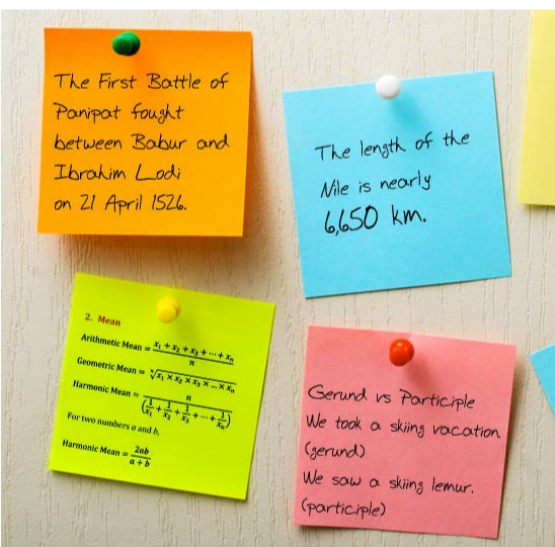
Ingredients

You will need:

- A phone or recording device.
- Headphones.

Method

1. Decide on your topic.
2. Record yourself or a member of your family talking about the topic.
3. Listen whenever!



Post It Notes

Decorate your house with Post It Notes

Ingredients

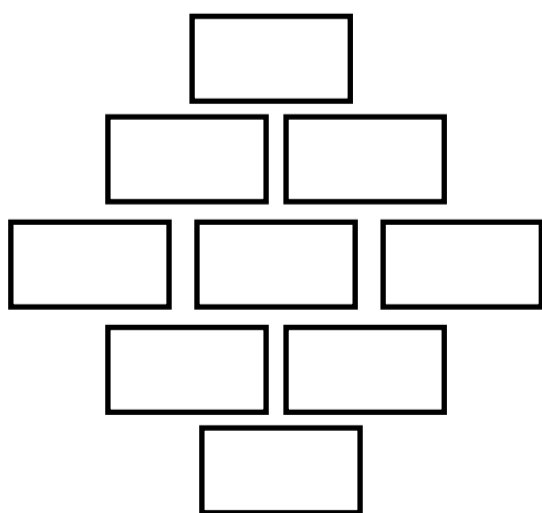
You will need:

- Post It Notes.
- A pen



Method

1. Decide on your topics and which area of the house could be relevant for your topic. For example, if you do Food Tech, then have a small area of the kitchen.
2. Complete Post It Notes with keywords or relevant information.
3. Stick in your chosen area.
4. Revisit constantly.



Diamond Nine

Rank ideas in order of priority.

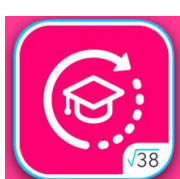
Ingredients

You will need:

- Paper.
- A pen.

Method

1. Draw a Diamond Nine.
2. Think of a topic or exam question.
3. Write down nine keywords/ideas and rank in order of importance or priority.



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