

Exam Preparation - Plan to Succeed

START NOW! Tick off as you complete each level

- 1. Find out what exams you have for each GCSE that you are taking, roughly when they are, what is required for each exam and how they will be marked - in detail. Some subjects have this information printed for you.
- 2. Get the long list of content (a checklist) that you will need to revise for each exam - from your teacher, and RAG each part of it to establish your starting point.
- 3. If there is material that you don't understand either find a Youtube video on it or talk to your teacher.
- 4. Ensure that you HAVE all the content - get Knowledge Organisers or buy a revision guide.
- 5. Get sorted with stationery - loose-leaf folders, flashcards (Wilco has a good, cheap range)
- 6. Investigate various revision websites that may help you to learn:- Quizlet, Memrise, Go Conqr, Gojimo etc - you won't know which will be helpful until you have looked at them - and that takes time. START NOW.
- 7. Talk to your teachers about the best way to revise material in THEIR subject area - and try different techniques out. e.g. download some GCSE pod units and listen to them. For many subjects this will mean reducing your full notes to brief key point notes - checking you can reproduce the full notes by just looking at the key points, and then working on producing the key points from just an overall title. **It should ALL revolve around Retrieval Practice - testing yourself.**
- 8. Make a plan of your week - what are the fixed points (when you're at school/occupied with other stuff.) How much time do you want to spend on revision right now? Get some month planners for school. Start small and realistic. You can increase the time as you get used to it. Plot where you are going to fit your revision sessions into your week - and MEAN IT.
- 9. Work out how you are going to revise without distractions - talk to your parents about how they can help by removing noise and distractions, including using apps like OurPact with you.
- 10. Start to think about what your 'rewards' are going to be - they may be as small as 10 minutes on your phone or a piece of cake after a session - or larger monetary rewards negotiated with your parents for sticking to your plans long-term - but rewards really do help.
- 11. Also talk to your parents about sanctions if you feel you need to - how can they help you to stay on track in a GOOD way, using sanctions that YOU have chosen e.g. 'Don't let me go on the PS4 until I've done at least an hour every night.'
- 12. Put all agreed rewards and sanctions into a written document – a 'contract' for public display!
- 13. Go back to your long list of content that you ragged. Start with red content. For each subject bear in mind the advice from teachers of that subject - but also remember - spaced-learning , not blocked. You will need to return to the same topic, briefly, multiple times. Also active learning - not passive, **no copying out or colouring in, self-testing/quizzing is the single most effective way to learn.** You will also need memory techniques such as mnemonics and visualisation to make things stick. Get your parents to test you, it massively help you - and makes them feel useful 😊
- 14. As soon as you feel that you have a particular area of a subject covered, start to do past paper questions - remember, you are never asked to just list everything you know, knowing how to USE the material you have learned to answer questions that is important.
- 15. By Easter you should be dedicating yourself to full past-paper practice - remember, the amount of past papers completed is the single best predictor of exam performance.