

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



BRIGHTON  
COLLEGE

## Brighton College GCSE Revision

- ✓ Motivation
- ✓ Preparation
- ✓ How to revise
- ✓ Revision timetables
- ✓ Examinations

At all stages of revision I would urge you to keep communicating with your parents, teachers and friends. All are here to support you.

### **Step 1: Motivation**

Remember why you are here. Begin with an end in mind. By getting the very best GCSE grades, you are putting yourself in a strong position to go to the university of your choice and follow the subject/career in which you are most passionate. Have a big picture in mind and then break it down into smaller steps.

### **Step 2: Preparation**

You need to:

- a) Know what it is that you're supposed to know: the syllabus;
- b) Ensure that all of your notes are complete; Have a contents page at the front of every folder/exercise book. Buy new folders/files/dividers if you need to. Keep these folders well organised.
- c) Ensure you have one good revision book/text book per subject.
- d) Ensure you have a productive place to work. It must be the right temperature (18C), quiet, away from distractions (mobiles and computers). It should have some natural light and have a good chair/large desk. Keep all you need in this place (hole punch, paper, pens, calculator, ruler, highlighters, colours, tipex, index cards, computer, dictionary, paper clips/stapler, lamp, dictaphone, post its, water etc.)
- e) Are you able to eat, sleep and get regular exercise? These are just as important as the actual study time. Have a balanced lifestyle.

### Step 3: How to revise

There is no magical method to help you revise. You must work through all of your notes and rewrite them in condensed form. You may prefer to do this in slightly different ways, depending on your learning style. N.B - Repetition is vital – “overlearn”.

There are 8 types of learning intelligence, listed in the table below. You may know already which are your preferred learning styles. A questionnaire, to be done in tutor time, will help you decide.

You should tailor your revision to suit your learning styles. Although beware that in some areas you may have to use learning styles that are not your strength. Some of the traits of each learning style are also outlined below:

<b>Learning Style</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Revision techniques</b>
Linguistic	Talking, writing, spelling, reading, listening, making notes	Re write your notes on one sheet of paper, you should re phrasing the information. This can then be further condensed to cards. Use Acronyms and Mnemonics and bullet points
Mathematical	Problem solving, mental arithmetic, planning, organisation	Try to remember things in sequence. Make lists in numerical order. Use sub headings.
Visual	Drawing, seeing the big picture, using maps, giving and receiving presentations	Use Mind maps/posters/diagrams/flow charts (on large pieces of paper – stick them up on the wall). Use colours/highlighters
Musical	Enjoy singing along with, playing and creating music, poetry, foreign languages	Record your notes/key points onto a Dictaphone/podcast (most mobiles/ipods/computers have these nowadays). Turn Acroynms/Mnemonics

		into verse.
Naturalistic	Understand the environment, wildlife and plant life, enjoy being outdoors	Link a list to learn to a particular journey/room (your walk to school/science classroom). Learn by association to the natural/physical world.
Kinesthetic	Like building/hands on, movement, sport, balance.	Try to act out scenarios. Learn formulas/graphs by hand signals.
Intrapersonal	Positive, uses personal experiences to remember new things, works out goals, possibly working alone	Test <i>yourself</i> regularly (Look, say, cover, write, check). Writing a question on one side of a revision card and the answer on the other may help.
Interpersonal	Likes helping and working with others, good negotiator, team player	Ask others to test you regularly. Teach a topic to a friend.

## How to read

Decide what the purpose of reading is. It could be to:

- a) SKIM - let your eyes move quickly through the text to gauge the general gist, look at headings, opening and closing paragraph.
- b) SCAN – eyes should zig zag across the page. Look for key ideas, names, phrases, diagrams, quotes or data. Highlight information.
- c) SCOUR – Read every word. Use a ruler to guide your eyes. Do not mouth words. Six f thinking (tutors will explain this!). You will need to do this when reading and checking work during exams.

Which of these you use will depend on what stage of your revision you are in. However in most cases it is crucial to take notes while reading, in order to help your understanding and remember.

It is also important to be aware of how to read exam questions. You must be able to spot, and understand the meaning of “action” words such as describe, evaluate, show that, etc.

## Essay/extended answer writing

It is useful to split up your answers into the following sections:

White – Information and data – What do I know, what do I need to find out?

Red – Emotional/intuitive – How do I feel about this?

Yellow – Benefits – What are the benefits/advantages?

Black – Risks –What are the disadvantages, what do I need to be cautious about?

Green – Possibilities – Looking at a situation in another way.

Blue – Overview – Summarise, where are we? What next?

## Step 4: Revision timetables

- a) Each department should provide you with a list of topics for revision. Put the topics in which you are weakest *first*.
- b) Complete the weekly revision schedules at the end of this pack. Block out sessions when you know you are away etc. Be sure to have at least one day and two evenings completely off per week.
- c) Each session should be around 2 hours long (three 40 minute sessions). Be sure to allocate an equal amount of time to each subject.
- d) Write in the subject and topics you are going to revise in each session. Each session should have a clear goal.
- e) Each topic should be classified green, yellow or red.  
Green – know and understand, Yellow – unsure, Red – No idea!  
Prioritise the red topics first.
- f) Build in regular opportunities to REVIEW/REPEAT work covered the day/week before
- g) Build in rewards/treats/chocolate, as well as exercise. Do not skip meals.
- h) Be aware that revision often takes longer than you think it will.
- i) Build in time to do mocks/past papers and also websites (although don't spend too long in front of a computer screen.
- j) The most important thing in any revision session is TO GET STARTED and DO NOT MAKE EXCUSES!

You can use the schedule at any point of revision

### Term time

Be sure to factor in extra clinics with teachers. Use the time to ensure notes are up to date and well organised. Review topics at night (Vocab/formula tests). Save difficult topics for the weekend.

### Holidays

Build in sessions with friends (be productive!). Make a list of topics to take back to your teacher after the break.

### Study leave

Build in revision sessions with teachers. Prioritise a healthy lifestyle. Be sure to pace yourself so that you are still fresh going into the last minute of the last exam.

## **Step 5: Examinations**

### **Months before**

- a) Check your exam timetable/entries to ensure you are entered for the correct examinations. Teachers can help here if you are not sure.
- b) Know your exam timetable (add to revision timetable). Know when and where you need to be, and leave plenty of time for last minute crises.

### **Week before**

- a) Check all your revision cards are prepared and are being checked daily.
- b) Ensure you have re-read the exam format/instructions. The front page of a past paper is often a good place to start (although check with your teacher to ensure the paper is still the same).

### **Day before**

- a) Make sure you have everything you need (set texts, pen, pencil, rubber, calculator, clear pencil case) the day before the exam. Take two of each and use equipment you are familiar and comfortable with.
- b) Double check the format of the paper (e.g. 2 essay questions, one from each section?)
- c) Check revision cards etc, last minute revision works. 8pm finish.
- d) Go to bed on time. Be sure to have time for your brain to wake up in the morning, have a shower/breakfast etc. Normal routine is best. Try and have some relaxation/exercise time.
- e) Take water into the exam – labeless bottle.

### **On the day**

- a) Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the exam (but not too early!). If you know you have a tricky journey, be sure to have a contingency plan (Mum and Dad bring you in the car!).
- b) Find your seat. Check seat/desk is comfortable (not wobbly).
- c) Listen to the invigilator, fill in your details carefully and SCOUR read the instructions on the front of the paper.
- d) Once you open your paper, try to enjoy it! Reading every question (carefully) for a few moments at the start of the paper should boost your confidence if you have prepared properly. Use a highlighter/underline when reading questions to pick out key words.

- e) It might help to calm your nerves if you write down key facts/formula that you will need so that you know you won't forget them. Plan extended answers.
- f) Be sure to allocate time effectively. Note that you do not have to answer questions in order, you can leave questions out and come back to them.
- g) During the exam sip your water and stretch arms fingers, legs etc. to encourage blood flow. Take deep breaths and have mini breaks.
- h) Re read/check every question and every answer (6f), check the back page to ensure you have not missed anything out.
- i) After the exam, NO POST MORTEMES.

### Weekly revision schedule

Day	AM	PM	Evening
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			

Sunday			
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