



Excellence & Opportunity

Revising **isn't** something that should be  
**challenging** or **difficult** at all.  
What revising is, unfortunately, is time consuming.  
**It takes a while.**  
That's why you should **start early.**

The A to Z of exam revision

**A** is for **asking for help**. Once you are in the exam you are on your own, but during your revision you are definitely not! If you get stuck you can ask your teacher or a friend or someone at home. Don't suffer alone.

**B** is for **breaking it down into sections**. Splitting your revision into small chunks makes it more manageable and less threatening.



**C** is for **calculator**. Get a scientific calculator weeks before the exam and use it. This will mean you are familiar with it when you need to be – in the exam.

**D** is for **don't leave it till the last minute**. The sooner you start the better you will feel and the more ready you will be to show what you can do.

**E** is for **examples**. Revision guides, internet sites, and your exercise book all contain examples of GCSE questions, generally with solutions. Doing them again yourself will boost your confidence.

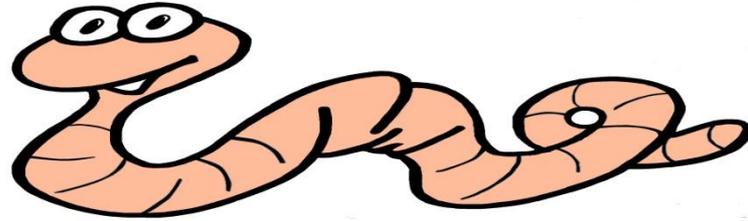
**F** is for **formulae**. Make sure you know what formulae is on the exam paper and which you are expected to remember. Then make sure you not only can recall them but you can also use them.

**G** is for a **good nights sleep**. Getting a good nights sleep the night before the exam will ensure that you feel refreshed and mentally alert, so don't stay up late and risk feeling tired on the important days.

**H** is for **highlighting**. Use a bright coloured highlighter pen, preferably a yellow. Bright colours stimulate the brain and make it more receptive to new information increasing your chances of remembering it.

**I** is for **internet**. Make use of the hundreds of internet sites available on the web that will aid your revision BUT be careful not to get distracted and find yourself aimlessly wandering or just surfing the net.

**J** is for **juicy worm**. Just like the early bird catches the worm, do your revision early in the day then you won't feel like it's hanging over you all day and you will feel better as your brain is at its most receptive during the morning



**K** is for **keeping calm**. If you get stuck on a question put a pencil star by it and move on, you can return easily by looking back through your revision looking for the stars. Remember the easier questions are at the start of the paper but remain calm if you cannot remember how to answer them. Remaining calm helps your brain recall facts.

**L** is for **list of topics**. A list of topics to revise helps focus your revision. Try to include the GCSE grade for each topic so that you can see your progress.

**M** is for **move on**. When working through questions, make sure that you move on to cover the more difficult questions – don't practise what you can already do but work out how to do what you currently cannot.



**N** is for **notes**. The notes and examples that you have in your exercise book are a fantastic resource. If you cover up the working and answers then try the questions again, if you get stuck you can see where you went wrong, and you can check your answer.

**O** is for **organisation**. Before you start revising make sure all your notes, revision guides and exercise books are available to use. Then make a list of all the topics you need to cover (this will also be available from your teacher) . This will help ease your way into your revision and make you feel ready.

**P** is for **past papers**. Make sure you do at least 5 past exam papers before sitting the real exam. You will know what to expect with the style and difficulty of the questions so you will not be anxious on the day.

**Q** is for **(e) quipment**. At least a day before the first exam make sure you have all the equipment that you might need. A few good pens, that you like writing with, clear pencil case, protractor, compass etc. Then you wont make yourself worried trying to get things on the morning of the exam.

**R** is for **read questions carefully**. Read each question twice then answer once! One of the easiest ways to lose marks is by not reading the question properly. When you have finished the paper read the questions again as well as your answers.

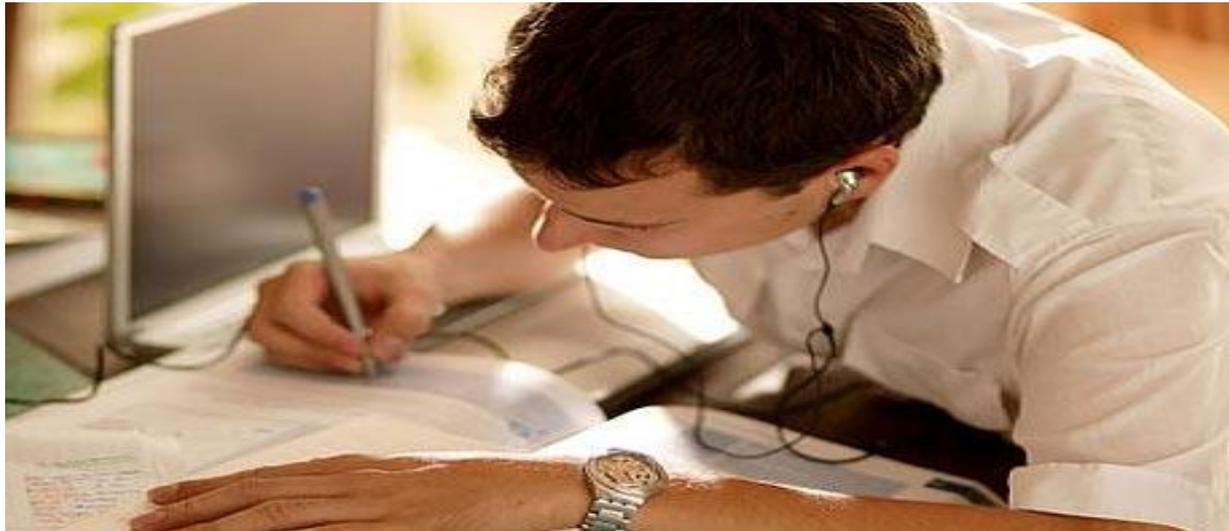
**S** is for **specification**. Take time to familiarise yourself with the specification of the exam you will be taking. Look at the formula sheet, make sure you know how long each paper lasts, and read the instructions on the front of the paper

**T** is for **time yourself**. Its no good finishing a paper in 2 hours if you are only allowed 50 minutes. Practice in exam conditions, work on the principle of a mark a minute.

**U** is for **units**. There will be one question on each paper where you are expected to give the units in your answer. LOOK OUT FOR IT!

**V** is for **vows**. Making and sticking to a revision timetable is a little like getting married. Making a detailed revision timetable and putting it somewhere that everyone in your house can see it actually lightens the load, because its not just down to you to motivate yourself. Rather like getting married you feel more committed to your vows if a lot of people have seen you make them.

**W** is for **working out**. Every question worth more than one mark has at least one mark attached for working, so show your working, then even if you get the answer wrong you can still cash in on the method marks.



**X is for (e)xttra time.** There are lots of times during the day when you have a spare 5 or 10 minutes. It could be the 10 minutes before your favourite TV programme starts or even the 3 minute ad breaks during X factor. If you keep your key facts notebook with you can give it a quick look or try a couple of questions.

**Y is for yellow.** Take a leaf out of top sports men and women's book by making use of this potassium rich performance enhancer. When you feel yourself needing a lift don't go for the sugary sweets but reach for and unzip the power of a banana.

**Z is for zone.** Make areas of the house where you spend your time work for you. Areas such as bathrooms, staircases, even fridge doors, are ideal places to place post-it notes with key facts or small pieces of information. When you visit these places take a few seconds to read the notes, you will find that this quickly adds up to many minutes per day, and you have barely changed your routine.

# Helpful revision sites

If your child is experiencing problems with their homework it is often useful to research the problem on the internet. Below are a list of useful sites that they might try:

General / multi subject revision sites;

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcse/gcsebitesize/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcse/gcsebitesize/)

[www.learn.co.uk](http://www.learn.co.uk)

[www.studyzones.com](http://www.studyzones.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/sosteacher](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sosteacher)

Biology

[www.gcsewise.com](http://www.gcsewise.com)

[www.purchon.com/biology/index.htm](http://www.purchon.com/biology/index.htm)

Chemistry

[www.gcsewise.com](http://www.gcsewise.com)

[www.users.senet.com.au/rowanb/chem/](http://www.users.senet.com.au/rowanb/chem/)

English

[www.gcsewise.com](http://www.gcsewise.com)

[www.novelguide.com](http://www.novelguide.com)

[www.sparknotes.com/lit/.dir/](http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/.dir/)

ICT

[www.ictgcse.org.uk](http://www.ictgcse.org.uk)

Maths

[www.gcse.com/](http://www.gcse.com/)

[www.mathsnetgcse.com](http://www.mathsnetgcse.com)

[www.mathslessons.co.uk](http://www.mathslessons.co.uk)

[www.gcsewise.com](http://www.gcsewise.com)

[www.gcseguide.co.uk](http://www.gcseguide.co.uk)

Physics

[www.gcse.com/](http://www.gcse.com/)

Languages

[www.bonjour.org.uk](http://www.bonjour.org.uk)

[www.frenchrevision.co.uk](http://www.frenchrevision.co.uk)

History

[www.schoolhistory.co.uk](http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk)

[www.schoolhistory.org.uk](http://www.schoolhistory.org.uk)

[www.activehistory.co.uk](http://www.activehistory.co.uk)