



GCSE Support and Guidance: Revision and Examinations

25th September 2025



The GCSE Years!

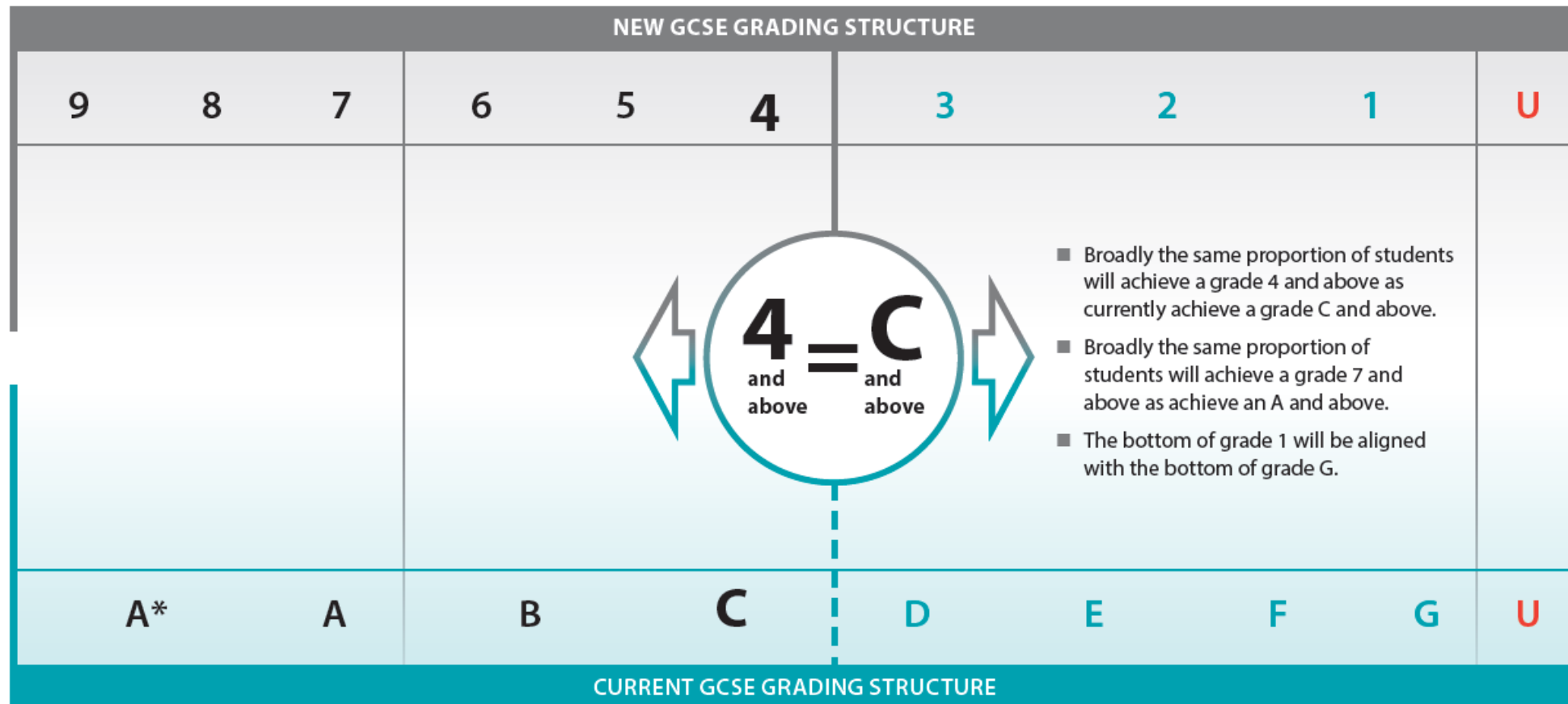
- REAL Exams – all at the end of year 11!
- Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework)

What can WE do to help ensure success?



THE NEW GCSEs

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017





Ofqual Guidance

- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above – referred to as a '**Standard Pass**'
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above
- For each examination, approximately the top 20 per cent of those who get grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest performers
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current Grade C and bottom third of the marks for a current Grade B – referred to as a '**Strong Pass**'



Criteria for Success

- High aspirations
- Setting challenging but achievable targets
- Good habits & routines
- Work ethic
- **INDEPENDENT LEARNING**
- Emphasis on quality
- Active revision



Effort Grades

Effort comments are as follows:

1. Exceptional levels of effort.
2. Good levels of effort.
3. Can work well, but **sometimes** not to his full potential.
4. Inconsistent levels of effort - often lacks enthusiasm and commitment.
5. Makes little or no effort



Attendance

- There is a direct correlation between attendance and success.
- Students attendance should not fall below 95%.
- In the GCSE years this is more important than ever.



Link between absence and attainment

- **Higher attainment at KS4 is linked to lower absence rates.**
- Pupils who **did not achieve grades 9–4** in English and math's GCSEs had an **8.8% absence rate. 17-19 days**
- Pupils who **achieved grade 4** had a **5.2% absence rate. 10 days**
- Pupils who **achieved grades 9–5** had the **lowest absence rate at 3.7%. 7 days**



Supporting Together – Key Dates

- Progress Grades reported three times a year – November, January and June
- May - effort grades are reported only.
- Progress Grade Reviews-in school
- Year 10 exams – WB 9th & 16th March
- Year 10 Parents Evening – Wednesday 11th February



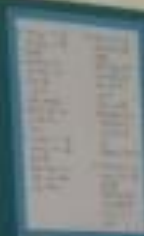
Common **features** of the most **successful** students...

- Avoiding 'That will do!' – An ethic of excellence.

EXCELLENT

WORK IN

MATHS



Straight lines with a ruler

High quality diagrams

Table of values

Title

Final solution clear

Key Points

Calculations

Date & Title

Work neatly set out

Step by step method

Question indicated

Labelled



Common **features** of the most **successful** students...

- Good attendance
- Homework
- Progress grades – areas to improve upon?
- Plan time carefully
- Things to look forward to
- Reviewing information and ideas – **start early**



GCSE **assessment** approach....

- Exams at the end of Year 11.
- NEA (non examined assessment) – coursework element.
- Consistently high standards needed.
- Strategies that allow students to remember and apply a large body of material effectively...



To succeed at GCSE

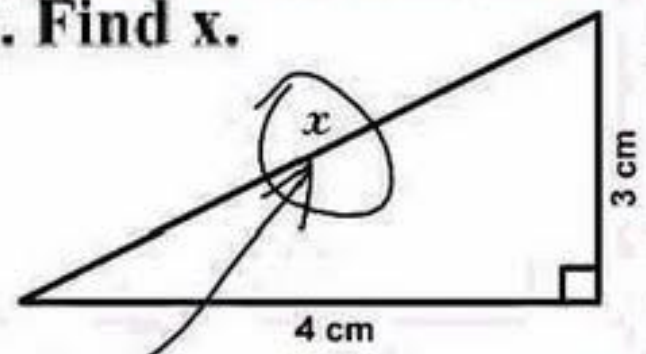
Students need to learn how to
be effective independent
learners.



We are trying to avoid...



3. Find x .



Here it is



Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom.



PETER

1.21

4c) Expand

~~$x^3 + x - 2$~~

$$(a+b)^n$$

Very funny, Peter.

$$= (a + b)^n$$

2 ?

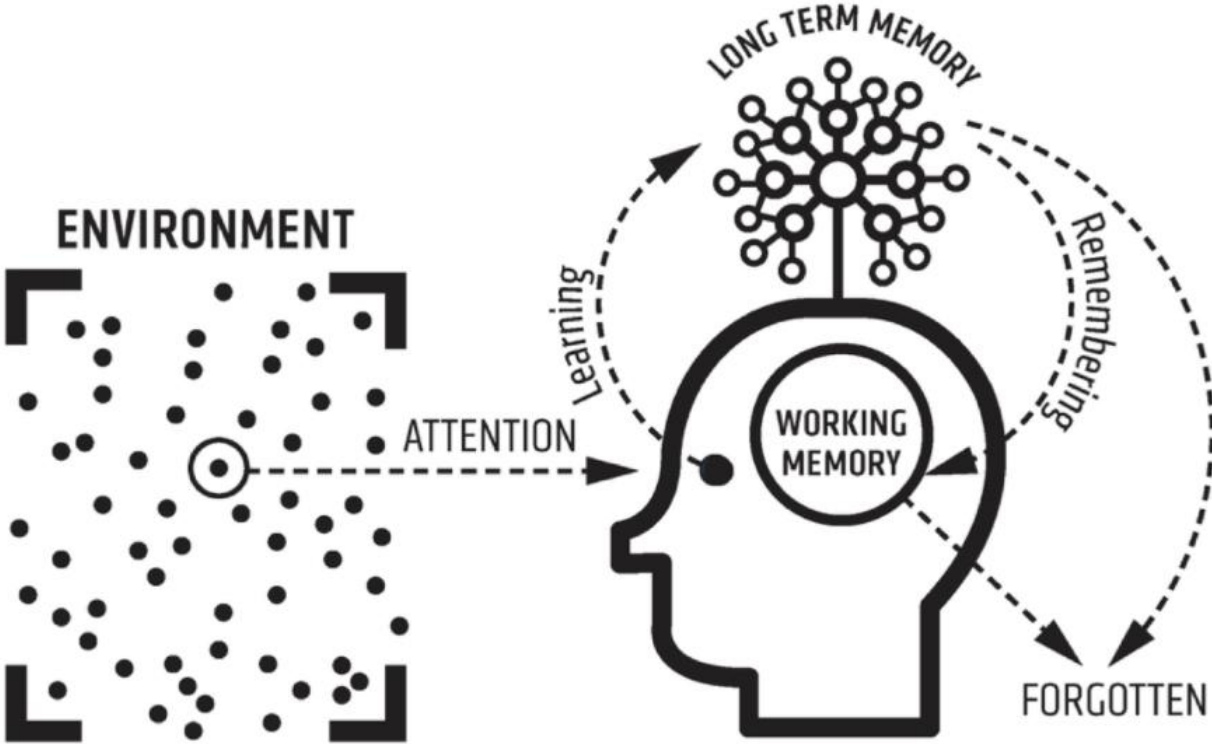
$$= (a + b)^n$$

$$= (a + b)^n$$

~~X~~

etc...

How does learning happen?





Key elements of effective learning



Paying attention in lessons



Completing all class and homework



Responding to assessment feedback



Revising and reviewing work regularly



We will look at...

- Why you should revise
- Where you should revise
- When you should revise
- Top tips for how you can revise effectively.



Why should you revise and review?



Your brain forgets details of work that was done months ago.

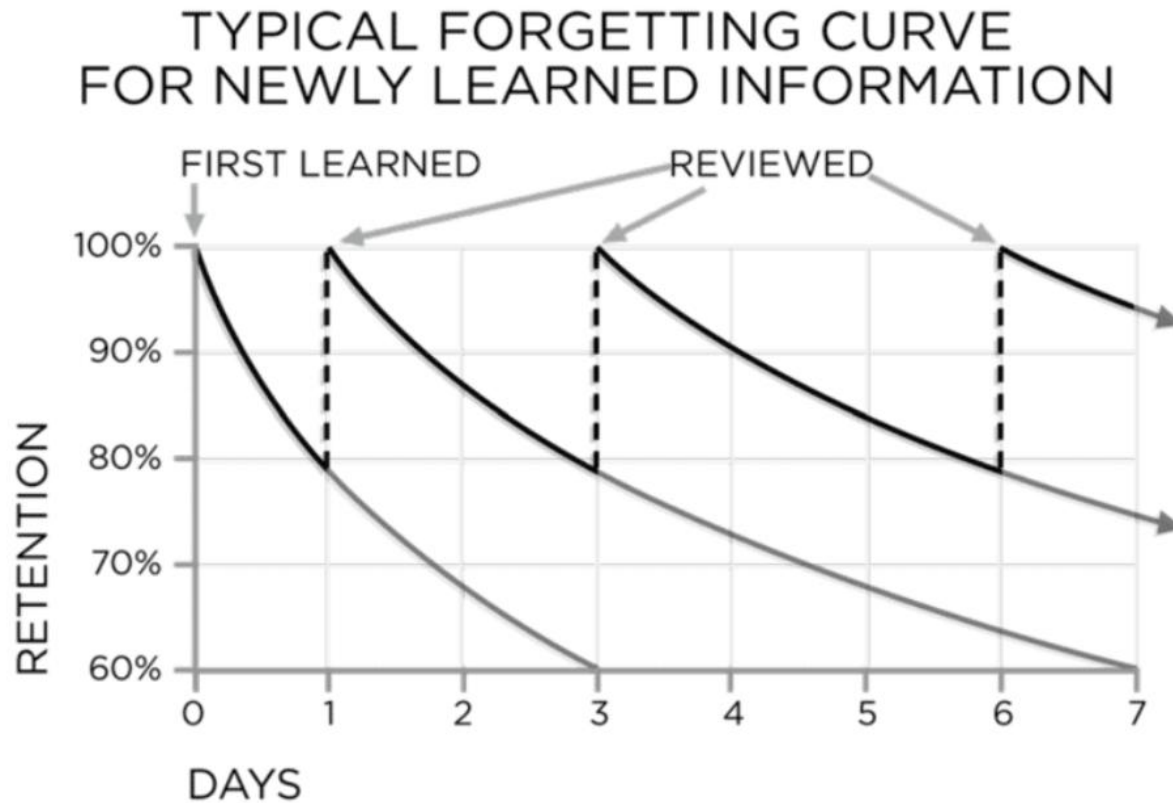


You need these details to tackle the requirements of the exam.



The more often you revisit and retrieve knowledge the easier it is to remember

Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve





Where to revise?



A quiet room away from distractions.....



Warm and well lit.



Close to organised revision notes, books
and folders – everything together.



Near a clock for timing. Phone away



When should you revise and review?



Early evening whilst your brain is not too tired.

30 minute slots then 10 minute break



During weekends/holidays/study leave when do you work best?

Divide the day into three parts and use two of these per day (timetabling)



Regularly



When's your "prime time"?

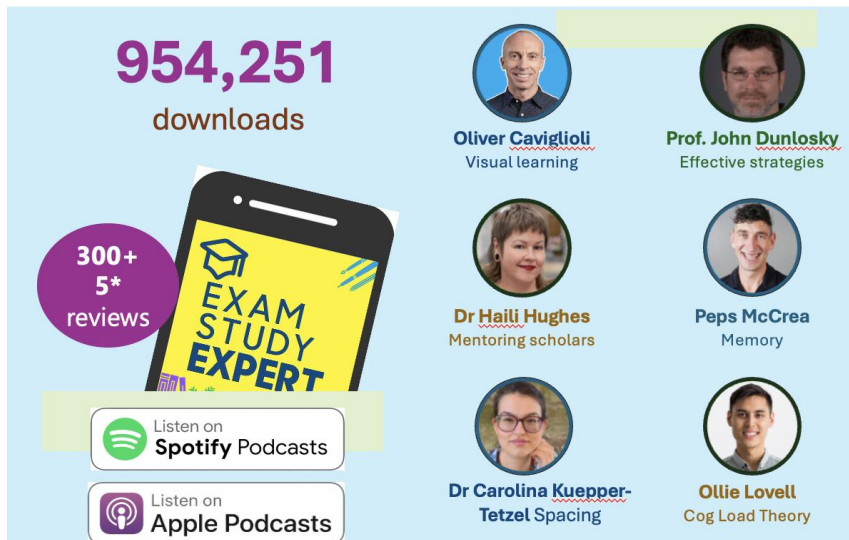
How much energy / concentration do you tend to have at different parts of the day?

- *3 stars = max energy / focus*
- *0 star = low energy focus*
- *Use the full scale – include at least one 3 and one 0 star!*



6-8am	☆	☆	☆
8-10am	☆	☆	☆
10-12pm	☆	☆	☆
12-2pm	☆	☆	☆
2-4pm	☆	☆	☆
4-6pm	☆	☆	☆
6-8pm	☆	☆	☆
8-10pm	☆	☆	☆

How should you revise and review?









954,251
downloads

300+
5*
reviews

EXAM STUDY EXPERT

Listen on **Spotify** Podcasts

Listen on **Apple** Podcasts

 Oliver Caviglioli Visual learning	 Prof. John Dunlosky Effective strategies
 Dr Haili Hughes Mentoring scholars	 Peps McCre Memory
 Dr Carolina Kuepper-Tetzel Spacing	 Ollie Lovell Cog Load Theory

<https://examstudyexpert.com>

50,000
students surveyed



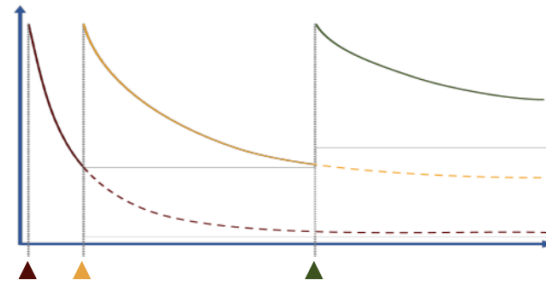
As featured by:



2 keys to revising effectively



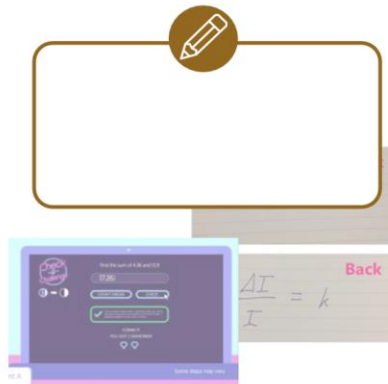
Quizzing yourself – training memory by practising recalling



Re-testing yourself multiple times, at time intervals



Three effective study techniques



1. Flashcards: quizzing point-by-point

Flashcards (paper or digital)

Pair testing



2. Brain dump: recall whole topic / area at a time

Brain dump / mind map from memory

Look / cover / write / check



3. Practice questions

Textbook / revision guide questions

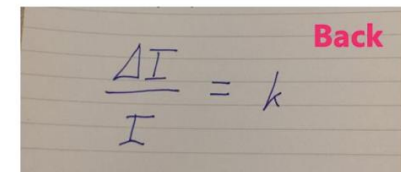
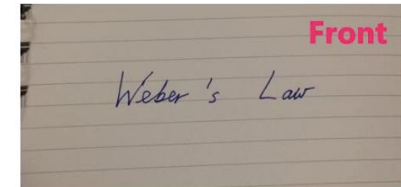
Full past papers



Flashcards

Flashcards

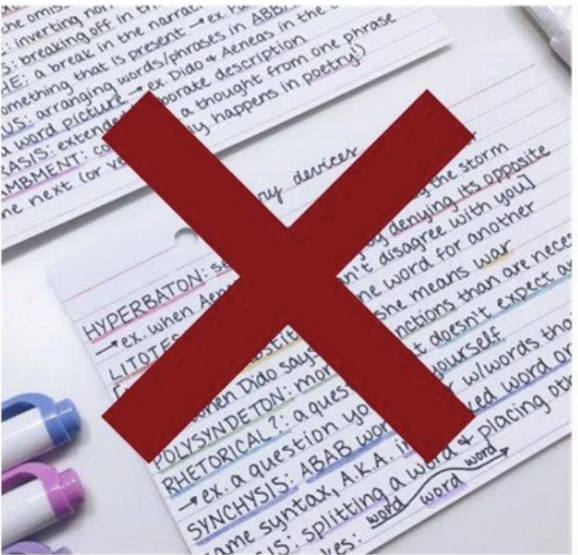
- **Question on front / answer on back**
- **Break it up:** one point per card. Lots of cards, few words on each.
- **Re-test the ones you got wrong** – maybe turn a corner over to remind yourself to re-test a card
- **Don't flip early** – persevere, be patient!



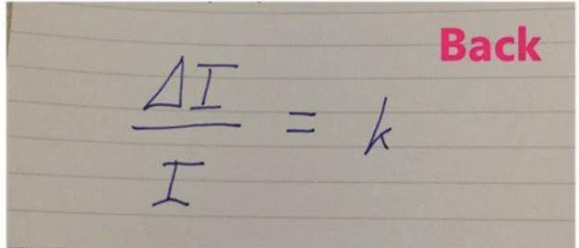
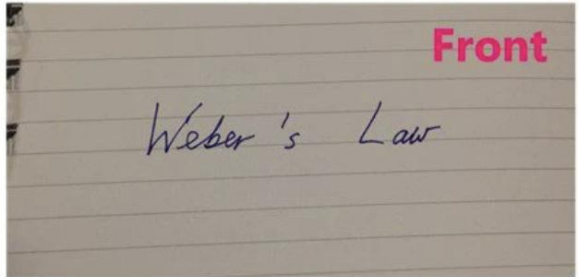


Flashcards: Technique Matters

Aaargh! Don't Write This Much On Flashcards!



This Is Much Better 😊



[ExamStudyExpert.com/how-to-study-effectively](https://www.ExamStudyExpert.com/how-to-study-effectively)

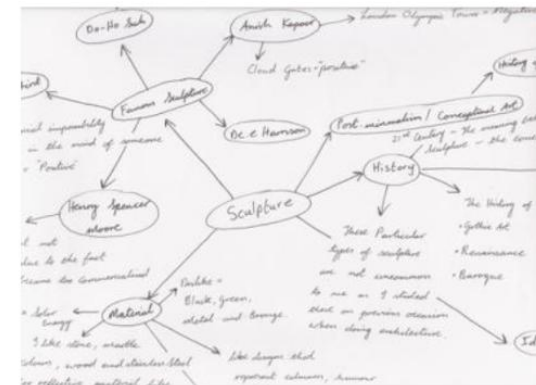




Brain Dump/Blurting

Brain dump:

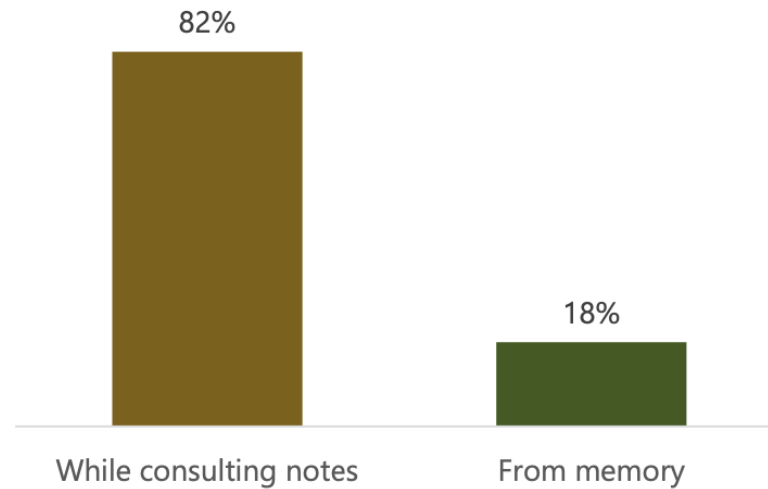
- **Writing out what you remember about a topic**
- **Persevere** – stretch your memory, what else can you remember?
- **Check, and amend in a different colour pen**
- **Throw it away, repeat 😊**





Research at Carre's shows

When you revise with mindmaps / spider diagrams, how do you usually draw them initially?





Practice Questions

Practice papers:

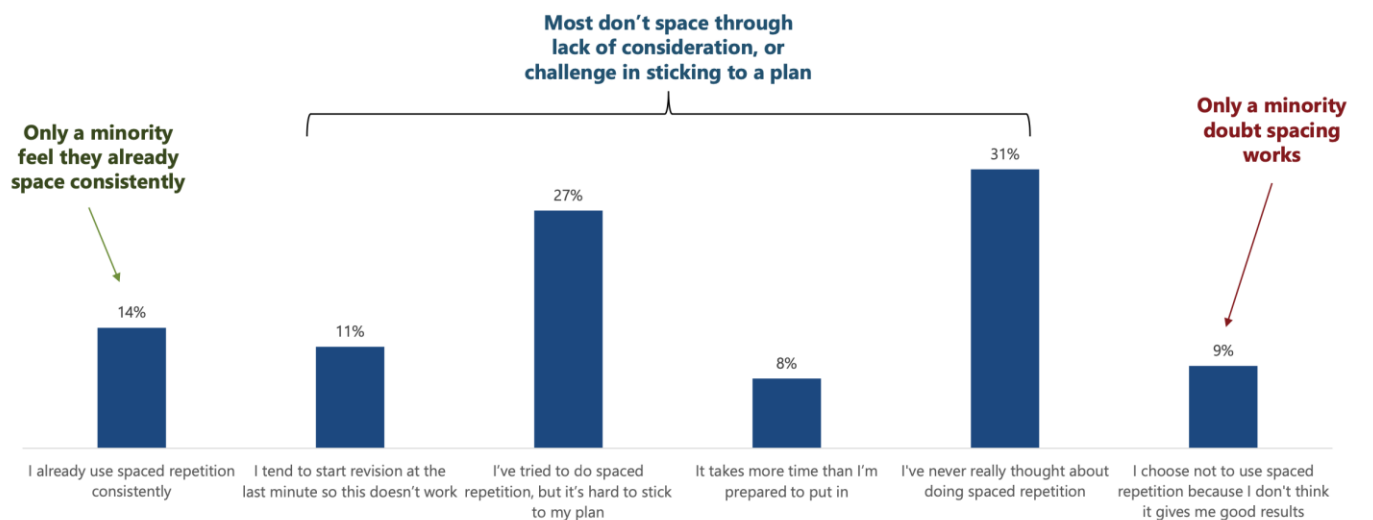
- **Try full, timed, closed-book papers before you “feel ready”** – have a go!
- **Study your corrections** well – learn what the examiners want
- Practice being **“greedy for marks”**

OCR	
Mock Paper 1	
GCSE (9-1) Computer Science	
J276/01 Computer Systems	
Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes	
First name	<input type="text"/>
Last name	<input type="text"/>
Centre number	<input type="text"/>
Candidate number	<input type="text"/>
INSTRUCTIONS	
• Answer all the questions clearly using black ink.	



Spaced Practice: Results from Carre's

Students find spacing challenging for a range reasons





Putting 'Spacing' into practice

5 mins at start of next study session

Weekly recap session – everything from that week

(YESTERDAY)

TONIGHT

Time after that

4.00
4.05
4.10
4.15
4.20
4.25
4.30
4.35

Maths practice problems



Make Biology flashcards



History



Resources to help

The screenshot shows the Save My Exams website homepage. At the top left is the Save My Exams logo with a lightning bolt icon. To its right are navigation links: "Start studying" with a dropdown arrow, "Study tools" with a dropdown arrow, a search bar containing "Search for a subject" with a magnifying glass icon, a "Login" link, and a blue "Join now for free" button. Below the navigation is a light blue banner with a "Trusted by 2m+ users" badge (four green stars). The main headline reads "Start your school year strong with exam-specific revision", with "exam-specific" underlined. Below the headline is the text "Real expertise. Real results. On average, our resources help students go up 2 grades." and two buttons: "Join now for free" (blue) and "I'm a teacher" (light blue). The section "Why it works" features three numbered steps: 1. "Revise only what you need to" (with an illustration of a student reading), 2. "Test yourself and check progress" (with an illustration of a student at a laptop), and 3. "Improve answer by answer" (with an illustration of a student holding a stack of papers). A small blue circular icon is visible at the bottom right of the "Why it works" section.

Save My Exams Start studying ▾ Study tools ▾ Search for a subject 🔍 Login Join now for free

★★★★★ Trusted by 2m+ users

Start your school year strong with exam-specific revision

Real expertise. Real results. On average, our resources help students go up 2 grades.

Join now for free I'm a teacher

Why it works

- 1 Revise**
only what you need to
- 2 Test yourself**
and check progress
- 3 Improve**
answer by answer



PHYSICS & MATHS TUTOR

HOME

REVISION COURSES

PAST PAPERS

GCSE / IGCSE

FIND A TUTOR

A-LEVEL

UNI ADMISSIONS

SHOP

TEACHERS' AREA

CONTACT

Find a Tutor

Find an online or in-person tutor

Revision Courses

Courses for GCSEs, A-levels and University Admissions

Revision

Revision notes, key points, worksheets and questions by topic from past papers

Maths | Physics

Biology | Chemistry

Economics | Geography

Solution Banks

Solution Banks for A-level Maths

PMT Education Blog

PMT Education's advice blogs for students, parents and teachers.

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com>



GetRevising
learn together

Try 'The Cold War' or 'DNA'



Join

Log in

Create

GCSE

A Level & IB

University

Study planner

Past papers

For teachers

Supercharge your revision with a tutor

Why not try the new era of learning with the Get Revising AI Tutor Bot.

AI tutors are ideal for exam preparation, they offer personalized, on-demand learning with instant feedback.

Start Learning Now!



Reach your target grades

Smart revision tools proven to boost your grades

Get started >

<https://getrevising.co.uk>



Other online resources

- Memrise
- Quizlet
- Seneca Learning
- Corbett Maths
- DrFrostMaths
- Free Science lessons (YouTube)
- Maths Genie
- BBC Bitesize
- Quizlet
- DuoLingo
- Mr Bruff (YouTube)



If your son is under-achieving:

- Ideally, he should know what he needs to do to improve
- Is independent learning or class work incomplete or to a poor standard?
- Is quality of factual support in answers too brief?
- Is lack of organisation a factor?
- Time wasting in class?



Intervention

- Subject underachievement is dealt with by the Heads of Subject (in a range of ways)

BUT if your son is under-achieving in a number of subject areas, there are a range of options open to us:

- Report
- Meeting with parents
- If your son is underachieving across the board, he may enter a **MENTOR PROGRAMME**
- The mentor may be the Form Tutor, a Learning Support Assistant, Head of Year, Pastoral Leader or member of the Senior Team



Pam Clapham Learning Mentor



Mental Health First Aider
MHFA England



What's important at this time?

Getting organised

Mrs Wilson has discussed this

Self care

Being resilient

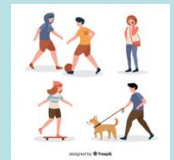


Self care

Is about finding a balance, they do not need to be consumed by schoolwork and revision, We need to encourage pupils to take care of themselves and getting ahead of the stress which may lead to anxiety! If they can find this work life balance in year 10 then hopefully this will make year 11 easier.

Things to consider:

- Eat well
- Drink lots of water
- Get enough sleep
- Find activities to help relax
 - Schedule time to work and schedule time to unwind and socialise
 - Break down work/revision into manageable chunks – have a plan





Let's talk about Anxiety

Anxiety is a very broad term, covering a wide range of different symptoms.

Anxiety at this time can be displayed through:

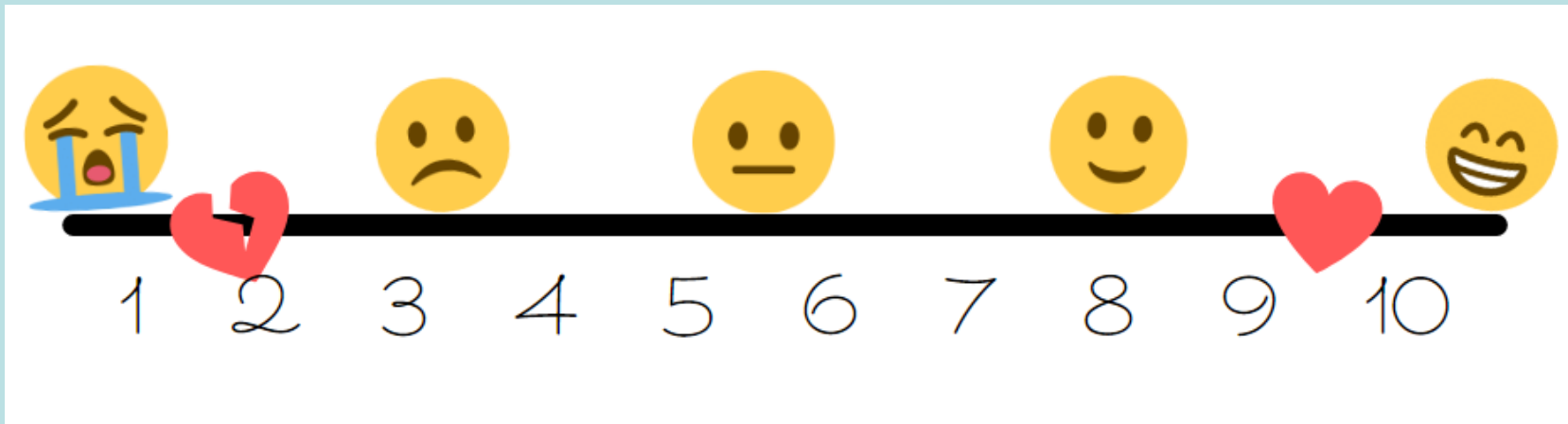
- Fatigue
 - Inability to relax
 - Fear of making mistakes
 - Disturbed sleep
 - Excessive worrying/panic
 - Emotional/mood swings



Remember everyone experiences stress & anxiety differently and on different levels. You know your child if you have concerns talk to your GP or school.



Let's have a check in? How are you, today?





Dare to share?

Consider.....

As an adult, how do you experience stress or anxiety?

What do you do to combat these?

Remind them that stress if short-lived can makes us more alert and helps us perform better in certain situations. If prolonged it can change to anxiety





Consider.....

As 15/16-year-olds, how do they display anxiety?

(*Thinking of the previous list*)

How do they tackle it.?

Do they have healthy coping mechanisms?

Ask them!





8 Suggestion That May Help



Connect with people



Speak to an adult (parent, teacher or someone you trust)



Get creative!



Keep Active



Set up a daily routine



Good Sleep habits



Eat Healthy & Regularly



Relaxation/ Meditation



Being resilient

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT ALWAYS FRAGILE...



Many of our children can be likened to springs or balls and can 'bounce back'/learn to be resilient



Sources of Information and Support



stem4
education
supporting teenage mental health

kooth

Best for
you

NHS

CALM HARM

CLEAR FEAR

WORTH WARRIOR

COMBINED MINDS

MOVE MOOD

every mind
matters

Discover simple
steps to look after
your mental health

NHS

Search every mind matters

YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

GetRevising
learn together

Teen
Sleep
Hub

SMILING
MIND



Remember.....



**Your GCSEs will fly
by...**

