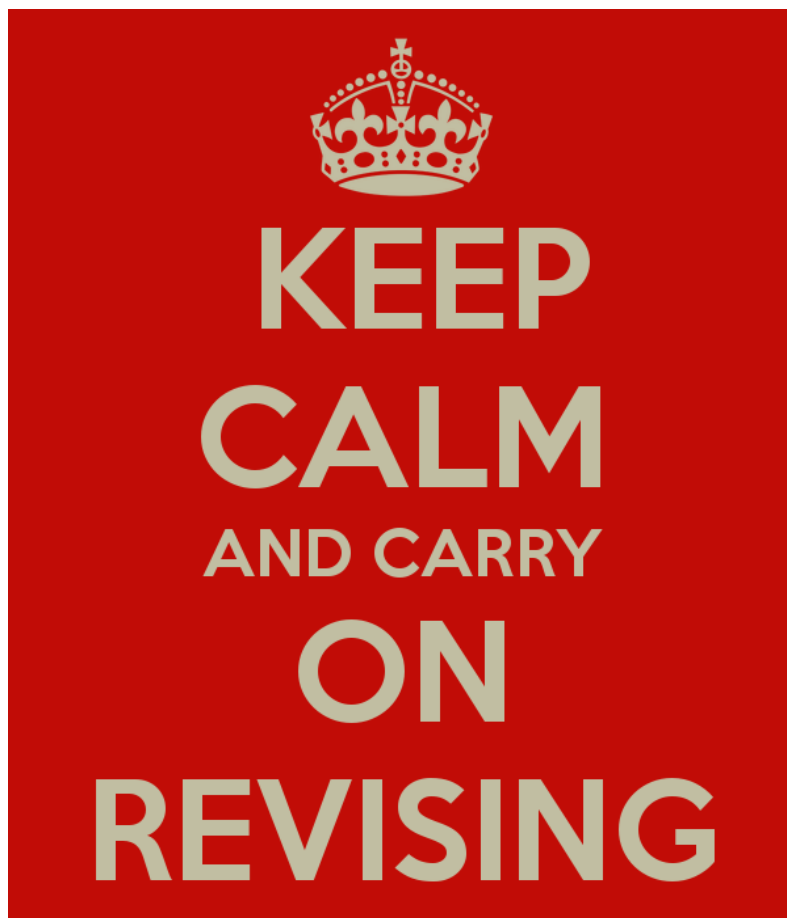


GCSE Student Revision Guide



REVISION!

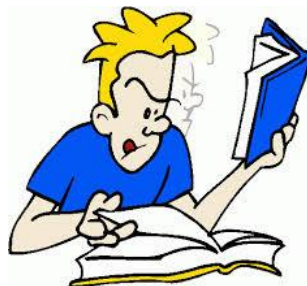
Nobody likes revising: it is boring! But, see it as a challenge and then look forward to the rewards of the long summer holiday and a really exciting Results Day in August when you can celebrate your success, proving that all the hard work was worth it.

The key to successful revision: *Plan, Understand, Revise, Test*



1. Planning your revision

- Find a **quiet** and **well lit** place to work which isn't too warm (you'll fall asleep!) and make it your own: put up your revision timetable, sort out your (quiet) music if music helps you, make sure you are comfortable and have all you need to hand: text books, exercise books, handouts, pens, paper, drinking water. Turn off the X-Box! If you cannot find such a place at home, the School Library is available for after school study every evening except Fridays
- Make sure you have **all** the notes for every subject – make subject piles on the floor. If there are gaps in your notes or you have lost an exercise book/handout use text books (or ask your teacher) to plug that gap – remember: any part of the syllabus can be questioned in the exam so you need to cover everything in your revision.
- Make sure you know what you are going to be tested on in every subject. Teachers are your best resource. You can get the syllabus (called the 'specification') off the exam websites.



- Turn each specification into a simple plan. Adjust for each subject-
For Example:

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY				
Topic	Sub-topics	Under-stand	Case Study (name it)	Need to ask for help
Water on the Land	Erosion and Transport processes	✓	n/a	
	Long and cross profile changes			✓
	Waterfalls	✓	High Force on the R Tees	
	Meanders, flood plains and ox bow lakes	✓	Ox bow lake at Yarn on the R Tees	
	Levees	✓		

- Plan your revision schedule – see the revision timetable booklet. But remember, if you fall behind at anytime it is not the end of the world. Readjust your plans and move on – there is always time if you start your revision sufficiently early.
- **Weekends:** Divide Saturday and Sunday into three 2 hour sessions (morning, afternoon and evening) and attempt to do a minimum of two session’s revision. You may want to plan so that you take a full day off (but only if you have been keeping up with your evening sessions!)



- Try to get into the habit of doing the same each day. Cover all your subjects in strict rotation and don't avoid the subjects or topics that you find the most difficult.

2. Make sure you understand the topic

'If you don't get it' learning takes forever' So, spend time checking that you fully understand your work especially the difficult bit

3. Revise!

This means start remembering it!

We are all different and learn and revise in different ways. The biggest mistake that students make is to think that revision means sitting down with a text book or notes and reading them through believing that all the information will be retained in their brains. Scientists have shown that we retain less than 10% of information this way. However, by writing things down we retain about 80% of the information – the answer is to **take notes!**

Here is one approach you might want to use. If you follow this simple 3-step plan for each sub-topic you will soon find you know so much of your work. Don't rush through without thinking about what you are learning and when you get to difficult bits work very slowly and carefully

a. Simplify

How	Why?
Take your sub-topic and put it into fewer words and/or draw simplified diagrams with clear labels. Revision cards will really help. Don't just copy it out. Underline key words and use numbered points for organising the information. Build up a glossary of key words.	It makes you read through the sub-topic in detail so you can decide how to simplify it. Once completed test yourself on the key words and ideas



b. Reduce into a memory prompt

How	Why?
Reduce the simplified sub-topic into a smaller wad of info such as key words. Spider diagrams really help here.(look in back of pack for an example) You may want to work out memorable sentences using the first letter strategy eg CASH for river erosion (Corrasion, Attrition, Solution, Hydraulic action)	Going over what you have done reinforces the memories in your head. Be actively thinking about how to reduce it so that you make strong memories quickly. Once completed use your prompt to recall out loud as much detail of the sub topic as you can and then go back to your notes and read out anything you missed

c. Explode

How	Why?
Find a big piece of paper. Write the topic in the centre of the page, draw one branch for each sub-topic. Without using notes draw out the different sub-topic prompts you have made. Use pictures if these help you learn. Use arrows to connect ideas	Drawing this out makes you go over every sub-topic again and also gives you an overview of the whole topic. At the end you will have one subject on a piece of paper and the topic won't seem as scary or as stressful as you may have first believed.

d. Test

You've probably noticed that you have been testing yourself all the way through your revision but this is different. Test yourself with past exam papers and work books. Teachers will have provided you with past papers and many teachers will have placed papers on Fronter (often with mark schemes). Keep testing yourself to find out which areas you're weakest at. Go over these notes again.



Tips and ideas of ways to make revision more fun

1. Use your Post-its. Write key subject words, language words, dates (History) or quotations on the post-its and stick them on objects around the house. Every time you see the post-it, explain what the word means.
2. Get used to using Spider Diagrams
3. Revise with a friend
4. Practice past questions using past papers. As well as getting these off Fronter you can go to the Exam Board websites
www.aqa.org.uk
www.edexcel.com
www.ocr.org.uk
5. Put your '**exploded**' revision map on your bedroom wall
6. Use Revision cards - there are always more in Mrs Plater's office. Hold them together with a treasury tag.
7. Use Fronter. Most departments have revision notes for students to use. There are also other revision websites you could use including BBC Bitesize but beware! These sites are for all students covering different syllabus' and may not be very detailed in the area you need to learn. Much better to stick to your own exercise books and text books even if using them seems more tedious
8. Use your iPod or iPhone to record yourself and play these notes back as you go for a walk.

Remember: there is no right way to revise. You need to find what works for you; writing, drawing, talking outloud. But whatever you do, don't take the lazy option of staring at a book! Don't leave revision to the last minute – start now. In this way not only will you be very well prepared for the exam but you will also feel much more confident in yourself. Remember to talk to your teachers – they are always willing to give advice and help. Finally, don't forget to break up your revision with exercise, lots of good meals, some social time and lots of sleep. In this way you will be fully prepared for exams.



Spider diagram to show all the key terms in the Water on the Land Module (Geography GCSE)

