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# **Year 9**

# **Revision Guide**

# **2017**

## Introduction

Dear Pupils

This booklet is designed to provide you with useful revision information to help you prepare for the exams you will be taking in February (20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>). It will also give you a good foundation for when you are revising for future exams including your Year 10 mocks, Year 11 mocks and, eventually, your GCSEs.

Inside you will find hints and tips for how to revise and how to choose the revision style that most suits you.

When you take your exams in February you will gain plenty of useful experience of exam routines such as getting organised, what it's like to go into an exam hall, getting your exam number and what equipment you will need to bring with you.

This booklet is intended to complement the individual revision materials and lessons that your teachers have prepared for you.

Please remember that the best way for you to prepare for exams is to listen to the advice of your subject teachers, work hard during lessons and complete all homework set.

If you have any questions or need any help do please ask your teachers, your form tutor, Miss Williams or myself.

**Lisa Shepherd**

**Head of Year 9**

## General Revision Tips

### Prepare Your Study Space

It will really help if you give yourself a dedicated area for your studying – a place where you can concentrate and where you won't be interrupted by other people, distracted by noise from the TV or be tempted to play games on your phone.

Try to keep your space organised so you can easily get to your books, PC, equipment and revision notes. If you can then it's really helpful to sit at a proper desk or at a table. Don't try to revise in bed – you'll be drifting off to sleep before you know it!

Get yourself some drinks and snacks so that you don't make excuses to stop every 10 minutes.

### Eat Well

It's important that you have a good breakfast and lunch so that you have energy throughout the day and are not too tired to revise in the evening.

### Do Your Homework

Homework is more important now than ever. Teachers will often set you tasks that are linked to revision so it is essential that you complete it to the best of your ability. Make use of the many homework and revision clubs that are available at the school. You can find details from your subject teachers and on the school website here <http://www.st-pauls.org.uk/extra-curricular/clubs-and-after-school-activities>

### Plan Your Revision

Using your planner and your timetable write down all the subjects you study. Be completely truthful and write down how you feel about each subject – are you happy about it or are you worried about any aspects of it? If you're not sure about a subject take a look at your most recent progress check (your parents should have a copy) to see what your targets are and your current working grade. This will help you to focus your revision as you will be able to identify the subjects you are struggling with and, therefore, might need to allocate more revision time to.

Subject	How do I feel about this subject? Happy/worried etc.
English	<i>I'm happy with English generally but I need to be able to remember some more key quotes from Macbeth.</i>

*Modern Foreign Languages*

*My French vocabulary is quite good but I need to be able to construct sentences better.*

You can then create a **revision timetable** so that you can allocate your time effectively. If you're able to plan your social life (shopping, sports, computer games etc) then you should be able to plan your academic life too. It's a good thing to develop a routine because it helps you to stay on track. Some people work best first thing in the morning; others take a while to get started and work best later in the evening. You need to decide when you work best and how much you are going to work on the weekends. A revision timetable might look like this:

Day	Early AM	Later AM	Early PM	Later PM	Early Eve	Later Eve
Monday 10th	English Language & Literature GCSE (1)		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (1)		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (2)	Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (2)
Tuesday 17th		Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (3)	Revision for Mathematics GCSE (1)		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (2)	Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (2)
Wednesday 18th	Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (2)	Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (2)	English Language & Literature GCSE (2)		Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (3)	Revision for Mathematics GCSE (1)
Thursday 19th		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (2)	Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (3)		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (1)	Revision for Geography GCSE (1)
Friday 20th	Revision for Mathematics GCSE (2)		Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (3)	Revision for Mathematics GCSE (1)	Sally's Party	Revision for Geography GCSE (1)
Saturday 21st		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (2)	Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (3)		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (1)	Revision for Geography GCSE (1)
Sunday 22nd		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (2)	Revision for English Language & Literature GCSE (3)		Revision for Mathematics GCSE (1)	Revision for Geography GCSE (1)

Remember that on Mondays you have 30 minutes (during PSHE time) that you can use for revision.

Be sure to include some leisure time in your revision timetable. It's really important that you set aside time to do the things you enjoy and have the opportunity to relax.

### Identify Your Learning Style

There are three main types of learners:

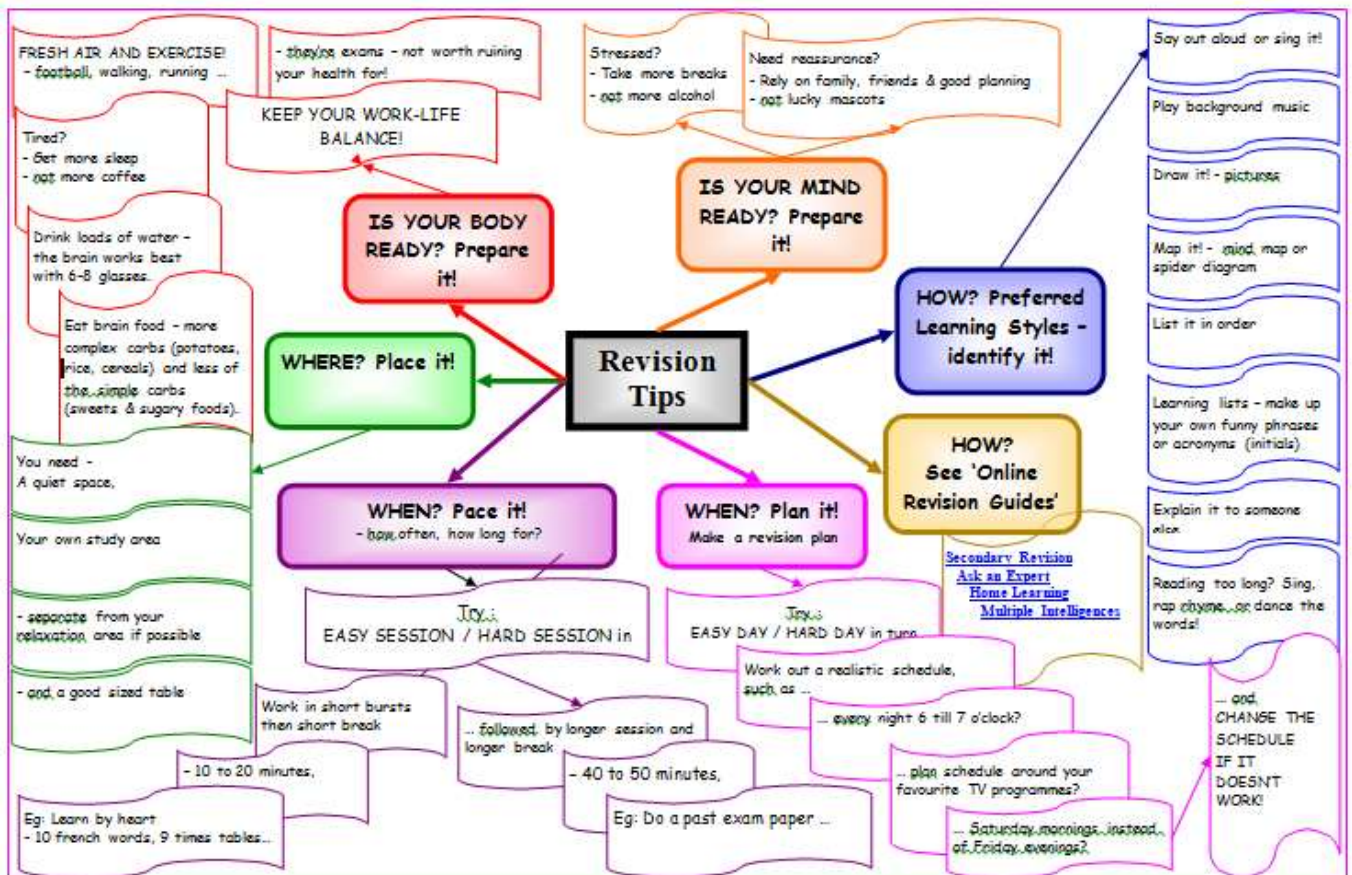
**Visual:** seeing and reading. Learn via: pictures, diagrams, demonstrations, displays, handouts, films, flip-charts.

**Auditory:** listening and speaking. Learn via: speaking to others, hearing others talk, sounds, noises, making songs, recordings.

**Kinaesthetic:** touching and doing. Learn via: touching, feeling, holding, doing, practical hands-on experiences.

You may have a preferred style or have a combination. Learning works best when you combine styles – that’s why we try to do an array of activities in lessons at St Paul’s.

### Revision Flow Chart



### Personalise Your Revision

Whilst revision guides can be useful, the more you personalise your revision the more effective it will be, so the notes you make are the best. The process of making the notes is part of your revision and once you “own” the work it is easier to remember.

## Popular Revision Techniques

### Chunking

This is breaking up a big piece of information into smaller chunks. It can be used for numbers and words. Often pupils use bullet points to break up information. For example, look at this sentence:

*“The average person can take in four numbers or words at a time, can concentrate on revision for a maximum of 45 minutes at a time and remembers information best shortly before bedtime.”*

When chunked this looks like:

- Remember four words/numbers at a time
- Revision max 45 minutes
- Remember best before bedtime

### Mnemonics

Mnemonics help you to remember by using short words that stand for something to help you. For example, a mnemonic for revision is:

**Rest**

**Exercise**

**Variety**

**Imagination**

**Structure**

**Individual**

**Ongoing**

**Not too long**

### Mind Maps

Mind maps, also called spidergrams, are good for remembering topics and sub-topics, such as characters in a book. Imagine a mind map is like a giant spider's web with all the ideas around it. The spider (or main idea) is in the middle and everything is around it. The most important ideas are in the middle and the sub-topics go out further and further.

## **Quizzes**

Use your revision notes to help you create a quiz. Put the quiz away, revise the content and then the next day test yourself and mark it yourself.

## **By Rote**

Learning by rote is simply reading the text over and over until you remember it. This is the most basic kind of revision, but without the help of other techniques may not be very effective (and can be very boring). There are a few students with excellent auditory memories who can learn effectively this way.

## **A3 to Flashcard**

Day 1: Start with an A3 sheet of paper and write all of your notes in-depth.

Day 2: Reread over your notes and try to reduce them to fit onto an A4 sheet.

Day 3: Reread over your notes and try to reduce them to fit onto an A5 sheet.

Day 4: Reread over your notes and try to reduce them to fit onto an A6 sheet.

It should get to a point where a sentence or phrase will 'trigger' information linked to it.

There are many more revision techniques – please ask your subject teachers and make use of the resources they give you in lessons.

## **Subject Specific Year 9 Revision Advice**

### **English**

Your exam will be on the topic of Macbeth. You will need to be able to describe his character and write an essay. You should be able to remember key quotes from the text. Your tutor has a PPT that you can ask them to put up on Monday mornings so that you can work through the key areas.

### **Maths**

Draw up a revision timetable that covers the topics you need for your exam. Make sure that you have the mathematical equipment you need and practise using it. Always complete homework tasks that are set as these will often be revision based. Use additional interactive resources including Mathsbot.com and corbettmaths.com. The more you do it the better you will become.

### **Science**

Look at the revision display in the Science foyer in H block. It has lots of advice on how best to revise Science. You have already started your GCSE course and are following the OCR Gateway 9-1 course. Make sure any revision books purchased are specifically for this exam board. Use the exam board specification as a checklist of what to revise.

### **Art**

Due to the nature of the exam it is very difficult to revise for. In year 9 it tends to be a timed drawing test, related to your current project. You will be fully prepared in your Art lessons.

### **Computer Science**

As this is an option subject for year 10 you will not complete a year 9 exam in this subject.

### **Design Technology**

If you don't revise you will not do well in your exam. It is therefore very important that you undertake revision including flash cards, posters, mind maps and quizzes with friends for example. Revise for short periods, for example 30 minutes, then take a break and go back to it. This is better than revising for hours and forgetting most of it. In lessons you will have the opportunity to learn about exam technique and will go through exam questions with your teachers. Please use these opportunities and pay attention to the valuable advice.



## **Drama**

Your Drama teacher will give you specific revision advice during your lessons.

## **Geography**

In preparation for your exam you will go through different revision techniques - carrying some out in class, completing others for homework. Key terms are vital – command words and specialist concept words such as sustainability as well as subject specific words such as hydrograph.

## **History**

You will be taught during your lessons how to revise History, for example the use of mind maps. You will have guided revision in lessons with specific topics and your homework tasks will include revision tasks. It is very important that you not only look at the skills for success but, more than ever, you need accurate and precise historical knowledge to support your writing skills.

## **Modern Foreign Languages**

The main message for revision is **little and often**, with daily mini-tests. Twenty-minute bursts, where five new words or phrases are learnt each day, this is the best approach. Take opportunities to test yourself and your friends. Make use of 'dead' time such as when showering or when walking to school/the bus stop. Repeating the day's new words just before going to sleep is also very effective. Go back to the beginning of the vocab list at least once a day, so prior learning isn't forgotten. This is **critical!** Language **always** gets easier with practise, and most importantly, **repetition**.

## **Music**

Your Music teacher will give you specific revision advice during your lessons.

## **PE**

During lessons there will be some revision time where you will be able to revise using your preferred learning style, for example mind maps, revision cards, presentations and in some cases podcasts. The topics covered are Skeleton, Muscles, Movement analysis and Biomechanics.

## **RE**

Start early! There is a lot to revise and you should practice the skills of Explanation and Evaluation. You must ensure that you learn at least four key facts for each area and a piece

of evidence from the sources of wisdom and authority booklets. You will complete some revision in lessons and you will have revision sheets with key information to support your revision for the exam.

## Preparing For The Exam

### **One Week Before:**

Ensure that you have all of your equipment organised, i.e. pens, pencils, Maths set, calculator etc. This is the first set of exams where you will be treated as if you are a GCSE student. During GCSEs no equipment is given out so if you don't have a pen then that is your fault. The school reception has equipment should you need any but you will need to buy this.

### **One Day Before:**

Try not to stay up too late revising. You will be tired and this will affect your concentration and could affect your results. It's a good idea to turn off your phone before you go to bed so that you're not tempted to keep checking it.

### **On The Day Of The Exam:**

Make sure you have a good breakfast so that your energy levels are high. Water is really good to keep you hydrated but try not to drink so much that you have to keep visiting the toilet during a test! Exams are timed and you don't get extra time added on for toilet breaks!

Arrive in school on time so that you don't feel flustered or stressed when you go into your exam.

Remember to bring appropriate equipment, in a clear plastic pencil case, to each exam.

Get to your exam 15 minutes before it starts - your exams will mainly be in D block.

You will line up in the same place that you do for assembly.

You will be in alphabetical order by tutor group, standing silently.

You will be called individually into the exam hall.

## Dealing With Exam Stress:

It's normal to feel stressed around exam time but there are signs to look out for that show you might be getting too stressed. These include being irritable, not sleeping well, losing interest in food, worrying a lot and appearing depressed or negative. Headaches and stomach pains can also be stress-related.

If you are feeling stressed it's important that you talk to someone. This could be your parents, your friends, your tutor, Miss Williams, Mrs Shepherd or your teachers. Don't keep it to yourself - remember, we're here to help.

Make sure you're getting enough food, water and sleep and make sure that you take regular breaks from revising. Taking time out to do the things you enjoy will help you maintain a normal, active life – be sure to incorporate some “me” time into your revision plan.

Remember that stress is a temporary feeling and, when the exams are over, the feelings will go away.

There is some useful advice on dealing with exam stress on the following website links:

**NHS Choices** <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Examstress.aspx>

**Childline** <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/exam-stress/>

## Useful Revision Links:

You might find it useful to look at these videos on the links below:

Creating a revision plan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA-rJB1XVh0>

Techniques on how to revise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VL2EBmknPpg>

Creating a revision space <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghcjRzdkspE>

Preparing for an exam <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGj27zwJI3Q>

## Its Learning

There is a section on Its Learning called “Year 9 at St Pauls”, this has different links for revision and PowerPoints etc that you can use during school if you want to.