



 access GCSEPod

## GCSE Revision Pack

Use this revision pack to get organised and make the most of your time spent learning.

# Top Revision Tips

Don't let the stress of revision overwhelm you. Stay in control with these top tips.

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**1 START EARLY**  
Cramming at the last minute is stressful and has limited success.
- 

**2 MAKE A PLAN**  
Work out how much time you have and how long you can spend on each subject.
- 

**3 STUDY SPACE**  
Find a quiet spot away from distractions and keep everything all in one place.
- 

**4 MIX IT UP**  
Use a mixture of revision techniques for best results.
- 

**5 TAKE BREAKS**  
It is possible to work too hard, make sure you take regular breaks.
- 

**6 GET TOGETHER**  
Meet with friends to chat through what you have learnt.
- 

**7 USE PAST PAPERS**  
These are a great way to get used to exam format and testing what you have learnt.
- 

**8 EAT HEALTHY**  
Certain foods boost your brainpower and will help you remember more.

# Revision TimeTable



Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Notes for Tomorrow							

# TOP TIPS FOR STUDYING AT HOME

Here's 4 top tips to keep in mind when you are revising at home.

## STICK TO A ROUTINE

Agree on a structure with your parents that closely resembles a normal school day.

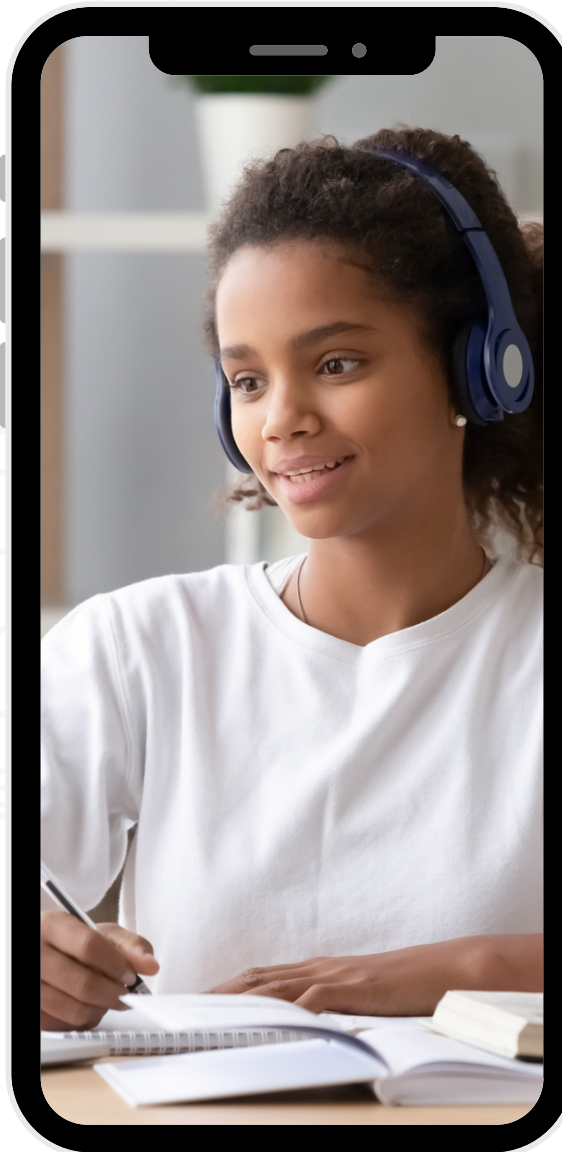
Consider making your daily timetable visible so everyone in the house is aware of your routine.

Schedule for breaks, lunch and snacks as well as physical exercise.

## STAY CONNECTED

When you aren't doing school work or revising, keep in contact with your friends.

Talk with your parents and teachers where possible to make sure you share your thoughts and feelings.



## CREATE A WORKSPACE

Assign a workspace in your house that will be used for your school work.

Make sure the space is clear and tidy with reliable WiFi. Keep distractions to a minimum.

## KEEP A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Prepare healthy lunches and snacks the night before so you have the maximum amount of time to relax during your breaks the next day.

Monitor your online activity so you don't find yourself spending too much time in front of a screen – take breaks involving fresh air and physical activity.

# Revision Checklist

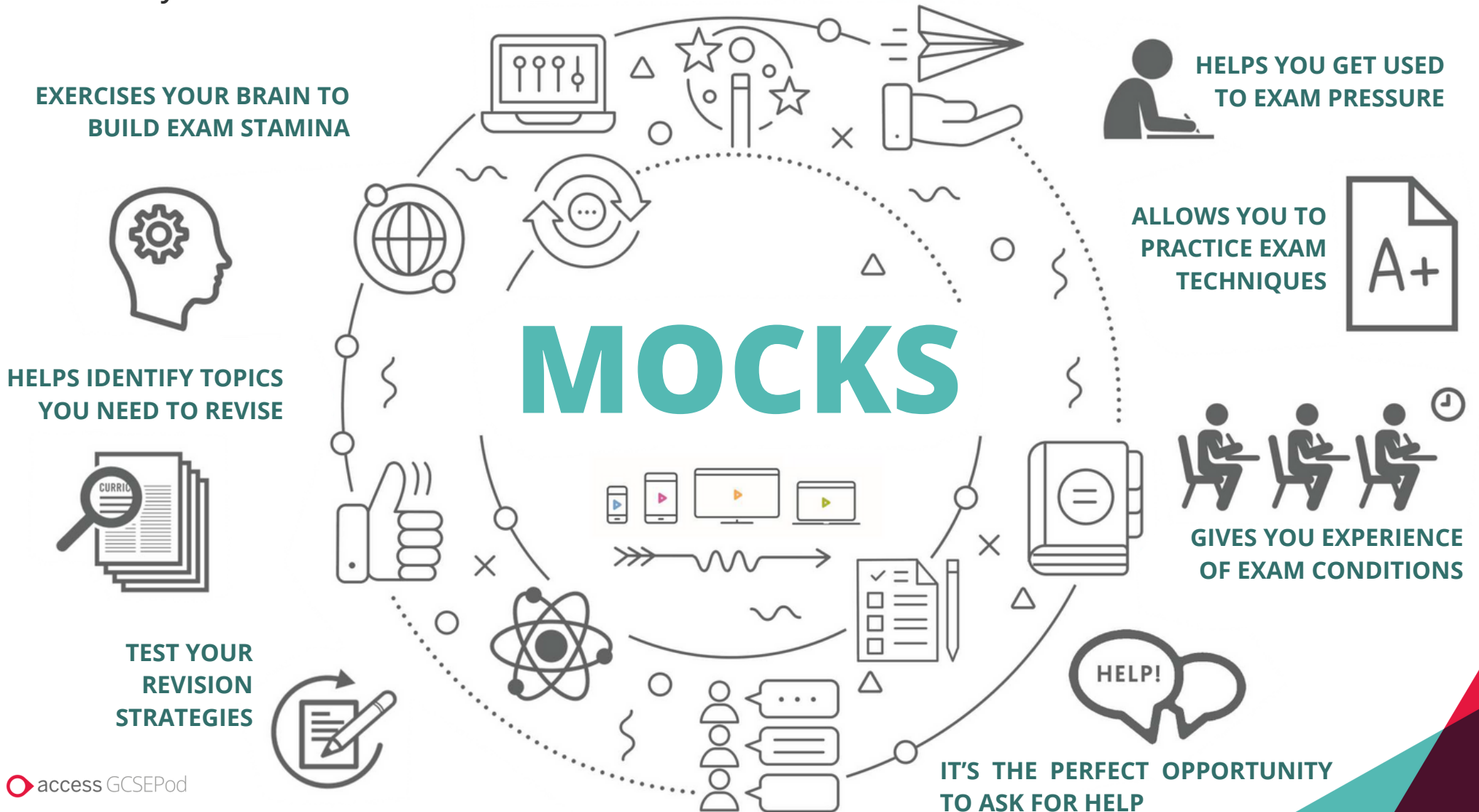
Each day do you have:

- ✓ Time outside and/or exercise
- ✓ Time for tea breaks
- ✓ A variety of subjects to study
- ✓ Your subjects broken down into specific topics
- ✓ Time prioritised to topics you find more difficult
- ✓ Achievable goals that once met give yourself a reward
- ✓ Time to prepare for the next day
- ✓ At least an hour off before bed



# The Importance of mock exams

Taking your mock exams is rather like having a healthy diet or making the effort to exercise - you'll feel a lot better afterwards if you take it seriously! Here's why...



# TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN MATHS EXAMS

## GETTING THE REVISION RIGHT

### REVISE MATHS BY 'DOING MATHS'

Practise questions 'little and often' - you can't learn it all by cramming in a couple of long days. Maths is like building blocks you must develop over a long time.

### IDENTIFY YOUR KEY AREAS

Use past papers and tests to identify your strengths and areas to improve.

Spend revision time on the topics you are not good at, seeking help with these areas from teachers or the online resources that you have available to you.

### LEARN THE SKILL OF 'CHECKING'

Practice checking through your work, or marking other people's work and finding errors; this will help you in your own exam.

### LEARN YOUR FORMULAE

Check with your exam board which are given and which aren't.

## HANDLING THE EXAM

### REMEMBER YOUR TIMING

Don't spend too long on one question. If your calculation seems too complicated, stop and check you are going down the right path. The first few pages are the most important part! If time allows revisit them at the end.

### WHAT IS THE QUESTION ASKING?

Read it carefully and underline the keywords. Pause to think about what it is asking before beginning.

### ACCURATE WORK

Keep calculations neat and work down the page. Show all your workings. Underline the values that you are using again. Use the given diagrams to mark on any given information carefully. Check your work carefully to make sure it makes sense.

### ALWAYS HAVE A GO

If a long question seems 'too hard' try to write down something that you do know - you will pick up valuable 'method marks'. Sometimes when you come back to a question after a break it magically makes sense.

# TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN ENGLISH EXAMS

## GENERAL

### TRY NOT TO WAFFLE

Avoid overly lengthy responses to the reading questions as you'll lose clarity and focus. Instead, think about the number of marks awarded for a question. A 20-mark question will need a longer response than a 9-mark question. Remember, clear writing equals a clear mark.

### KNOW YOUR EXAM BOARD

It's important to consider the Assessment Objectives (AOs) for each exam question - your teacher can help with this. Generally, the highest marks come from discussing the effect of a certain piece of writing or technique. Pay attention to the specific things your exam board AOs are looking for.

### PLAN AND PROOF-READ

Don't lose marks, think about how you are going to structure your response. Then check afterwards. Is it clear? Have you removed anything unnecessary? SPaG?

Also if you run out of time you're better off finishing the question you are on and moving on to the next. Answering just one question well is not enough. You need to show your skills across multiple questions.

## TACKLING QUESTIONS

### COMPARING, AGREEING AND DISAGREEING

When you compare, remember to focus on the feelings and perspectives of the writers - not just the techniques. It's not enough to note that one used a list whereas the other used a simile. When you agree or disagree, try to determine where each text would sit on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being strongly disagree and 10 being strongly agree.

### ANSWER CLEARLY AND CONCISELY

There are a lot of ways to do this. Firstly, make sure you've read any text at least twice before or during the exam. You need to understand what the text is about, to answer the questions well. Also make sure you are specific about the effects the text has upon the reader and avoid phrases which could be applied to any technique in the text, such as 'it has an effect'. Go into more specific detail.

### AVOID SIMPLY LISTING TECHNIQUES

Always remember to go into detail about the effects and/or effectiveness of the techniques being used. Remember to focus on the text at all times and make sure you're commenting upon what the question wants you to explore. This may be the purpose of effectiveness of the text.



# TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN SCIENCE EXAMS

## GETTING THE REVISION RIGHT

### NOTE THE NUMBER OF MARKS AVAILABLE

The number of marks indicates the number of distinct points you should make. For example, if the question is worth 4 marks, you will be looking to make 4 distinct points. You could use 4 bullet points to help you make 4 separate points. Focus on the questions that are worth more.

### NOTE THE COMMAND WORDS

Look at what the question starts with. If it's 'compare' then you need to describe similarities and differences. If it asks you to 'explain' then you could use 'because' to structure your answer. Your exam board will provide a list of command words. Make sure you understand what they mean.

### SHOW YOUR WORKINGS

For maths questions, show your working as you could be given marks even if you don't get the right answer at the end.

### EXTENDED QUESTIONS

Worth 6 marks, these questions are so important so always give them a go. Pay attention to the command words and the keywords in the question and have a go. You will be given marks on communication so don't use bullet points for these.

## HANDLING THE EXAM

### TEST YOURSELF

Testing is the best form of revision. Just reading your notes is unlikely to help you remember the information. You could test yourself using flashcards, online tools or practice questions. This also helps you to identify which topics to work on.

### LITTLE AND OFTEN

There is a lot of content across Biology, Chemistry and Physics and you could not possibly revise it all just before the exam. Instead, plan short revision sessions every day. Plan your breaks too. Keep coming back to the same topic. This helps you remember the key information over time.

### LEARN THE FORMULAE

Most Biology, Chemistry and Physics papers have some formulae you need to remember. Learn them. Keep testing yourself to make sure they stick.

### WHICH TOPICS ARE IN WHICH PAPER?

Your exam board will provide information about the topics for each paper. You can use this to plan your revision, focusing on your weakest topics.

# TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN HISTORY EXAMS

## GETTING THE REVISION RIGHT

### USE DIAGRAMS TO ORGANISE YOUR NOTES

Diagrams can help you to focus on key information. You could make a spider diagram about a topic. Flow diagrams are great for learning narratives, as well as causation and consequences. Timelines can help you remember when things happened.

### LEARN WHEN EVENTS HAPPEN

It might seem obvious, but for history, you need to know when things happened. For topics that cover a short range of time, like 100 years or less, you should know the year of important events – for very important events it's also good to know the month or date. You should also learn the names for historic periods.

### PAY ATTENTION TO THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Pay attention to why events happened, how they happened, and what the consequences were.

### USE PRACTICE PAPERS

There are plenty of practice papers available for you to use. You could ask your teacher or visit the exam board website. Get used to understanding what the questions are asking. The more practice you get before the exam, the better prepared you will be on the day of the exam.

## HANDLING THE EXAM

### USE YOUR TIME WISELY

The opening questions on most history papers are only worth a few marks, so don't spend too long on them. You need to leave enough time to complete the longer questions. At the start of the exam, you could make a note of what time you need to start the longer questions so that you don't lose track of time.

### PLAN OUT LONGER ANSWERS

You should always start by planning what you'll write. For example, you could use a spider diagram or a list. Your plan should include the main points you need to mention.

### PAY ATTENTION TO THE DATES IN THE QUESTION

History questions usually have dates. You need to make sure that your answers focus on the years in question. You won't get marks for using information that is not from the right time period.

### READ THE SOURCES AND INTERPRETATIONS CAREFULLY

If the question includes one or more sources or interpretations, it is very important to read them carefully to make you understand what they are saying. You might need to read them more than once.

# Useful Revision Techniques

**WATCHING GCSEPod COMBINES SEEING, LISTENING AND DOING.**

**MAKE YOUR LEARNING MORE EFFECTIVE BY COMBINING EXTRA ACTIVITIES TO GET YOU THINKING AND DOING.**

## GIVE IT A GO

Watch GCSEPod and try one of these activities

### WRITE A MEMORY STORY

Write down all the key words, dates and names in the GCSEPod you've watched.

Now, turn them into a very short story. For example:

Words to remember  
Bird, Hazel, Grandfather, 1925

Short Story: I count 19 birds sitting in a tree. My friend Hazel arrives and counts them again and says "there are 25." But my grandfather says im right!

### DRAW A DIAGRAM

Draw one of the labelled diagrams you saw in the GCSEPod video.

Next to each label, write down everything you can remember about that thing.

### CREATE A MNEMONIC

If you are really struggling to remember something, a mnemonic can help!

Want to remeber the colours of the visible spectrum?

Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet

You might find it easier to remeber...

Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain

**GCSEPod is perfect for reviewing your knowledge.**

## YOU'LL FORGET THIS IN 24 HOURS!

Did you know that you forget 80% of what you learn in the first 24 hours? That's why cramming for exams doesn't work!

It is proven that by reviewing what you've learnt at regular intervals, you can reduce how much you forget to just 10%

Review your work 4 times within a month and you'll remember nearly 100%

## HOW TO REVIEW

Vary your activities to maximise your memory's power.

Immediately After Class	4 Hours Later	1 Week Later	1 Month Later
<h3>Mind Mapping</h3> <p>Watch GCSEPod and write down all the key words. Now from memory, fill in as much information as you can remember.</p>	<h3>Review Maps</h3> <p>Cover your mind map and see how much you can remember. Highlight the information you couldn't remember and revise it.</p>	<h3>Memory Cards</h3> <p>With a friend, create your own question cards with answers on the reverse and then test each other's knowledge.</p>	<h3>Past Papers</h3> <p>Watch GCSEPod again and practice past paper questions.</p>

**GCSEPod is perfect for reviewing your knowledge.**

# Retrieval Practice

Practice bringing information from memory for better results

Retrieval practice is the act of recalling information without having it in front of you. Research shows this is far more effective than reading and re-reading,



## HOW IT WORKS

Cognitive psychologists have found retrieval practice is the most powerful technique for long-term learning.

### WRITE IT DOWN

Try writing down everything you know about a topic. Then go back and see what you've missed.

### PARTNER UP

Get together with a friend and write down everything you can remember about a topic. Compare notes to see what is missing.

### FLASH CARDS

Make some flash cards and try recalling the information on them.

## ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

### "SPACE OUT" YOUR PRACTICE

Retrieval practice is even more effective if it's done in short bursts over time, rather than in a single long session. The struggle involved in trying to recall the information strengthens your long-term learning.

### DON'T GIVE UP

It may feel hard at first but the more you practice the easier it will get.

### FLASHCARDS

Flashcards are a great way to help you remember more each time, filling those knowledge gaps. If you have GCSEPod make a flash card for each pod you watch.

## HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

Our assignments are a fantastic way to test your knowledge. Just like past papers, they are relevant to the exams you will be taking. They also auto-mark and show you what areas you need to improve by providing a boost playlist with the exact pods you need to watch to fill those knowledge gaps.



# Interleaving

Interleave your revision to help you remember more

Interleaving is the theory that revising more than one topic in each revision session will help you make better links between them.



## HOW IT WORKS

Interleaving strengthens memory association. The brain is continually engaged by retrieving different responses and bringing them into short-term memory. Repeating that process can reinforce connections and enhance learning.

### SWITCH

Switch between topics each session.

### REVIEW IN DIFFERENT ORDERS

When reviewing make sure you do in a different order than you learnt them.

### MAKE LINKS TO REMEMBER MORE

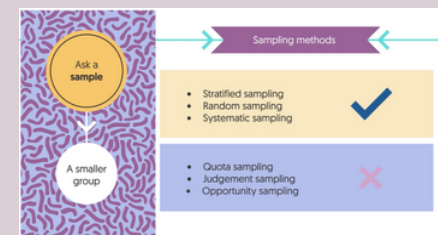
Try to make links between ideas and continually review your revision notes.

## ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

- Don't switch too often, make sure you have a good understanding of the area you are working on before moving on to the next.
- Do break down topics into smaller chunks so you can easily switch once you have completed one section.
- Don't worry if it seems harder to revise this way at first. It will help you remember more in the long run. Keep going, the work will pay off.
- Try following the order in which you learnt this information in the classroom so one topic builds upon the next. This will help you better understand the links you are building.

## HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

All GCSEPod content is set out in a clear organised way and delivered in our unique pod format of 3-5 minute chunks of topic-based learning. You can create playlists of related topics to make it easier to switch and build connections. It also remembers what you've watched so you can easily revisit a topic and pick up exactly where you finished.



# Spaced Practice

Revise, rest, repeat...space out your revision for best results

Spaced practice is the theory that short, sharp bursts of learning are more effective than cramming just before the exam.



## HOW IT WORKS

Combine spaced revision with retrieval practice for best results. Self-test during a number of revision sessions until you can accurately recall the target information from memory.

### MIND MAPPING - AFTER CLASS

Write down everything you know about a topic straight after class or after watching one of our pods.

### REVIEW YOUR MAPS - A FEW HOURS LATER

Cover your mind maps and see how much you can remember. Highlight any info you couldn't remember and revise it again.

### MEMORY CARDS - NEXT REVISION SESSION

Create memory cards with answers on the back and test your knowledge. Repeat every few sessions.

## ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

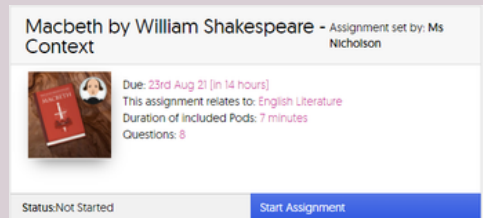
To determine where to focus your time, look at each element of the course and rank them according to your level of confidence.

- I need help with this (Speak to your teacher)
- I need to learn this as I don't remember it all.
- I remember doing this but I need to revise it.
- I know the content of this but I need exam practice.
- I am exam ready.

Create a diary of when you are going to revise the topics you need. Don't forget to leave breaks in between (a week/a month), so you build up the memory over a period of time.

## HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

Test your understanding by completing a GCSEPod assignment. Your answers will provide a boost playlist to satisfy any gaps in your knowledge. Watch the boost playlist and take the assignment again until you get it all right. Watching the same pod again and again over a period of time ensures what you have learned has stuck in your mind.



Macbeth by William Shakespeare - Assignment set by: Ms Nicholson

Due: 23rd Aug 21 (in 14 hours)  
This assignment relates to: English Literature  
Duration of Included Pods: 7 minutes  
Questions: 8

Status: Not Started [Start Assignment](#)

# Exam Checklist

Follow this checklist to ensure you are prepared for an exam.

Do you have...

- ✓ 2 pens (black)
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Eraser
- ✓ Angle measure or protractor
- ✓ Calculator
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Bottle of water
- ✓ Clear pencil case

Things to remember...

- ✓ Get a good night's sleep
- ✓ Eat a healthy meal
- ✓ Review the GCSEPod exam playlist
- ✓ Check where your exam is being held
- ✓ Arrive 15 minutes early

You've  
GOT THIS

**BELIEVE**

**IN YOURSELF  
AND YOU WILL BE  
UNSTOPPABLE**

## Top tips for staying motivated...

### CREATE A STUDY ROUTINE

By nature, we're creatures of habit. If you find it difficult to motivate yourself to study, creating a routine will help.

### SET ATTAINABLE GOALS

Whether you set yourself a time goal or an amount of work to complete, it is important to challenge yourself.

### STUDY IN SHORT BURSTS

You are more likely to retain information from short bursts of learning as your attention will be increased.

### REVIEW YOUR RESULTS

It is important to check where you have gone wrong and avoid similar mistakes. It's also motivating to see how you've improved.

### INSPIRE YOURSELF

Post reminders and inspirational quotes in prominent places about what you want to achieve.

### DON'T COMPARE

Don't try to compare yourself with others and try to focus on your own results and how you can improve.

### GET ENOUGH SLEEP

Make sure you get enough sleep, ideally 7-9 hours every night. This will help to encourage a relaxed and well-rested mind and body.

### REWARD YOURSELF

Every time you complete one or two chunks, reward yourself with a short period of relaxation. Rewarding yourself with short and enjoyable breaks is a key part of the "chunking down" technique.



# Guide to encouraging good tech habits

How to support your child online

## SET GUIDELINES

It's really important to set guidelines for usage, screen time limits and restricting access to certain sites.

## CHECK YOUR SETTINGS

All internet providers offer settings which you can alter and change. Make sure these are set appropriately so your child doesn't accidentally access any dangerous sites.

## HAVE A CHAT!

Whether you're dropping your child off at school or having dinner talk to your child and see what they find interesting online.

## HELP THEM COMMUNICATE

Chatting to their friends is a great way to share experiences and dangers that their peers may have come across.



## PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT

Social media and the internet can be a minefield when choosing what is appropriate to upload and share. It's important for your child to understand the risks of posting private data, images and videos.

## THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Emphasise the phrase 'think before you click' to your child. It's important that they understand the dangers of the internet.

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE

It's essential to be a good role model for your child. Make sure you are not spending too much time looking at different screens.

# Using GCSEPod for revision...

## MY SCHOOL ALREADY HAS A GCSEPOD SUBSCRIPTION

That's great news. All you need to do is log in and you will have access to all our award-winning content and features to help you succeed in your GCSEs.

If you need any help please speak to your teachers.

## MY SCHOOL DOESN'T SUBSCRIBE TO GCSEPOD YET!

We would love to support you through your GCSEs but your school needs to subscribe on your behalf.

Simply speak to your teacher and let them know we can have you set up in less than 48 hours, plus we will give them an extra 5% discount as you referred the school.

## Sound good?

Find out how GCSEPod helps learners achieve more.



Find out more

Rated 'Teacher's Choice' we are the most reviewed and the highest rated company on Edtech Impact.

Average customer rating: 4.8/5  
 \*edtech  
**impact**