

CRAWSHAW ACADEMY

YEAR 11

STUDENT AND PARENT GUIDE TO REVISION



STRIVE for success

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Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

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Your Revision

Staying Motivated and Focused on Revision

Revision can be challenging, but the right guidance makes starting easier. This booklet aims to help you succeed by showing how crucial revision is for your GCSEs.

Why Revision Matters

- School hours alone aren't enough to complete course content and revise.
- The time and effort you dedicate at home significantly impact your results.

Balancing Your Time

- Give equal time to all subjects, with proportionate time for English and science (as they cover multiple GCSEs).
- No subject is more important—each needs attention.
- Include regular breaks in your plan to help your brain relax and retain information (e.g., a 5-10 minute break every 40 minutes).

Creating a Revision Timetable

Why You Need One

- Revising for exams is like training for a sporting event: a detailed plan keeps you on track.

Steps to Create Your Timetable

1. **Check Exam Dates:** Be aware of all exams, including speaking and practical ones.
2. **Prioritise:** Focus on harder subjects and leave time for coursework.
3. **Plan Time Wisely:** Aim for 1-2 hours of revision per weekday and more on weekends, spreading your study across days instead of cramming.

Top Revision Tips

- Follow a routine and stick to your timetable.
- Take regular, small breaks.
- Remove distractions (e.g., keep your phone out of reach).
- Avoid revising right before bed—relaxation and sleep are vital.
- Balance work with social activities to prevent burnout.

Interleaving and Spacing: Smarter Revision

- Avoid cramming! Revise in small chunks of different topics (e.g., 20 minutes on one history topic, then 20 minutes on another).
- This method helps strengthen your memory.

How to Use It:

1. Plan to focus on topics you find most difficult first and revisit them later.
2. Break long sessions into smaller ones (e.g., 5 one-hour sessions instead of a five-hour block).
3. Use your materials to test yourself regularly on new and old topics.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
9:00am	<h1>SCHOOL</h1>							
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Revision strategies overview



Ineffective Revision Strategies

Some common revision techniques are **least effective** for learning:

- **Highlighting texts**
- **Re-reading**
- **Summarising text**

Why These Don't Work

- These methods don't require much **thinking** and can be done on autopilot.
- They *feel easy* and might give the impression that you've revised, but they don't use your time effectively.
- The impact on your learning and retention is minimal.



What types of revision strategies work?

Why Thinking Hard Helps You Remember

Thinking deeply about a topic creates **neural pathways** in your brain, which act as connections to your memory. The more you think about something, the more pathways you build, making it easier to recall that information.

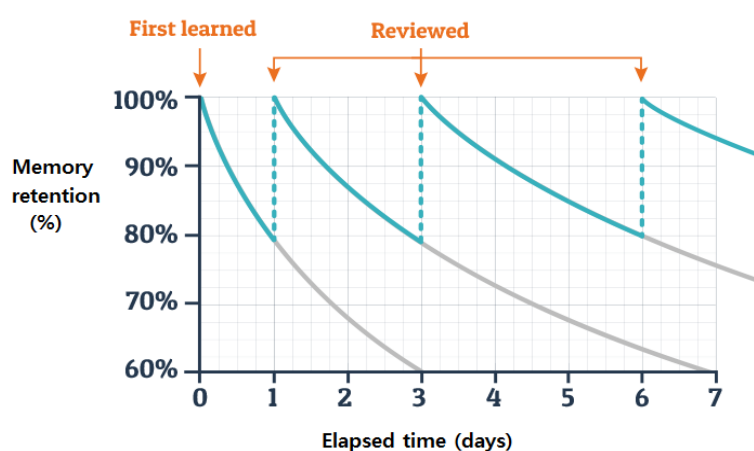
How It Works

- **One memory isn't enough:** Learning something in a lesson creates an initial memory. Without revisiting it, that memory is likely to fade.
- **Multiple memories reinforce learning:** Each time you revise in different ways, you create additional pathways, improving your ability to recall under pressure.

Example

1. **Lesson:** Learn from your teacher (first memory).
2. **Flash Cards:** Make cards on the topic (second memory).
3. **Self-Testing:** Review cards yourself (third memory).
4. **Ask for Help:** Get someone to quiz you (fourth memory).
5. **Mind Map:** Create a mind map from memory (fifth memory).

The more you challenge yourself to think about a topic, the stronger and more reliable your recall becomes. Regularly retrieving information also helps "top up" your original memory, preventing it from fading over time.



Practice Makes Perfect – With a Challenge

The more time you spend practising a skill, the better you'll become. However, for real improvement, your practice or revision must be **continually challenging**.

Key Points

- Push yourself **out of your comfort zone** to improve.
- Practice only leads to perfection when it challenges you.
- Effective revision isn't just about the time spent—it's about using the **right techniques**.
- Using the wrong methods can waste your time and limit your progress.

Revision strategies to use

You should use revision strategies that require you to think and test yourself. Examples of some of the best methods can be seen below.

Using Flash Cards for Revision

Flash cards are one of the best revision methods because they make you think and challenge yourself. Here's how to use them effectively:

1. Make Your Flash Cards

- Use blank cards from a store or cut your own from paper or card.
- Write **questions** on one side and **answers** on the other.
- Colour code by topic for easier organization.

2. Create Cards with Purpose

- Use subject checklists or specifications to guide your topics.
- Focus on key terms, causes, events, consequences, and arguments.

3. Test Yourself

- Look at the question side only and write your answers on paper.
- Sort the cards: correct answers in one pile, incorrect in another.
- Keep testing the incorrect pile until you get them all right.

4. Get Help

- Have someone else (parent, sibling, or friend) quiz you for added variety and memory reinforcement.

This technique builds strong connections to knowledge, making it easier to recall under exam pressure.

Using Graphic Organisers for Revision

Graphic organisers are a great way to turn your notes into visual aids for revision. They help:

- Create links between ideas.
- Show narratives or sequences.
- Highlight causes, consequences, and importance.

There are many types of graphic organisers you can use. Examples can be found on **page 11**.

Practicing Past Paper Questions

To prepare for exams, practice as many different types of questions as possible. You can find past questions on exam board websites or by asking your teacher.

- **Tip:** Practise answering questions within the same time limits you'll have during the exam.

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4 Methods of Retrieval Practice

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Before you start put away all your books & classroom materials.

Retrieval Practice Examples

- * Exit Tickets
- * Starter quizzes
- * Multiple choice quizzes
- * Short answer tests
- * Free write
- * Think, pair, share
- * Ranking & sorting
- * Challenge grids

BRAIN DUMP

Write, draw a picture, create a mind-map on everything you know about a topic.



Give yourself a time limit, say 3 minutes, then have a look at your books & add a few things you forgot.

QUIZZING

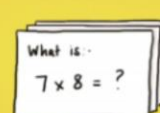
Create practice questions on a topic. Swap your questions with a partner & answer.

Question - What is a metaphor?

- A comparison using 'like, as, than'.
- A comparison where one thing is another.
- A comparison with a human attribute.

FLASHCARDS

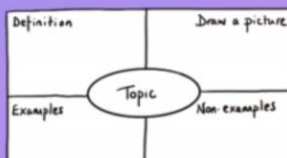
Create your own flashcards, question on one side answer on the other. Can you make links between the cards?



You need to repeat the Q&A process for flashcards you fail on more frequently & less frequently for those you answer correctly.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

Complete a knowledge organiser template for key information about a topic.



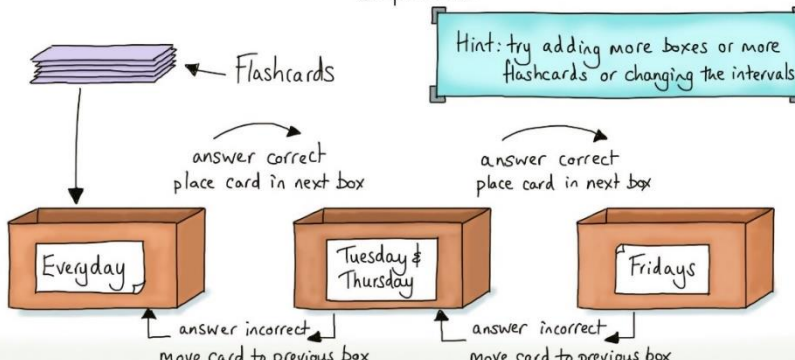
You can use knowledge organisers to learn new vocab & make links in between subjects or ideas.

After you have retrieved as much as you can go back to your books & check what you've missed. Next time focus on that missing information

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LEITNER Flash card method

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Hint: try adding more boxes or more flashcards or changing the intervals

An effective use of flashcards to prompt & recall learning using spaced practice proposed by Leitner in the 1970s. It focuses on the proficiency of recall of the learner. Information which is easily recalled has a longer time lapse before the next recall opportunity.

DUAL CODING AND MIND MAPS

When reviewing something you have learnt, combining words and pictures can be powerful. Research suggests that combining words and images increase your learning by visually representing information in two different ways.

One example is mind maps. They are an incredibly effective tool for covering a broad range of content (information). The idea is to quickly identify key points of the topic before moving onto provide specific, brief details. It is a good tool to check what holes exist within knowledge as well as to provide a framework to continually revisit ideas if put on display. Below is a guide on how to use this:

Other examples of this include creating:



Timelines

These can show the events that happen in a sequence, and the links between these events.



Mind Maps

These allow you to group information in branches from a central theme



Diagrams

Diagrams to annotate key information e.g. biological features about the body.



Story Boards

These can help you remember the key parts in a story or event



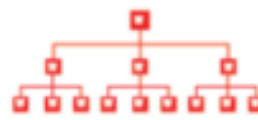
Flow Diagrams

Use flow diagrams to highlight cause and effect, input/output and processes



Venn Diagrams

Useful to compare change/continuity in history or characters in English



Graphic Organiser

These can chunk any aspect of a topic; hierarchy, process, cause/effect etc.



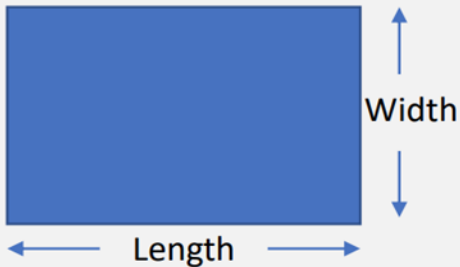
Concept Maps

Use to highlights links between themes, concepts and ideas.

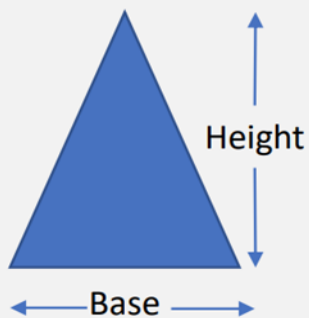
Below is an example of a mind map on a topic in GCSE History:



FORMULA SUMMARY



Area of a rectangle = length x width



Area of triangle = $\frac{1}{2}$ base x perpendicular height

HOW TO USE FORMULA SUMMARY:

Write a list of any formulae that you need to learn for a particular subject or topic. Make sure you sketch out an accurate diagram that shows how the formula works.

Once you have your lists and diagrams organised, you need to learn the information. Practise remembering the different formulae until you can create the diagrams and list them without having to check.

Don't forget to revisit these, even if you think you have learnt them.

PRACTICE PAPERS AND QUESTIONS



Write your name here	
Surname	Other names
Pearson Edexcel Level 1 / Level 2 GCSE (9-1)	
Centre Number	Candidate Number
Mathematics Paper 1 (Non-Calculator)	
Higher Tier	
Thursday 25 May 2017 – Morning Time: 1 hour 30 minutes	Paper Reference 1MA1/1H
You must have: Ruler graduated in centimetres and millimetres, protractor, pair of compasses, pen, HB pencil, eraser. Tracing paper may be used.	Total Marks

You'll find it far easier to answer questions in the exam if you've tried similar ones at home beforehand. You can also ask your teachers to mark your questions and help you to identify where you need to do some more revision.

WHERE DO YOU FIND EXAM PAPERS TO USE?

There are lots of different places you can look for practice exam papers and questions:

- 1) Ask your teachers, they can help you.
- 2) Look on your exam board's website.
- 3) Revision guides often have exam questions and answers (make sure you stay away from the answers until you have had a go).

HOW DO YOU USE PRACTICE EXAM PAPERS AND QUESTIONS?

Revise a section of work and then test what you have learnt by completing a question. If you find a particular question hard, make sure you go back and work on the area that you found difficult.

THE CORNELL METHOD



Cornell Notes		Class: _____
		Date: _____
Cue Column	Note-taking Column	
- Key words	- Key ideas	
- Key questions	- Important dates, people, places	
	- Diagrams and pictures	
	- Formulas	
	- Repeated (stressed) information	
Summary		
- Summary of your notes in your own words		

This is great method to get you to think about whole topics and to make you focus on what it is important to remember. Simply split your page into three sections as shown in the diagram on the left:

- Note-taking
- Cues
- Summary

HOW TO USE THE CORNELL METHOD:

TOPIC SUMMARY

Use the Cornell sheet to summarise an entire topic. You can use words, images or a combination of both.

TOPIC REVIEW

At the end of a week, create a Cornell sheet to show everything that you can remember about a topic. Then, once you have done everything you can, add to it in green pen using your other revision resources.



GCSE Pod is another revision tool that you can use. The benefits of GCSE Pod are that you can listen to short videos of subjects/topics being taught by experts and then you can check learning through multiple choice quizzes.

Use this document as a guide as to how to use it.

HOW TO LOG IN?

PC

- 1) Go to Google and type in 'GCSE Pod'.
- 2) Click the yellow 'LOGIN' button in the top right corner of the screen.
- 3) Click the green LOGIN AS A STUDENT' button.
- 4) Click 'SIGN IN WITH OFFICE 365'. Type your email address found in your planner, (e.g. CA000000@stu.ca.rklt.co.uk) and then your school login password. If you don't know your email and / or school login password, please contact Mr Murtagh.
- 5) Scroll down to KS4 Subjects and pick the relevant subject and topic.

MOBILE

- 1) Scan the following QR code, this will take you to the login page.

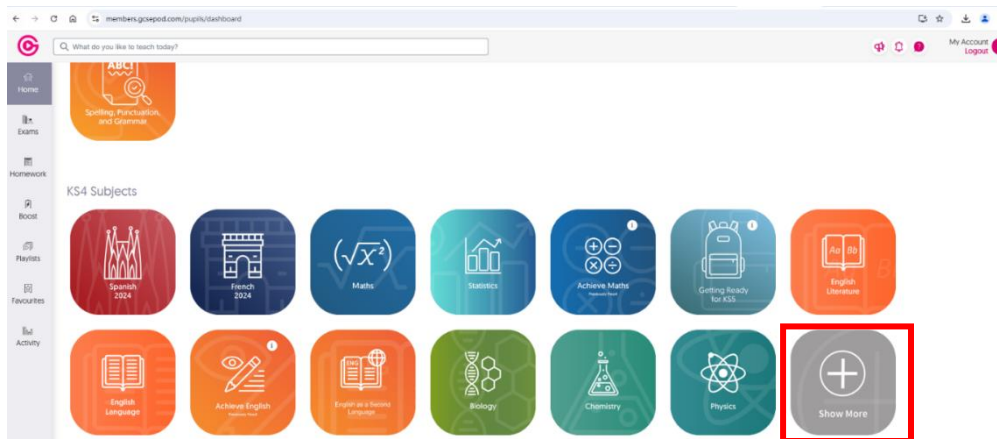


- 2) Click 'SIGN IN WITH OFFICE 365'. Type your child's email address found in your child's planner, if your child doesn't know their email please email Mr Murtagh (e.g CA000000@stu.ca.rklt.co.uk) and then your child's school login password, If your child doesn't know their school login password please email Mr Murtagh.
- 3) Scroll down to KS4 Subjects and pick the relevant subject and topic.

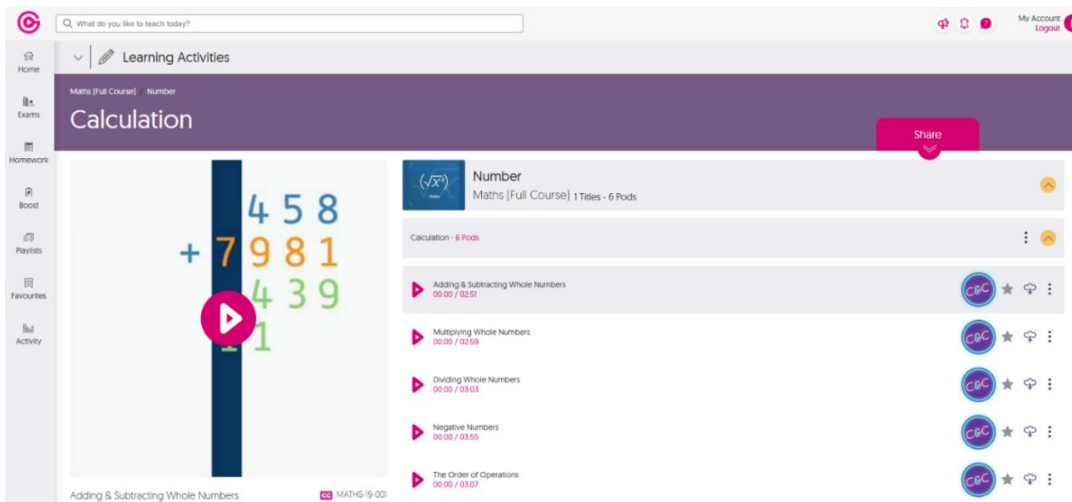
Once you have logged in for the first time, identify the specific subjects/topics for revision.

FINDING THE PODS

- 1) Scroll down to KS4 Subjects click the grey button '+ SHOW MORE'.



- 2) This will now show all subjects that GCSE Pod has content on. (Please note the following screenshots are using MATHS as an example). Once you have clicked the subject, select the topic and then the Pod you wish to revise.



- 3) Pressing the red play buttons will then show a short video on the topic. You should watch these videos to refresh knowledge/learn new knowledge.
- 4) You should then click the 'PURPLE C & C' button to the right of the video to then check your understanding of the topic, after watching the video.
- 5) **PLEASE NOTE ALL SUBJECTS FOLLOW THE SAME FORMAT FOR VIDEOS AND PURPLE C & C BUTTONS**

MATHS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	ENGLISH LITERATURE	
 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	
COMBINED SCIENCE	PHYSICS	CHEMISTRY	
 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	
BIOLOGY	HISTORY		GEOGRAPHY
 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	<p>P1 Germany P1 The interwar years</p>   <p>P2 Health P2 Elizabethan</p>  		 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	FRENCH	GCSE BUSINESS	
 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>	<p>Theme 1 Theme 2</p>  	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION			
 <p>Select which topic from the QR Code</p>			

Subject details

All departments have produced the following to help you with your revision:

- Exam board specification Red, Amber, Green (RAG) checklists
- Additional resources
- Year 11 homework plan

Exam board specifications

An exam board specification is a set of criteria that outlines how a course will be assessed and what you will be taught and assessed on. It lists the topics that can come up in a particular exam paper and will guide you during your revision.

To help you with your revision, these have been turned into RAG (Red, Amber, Green) check lists. To use these successfully, you should:

1. Download the specification check list for the exam you have been entered for from the school website and print this off. If in doubt, ask your teacher.
2. Use the check list as a guide for revision. Pick one of the strategies outlined in this booklet to revise that part of the specification.
3. Make a judgement on how well you know that part of the specification:

Red - You do not know it well at all.

Amber - You know that aspect of the specification, but it is not yet embedded fully for you to recall it in an exam.

Green - You are confident that you can recall fully that part of the specification.

4. Work your way methodically through the specification check lists. Focus first on the aspects of the specification that you feel you are weakest at.

Suggested resources

This is a list of resources recommended by Subject Leaders that may be helpful with revision if you feel you need it. All the materials needed to do well will have been given to you in class. However, if you feel that you need additional help or guidance then these resources can provide a useful starting point to help you with your revision.

Homework

Subject Leaders have put together an overview of homework tasks between now and the start of the exam season to help you be successful in that subject. This will enable you to get ahead with your homework if you want and plan. Intervention sessions may be used by some departments to support you with completing this homework successfully.

Where to access subject information online

All this information is located on the website for all subjects. Simply download the material for each of the subjects that you study.

You can access this information on the school website in one of the following ways:

By following this pathway:

Crawshaw Academy website > Learning at Crawshaw Academy > Year 11 revision

By using this link:

[Crawshaw Academy - Red Kite Learning Trust - Year 11 Revision](#)

By using this QR code:



We have also set up a 'Year 11 Revision Team' where these materials will be made accessible to you.

Subject intervention sessions timetable

Intervention sessions take place on the days indicated from 3pm - 4pm. English, Maths and Science are running intervention sessions during form time. All intervention details are on Arbor timetables for you to check.

Day	Band	Subjects
Monday	11AP	Business (JAK) Design (JH) Enterprise (OM) French (NAR) Music (CDA) Photography (GCR)
Tuesday	11Z	Drama (RL/KE) Health & Social Care (JR) Hospitality & Catering (TN) Media (FRO / LBU)
Wednesday	11Y	Art (ESU) Business (JAK / OM) Further Maths Health and Social Care (JR) History (EHA) Photography (GCR)
Thursday	No intervention sessions.	No intervention sessions.
Friday	11X	Business (JAK) Chemistry (KSM) Design (JH) GCSE PE (BL) History (MPR) Social Science (ABA)