Guide to **REVISION**

St Peter's Catholic School



2025

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Week 1

Week 2

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT

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Why good quality revision matters.



At St Peter's Catholic School, we are committed to supporting all our students in achieving their full potential.
GCSE exams are a crucial step in your academic journey, and effective revision can make a significant difference in your performance.

Good revision isn't just about reading notes—it's about engaging with material actively, identifying gaps, and testing yourself to ensure understanding. This guide will provide you with structured advice on planning your revision and using proven techniques to help you retain and apply knowledge effectively.

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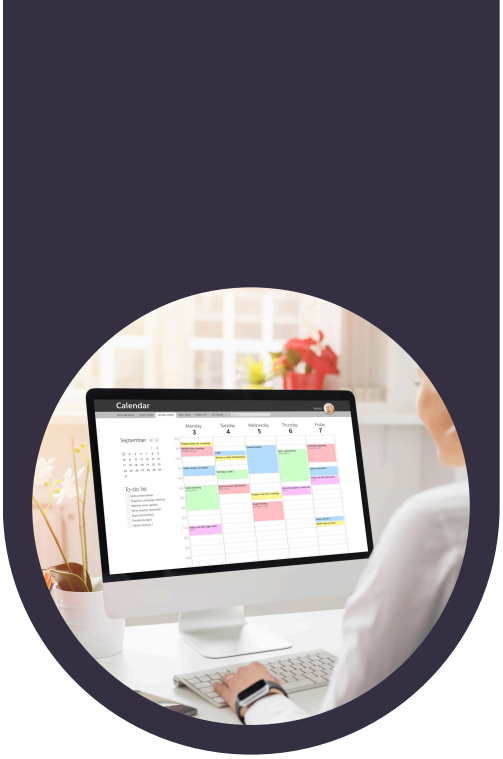
Creating a **Revision Timetable**



A revision timetable is essential for A-level exam preparation as it provides structure, ensures balanced coverage of all subjects, and prevents last-minute cramming. By planning study sessions in advance, students can prioritise weaker areas, incorporate regular review to reinforce learning, and maintain a manageable workload. A well-structured timetable also helps to reduce stress by breaking revision into focused, achievable sessions, allowing for a more effective and sustainable approach to exam preparation.

Use the template inside the front cover to get started.

Step 1 -Identify Your Subjects and Topics

- List all subjects and break them down into key topics and subtopics.
- Use your mock feedback to highlight weaker areas that need more attention.

Step 2: Allocate Time Wisely

- Plan to revise in focused sessions of 45–60 minutes, followed by 10–15 minute breaks.
- Rotate between subjects to maintain engagement and avoid burnout.
- Ensure regular revision of all topics rather than cramming.

Step 3: Set Realistic Goals

- Be specific: instead of "Revise Biology," set a goal like "Review and summarise photosynthesis and complete past exam questions."
- Use a planner or digital app to map out your revision sessions.

Step 4: Include Variety

- Mix up revision methods to maintain interest and reinforce learning.
- Schedule regular review sessions to revisit previously studied topics.

Scan this code to watch a video on how to create a revision timetable

Scan this code to read the PMT guide to making a revision timetable - with further links to online planning tools.

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Key Revision **Techniques**

Active Revision

Using active revision techniques rather than simply re-reading notes is crucial for effective learning and long-term retention.
Passive reading gives a false sense of familiarity but does not engage the brain in the way that active recall, practice questions, and summarisation do.
Techniques such as flashcards, past paper practice, and dual coding force students to retrieve and apply information, strengthening memory and improving understanding.
Engaging with content in multiple ways enhances critical thinking and exam performance, making revision far more effective than passive review alone.





What has worked for you in the past?

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Mind Maps

How to use

- Start with a central topic or concept in the middle of a page.
- Branch out with key ideas, linking them with lines or arrows to show connections.
- Use colours, symbols, and images to highlight important information and make recall easier.
- Keep information concise—use keywords instead of full sentences.

Why it works

- Helps visualise relationships between concepts, making complex topics easier to understand.
- Engages both logical and creative thinking, improving memory retention.



Scan this code to watch a video on how to use mind maps

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Using **Flashcards**

How to use

- Write key terms, concepts, or questions on one side and answers or explanations on the other.
- Use them for self-testing or ask someone to quiz you.
- Use apps like Anki or Quizlet for digital flashcards.

Why it works

- Encourages active recall, strengthening memory.
- Helps condense large amounts of information into key points.

Scan this code to watch a video on how to use flashcards effectively



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Using the Leitner System

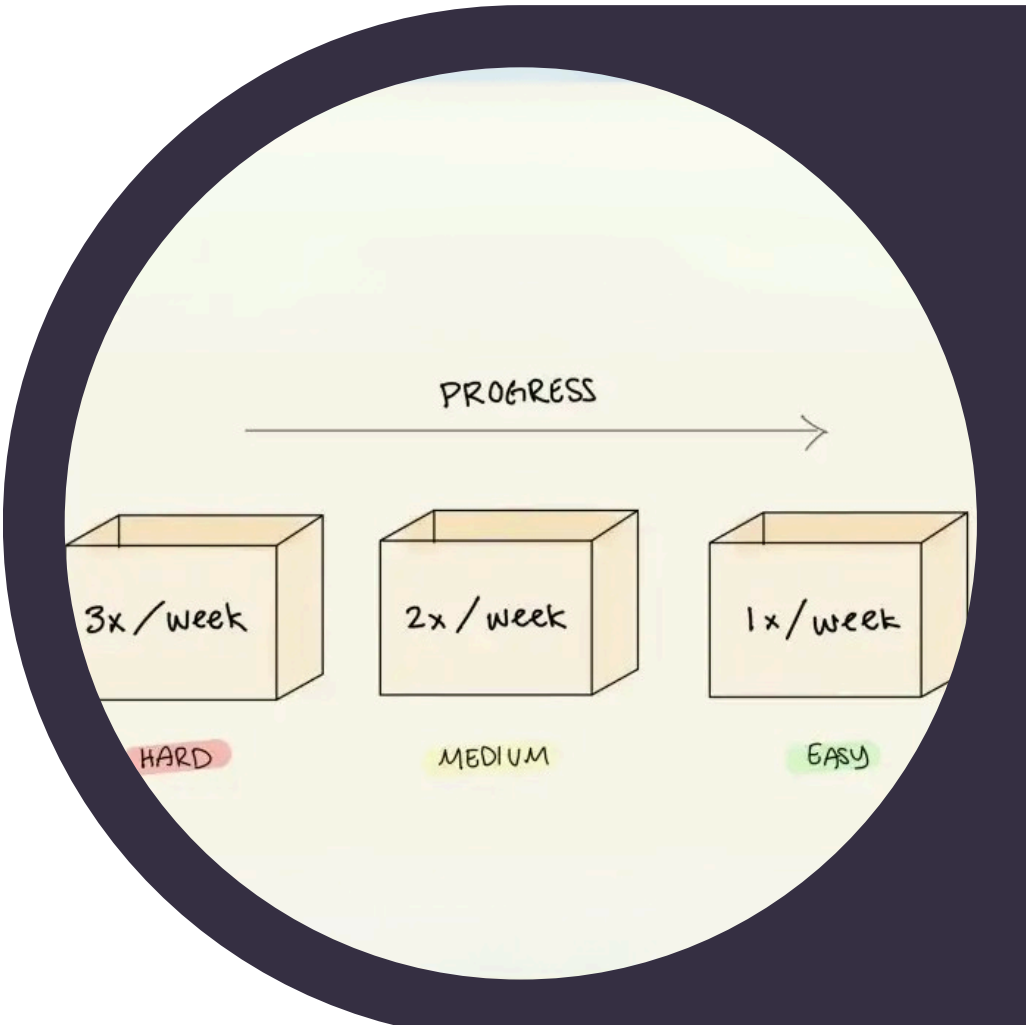
How to use

- Write flashcards with key information, questions, or concepts.
- Sort them into different groups based on your confidence level (e.g., "Know Well," "Need More Practice," "Struggling").
- Review the "Struggling" cards daily, the "Need More Practice" cards every few days, and the "Know Well" cards once a week.
- Move cards between groups as your understanding improves.

Why it works

- Uses spaced repetition to reinforce learning over time.
- Ensures you focus more on weaker areas while maintaining strong knowledge retention.

Scan this code to watch a video on how to implement the Leitner System.



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Revision
Clocks

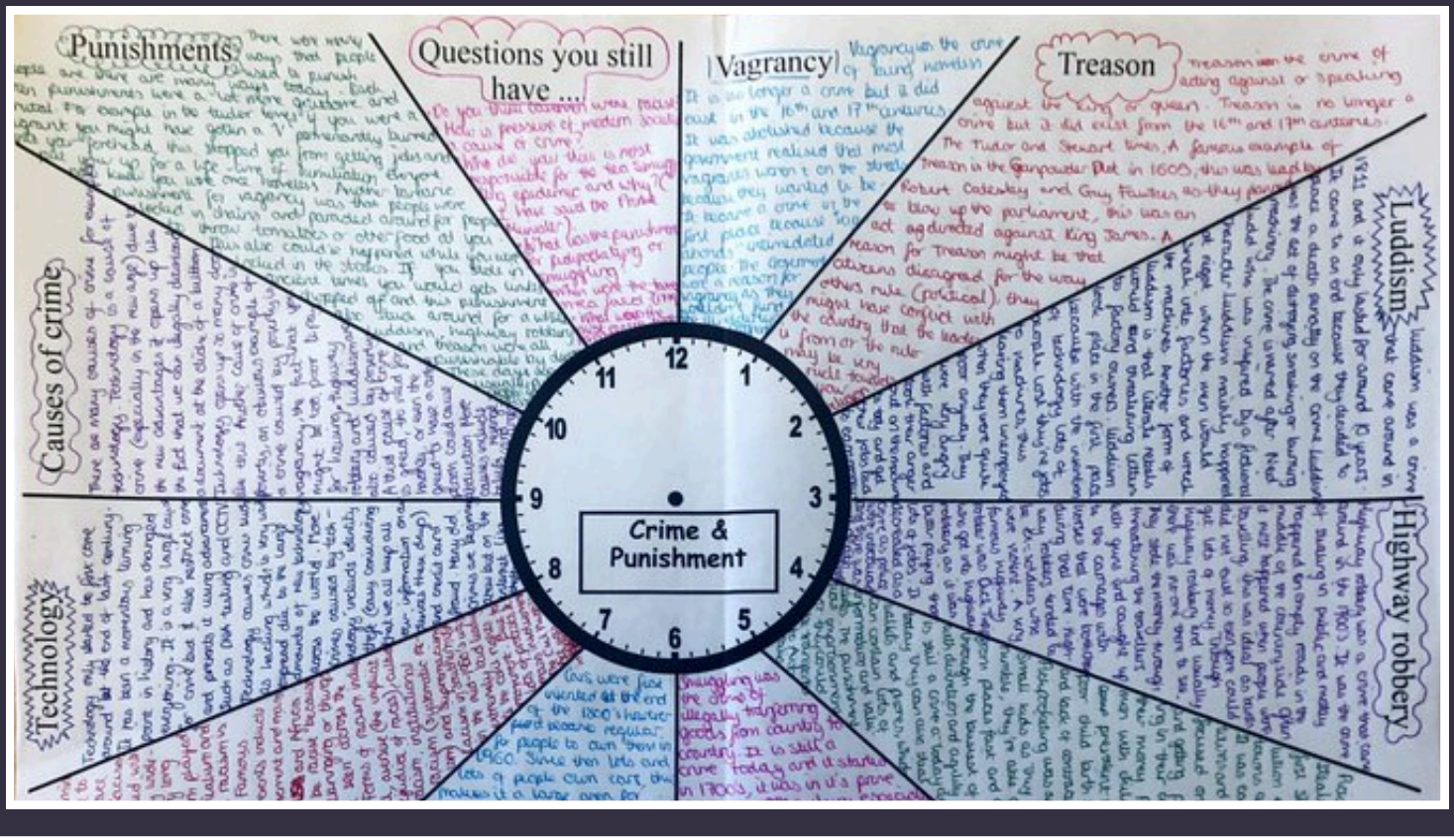
How to use

- Use an A3 template of a revision clock split into 12 segments.
- Assign a topic or key question to each section.
- Spend 15 minutes writing key information in each segment from memory, and then add with notes to check after.

Why it works

- Encourages concise summarisation of key topics.
- Breaks down revision into manageable chunks.

Scan this code to watch a video on how to use Revision clocks



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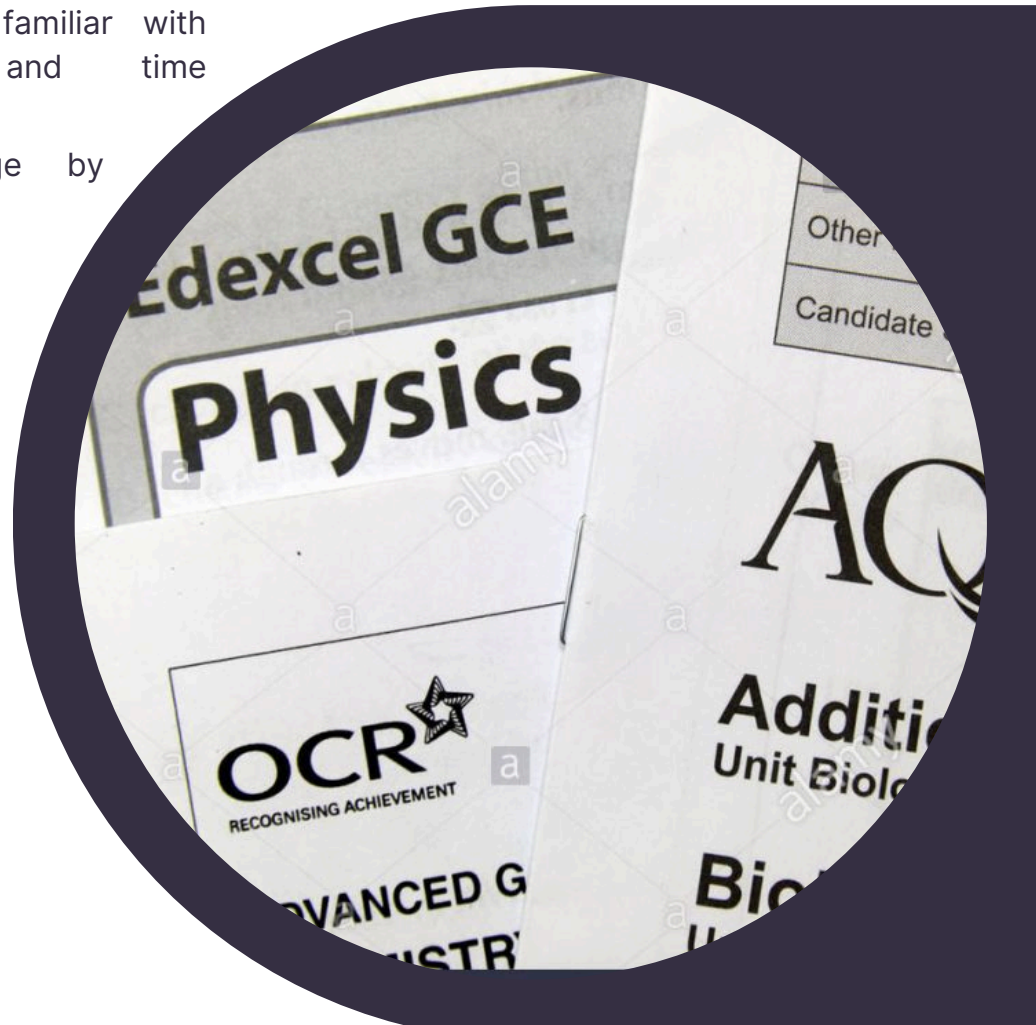
Using
Past Papers

How to use

- Complete past paper questions under timed conditions.
- Use mark schemes to check answers and understand examiner expectations.
- Identify patterns in question styles and command words.
- Use the mark scheme to produce model answers and flashcards to get more used to using mark scheme aligned terminology.

Why it works

- Helps you become familiar with exam formats and time management.
- Reinforces knowledge by applying it to real exam scenarios.



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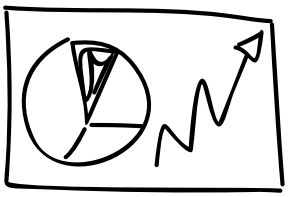
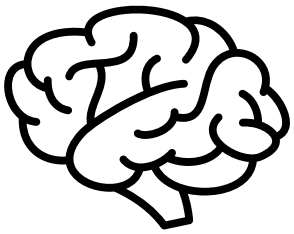
Dual Coding





How to use

- Combine visual elements (diagrams, charts) with written information.
- Use colour coding to highlight key connections.
- Create visual summaries of complex topics.



Why it works

- Engages multiple areas of the brain to improve retention.
- Makes abstract concepts easier to understand.



Further information

Scan this code to watch a video on how to use dual coding

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Using AI

Generative AI

Using artificial intelligence can be a useful tool in your revision strategy. It will not replace the need for you working hard but it might help to organise your work or reflect on your learning in a new way.
Included here are a range of activities you could use any generative AI to help with (although some are more advanced and have learned more than others).

1. Setting Up Your Revision

- List Key Topics: Write down all the subjects and topics you need to revise.
- Set Goals: Decide what you need from each session — summaries, practice questions, explanations, or essay plans.
- Make a Timetable: Plan revision in manageable blocks (e.g., 20-30 minutes per topic).

2. Reviewing Content

- Get Quick Summaries: Ask ChatGPT for brief overviews of key topics.
  - Example (English Literature): "Summarise the key themes in 'A Christmas Carol'."
  - Example (History): "Give a summary of World War I causes."
  - Example (Biology): "Explain the function of the circulatory system."
  - Example (Computer Science): "Explain how binary code works."
- Understand Difficult Ideas: Use ChatGPT to break down tricky concepts.
  - Example (Maths): "Explain Pythagoras' Theorem with an example."
  - Example (Science): "Explain how acids and alkalis react."
  - Example (Geography): "Explain how a waterfall forms."
  - Example (Business Studies): "Explain what 'break-even' means with an example."

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Using AI

3. Creating Practice Questions

- Generate Exam Questions: Ask ChatGPT to create practice questions.
  - Example (English Literature): "Create a GCSE-style question on Macbeth's character."
  - Example (History): "Write a question about the impact of the Industrial Revolution."
  - Example (Science): "Create a physics question on speed, distance, and time."
  - Example (Business Studies): "Create a question about marketing strategies."
- Make a Quick Quiz: Get ChatGPT to create short-answer or multiple-choice quizzes.
  - Example (Geography): "Create a quiz on tectonic plate movement."
  - Example (French): "Make a vocabulary quiz on food and drink."
  - Example (Computer Science): "Make a quiz on cybersecurity threats."

4. Building Analytical Skills

- Analyse Texts: Ask ChatGPT to help you analyse quotes or key moments.
  - Example (English Literature): "Analyse Scrooge's transformation in 'A Christmas Carol'."
  - Example (History): "Analyse this source on life in the trenches during WWI."
- Compare Viewpoints: Get different perspectives on an idea.
  - Example (English Literature): "Compare two interpretations of Lady Macbeth's character."
  - Example (History): "Explain different opinions about the Treaty of Versailles."

5. Planning and Writing

- Outline Answers: Use ChatGPT to help create structured plans.
  - Example (English Literature): "Plan an essay on how Dickens presents social responsibility."
  - Example (History): "Plan an answer to: 'Was the League of Nations a success?'"
  - Example (Science): "Plan an explanation of photosynthesis."
  - Example (Business Studies): "Plan an answer on the importance of customer service."
- Write Model Answers: Ask ChatGPT to generate example answers.
  - Example (English Literature): "Write an introduction for an essay on Macbeth's ambition."
  - Example (Religious Studies): "Write a paragraph explaining Christian views on forgiveness."
  - Example (Computer Science): "Write an explanation of how data compression works."
- Get Feedback: Paste your own work and ask for feedback.
  - Example (History): "Give feedback on my paragraph about the Cuban Missile Crisis."
  - Example (Business Studies): "Give feedback on my answer about business growth strategies."

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Using AI

6. Memorising and Testing Yourself

- Turn Notes into Flashcards: Ask ChatGPT to convert notes into bullet points or flashcards.
  - Example (Science): "Turn my notes on the heart into flashcards."
  - Example (French): "Create flashcards for common verbs in the present tense."
- Self-Testing: Ask ChatGPT to quiz you on the material you've covered.
  - Example (Geography): "Test me on coastal erosion processes."
  - Example (Maths): "Quiz me on algebra equations."
  - Example (Business Studies): "Test me on business finance equations."

Example (Computer Science): "Quiz me on the different types of computer memory."

7. Reflecting and Improving

- Spot Weak Areas: Ask ChatGPT to help identify gaps in your understanding.
  - Example (English Literature): "What are common mistakes students make when analysing poems?"
  - Example (Science): "What mistakes do students often make in biology exams?"
  - Example (Computer Science): "What mistakes do students often make in pseudocode questions?"
- Adjust Your Revision: If your current method isn't working, ask for new strategies.
  - Example (History): "Suggest a new way to revise the Cold War."
  - Example (Maths): "Give me a new strategy for revising geometry."
  - Example (Business Studies): "Suggest a strategy for revising business case studies."

Final Tips

- Be Specific: The clearer your request, the better the response.
- Double-Check: Use your textbooks or revision guides to confirm ChatGPT's answers.
- Stay Active: Don't just copy answers — think, write, and test yourself.
- Practice Exams: Make sure you do timed, written answers too to prepare for the real thing.

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Barriers to **Revision**



What has stopped you from revising in the past?

Think about what has got in the way of you working at your optimum. Write them here:

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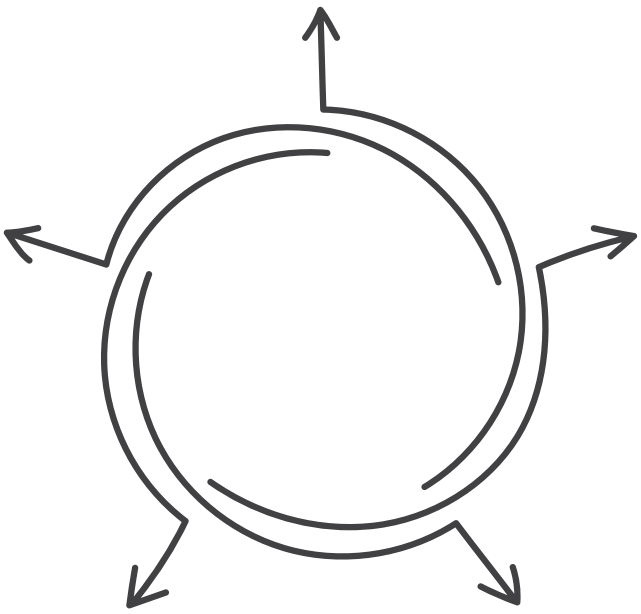
Pathway to **Revision**

How can you approach this exam window differently?

Pick **five** *achievable*, *reasonable* and ultimately *doable* actions that are going to help you overcome previous barriers



Other important **Study Habits**



1. Sleep and rest

- Aim for 7–9 hours of sleep per night to support memory consolidation and cognitive function.
- Avoid late-night cramming, as it reduces retention.
- Take short breaks during study sessions to improve focus and avoid burnout.



2. Organisation

- Keep your notes, revision materials, and resources well-organised.
- Use a study planner or digital tools to track progress and deadlines.
- Create a daily or weekly to-do list to stay on top of your tasks.



3. Dedicated study area

- Choose a quiet, clutter-free space for studying.
- Ensure good lighting and a comfortable chair to avoid fatigue.
- Minimise distractions by keeping your phone away or using apps to limit screen time.



4. Nutrition and hydration

- Eat balanced meals with protein, whole grains, and healthy fats to maintain energy levels.
- Stay hydrated—dehydration can impair concentration and memory.
- Avoid excessive caffeine and sugary snacks, which can cause energy crashes and make it more difficult.



5. Exercise and Wellbeing

- Engage in regular physical activity to reduce stress and improve focus.
- Take short walks, stretch, or do breathing exercises during breaks.
- Maintain a positive mindset and seek support from teachers, friends, or family if needed.

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Other important **Study habits**



Holistic Approach

Effective revision goes beyond just studying—it requires an holistic approach that supports both the mind and body. Establishing strong revision habits, such as getting enough sleep, staying organised, maintaining a healthy diet, and incorporating regular exercise, can significantly enhance focus, memory, and overall performance. A well-structured study environment and good time management also play a crucial role in reducing stress and ensuring productive revision. By prioritising these habits alongside effective study techniques, students can maximise their potential and approach their exams with confidence.

Final Tips

- Start early and be consistent.
- Avoid distractions—find a quiet, organised workspace.
- Use active recall methods instead of passive reading.
- Get enough sleep and take care of your well-being.
- Stay positive and believe in your ability to improve.

At St Peter's Catholic School we are here to support you throughout your revision and exam preparation. If you have any questions or need further guidance, speak with your teachers or the Pastoral team.

Parents:

Follow this QR Code to visit FromtheSidelines.uk to see their Guide to Study Hacks - top tips to support your child in their revision.

A message from

Mrs Ferry

Associate Assistant Head
KS4 Outcomes

Success in your GCSEs is about planning your revision carefully into short, manageable chunks. It is also about finding effective revision techniques that work for you. Cramming will not let you achieve your potential – you need to put knowledge into your long-term memory and keep revisiting topics. Revision is hard work so you need to be resilient and persevere. It is never too soon (or too late) to start revision. If you feel like you can't revise or you don't know how to revise, try out the revision techniques in this booklet. Remember, different techniques might be better for different subjects. Once you've revised a topic, don't forget to apply your knowledge and test yourself with past papers and mark schemes.

All the best for your GCSE exams.
Remember, your teachers are here to support you.
Interventions are continuing right up until exams and you can ask your teachers questions in lessons.
Your hard work will pay off!

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