

A Guide to Effective Revision in KS3



The Three Stages of Revision

Plan

Plan what and how you will revise



Execute

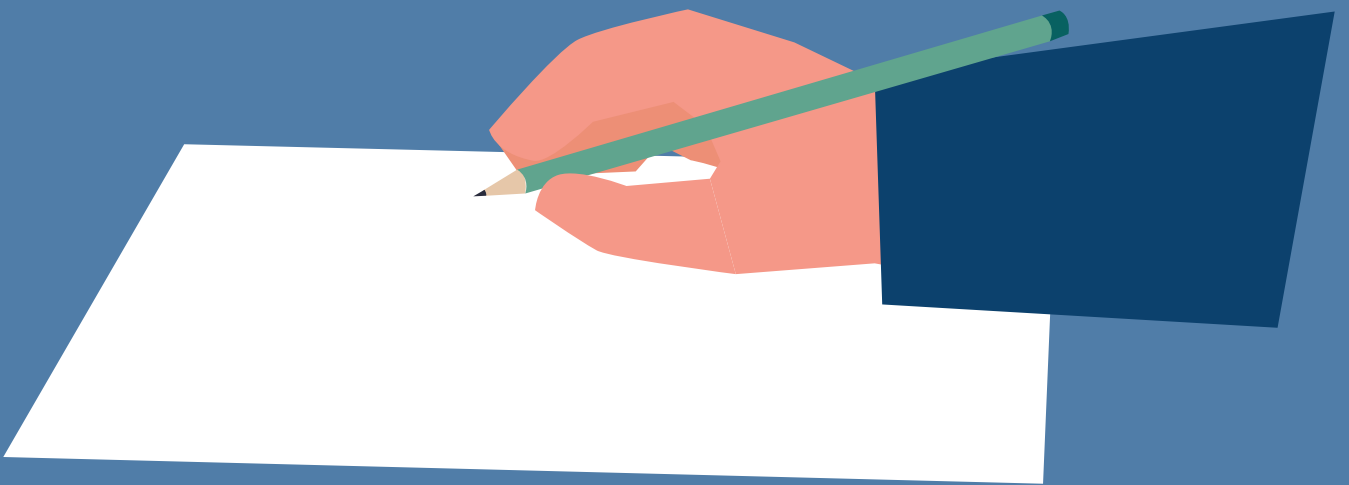
Stick to your plan and stay on task



Review

Mark your work

1. Plan



Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
E v e n i n g					

Time	Saturday	Sunday
9.30-10am		
Take a break for 10 minutes every 30 minutes		
10.10-10.40am		
10.50-11.20am		
11.30am-12pm		
12.10-12.40pm		
12.50-1.20pm		
1.30-2pm		
2.10-2.40pm		
2.50-3.20pm		
3.30-4pm		
4.10-4.40pm		
4.50-5.20pm		
5.30-6pm		
6.10-6.40pm		
6.50-7.20pm		
7.30-8pm		

Don't forget to put in free time, sports, tv, meals and going out.

When and How to Revise

Each session should be 20/30 minutes followed by a short 10 minute break.

This break is short and is to give your brain a break. It should be enough time to get a drink, go to the toilet, but NOT to play computer games!

After an hour of revision give yourself a proper break of at least 30 minutes before you start your next revision session. Ideally this break will involve you getting some fresh air and participating in some physical activity.

How

You retain information more effectively if you actively engage with it.

There are a number of ways this can be done and you will have been shown effective strategies by your teachers:

DON'T play it safe and pick topics you're secure in!

Pick a topic where you have a gap in your knowledge or you need to reinforce because you have not done anything on it for a long time.

DON'T pick up a random book and just flick through it.

Quizzes

Use apps such as 'Memorise' and 'Quizlet' to use or create quizzes based on revision topics.

Create quizzes, test yourself or get someone to test you. It works! There are a number of types you can create:

- Multiple Choice Questions
- True or False Short
- Explanation Questions
- Odd One Out

DO remember to mark your work!

Have a Brain Dump

- Take a blank sheet of paper and a pen.
- Identify a specific topic to focus on but do not open any books.
- In 60 seconds, dump onto the paper anything you can remember about the topic. Do not worry about the structure and organisation. Odd words are fine.
- This activity helps access prior knowledge and also sends signals to the memory.
- Put the paper to one side and do a revision activity for 15 minutes using books, revision cards, mind maps etc (READ, COVER, RE- MEMBER).
- Put books away and dump again in a different colour on the same sheet of paper as before, but in a different colour.
- Students will typically add at least 7 new pieces of information second time around - a visible sign of success. Success is a powerful motivational tool!

Flash cards

Simply create postcards with key information on them, for example:

- Questions on one side and answers on the other side.
- Key words on one side and definitions on the other

Tips for Making Flashcards

- Use index cards, or cut a larger piece of cardboard into smaller pieces. (Paper isn't ideal, as it's see-through. You shouldn't be able to see the answer from the front.)
- Write clearly. You should be able to read what you wrote at a very quick glance.
- Only one question and one answer per card.
- Use different coloured cards or pens to categorise your flashcards. For example, use a different colour for each subject or topic. This can help your brain to categorise information better.

Mind Maps



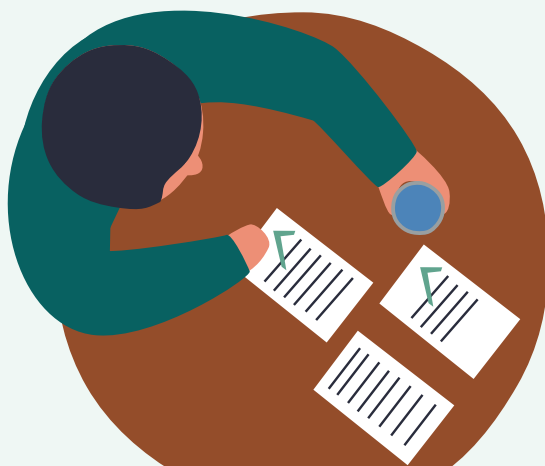
2. Execute



- Select an environment that is calm and has no distractions.
- Make sure you have all the equipment you need and a drink.
- Switch your phone off, or switch to airplane mode so you are not distracted by any alerts. Downloading the free forest app can also help with this.
- Stay on task and most importantly do not get distracted by the next task or start to look at a topic you have not planned for. This is not an effective use of time and can easily lead to you not completing the session you planned for and then becoming overwhelmed with extra work.

Resources	Equipment
<p>Computer or tablet</p> <p>Table lamp</p> <p>Scientific calculator</p> <p>Notice or pin board in a prominent place</p> <p>Personal organiser or revision timetable</p>	<p>Black pens, pencils, erasers, sharpener</p> <p>Highlighter pens and Fine point coloured pens</p> <p>Compass, protractor, ruler</p> <p>Notebooks</p> <p>Lined paper</p> <p>Flashcards</p> <p>Files and folders</p> <p>Post it notes (different colours)</p>

DO check your phone, go to the toilet and get a snack in your break, not in revision time.



3. Review



Make sure you review what you have completed.

It is pointless doing lots of revision questions if you do not mark them. How do you know if you have remembered all of the key facts when having a brain dump if you don't check it against your notes? **Reviewing your work gives you the information you need to plan for future revision sessions.**

Example 1

You got all of the questions correct / remembered all of the key points about a subject. You can mark this topic as learnt and plan for a couple of questions in a few weeks to make sure you have retained the information.

Example 2

You got two questions wrong or forgot some key information. Plan to do some more work using revision cards on this topic and then complete some more questions to test your knowledge.





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