

IES Breckland

Quick Guide to Revision

Introduction

To help support you in the build up to and during the exam period we have put together this advice sheet. It contains all of the key information you will need in order to revise effectively for your exams.

Revising for exams happens in three stages:

1. Preparing to revise effectively
2. Active and effective revision
3. Exam practice

In order to achieve success in examinations each of the three stages must be completed for each of the subjects you study.

Preparing to Revise

Planning revision is essential if you are to manage your workload and not get stressed in the run up to your exams.

You should be aiming to complete at least two hours per night and more at weekends of revision. Don't forget to plan in short breaks and target the areas you find most difficult – don't just revise the topics you enjoy or find easiest.

Here is an example of a revision timetable....

	Subject	Topic	Duration	Revision Technique
Monday	<i>Geography</i>	Rivers	1 Hour	Mind Map
	<i>GCSE PE</i>	Methods of Training	1 Hour	Revision Guide
Tuesday	<i>English</i>	Exam Technique	1 Hour	Exam Questions
Wednesday	<i>Maths</i>	Algebra	2 hours	Exam Questions
Thursday	<i>Science</i>	Space	1 Hour	Explain to parents
	<i>Business</i>	Marketing Mix	1 Hour	Revision cards



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Revising Effectively

Simply reading through your class books is a very poor way of remembering it. You can spend hours thinking your revising by doing this, but actually very little information stays in your head!

Active revision is much better. Here are some examples of active revision techniques you could use in your revision:

1. Summarise points on revision cards
2. Use mnemonics to help remember key pieces of information. Examples exist for naming planets and components of fitness in PE.
3. Make mind maps and stick them to the wall
4. Repeat lists or processes over and over again out loud.
5. Record your notes and listen to them back.
6. Set yourself questions from your notes – make sure you go back over any wrong answers.
7. Explain your work to a friend or parent.
8. Get someone to test you on the content.
9. Try activities online such as BBC Bitesize or mymaths.
10. Practice examination questions from past papers – use the mark schemes to check you have the right answers.
11. Utilise your revision guides – they contain all the information you need to know for your exams.



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Revising Effectively – Using Your Revision Guides Effectively

You have a revision guide for each of the subjects that you are studying. These are vital in preparing you for success in exams. You should be using these as part of you revision each day and bringing them to school to work from. They are yours, so make notes all over them and use them!

Contents	
B2 Topic 1 – Inside Living Cells	Respiration 1 Respiration and Exercise 2 Evaluating Health Claims 3 DNA – Making Proteins 4 Using Microorganisms 5 Revision Summary for B2 Topic 1 7
B2 Topic 2 – Disease And Development	Growth in Organisms 8 Cell Division – Mitosis 9 Stem Cells and Growth 10 Growth in Plants 12 Growth in Plants: Plant Hormones 13 Selective Breeding 14 Cloning 15 Genetic Modification and Gene Therapy 16 Revision Summary for B2 Topic 2 17
B2 Topic 3 – Ecosystems	Plants and Photosynthesis 18 Rate of Photosynthesis 19 The Carbon Cycle 20 Minerals and Plants 21 The Nitrogen Cycle 22 Life on Mars 23 Climate Change 24 Food Production and Distribution 25 Revision Summary for B2 Topic 3 26
B2 Topic 4 – Interdependence	Population Sizes 27 Extreme Environments 28 Air Pollution – CO ₂ and CO 29 Interpreting Data: Climate Change 30 Air Pollution – Acid Rain 31 Water Pollution 32 Living Indicators 33 Recycling 34 Conservation 36 Revision Summary for B2 Topic 4 37
C2 Topic 5 – Synthesis	Balancing Equations 38 Crude Oil 39 Alkanes and Alkenes 40 Cracking Hydrocarbons 41 Vegetable Oils 42 Plastics 43 Properties of Plastics 44 Uses of Plastics 45 Drug Synthesis 46 Relative Formula Mass 47 Empirical Formulae 48 Atom Economy 49 Revision Summary for C2 Topic 5 50

Contents Page

This is a list of EVERYTHING you need to know for each subject and exam board you are studying.

You need to make sure you are familiar with all of the content. If there is anything you have missed ask your teacher.

You can use this page to tick off when you have revised or fully understood a particular topic.

Topic Pages

Contains all the information for that topic, often with 'How to' guides.

Use this with other active revision techniques to learn the relevant information.

Once learnt try the practice questions that are on every page to check your understanding.

SECTION FOUR — GRAPHS

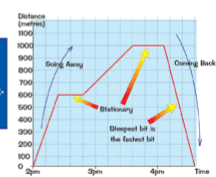
D/T Graphs and V/T Graphs

Distance-time graphs and velocity-time graphs are so common in Exams that they deserve a page all to themselves just to make sure you know all the vital details about them. The best thing about them is that they don't vary much and they're always easy.

1) Distance-Time Graphs

Just remember these 3 important points:

- 1) At any point, **GRADIENT = SPEED**, but watch out for the **UNITS**.
- 2) The **STEEPER** the graph, the **FASTER** it's going.
- 3) **FLAT SECTIONS** are where it is **STOPPED**.

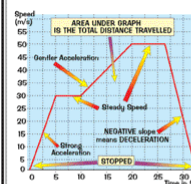


EXAMPLE: "What is the speed of the return section on the graph shown?"

Speed = gradient = 1000m/30mins = 33.33 m/min. But m/min are **neff** units so it's better to do it like this: 1km ÷ 0.5 hrs = **2 km/h**

2) Velocity-Time Graphs

A velocity-time graph can **look** just the same as a distance-time graph but it means something **completely different**. The graph shown here is exactly the same shape as the one above, but the actual motions are completely different.



Remember these 4 important points:

- 1) At any point, **GRADIENT = ACCELERATION**. (The **UNITS** are m/s² don't forget).
- 2) **NEGATIVE SLOPE** is **DECELERATION**.
- 3) **FLAT SECTIONS** are **STEADY SPEED**.
- 4) **AREA UNDER GRAPH = DISTANCE TRAVELLED**

The D/T graph shows something **moving away** and then **back again** with **steady speeds** and **long stops**, rather like a donkey on Blackpool Beach. The V/T graph on the other hand shows something that **sets off from rest**, **accelerates strongly**, **holds its speed**, then **accelerates** again up to a **maximum speed** which it holds for a while and then comes to a **dramatic halt** at the end. **MORE LIKE A FERRARI THAN A DONKEY!**

The Acid Test:

LEARN the 7 IMPORTANT POINTS and the TWO DIAGRAMS then turn over and write them all down.

- 1) For the D/T graph shown above, work out the speed of the middle section in km/h.
- 2) For the V/T graph, work out the three different accelerations and the two steady speeds.

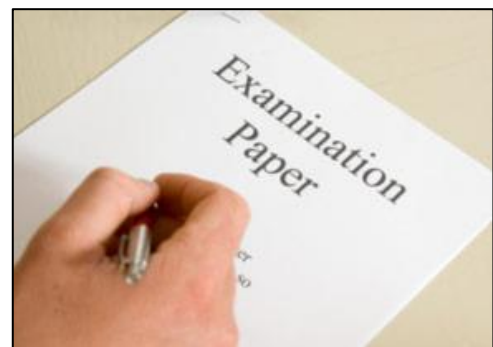
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Exam Practice

Once you have revised the subject content there is no substitute for practicing exam questions. By doing this you will become familiar with the type of questions the examiners ask and how to answer them to get the most marks.

Past Exam Papers – These are available online and contain examples of questions you might face and the style the questions are written in. Print one out and have a go!



Mark Schemes – Once you have tried the practice questions use the mark scheme to see how you got on. This will help you gain an understanding of what the examiners are looking for in your answers.

How to get past papers and mark schemes

All past papers and mark schemes are available from the exam board websites below.

Exam Board	Subjects	Website
Edexcel Pearson	Mathematics, Business Studies, PE, Geography, Music	http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html
OCR	Science, ICT, Computing, Portuguese	http://www.ocr.org.uk/i-want-to/download-past-papers/
AQA	English, French, History, Philosophy & Ethics, Dance, Polish. Spanish	http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes
WJEC	Drama	http://www.wjec.co.uk/students/past-papers/

