



HOW TO REVISE FOR EXAMS

KS3

ST AMBROSE COLLEGE

Why revise?

Revision helps you remember key information and prepares you for assessments. At KS3, in your summer exams, you will be tested on the skills and content that you have learnt in class. The main thing to focus on is revising **cleverly and efficiently**.



How to Revise

1. Create a routine or timetable
2. Use your knowledge organisers to make flashcards
3. Look at WAGOLs and examples from lessons
4. Teach someone else
5. Make mind-maps
6. Complete practice questions

This booklet will guide you through how to use these techniques to revise well!



1. Create a routine or timetable

Use the blank timetable below and fill in subjects for each day. Plan short sessions (25-30 mins per subject). Don't forget any of your subjects! Include breaks and fun activities – don't neglect your hobbies and make sure to spend time being active, and put this in your timetable.

Be **realistic** about how much revision you can do. It's important that you don't get stressed and overdo it, as this will harm you and your progress.

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
7.30-8.00							
8.00-8.30							
8.30-9.00							
9.00-9.30							
9.30-10.00							
10.00-10.30							
10.30-11.00							
11.00-11.30							
11.30-12.00							
12.00-12.30							
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18.00-18.30							
18.30-19.00							
19.00-19.30							
19.30-20.00							
20.00-20.30							

2. Use your knowledge organisers

Knowledge organisers contain the key facts and vocabulary for each subject. Here's how to use them...

Read and cover:
Read a section,
cover it, and try to
write it out from
memory

Quiz yourself: Ask
a friend or family
member to test
you

Create flashcards: Write
a question on one side
and the answer on the
other. Use them to test
yourself – you could even
do this on the bus to
school!



3. Look at WAGOLLS and examples from lessons

WAGOLLS show examples of excellent work.

Use them by:

- Highlighting and labelling key features and techniques used
- Comparing them to your own work to see how you can improve
- Practising writing your own versions using similar structures

For example: Look at example paragraphs you have been given in English, RE or History. Highlight and label where it uses a clear topic sentence, discusses evidence, evaluates ideas, etc. Rewrite the paragraph in your own words/ about a different point/ in response to a similar question.



4. Teach Someone Else

Explaining a topic out loud helps you remember it better. Try:

- Teaching a friend or family member
- Pretending to be a teacher and explaining to a stuffed animal
- Creating a short video of yourself explaining the topic to somebody in the year below you

For example: Teach your parent about fractions by showing them step-by-step how to simplify them.

Step	Explanation
Define the topic	What is it? Explain briefly what this type of question involves.
Give an example	Show how it works using an example question.
Explain a tricky part	Break down the difficult parts clearly and carefully. Identify anything that often trips people up!



5. Make mind-maps

Mind mapping is a way to generate ideas by linking information together. It helps visualise connections that helps you to remember links. Your brain loves patterns – visualising key information and how it links together is a great way to get it to stick in your mind.

How to create a mind-map for revision

1. Start in the centre

Write or draw your main topic in the middle of the page, e.g. energy resources.



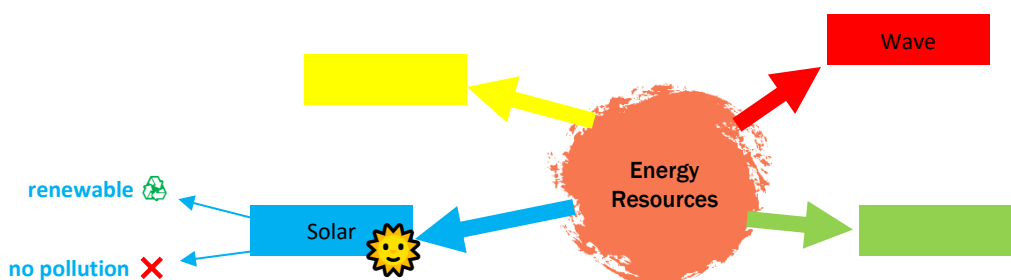
2. Add main branches

Draw thick branches from the centre to organise key areas, such as the main different sources of energy. (NOTE: the one below is incomplete!). Use different colours for each of your main areas – this helps with memory!



3. Expand with details

From each main branch, add thinner branches with related ideas. For example, under 'solar,' include details like 'renewable', 'no pollution' etc. Use words and add small pictures or symbols.



4. Use this to teach someone else or quiz yourself (eg. using the cover up method). You could also use this to make flash cards to quiz yourself too.

6. Complete practice questions

Practising questions is one of the best ways to revise. Here's how to do it properly:

1: Find practice questions

- Use questions from your teacher, past papers, revision books, or trusted websites such as BBC Bitesize.
- You could even ask ChatGPT to make questions based on a topic you're revising!

2: Create exam conditions

- Set a timer based on how long you'd have in the real exam.
- Find a quiet space, turn off distractions, and don't look at your notes.

3: Answer the questions

- Focus on your timing and write your answers as clearly and fully as possible.
- Use the question to guide what the answer needs (e.g. PEEL paragraphs, quotes, explanation).

4: Check your work

- Compare your answers to a mark scheme, model answer (WAGOLL), or notes.
- Use a green pen to mark and improve your work. Add in key words that you missed out, quotations that you missed, miscalculations, misunderstandings or anything else you did wrong/ forgot. Rewrite your answer in full if you got it completely wrong. If you're REALLY organised and have a list of topics, highlight that topic as an area you need to return to. You could also highlight this on your Knowledge Organiser.

5: Reflect and improve

- Ask yourself: What did I do well? What do I need to work on?
- Repeat this process again for things you need to improve!


Final Tips: In the exam

Understanding Exam Questions: **Green**, **Yellow**, and **Red** light thinking

In exams, different types of questions need different kinds of thinking. Knowing the type can help you plan your answer and stay calm.

Green Light – Go for it!

These are fact-based questions. You either know the answer or you don't.

 **Tip:** Use flashcards, quizzes, and memory games to revise.

If you're stuck, circle the question, move on and come back later.


Yellow Light – Slow down.

These questions are trickier. They often ask you to use more than one piece of information. Often you'll have to put multiple details together.

 **Tip:** Use the same revision methods as for green light questions, but make sure you understand how ideas link together.

Red Light – Think carefully.

These are problem-solving or inference questions. They ask you to apply what you know in a new way.

 **Tip:** Try using mind maps or talk with others about how ideas connect. Don't worry if it feels new – you're meant to figure it out during the exam.