



**BRENTSIDE
HIGH SCHOOL**

LEARNING & ACHIEVING TOGETHER



**Welcome to the Year 11 Year Ahead Evening
Tuesday, 22 September 2026**



Ms Mertzelos

Assistant Headteacher





Aims of the evening:

- How to support your child to successfully prepare for assessments and exams
- Target grades in KS4 and how your child's progress will be tracked
- How to develop effective study and revision skills.



Attendance and punctuality

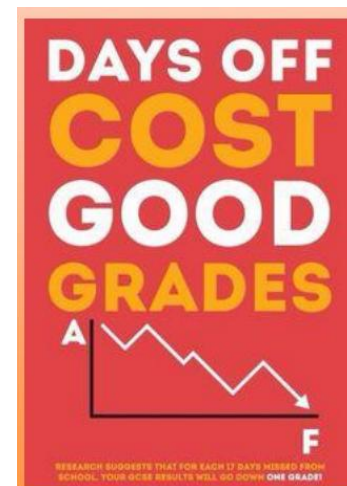
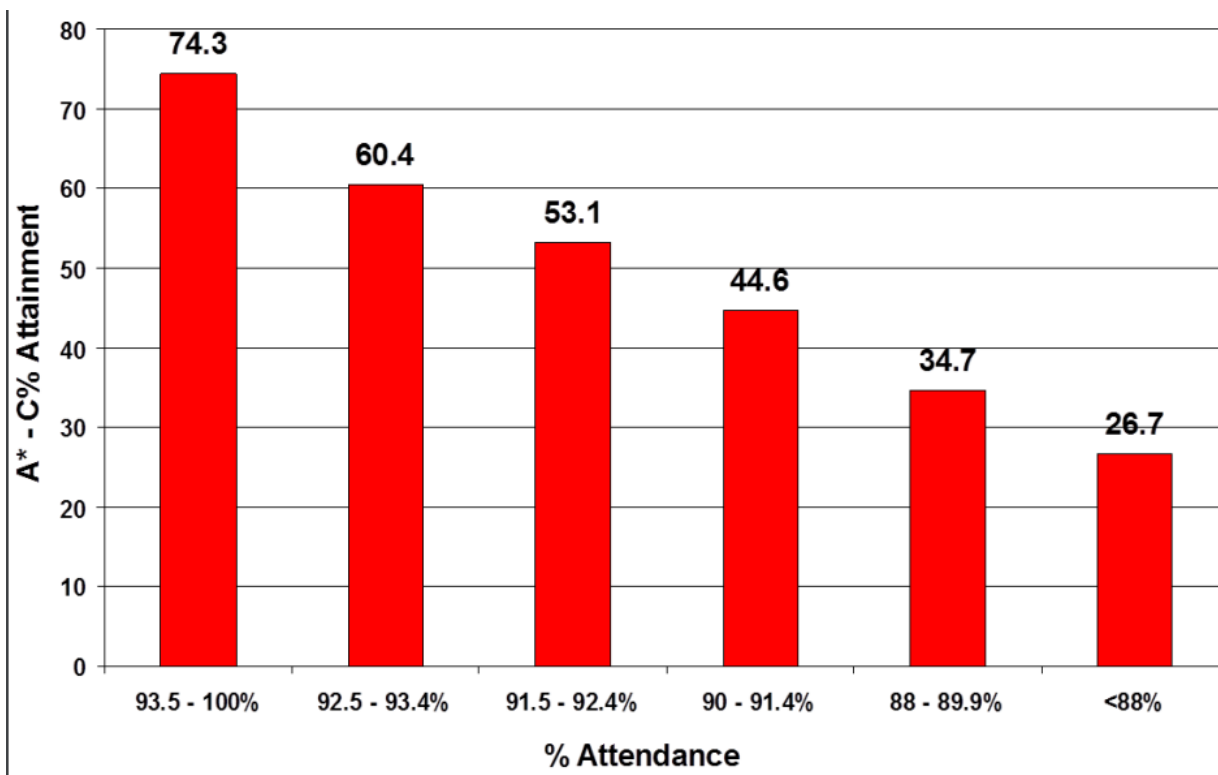


- Please help your child to get up and arrive to school on time.
- Every lesson does count. Year 11 have around 25 school weeks until their GCSE exams start and 8 school weeks until their mock exams.
- Reminder: students in tutor time for 08:40.





90% attendance: Students generally achieve one grade below those with 100%... 90% = *missing one day a fortnight*





Success is a journey

- No journey is straight forward; there are always challenges along the way.
- To be successful is to challenge yourself, to achieve things you can't already do.
- Success only comes with effort, discomfort and failure.





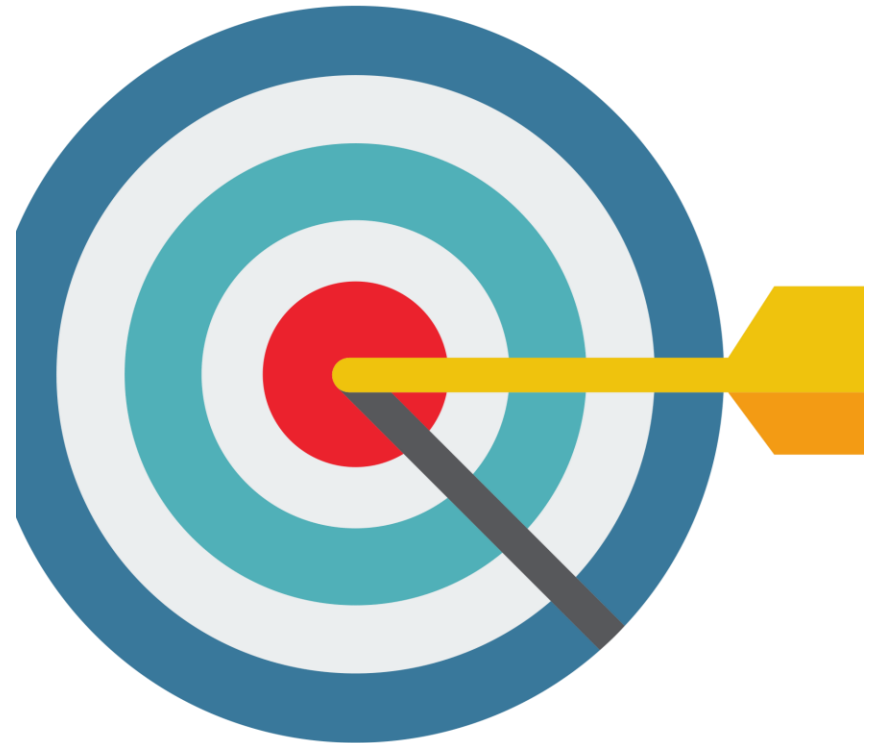
Key dates for the year

Event	Date
Target Setting Day	Thursday, 26 November
Mock Exams Begin	Monday, 7 December
Parents Evening	Thursday, 21 January
Target Review Day	Thursday, 25 March
GCSE EXAMS PROVISIONALLY BEGIN	Thursday, 6 May



Exam Preparation and Support

- Targeted intervention and exam preparation sessions
- Holiday booster sessions
Feb half term, April break,
May half term
- Mock Exams – December
and March
- Revision guides and online
resources





Pathways – Sixth Form and beyond...

- **Level 2:** Grades 9-3 in 5 subjects (including English Language or Literature and Maths)
- **Level 3 BTEC** courses: Grades 9-4 in 5 subjects (including English Language or Literature and Maths)
- **Level 3 A Level** courses: Grades 9-5 in 5 subjects (including English Language or Literature and Maths, plus linked subject/s)





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Mr Moynihan

Assistant Headteacher





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Attendance to...

- Lessons
- Exam preparation sessions – morning/afternoon
- February and Easter revision sessions
- Mock examinations – December/February
- 16:30 Club – students revise independently in a quiet area – revision for exams
- Coursework completion – Health and Social Care, Creative iMedia, Art , Drama and Music.



Exam preparation sessions

Mathematics – Tuesday at 07:45 and 15:15

Science – Wednesday at 15:15

English – Thursday at 07:45 and 15:15

Other subjects will also be offering afterschool preparation sessions, e.g.,

Monday at 15:15: History, Geography, Religious Studies and Citizenship.

Letters/emails will be sent out inviting students to these exam preparation sessions.

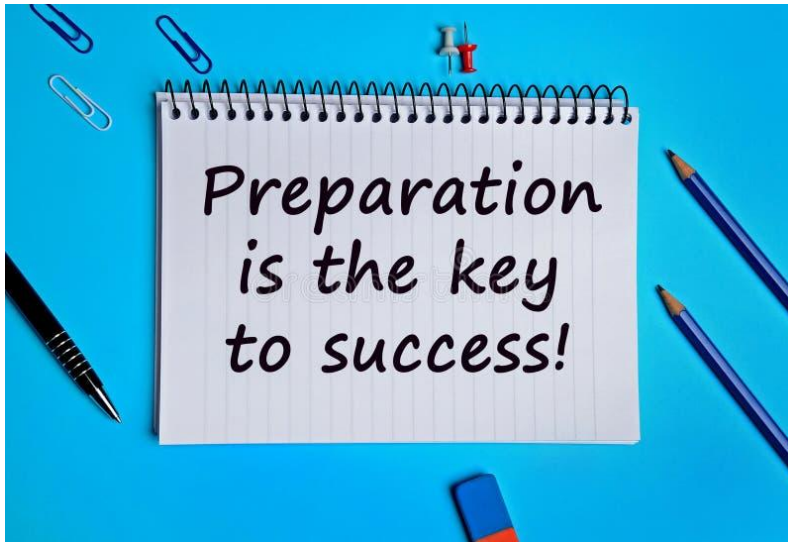


Year 11 mock examinations

Topic lists and revision Guide

Subjects:

- English, p2
- Mathematics, p3-6
- Science, p7-9
- Physical education, p10
- History, p11
- Geography, p12
- Music and music technology, p13-14
- Drama, p15-16
- Religious studies, p17-19
- Citizenship, p20-21
- Computing and Creative Imedia, p22-24
- Art - Food and nutrition, graphics and drawing, sculpture, product design and media studies p23-29
- French/Spanish, p30
- Health and Social Care, 31-32
- Resources to support revision, p33
- RAG subject knowledge, p34
- Mind Map and Dual coding, p35
- Holiday revision timetable, p36
- Exam Boards for each subject, p37



‘Before anything else, the key to success
is preparation’

Alexander Graham Bell





Making sense of the grades



Subject	TT20 target grade	TT5 target gra de	Mock Assessment	Predicted grade
English	5	6	3	5
French	4	5	2	4
Geography	3	4	3	4
ICT	6	7	5	5
Maths	5	6	4	6
Science	5	6	5	5

Predicted Grade: Teachers' prediction on what they will achieve in Summer GCSE exams.
Mock Assessment: The grade they achieved in their December or February exams.





Subject	TT20 target grade	TT5 target grade	Predicted grade
English	5	6	5
French	4	5	4
Geography	3	4	4
ICT	6	7	5
Maths	5	6	6
Science	5	6	5



What do these results mean post 16?

- Most subjects require a grade 5/6 with a 6 in their chosen subjects to complete **A-Level** subjects. At Brentside High School a student would need 6 subjects with a grade 5 and above.
- There are also different pathways such as **Level 3 BTEC** and **Level 2 BTEC**. Both are very popular and successful alternatives to A-Levels.
- The better a student does, the more choice they have over which pathway to choose from.



Advice from Y12:

If I could give Y11 one piece of advice...

"Revise early, revise, go out as well as revise, work out what you want to do next year and work for it, work hard from the start, be continuous with your study routine, focus on yourself- even if it means changing one or two friends."

"Don't leave it till a month before your exams, give yourself enough time to study, focus on what you want to pursue in life, revise every day on a topic you're not sure of and test yourself until you get it right."

"Challenge yourself, keep going don't give up, start studying now and don't get lazy, be prepared, avoid distractions, study but also have a social life as it relieves stress, don't get too stressed out."



Dr Malik

Subject Leader of Science





How to be successful in GCSE Science

Year 11 Year Ahead Evening

Tuesday 22 September 2026

Dr. Malik – Director of Science



Science today

New discoveries,
mysteries and AI



How to revise

What works, and a
weekly plan



Key dates

Mocks, sixth form, next
steps



We went back to the Moon

Artemis II • 1–10 April 2026

Nearly 10 days

around the Moon and back

252,756 miles

from Earth: the farthest humans have ever travelled

1972

the last time people flew beyond low Earth orbit
(Apollo 17)



The crew

Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch (NASA) with Jeremy Hansen (Canadian Space Agency).



In your GCSE

Forces and motion, energy, and heat: all needed to get people around the Moon and home safely.



The 2025 Nobel Prizes in science



Chemistry

Kitagawa, Robson & Yaghi

Metal–organic frameworks: molecular structures full of tiny spaces. They can harvest water from desert air, capture carbon dioxide and store toxic gases.

Think: bonding, gases, the atmosphere



Medicine

Brunkow, Ramsdell & Sakaguchi

How the body stops the immune system from attacking itself: the discoveries help explain autoimmune diseases, where this control fails.

Think: infection and the immune system



Physics

Clarke, Devoret & Martinis

Quantum effects shown in an electric circuit big enough to hold in your hand: this opens up possibilities for quantum computers, sensors and cryptography.

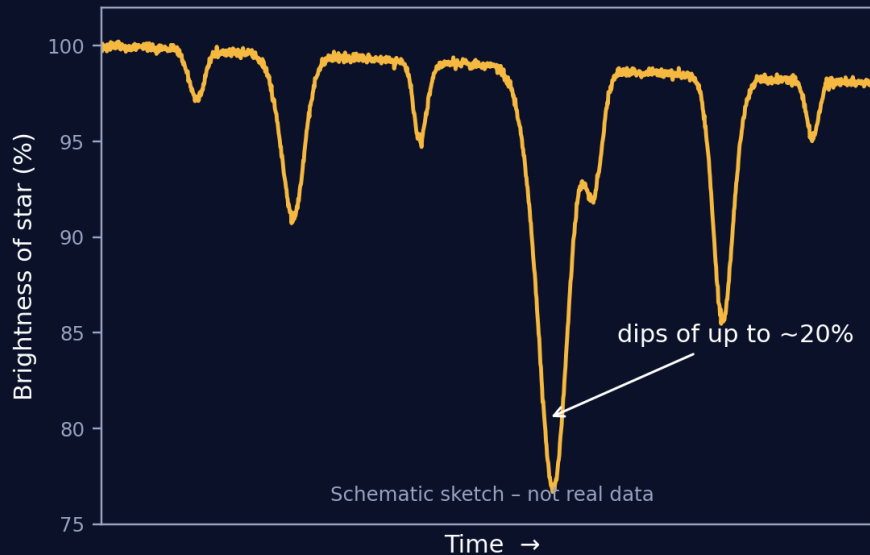
Think: electric circuits, future computers

This year's Nobel Prizes are announced in October – look out for them.



Mystery 1: Tabby's Star

KIC 8462852: a star, not a planet, that keeps dimming



The clue: different colours of light dim by different amounts, so whatever passes in front is not solid, like a planet.

Found by volunteers

Citizen scientists on the Planet Hunters project spotted it in NASA Kepler data (2015). It dips by up to ~20% for days, then recovers.

The suspects

Comet swarms, a planet's debris, a dust cloud, even an alien "megastructure" (a very long shot).

Best explanation so far

Dust. What makes the dust, and the star's slow long-term fading, is still debated.



AI and the jobs of the future

+11 million

jobs AI and data processing could create by 2030

-9 million

jobs it could displace: forecasts, not certainties

Fastest-growing jobs (forecast)

- 1 Big data specialists
- 2 FinTech engineers
- 3 AI and machine learning specialists
- 4 Software developers

Most wanted skill: analytical thinking: 7 in 10 employers.



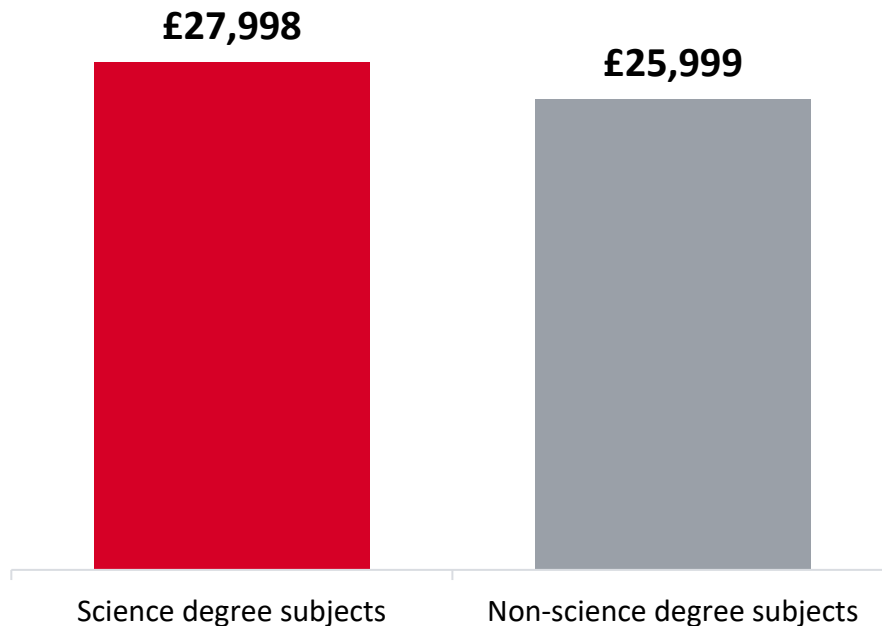
AI is science too

The 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry honoured Hassabis and Jumper's AI model that predicts protein structures: a 50-year-old problem.



Let's talk money – honestly

Median salary of UK graduates (2021/22)



A gap of about £2,000

A modest average difference, not a guarantee of a higher salary.

The job matters more

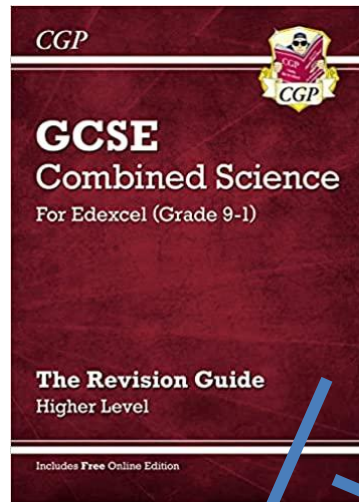
In maths and computing, high-skilled jobs paid about £10,000 more than low-skilled ones. Medicine and dentistry topped the science subjects.

Part of the gap reflects prior grades and background, not just the subject.

What science does give you: the analytical thinking employers say they want most.

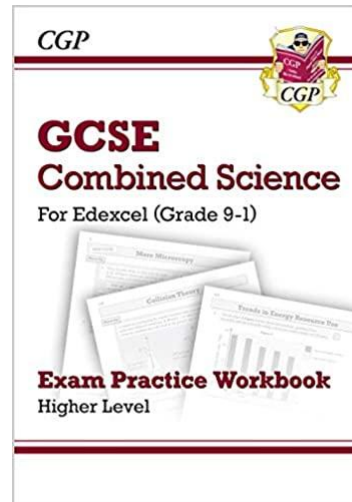


Your revision resources



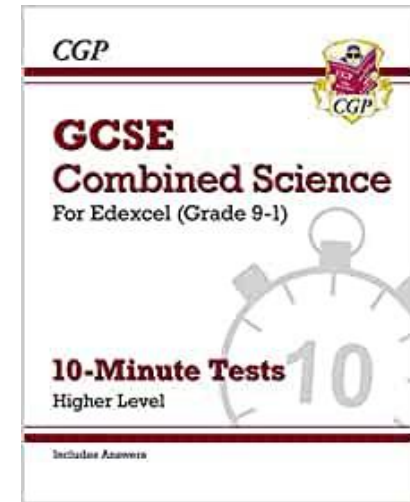
Revision Guide

Learn a section, then cover and recall



Exam Practice Workbook

Exam-style questions to test yourself



10-Minute Tests

Quick self-checks in short sessions



senecalearning.com
Free online science courses



physicsandmathstutor.com
Topic questions and past papers



Requirements for 6th form science



A-levels

- Five grade 5s or more **AND**
- A high 6 in the science you want to do
- Grade 6 in Maths
- Grade 5 in English (Literature or Language)



BTEC Applied Science

- Five grade 4s or more, including a 4 in science, maths and English

A **“high 6”**: the top third of the marks within a grade 6 (in Combined Science, the top third of the 6-6 range).



Key dates ahead



From Mon 28 Sept

Year 11 mini mocks begin



7–17 Dec 2026

Year 11 mock exams



21 Jan 2027

Year 11 Parents' Evening
(mock results included)



22 Feb – 2 Mar 2027

Year 11 Spring assessments

Questions?

Start your first recall session this week: small, regular, tested.



It is all possible!



Work hard in lesson

+

revise at home

=

an amazing science result



Students

Do your first cover-and-recall session this week.



Parents and carers

Ask your child to explain one topic to you without notes: 10 minutes.



Ms Al-Sikab

Subject Leader of English





English in Year 11

Year 11 is organised around the exams calendar.

Autumn 1 and 2

Interleaved Literature Paper 2 revision alongside Language Paper 1 and 2 preparation

Spring

Literature Paper 1 revision, followed by targeted teaching in response to mock results

This sequence keeps revision closely matched to the next assessment.



Assessment and revision schedule

12 October 2026: in-class mock

Language Paper 1

December 2026: hall mocks

Language Paper 2

Literature Paper 2

First week after February half term 2027: hall mocks

Language Paper 1

Literature Paper 1

May and June 2027

Four public examinations across English Language and English Literature



GCSE English Language and Literature Overview

English Literature		English Language	
Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 1	Paper 2
Section A: Shakespeare	Section A: Modern texts	Section A: Reading	Section A: Reading
Macbeth	An Inspector Calls	Q1 Finding information Q2 Language Analysis Q3 Structure Analysis Q4 How far do you agree?	Q1 True or false Q2 Infer Q3 Language Analysis Q4 Compare viewpoints
Section B: 19 th C Novel	Section B: Anthology	Section B: Writing	Section B: Writing
A Christmas Carol	Power and Conflict	Q5 Descriptive or narrative writing	Q5 Writing to give an opinion
	Section C: Unseen Poetry Analysing an unseen poem, and comparing		
12 th May	19 th May	24 th May	8 th June



Weekly English Intervention

Thursday mornings and Thursday
afternoons

Our large English team can offer
both sessions. Registers allow us to
monitor attendance and follow up
where students need regular
support.

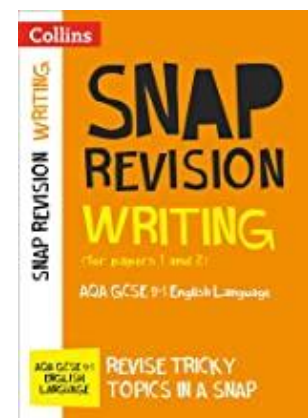
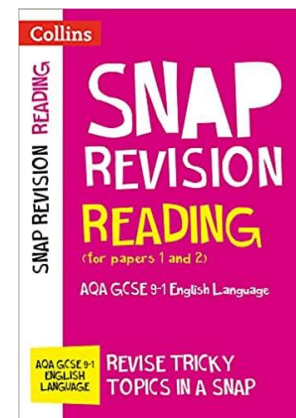
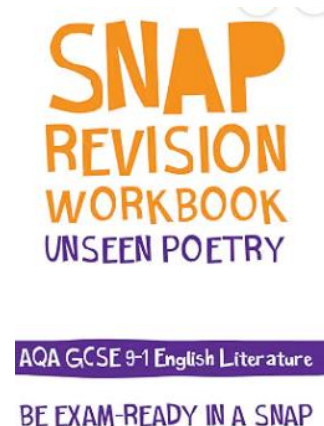
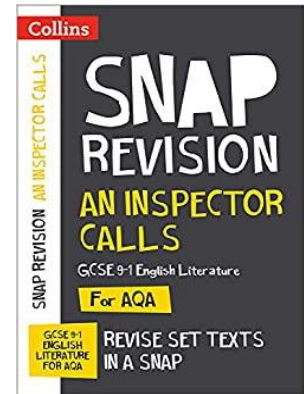
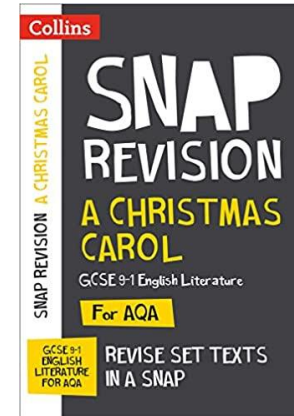
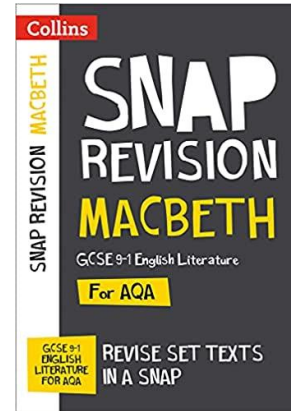
In the new year, support will expand
to include whole-cohort walking
talking mocks, weekend revision and
Easter revision.





Every student receives revision materials for all Literature texts and both Language papers.

Please use these alongside class work and past-paper practice rather than as a replacement for them.

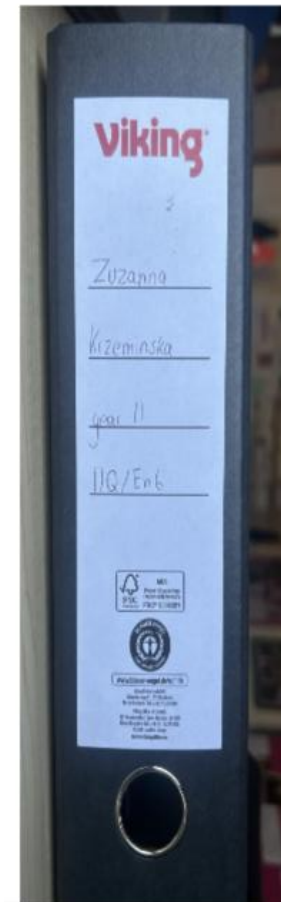




Visible learning:

This year each student has been given a lever arch folder with a section for every module. Teachers can quickly identify missing practice, incomplete past papers and areas that need further revision.

Students may take the folder home before mocks so that families can see what has been completed and help prioritise the next steps.





Key Revision at Home



[Subjects](#) [Qualifications](#) [Professional Development](#) [Exams Admin](#) [Services](#) [Support for](#)



[Home](#) > [Search - Past papers and mark schemes](#)

Search - Past papers and mark schemes



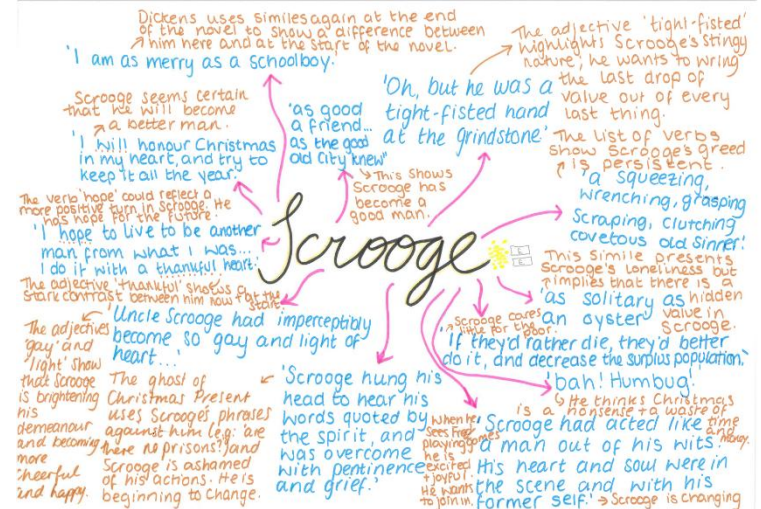
Useful online revision

- Mr Bruff
- Mr Salles
- Seneca Learning
- BBC Bitesize





Students are awarded 2
 GSCEs for English, therefore
 sufficient time must be set
 aside daily for revision.





Reading

The correlation between reading for pleasure and success at GSCE is undeniable, so please encourage your child to read for 30 minutes a day.





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Ms Nagra

Subject Leader of Mathematics





- **Mock Exams:**
- Paper 1 Non calculator (1 hour 30 mins)
- Paper 2 Calculator (1 hour 30 mins)
- Paper 3 Calculator (1 hour 30 mins)
- **All papers are out of 80 marks each**



Support for Students

Homework tasks on SPARX

- Questions given according to student ability
- Videos available if stuck

Half Papers

- Weekly- predicted GCSE questions
- Follow-up in lessons with topics that are re-taught

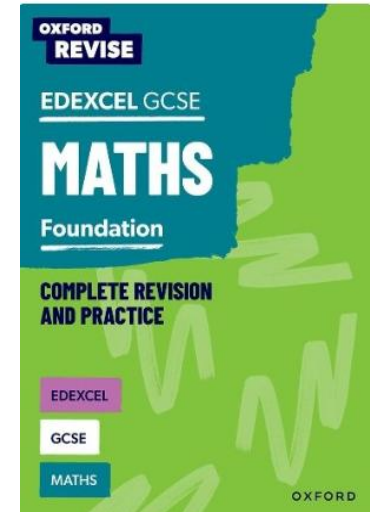
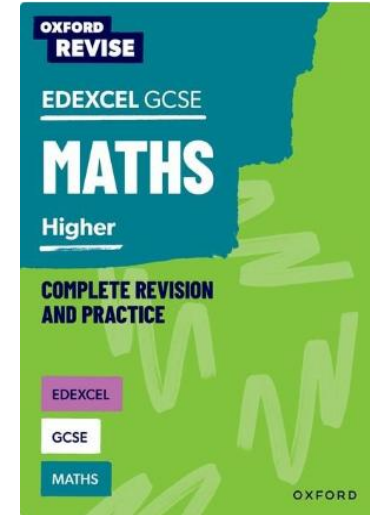
Tuesday morning (07:40) and twilight exam prep sessions (15:10 – 16:15)

- Consolidate learning



Revision Materials

- Students have been provided with revision guides (Year 9)
- Websites:
 - BBC GCSE Bitesize
 - MathsGenie
 - Corbett maths
 - 1st class maths
 - MyMaths (login: brentside, password: prism).
- Later in the year Easter revision, Saturday classes.
- Past papers packs will be given before Easter with worked solutions.





**Ms Griffiths
Deputy Headteacher
Teaching & Learning**

What have I learnt about myself as a student in year 10?

- I have totally mastered working in the evenings.
- I start revising early so I feel in control.
- I come to school almost every day and am really attentive in lessons.
- I try my best at homework; the only one gaining from it is me, after all.
- If I don't understand something, I ask my teachers after the lesson - I need to show initiative.

- I go to my room and listen to music, check social media and start when I'm ready.
- I start revising a week before, panic, then feel anxious for the whole exam session.
- I try to come in mostly, but I get so tired...
- I hate homework. I don't go on Class Charts *every* night. If I do it, I try to get it done as quickly as possible!
- Oh my God! Teachers. They're always at me. Why don't they leave me alone?



Year 11 is about starting your journey as a young adult and setting the foundations for the rest of your working life.



And it is a marathon,
not a sprint.



Step 1: Establish a routine and get organised



Turn your room into a **positive learning environment**. Keep books and notes on the desk to a minimum and **decorate your walls** with colourful notes and **key facts**.

Music is OK as long as it helps you to study, and blocks out distracting noises.



Experiments show that some types of classical music **boost brain power** and increase your IQ!

Use study music on YouTube to help you relax.

A person with long hair, seen from behind, stands in a grassy field looking out over a vast, hazy mountain landscape under a clear sky. The person is wearing a dark jacket. The text "Looking back and looking forwards" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

**Looking back and
looking forwards**



Year 10 exams –what have you not mastered?

Year 11 new content –top-up as you go

	Tricky topic 1	Tricky topic 2	Tricky topic 3
Maths			
English Lit			
Chemistry			
Biology			
Physics			
RE			
Hist / Geog/ Option			
MFL / Option			
Option			

Step 2: Subject Hit Lists!
Specify and prioritise

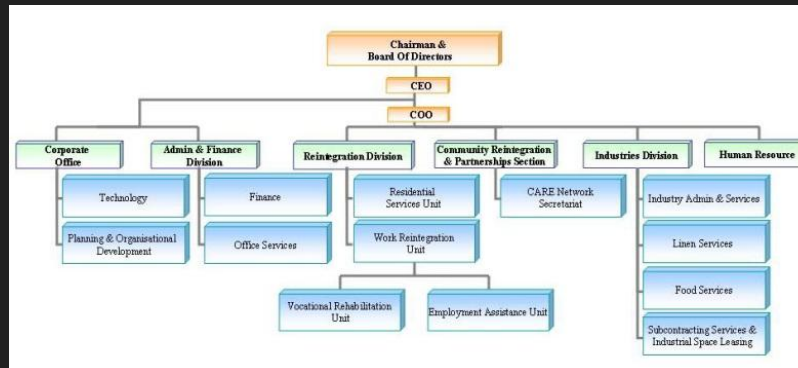
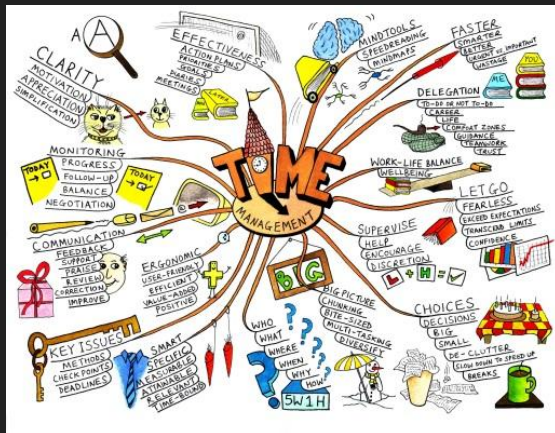
REVISION TIMETABLE	Subject and Specific Topic to Revise		Subject and Specific Topic to Revise
Monday	Geography: practising 6 mark questions (<i>cite specific topics e.g. population, development</i>)		ENGLISH: practise using unseen texts
Tuesday	CHEMISTRY: practising 8 mark questions (<i>cite specific topics</i>)		SPANISH: revising for 'writing' exam on Nov 25 th
Wednesday	MATHS: revision class		BIOLOGY: revise past paper questions (<i>cite specific topics</i>)
Thursday	MUSIC: exam questions from past papers (<i>cite specific topics</i>)		RE: St Mark's Gospel questions (<i>cite specific topics</i>)
Friday	BREAK		BREAK
Saturday	Geography: population questions	SPANISH: revising for 'writing' exam	

Step 3: Little and often
-Weekly revision starts now!

Did you know?

In order to remember something, your brain needs to experience it:

- 3 different times and in
- 3 different ways

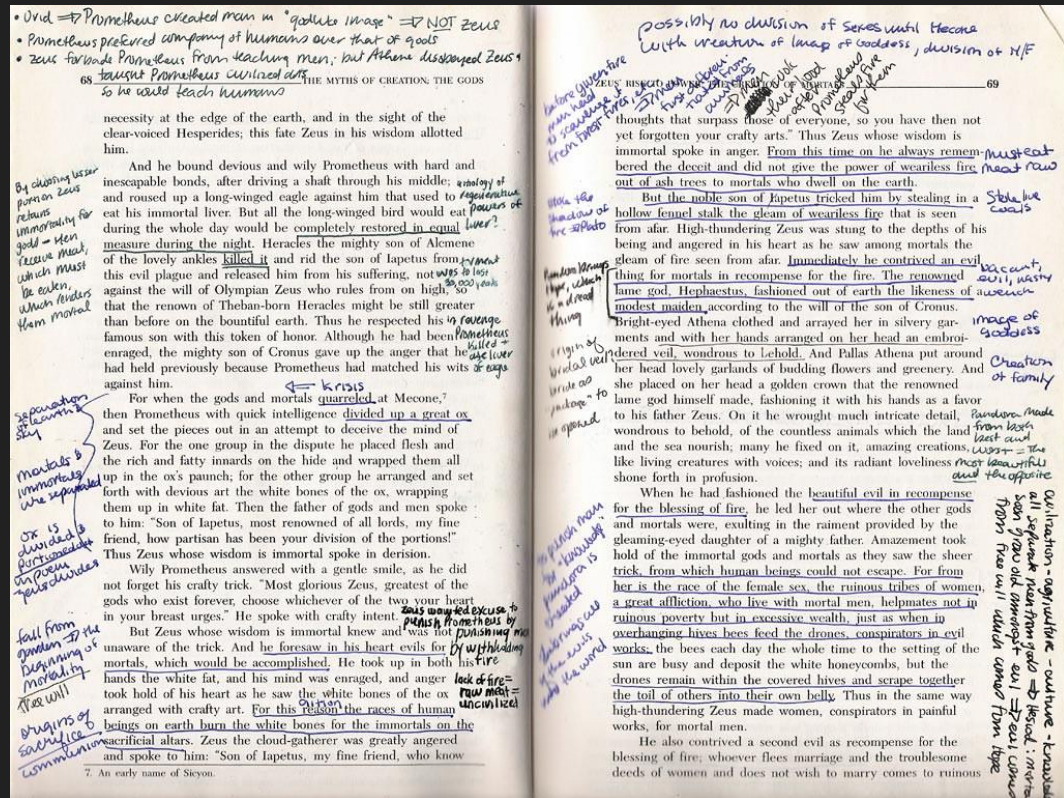


Icons designed by Zee Que | Designbolts.com

Reading Better and *Faster*

Active Reading

- Skim read
- Make notes
- Draw diagrams
- Read **OUT LOUD.**



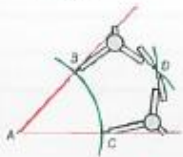
Accurate Drawings

A **construction** is an accurate drawing using a combination of ruler, protractor and a pair of compasses. In your examination it's important that

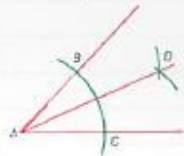
when you use a pair of compasses, the construction arcs are clearly shown and that all lengths and angles are accurate.

c) Draw an angle. Construct the angle bisector.

Solution



Draw an angle at point A. Draw a long arc from A to cut the lines at B and C. Draw arcs of equal radius from points B and C to intersect at point D.



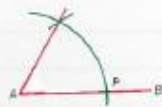
Join A to D to form the bisector of the angle.

d) Construct an angle of 30° .

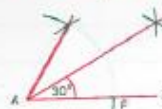
Solution

Problem Solving

Think about how you can combine basic constructions. In this case, construct an angle of 60° and then bisect it to create an angle half the size.



Construct the angle of 60°



Bisect the angle of 60°

Least common multiple

3 and 5

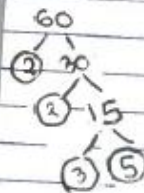
3 = 3 6 9 12 15 18 21

5 = 5 10 15 20

List all the multiples of 3 and 5.
The LCM is the number that's the same in both.

LCM of 60 and 96

too big to use decomposition



96

48

24

12

6

3

2

2

2

2

$$60 = 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5$$

$$96 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3$$

$$\text{HCF} = 2 \times 2 \times 3 = 12$$

$$12 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 5 = 480$$

$$\text{Formula} = \text{HCF} \times \text{REST NUMBERS}$$

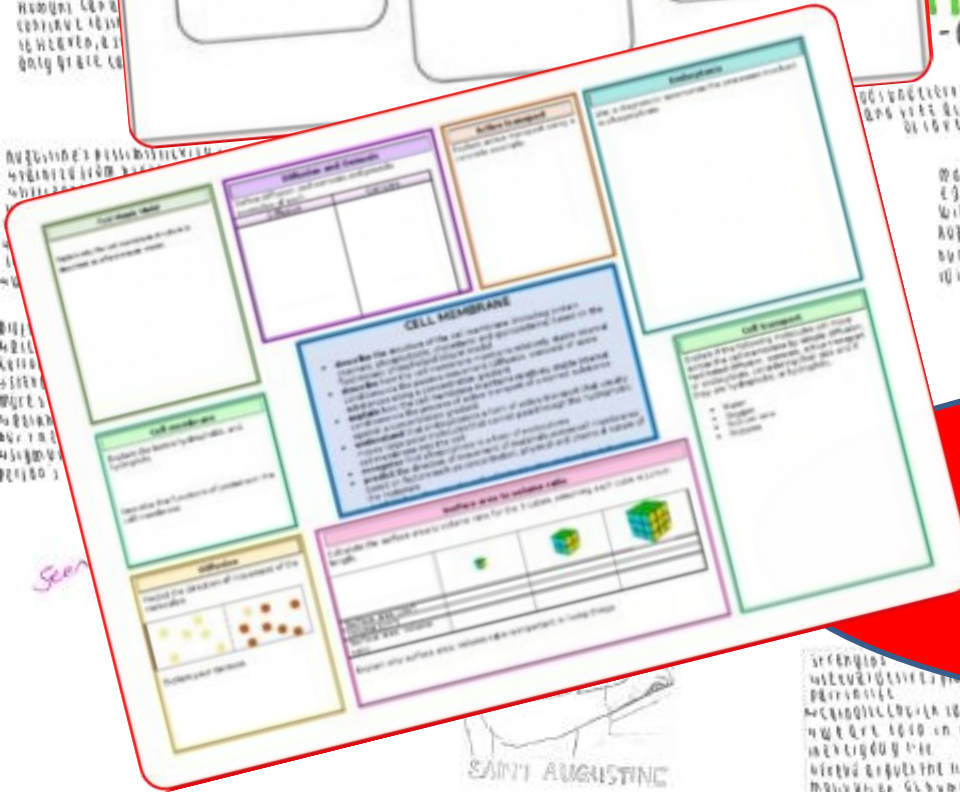
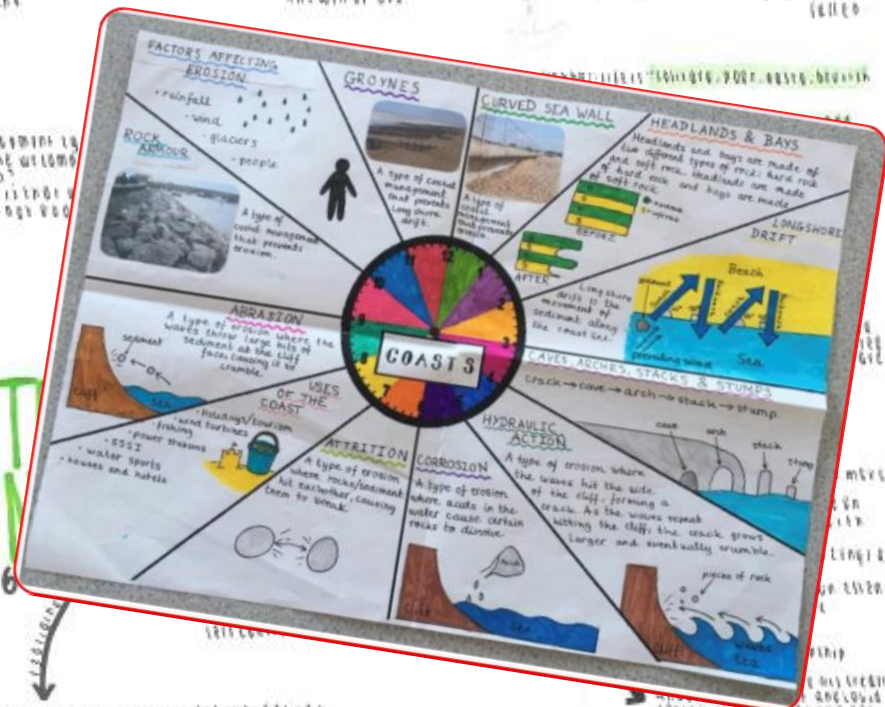
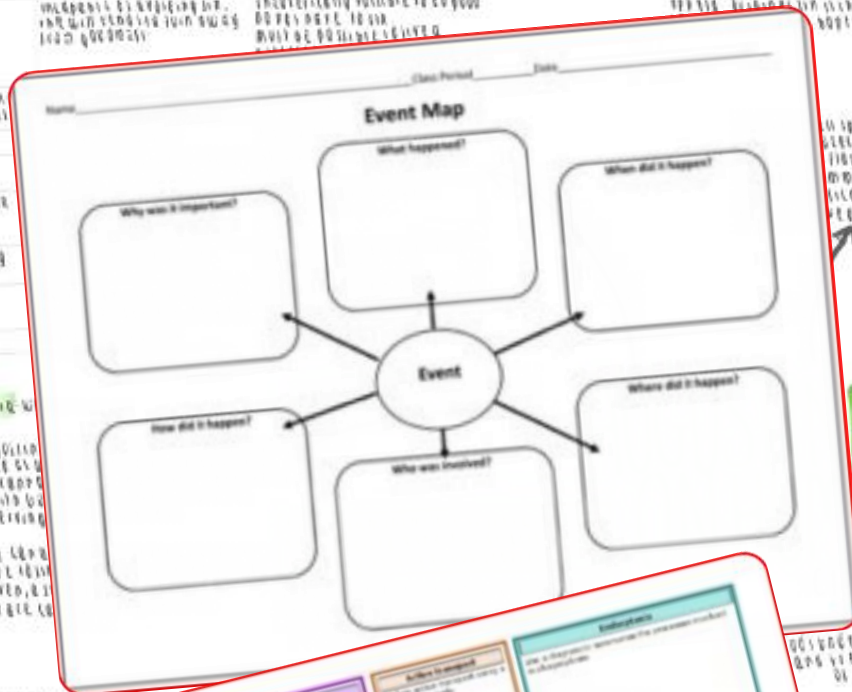
cross out the numbers that appear in both

Why and how do we use flash cards?

They should be visually stimulating to help your **photographic memory**

Don't use too much **text...use colour, interesting layouts and lots of diagrams**

Use them as **test cards** with friends and family.



Mind maps are a great way of synthesising information. They force us to make connections. They also support our visual memory.

Cornell Notes	Topic/Objective: Identify significant literary devices that define a writer's style and use to interpret work	Name: Class/Period: Lang. Arts Date: Oct. 12, 2009
Essential Question: How does Langston Hughes' poem, "Mother to Son", advise the reader to overcome difficulty and keep from giving up in life?		
Questions:	Notes:	
① What is the significance of the speaker in the poem?	① <u>Speaker</u> - * voice that communicates a poem's ideas, actions, descriptions, & feelings - similar to narrator - can be <u>unknown or specific</u> (like character)	
② How does a poet's choice of speaker affect the mood/meaning of a poem?	Impt. - poet's choice of speaker - contributes to the poem's mood/meaning - who speaks is as imp. as what is said - different points of view regarding same event (ie. parent, child, elderly person) * the person telling the story gives point of view and affects the message told ← P.O. V* writer's/poet's style	
③ How does Hughes use vocabulary to contribute to and convey his message?	Vocab - helps to understand meaning "crystal stair" = luxuries (metaphor) compares 2 things ie. "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair" "reachin'" - replace letter at end of word (dialect) "cause" = because → slang var. lang used by group speak diff.	
Summary: The speaker/voice in the poem is important because it communicates the ideas/feelings of the poem. Who the poet chooses as the speaker identifies the point of view and affects the message/meaning. Hughes uses vocabulary and style to convey the message that life is hard when Mother says "Life for me ain't been no crystal staircase."		

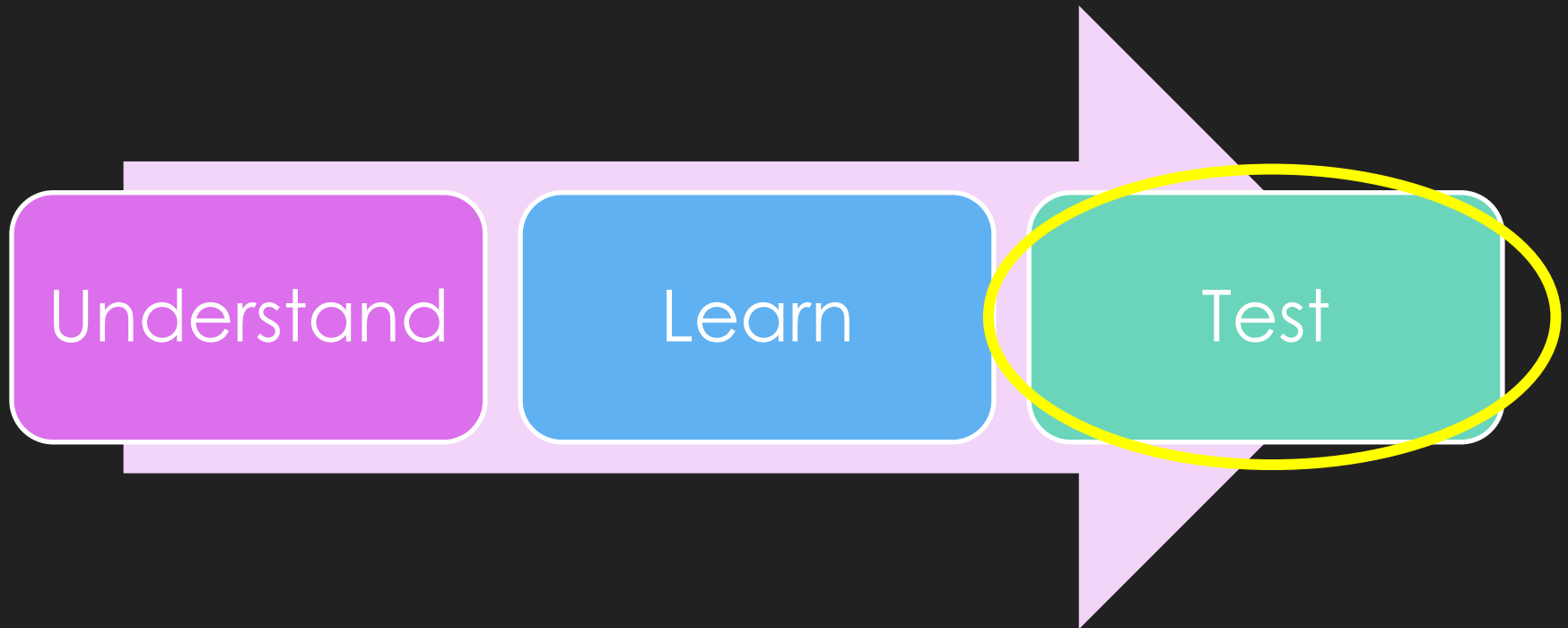
CORNELL NOTES

- | | |
|---|--|
| | - Key words and ideas |
| | - Important dates/people/places |
| - Main Idea | - Repeated or stressed info |
| - Key Question
(after notes are completed) | - Ideas or brainstorming written on the board or projector |
| | - Info from textbook or stories |
| | - Diagrams and pictures |
| | - Formulas |

Summary of your notes in your own words

Making notes

To succeed...



$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2m+1 & -4m \\ m & 1-2m \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2+1 & -4+1 \\ 1 & 1-2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\therefore$ true for $m=1$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}^k = \begin{pmatrix} 2k+1 & -4k \\ k & 1-2k \end{pmatrix}$$

we prove for $m=k+1$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}^{k+1} = \begin{pmatrix} 2k+1 & -4k \\ k & 1-2k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 6k+3-4k & -8k+4+4k \\ 3k+1-2k & -4k-1+2k \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2k+3 & -4k+4 \\ k+1 & -2k-1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2(k+1)+1 & -4(k+1) \\ k+1 & 1-2(k+1) \end{pmatrix}$$

$m=k$ & $m=k+1$ so true for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Final step: Test yourself!

Two students have identical knowledge and attainment levels.

One practises APPLYING the knowledge to questions under timed conditions, the other doesn't. They read mark schemes and understand where marks are awarded.

The final difference between them both is 25% -2-3 grades difference!!!



Top Ten Revision Tips

1. Establish a **routine**
2. Get **organised**
3. Use a set place to study
4. Make sure your workspace is **quiet**
5. **Prioritise** your weakest areas
6. Work smart –**vary** the way you revise and always **reflect** on whether it works
7. Move to the **testing** phase when you can
8. **Time** your answers
9. Use your **stress positively**; the harder you work, the less stressed you will be
10. Look after your physical health –eat well, exercise and **go to bed early**





Thank you for your support

- If you have any questions, please contact:
- **Mr Walsh**, Year Leader
- **Ms Hatwell**, Deputy Year Leader
- **Ms Watkins**, SAFE Worker
- **Ms Mertzelos**, Assistant Headteacher