



Welcome to our  
Year 11

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Preparation for GCSE  
Mrs Worth & Mr Nzemeke



# Business as usual:

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**Make the most  
of every opportunity!**

- We work in a single-minded and determined fashion towards examination success that shows the world our immense abilities.
- We explore the post-16 and post-18 opportunities, sixth form, college, university, career paths.
- We take all the opportunities available that enrich us - sporting, cultural, intellectual, community.





# Pressure Points Coming Up:

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Be Ready for them!

- Christmas and the pressure to have fun (all the time).
- Mocks week commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March (20 school weeks away).
- The period between the mock exams and the start of the GCSEs is short and very intensive.



## Remember:

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**Our plan for provision  
in the coming year...**

Support:

- Peer Mentors
- Staff Mentors
- Revision Booklet
- Dedicated Year 11 Revision Spaces
- Revision Guides
- Useful websites





## Peer Mentors & Staff Mentors

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**“Your teachers are  
your most valuable  
resource”...**

- Peer mentoring is delivered by Sixth Formers who have just been through the whole GCSE process - the most up-to-date experts possible!
- And your teachers. They don't just live in classrooms, they exist outside! Use their expertise whenever you need to.



# Revision Booklets

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Up to date revision booklets are available for all students and parents

- Your son received a hard copy of the 'SHSB Guide to Key Stage 4 for students and parents' last year
- We suggest you go through this together to help you both understand the best way to prepare for GCSE





# Revision Guides and Useful Websites

**Start revision  
early....**

- A full list of subject specifications, exam boards and relevant revision guides will be circulated to you via email.
- SHSB provides you with two online resources for free - GCSEPod and Seneca Premium.
- These interactive revision resources are incredibly valuable and should be used from now! Details on how to access them are in the booklet.



# Dangers / Classic Errors

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Or good ways **TO  
MUCK UP...**

1. Thinking that you don't need the advice of all the 'experts' around you - parents, older brothers/sisters etc.
2. Thinking that mocks/GCSEs are a long way off and that you should not be preparing now – you are fooling yourself!
3. Forgetting that your teacher is your most important resource....



# Year 11 Countdown to mock exams

Week	Activity	Week	Activity
3	September 2023 GCSE Preparation Evening		21/12/23 to 03/01/24 Christmas Holiday
	23/10/23 to 27/10/23 October Half Term		19/02/24 to 23/02/24 February Half Term
11	21/11/23 Annual Report to parents	23 and 24	26/02/24 to 08/03/24 Y11 Mock exams
13	04/12/23 Final Post-16 Choices Deadline		



# Post-16 Choices

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**Deciding on what  
and where to study  
after Year 11 is  
important**

- Deadline for SHSB Subject Options choices is 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- This will be completed by online form sent just after our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023
- The process of deciding needs to start now and has already in school...





# What we are doing

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We have put multiple steps in place to help the post-16 process

- Careers interviews for every student
- Post-16 PSHE Lessons
- Post-16 Tutor time activities – discuss these with your son
- Unifrog – careers software
- Sixth Form Open Evening – 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov



# What you as parents can do

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**Best steps to  
making good  
post-16 choices**

- Look at all options available for post-16 study
- Discuss his career/university aspirations with him and help make sensible choices
- ENSURE YOUR SON HAS A BACKUP OPTION
- Complete the online form about subject choices for SHSB by 4<sup>th</sup> December





# Post-16 Subject Options

- Your son needs 4 options for Sixth Form subjects

Art & Design ☐

Biology ☐

Business Studies ☐

OR Economics ☐

Chemistry ☐

Computing ☐

Design & Technology ☐

Drama ☐

English Lang & Lit ☐

OR English Lit ☐

French ☐

Geography ☐

German ☐

Government & Politics ☐

History ☐

Music Tech ☐

Mathematics ☐

OR Maths & Further Maths ☐

Music ☐

Physical Education ☐

Physics ☐

Psychology ☐

Religious Studies ☐

Spanish ☐



# Sixth Form Entry Requirements

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Your son has a  
guaranteed place over  
external candidates  
provided he achieves...

- 52 Points from his best 8 GCSEs
- E.g. 4 Level 7s and 4 Level 6s will be sufficient
- 5s in English and Maths
- 6 in subjects he wishes to study



# GCSE Results

## 2022/23

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70% of grades were Level 9-7

22% were Level 9





# Assessment and Reporting



- Written annual report
- Assessment data will be 'live' – no IAR dates
- You will see the range of assessments that had contributed to the overall grade

No more set times/dates for data entry





You are currently previewing as [redacted] x

47 0 0



2024 ▾ Year 11 (Current), 11ST1, House: Sparta



# Overview

**Timetable**

08:30	09:30	Maths, 11Y/Ma3
09:30	10:30	Maths, 11Y/Ma3
11:00	12:00	Physics, 11ys/Ph5
12:00	13:00	Physics, 11ys/Ph5
14:00	14:10	[redacted]
14:10	14:30	Tutor Grp/Assembly, 11ST1/Tu
14:30	15:30	French, 11R/Fr1

**Attendance** 92%

Present

Authorised absence

**Behaviour** +2 | -8

☒ Points ☐ Count



You are currently previewing as [redacted] x

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[redacted]  
2024 ▾ Year 11 (Current [redacted])



Progress summary **View subject in detail ▾**

# Progress

## Summary

☒ Subject name

Biology	Chemistry	Computer Science	Economics	French	Maths	Physics	Religious Studies
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Grades

☒ Compact view (main grades only) ☐ Broad view (all grades) ☐ Detailed (main grades plus marksheet grades)

Subject
Biology, Mrs B Ghir
Chemistry, Ms S Shrimplin
Computer Science, Mrs M Leggett
Economics, Mr D Mills
French, Mr P Gayner
Maths, Mrs G Ford

PROGRESS





Progress summary

View subject in detail ▾

# Maths

11X/Ma3, Mr K Fitzgerald

## Grades

Name	Grade
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Marksheet summary

View marksheet in detail ▾

## Marksheets

Marksheet	Mark	Grade	Current
Progress Grade 1 (October)	-	-	
Progress Grade 2 (December)	-	-	
Progress Grade 3 (January)	-	-	
Progress Grade 4 (March Mocks)	-	-	

## Assessments

### Progress Grade 1 (October)

This marksheet does not contribute to the Current GCSE Grade grade.

Overall	Mark	Grade
Uses the best of the rightmost 1 assessments		-
Assessment		
(Set 2) Algebraic Fractions /20	-	-
(Set 2) Sequences /20	-	-
(Set 1 and 2) Problem Solving /20	-	-
(Set 1) Proportion/Binomial Expansion /20	-	-
(Set 1) Coordinate Geometry /20	-	-
Class test 1 Total /60	-	-
Progress Grade 1	-	-

### Progress Grade 2 (December)



# Key Questions

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... for your son  
leading up to  
each  
Assessment

- Does he have good study habits?
- Study area organised?
- Regular study times in the evenings/weekends?
- Able to avoid distractions-phone, internet...?
- Good revision skills...?





# Coming up...



- What the pastoral team is doing.
- What could go wrong this year?
- Why should you revise?
- Is it too late to start now?
- How parents can help.



# What the pastoral team is doing

Mr L Baines  
(*Director of Key Stage*)

Mr J Nzemeke  
(*Head of Year*)

Mrs R Weight  
(*KS4 Administrator*)  
[ks4admin@shsb.org.uk](mailto:ks4admin@shsb.org.uk)

- Post-16 Choices
- Ongoing support and parental liaison
- Mental and physical wellbeing
- Please contact us via  
[ks4admin@shsb.org.uk](mailto:ks4admin@shsb.org.uk)





# What could go wrong?

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**Stage 1: Learning  
the content the first  
time round**

- Lack of interest in the subject.
- Finding the work difficult and giving up.
- Deciding you are no good at the subject.
- Poor behaviour.
- Poor attitude towards learning
- Getting behind with homework.
- Not bothering to try hard in subjects you don't like.



# What could go wrong?

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## Stage 2: Revision

- Not doing any.
- Leaving it all to the last minute.
- Not having a plan.
- Not knowing what to revise.
- Being unrealistic about what can be done.
- Revising the right things in the wrong ways.
- Becoming overwhelmed - not knowing where to start.
- Not making the most of revision lessons and teachers at school.





# What could go wrong?

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## Stage 3: The exam itself

- Getting the wrong time or place for an exam.
- Arriving late.
- Finding out you have revised for the wrong exam.
- Being unfamiliar with the exam structure.
- Not having the correct materials.
- Panicking during the exam.
- Answering the wrong sections or questions.
- Not reading the questions carefully.
- Spending too long on one section, and too little time on others.



# What can you do?

**First make a timetable**



## Why plan?

- Athletes in training need recovery time
- They work on their strengths and weaknesses.
- They need to be self-aware
- They can't train randomly or in an unstructured way.



# So what makes a good timetable?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.30-12.00	school	school	school	school	school	History, RE, and Geography	Church  Lie in
12.00-4.00	school	school	school	school	1pm Mosque. school	Out with friends	science
4.30-5.20	English	Maths	X-box	Art/Drama	Computing	Out with friends	music
5.30-6.30	HW	spare	HW	spare	spare	spare	spare
6.30-7.00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7.00-9.30	TV	Taekwondo	Maths	TV	Taekwondo	History	Taekwondo



**Can't the school  
just make  
my timetable for me?**

- It is a personal, individual process.
- Everyone's knowledge is different.
- Everyone's stress levels are different.
- Everyone's learning styles/preferred techniques are different.
- Everyone's life context is different.





Now you have a plan - you need  
to get revising

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*eat. sleep. revise. And repeat.*

...and  
breathe!



# What is good revision?

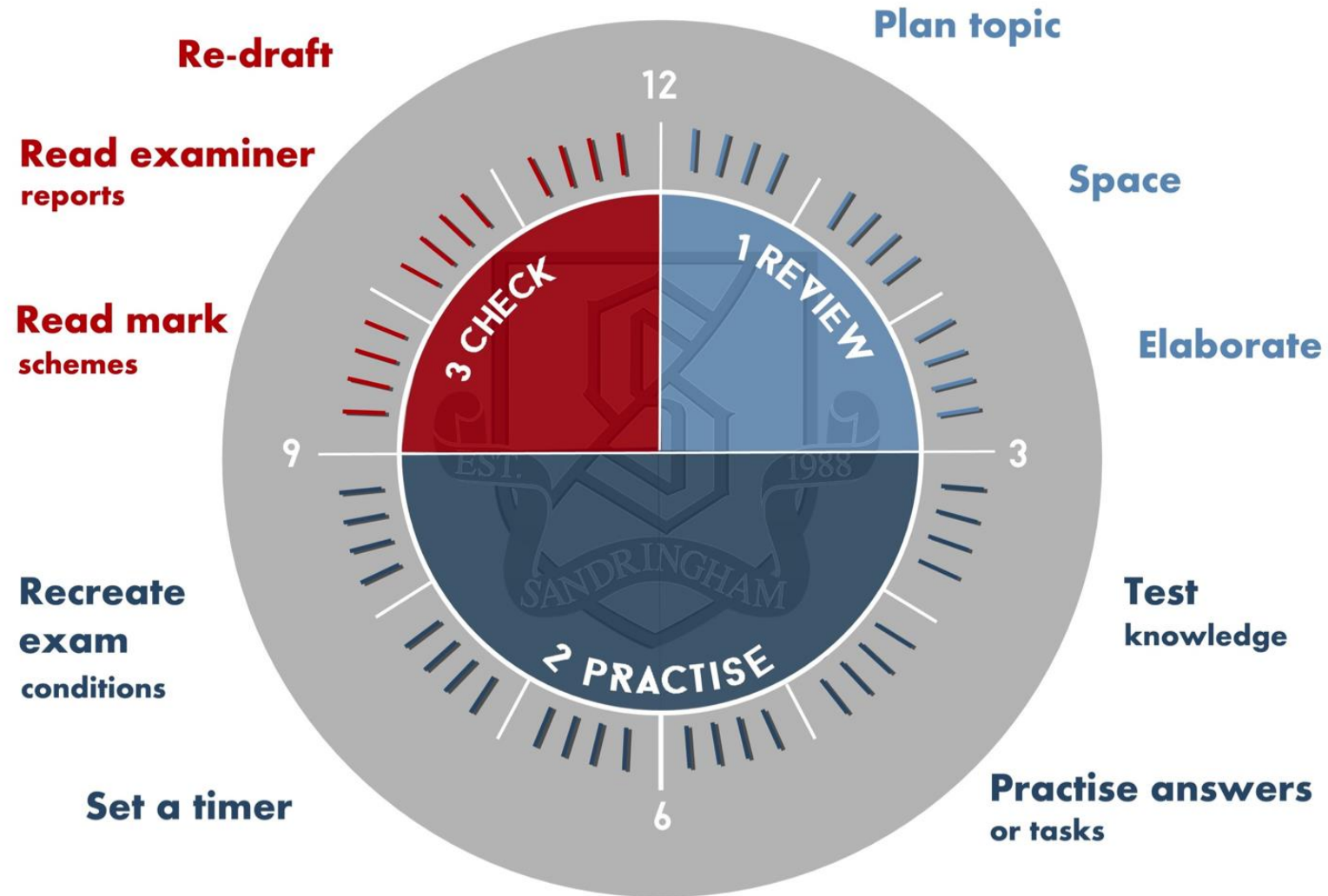
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## What does it look like?

- The school is constantly looking into educational research and this has highlighted two key strategies that it is essential you understand.
- Retrieval – consistent retrieval of information makes it easier to access in the future.
- Memory Clock – a way to plan revision that is proven to be effective and consists of more than just going over content.



# THE MEMORY CLOCK



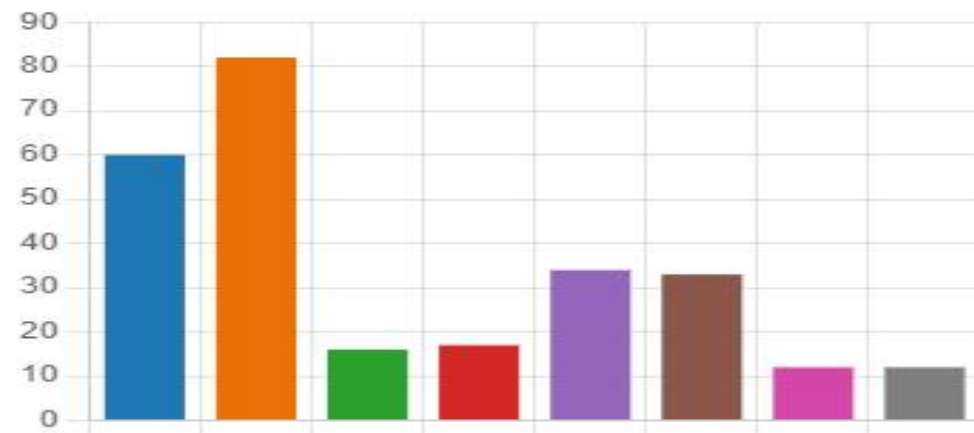
# Survey on how students revise



4. Please tick which ONE of the following you use frequently for revising

[More Details](#)

Flash Cards	60
Re reading notes	82
Highlighting notes	16
Quizzes	17
Online tools	34
Past paper questions	33
getting friends/family to ask me...	12
Other	12





# Re-Reading v Testing



Reading, reading  
reading, reading

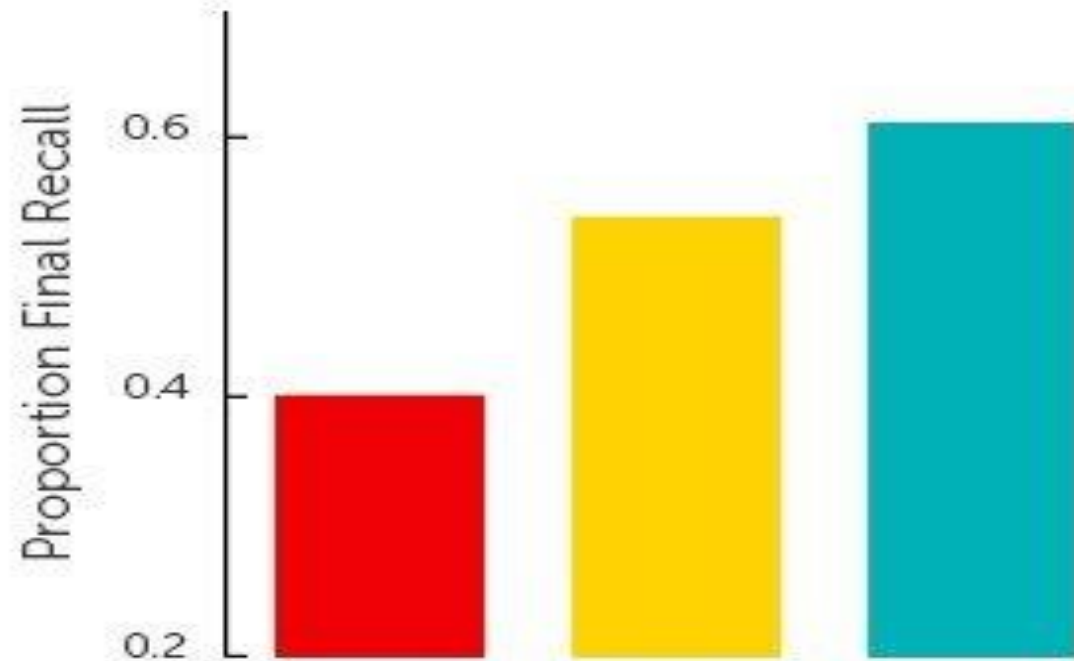


Reading, reading  
reading, testing

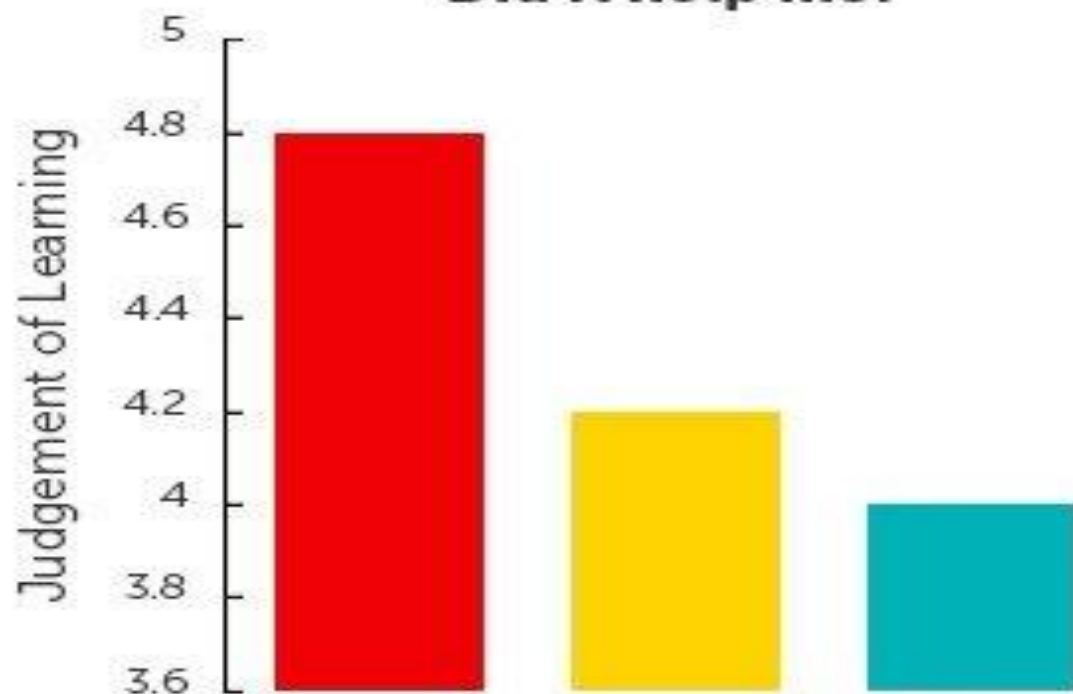


Reading, testing,  
testing, testing

**Final Exam Performance**



**"Did it help me?"**

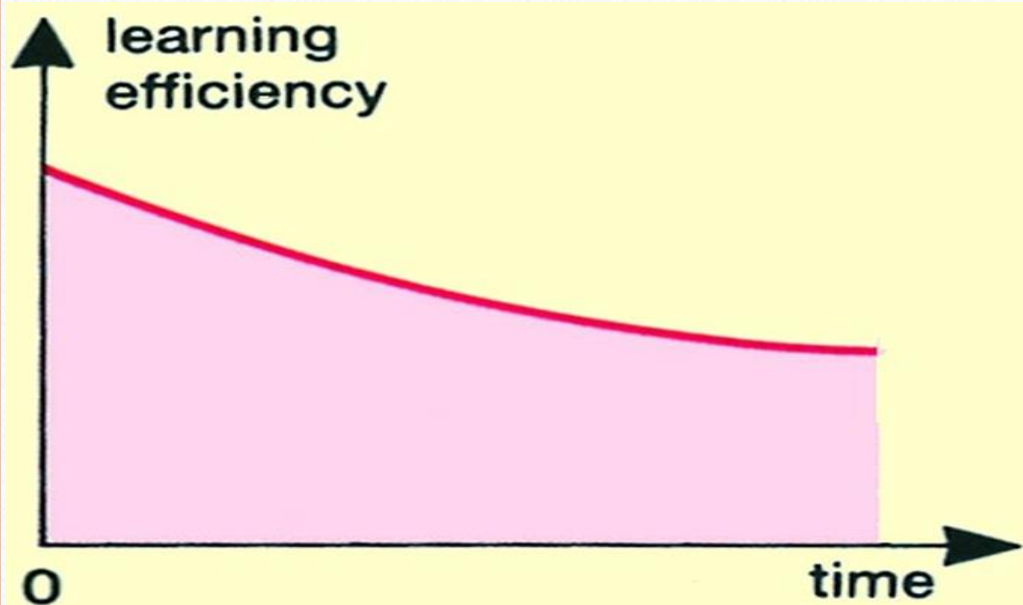


Source: Roediger and Karpicke (2006)

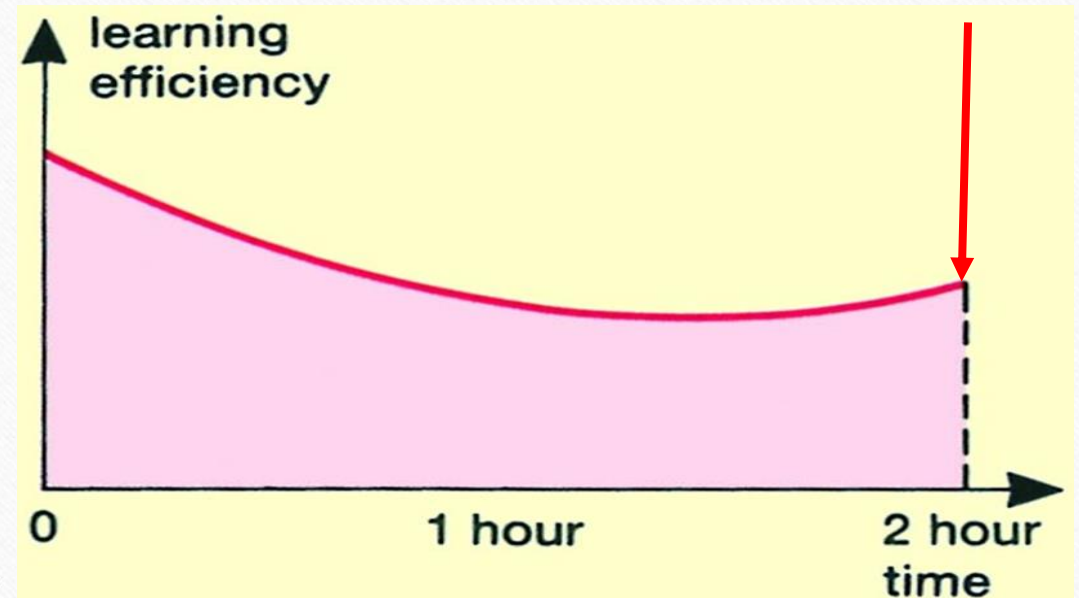
[innerdrive.co.uk](http://innerdrive.co.uk)

# How should you revise?

If you just sit down to revise, without a definite finishing time, then your **learning efficiency** falls lower and lower, like this:



If you decide at the beginning how long you will work for, with a clock, then as your brain knows the end is coming, the graph rises towards the end.







# How can you improve this even more?

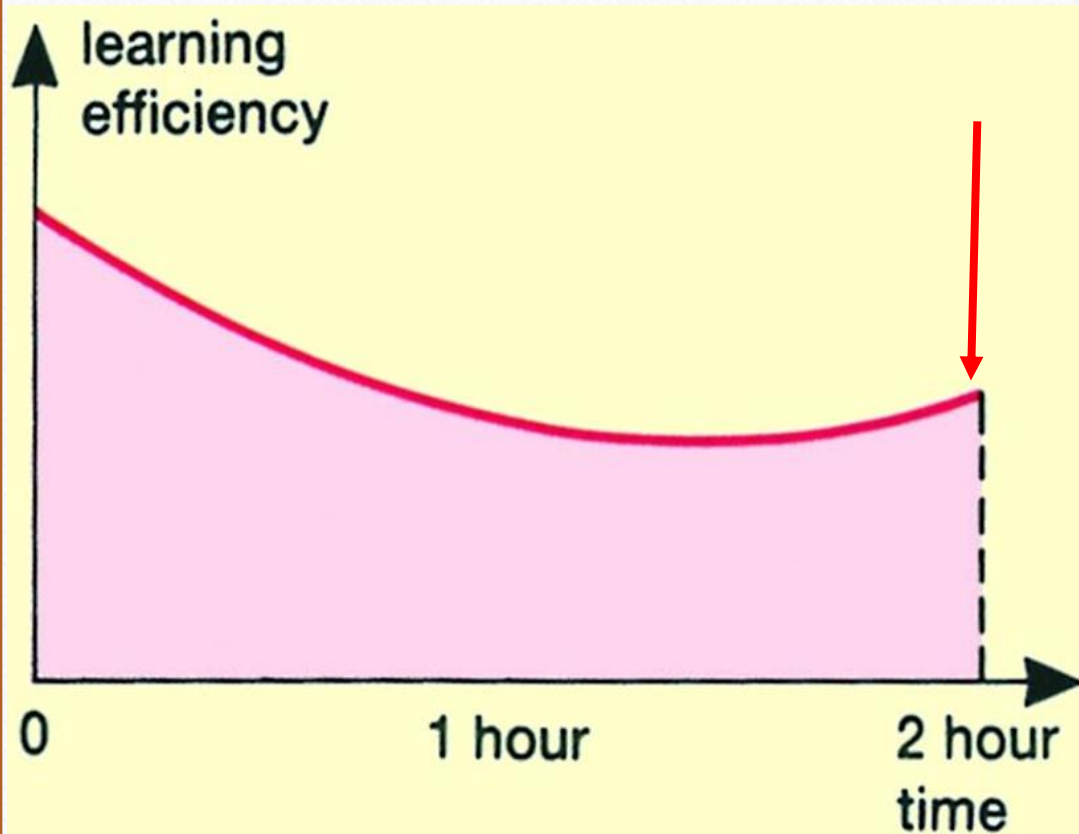
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Compare the next 2  
graphs:

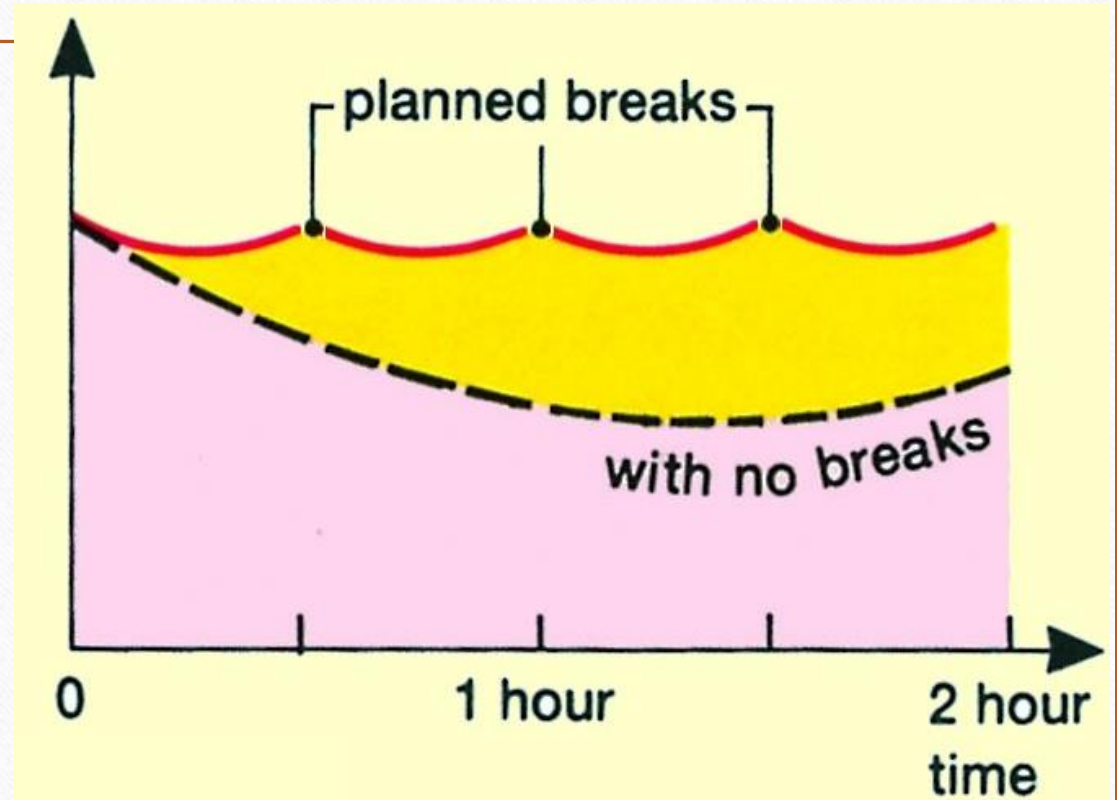
- If you break up a 2-hour session,
- into 4 shorter sessions,
- each of about 25-minutes,
- with a short, planned break between them,
- then it is even better.

# How should you revise?

One solid session:



- 4 shorter sessions
- The yellow area shows the improvement:





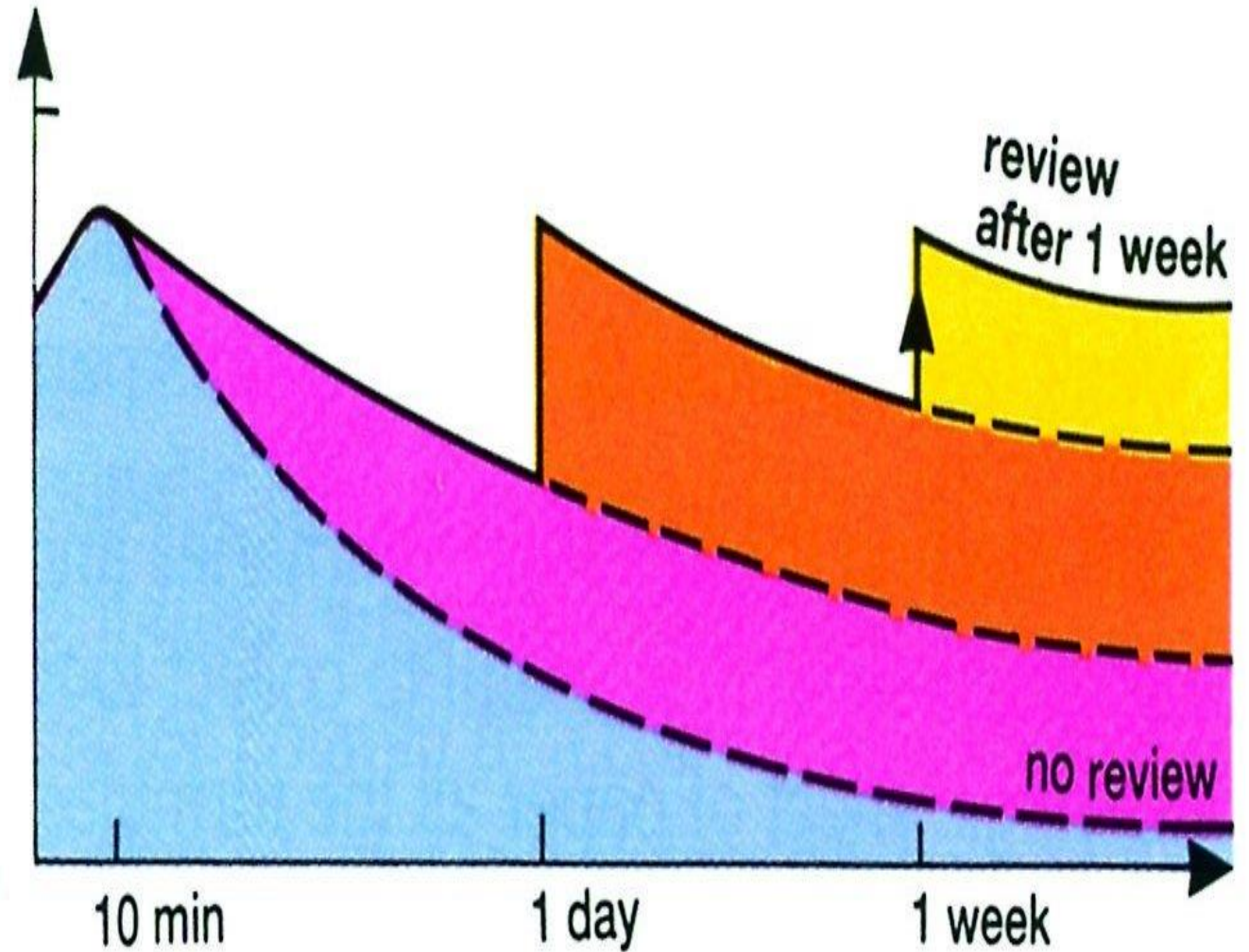


# And even better still,

If you quickly re-revise again, after **1 week**,

then it falls even more slowly! Great!

Analyse the new graph:





# The Revision Period

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Learn your body

- The revision period is, arguably, the most difficult part of any exam process.
- The exam itself – usually between one and three hours – can be portrayed as a performance of sorts:
  - a chance to use all the knowledge you have built up over several years, crafted neatly into a well-rounded response to a question or series of questions.
- **Start your revision early each evening, before your brain gets tired.**

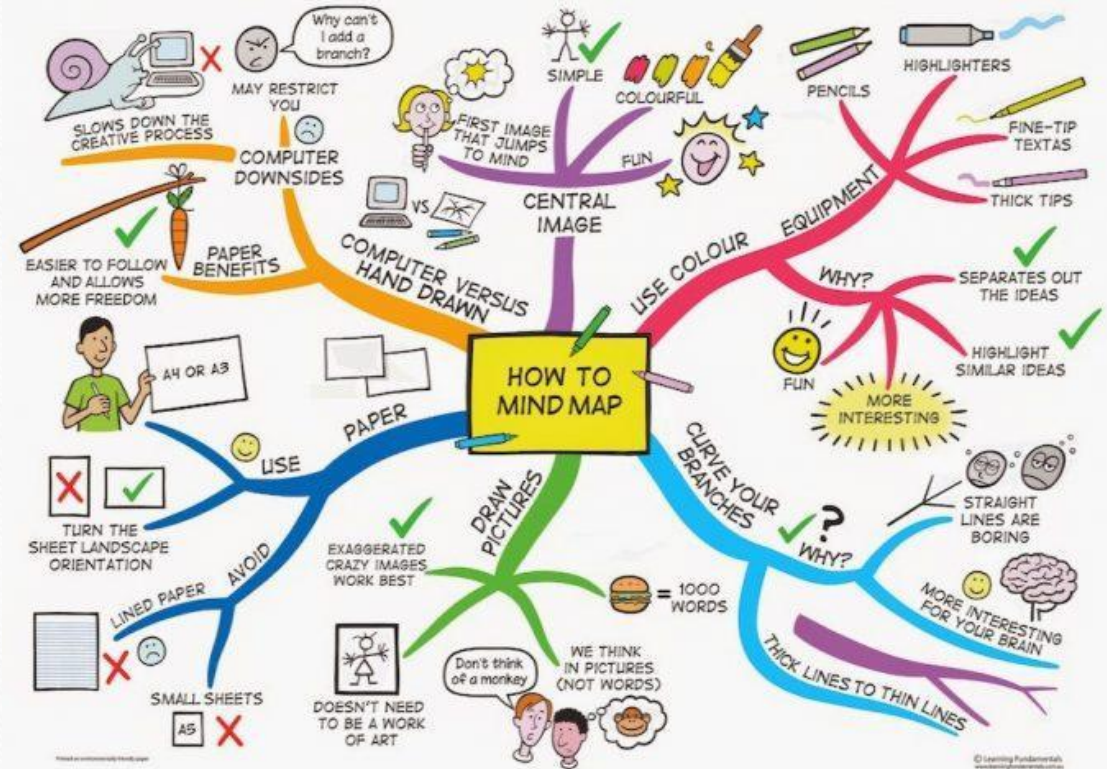




# Revision Techniques

## Mind maps or spider diagrams:

- Key question, exam question or a key topic in the centre;
- Subtopics or subheadings;
- Add key pieces of information;
- Develop some of your points;
- Add symbols or images;
- Use different coloured pens or highlight different points;
- Use different sized pieces of paper.







# Revision Techniques

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## Revision cards:

- A5 or A6;
- Key questions, headings or subheadings on each one and key information;
- Lots of cards with different information, answering one question;
- Move them around or stick them down on larger pieces of paper or around your room with blue tack.

- **Summarise:** Once you have written out your revision notes, it's time to condense that information into small manageable facts. This is where memory cards come in to play.
- **Word power:** For each topic, write bullet points of key facts on a set of index cards.
- **Organise:** Categorise the facts into sub-categories, then sub-sub-categories so you can understand how they all link together.
- **Link:** Don't just remember the key facts on the cards. They should act as prompts for all the other revision facts you've been learning.
- **Portable:** The great thing about small index cards is that you can put them in your bag/pocket and take them anywhere. That way you can look at them on the way to school or even when you're out shopping!





# Revision Techniques

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## Post it notes:

- Definitions;
- Bullet point the answer to key questions;
- Different post it notes, each containing different parts of an answer to one question;
- Can be moved around, linked or prioritised.





# Remember why you are doing this:

- If you have not already worked this out, **you are doing all of this for you!**
- Set yourself a **target** and go for it.
- Success in exams is not the be all and end all in life **BUT IT DOES HELP!**
- Exams do mean **grades** and **good grades mean a better chance of a good job**  
or further and higher education, a career and opportunities.
- **Do not throw opportunities away** because you are too lazy or impatient for the summer to begin.
- **GCSEs are not impossible**; they are designed for most people to do well in.





# Final Tips

- **If you are struggling in a subject:** Speak to the teacher..... think about what specifically you don't like and what you would like to happen?
- **If you think you can't cope:** Talk about it honestly and start a plan. Prioritise. In some cases deadlines can be extended etc. We can't help if we don't know.
- **If you have left it too late to do any work:** Don't just give up. It's not all or nothing. It's not too late until you enter the exam room. A little knowledge is better than none. Prioritise - we can help with that.
- **If you are stressed:** Do something you enjoy, talk about it etc. Parents just listen. Let us know.



# Tasks to go away and do ...

1. Buy a set of files just for revision (one for each exam)
2. File handouts from lessons in the files when you get home each day
3. Start revision now. The sooner you start, the less you have to do each day
4. Make a realistic revision **timetable**
5. Get a good **revision aid** for each subject





Q & A

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Thank you for joining us!