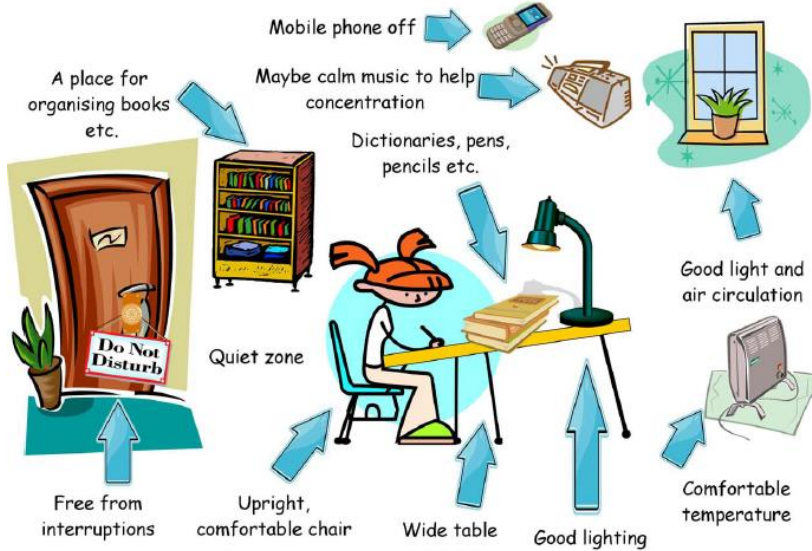


# Key Stage Three revision Strategies for Success

## An environment for learning

Before you do any revision, you must ensure that you are in a place where your work is going to pay off. Following these suggestions can really help.



## A checklist for healthy revision living



- Enjoy a healthy and balanced diet.
- Use a revision timetable.
- Take regular short breaks (every 30 minutes).
- Plan for longer breaks every 3 hours.
- Take exercise (even if it's a short walk around the garden.)
- Get fresh air and **drink water**.
- Don't leave revision until the last minute
- Go to bed at a 'normal' time.

## A revision timetable-Putting you in control

- ✓ Before you start your timetable, write a list of the things you need to revise for all your subjects and try to put topics into groups. Your subject teacher can help with this.
- ✓ Create a timetable that helps you to revise each of your subjects regularly (don't start a topic just before the exam)
- ✓ Try to prioritise revising the things you have found the hardest first to give yourself longer to understand them.
- ✓ Make sure you still enjoy hobbies, free time and breaks.
- ✓ Ask a teacher for help if you need more advice

### An Example

Week Commencing	Day	Time	Subject and Topic
19/11/2017	Wed	5-6	Maths-Areas/Perimeter of shapes, Properties of 2D/3D shapes
	Wed	7-8	English-Persuasive Writing techniques

## Supporting your child in 'stress-free' revision

Whilst the prospect of exams and assessment can be stressful for your child, some strategies may really help in reducing the risk.

- Be positive about the difference revision will make.
- Support your child in trying out different strategies and help them to understand that they won't **all** work for them.
- Try to take breaks with your child to encourage them to balance their time.
- Support your child in setting up a space that is quiet and well-equipped for revision.

#Dream more, #Learn more,  
#Do more, #Become more.

We are Martin High School.



## Using online resources



Sam Learning -lots of activities and revision resources, quizzes and challenges



BBC Bitesize is interactive and colourful and the revision strands are short and snappy!

## Mnemonics

Mnemonics are typically rhymes or acronyms (a word made up of the first letters of other words) which make it easier to remember lots of facts or names.



### Examples:

- The order of planets in the Solar System given by distance from the sun.

### 'My Very Educated Mother Just Made Us Nine Pizzas'

- The seven colours in a rainbow starting with the one at the top.



### 'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain'

They may be silly but they should be personal to you. What would be the point if you can't remember it?

## Revision for Creative People

Reading notes can be daunting and it isn't the way the mind works for lots of people. The great news is, you can be more creative



### Draw Pictures to help you remember the facts

Put pictures alongside a brief explanation can make it much easier to recall hard ideas in exams

### Write a song

For some people, putting the ideas they find hard to remember into lyrics which could be sung to a favourite song can be a way of committing them to memory.



## Using Post-It notes



Start by finding the key facts and formulae you have noted in your exercise book (Or see your teacher for missing facts.)



Display a maximum of 12 'Post-its' with key facts around your house. Every time you see one, read out loud the fact and try to make links with the place it is stuck.



Write down as many of the facts as you remembered at least once a day. **You won't remember them all at once!**



Display new post-its when you are confident with the existing ones.

## Making Useful Notes

Students typically find that it is impossible to remember facts and ideas by just reading them. Writing them down and making your notes more personal will help.

### Highlighters

Using a highlighter to pick out key words (only a few in every sentence) will help you to find facts fast when you are reading notes later.



### Index Cards

Use our index and flash card generator available for download to download in the revision section to create short, precise questions and answers.

You might also have quizzes and tests with friends to make sure the notes you have written are being remembered.

### Record yourself...

Smartphones allow you to record yourself to play back later. You may want to listen to the important facts on the bus or walk to school on the day of your exam.





## Create a supportive study group

You have spent the last year studying with your classmates, so preparing for exams with them could be a great way of gaining understanding of things that were confusing the first time round. Some great ways of doing this include.

### Just a Minute

Take it in turns to talk on a topic for a minute without revision guides. Your study group then feeds back with extra ideas.



### PowerPoint Presentations

Split the work by each taking a topic, character or book you have enjoyed studying.

Take it in turns to give a 'revision lecture' and share resources with each other.

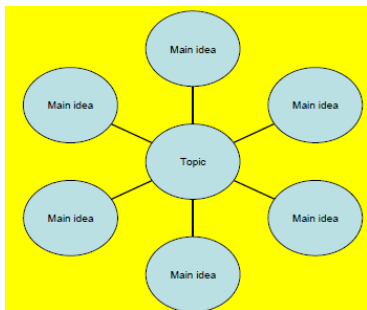
### Revision Quizzes

Write quizzes based on the subject and topics you are revising. Take it in turn to ask questions.

The key to success is supporting one another in revising the areas in which they are less knowledgeable.

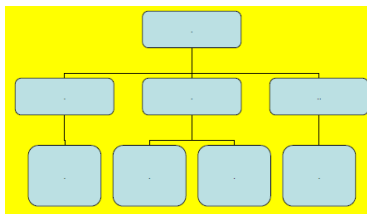
## Different kinds of 'mind maps'

Mind maps require you to put onto paper all of the things that you have learned in a topic. Depending on the subject, there are a number of appropriate strategies.



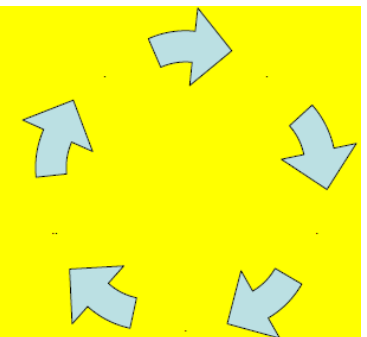
### The 'standard' mind map

Start with the subject (e.g. Maths) in the middle and think of the 'big topics' you have covered (e.g. Algebra). Then expand your notes further (e.g. equations, formulae, expressions, substitution)



### The 'Hierarchy' mind map

This is a useful way of showing how things 'feed into' others. This may be useful for timelines in History or 'family trees' for characters in English.



### The 'Process' mind map.

This helps us to see the cycles that exist and the way that one thing leads to another.

The 'water cycle' in geography and science can be learnt with this approach

Note: Use exercise books and revision guides to create 'mind maps' that are accurate.

## Practice Exam Questions



In most subject areas, practice in answering exam questions is essential for securing success.

### Getting the most from practice questions

1. Speak to your teacher. They will be able to recommend (and even provide) good sample questions.
2. Don't attempt these questions without having revised the topic first. You will feel worried and this does not help.
3. Work in pairs or groups to attempt questions. Collectively you will know more and it will feel more fulfilling to share your knowledge.
4. Make a note of things you couldn't do and act on this.

## Working towards a deadline



Three formal assessment weeks:

- 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017
- 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### On exam days:

- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Check you have all equipment
- Arrive in plenty of time
- Try to have some 'calm' time to yourself. Avoid revising in the minutes before the exam.