



BROOKVALE GROBY LEARNING CAMPUS

Valuing Everyone, Achieving Excellence

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YEAR 11 EXAM SUPPORT EVENING

**Thursday 6 February 2020
6.30pm – 8.00pm**

Inside this pack you will find:

- **Revision tips**
- **What Parents/Carers can do to help**
- **Revision timetable examples**
- **GCSE course list 2018/20**

Revision Tips

Here are some tips to help you make the most of your revision time and keep those nerves under control.

1. Study skills

Where to study

Creating good conditions to study in can help you make the most of the time you spend revising. Here are some suggestions:

- Find a quiet place to study away from distractions
- Make sure your desk is well lit and you are sitting comfortably
- Keep background noise to a minimum
- Have everything you need to do your revision to hand before you start

How to study

There is no 'right way' to revise, as long as the method you choose enables you to gain a solid grasp of key facts and consolidate your knowledge. In practice, most students find that mixing different revision techniques suits the varied nature of the subjects being revised, and provides essential variety when studying.

Turn your notes into revision tools;

- Write ideas and facts on to cards to use as 'prompts'
- Create memory aids such as diagrams or mnemonics (e.g. initial letters to make a word you need to remember). These will help you remember key facts
- Write key facts/notes and display these around the house where you will see them
- Record yourself reading notes to listen to

Study with a friend and test each other's knowledge, but remember you are meeting to revise rather than to chat!

Work through past question papers – and use a watch to time them so that you can practise timing your answers.

Choose study and revision guides sensibly. As well as established published revision guides, there are hundreds of websites offering help and advice. The problem is not how to find such help, but how to judge which is the best source for your needs. Save valuable time and get recommendations from your teachers.

Keep yourself more alert by changing revision methods during a session. For instance, try switching from questions to memorising; from reading to asking someone to test you.

Attend any revision classes that your teachers may be running at school and get their advice on revision methods.

Look after yourself – You need to rest as well as study, eat well, drink lots of water and make sure you pace yourself.

2. Revision plan

The top tip for successful revision is to make a plan; otherwise it is easy to waste your precious revision time. It is helpful to look at your exam dates and work backwards to start early!

List all your exam subjects and the amount of time you think you will need for each one. It is unlikely that the amounts will be equal.

- Draw up a revision plan for each week
- Fill in any regular commitments you have first and the dates of your examinations
- Use Revision Checklists or specifications for each subject as a starting point. Look at what you need to know and try to identify any gaps in your knowledge
- Divide your time for each subject into topics based on the units in the revision checklist or specification, and make sure you allow enough time for each one
- Plan your time carefully, assigning more time to subjects and topics you find difficult
- Revise often; try and do some every day
- Plan in time off, including time for activities which can be done out in the fresh air. Take a 5 or 10 minute break every 25 minutes and do some stretching exercises, go for a short walk or make a drink
- You may find it helpful to change from one subject to another at 'break' time, for example doing one or two sessions of maths and then changing to English, or alternating a favourite subject with a more difficult one. It helps to build in some variety
- Write up your plan and display it somewhere visible
- Adjust your timetable if necessary and try to focus on your weakest topics and subjects

3. Coping with the exam

Be prepared; find out what is involved in each of the examinations that you are going to sit and where it is being held. Organise yourself the night before and get plenty of sleep. Eat a good breakfast and set off for the exam in plenty of time. Check you have the correct equipment with you before you leave the house (pens pencils, ruler, scientific calculator, etc.)

In the exam room:

- Read or listen to any instructions given to you.
- Look at the marks available and read the questions carefully, follow instructions given in the paper (e.g. to show all workings, word limits etc.)
- Use the information provided on the paper (the answer's often there)
- Pace yourself and allow enough time to answer all the required questions
- Write as neatly as possible to help the examiner to mark your work. Marking untidy writing is difficult
- For longer answers, take a few minutes before you begin to produce a structured plan of what you are going to include in each section
- If you finish before the end of the exam try to read through your answers and correct any mistakes

Aim High – Do your best!

What can Parents do to help?

Revision

- Make sure your child has the time to study and a quiet place to study
- Talk to your child about how you can support them and what they would find helpful
- Ensure they have the correct study guides. Provide them with any files, dividers, sticky notes, highlighters that may help them organise their revision
- Reduce your expectations of their contributions to household chores
- Make sure they get started! This will be the hardest bit over
- Help your child produce a realistic revision timetable and stick to it (see instructions on how to produce a revision timetable). This may take a big investment in time and effort but is the single thing that will make the most difference.
- Offer to test them on their work if they want you to (this is one of the most effective ways to revise)
- Be sensitive to the pressure they are under. Show an interest in how it is going. Try to stay calm and positive and praise the effort they are making
- Encourage your child to talk to their teachers if you have any questions or concerns (you may need to do this for them if necessary)
- Encourage your child to attend all revision and warm up sessions put on by the school

Coping with the exam

- Make sure your child has a good night sleep before an exam (they'll need to practise this!!)
- Make sure they eat well before setting off for the exam
- Make sure they have all the equipment they need (black pens, pencils, rubber, ruler and calculator)
- Make sure they set off in plenty of time for the exam

Revision timetables

Revision timetables

These are useful and effective tools that can help you prepare for exams and achieve the grades you deserve. Some people prefer A4 sized daily or weekly timetables whilst others prefer larger wall sized charts that cover a month long period. You should choose whatever works best for you.

There are example revision timetable templates on the campus website which you can use to help organise your revision periods.

Tips on making a revision timetable:

- When compiling a schedule try to be as realistic as possible. Do not try to do too much in your day with a timetable that you have no real chance of completing.
- Make a list of the subjects that you need to revise for between now and your exams.
- Work out which subjects have the most content that needs to be revised.
- Concentrate on those specific topics or modules that you have the most difficulty with.
- Break down major revision subjects into smaller parts; this can help you make your studying more precise.
- There are a number of free websites that allow you to produce your own online revision planner, such as <https://getrevising.co.uk/>
- Ensure that you include break times during the day, these are important to help you unwind and to make sure you don't burn yourself out.
- Work out when you 'study best', for instance some people are able to concentrate better in the morning. Then use these times to study those topics that require the most effort and energy.
- Do not leave your most difficult or hardest subjects till the end of the day. Instead try to get these out of the way early on.
- After completing a revision period cross it off from your timetable. This will help you to feel a sense of achievement.
- At the end of each week assess your performance and change your plans accordingly.
- Consider using different coloured pens to highlight specific classes or rank subjects according to importance. However if you feel you may be changing things around then use a simple pencil.
- Keep your timetable flexible and be ready to change it if circumstances change.
- Try not to spend the whole day revising one subject. Most experts suggest studying in slots of 40 minutes and then taking a break before your next session.

3 examples of revision timetables (all templates can be found on the campus website):

Revision Timetable

Wk beginning:	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8 am							
9 am							
10 am							
11 am							
12 pm							
1 pm							
2 pm							
3 pm							
4 pm							
5 pm							
6 pm							
7 pm							
8 pm							

The exam boards have the specification as well as past papers and mark schemes

Specification	CODE	BOARD
GCSE Courses Certifying in 2020		
Art & Design - (Fine Art)	8202	AQA
Biology	8461	AQA
Business & Communication Systems (outgoing spec)	4134	AQA
Chemistry	8462	AQA
Combined Science - Trilogy	8464	AQA
Drama	8261	AQA
English Language	8700	AQA
English Literature	8702	AQA
Food Preparation & Nutrition	8585	AQA
French	8658	AQA
German	8668	AQA
Mathematics - Entry Level	5930	AQA
Music	8271	AQA
Physics	8463	AQA
D&T: Resistant Materials	4560	AQA
Spanish	8698	AQA
D&T: Textiles	4572	AQA
Functional Skills Levels 1 - English		Edexcel
Mathematics	1MA1	Edexcel
BTEC Level 1/2 First Award Health & Social Care (nqf)	BJY50	Edexcel
BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Performing Arts - Dance (nqf)	CVG54	Edexcel
BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Sport (nqf)	KXD92	Edexcel
Level 2 Certificate in Food & Cookery	601/4533/X	NCFE
Computer Science	J276	OCR
History	J410	OCR
Cambridge Nationals Certificate in ICT	J810	OCR
Physical Education	J587	OCR
Geography B	C112QS	Eduqas
Art & Design - Graphic Communication	C654QS	Eduqas
Media Studies (outgoing spec)	4390	WJEC



Use the URL link below to download Brookvale Groby Learning Campus' Big Revision Guide, Subject Guide and Examinations Guide

<http://www.brookvalegroby.com/revision-guides/>

