# Year 13 Exam Success Evening

Thursday 10th February 2022



### Programme of the evening

Revision strategies - what works?

Vicki Varney, Assistant Headteacher

2. The Secret to Exam Success

Dave Brentnall, Head of Chemistry and Principal Examiner for Edexcel IAL

3. How to be successful in English

Matt Male, Subject Leader of KS5 English and Media

4. How to successfully structure essays

Rachael Gowdridge, Faculty Leader of Humanities

5. Using relaxation techniques to make the most of your revision time Ebony Pulling, Subject Leader of Social Sciences



# Vicki Varney



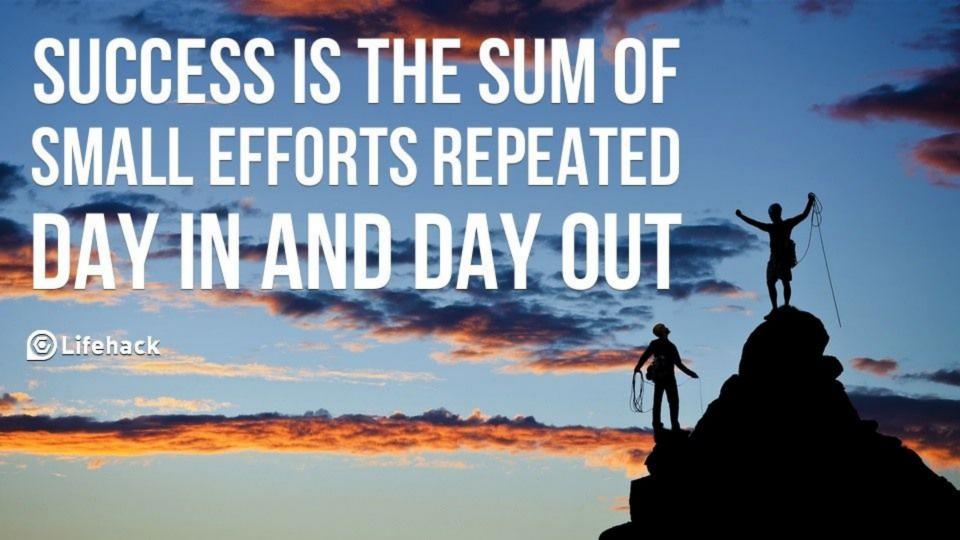


### Did you know...?

- In 2021, 76% of BGLC students went to University, of which 33% secured a place at a Russell Group University. The national figure was 47%.
- 21% of BGLC students gained an Apprenticeship or entered employment.







### Revision strategies - what works?









### Active not passive

# 5 key revision strategies

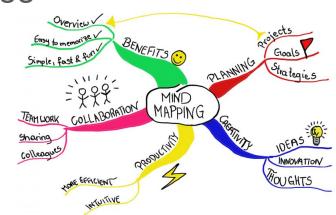




## 1. Retrieval practice

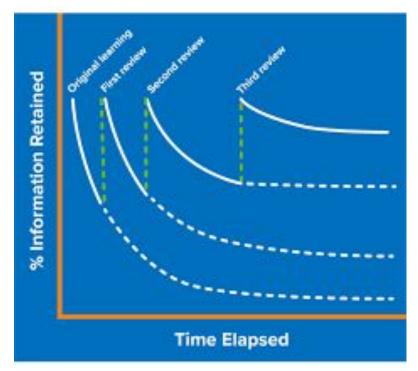
- Mind map from memory
- Quick quizzes
- Self-testing
- Use cues (e.g. images) to trigger answers
- Group discussions
- Essays





### 2. Spaced practice

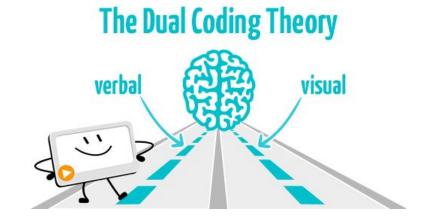
Have some time to forget





### 3. Dual coding theory

Combining verbal and visual input increases learning.



Gives students two ways of remembering the same information.



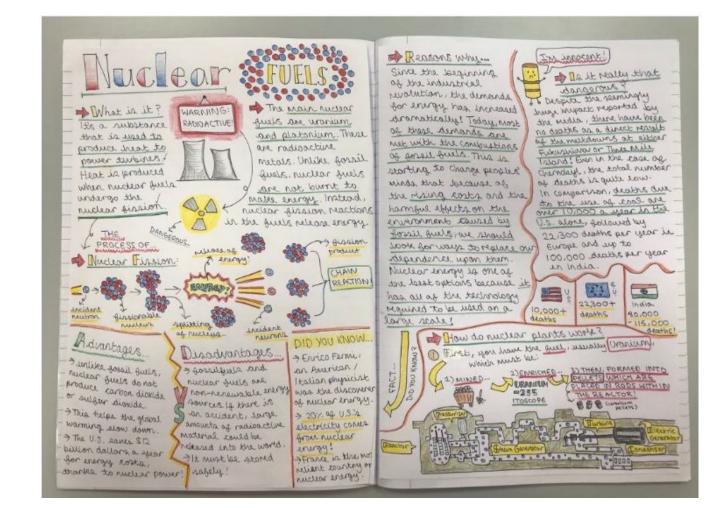
replicates with each cell division proteins. DNA takes the shape (mitosis of a "double helix," like a twiska ladder. The rungs are DNA bases (A,T,6+C)."
) Using This 4-letter during meiosis Canmutate inmitosis alphabet, DNA provides DNA mostly lives in cell nucleus. coded mstructions yfor building bodies sometimes some lives and maintining them. mis leads mitochondria to cancer. basepairs. A= ADENINE TOTHYMINE ocid. 6= GUANINE C=CYTOSINE







# Broo Valuing E



## DIAGRAM

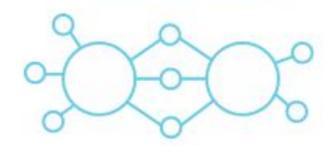




CARTOON STRIP







### TIMELINE



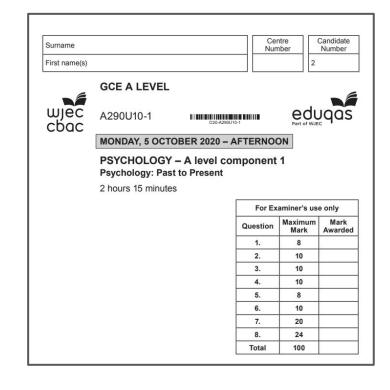
### INFOGRAPHIC





### 4. Deliberate practice

- Focus on specific types of questions.
- Use worked examples replicate steps until confident.
- Put to practice in timed conditions.





# Revision () POWER HOUR

G

STEP 01

Choose a past paper question

Google your subject, level and exam board e.g. "Geography A-Level Past Papers AQA" Revise

STEP

02

Spend 20 minutes revising what you need to know to answer your chosen question

STEP 03

Do the question

Set a timer for 20 minutes and answer the past paper question you chose Mark your answer

Using the mark scheme for the past paper mark your answer. This will help you to think like an examiner.

STEP ...

STEP 05

Get feedback

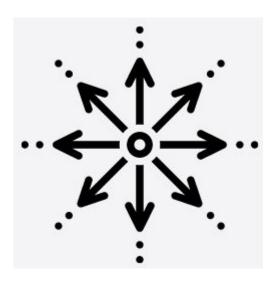
Show your teacher your work. Ask them whether your marking is accurate and how you could improve your answers

lifemoreextraordinary.com

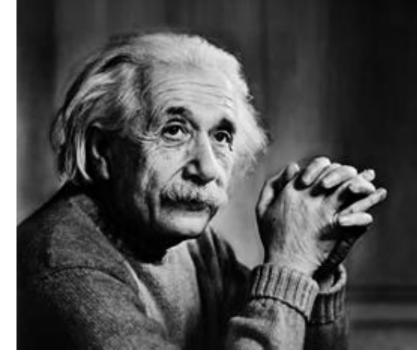
### 5. Elaboration

- Generate an explanation for a fact
- Ask 'why?'
- Compare and contrast
- Make connections
- Talk to yourself!





If you can't explain it **simply**, you don't understand it well enough.



- Albert Einstein

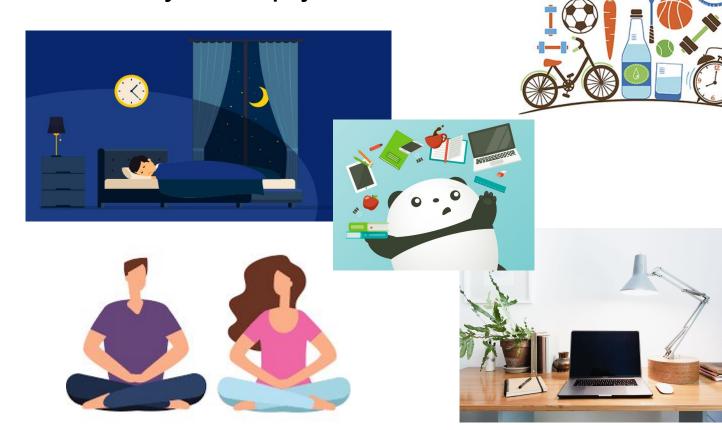


## 5 key revision strategies

- 1. Retrieval Practice
- 2. Spacing Learning
- 3. Dual coding
- 4. Deliberate Practice
- 5. Elaboration



# How can you help your child?







# The A Level Mindset

- 1. Vision
- 2. Effort
- 3. Systems
- 4. Practice
- 5. Attitudes



### Some important information you should know:

- Lessons continue until the final exam in the subject.
- Advanced information has now been released by the exam boards.
   Teachers will be taking some time to review this information, and then share it with students in an appropriate way.
- All exam boards have past papers on their websites, these are essential for students to use.
- There is a silent study area on campus, as well as quiet areas for students to collaborate.
- We have expert teachers make sure you ask them specific questions in order to support your learning.



# **Dave Brentnall**



# Original Title - 'Get inside the mind of an examiner'!







Mrs Brentnall, and the two humans that used to live in the house and now charge me thousands of pounds to pay for them to live somewhere else

### What is the secret to exam success?

Don't tread on cracks in pavements

Salute single magpies

Wear lucky socks on the day of the exam

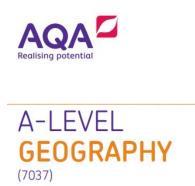
Being nice to elderly relatives (or teachers) in the hope that karma works in your favour

Using your favourite equipment in the exam, including the meerkat-shaped rubber you bought from Twycross Zoo in 2012

Rearranging revision guides into alphabetical order

# There is no secret - you know the answer already









### GCE

### **Mathematics**

Advanced GCE A2 7890 – 2 Advanced Subsidiary GCE AS 3890 – 2

**OCR Report to Centres June 2017** 

# **Exam Papers**

- Get hold of the specification this is the content you will be assessed on
- Make sure you know the structure of each paper
- Command words
- Practice a range of papers
- Cross reference your answers against the mark schemes
- Mark schemes give an insight into level of answer needed
- Lucky dip to avoid only doing easier questions
- 'Peer Group' papers

# Advance Information From Exam Boards

### H432 GCE A Level Chemistry A

### H432/01 Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry:

- 2.1.3 Amount of substance (includes practical skills)
- 5.3.1 Transition elements
- 5.1.3 Acids, bases and buffers (includes practical skills)
- 3.1.1 Periodicity
- 3.2.1 Enthalpy changes (includes practical skills)
- 5.1.1 How fast?
- 5.2.2 Enthalpy and entropy
- 2.1.4 Acids (includes practical skills)

### H432/02 Synthesis and analytical techniques:

- 2.1.3 Amount of substance (includes practical skills)
- 4.1.3 Alkenes
- 6.3.2 Spectroscopy
- 6.1.1 Aromatic compounds
- 6.2.5 Organic synthesis (includes practical skills)
- · 6.1.2 Carbonyl compounds (includes practical skills)
- 4.1.1 Basic concepts of organic chemistry
- 4.2.4 Analytical techniques
- · 6.2.3 Polyesters and polyamides

### H432/03 Unified chemistry:

- 2.1.3 Amount of substance (includes practical skills)
- 5.2.3 Redox and electrode potentials (includes practical skills)
- 3.2.3 Chemical equilibrium (includes practical skills)
- 4.1.1 Basic concepts of organic chemistry
- 4.2.3 Organic synthesis (includes practical skills)
- 5.1.3 Acids, bases and buffers
- 5.2.1 Lattice enthalpy (includes practical skills)
- 6.2.2 Amino acids, amides and chirality
- 6.3.2 Spectroscopy

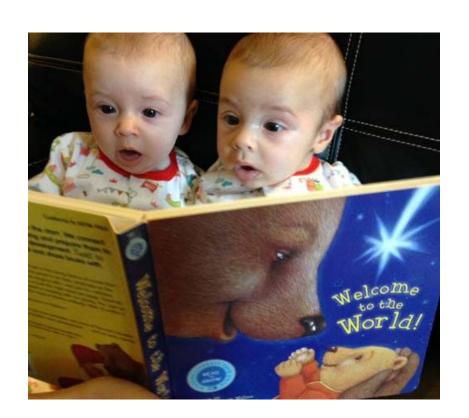


Don't forget the Stem

# Command words

Compare and contrast	Looking for the similarities <b>and</b> differences of two (or more) things. Should not require the drawing of a conclusion.  Answer must relate to both (or all) things mentioned in the question.
	The answer must include at least one similarity and one difference.
Complete	Requires the completion of a table/diagram.
Criticise	Inspect a set of data, an experimental plan or a scientific statement and consider the elements. Look at the merits and faults of the information presented and back judgements made by giving evidence.

# RTQ<sup>2</sup>



# Examiner's Reports

- Feedback on performance in an exam across the whole country
- Helps you see strengths and weaknesses, including examples of good and less good answers
- Some boards include 'live' examples with a commentary from the Principal
- Some reports finish with a student focused summary

This was a new paper, with a greater emphasis on AO2 'Application of knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures' and AO3 'Analysis, interpretation and evaluation of scientific information, ideas, and evidence', rather than AO1 'Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures'. This, together with the fact it relies on learning and applying knowledge from two years of work, has proved a difficult test for some candidates. However, all questions were accessible to candidates, and there seemed to be no time issues with completing the paper. The paper produced a good spread of marks.

Lack of breadth

Most candidates attempted all the questions but there has been an increase seen in the number of NR (no response), particularly to practical based and mathematical based questions (e.g. Q1(b)(i), Q2(b)(iii), Q4(c)(ii)) and this was more clearly seen amongst middle and lower scoring candidates. There was evidence that many of the lower scoring candidates struggled to get to grips with the increase in the number of AO2 and AO3 based questions, scoring most of their marks on the questions involving AO1 (recall and understanding). Equally it was pleasing to see a number of higher scoring scripts at the top end of the range, and these candidates tended to have well developed mathematical skills and a good practical knowledge, with the ability to understand and apply the information given to the questions being asked.

Centres are advised to er courage candidates to spend a little time reading the question and ensuring that they supply information that relates to, and answers, the question. Even if the science is correct, if it does not answer the question then it will not be awarded marks.

Maths-based problems

Questions in practical context

### Question 13 (a)

The great majority knew this definition, although there were some variations, such as 'an astral body of known luminosity'. Some referred to 'constant luminosity' which was not accepted.

(a) State what is meant by a standard candle.

a star that is coose motionary no that we can compare it to the chars that are moving.



This candidate seems to have read the introductory line, about trigonometric parallax, and answered a different question about that rather than the question on the paper. **0** 



If a question seems like one you remember from revision, do not just write that answer. Read the whole question carefully first.

(1)

### **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Read the stem of each question carefully to ensure you focus your response more precisely on what the question is asking.
- Take care to revise all the reactions of transition metals highlighted in the specification.
- Make sure you write full descriptions of observations and equations when you carry out practical work on transition metals.
- Practise applying organic mechanisms to a wider variety of compounds than just the examples covered in your lessons.
- When revising, work together with peers to check for clarity in your written explanations, especially when justifying how changes in procedure or conditions might influence a practical outcome.
- Label each step clearly, when you practice unstructured calculations.
   This will help embed approaches that you can then try to apply to unfamiliar questions.

### Don't forget you've got translators



# Matt Male



### Advice from the examiners

- Know the texts really well. This means you should read and re-read whichever texts or resources you have been given by the teacher. You might only read it in full once in class. This isn't enough! Own the text so you are able to interpret it in an original way.
- Choose the question carefully. Sometimes you will have a choice of questions, usually two. Make sure the question is one which you can answer.
- Don't try to fit pre-written essays to the exam questions. Often this will mean you won't answer the
  question and your response will be robotic and feel out of place.
- Keep the focus always on the writer's craft. What techniques has the writer used and why? Explore the authors' methods in detail.
- Keep social and historical context relevant and woven into the argument. Bolted on context doesn't further an argument. It also looks like you are just repeating facts parrot fashion.
- When you are called on to compare, make sure each connection between texts is developed and
  refers in some way to the point previously made. Make connections based on writer's methods as
  well as context and plot.



### Know the Assessment Objectives

The Assessment Objectives for a single question sometimes vary, but they are what you are being assessed on. *Do you know the Assessment Objectives in your subject?* 

Ask yourself when you practice any essay or exam question: *Have you met the Assessment Objectives?* 

The Assessment Objectives will also give you a structure to build your writing around. If you are addressing the AO's then you are providing the examiner with clues that you understand how to answer the question.

Examiners will look for evidence of AO's in your writing. They will mark according to the Assessment Objectives, which will also inform their marking criteria.



### How to use Assessment Objectives

 You can use the assessment objectives as building blocks or framework to construct your response; we'll look at an example in a moment.

2. Not all responses to exam questions in all subjects require an introduction or a conclusion, Literature does Language doesn't, and different subjects will have different ways of structuring an essay, but they all require that you address the assessment objectives for that paper or question.

 In A Level Language and A Level Literature, and in most subjects which require extended writing, making sure you address the AO's is part of the key to success.





### Here's an example from A Level Literature

**AO1** - *Articulate* informed, personal and creative response...and *coherent* written expression.

AO2 - Analyse the way meanings are shaped in a literary text by the writer.

AO3 - Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the context (historical and social).

"One such menace is that of the 'self', or the idea that the true threat to society lies within every person. Wilde summarises this idea through the line, 'Each of us has heaven and hell in him'. The biblical allusion to heaven and hell raises the orthodox christian suggestion that heaven and hell may not be places, but states of mind within a person depending on their mentality in relation to God."



### Here's an example from A Level Language

AO1 - Apply appropriate methods of language *analysis*, using *associated terminology* and *coherent* written expression.

AO3 - Analyse and evaluate how contextual factors and language features are associated with the construction of meaning.

There are particular lexical features within this text that identify the text's purpose to inform the audience of the writer's Charlie Brooker's opinion on a particular subject matter. The register of the discourse varies throughout; formal lexis is used to suit the demands of the educated audiences of the Guardian readers. French/Latinate vocabulary is used, for example, 'condemned', to appeal to a more intellectual audience due to the content of a sophisticated broadsheet newspaper.



### Flair and originality



Mechanically hitting those AO's will get you part of the way towards a good grade, but it isn't the whole story...

Your teachers will have taught you everything you need to know for the exams, and you should be able to answer any question thrown at you in the exam.

This means most of you are on a level playing field in terms of what you know and what you can do, but there is a way of getting ahead of the pack, showing you are different and surprising the examiner.



### Command Words Which Reveal Examiners Want Flair



Perceptively

Incisively

Originality

Critically

Deftly

Discerning

Illuminating



### How to use flair and be different

### 1. Informed

Know the text, concept or idea, but also make sure you understand what you've read or been taught on your own terms. Go beyond the teaching.

### 2. Personal

Put your own spin on what you've learned. Don't just restate what you were taught, or repeat what you were told, find your own voice and give your opinion.

### 3. Creative

Explore different interpretations of the text, and the question you're being asked. Don't rely on stock answers you've already practiced.

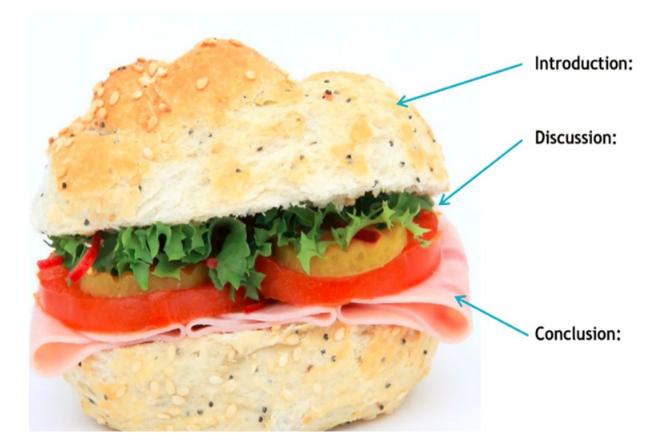




# Rachael Gowdridge



# Essay sandwich

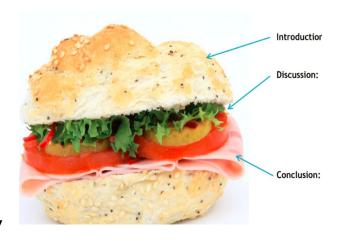




# Recipe for success - Essay sandwich

### **Ingredients:**

- 1) A clear head
- 2) Case study or text knowledge
- 3) A good grasp of the theory (which paper? content)
- 4) Good subject vocabulary





### **Instructions:**

- Underline command words and key phrases
- Decode the question. What does the examiner want you to do?
- Thought shower the topics Command words, key phrases, case study if necessary
- What are the main themes that emerge in your thought shower?
- Decide upon a conclusion where is your answer going?
- Write a short introduction that informs the examiner of the argument you will follow and perhaps define the keyword
- Limit the discussion to between 2-4 paragraphs



## Instructions

- 8) Each paragraph should use the PEEL format.
  - POINT: an introductory sentence that outlines the theme for that paragraph.
  - EVIDENCE and EXPLANATION: your point is developed using explanation and illustrated with selected case study evidence.
  - LINKS: each paragraph should explicitly link to the essay question and link into the next paragraph.
- 9) Conclusion: Synthesise your main points (bring them together into a statement) and return to the essay question, then answer it or make a judgement.



Geography

To what extent is the quality of governance the most common factor in the recovery of countries and communities from tectonic disasters?

(38 Marks)

Command word Keywords
Main argument





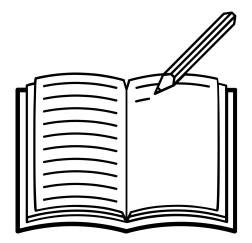
**English literature** 

How does Webster explore excess in The Duchess of Malfi? You must discuss relevant contextual factors

(AO1-3 assessed) 15% of final grade, 25 marks

Command word Keywords Main argument





Sociology

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the Functionalist perspective of crime and deviance. (30 marks)

Expectation 6 points in detail to achieve 30 marks.

Command word Keywords Main argument



### **Physical Education**

A team game such as basketball provides opportunities for recovery from high intensity work both during and after the match.

Outline the recovery processes that occur in the first three minutes after exercise and, using a team game of your choice, evaluate the strategies that a player or coach can use to maximise recovery.

Evaluate nutritional ergogenic aids that help the recovery process (20 marks)

Command word Keywords Main argument





### The importance of being prepared

Each exam board has a copy of its past papers on its website. Have a look at these past papers and in particular the past essay questions.

What things are similar between the questions over the years? What are the key words and command words? There **will definitely be** pattern - you just need to put the time in to be prepared.

Have a go at planning an answer to some of these past questions.

Write the essays - Teachers will love it!



### Essay planning flow diagram Introduction - outline the argument and define key terms Main idea for paragraph 1: Main idea for paragraph 2: Main idea for paragraph 3: Main idea for paragraph 4: Supporting evidence for Supporting evidence for Supporting evidence for Supporting evidence for paragraph 1: paragraph 2: paragraph 3: paragraph 4: Concluding sentence to link Concluding sentence to link Concluding sentence to link to next paragraph: to next paragraph: to next paragraph: Conclusion - synthesize and return to the question. (Look to the future?)

### Timing - Advice



Most exams allow a mark per minute. Incorporated into this is a 5 minute planning window for the larger mark essays.

Component 3 in Geography is 2 hours and 15 minutes (135 mins)

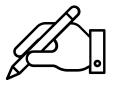
It consists of 3 essays. 2x45 markers and 1x38 mark. (128 marks)

Preparation beforehand will allow you more time to plan your answer during the exam.

You got this!



### Takeaways:



- 1) Know your command words. Look at past papers the same command word come up time and time again. Know what they mean. The most common ones for essays are discuss, evaluate, assess, to what extent.
- 2) Know how to structure your essay The sandwich.
- 3) PEEL your paragraphs.
- 4) Always refer back to the question in the conclusion.
- 5) Spend a couple of minutes planning you answer.
- 6) Practice makes perfect.

Anyone wanting hard copies of the planning sheet drop me an email **rgowdridge@brookvalegroby.com** 



# **Ebony Pulling**



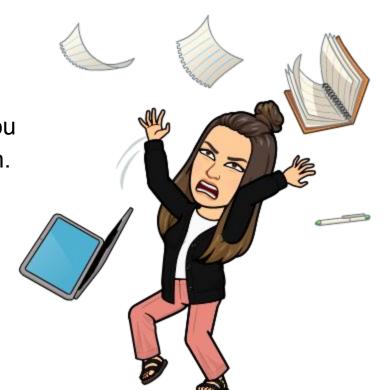
### Why focus on you?

Exam season is an extremely stressful time.

But if you forget to look after yourself you will **NOT** make the most of your revision.

Exams can cause a lot of anxiety which often leads to **PROCRASTINATION!** 





### Wellbeing- My top tips

Set achievable goals-No "I should've"

Take breaks- 5 mins for every 25 revising

Sleep- 20 minutes is the optimum nap time



Eat well- Although the snacks are tempting...





### Dealing with the *feeling*

Feeling anxious can cause you to struggle with your breathing, shake or even feel sick.

### A few quick tips to help with these feelings:

1 Breathe- there are lots of techniques, *my favourite is in for* 4, hold for 4 and out for 6

Mindfulness- this may make you feel awkward at first, my favourite is a body scan

Counting - sometimes breathing alone doesn't help, *my* favourite is naming as many Friends characters as I can



### Dealing with the *thoughts*

Feeling anxious can cause thoughts that make us question our abilities, ruin our confidence and make us withdraw.

### A few quick tips to help with these feelings:

Praise yourself- this will help you to believe in yourself, you got this!

Replace doom with pleasure- just like when Ron put the roller skates on the spider

Humour- over exaggerate the situation, work back to a reasonable level of concern



### Day/night before

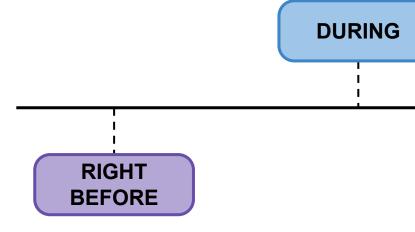
- 1. Review your material. Do NOT add any new information. It's too late to learn it now.
- 2. Continue all the same relaxation and imagery practices as above and add MORE!
- 3. Imagine yourself coping before, during (handling it well and any possible negative effects), and after.
- 4. Get a good night sleep- sleep hygiene is really important.



### The Exam

**BREATHE!** 

Accept you are anxious, some stress is good Take your time and don't rush



If you can, walk to your exam Do a breathing exercise Drink water Avoid stressful people/situations



Celebrate your success Evaluate what worked well and what didn't Avoid stressful people/situations







This is a guided meditation App that has a range of tool kits: sleep, eating, community, exercise, exam stress.

It is free or for premium access £9.99 a year for students.



Remember to breathe, look after yourself, avoid stressful people/situations and believe in yourself!







### Let's leave these 8 top tips here:

