

How to...



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SIXTH FORM

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Plan your revision time

Overview



Planning your revision time is vital to success. Cramming at the last minute will not help you to do well, particularly at A-Level where you have so much content to learn.

Starting early is crucial, and planning your time so that you cover all of the content more than once will allow you to retain this much more. You ideally need to keep testing yourself on the information that you have learned so that you know whether it is in your long term memory. It is important to test yourself from memory each time so build testing time into your revision schedule.

Details

Start by planning out exactly what you need to revise, but beware of false confidence. Test yourself on everything by recalling information from scratch or from a basic prompt such as an image, so that you can gauge an accurate picture of what you know and don't know. Recalling something that you have just read won't allow you to really see whether you know it. Equally, don't assume that because you feel confident, that you know everything

Break down each subject into a list of topics, then subdivide that into smaller sections if you can. For example, you may have a novel that you have to revise for A-Level Literature, but then subdivide into characters, themes, plot etc..., then subdivide further by adding specific characters and themes. This will allow you to cover all information that you need and should stop procrastination as you will know exactly what you need to cover in each revision session.

Use your timetable as a working document – write on what you have covered so you know what to test yourself on and adapt your planning as you go as you will know what you need to revisit more often.

Creating a revision timetable: key principles

- **Create a list of everything you need to get done** – by subject/exam paper/subtopics.
- **Allocate how much time is needed** for each item on the list (e.g. 30 minutes a core study).
- **Prioritise your list** – what needs revising first (e.g. what exam is first, what you find hardest/will need to cover more than once).
- **Divide your day into study blocks** – do you want to study for 30-minute blocks, hour long blocks or longer? – block off time for breaks, weekly commitments and mealtimes. **Regular study breaks help motivation.**
- Build in time to test yourself on what you have learned and this time needs to grow as you will be testing yourself on more and more each time as you learn/revise more. Colour coding is a good way to see whether you have built in the time to test yourself – either colour-coding the initial revision session and the test in the same colour or putting all of the test spaces in the same colour
- **Fill in your blocks with items from your list** – how many feel achievable in the day? Vary this according to the day and additional commitments that you have. **If you start early, you should be looking at around five hours of additional revision a week, adding to this as you get closer to your exams**

An example

This example is based on a week in college; blank spaces are where your lessons would be. If completing a revision timetable for the holidays, use the same principles but add more points in the day where you can revise.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9-10		Period 1 PS Biology Cells					
10-11				Period 2 PS Biology Genetics		Hour on Maths Trigonometry	
11-12	Period 3 PS Chemistry Thermodynamics				Period 3 PS Chemistry Halogens		20 mins test on Cells 20 mins test on Vectors
LUNCH BREAK							
1-2						20 mins test on Genetics	
2-3			Period 4 PS – Maths Vectors				Hour on Thermodynamics – focus on what I didn't know on Thurs)
3-4	House football				20 mins test on Vectors		
4-5			Out with friends	20 mins test on Differentiation		20 mins test on Differentiation (flashcards that I didn't know on Thurs)	20 mins test on Trigonometry and 20 mins test on Halogens
5-6	Hour on Maths Differentiation	Hour on Chemistry Polymers					
TEA/DINNER BREAK							
7-8		Meal out with family		20 mins test on Thermodynamics			

Actions: what you need to do next

- Create a list of what you need to learn and break it down into topics
- Create a revision timetable using the advice in this booklet
- Print it out, ideally onto an A3 sheet so that you can write on it
- Allocate specific times to revising and creating revision resources (**use the How to...Revise Effectively booklet if you need support with this**)
- Ensure that you have built in times to test yourself and also to relearn information that you don't know
- Try your timetable out and adapt it to your needs
- If you are struggling with learning something or have gaps in your knowledge/notes, speak to a member of staff either in the relevant department or in the Sixth Form team
- If you are finding it difficult to study alone, consider setting up a study group (**there is a How to guide on this as well**)

Useful links

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/how-to-create-a-revision-timetable/>

<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/student-life/creating-a-revision-timetable-that-actually-works>

<https://www.theexamcoach.tv/the-blog/how-to-make-a-revision-timetable-that-works>

All of these websites are similar but give some additional support and examples as well. If you Google examples of revision timetables, you can see a wide range, but be wary; some are not as effective as others!

If you need any further support, please speak to Mrs Whitelaw, Mrs Barnard or Mr Ellis