YEAR 8
GUIDE TO YOUR REVISION

THE HAMBLE SCHOOL
ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Call us on 023 8045 2105
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HOW TO REVISE IN A NUTSHELL:

1) Be clear on what you have to revise – this booklet will tell you, but also ask your teachers.

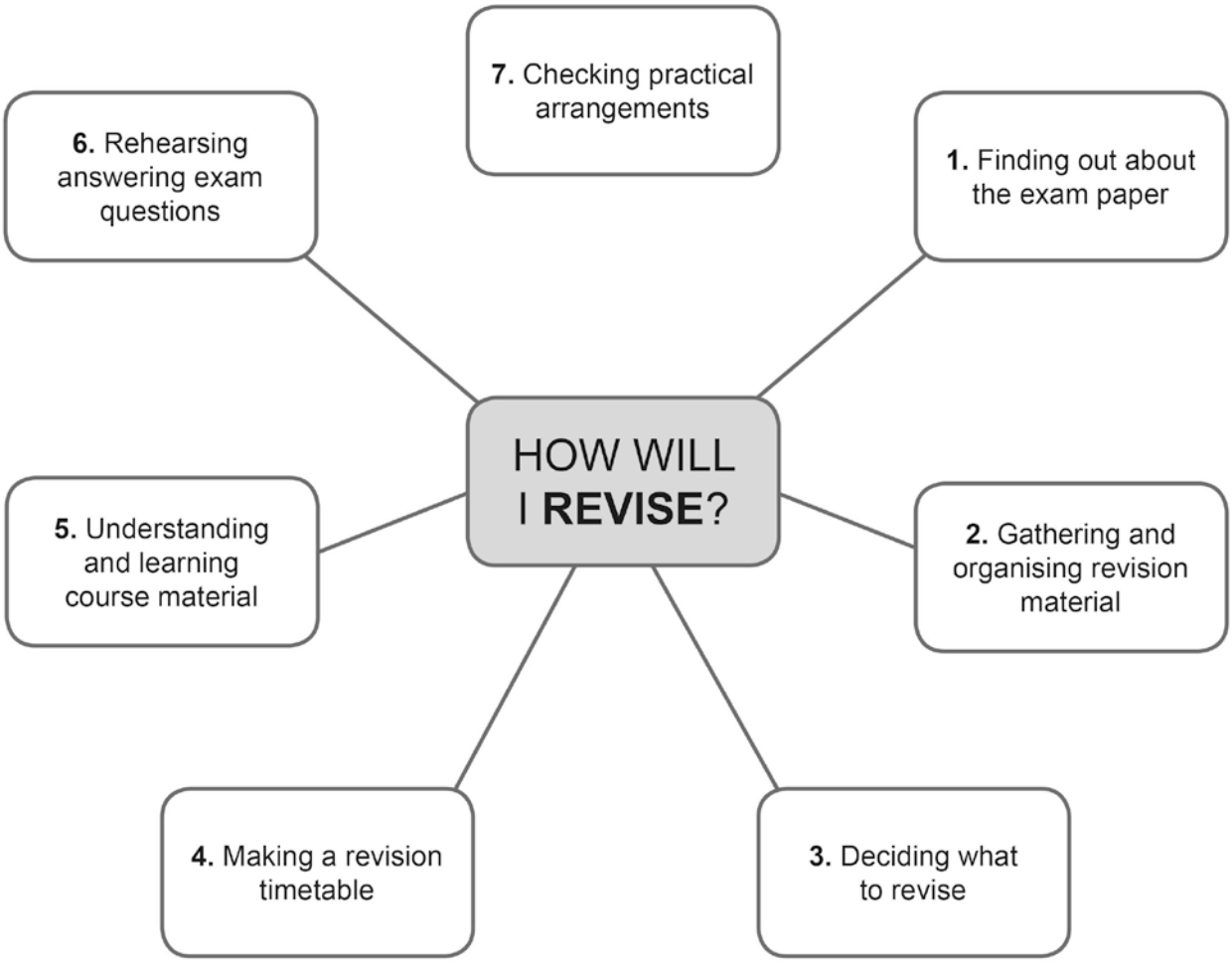
2) Sort out your books, your revision materials and your revision space.

3) Organise a timetable – weekly or the same one for the next 4 weeks.

4) Start by making good notes – use your class notes, YouTube, recommended websites. Base your notes around the areas your exam will focus upon, then use place mats, cue cards, posters, post it notes or PowerPoints.

5) Learn your notes – read, cover, write, check; get someone to test you; group discussions. Don't just read your notes – how do you know if you have remembered them until you are in the exam?!

6) Past exam papers – do as many past paper and questions as you can (ask your teachers).



WHY DO WE DO EXAMS?

- For your teachers to predict your GCSE levels – these will then be used by any colleges or course you apply for so, yes, they are important!
- To identify what you need to work on and progress.
- A chance for you to practise how the exams work along with increasing your confidence so you don't mess anything up with the real things.

You should start your revision early and do a little and often. If you try to cram all of your revision into a couple of days, you are less likely to remember all of the information.

Everyone's brain works differently and what might work for one person could be less effective for another.

Try to revise two topics a day and plan time once or twice a week to review the revision that you have completed. Reviewing the information helps to transfer it from your short term memory to your long term memory. If you do not review your revision you will find it harder to remember the information.

DESIGNING A REVISION TIMETABLE

- Aim to revise Mon-Thurs and some of Sunday
- Create a revision timetable
- Put in all the things you do extra in and out of school e.g. period 6 sessions, extra-curricular clubs, sport clubs, art catch up etc.
- Aim to do 1-2 hours a night – split this up into 1 hour sections
- Try and do your revision early on in the evening so you have the rest of the time to relax
- In each session look at a specific area to revise e.g. Science – Atomic bonding, Ionic, covalent and metallic bonding
- Make notes on the area you are focussing on – learn it
- Try a practise question on this topic if you can
- Decide when you are going to re-visit this area so you can go over it again.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I AM REVISING?

On average, we remember:

- ✓ 20% of what we read
- ✓ 30% of what we hear
- ✓ 40% of what we see
- ✓ 50% of what we say
- ✓ 60% of what we do
- ✓ 90% of what we read, hear, see, say and do

This means that if you are going to remember the information you are revising you should do something **active** with it and transfer information from one form to another. Below is a list of some revision techniques. Try to find a couple that work for you and aim to vary the techniques you use to suit each topic.

EXAMPLES OF HOW TO REVISE – FIND A TECHNIQUE THAT WORK FOR YOU!

1. Turn notes into bullet points. Highlight key words. Keep shortening them until you have one word which will trigger your memory for each point.

2. Make flash cards with the key ideas. (see *www.flashcardexchange.com for ideas).*

3. Practise past exam papers or questions.

4. Draw Mind Maps for topics to show how the main ideas link together.

5. Turn your notes into pictures or diagrams such as flow charts.

6. Use websites e.g. BBC Bitesize to read through key information.

7. Learning posters – put key information on small posters. Use patterns, colour and drawings. Pin them up where you'll see them often (like in the toilet).

8. Use Mnemonics to remember key facts (Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain)

9. Make up questions and get somebody to test you verbally. Put aside the ones you don't know and keep working on them until you learn them all.

10. Record notes and put them on your phone. Listen to them as often as possible.

11. Make a rhyme, rap or song out of your revision notes (yes it really works!)

12. Read your notes out aloud to your cat or dog! Sounds stupid but it works!

13. Explain key ideas to a parent/brother/sister. Teaching other people helps you to learn yourself.

14. Associate information with actions and act out your notes as you read them.

15. Walk around the room whilst revising.

16. Write information on post-its and stick them around the room.

17. Turn your notes into a PowerPoint and share it with friends.

18. Try recalling detailed diagrams/graphs/illustrations from memory and test yourself.

YOU ‘vs’ THE EXAMINER!

The Examiner's View You can largely determine the end result by simply heeding the voice of experience. The job of examiners is to give you marks, not to take them away, but they are powerless to help you if you fall into the most common traps. These are the **biggest pitfalls** they have identified:

☐ **Not reading the paper correctly** Examiners say that this is one of the most regular and fatal errors. They call it the *'triggered answer'*. You have your pre-prepared answer ready but you don't look at the exact terms of the question and therefore supply the wrong information in your answer.

☐ **Not finishing the paper** Mismanaging your time within the exam can easily cost you a full grade. The biggest exam 'crime' is to leave suitable questions BLANK. ***Remember: it is much easier to get the first 20% of the marks for any question than the last 5%.*** Therefore, if you find yourself stuck for time as you struggle through your third answer out of five, do not spend your remaining time extending and perfecting that answer. Instead, move on to questions four and five, even if your attempt is sketched or in point form. If you have answered only three questions instead of five, the highest mark you can get is 60%.

☐ **Ignoring the marking scheme** You must take the marking scheme into account when you allocate time to each question or part of a question. If the marks allotted to a question clearly indicate that a few paragraphs are sufficient, do not write an essay on the subject. Avoid the temptation of writing everything you know about a topic – just give the appropriate amount of information.

☐ **Repetition** Make the point once. There are no extra marks for restating facts, even if you phrase them differently. Examiners say repetition is a very common mistake. It is also a time-waster and an irritant.

☐ **Missing part of a question** Sometimes, part of a question can be carried onto the next page and, in the pressure of the moment, you don't see it. As a consequence you might fail to do a compulsory part of a question or miss out on the chance to take an option that would have suited you better. Always take time to familiarise yourself with the whole paper before you start answering it.

☐ **Rough work** Include your rough work with your exam script – you might get some credit for formulae or calculations contained therein.

PERFORMING ON THE DAY

Get a good night's sleep
While the temptation is to stay up half the night 'cramming' in more facts and figures, the evidence suggests this approach is counter-productive. In the context of a two-year course, an extra night's studying can make very little difference to your knowledge. However, having a mind that is refreshed, alert and ready to respond to circumstances will obviously be of far greater benefit.

Arrive in plenty of time
To perform well on the day, you need to be relaxed and to feel in control of the situation. This is difficult to achieve if you have missed breakfast and are stuck on a bus in traffic or standing on a train for 45 minutes as the exam time approaches. You will need about 15 minutes 'quiet time' to mentally rehearse your exam and run through your 'game plan' for the final time.

Have your equipment ready
Each exam has its own requirements. Apart from properly functioning pens, pencils, rulers, etc., you may need a calculator for the Maths or Science exam. Drawing pencils may be required for diagrams in some subjects. A lot of nervous energy can be expended on last-minute hassle if these items aren't checked in advance.

Think positive
On the day of the exam, remind yourself of the good things (the material you know well, the revision you have completed, all the past exam questions done, the good grades achieved) rather than dwelling on areas of weakness. Having that self-belief will give you the confidence to trust your judgement within the exam hall and 'hit the target'.

Maintain your focus
There can be a lot of tension, drama, and hysteria in the air on the days of an exam. You want to keep the balance between maintaining your focus and interacting normally with your friends and classmates. Try finding a quiet spot *far from the madding crowd* to 'warm-up' before each exam and 'warm-down' afterwards. Surround yourself with people who are likely to add to the calm rather than add to the clamour.

Beware of post-exam analysis
The more you participate in the exam post-mortem, the more confused and disheartened you are likely to become. You can't change what has happened, you can only focus on the present and this will need your full attention.

REVISION TIMETABLE

Write the subject or topic you will revise into the time slots that you are able to devote to revision. Also allow time for meals, activities and relaxing. This is a simplistic revision timetable, feel free to produce your own version to help you structure your time.

TIPS

- Short bursts of revision are most effective. Your concentration lapses after about an hour and you need to take a short break (5/10 minutes).
- Find a quiet place to revise – your bedroom, school, library – refuse to be interrupted or distracted.
- Make sure you don't just revise the subjects and topics you like – work on your weaker ones as well.

To be effective, revision must be:

- Active – always work with a pen and paper, look for key points and test yourself.
- Organised – always ask yourself at the start of a study session "what do I want to have completed in this session?".
- Know how you learn best and then you can revise in ways that suit your style = visual learning, auditory learning, kinaesthetic learning.
- How should you revise = mind maps; read intelligently; use cue cards; condense; highlight; talk; test yourself.
- Healthy body = healthy mind = food for thought; brain fuel; exercise.

REVISION TIMETABLE

TIME	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	WEEKEND	SAT	SUN
3-4pm						Early Morning		
4-5pm						Late Morning		
5-6pm						Early Afternoon		
6-7pm						Late Afternoon		
7-8pm						Early Evening		
8-9pm						Late Evening		

NOTES

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Reception is open from 8am until 4pm from Monday to Friday
during the school term.

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