

PATHWAYS AND GCSE REVISION GUIDE



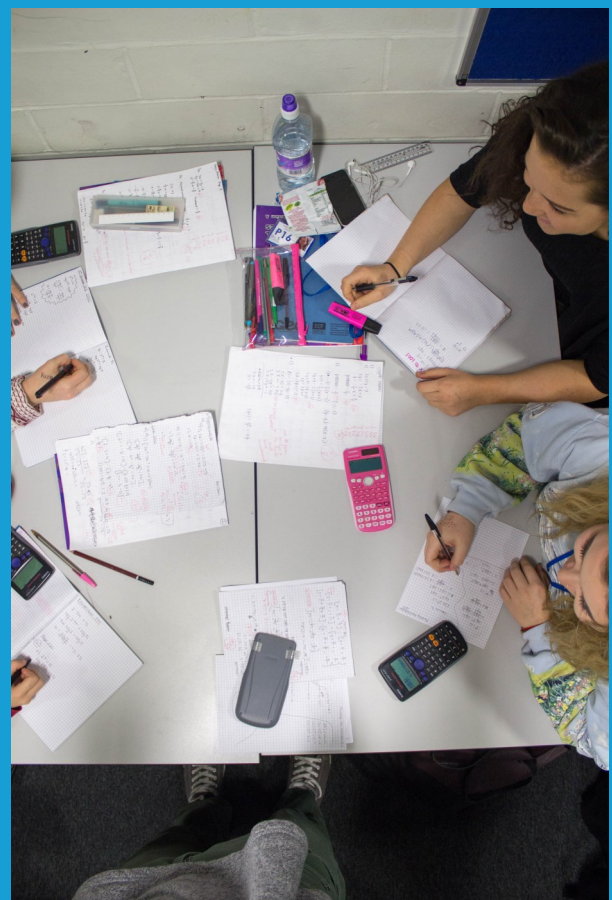
Who is this Pathway and GCSE revision guide for?

If you are taking a pathway or GCSE written exam during the academic year **this guide is for you!**

This guide aims to help you plan and use your time well before the start of the exam series. Dip in and out of the guide, and don't feel you have to read it all at once!

Guide Content:

- Starting Revision
- What type of learner am I?
- What Specification am I learning?
- Check Current Specifications at The BRIT School
- Revision notes guidance and example
- Tips for creating a Revision Timetable
- Aiming for top grades
- Sitting Written Exams
- Stress busting and asking for Help



Top Tip! If you have a revision method that is effective and works for you continue with your method! Use this guide to add to your current method of study and revision

Starting Revision :

Types of Revision:

Passive Revision:

Reading through your notes or re-reading books is a passive revision technique. Reading page after page can be boring and your mind can wander to other things. Have you often started reading a text book and found you have not taken any of a paragraph in? This can lose you time when revising.

Active Revision:

Active revision involves using your senses to help you remember the content of your revision. Reading, listening , writing, practising questions and acting out texts.

This may include:

- Writing out revision notes and drawing diagrams
- Reading aloud , using a rhyme and acting out texts
- Discussing topics with friends and family
- Getting others to test your knowledge
- Giving yourself a mini test for each topic
- Try to complete a whole past paper in the set time allowed, in exam conditions in silence and without text books
- Using subject and specification relevant websites and revision guides.
- Mindful revision may include creating mind maps, Mnemonics for key topics or equations.
- Teach someone the topic, to see if you understand it enough to explain it.

What type of learner am I?



Types of learners:

At The BRIT School we celebrate all types of differences, and you may not know that people can prefer to learn in different ways or a combination of ways. Here are a few :

Visual Learners:

- Like Graphs, Charts, videos, demonstrations, Pictures to learn new information.
- Memorize and recall information easily
- Visualise what was written down
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Useful Tips for Visual Learners:

- Turn notes into pictures and charts
- Avoid distractions
- Colour code notes

Auditory Learners:

- Like listening and speaking to share information.
- Concentrate best with music in the background

Useful Tips for Auditory Learners:

- Record yourself reading your note and play them back regularly
- Discuss topics with family and friends
- Read texts aloud to help really understand them

What type of learner am I?



Kinaesthetic (Physical) Learners:

- Like group work, practical demonstrations, and hands on learning
- Enjoy working out answers in Maths or Science

Useful Tips for Kinaesthetic (Physical) Learners:

- Take breaks often
- Learn while active, watch videos while working out, recite key words or think through topics logically, in steps while active.
- For English literature and History imagine yourself as a character or historical figure, ask yourself how they react to the situation they are in. Act out scenes to help understand the context.

Read & Write Learners:

- Like to work methodically through textbooks, take notes, ask questions
- Enjoy reading and taking in information at their own pace

Useful Tips for Kinaesthetic (Physical) Learners:

- Make notes in your own words to better understand topics
- Use bullet point lists
- Use physical note books and texts books if you prefer using hard copies and paper notes rather than on screen reading.

What Specification am I learning?

This is the most important question to tackle before you purchase any guides or start building a timetable ! It can be a scary amount of information to start with but it is worth knowing your qualifications and specifications! See the BRIT School specification list by scanning the QR code.

SCAN ME



- what am I learning for each subject?
- What is my specification?
- What topics are there?
- How many written papers and how many internally assessed units are there?

Different awarding bodies have different specifications for each subject, they may cover different topics or regularly phrase questions in a style there is expected technique to answer.

It is equally important to make sure you spend time completing your non exam assessments, the units you complete in class as a piece of coursework or portfolio. The marks for these will go towards your overall qualification. If you are not confident in exams, the internal units can give you a good foundation to prove your working at levels and your ability.

Different subjects require different revision techniques. Each question has a maximum mark . Some subjects have short questions, such as in maths you need to practice writing out answers to gain marks. In English and humanities subjects , the papers have longer essay questions and you can learn how to achieve all the mark criteria.

Revision notes guidance

How do you start creating revision notes?

- Only create revision notes at the end of your topic lessons, and condense your class notes and research into simple bite size amounts.
- Reading notes repeatedly may not help to understand which information is important. You will not remember information if you do not understand it, and know where it fits in to a topic or subject. Try create mind maps, spider diagrams and concept maps to make sense of topics.
- Write revision notes on easily accessible and portable forms, such as an A4 writing pad, A5 note pads, flash cards or if even on your phones notes.
- Try using different colour notes or flash cards for different subjects
- For Visual and Kinaesthetic Learners put post it notes with Key Words in prominent places around your room or home for visual association. This is useful for modern foreign language subjects for key phrases or words for objects around the home.
- Use your own words and write in **CAPITAL LETTERS** for key words
- Space out your notes - to make them stand out
- Use tables, formulae and equations to help trigger your memory.
- Highlight, underline, or use circles for important information using a key. Make a simple key and keep the same for all revision notes. See an example of a revision key on the next page.
- Shop bought specification specific guides for revision can be very useful, but the best notes are the ones your write and actively revise with as they will help with your memory best.

Revision notes example

Example of a possible revision flash card for Biology and the key used for creating this revision card. Include Main Topic, Key point or Definitions, Key words or Phrases.

Key:

Topic highlighted in Yellow

Topic key words in Green

Word equation is in a blue square box

Chemical Equation is in a red circle

Biology notes:

RESPIRATION in Mitochondria in Animal Cells

AEROBIC RESPIRATION

Definition: The process by which organisms use oxygen to turn fuel,
Such as fats and sugars into chemical energy.

Glucose + Oxygen → Carbon Dioxide + Water + Energy



ENERGY (ADENOSINE TRIPHOSPHATE) can be used for:

HEAT, MOVEMENT, and BUILDING MOLECULES.

Top Tip! Visual learners may prefer a spider diagram or mind map with illustrations and pictures, that can be recalled easily. Auditory learners may prefer to read flash cards aloud.

Tips for Creating a Revision Timetable


The best time to start revising is as you learn the topics throughout the two year course, the second best time is now.

Try to :

- Plan in advance what subject and topic to revise
- Be ambitious but not unrealistic you know how much time you have to spare.
- Balance revision and leisure time.
- Do not set revision lessons for after 9pm, make sure you prioritise sleep and rest.
- Set a routine each week, and put aside at least an hour of your weekend for a focus session.
- Add sessions to our phone calendar or school outlook calendar with a reminder alert set up.
- Do not plan to revise every night.
- Split up your sessions between subjects.
- Spread out your revision
- Use available technology, ask teachers to recommend revision sites, ask friends for podcast recommendations for subjects.
- Work out your first exam date 6-8 weeks before your exams start and make sure your revision sessions match when each exam is set.
- Remember each subject may have multiple papers and some paper have set topics.

Tips for Creating a Revision Timetable

Steps to make your revision timetable work for you:

- Breakdown your day into time slots
 - Divide the slots into when you are busy or free over a week period
 - Try for 30 minute minimum slots and an hour maximum for in the week three or four times and up to 3 hours maximum slots at the weekend.
 - Allow breaks in longer slots.
 - Keep smaller revision sessions active and interesting.
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- A photograph showing a group of students in a classroom or computer lab. They are seated at long tables, each with a laptop open in front of them. The students are focused on their work, some looking at the screens and others at papers. The room is brightly lit, and the tables are cluttered with various school supplies like pens, pencils, and papers. The students are dressed in casual clothing, typical of a school environment.
- Use different mediums to revise, such as revision notes, revision guide books, revision websites, and revision podcasts.
 - Schedule a chat with family or a friend to discuss topics and ask if you can try to teach them to better understand the topic yourself.

This all counts as revision!

Tips for Creating a Revision Timetable

- Use longer sessions to test yourself, you can set mini tests or try a whole paper. Have a break then use the mark scheme to identify areas to improve on.
- Write a list of the subjects and then break it into the topics you want to revise.
- Draw up a trial timetable and colour coordinate it!
- Practice the trial timetable for two weeks, for the first week create the revision notes you will use in the second week sessions.
- If the timetable needs amending make changes, and review the timetable each term.
- Draw out or print your calendar and decorate it to put on your wall at home or add it to your phone calendar with alerts set to remind you.
- When you revise it may help to put your phone in a draw or bag or different room, to stop unwanted distractions and interruptions.



Aiming for top grades

A top grade maybe A* for A levels and A for AS. It maybe a grade 9 or 8 for GCSE. Aiming for top grades can also be aiming for your Predicted Target grade or one grade higher. We are all different and have preferred subjects we do best in, but all subjects grades can be improved by following a few tips.

- Make revision a priority
- Revision is a skills you have to practice to make into a habit.
- Use the specification online to make a list of all the topics to cover
- Start revising months rather than weeks before your exams, gradually build up the hours you revise if you find concentrating for long periods difficult.
- Put in the hours, there is no escaping the fact that you need to revise harder for the topics you find hardest to understand, to gain deeper understanding and achieve those extra marks.
- Target your weakest area first and come back to it first, weeks before the exam series begins.
- Time your past papers and mini tests.



Aiming for top grades

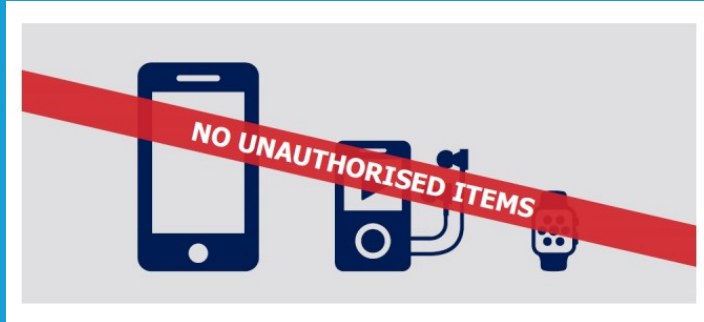
- Check all your answers again before marking your own tests.
- Tackle past papers, break them down into topics, check your answers before marking them. Identify the gaps in your understanding and try again with a the next past paper.
- Check the previous years grade boundaries. After you have completed a test, try to work out what topics you need to improve on to reach that next grade boundary criteria.
- Ask for help from teachers, friends or family if you struggle with a specific topic, a second point of view can help bring clarity.
- One of the easier ways to lose marks is to not answering the right number of questions in time. Always watch the clock to make sure you spend your time efficiently across the questions.
- If it helps underline key words you have used and think of any other key words from your revision notes you normally use, if appropriate for topics that have a set structure, or order consider if you have missed any key words out.
- Consider how long an answer is expected compared to the marks available.



Sitting Exams and Assessments

Preparing for exams:

Check the JCQ website for candidate information by scanning the QR code:



SCAN ME

The night before:

- Do light revision.
- Collect all the equipment you need for the exam the next day. Remember your ID and timetable, prepare for the exam by packing a black pens, rulers, calculators, maths equipment, a clear plastic pencil case, and a clear water bottle. So there will then be no need to rush to prepare in the morning.
- Plan your journey to school for the next day
- Set an alarm to wake up with plenty of time and try to get a normal nights sleep if you can!

On the day:

- Wake up on time!
- Check you have everything you need before you leave for school.
- Arrive to school in plenty of time for the start of your exam. Speak to your friends if you are early or listen to gentle music to try and relax before the exam.
- Check the rooming listed on your timetable/ in reception/ on the exam room door.
- Do not wait outside the exam room longer then needed for the arrival time this can make you nervous.
- Put away your phone and any technology for internet connected or blue tooth based watch and headphones in your bag. Check your pockets for any notes or revision cards to put in your bag, as you cannot take these into the exam room or you will be disqualified.

Sitting Exams and Assessments

Once the exam has started:

- Ask invigilators if you need help. They cannot assist with any questions or answers but please do not be afraid to ask for help if you are feeling unwell or need assistance with spare equipment or additional paper.
- Write down any notes you are worried you may forget, it will take a couple of minutes but you will be far more relaxed.
- Read all the questions in a paper before answering any. Read it twice if you have time to consider all instructions for what each question is asking you to do.
- If you have a choice of questions choose the one you feel you will do best on.
- Complete the questions you are confident with first or the ones with the most marks to gain.
- Check your answers and keep an eye on the time.
- Make sure you answer as many questions as you can.
- If you finish early re read your answers, make any corrections you need to.
- At the end of the exam hand in all exam papers and inserts
- After the exam is finished wait to be dismissed. Be considerate and kind to others continuing their exams.
- Leave in silence, collect your items and move away from the exams room.
- Wait until you are outside the exam venues and away from corridors where exams are still taking place before you start talking to friends.
- Sharing how you feel you did is good to reduce your stress levels but remember not to judge others opinions of the exam and support friends if they struggled with the exam questions you may have found manageable to complete.
- Take a break between exams and balance leisure and revision time.



Stress busting and Asking for Help

- **Eat Well** - Opt for Fresh fruit or simple toast as a snack while you revise.
- **Drink plenty of water** to boost your Energy.
- **Work in good lighting**, poor lighting can cause headaches.
- **Make time in your week for exercise**, this will help boost your revision
- **Sleep well** - Being tired will make it difficult to revise
- **Practice with friends and family**– consider setting up a class revision group
- **Record your self reading notes aloud** and listen to them when commuting to reduce tired eyes from reading.
- **Think about where you revise best**, maybe in the library in silence or at home with your music on.
- **Take regular breaks** and space to get away from the books.
- **Don't compare yourself to others**, such as friends or siblings we all work differently and you know if you are not giving it your all.
- **Don't dwell on mistakes** we all make them! Mistakes are errors we can learn from and improve on.
- **When you revise make notes on topics you are struggling to understand or may need advice on. Ask your teacher in your lesson time or email them for advice.**
- **Speak to our Pastoral team or your tutor/mentor if you have a stressful concern you need help with.**
- **Ask your teachers, friends and parents for help as you revise or to mark your past papers, and explain if they understand a concept or topic you need a hand with.**
- **Take advantaged of any revision lessons offered at school.**
- **Avoid cramming last minute, early revision sessions will help you feel confident and prepared.**



**That completes the revision guide!
You made it to the end.**

**Top tip! number 1:
You can do this
and
We believe in you!**

Any exam concerns that we can assist with please feel free to email dataandexams@brit.croydon.sch.uk and allow five working days for a response.

**All the best in your preparations!
The Data and Exams Team**

