

Year 9

How do I revise?

Exams W/B June 19th

Introduction

This booklet has been made to help you get ready for your Year 9 exams. You have been studying for these exams all year. Many of them are very similar to your GCSE examinations in format and style.

You will have exams in the following subjects:

- Maths
- English
- Science
- Religious Studies
- ICT
- Option A
- Option B
- Option C

Why bother?

Exams are never pleasant but your results will determine which Year 10 group you are placed in so do your best.

Key Points

- Start revising now
- Choose methods of revision that suit you
- Make a realistic revision plan and use it!
- Short blocks of revision are more effective than endless hours
- Don't listen to what somebody else says they're doing. Usually the people, who say they aren't studying, definitely are!
- Use the internet wisely: Google exam papers/mark schemes/examiners reports

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today"

H Jackson Brown Jr

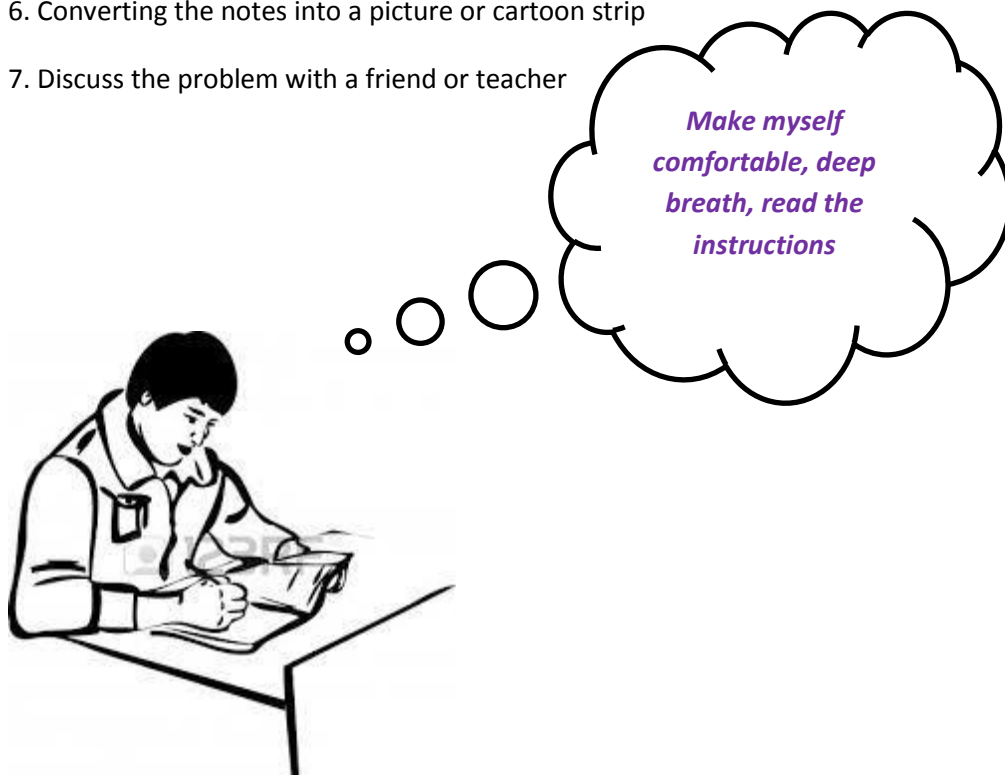
How do I start to study?

1. Have high expectations of what you expect from yourself
2. Start revising now; you will have more confidence
3. Do NOT leave the difficult topics to the end!!
4. Check you know what topics need to be revised
5. Check you know what your exam will look like
6. Ask your teachers what you need to know
7. Find a quiet place to study with no distractions. Put the phone down!
8. Keep calm: exams are not there to trick you. We want to see how much you have progressed

Revising the topics

If you don't understand what you have just read in your book, try

1. Reading it aloud
2. Checking that you have copied the notes correctly
3. Highlighting key words
4. Writing it out in your own words
5. Making a mind map
6. Converting the notes into a picture or cartoon strip
7. Discuss the problem with a friend or teacher



Study Methods

1. Attend revision classes
2. Schedule regular study periods
3. Be realistic with what you hope to achieve in each study session
4. Establish a regular study area at home eg desk, quiet area
5. Study short and often
6. Start study sessions on time
7. Study when you are wide awake (early mornings always best)
8. Set a specific goal for each subject you study – “by the end of this study session, I hope to have learnt.....in Geography”.
9. Study your most difficult subjects first.
10. Make summary notes on what you have learnt LOOK SAY COVER WRITE CHECK
11. Use diagrams and mind maps to help with learning
12. Highlight key words using highlighter pens
13. Take regular breaks
14. Vary your work e.g. make notes, draw diagrams, read, problem solve.....
15. Reward yourself!
16. Balance your time carefully between home, school and social outings.
17. Produce revision timetable organised in advance and displayed for everyone to see.
18. Keep a stock of post-it notes, highlighter pens, and revision cards at home.

“You are doing your best only when you are trying to improve what you are doing”

Caring for your brain

1. Get enough sleep and exercise. Oxygen is food for your brain
2. Eat right – practice choosing food with good nutrition
3. Use it! Condition your brain by doing puzzles and games, reading, solving math problems, storytelling.
4. Be motivated to learn – you must have a reason to remember
5. Think positive! Use positive self-talk. This helps your attitude and openness to learning.

Memory Tips

1. Visualise as much as possible – use diagrams to help you summarise points.
2. Study in a quiet place in the house
3. Recite and repeat. Say it out loud! LOOK SAY COVER WRITE CHECK
4. Record your own voice reading out notes
5. Spend more time on your weakest subjects, vocabulary, mathematics, spelling
6. Teach it to someone else
7. Use mnemonics to help you learn eg Planets

Mercury Venus Earth Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune Pluto

My Very Earthly Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas

“In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue..”

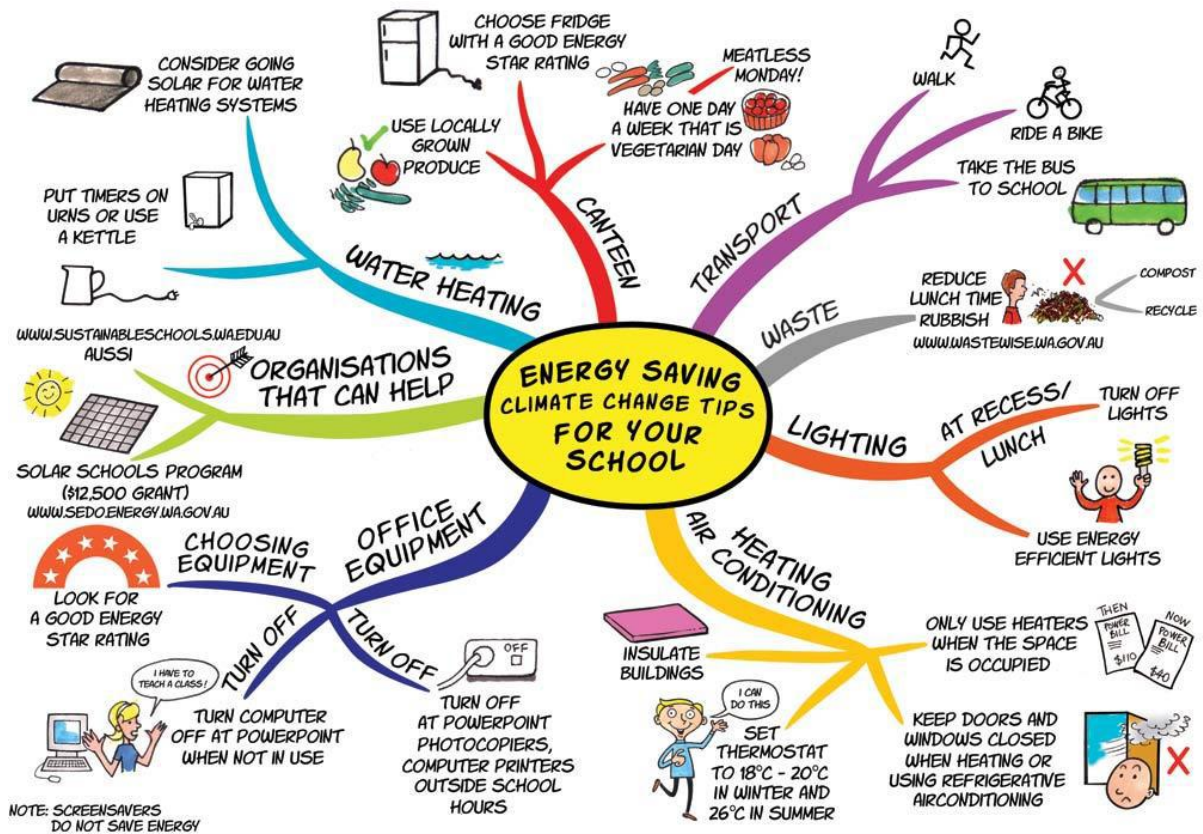
Can you devise a Mnemonic for something you have to learn in your subjects? Have a go!!

Science? Geography? English quotes?

1.....

2.....

Mind Maps



HOW TO MAKE A LEARNING MAP

1. Take an unlined sheet of A4 paper use landscape
2. Start in the centre of the page
3. Make a central image that represents the topic
4. The main themes around the central image need to relate to the topic
5. Start to add detail to the main branch on thin lines (Quotes, dates, characters, formulae)

Dealing with Exam Nerves

It is natural to feel nervous before an examination. The more prepared you feel, the easier it will be to conquer your fears.

- Use your revision plan to help you feel in control of the process
- Plan your work carefully around the topics you need to focus on. Being aware of gaps in your knowledge can create nerves, but having a plan of how you will fill these make you feel better.
- Find out what is involved in each exam:
 - Where and when it will take place?
 - How much time is allowed/
 - How many questions you need to answer?
 - What equipment will I need to bring?
 - Think positively – you CAN do well
 - Keep the exam in context – even if you do badly, there will be other options open to you and you have lots of time to improve before your next exam
 - Allow yourself some fun-time each day to relax
 - Eat sensibly – your brain cells need energy to function well. Make sure you drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated. Dehydration makes you tired and reduces concentration.

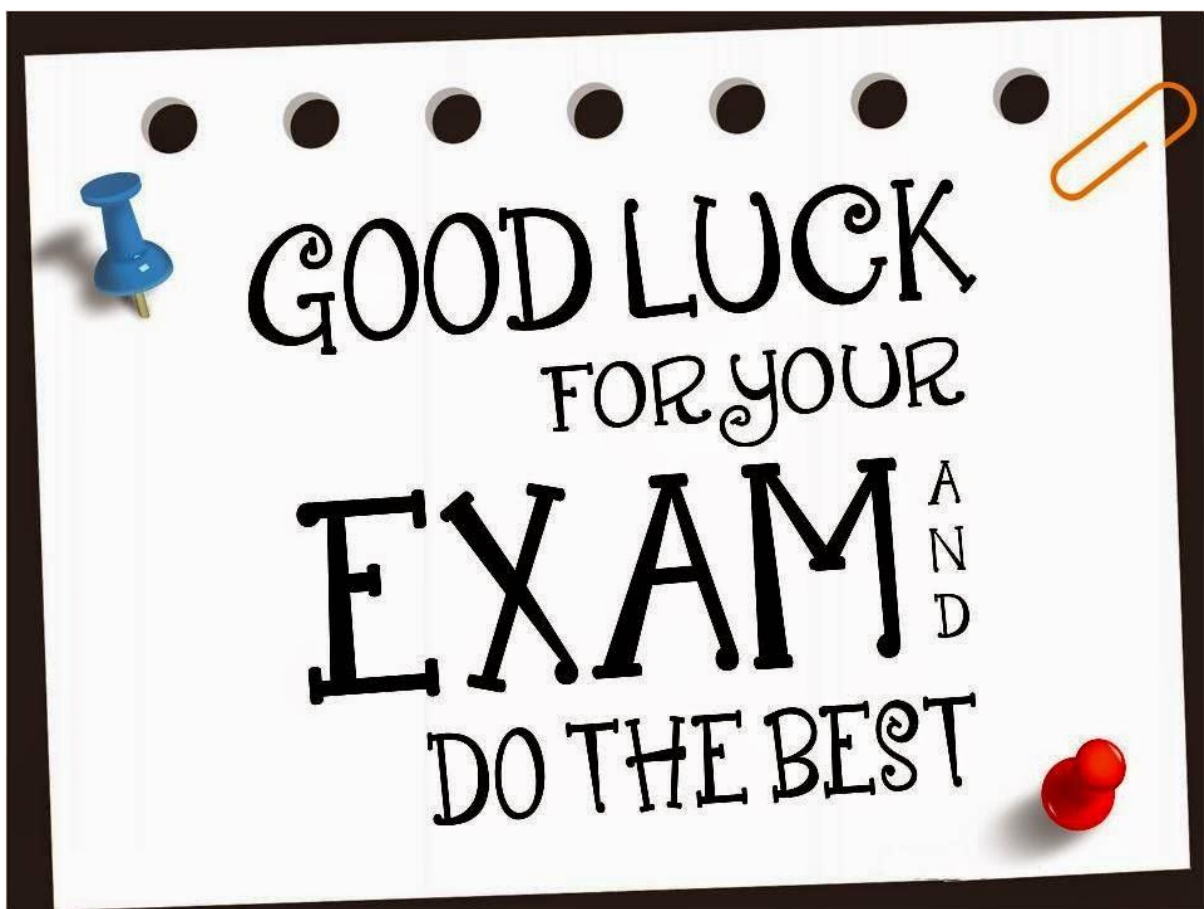
Exam tips – Sitting the Exam

- Be prepared; find out what is involved in each of the examinations that you are going to sit. Organise yourself the night before and get plenty of sleep.
- Check you have the correct equipment with you before you leave the house (pens, pencils, ruler, scientific calculator, etc.)
- Do take a watch or clock so that you can time your answers
- Leave for the exam in plenty of time
- Look through the paper first and mark difficult questions/initial thoughts
- Select the questions carefully so that you will be able to demonstrate your knowledge
- Look at the marks available and read the questions carefully, following 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 nearly all there)
- Pace yourself and allow 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
- Allow yourself ten minutes at the end to read through your answers and correct any mistakes
- Cross out anything you do not want the examiner to read (e.g an earlier answer to a question)

Exam tips – After the Exam

It is easy to fall into the trap of wondering how well you performed and to discuss this with your fellow students. Your time would be better spent looking ahead to your next examination.

- Don't panic – you won't be the only student who is anxious about answers
- Don't compare your answers with those of other students - this can create negative feelings
- Have some fresh air and food and take time to relax before you start revising
- Don't rush on your textbooks to check your answers – there is no point at this stage
- Focus on the next exam and how you might improve your exam technique
- Have a quick look at your revision plan. Do you need to adjust it?



May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Maths Exam 1 RS Exam	20 Maths Exam 2 ICT Exams	21 Science Exam Option A Exam	22 Option C Exam Option B Exam	23 English Exam Fr/Sp Exam	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	