

# Key Stage 3

# Revision Study Skills

**Name:**

**Form:**

# Test Dates for Core Subjects

June 2019

Year/Subject	Date
<b>Year 8 Science</b>	Wednesday 12th June 1 hour in the Exam hall
<b>Year 8 English</b>	Thursday 13th June 1 hour & 30 minutes in the Exam hall
<b>Year 8 Maths</b>	Friday 14th June 50 minutes  There will be another 50 minute Maths exam during that week which will take place during lesson time

Other subjects will be tested during lesson time from 3rd - 14th June

# Preparing for Tests

## Planning

### Find out about the test

- The first thing to do when you are told you have a test is to find out what topics will be covered, what type of questions will be on the test paper and how long the test will last.
- You should also find out what equipment you need to take into the test and if the test is in your usual classroom or one of the exam venues.

### Decide when to start revising

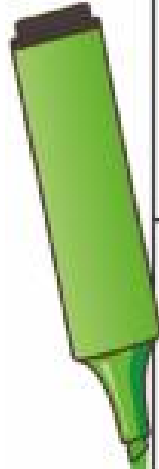
There are 3 golden rules for deciding when to start revising:

1. Start your revision when your teacher suggests you do
2. Don't leave your revision until the last minute
3. If in doubt, start your revision right away!

### Have a plan

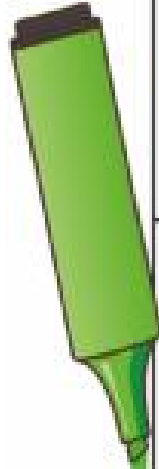
- For the end of year tests, you'll probably put in more revision time than for other tests. Drawing up a revision timetable is a good idea as you will probably have to juggle your revision time between different subjects.
- Include in your timetable the subjects you need to revise and time for leisure activities. It's a good idea to ask someone (parent, carer, friend) to help you do this
- During the period leading up to a test, you should only receive active revision tasks for homework.

# Revision Timetable



Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
07:00							
08:00							
09:00							
10:00							
11:00							
12:00							
13:00							
14:00							
15:00							
16:00							
17:00							
18:00							
19:00							
20:00							

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16:00							
17:00							
18:00							
19:00							
20:00							

## Revise in a good place

- Make sure you are working in good light, have all equipment ready (pens, record cards, highlighters, post-it notes, etc) and have some water nearby (this stops you dehydrating so helps your concentration levels).
- Clear your workspace of anything that will distract you and ask your family not to disturb you. Switch your phone to voicemail and disconnect from social networking and gaming sites, instant messaging, etc.
- Under no conditions should you do your revision in front of the TV, so before you start, switch it off. No really, SWITCH OFF THE TV!

## Structure your revision sessions

- Set a definite time to start and finish each revision session and when you're going to take a break. There's no definite rule for how long you should revise before taking a short break but for most students, it's between 30-40 minutes.
- Once you've decided how long to revise for, an effective pattern to follow is: revise, test, rest, retest.
- Here is an example:
  1. Revise for 30 minutes
  2. Look back over what you've covered and test yourself for 5 minutes
  3. Take a 5 minute break
  4. Then retest again
  5. Now start revising another topic
  6. Always stop revising at least 30 minutes before you go to bed and RELAX!!

## REWARD yourself!

Before you start a revision session, decide how you will reward yourself when you've finished.

This could be time on the computer, texting a friend, playing on your games console or watching TV. Go on, give yourself a treat!

# Preparing for Tests

## Revising

All tests require you to do some kind of revision. Revising for a test makes you feel more confident, reduces stress levels and helps you get better results!

- Effective revision involves *kc\_][ UM]j Ym* rather than just flicking through your exercise books or a revision guide.
- Ask each teacher for suggestions on how you should revise for their subject and experiment to find out which methods work best for you. You'll find that different revision methods are needed for different subjects.

## Decide what to revise

- For each test, make a list of all the topics you have been told to revise. If you're not sure about the topics you need to cover, ask your teacher. Before drawing up this list of topics, make sure your class notes are fully up to date.
- Each time you sit down to revise, look at the list of topics and pick one out. Then when you've revised a topic, simply tick it off. Spend most of your time revising the topics you don't understand or find difficult.
- When you are revising for several tests at the same time, don't just revise the subjects you like or are good at but balance revision time between subjects. When revising for long periods, mix up the subjects you find boring or difficult with ones you find easy or enjoy.

## Try some of these revision methods!

- Write key points on post-it notes and stick them to the fridge, on a wardrobe door or even the bathroom mirror
- Team up with a few friends to form a revision group (but make sure you actually revise!)
- Write a quiz for a friend and get them to write one for you
- Use revision websites and revision guides (ask your teachers which are the best ones)
- Explain a topic to a friend or a member of your family
- Use memory tricks like mnemonics, for example, *Baughty Elephants Eat Ice Cream* which is used to remember the compass points *North East South West*.
- Make unusual or silly links between facts to help you remember them.
- Make up your own stories, rhymes or songs that contain key words.
- Memorise key facts again and again and again and again ...
- Write key facts in mind maps, pictures, symbols or posters and decorate your bedroom with them ... or record them on your iPad or iPhone
- Tackle test-type questions - firstly with help from your exercise book and notes - then in test conditions.



# Revision Advice from Subject Leaders

## English

The KS3 English exam will test the reading and writing skills that you have been developing throughout the KS3 curriculum.

There will be two sections. Section A will test students' skills of both the comprehension and analysis of an extract of unseen literary non-fiction (e.g. autobiographical writing). In Section B, you will be asked to write a non-fiction text (e.g. letter, article, speech etc.) related to your own personal experiences.

If you wish to undertake independent revision, (we think this is a really good idea!) the following BBC Bitesize websites are useful:

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How to investigate language in non-fiction texts

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/z4d4xyc>

How to investigate structure in non-fiction texts

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/zjmjscw>

*K f]h]b[ 'G\_]`gÆ*

Punctuation

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zr6bxyc>

Sentences

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/z4hrt39>

On the day of the exam, you will need at least one pen. The paper will be 90 minutes in length with 45 minutes for each section.

## Maths

The KS3 Maths tests will cover content from Year 7 and 8 and will require you to solve problems.

To prepare you need to go through the revision list that your teacher has given you and look up the topics on Hegarty Maths.

For Year 8 there will be two tests; a calculator and non-calculator

which will both last 50 minutes each

For both tests, the pupils will need a pen, pencil, protractor, compass and a ruler.

For both KS3 Maths tests, you need to come ready to produce a significant amount of work showing all of your workings.

## Science

The Year 8 Science test will be based on topics taken from Year 7 and Year 8 and these are listed below. There will be one test and it will be one hour long. Your teachers will be setting specific revision home works based on these topics over the next few weeks. As well as this, you will find information, clips and tests to try on the BBC bitesize site:

Biology topics: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z4882hv>

Chemistry topics: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/znxtyrd>

Physics topics: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zh2xsbk>

- Life on Earth (Yr7)
- Forces (Yr7)
- Space (Yr7)
- Food and Health (Yr7)
- Nature of Matter (Yr7)
- Pure and Impure Substances (Yr7)
- Chemical reactions and energetics (Yr8)
- Plants and Photosynthesis (Yr8)
- Structure of the Atom and the Periodic Table (Yr8)
- Acids and Alkalis (Yr8)
- Respiration (Yr8)
- Waves (Yr8)
- Energy in the home (Yr8)

# Sitting Tests

- The night before the test make sure you have everything ready for the following morning, such as pens, pencils, rulers, a calculator, etc. Then go to bed at a reasonable time!
- When you are told to start, read the instructions on the test paper very carefully and then have a quick look through it from start to finish.
- During a test, it is essential to keep an eye on the time in order to check you are working at a good pace.
- Make sure you read each question at least twice, taking in the keywords. Examples of key words are: explain, describe, suggest. Don't rush into writing until you are really clear about what the question is asking.
- Check how many marks each question is worth and spend more time on questions worth more marks.
- If you get stuck on a question, don't sit there staring at it. Move on and come back to it later.
- Leave a little time at the end of the test to go back and answer any questions you've left out. Use any spare time to read through your answers and check for careless mistakes.

# Reducing test nerves

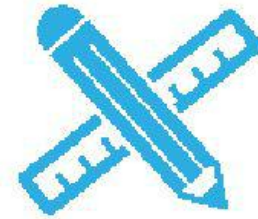
- One of the best ways to reduce nerves in the period leading up to a test is to be well prepared. Plan when you're going to do your revision, keep track of the topics you've revised and find out what the test paper will be like
- Get in the right frame of mind by thinking positively. Believe in yourself and talk yourself up!
- If you are worried about a test, share how you feel with a parent, carer or a friend. Talk to people who listen to you, support you and encourage you
- Make sure you set aside some time to do the things you enjoy. Do the things that relax you and take your mind off your revision
- If you can, include some kind of physical activity during the revision period. Even if you don't normally do anything active, try to do something!
- Remember, Key Stage 3 tests are valuable in showing you and your teachers where you are making really good progress as well as where you could do even better.

# How Parents and Carers Can Help

- It goes without saying that all children are different, so it follows that there is no single approach to how a parent or carer can help out.
- Whilst your child needs your support, they also need to find their own way of doing things which often won't be your way. Let them find out what works best for them.
- Having said that, the basic aim for all parents and carers is to help your child to become a well organised and independent learner.
- When your child is preparing for a test, talk about how you can help with revision.
- Check they know the dates and times of any tests they will be taking. Help them to plan when they are going to do their revision.
- Encourage them to ask their teachers for help on topics they don't understand.
- Revision should be done actively by making notes, tackling questions, testing and working through revision guides. Discourage them from simply reading through exercise books as this is a poor way to prepare for a test. Offer to test them using their revision notes.
- Make sure they know what equipment is needed for each test. The night before a test, help them to get this equipment ready and check that it works.
- Encourage them to have confidence in their ability and believe in themselves with lots of praise, time and support.



# Ten Top Tips For Revision Success!



## Before you start, plan

We've all done it, spent so long revising the really tough stuff leaving no time for the remaining 90% of our revision. Plan, stick to it and don't panic!



## Be realistic

We'd all love to be Superman and get our revision done in 5 minutes but it isn't going to happen. Working 24 hours a day won't help either. Make sure your plan is manageable in the real world not Metropolis!



## The early bird...

Catches the worm, or at least has a sensible revision plan. The earlier you start, the less you'll have to do in each block.



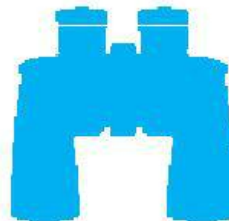
## A Room of One's Own

Or corner, or desk, or sofa... Find a good place to revise, whatever works for you, be that a quiet library, your desk, or under a tree.



## Mix it up a bit

There are different ways of revising like there are different ways of memorising information. Rather than just copying out, try drawing diagrams, reading aloud, sticking it on post-its on the wall. Whatever helps!



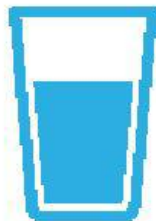
## Look to the past

This doesn't involve a time machine, just checking out old exam papers. It can help you plan, revise, and calm you down!



## Take regular breaks!

Don't head for information overload. We're not designed to work flat-out and work far more efficiently if we take regular breaks. Try to get up and move around, have a dance if you want. Don't just close the book, make the most of that time off!



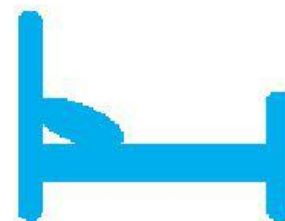
## Feed & water regularly

Like a car, if you run out of petrol you're not going to get very far. A fed and watered revision brain, is a happy, efficient revision brain revving its highly tuned engine!



## Testing times

Don't just input, check what you know. You can do this with friends, family, or on your own. Testing is a great way of combating those nerves by confirming what you know, and filling in the gaps!



## Early to bed

It's the night before the exam. Now you've done all that work it's time to give your brain a rest, so you're in tip-top condition for sitting that exam. Good luck!