Witton Park Academy

2019/ 2020

GCSE Revision Guide

Contents:

- Learning audit
- Revision Central Information
- How to Revise
- Supporting your child
- Blank Revision Grids
- GCSE Pods Information

Succeeding Together

ATC Multi Academy Trust

Post Mock Exam Learning Audit: January 2020

	Question	Answer	Action: what do you intend to do about it?
1	Which exam did you perform best in?		
2	Which exam did you perform worst in?		
3	Reflecting honestly, did you do enough revision?		
4	Would you be satisfied with these results if they were your actual GCSE grades?		
5	Which subjects need the most immediate attention?		
6	What are your current plans for when you leave school?		
7	What skills or qualifications do you need in order to pursue your intended future pathway?		

8	What support could school offer to help you best?		
9	Do you know how to revise?		
10	Do you have all of the materials that you need in order to revise?		
11	Do you intend to come to Revision Central*?		
12	Do you know how you learn best – what your personal learning style is?		

***Please see information pack regarding Revision Central**

List all of the topics/skills/knowledge that you need to revise urgently for your next Mock examinations in March:

> “It’s a new way of revising that places the focus on an independent ownership of learning within a collaborative and supportive environment”

Revision Central

Revision Central is located at the heart of the school - covering the library, the central steps and the Café. These areas will form three revision zones in which students can revise Monday-Thursday until 4:30 pm.

Zone 1: The library – this area will be dedicated to working on computers, using the revision resources that have been provided by faculties and meeting with teachers who will offer one-to-one or bespoke support. This area will also be home to a member of staff from learning support who can provide guidance and assistance for those students with any additional needs or requirements.

Zone 2: Steps – this is an informal revision area where students can work together in small groups. *For student, by student* revision sessions will take place here and students can chat about the work they are doing.

As research indicates – teaching others, discussing ideas and having study buddies are all proven methods of retention and recall. Teachers from faculty areas will also provide informal “drop in” sessions in this area and students can ask questions and get help when required.

Zone 3: The Café – this is a silent study area where students will be expected to work alone using laptops, GCSE pods, revision templates and other resources provided by the school to aid their independent learning. Having a quiet space to work is vital and we know that, due to everyday noises of family life, some students simply don’t get this at home. Students may also have a snack or hot drink in this zone.

Subject specific revision:

Each faculty will offer a **Clinic** one night a week. Students will be asked to attend this clinic or they can drop in for additional help and support. These clinics will address specific student needs and will provide teaching to plug gaps or misconceptions in student knowledge. Information about the timetable and rooms for faculty clinics with be shared in assembly and posted outside student services and on the school website.

Why the change?

In the past, students have simply attended additional revision lessons afterschool. This has put pressure on time and availability across departments and more often than not, it is the staff member who does most of the work preparing for these extra sessions. Research shows that students who take ownership of their learning, who are independent and who can manage and organise their revision themselves achieve much higher outcomes overall.

Fundamentally, we want our students to be equipped with the skills of revision and learning so that they can take them forward on whatever path they choose to follow.

Revision Central Opens on Monday 20th January 2020 – we hope to see you there!

How to Revise

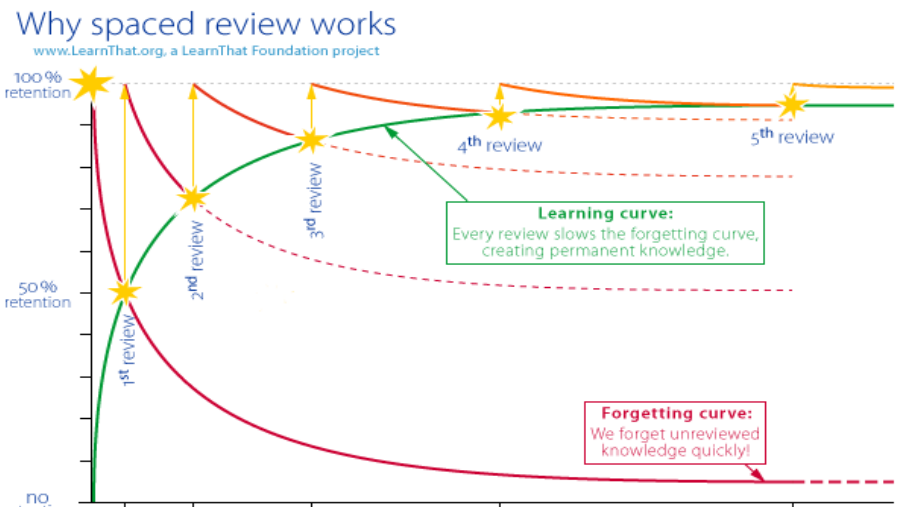
"We all learn differently… get revision right for you!"

There is no question that we all learn in different ways and using the right strategies and approaches for revision is a huge part of revision success. One of the key things to remember is that the more we visit information and the more we process it, the more likely we are to be able to retain and recall it.

As you can see from the image - it is vital to revisit information several times at different points and in different ways in order to remember it.

Revising little chunks of information from lots of different topics throughout the day is one of the best ways to remember factual information and key words. This approach is not helpful for all subjects and therefore it is important that students use a variety of methods to ensure that they are able to remember, recall and most importantly apply the information that they are learning.

Reading over class notes is NOT revision. Nor is sitting in front of a chromebook scanning through a website.



Did you know?

Every day, young people are bombarded with approximately 34 gigabytes of information – that amount would overload a laptop in a week! It is so important that at this crucial time that we limit the amount of new information or irrelevant information that we are receiving in order to prevent what's called - cognitive overload.

Gloria Mark's study on digital distraction and the state of perma-distraction for the University of California - found that it takes roughly 23 minutes to return fully to a task after digital interruption. So, if there was ever a time to limit access or use of social media, phones or other digital distractions – IT'S NOW!

Revision Techniques

CHUNK

Break down information and learn it in bite size chunks. Don't try to overload your brain.

Mapping

Mind maps, concept maps, knowledge organisers – these are all ways to map and connect information. Using different colours and pictures helps with memory recall.

GCSE Pods

The school have a made a huge investment – you need to use it.

Blended Learning

Other websites and podcasts are also a great way to revise. Use the recommended website list.

Note Taking

Use your exercise books and textbooks to re-write your notes in a different format. Cornell Note taking is proven to be really effective.

- Test Yourself
- Test Others
- Get somebody to Test you

ANY THAT YOU GET WRONG – GO AWAY and RE-LEARN.

Do it little and often...

20-30 minutes is the maximum amount of time to revise before a break.

Change topics frequently and use a range of techniques every time you revise.

Re-form

Use one of the Revision Central Revision Templates to reform information and think about it in a different way.

Practice Papers

You should complete as many practice questions as physically possible. Completing these in timed conditions is excellent for recall and application.

Come to Revision Central – where you will find all of the help you need to revise.

"Exams can be stressful…"

Supporting your child

The lead up to formal examinations can be stressful. Some young people find it difficult to manage stress and pressure during this time and it is important to be aware of all of the ways you can help support your son or daughter during exam season.

Be on their side… as a parent, being a source of positivity, reassurance and support is absolutely essential. There is no question that people of all ages perform better when they feel that they have the love and support of the people around them.

Be involved… whilst it goes without saying that many teenagers like to "go it alone" and are reluctant to ask for help, taking an active interest in your child's studies is a really helpful thing to do. Offering help, guidance, tips on organisation or even just asking how things are going all contribute to supporting your child's success. Many parents feel that they can't offer subject specific help, but just being a sounding board for ideas is sometimes all your child will really need.

GSCE Pods: Witton Park Academy has made a significant investment in a revision platform called GCSE Pods. This is an excellent resource for students and something they can use in order to help revision. (There is more information in the pack with specific details about GCSE pods)

Organisation… Organisation is key! One of the major ways you can support your child during exam period is by helping them get organised. Social time should be reduced in the final revision phase, and students should have a clearly designed revision timetable to which they must stick. Sharing this schedule with the rest of the family is sometimes helpful as other family members can be aware of what revision is taking place.

Getting the balance right… whilst restricting social time and phone usage during this period is recommended, it is not helpful for young people to be constantly revising – in fact, it is counterproductive. A balance of good food, exercise, sleep and focused and meaningful revision is the best approach to success. Resting the brain, is just as important as working it at this time.

Revision Timetable: Overview

Week	Key areas of study/topics	Done
Week 1		
Week 2		
Week 3		
Week 4		
Week 5		
Week 6		
Week 7		

Review: what do you need to re-visit, learn more about?

Week	Key areas of study/topics/units/subjects	Done
Week 1		
Week 2		
Week 3		
Week 4		
Week 5		
Week 6		
Week 7		

Weekly Timetable: *before school, afterschool, home.*

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun

Design your own timetable and work when it is best for you

- Each box represents a 20-30 minutes revision slot.
- Fill in each box with the tasks you want to cover that day.

January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are delighted to announce that Witton Park Academy has recently invested in GCSEPod, the award-winning digital content and revision provider used by over 1,250 schools worldwide.

As a subscriber, your child now has access to GCSEPod's library of over 6,000 'Pods,' 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver