

Effective Revision

Effective revision strategies are one of the most important study skills for a person to master. If you're uncertain how to approach revision these techniques and approaches may work well for you.

Revision timetables

Create a revision timetable: revision needs to be planned to ensure it is purposeful and targeted at the subjects and topics that need it most. Use a topic checklist to identify the topics that need the most time and ensure you cover all the topics properly. If something is hard, spend more time on it; if something's easy, test yourself and maybe you'll find you don't need to spend as much time revising it. Plan in rest time, or use the [Pomodoro Technique](#) to maintain your focus over time.

Where to find information

Wherever you find information, make sure the course is correct: AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy or Separate Science Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Revision guides – available to purchase from Reception

Knowledge organisers – available on Google Classroom and provided in lessons

[Seneca Learning](#) – Seneca isn't just for homework, see link and further information below

[BBC Bitesize](#) – Use the link to select the appropriate course

YouTube videos – many creators make videos with useful information, or even entire outlines of the course. Search for FreeScienceLessons, Primrose Kitten, KayScience, Malmsbury Education (required practicals).

Mind maps

The key idea of mind maps is to **organise information** and **identify and understand links between different parts of a topic**. Mind maps are useful tools for understanding information. They can then be used to aid **learning** to make sure you can remember the knowledge of the topic:

- Recreating mind maps from memory helps to learn the information. When you have done as much as you can, look back at the original mind map and add in things you missed in a different colour pen. Keep on recreating your mind map until all the ink is the same colour.
- Create flash cards using the knowledge from your mind maps

Learn more about creating mind maps by following this link: [What Is Mind Mapping?](#)

Flash cards

[Flash Cards](#) are most effectively used to quiz yourself on knowledge, known as **retrieval practice**. Use a revision guide (or other source of information) to write a question on one side of the card and the answer on the other side. Repeat until you have created as many flash cards as you need to give good coverage of a topic.

- Sit and test yourself on the flash cards: place cards you get right in one pile and cards you get wrong in another pile. Revisit the card you got wrong several times over the coming days and cards you got right less frequently.
- Put cards up around your house and test yourself with a flash card before you do things like watch TV, have a snack, etc.

Seneca

[Seneca](#) has all the information for the course, and a quizzing platform already in place. We set it as homework for revision, but you don't need to just stick to what we set for homework, you can do other sections as well. The premium version provides access to additional courses and unlimited use of AI-marked exam questions, as well as a chat bot that can explain content to you.

Look – cover – write – check, Blurting, Knowledge Dumping

All similar: read something and then write down everything you can remember. Check what you wrote for accuracy and missing information.

Regular testing/quizzing

Spending a long time making notes doesn't guarantee learning. Testing yourself—or having others test you—checks your understanding and highlights weak areas to revisit. Creating a test is also a good way to gauge how well you grasp a topic, even if you haven't memorised all the details.

Note taking

Some people like to take notes, but it's time consuming and not necessarily productive. It's important that notes aren't just copied from a textbook – **re-write things in your own words.**

- [The Cornell Note Taking System](#) is useful for encouraging you to revisit your notes and think about the information in different ways.
- Note taking apps: Microsoft [OneNote](#), Google [Keep](#) - good because they can be used anywhere and are free. Avoid letting AI summarise your notes for you - reducing the need for thought reduces learning.

Exam questions

Exam style questions are an important way of discovering how much you know about a topic. If you can't answer the questions, go back and revise that topic, then try again. Mark your work and be honest when giving yourself marks. Don't worry about using the same question more than once – you'll forget the exact questions you've done, and similar questions might come up in the exam.

AI

There are many different AI systems - choose the one that suits you:

[ChatGPT](#), [Gemini](#), [Copilot](#), [Claude](#)

Be aware each AI has different capabilities and occasionally AIs are known to deliver incorrect information.

Each can be prompted in a variety of ways to help you revise. When you use them, be clear about the course you want to study for and how you would prefer to revise. You can either talk or type to them and they will respond in a similar way. behave in

Possible prompts:

Quiz you – e.g. "Test me on AQA GCSE Biology topic: Cell Biology."

Make flashcards – e.g. "Make 10 flashcards on enzyme structure and function."

Summarise – e.g. "Summarise photosynthesis for GCSE revision."

Explain – e.g. "Explain Newton's Laws of Motion simply but precisely."

Generate exam questions – e.g. "Write 5 AQA-style 6-mark questions on ecology."

Mark answers – paste your response, I'll mark it to AQA standard and give feedback.

Spot gaps – give me your topic list or scores, I'll tell you what to prioritise.

Plan revision – e.g. "Make me a 2-week plan for AQA Biology Paper 1."

Clarify misconceptions – e.g. "Why does enzyme activity decrease above optimum temperature?"

Compare concepts – e.g. "Compare mitosis and meiosis in a table."