

# Y11

# Revision

# Guidance





# Revising is one thing...

## Revising well is the tough part.

This booklet is designed to help you to ensure that your time is *well spent* and that your revision has a high level of contribution to an improvement in your GCSE grades.

The most important considerations are:

- **How?** What are you actually doing to revise? Completing tasks that force you to *think* about the topic are more likely to ensure the information you are learning is remembered.
- **Time?** How long will you spend revising (without any distractions)? When will you take a break?
- **Test?** How are you going to check that your revision has been effective? Can you answer the questions in your revision guide? Are you more confident in answering past paper questions on that topic?

This booklet provides you with some guidance on how you can achieve the above objectives as part of your revision.

At the end, we have provided you with a revision planner that takes you from now, right up until the end of your GCSE exams. There are spaces for the “How” and “Test” aspects so that you can effectively plan your revision and ensure that you are revising effectively.

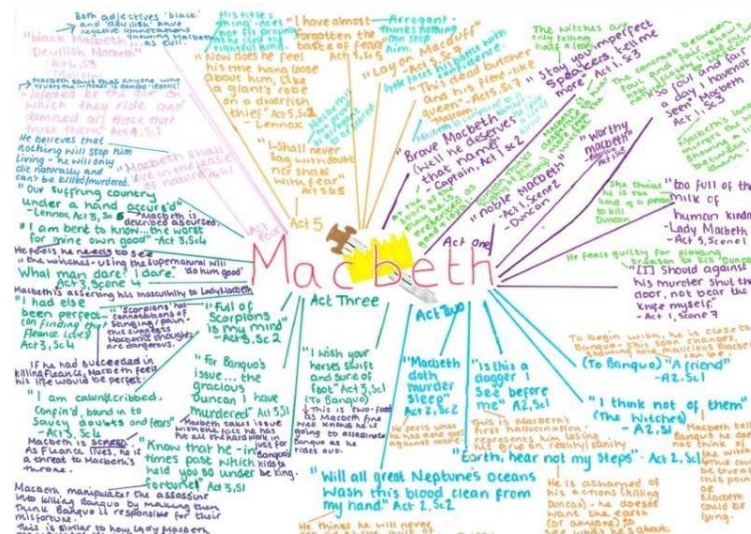
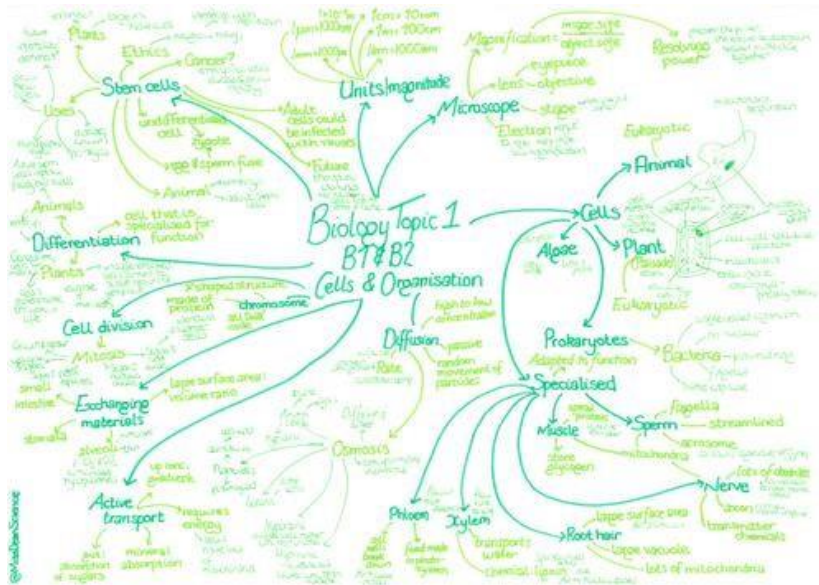
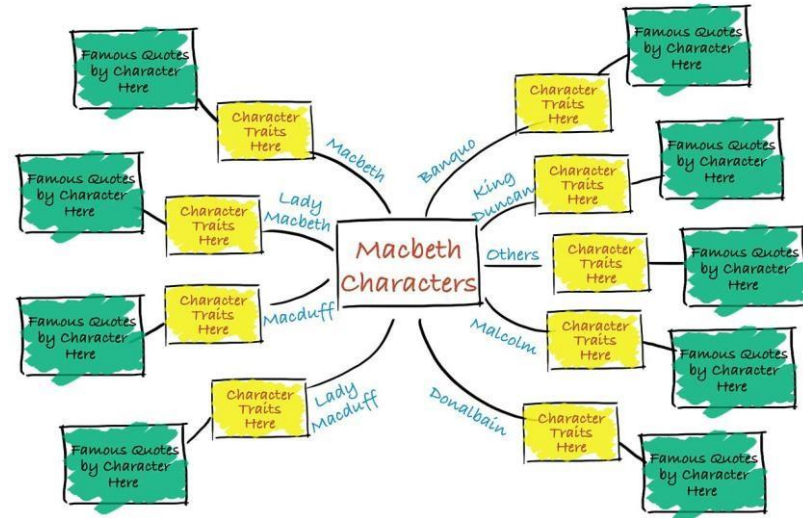
Good luck!

# How?

Tools and techniques for effective revision that sticks!

Mind Maps

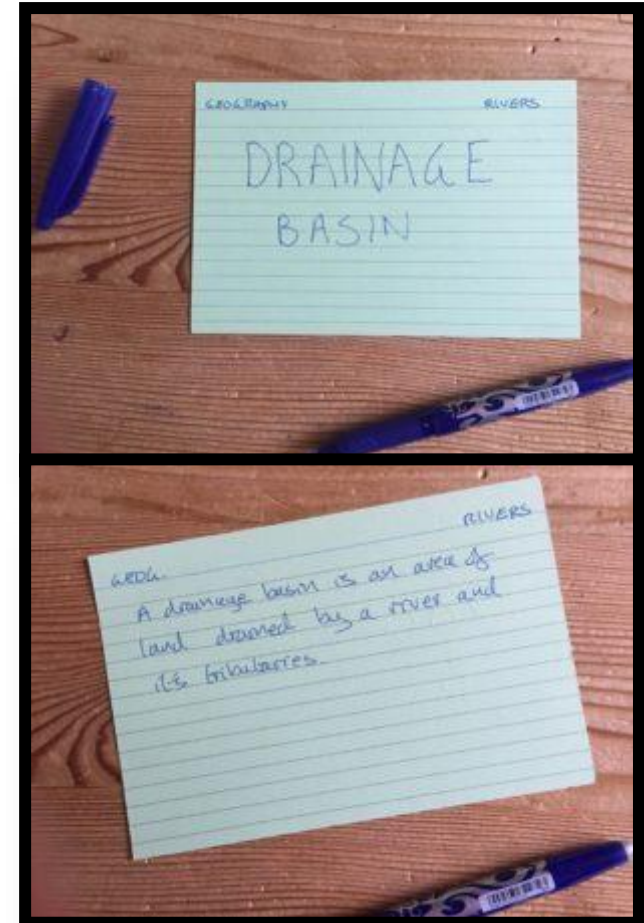
- Make your mind maps eye catching – Big, bright and colourful
- Hang them up on your wall so you can refer back to them again later
- It really helps if you use CAPITAL letters, incorporate drawings and use different colours for each “branch”
- Use exercise books and revision guides to get the content for your mind map. You are **consolidating** your knowledge onto a single page



# Flash Cards

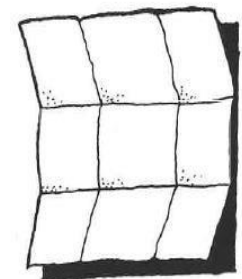
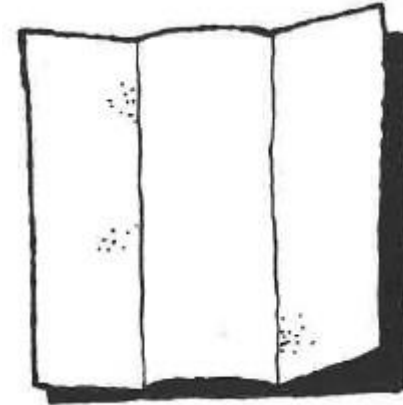
- Flash cards are a superb way of embedding those all important keywords and their definitions.
- Most revision guides end with a glossary of all the key words in a subject – you can use these to access the keywords and their correct definitions.
- **Flash cards aren't just for definitions:**
  - Chunk your understanding of a larger topic into more condensed parts. This uses your *thinking* skills.
  - Use flashcards to draw diagrams to embed your understanding. A picture tells a thousand words!
- **Do not put them in a drawer and forget about them!**
  - Get your friends and family to use your flashcards to test you regularly.

and their definitions.



# The Nine-Box-Grid

- Place a piece of A4 or A3 paper in front of you, orient it in landscape and fold into thirds (like you're folding a letter into an envelope)
- Then, with it folded, do it again the other way so that when you open up you've got nine equal sized squares
- Your challenge is to summarise an entire topic (or if you're feeling really brave, an entire course!) into these nine boxes.
  - First, you need to read through the topic content to build your understanding.
  - You then need to decide how this topic splits up into the 9 boxes. Ask yourself, what are the nine-key subsections?
  - You could get help from your teachers to suggest the nine or work with friends and family to identify these. Perhaps old exam papers will help you to decide?
  - Once you've got your 9 sections, you need to find a way to summarise the notes. **DO NOT** write up the notes incredibly small to fit them in. This does not involve effective thinking skills. Instead, condense the information into bullet points, diagrams, mind maps or other visualisations.
  - Do whatever it takes to fit the content into the box. Now, read through the grid and on the other side list the key concepts, ideas and vocabulary that you're going to need to master.



# Time?

How to use your time wisely and most importantly....

**How not to waste it!**



# THE POMODORO TECHNIQUE®

A SIMPLE METHOD TO BALANCE FOCUS WITH DELIBERATE BREAKS



1 PLAN YOUR TASKS  
How many pomodoros might you need?

2 DO 1 POMODORO  
Time for 25 mins then take a 5 min break

NO SNEAKY  
WORKING!

PROTECT  
YOUR POMODORO!



3 REPEAT x 4 POMODOROS  
Then take a longer break



The Pomodoro Technique was created by Francesco Cirillo in the late 1980s. It's incredibly simple in its design.

Your Pomodoro is your **protected time.**

**NOTHING** gets in the way of your Pomodoro. No phones, TVs or games consoles.

Once your Pomodoro is completed, reward yourself with a break. Do something you enjoy and relax!

(i) Try 25 minutes on, 25 minutes off, 25 minutes on. It takes 1 hour and 15 minutes in total, and you can do it at a regular time each night after school.

(ii) Try 25 minutes on, 5 minutes off, 25 minutes on, 5 minutes off, 25 minutes on. It takes about 1hr and 30 minutes, and is a useful technique for really attacking a difficult piece of work.

(iii) Try measuring tasks in sprints. How many will it take? This way, you'll develop a sense of how you work, and you can begin picking off scary tasks more quickly and easily.

(iv) Try using sprints to review work. Suddenly you'll find yourself ahead. On top of things. It's a great feeling!

# Test?

How can you be sure you really know it?

## Complete questions from past papers

Past papers are the best resource you have to test yourself. After all, these represent the types of questions you will receive in the actual exam!

Once you've analysed the question, **analyse** the mark scheme to ensure that the answer you have given is worthy of all the marks.

**If not, repeat your answer making the necessary improvements.**

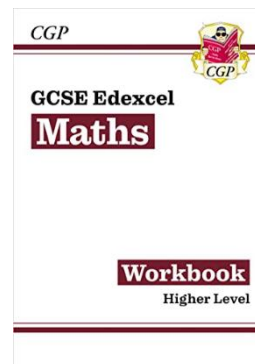


### Top Tip:

There are only so many questions the exam board can ask year on year! If you have practised the available questions, you're likely to see a **very similar** questions in your upcoming exam.

Remember you can ask your teachers for help in lessons and in the afterschool tuition sessions

## Use your revision guide workbooks



The workbooks that go alongside each revision guides are highly effective for testing your knowledge. Each page of the workbook links to the same page of the revision guide, giving you exam style questions for each topic.