

## Mr Fifield's Guide to the Wonderful World of Mathematics Revision.

Before we start talking about strategies for revision here are three simple truths you have to believe to make it all worth while.

1. You've got to do it. Not your teachers in revision sessions or your friends helping you out. Revising requires will power and a commitment.
2. Revision takes time. There is no instant method no way to cut corners. The less time you put in to it the less you will know for your exams. Starting your revision the night before an exam is never a good idea.
3. Fix the information. Revising is about remembering if you spend 5 hours working in your room but can't remember any of it the next day. Then you have spent 5 hours working but not doing any revision.

Oh just one more thing before we start;

for goodness sake:

**DON'T** JUST READ THROUGH YOUR NOTES

YOU WILL LEARN **NOTHING**

## How to Revise?

Ask any teacher or to think about ask anyone that's done their GCSE's how they revised and each person will give you a different answer. Revision is a very personal experience *what works for your friends won't necessarily work for you*. The rest of this guide will help you explore some proven strategies for revision success.

## How to Start.

The only place to start revising is by working out what you need to know. Check out the grade descriptors on the VLE or get a copy of the syllabus. Go through these outlines carefully and truthfully grade yourself from 1) I can do this, 2) I'm ok at this to 3) I've can't do that.

Once you've done that guess which bits you should start revising. That's right the bits you can't do. It might seem stupid but the number of pupils who spend hours revising the things they can already do is amazing!

## Is There Any Thing I Need to Memorise?

Unfortunately Mathematics is a subject where you have to remember some things for example the formula for areas of shapes, Pythagoras's theory or the trigonometry ratios. Without this information at your fingertips some exam questions will be impossible to answer. Begin to make a list of these things (You can get one on the vle.) of course you must then make the effort

to learn them. I used to stick them to doors in my house and spend just 5 secs reading them each time I walked through that door. After a couple of weeks I could recite the formula by heart. This might not be the best way for you to memorise facts so try some ideas from the list below:

- Test yourself.
- Write a story with the key words in (One for English buffs)
- Write them out over and over again.
- Break it down into small chunks and learn over time.
- Get friends or family to help you.

Practice Practice Practice.

So that's the two things I need to do before I can even start revising. So what is the best way to fill in the gaps of your knowledge? Use a website such as mymaths or samlearning these sites are great and are divided into the key areas already.

Revision guides are also a useful tool and you should spend some time investigating the different types.

Mathematics is a practical subject and the only way to test how well you have revised a topic is to practice doing questions. The Mymaths homework or booster packs are a great way to do this. If you haven't got access to the internet there's nothing wrong with past papers or using a textbook and don't forget that valuable resource your teacher they are full of questions that you could attempt to answer.

Some General Revision Tips.

The human brain finds it very difficult too concentrate for large periods of time. Most can do about 30min before being distracted and I can do about 20min before i switch off. Revise in small bursts of about 20 -30 min before taking a small break.

Have a plan. Many of you will have 7 or 8 different subjects to revise for so it's important you have some overall strategy. Just picking up the first exercise book you find in your room will not lead to balanced revision. A revision timetable can help some people (personally I could never stick to one).

Set yourself targets to complete before the end of the week and if you accomplish those targets then reward yourself. New clothes, music, or even a night off from revision are sensible ways of doing this.

The End

I hope this has been of some help to you. Remember your GCSE results follow you for the rest of your life. I still have to fill in mine why I apply for a job. The next 3 months are an opportunity to develop your abilities in mathematics to make sure you can be proud of the result you get in August.

Good Luck.

Mr Fifield