



Revision

What is revision?

Revision is the process of reviewing and reinforcing the material you have learned over a period of time. It involves going over notes, textbooks, and other resources to ensure you understand and remember the content.

What are the benefits of revision?

- 1. Improves Memory:** Regular revision helps transfer information from short-term to long-term memory, making it easier to recall during exams.
- 2. Identifies Gaps:** It allows you to spot areas where your understanding is weaker, so you can focus on improving those parts.
- 3. Boosts Confidence:** Familiarity with the material reduces anxiety and boosts your confidence, as you feel more prepared for the exams.
- 4. Enhances Understanding:** Revisiting topics multiple times helps deepen your understanding and allows you to make connections between different concepts.
- 5. Practice Application:** Revision often involves practicing past papers and questions, which helps you apply your knowledge in exam conditions.
- 6. Reduces Stress:** A well-planned revision schedule can reduce last-minute cramming and stress, leading to a more balanced and healthy approach to studying.

When is the ideal time to start revising?

The ideal time to start revising for your GCSEs can vary depending on your personal study habits and schedule. However, a common recommendation is to begin focused revision around six months before the exams.

Starting to revise early allows you to:

- Cover all the content thoroughly.
- Identify and fill gaps in your knowledge.
- Use spaced repetition for better recall.
- Maintain a healthy balance between revision and other activities.



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Revision timetables

A revision timetable is a structured plan that maps out a study schedule leading up to exams. It helps to organise time effectively, ensuring that all necessary topics and subjects are covered. It helps support good mental health by balancing studying with other activities.

How to Create a Revision Timetable:

- 1. List Subjects and Topics:** Write down all the subjects and topics you need to revise.
- 2. Prioritise:** Identify which topics need more attention based on your strengths and weaknesses. Your teachers can help with this.
- 3. Allocate Time:** Decide how much time you need to spend on each subject and topic.
- 4. Set Specific Goals:** Define what you want to achieve in each study session.
- 5. Create a Schedule:** Use a calendar or planner to map out your study sessions, including breaks, eating, sleeping and leisure time.
- 6. Be Flexible:** Allow some flexibility in your timetable to accommodate unexpected events or changes. You could add in spare time slots in case you need them.

What are the benefits of a revision timetable?

- 1. Improves Time Management:** Helps you allocate your time efficiently, ensuring you cover all necessary material.
- 2. Reduces Stress:** Provides a clear plan, reducing the anxiety of last-minute cramming.
- 3. Enhances Focus:** Keeps you on track and focused on specific tasks during each study session.
- 4. Increases Productivity:** Structured study sessions can lead to more productive and effective revision.
- 5. Tracks Progress:** Allows you to monitor your progress and adjust your plan as needed.
- 6. Balances Study and Rest:** Ensures you include breaks and leisure time, preventing burnout.



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Example revision timetables

WEEKLY REVISION PLANNER

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TIME	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:30AM - 4PM	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	9AM - 10AM	BREAKFAST / SHOWER	BREAKFAST / SHOWER
4PM - 5PM	HOMEWORK	TV / GAMING / SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	TV / GAMING / SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	10AM - 11AM	REVISION - ENGLISH	REVISION - SCIENCE
5PM - 6PM	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	11AM - 1PM	SEEING FRIENDS / LUNCH	SPORT / LUNCH
6PM - 7PM	REVISION - GEOGRAPHY	HOMEWORK	REVISION - HISTORY	REVISION - FRENCH	REVISION - SCIENCE	1PM - 3PM	REVISION - MATHS	REVISION - FLASH CARDS
7PM - 8PM	REVISION - MATHS	REVISION - ENGLISH	FREE TIME	HOMEWORK	FREE TIME	3PM - 5PM	OUT WITH FAMILY	SPORT / TV / GAMING
8PM - 9PM	FREE TIME / SHOWER	FREE TIME / SHOWER	FREE TIME / SHOWER	FREE TIME / SHOWER	FREE TIME / SHOWER	6PM - 8PM	DINNER / FREE TIME	DINNER / FREE TIME

Example term time schedule

Example holiday schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 - 9:50	Maths	English	History	Maths	English	History	Time Off
Break							
10:00 - 10:50	Maths	English	Geography	Maths	English	Geography	
Break							
11:00 - 12:00	French	History	Religious Studies	Music	Geography	Religious Studies	
Lunch							
1:00 - 1:50	Biology	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Physics	Chemistry	Music
Break							
2:00 - 2:50	Biology	Physics	Chemistry	English	Maths	Maths	Religious Studies
Break							
3:00 - 3:50	English	Maths	English	Chemistry	Biology	Physics	French
Break							
4:00 - 5:00	Geography	Music	Time Off	French	History	Time Off	Review and Plan for Next Week
Dinner							
Evening	Review the day, look ahead to the next day and talk to people. Go over some flashcards or tell someone what you have learned.						

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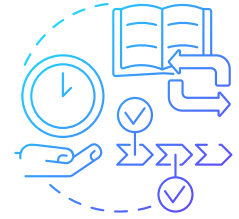


Revision techniques

Spaced repetition is a learning technique that involves reviewing information at increasing intervals over time. Information is more easily retained when it is reviewed periodically rather than crammed in a single session.

This is the method:

1. Learn the material: Start by studying the content you want to remember.
2. Review at intervals: Initially, review the material after a short period (e.g., a day).
Gradually increase the intervals between reviews (e.g., after a week, then two weeks, then a month).
3. Adjust based on recall: If you find certain information difficult to remember, review it more frequently. If it's easier to recall, you can extend the intervals.



The benefits of spaced repetition include:

- Enhanced long-term retention: Information is more likely to be stored in long-term memory.
- Efficient use of study time: Focuses on reviewing material just before it's likely to be forgotten.
- Reduced stress: Spreads out study sessions, making learning more manageable.

The Pomodoro Technique is designed to improve focus and productivity by breaking work into intervals, traditionally 25 minutes in length, separated by short breaks. This method helps to maintain high levels of concentration and avoid burnout. You can start with shorter Pomodoros such as 10 minutes and build up if you prefer.

This is the method:

1. Choose a task you want to work on.
2. Set a timer for 25 minutes (this is one "Pomodoro").
3. Work on the task until the timer rings.
4. Take a short break (usually 5 minutes).
5. Repeat the process. After four Pomodoros, take a longer break (15-30 minutes).



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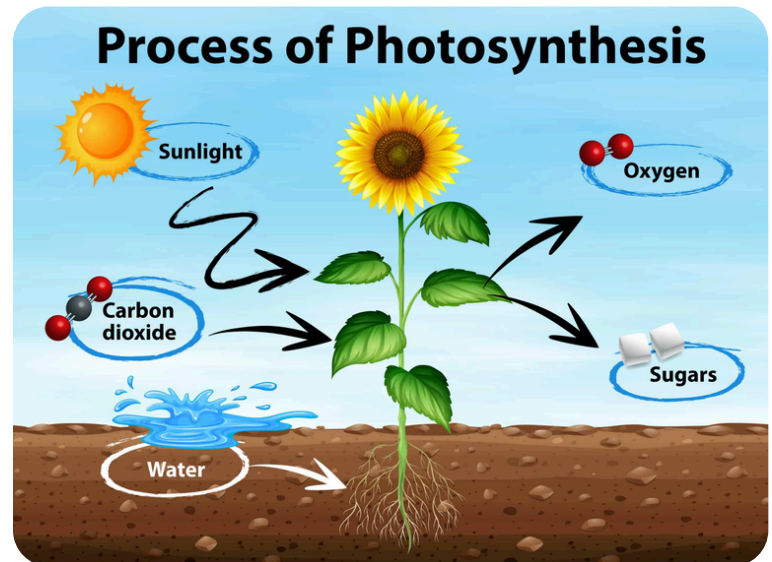
Revision methods

Active revision methods are the most effective.
Experiment with different methods to find what suits you.

Use sticky notes around your home. Put key words, explanations or examples in places you visit in your home often.



Drawings: use drawings to explain concepts



Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check: Review content, cover it, say it out loud, write it down, and then check it.



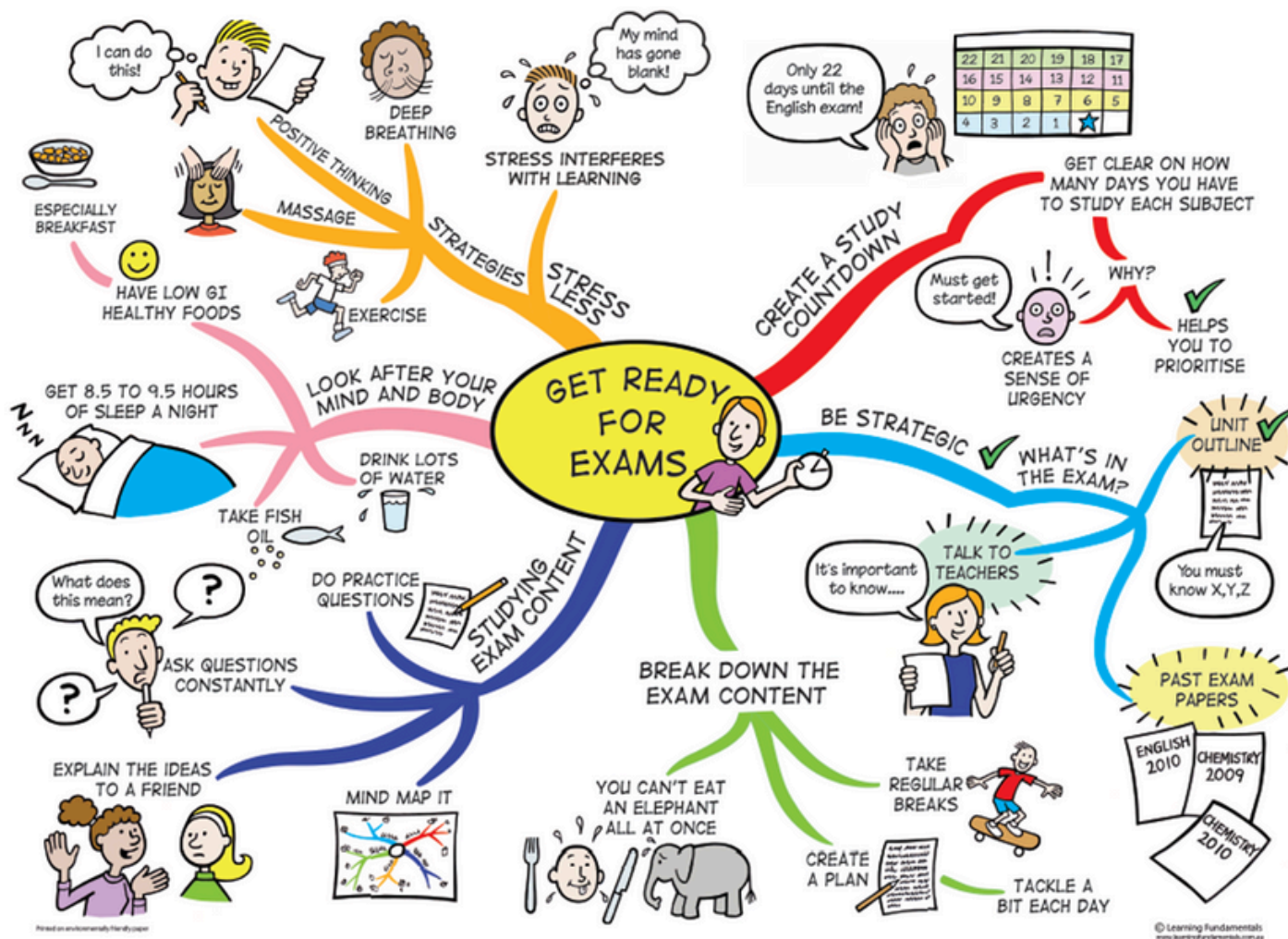
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Revision methods

Mind Maps: using colour, images and shapes helps recall.



Read Notes Out Loud: helps with remembering key words and concepts, especially if you are dyslexic.



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Revision methods

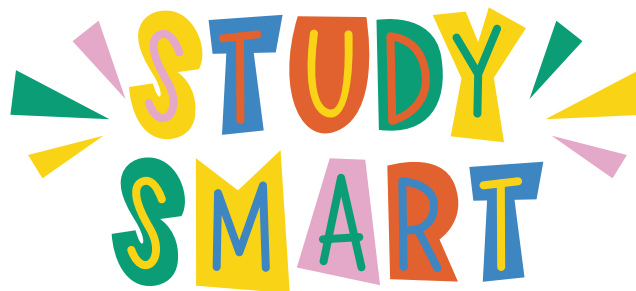
Flashcards (see the next pages for top tips on how to create effective revision flashcards).



Active Recall: Test yourself with flashcards, especially with friends who are also revising.

Top Revision Tips:

- ☺ Check which resources are provided or recommended by school.
- ☺ Check which exam board is used for each subject. Then, check exam board websites for each subject as they may have free resources or revision cards and guides they recommend.



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Revision resources

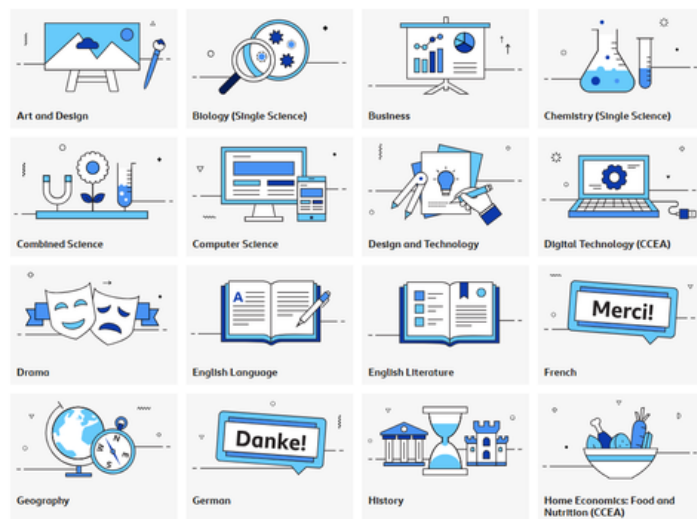
These resources are all free:

BBC Bitesize have a wide range of interactive resources for most GCSE subjects:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

They also provide study skills support and ways to manage wellbeing during exams:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/study-support>

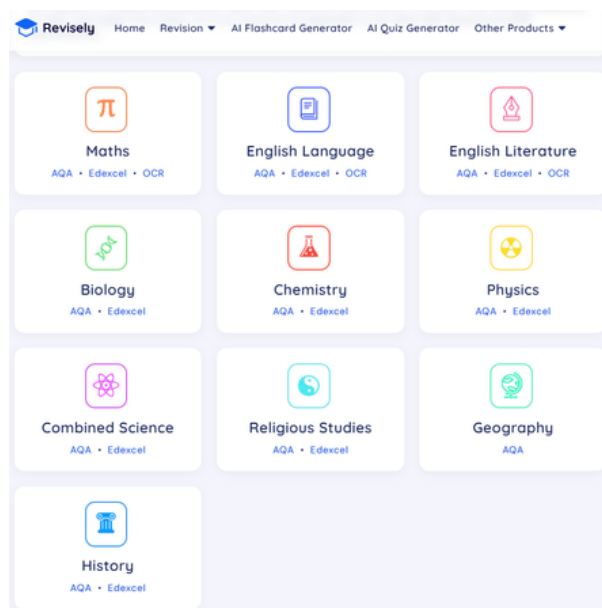


Study Rocket have a range of revision lessons for GCSE and A-Level subjects:

<https://studyrrocket.co.uk/revision>

Revisely have videos, past paper questions and solutions for several GCSE subjects:

<https://www.revisely.com/gcse>



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Revision flashcards

Revision flashcards are a great way to revise.

They are a portable way to encourage active recall and regular repetition of focused learning areas.

Check with your school or college which exam board and course the exam is for as there are differences in content and exam style. Some courses have revision cards you can buy online.

If you have a textbook or revision guide you could use this to ensure you include the main areas in your flashcards.

Teachers can also guide the specific content to cover or focus on.

What can revision cards look like?

Front

Back

What are some common language devices used in English literature?

1. **Alliteration:** Repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words.

- Example: *She sells sea shells by the sea shore.*

2. **Hyperbole:** Exaggerated statements not meant to be taken literally.

- Example: *I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.*

How do you calculate the area of a square?

1. **Formula:** The area of a square is calculated using the formula:

- $\text{Area} = \text{side}^2$
- Where "side" is the length of one side of the square.

2. **Example Problem:**

- Given a square with a side length of 5 cm, calculate the area.
- Solution: $\text{Area} = 5^2 = 25\text{cm}^2$

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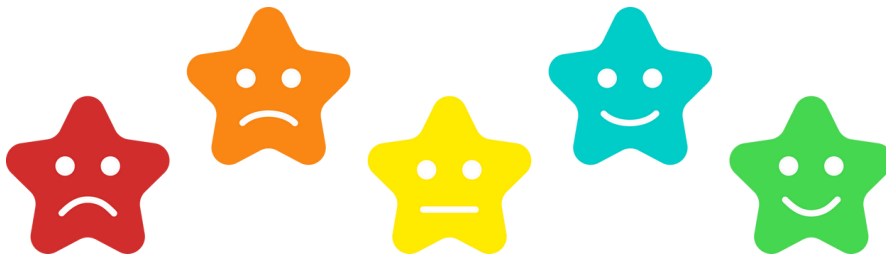




Revision flashcards

How to create effective revision cards:

- **Keep it Simple:** Use bullet points or numbered lists to break down information into manageable chunks. Avoid long paragraphs.
- **Use Headings and Subheadings:** Clearly label each card with a main topic and subtopics. This helps in quickly identifying the content.
- **Highlight Key Points:** Use different colours, bold text, or underlining to emphasize important information. This makes it easier to spot crucial details at a glance.
- **Include Visuals:** Diagrams, charts, and images can help reinforce the material and make it more memorable.
- **Use Mnemonics and Acronyms:** These can be great for remembering lists or complex information.
- **Write Questions on One Side:** Put questions on one side of the card and answers on the other. This is great for self-testing.
- **Keep it Concise:** Focus on the most important information. Too much detail can be overwhelming.
- **Organise by Theme:** Group cards by subject or theme to make it easier to find related information.
- **Review Regularly:** Consistent review is key. Go through your cards frequently to reinforce your memory.
- Use real card or try <https://quizlet.com> to find pre-made digital cards or to make your own.



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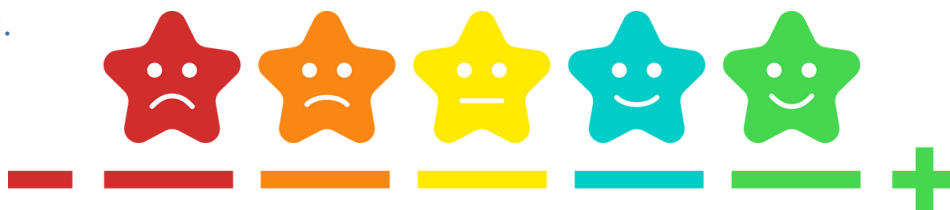




Revision flashcards

General suggestions for what to put in revision cards:

- **Key Concepts and Definitions:** Write down important terms and their definitions. This is especially useful for subjects like Science and Geography.
- **Formulas and Equations:** For subjects like Maths and Physics, include essential formulas and equations. Make sure to write down any steps needed to solve common problems.
- **Important Dates and Events:** For History, list significant dates and events, along with a brief description of their importance.
- **Diagrams and Charts:** Visual aids can be very helpful. Draw diagrams, charts, or mind maps to summarise information.
- **Sample Questions and Answers:** Include a few practice questions and their answers. This can help you test your knowledge and understand how to apply what you've learned.
- **Mnemonics and Acronyms:** Create mnemonics or acronyms to help remember lists or sequences of information.
- **Quotes and Key Points:** For subjects like English Literature, write down important quotes from texts and their analysis or significance.
- **Case Studies and Examples:** For subjects like Business Studies or Economics, include brief summaries of key case studies or examples.
- **Exam Techniques:** Include tips for managing time during the exam, planning answers, and checking work.
- **Common Mistakes:** List common mistakes to avoid. Include tips on how to avoid them.



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Revision flashcards

GCSE Foundation paper Maths some suggestions on what to include:

- **Basic Arithmetic:** Include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division rules, along with examples.
- **Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages:** Write down how to convert between them, and include examples of calculations.
- **Ratios and Proportions:** Explain how to solve ratio problems and work with proportions.
- **Algebra Basics:** Include key concepts like simplifying expressions, solving linear equations, and understanding inequalities.
- **Geometry:** Cover properties of shapes, area and perimeter formulas, and basic angle rules.
- **Graphs and Coordinates:** Explain how to plot points, read graphs, and understand the basics of linear graphs.
- **Measures and Units:** Include conversions between different units of measurement (e.g., cm to m, g to kg).
- **Probability and Statistics:** Summarise basic probability rules, mean, median, mode, and range.
- **Key Formulas:** List essential formulas, such as the area of a triangle, the circumference of a circle, and the Pythagorean theorem.
- **Worked Examples:** Include a few worked examples for each topic to show how to apply the concepts.



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Revision flashcards

English Literature GCSE some suggestions on what to include:

- **Key Themes:** Identify the main themes of each text you are studying. Write a brief explanation of each theme and how it is developed in the text.
- **Character Profiles:** Summarise the main characters, including their traits, motivations, and relationships with other characters. Include key quotes that reveal their personalities.
- **Important Quotes:** Select significant quotes from the texts. Note who said them, in what context, and why they are important. Include a brief analysis of each quote.
- **Plot Summaries:** Write concise summaries of the plot for each text. Highlight the main events and turning points.
- **Context:** Include information about the historical, social, and cultural context of the texts. Explain how these contexts influence the themes and characters.
- **Literary Devices:** List and define important literary devices used in the texts (e.g., metaphor, simile, imagery). Provide examples from the texts and explain their effects.
- **Essay Plans:** Create outlines for potential essay questions. Include key points and quotes you would use to support your arguments.
- **Comparative Points:** If you are studying multiple texts, note similarities and differences between them. This can help with comparative questions.
- **Author Information:** Include brief notes about the authors, their backgrounds, and how their experiences may have influenced their writing.
- **Critical Perspectives:** Summarise different critical interpretations of the texts. This can help you develop a more nuanced understanding of the material.



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Revision flashcards

GCSE English Language suggestions on what to include:

- **Language Techniques:** List and define important language techniques (e.g., simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification). Provide examples of each.
- **Structure Techniques:** Include techniques about the structure of texts (e.g. narrative perspective, flashbacks, foreshadowing). Explain the effects on the reader.
- **Writing Tips:** Summarise key tips for different types of writing tasks, such as descriptive writing, narrative writing, and persuasive writing. Include examples of effective openings and conclusions.
- **Grammar and Punctuation:** Note important grammar rules and punctuation marks. Include examples of correct usage.
- **Reading Comprehension:** Write down strategies for approaching reading comprehension questions. Include tips on how to identify main ideas, infer meaning, and analyse language.
- **Exam Techniques:** Include tips for managing time during the exam, planning answers, and checking work.
- **Practice Questions:** Write down a few practice questions for each type of task (e.g., analysing a text, writing a narrative). Include brief outlines of how you would answer them.
- **Vocabulary:** Create a list of high-level vocabulary words that can be used in writing tasks. Include definitions and example sentences.
- **Model Answers:** Summarise key points from model answers provided by teachers or textbooks. Note what makes these answers effective.
- **Common Mistakes:** List common mistakes to avoid in both reading and writing tasks. Include tips on how to avoid them.



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