

Revising from home

Staying focused

- Have a designated work space whether that be your room, dining room or a study – somewhere you know you can concentrate.
- Be sure to take regular, scheduled breaks. Use an egg timer to help you remember or your phone if this isn't a distraction.
- Drink plenty of water and have healthy snacks to hand.
- If your phone is distracting you, leave it in another room.
- Don't work all day! You deserve time to relax.

Have a plan

- Decide what subjects you want to revise each day.
- You may want to stick to your school timetable and revise each subject for as long as your usual lessons last (this way you won't miss any out) or choose two or three subjects to focus on a day.
- Make sure you're revising all subjects and not just your favourites.
- Use our HH+ timetable to help you.

Revision techniques

Mind maps

- Mind maps are a fantastic visual resource to help you remember key facts on a particular topic.
- Start by writing your chosen topic in the middle and record the key dates or facts that you need to remember around the edge.
- You can colour code this or draw pictures to help you remember things and to keep it as visual as possible.
- There is no wrong way to mind map. Do what suits you.

Flashcards

- Flash cards are small cards which enable you to condense your study notes.
- You might write one key word on the front and related fact on the back – practice until you can remember the fact for each key word.
- Use your parents or siblings to test you on key facts.
- Try using different coloured cards for different subjects to help keep you organised.

Group study

- A really good way to stay connected with your friends and revise is to organise group video calls.
- You can test each other on your flash cards, exchange ideas on what is working best for you and create quizzes for each other to complete on different topics.
- This will also help you feel more like you're at school – where you see your friends every day as you're learning.

Wellbeing

- When taking breaks try to get a bit of fresh air if you can. Just a walk around the block would be enough.
- If you can't get outside make sure you take breaks in a different room to where you are studying – this will help you separate your work space from your relaxing space.
- If you find yourself struggling, try to talk to someone who can help whether that be emailing a teacher, phoning a friend or chatting to your parent guardian. You can even chat to us on higherhorizons.co.uk/ask



**Follow the tips below
to help your child stay
motivated to learn
whilst at home!**



- **Help your child to maintain a good routine whilst at home**

Small things like ensuring your child gets 8 hours sleep, a good breakfast and regular breaks with healthy snacks will help them stay focused and give structure to their day.

- **Get outside**

If possible, during one of your child's revision breaks, encourage them to go outside for at least 10 minutes – just a walk around the block or a kick about in the garden will do.

- **Try and minimise distractions**

Help your child set up a space that is designated for them to study in and have resources on hand to help them stay organised. Try to ensure this space has little distractions e.g. no tv or gaming consoles. If possible, encourage your child to leave their phone in another room while they work.

- **Take an active role in their revision**

Ask your child to teach you what they have been learning, this will enable them to recall information and explain their revision in their own words. You can also use your child's mind maps/flash cards/revision notes to help test what they can remember and what they understand.

- **Avoid working too many hours**

Revision can be quite stressful for students and they need time to relax. Encourage your child to 'switch off' at a certain time each day to unwind by watching tv, reading a book, or having a group video call with friends!

- **Stay positive**

This is stressful time for students so try and be as encouraging and motivating as possible. Everything will be disrupted this year, whether that is GCSE exams, missing a school leaving do, choosing which A Levels or BTECs to study, or waiting to find out about university places. It's okay not to have all the answers, but staying positive will help your child stay focused on keeping up with their school work while they wait for more information.

1

Practice, practice, practice!!!

Try and practice as many past papers as possible – this will help you get familiar with the style of each paper.

2

For English language papers, become familiar with the vocabulary and literary styles you can use to structure your answer.

4

Alternate between different question lengths – there is a lot of writing involved in each exam so it's good to practice writing different length answers.

3

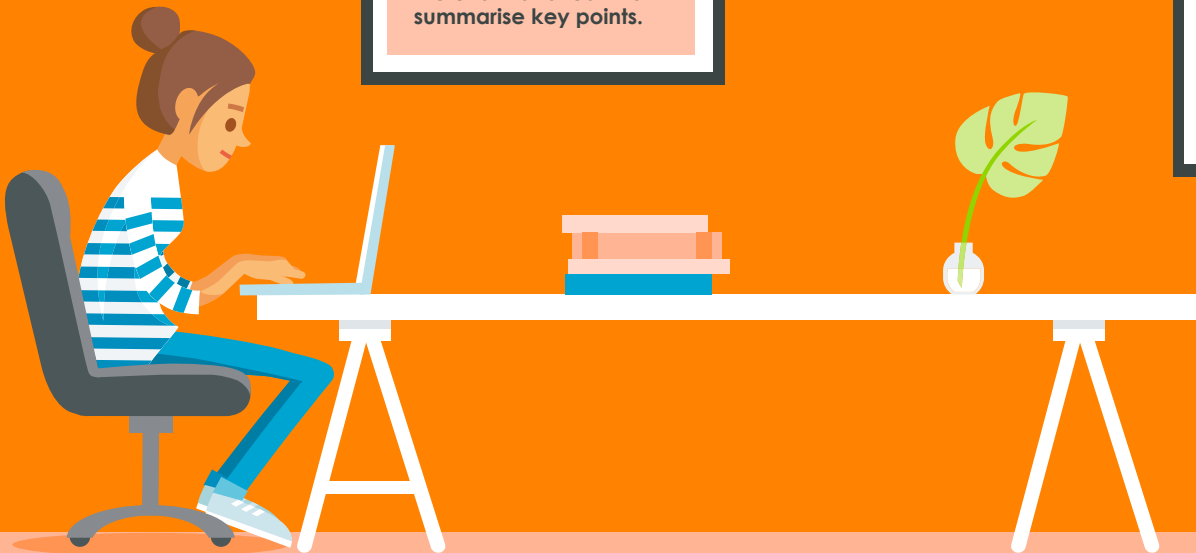
For English literature exams, become familiar with the pieces of text that may come up on the exam and learn to summarise key points.

5

For English Literature exams, circle or highlight key points within the text you are analysing – this will make it easier to remember each point.

6

Time how long it takes you to answer each question and include 5 minutes at the beginning of each question to plan your answer.



Remember:



- Using mind maps, flashcards and speaking out loud can help you remember key information points.
- If you run out of English Language past papers to practice, try creating your own question to answer. Here's an example: 'Write a letter to your school newspaper arguing why there should be more activities for students during half term.'
- Reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction text will help extend your vocabulary and show you the different styles of writing you can use in the exam.
- Always take a spare pen into the exam!

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1

History

Practice completing past papers and pay attention to the mark scheme – if a question is worth more marks you should write a longer answer.

Look for key words in the questions – ‘describe’ means list the facts, ‘explain’ means list the facts and say how they fit together and ‘agree’ means give your opinion...and justify it using facts.

2

Geography

Use flash cards to condense key information.

Research the list of case studies used by your exam board and make sure you learn the key facts.

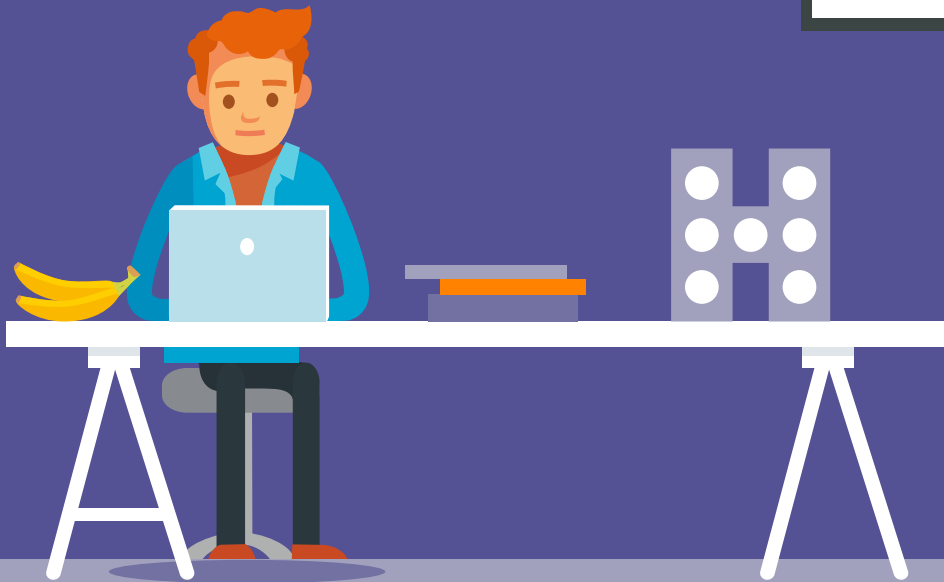
Record yourself listing key facts and listen back.

3

Religious Studies

Create your own practice questions.

Write down key quotes relating to a religion's beliefs about certain topics e.g. marriage or life after death.



Making notes:



- When reading through a text book highlight only the essential information.
- Make condensed notes with only concise bits of information.
- Return to your notes and only copy out the bits you do not know.
- Revise these notes and test yourself.
- Colour code your notes and add pictures.
- Read your notes out loud and use hand motions.

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Reading Exam

Practice your vocabulary in short bursts over several weeks. Create a mind map of the themes which may come up in the exam and the vocabulary within these themes.

2

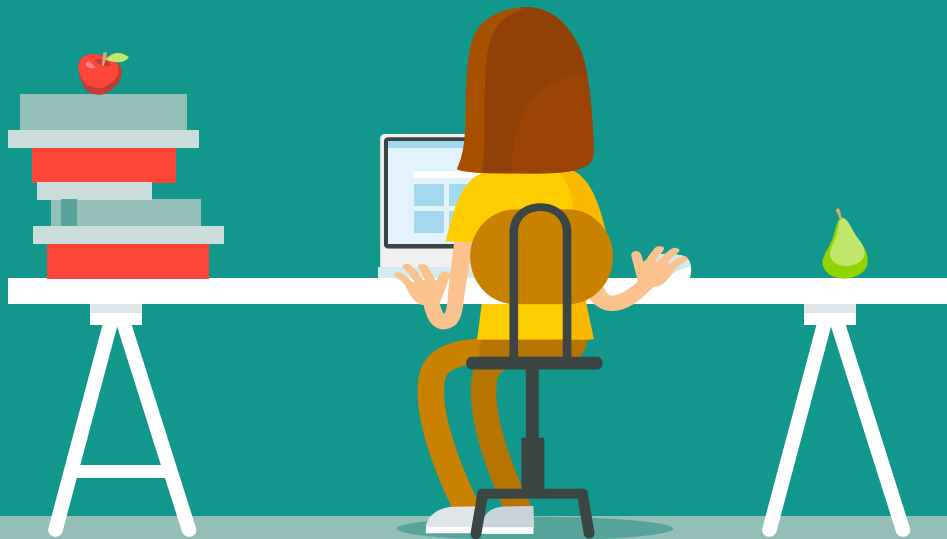
Speaking Exam

Practice with friends and family. Get used to constructing sentences. Giving your opinion can get you more marks. Try practising phrases such as 'I think that' and 'I want to'.

3

Listening Exam

Practice listening to native speakers prior to the exam. Listen for words that sound similar and try to distinguish between them.



Remember:



- Watch and read the news in the language you are learning (you can find live newsfeeds on youtube)
- Practice your vocabulary using flash cards. You can make online flashcards using a great and free platform called Quizlet (<https://quizlet.com/en-gb>)
- Create a list of questions that you could be asked and practice your answers.
- Practice past papers
- Make a list of important grammar tips and key phrases and refer to this when practising your speaking.
- Practice describing your likes and dislikes.

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1

Practice, practice, practice!!!
Make sure you practice as many past papers as you can – this will help you become familiar with a wide range of question types.

2

Make sure you show all of your working out when answering a question – this may be worth extra marks!

3

Make a note of the questions you are confident in answering, and spend more time practising the questions you aren't confident in answering.

4

Remember your timings, if you get stuck on a question don't spend all of your time on it, move on and come back to it later if you have time.

5

Make sure you check with the exam board which formulas are given in the exam and which are not. Practice writing down the formulas which aren't given to help you remember them.

6

Read the question carefully and underline key bits of information. Ask yourself 'What is the question really asking?'



Remember:



- Practising maths is the only way to get better at maths!
- If you get stuck on a question, break it down and answer it step by step.
- Try to check your answers as you go along to make sure you haven't made any silly mistakes.
- Always have a go at completing a question, even if you think you don't know the answer. You may get some marks for showing your working out.

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1

Practice, practice, practice!!!
Make sure you practice as many past papers as you can – this will help you become familiar with a wide range of question types in each paper.

2

Don't focus all of your revision on one topic, make sure you spend equal amounts of time revising for biology, chemistry and physics.

3

Make sure you are familiar with the content that your exam board covers – as this can vary between each exam board. If you use a revision guide, make sure it's for your exam board.

4

Make full use of flashcards – break each unit down and try to include the key information for that unit on a flashcard.

5

Create question and answer flashcards and get your friends and family to test your knowledge – this will help you remember key information for each unit.

6

Make full use of previous exam mark schemes as this will give you an idea of what type of information and answers the exam board is looking for.



Remember:



- Make a note of key formulas and practice writing them from memory.
- Remember to read the question carefully, take note of whether the question wants you to 'Describe' or 'Explain' your answer.
- For every mark available, make sure you give at least one point.
- If you get stuck on a question, move on and come back to it later.

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