



Study for Success

~ A practical guide ~

Deans Community High School

Introduction

Success in school doesn't happen by chance—it's built on preparation, effort, and the right strategies. Developing effective study habits early is one of the most important steps pupils can take to achieve their full potential. For parents, understanding these approaches can help you support your child's learning journey at home.

Studying isn't just about reading notes over and over. Different subjects require different techniques—what works for Maths may not work for English or Science. By learning a variety of methods, pupils can choose the best approach for each topic, making study time more productive and less stressful.



This booklet will guide you through:

Why early preparation matters and how it reduces last-minute pressure.

Practical strategies for organising time and resources.

Different study techniques suited to each subject area.

Tips for parents to create a supportive environment for learning.

Together, we can help pupils build confidence, develop independence, and achieve success—not just in exams, but in lifelong learning.

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The Importance of Early Preparation

Preparing early for assessments and exams is one of the most effective ways to reduce stress and improve performance. Leaving revision until the last minute often leads to panic, poor retention of information, and lower confidence. Starting early allows pupils to learn gradually, identify gaps in understanding, and build strong knowledge over time.

Why Early Preparation Matters

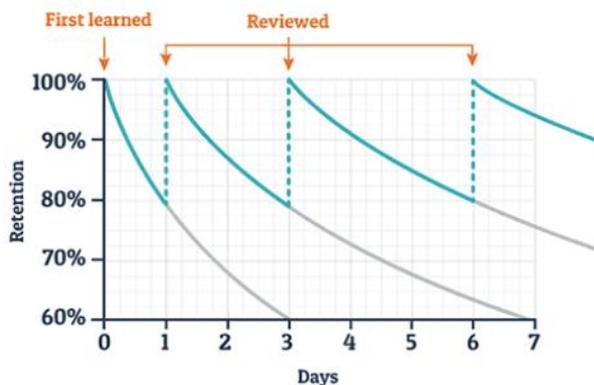
- **Better Understanding:** Revisiting topics regularly helps information move from short-term to long-term memory.
- **Less Stress:** Spreading study over weeks rather than days reduces pressure and anxiety.
- **Time for Support:** Early preparation gives pupils time to ask teachers for clarification or seek extra help.
- **Improved Performance:** Consistent revision leads to deeper learning and better exam results.

Have you ever learned something and then felt like you forgot most of it a few days later? That's normal—and it's explained by the **Forgetting Curve**, a concept developed by psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus.

What is the Forgetting Curve?

- When we first learn new information, we remember it well.
- But without review, our memory of that information **drops sharply within 24–48 hours**.
- Over time, the decline continues—unless we take steps to reinforce what we've learned.

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



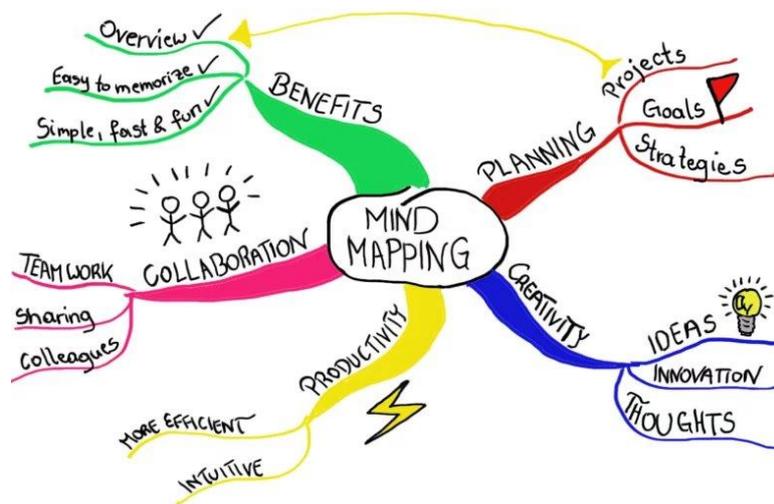
Why Does This Matter for Studying? If you only revise once and never look at the material again, you'll forget most of it before the exam. The key to beating the Forgetting Curve is **spaced repetition**—starting preparation early and using a variety of techniques to revise.

Mind Maps

Mind maps are a visual way to organise information, making it easier to understand and remember. They help you see connections between ideas and break complex topics into manageable parts.

Why Use Mind Maps?

- **Boost Memory:** Visual layouts make information easier to recall.
- **Organises Ideas:** Perfect for subjects with lots of interconnected concepts, like History or Science.
- **Encourage Creativity:** Using colors, images, and keywords makes revision more engaging.



How to Create a Mind Map

1. **Start with a central topic** in the middle of the page.
2. **Add main ideas** as branches coming out from the centre.
3. **Include details** on smaller branches.
4. Use **colours, symbols, and images** to make it memorable.
5. Keep it **clear and simple**—focus on keywords, not full sentences.

When to Use Mind Maps

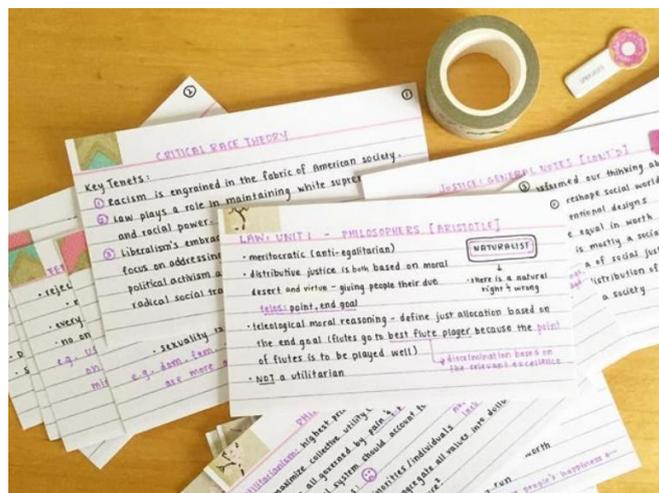
- Summarizing a chapter or topic.
- Planning essays or projects.
- Revising for exams by condensing notes.

Flash Cards

Flashcards are one of the most effective ways to learn and remember key information. They work by promoting **active recall**—forcing your brain to retrieve information rather than just re-read it. This strengthens memory and makes revision more engaging.

Why Use Flashcards?

- **Boost Memory:** Testing yourself improves long-term retention.
- **Portable:** Easy to carry and use anywhere - perfect for short bursts of revision.
- **Flexible:** Great for definitions, formulas, dates, vocabulary, and key concepts.



How to Make Effective Flashcards

1. **Keep it simple:** One question or concept per card.
2. **Use keywords:** Avoid writing full paragraphs—focus on essential points.
3. **Add visuals:** Diagrams or color coding can make cards more memorable.
4. **Mix them up:** Shuffle cards regularly to avoid memorizing the order.

How to Use Flashcards for Revision

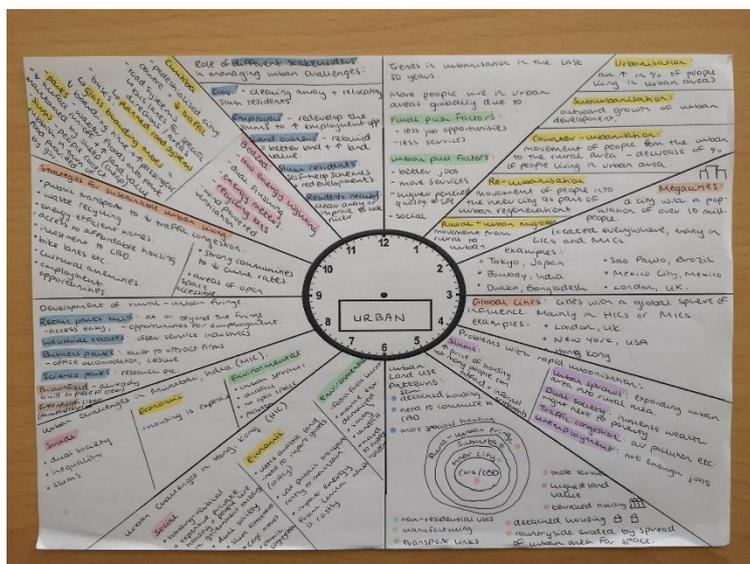
- **Test yourself:** Look at the question side and try to recall the answer before flipping.
- **Spaced repetition:** Review cards at increasing intervals (e.g., after 1 day, 3 days, 1 week).
- **Sort by confidence:** Separate cards into “know well” and “need more practice” piles.
- **Pair with friends:** Quiz each other for a fun and effective study session.

Revision Clocks

Revision clocks are a simple but effective tool to help you organize your revision into manageable chunks. They work by dividing an hour into sections, so you can cover multiple topics without feeling overwhelmed.

What is a Revision Clock?

- A revision clock looks like a clock face divided into **12 sections**.
- Each section represents **5 minutes** of focused revision.
- You can use it for one subject or mix topics across the hour.



Why Use Revision Clocks?

- **Keeps you focused:** Short bursts of study prevent fatigue.
- **Encourages variety:** Cover different topics in one session.
- **Visual progress:** Seeing sections filled in motivates you to keep going.

How to Use a Revision Clock

1. Draw a clock face and divide it into 12 equal sections.
2. Write a topic or sub-topic in each section.
3. Spend **5 minutes** revising each section in order.
4. Use active techniques—summarize notes, test yourself, or create quick diagrams.
5. Take a short break after completing the clock.

Knowledge Spill

A **Knowledge Spill** is a simple but powerful way to check what you know and identify gaps in your understanding. It works by getting everything you can remember about a topic out of your head and onto paper—without looking at your notes.



How Does It Work?

- Choose a topic you've studied (e.g., Photosynthesis, Shakespeare's plays, Algebra).
- Set a timer for **5–10 minutes**.
- Write down **everything you can remember**—facts, formulas, key terms, diagrams—without checking your notes.
- Once the time is up, compare what you wrote with your notes or textbook.

Why Use Knowledge Spill?

- **Active recall:** Forces your brain to retrieve information, strengthening memory.
- **Spot gaps:** Shows you what you know well and what needs more work.
- **Quick and easy:** Can be done anywhere with just pen and paper.

Top Tips

- Use it as a warm-up before starting a revision session.
- Try it with friends—compare spills and fill in missing details together.
- Repeat the exercise regularly to track progress.

Retrieval Practice

Retrieval practice is one of the most powerful techniques for revision. Instead of just re-reading notes, it focuses on **actively recalling information from memory**—which strengthens learning and makes it stick.

Why Retrieval Practice Works

- **Boosts memory:** Every time you recall information, you reinforce the neural pathways that store it.
- **Highlights gaps:** Shows you what you know and what needs more work.
- **Prepares for exams:** Mimics the process of recalling information under test conditions.

How to Use Retrieval Practice

- **Self-testing:** Cover your notes and write down everything you remember about a topic.
- **Flashcards:** Use question-and-answer cards to quiz yourself.
- **Past papers:** Practice answering exam-style questions without looking at notes.
- **Brain dumps (Knowledge Spill):** Spend 5–10 minutes writing everything you know about a topic from memory.
- **Teach someone else:** Explaining a concept out loud is a great way to check understanding.

Top Tips

- Don't just read—**test yourself regularly**.
- Mix topics to keep your brain engaged.
- Combine retrieval practice with **spaced repetition** for maximum impact.



ACHIEVE

How to access ACHIEVE

The quickest way to access ACHIEVE is by following these 3 simple steps:

1. Visit <https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk/>
2. Sign up with your email address and password
3. When prompted, enter the Deans Community High School code

KXysVYUH

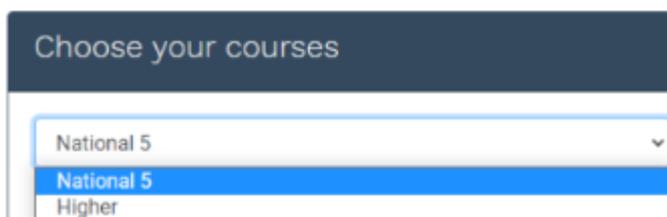
From here you can select all your National 5 and Higher courses, and access the Learn, Assess and Self-evaluate modules for each.

Selecting Courses

To get started with ACHIEVE, set up the courses that you are studying.

Step 1 - Select Manage Courses from the My Courses menu.

Step 2 - Select the level of study from the drop-down.



The screenshot shows a dark blue header with the text "Choose your courses". Below it is a white dropdown menu with a blue border. The menu is open, showing three options: "National 5" (highlighted in blue), "National 5", and "Higher". A small downward arrow is visible on the right side of the dropdown box.

Step 3 - Select all courses that you are studying.

Select	Course Name	Optional Topics
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National 5 Applications of Mathematics	Choose topics...
<input type="checkbox"/>	National 5 Art and Design	Choose topics...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National 5 Biology	Choose topics...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National 5 Business Management	Choose topics...
<input type="checkbox"/>	National 5 Chemistry	Choose topics...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National 5 Computing Science	Choose topics...

Joining a Class

Join a class set up by your teacher.

Step 1 - Select Join Classes from the My Courses menu.

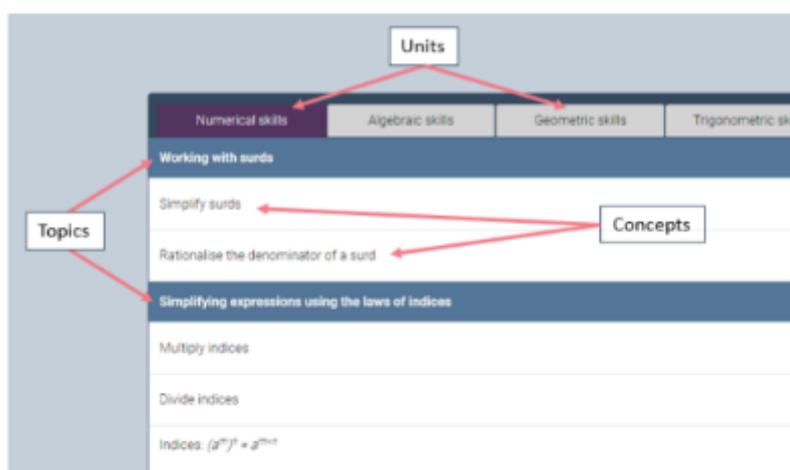
Step 2 - Click Join Class

Step 3 - Enter the class code given to you by your teacher and click Save

Using LEARN

The Learn module is your starting point as you work towards a National 5 or Higher qualification. It is an interactive digital textbook, with all the key concepts that you need to know fully explained and illustrated.

Courses are broken down into Units - each accessible via the tabs at the top of the screen. Units are divided into Topics, each containing a number of key Concepts.



Learn Buttons

Each Learn Concept gives you the following options:

-  Concise explanation of the concept
-  Links to further learning
-  Extended questions and activities
-  Links to past paper questions

Using ASSESS

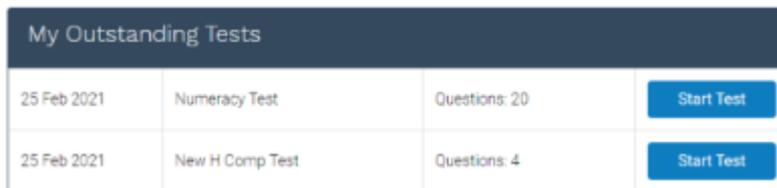
Use the Assess feature to test your knowledge and understanding of different Concepts or Topics on your course and get instant feedback.

There are two ways to use the Assess module:

1. Assigned tests (ie, tests created by your teacher)
2. Student managed assessments (tests you select for yourself)

Assigned Tests

Assigned tests are tests that your teacher has asked you to complete. Click Start Test to begin a test. Correct answers are displayed after each question.



My Outstanding Tests			
25 Feb 2021	Numeracy Test	Questions: 20	Start Test
25 Feb 2021	New H Comp Test	Questions: 4	Start Test

Student Managed Assessments

ACHIEVE has a built-in assessment engine with thousands of practice questions.

Choose this option to complete online assessments and receive instant feedback.

Step 1: Choose from Topic, Unit or Course assessments.

Step 2: Choose the number of questions in the assessment.

Step 3: Complete the assessment. Correct answers are displayed after each Question

Using Feedback and Summary

At the end of each assessment or test, you will be given feedback on:

- your overall score
- a summary of strengths and areas for improvement

You can review an overall summary of all assessments including:

- number of questions answered correctly / attempted
- areas of strengths / areas for improvement

Computer systems: Security precautions	4 / 5	<div style="width: 80%;"><div style="width: 80%;"></div></div> 80%
Database design and development: Implementation	27 / 37	<div style="width: 73%;"><div style="width: 73%;"></div></div> 73%
Web design and development: Implementation (Javascript)	2 / 3	<div style="width: 66%;"><div style="width: 66%;"></div></div> 66%
Web design and development: Implementation (CSS)	27 / 46	<div style="width: 59%;"><div style="width: 59%;"></div></div> 59%

When studying you need to be able to identify the areas you know well and the areas you need to improve on.

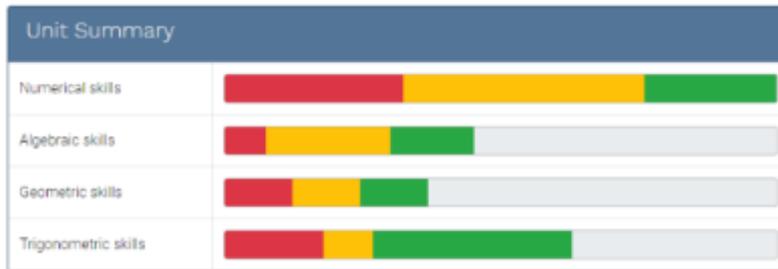
Use Self-evaluate to traffic-light your progress in each course.

Using the sine and cosine rules to find a side or angle in a triangle		
Use the sine rule to find a side	<input type="checkbox"/>	● ● ●
Use the sine rule to find an angle	<input type="checkbox"/>	● ● ●
Use the cosine rule to find a side	<input type="checkbox"/>	● ● ●
Use the cosine rule to find an angle	<input type="checkbox"/>	● ● ●

- GREEN: My knowledge and understanding is strong, and I am confident
- AMBER: My knowledge and understanding is okay, but I am not fully confident
- RED: My knowledge and understanding is weak and I not at all confident

Using Self Evaluate

Use Self-evaluate to gain an overview of your strengths and weaknesses by Unit and by Topics



National 5 Mathematics red concepts	
Numerical skills	
Simplify surds	●
Multiply indices	●
Indices calculations using scientific notation	●
Round to a given number of significant figures	●
Add fractions	●

Biology Revision Guide

Step 1: Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for a particular key area. You could do this using the following tasks:

- Read through active notes and write down any key words/phrases/definitions that are important.
- Read and highlight course support notes.
- Use “Learn” section of Achieve.
- Use BBC Bite size to do some extra reading.
- Use teams to access lesson PowerPoints and active notes.
- Watching YouTube lessons and taking notes

Step 2: Revise

This step involves using your active notes to convert knowledge to memory. Tasks for this step include:

- Create bullet point summaries of key area and practice expanding them.
- Flashcards
- Mind maps
- Revision posters
- Using the “Assess” section of Achieve
- Key area guides

Step 3: Challenge

This step involves putting your knowledge into practice once you feel confident with what you know. Tasks include:

- Past paper questions – you can access these on:
 - JABChem
 - SQA website
 - Hyperlink documents on teams
 - In the “Learn” section on Achieve

WEB LINKS

Biology; Review, Revise and Challenge

JABChem Biology for all Biology Past Papers and Answers;

<https://jabchem.org.uk/biology>

Achieve Website for Consolidation of Learning and testing if knowledge. All students have a login to their classes: <https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk/user-start/?next=/>

Mr Murray - (Covers all levels N4-Higher) and contains links to Quizlet etc:

<https://mrmurraybio.org/>

Biology Coach for Higher and Higher Human, Advanced Higher;

<https://sites.google.com/view/the-biology-coach/cfe-advanced-higher-biology>

Quizlet for online flashcards for all levels in Biology: <https://quizlet.com/>

Mr Mitchell YouTube Channel- Lessons covering course work for consolidation:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsDviJaUZHS0zgUXbb3regQ>

Scholar (Students log in through GLOW): <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/courses/>

BBC Bitesize – All Sciences: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z6gw2hv>

Thing Link – A website summarising all Qualification subjects for students:

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1679198779850358786>



JABChem



Thing Link



BBC Bite Size

Chemistry Revision Guide

Step 1: Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for a particular topic. You could do this using the following tasks:

- Use the answers to the active notes in TEAMS to complete any gaps in your active notes.
- Once completed, look over your post assessment weak list.
- Read and highlight SQA course specs found at the back of your active notes.
- Use “Learn” section of Achieve to complete self evaluation.

Step 2: Revise

This step involves building your knowledge. Tasks for this step include:

- 1. Create bullet point summaries of each topic using your active notes.**
- 2. Choose one (or two) of the following to complete:**
 - Flashcards (for definition and textbook answers)
 - Mind maps
 - Revision posters
 - Watch YouTube clip using QR code found on active notes and make notes in jotter.
- 3. Consolidation Questions**
 - Using the “Learn” and “Assess” section of Achieve
 - Use BBC Bite size to read and test specific topics
 - Use Chemcord questions on TEAMS to answer questions in your jotter.

Step 3: Challenge

This step involves challenging your knowledge.

- 1. Past paper questions – you can access these on:**
 - JABChem and use the past paper grid to guide you on what questions to attempt.
 - Hyperlink past papers can help too.
- 2. Complete in study tutorial jotter and SELF MARK using the JABChem mark scheme.**

WEB LINKS

Chemistry; Review, Revise and Challenge

JABChem Chemistry for all Chemistry Past Papers and detail explained answers to help students with their understanding; <https://jabchem.org.uk/chemistry>

Quizlet for online flashcards and summary notes for all levels in Chemistry:
<https://quizlet.com/>

Miss Adams Lesson Videos – National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Chemistry:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/MissAdamsChemistry>

Martin McCartney Lesson Videos – National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Chemistry: <https://www.youtube.com/@martinmccartney7404/playlists>

Scholar (Students log in through GLOW): <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/courses/>

BBC Bitesize – All Sciences:

Thing Link – A website summarising all Qualification subjects for students:
<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1679198779850358786>



JABChem



Thing Link



BBC Bite Size

Physics Revision Guide

Step 1: Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for a particular topic. You could do this using the following tasks:

- Use the answers to the active notes in TEAMS to complete any gaps in your active notes.
- Once completed, look over your post assessment weak list.
- Read, highlight and traffic light SQA course specs found in your folder.
- Use "Learn" section of Achieve to complete self evaluation.

Step 2: Revise

This step involves building your knowledge. Tasks for this step include:

- 1. Create bullet point summaries of each topic using your active notes.**
- 2. Choose one (or two) of the following to complete:**
 - Flashcards (for definition and textbook answers)
 - [Mindmaps](#)
 - Revision posters
 - Watch YouTube clips using QR code found on active notes and make notes in jotter.
- 3. Consolidation Questions**
 - Using the "Learn" and "Assess" section of Achieve
 - Use BBC Bite size to read and test specific topics
 - Use Problem Books on TEAMS to answer questions in your jotter.

Step 3: Challenge

This step involves challenging your knowledge.

- 1. Past paper questions – you can access these on:**
 - JABChem website
 - SQA website
 - Hyperlinked document in Past Papers folder on TEAMS.
- 2. Complete in study tutorial jotter and SELF MARK using the mark schemes.**

Physics Revision and Consolidation Websites

Physics:

JABChem Physics for all Physics Past Papers and Answers;

<https://jabchem.org.uk/physics>

Achieve Website for Consolidation of Learning and testing if knowledge. All students have a login to their classes: <https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk/user-start/?next=/>

The Physics Academy YouTube – Video lessons to help consolidate learning:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/mrmitchellphysics>

Mr Smith's YouTube: Consolidation lessons, help with Past Paper answers at home, reviewing key experiments:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_kdcG3xwcEM33u1dfuMDZg

Mrs Physics Website – help with consolidation, summary notes of course content, reviewing hard past paper questions for help at home: <https://www.mrsphysics.co.uk/>

Quizlet for online flashcards for all levels in Physics: <https://quizlet.com/>

Scholar (Students log in through GLOW): <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/courses/>

BBC Bitesize – All Sciences: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z6gw2hv>

Thing Link – A website summarising all Qualification subjects for students:

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1679198779850358786>



JABChem



Thing Link



BBC Bite Size

Maths Revision Guide

N5 MATHS All resources practice questions past papers etc
<https://www.national5maths.co.uk/free-national-5-maths-2/>

Tutorial Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@MrThomasMaths/playlists>

Past Paper Solution Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@ClellandMaths/playlists>

<https://www.youtube.com/@DLBmaths/playlists>

N5 Applications All resources practice questions past papers etc

<https://www.national5maths.co.uk/n5-lifeskills-maths/>

Past Paper and other useful videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@ClellandMaths/playlists>

Higher Maths All resources practice questions past papers etc

<https://www.highermathematics.co.uk/higher-maths-whole-course/>

Tutorial Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@MrThomasMaths/playlists>

Past Paper Solution Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@ClellandMaths/playlists>

<https://www.youtube.com/@DLBmaths/playlists>

Higher Applications Past Papers and help videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@ClellandMaths/playlists>

Advanced Higher Past Papers and Useful tutorials

<https://ahmaths.com/>

Solution Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@ClellandMaths/playlists>

<https://www.youtube.com/@DLBmaths/playlists>

How to Study Maths

notes ...



identify the issues ...

- maths is a practical subject
- never just read your notes
- you need to do questions!

past exam questions ...

- make a list of your mistakes
- write out the correct solutions, do not just read them
- if you do not understand, ask for help!
- go back a few days later and do the questions on your mistake list again

be strategic and get support ...



be strategic ...

- sometimes do whole past exams and sometimes focus on one topic
- have a day where you focus on your least favourite topic

homework ...

- make sure it is done
- go back and fix your mistakes
- do not ignore the questions you get wrong.

get support ...

- attend twilight classes
- ask your teacher for help
- youtube videos

help yourself remember...



test yourself...

- do past exam questions without your notes.
- see what you really know
- redo your incorrect answers a few days later
- check to see if you have improved

space your practice...

- an hour of study done often throughout the year is much better than cramming at the end.
- you will remember more this way

English Revision Guide

Department	ENGLISH
General study techniques and best practice	<p><u>FOLIO – Nat 5/Higher</u></p> <p><u>Stage 1 (Prior to writing first draft)</u> You should be considering what type of folio you wish to write.</p> <p>Consider topics for discursive/persuasive that you already know about. Creative folios need to have a clear and effective structure and focus on genre. Personal pieces need to be reflective and focus on a key event or moment that changed you.</p> <p>You are permitted a set of notes which should be no longer than 1 A4 page, handwritten and should not be composed of full sentences/paragraphs.</p> <p><u>Stage 2 (writing first draft)</u> You will be given up to 4 hours of time, supervised in class, to produce a first draft. You should be ready to start this when you teacher tells you the agreed date. Make sure you have you notes page/plan ready to go.</p> <p><u>Stage 3 (receiving feedback and second draft)</u> Everyone will be given feedback on their first draft. Ensure that you are clear on the feedback, ask for clarification if necessary and do not lose it. You will need to work on the final draft of your folio in your own time – remember twilights on a Wednesday and a Thursday where a laptop can be made available for you. Make sure you are clear on the deadline given to you by your teacher and action the feedback you have been given.</p> <p><u>RUAE – Nat 5/Higher</u> Revise the strategies for all question types. You will have been given notes and practice questions on each of these. Be sure to check your Teams page for resources individualised to your class.</p> <p>Read articles from places such as the BBC and the Guardian (see links below) to get used to reading non-fiction articles and the language and ideas they contain.</p> <p><u>Scottish Text – Textual Analysis – Nat 5/Higher</u> Re-read the poems or play again. You will have been provided with copies of these but if not, contact your individual teacher who can arrange this. If you wish your own copy of the play, please see the websites below who stock them.</p> <p><u>Poetry</u> Re-read your annotations and create a bank of suitable quotations for each poem that could be useful for 8/10 mark question.</p>

Consider a mind map of key themes/ideas and arrange quotations from each poem this way to help you spot links.

Drama

Re-read the play and watch any available filmed versions (see links below)

Create mind maps based on key themes/ideas and characters, select examples from every part of the play to help prepare for the 8/10 mark question.

Critical Essay

Re-read your text (these vary between classes), regularly.

Ensure that you are creating a suitable bank of references/quotations, grouped by theme/idea/topic/setting/character as relevant to your text.

Practice essay questions in timed conditions – check your class Team for questions or contact your teacher who can provide suitable ones for your text.

ADVANCED HIGHER

Textual Analysis

Read non-fiction texts or extracts: memoirs, autobiographies, travel writing.
Read lots of very different prose fiction.

Literary Study

Create a bank of quotations for both texts: character, plot, setting, theme, narrative technique, symbolism...
Compare and contrast the author's decisions and the impact on the reader.

Dissertation

Once you have your dissertation focus, read through your texts again, making notes and selecting evidence.
Use quality study guides – York Notes, for example – and invest in a hard copy rather than an online version. Use these to develop your knowledge of your texts – you are aiming for synthesis.
Look for secondary sources that you can use to develop your argument.

Folio

Try ideas and writing styles out, in addition to what we do in class. The more you write, the more you get a sense of what works, and you are able to develop your writing style. Once you have settled on an idea, you need to have fully thought about your purpose and audience, as this will drive the decisions you make as a writer.

Links for Websites, Apps, YouTube channels etc

If these are different for N5, H and AH please specify.

Scottish Text – Textual Analysis

[Tally's Blood - National 5 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

<https://youtu.be/26rUvR38k4s> – filmed version (filmed during Covid restrictions)

[Sailmaker - National 5 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Norman MacCaig - National 5 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Carol Ann Duffy - Higher English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Slab Boys - Higher English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[BBC A Play For Today, The Slab Boys 1979 - YouTube](#) – filmed version – some slight differences from original script

Critical Essay

Nat 5 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3chvcw/revision/1>

Higher - [Analysis in critical reading - Critical essay - Higher English Revision - BBC Bitesize](#)

Useful Article Websites

[Latest news, sport and opinion from the Guardian](#) (look at Culture and Opinion sections in particular)

[BBC - Home](#)

[Scotland News, Politics, Sport, Events and Comment - The Herald](#)

[Latest News | The Scotsman](#)

Modern Languages Revision Guide

To do your best in French/ Spanish, you need to work on all 4 skills of Reading, Listening, Writing and Talking. Use SQA past papers and ACHIEVE, as well as the tips below.

Reading:

KNOW YOUR VOCAB- make sure you regularly review all vocab that you write down in class or look at your vocabulary booklet often.

DICTIONARY SKILLS- make sure you can use the dictionary quickly and easily. This is a skill which improves with practice. Using your phone to do homework doesn't help so having a dictionary at home would be beneficial. Time yourself doing questions so your pace improves.

Listening:

KNOW YOUR VOCAB- make sure you regularly review all vocab that you write down in class or look at your vocabulary booklet often. Practice SAYING the words so you know how they sound.

FRENCH MEDIA- there are so many films, shows and music accessible to you on the Internet, make the most of this and watch/listen to French media regularly to help your ear attune to the language.

Writing:

NAT 5 JOB APPLICATION- you MUST know the first 4 bullet points perfectly to get a good mark in this paper. Learn them a few words or a sentence at a time. Make sure you know the meaning of what you are learning. Then try the last 2 "unseen" bullet points as well- if you don't try them, your mark will go down. Each bullet point should be of equal length (20-25 words).

HIGHER DIRECTED WRITING- you must revise the PAST (perfect and imperfect) tense to get a good mark in this paper. You can learn a couple of the bullet points but it's more important at this stage to be able to write without having memorized. Make sure you know how to start sentences and try each bullet point to get a higher mark. Each bullet point should be 25-30 words. Time yourself when practicing- no more than 40 minutes for a full paper.

Talking:

MAKE SURE: your prepared material is sufficient to last long enough for the test; your material is not too simple; you know the meaning of what you are saying, you know how to pronounce it. Get your teacher to record it for you, if that helps. Make cue cards with key words on them- remember you can bring up to 5 headings of 8 words into your test with you. Try to be confident- think of it as learning a script.

PE Revision Guide

General study techniques and best practice	<p>For success in PE, the following is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mind Maps covering Mental, Emotional, Social & Physical factors (aspects, tests, approaches for each).• How to approach different question types and how to structure each answer- Identify, Describe, Explain, Evaluate, Analyse. (see Teams PP)• Timed Past Paper questions (SQA website or in class).• Carousel activities.• Flash Cards (course content on 4 Factors).• Practice in own time for selected one-off performances. Attend after school clubs (netball, volleyball, dance).
Links for Websites, Apps, YouTube channels etc	<p>Higher: Higher Physical Education - BBC Bitesize New on ACHIEVE: Higher PE - ACHIEVE SQA - NQ - Past papers and marking instructions Teams</p> <p>N5: National 5 Physical Education - BBC Bitesize PE - ACHIEVE SQA - NQ - Past papers and marking instructions Teams</p>

Child Care Revision Guide

General study techniques and best practice	<p>For success in Child Care, the following is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mind Mapping covering:• Child Development (milestones)• Influences• Theorists• Services which support children <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SQA Past papers• Supported Twilight
Links for Websites, Apps, YouTube channels etc	<p>Teams Past papers Higher Childcare and Development - SQA Revision booklet (see teacher).</p>

History Revision Guide

General study techniques and best practice	<p>National 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exam Style Question Booklets- Question Template and example booklets- Revision notes Booklets- Marginal Gains- Quick Fire Questions- RAG checklists- Flashcards- Brain Dumps <p>Higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Essay templates- Exemplar essays- Higher skills booklets- RAG checklists- Revision sheets, K, A, A+ & E- Flashcards
Links for Websites, Apps, YouTube channels etc If these are different for N5, H and AH please specify.	<p>https://mrmarrhistory.wordpress.com/how-to-answer-nat5h-exam-questions/</p> <p>https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=History&searchText=&level=N5&includeMiVal=</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2phvcw</p> <p>https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk/accounts/login/</p>

Modern Studies Revision Guide

<p>General study techniques and best practice</p>	<p>For success in both Higher and National 5 Modern Studies, the following is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flashcards (see course specification for each unit for what these should be on) • Mind maps • A4 Posters/Crib notes: having a full topic on one-side of A4 encourages high-quality notes and summaries. • Answer past paper questions: https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47924.html (Higher) https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47448.html (N5) • Record yourself reading notes/an essay and listen back to it.
<p>Links for Websites, Apps, YouTube channels etc</p> <p>If these are different for N5, H and AH please specify.</p>	<p>National 5:</p> <p>https://www.brainscape.com/subjects/national-5-modern-studies</p> <p>https://belmontmodernstudies.wordpress.com/national-5-exam-tips/</p> <p>All Levels:</p> <p>Mr Marr YouTube Channel:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9clxqeEW6-fs3JIQCzWhCw</p> <p>Quizlet class set – see Mrs. Stewart for all levels/units.</p>

Geography Revision Guide

Revising Successfully for Higher Geography



Step 1 - Reflect

- Reflect on your strengths and weaknesses within the course. Think about how you have got on in class, as well as homework and assessments,
- Use your revision checklist to help identify your main priority areas for home revision.

Step 2 - Revise

- Spend time at home revising all topics within the course (prioritising your weakest areas firstly), to strengthen your knowledge and understanding and to develop your skills.
- Make use of a variety of strategies - take summarising notes, create a set of flashcards, produce a mind map or poster.
- Consider creating a study timetable, to help plan out how revising for Geography fits in with your other commitments.

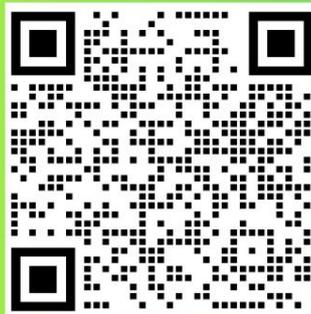
Step 3 - Test

- Test yourself by attempting SQA past paper questions. (Copies of the exams and marking instructions are saved in Files on your class Teams page.)
- Bring in your answers to be marked by your teacher, so that you can receive meaningful feedback on your work.

Useful Websites



BBC Bitesize



Achieve



E-sgoil Study Support

Revising Successfully for N5 Geography



Step 1 - Reflect

- Reflect on your strengths and weaknesses within the course. Think about how you have got on in class, as well as homework and assessments,
- Use your revision checklist to help identify your main priority areas for home revision.

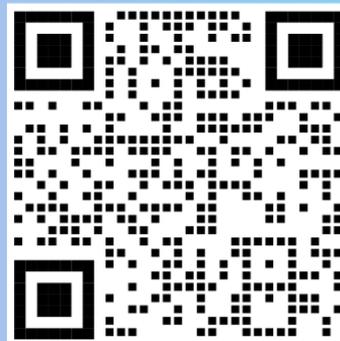
Step 2 - Revise

- Spend time at home revising all topics within the course (prioritising your weakest areas firstly), to strengthen your knowledge and understanding and to develop your skills.
- Make use of a variety of strategies - take summarising notes, create a set of flashcards, produce a mind map or poster.
- Consider creating a study timetable, to help plan out how revising for Geography fits in with your other commitments.

Step 3 - Test

- Test yourself by attempting SQA past paper questions. (Copies of the exams and marking instructions are saved in Files on your class Teams page.)
- Bring in your answers to be marked by your teacher, so that you can receive meaningful feedback on your work.

Useful Websites



RMPS Revision Guide

<p>General study techniques and best practice</p>	<p>Study Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a timetable of allocated times over the week to focus on specific parts of units. Don't try and fit too much into each session or cover too much of the unit - this can be overwhelming and end up being counter productive.• Choose a variety of tasks to enhance engagement and motivation, eg. Flash cards, past paper questions and mind maps.• Aim for 45 minutes – 1 hour sessions, with a 5-10 minute break in between.• Stay hydrated and have plenty of water and some food to snack on. Snacks like nuts, fruit, vegetables and dark chocolate are good for productivity and focus. <p>Twilight and Study Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are drop in Twilight sessions available: Tues 3.30-4.30 and Thurs 3.30-4.30 Mrs McNicol and Wed 3.30-4.30 with Mrs Brown.• We also have an open door policy, so students can drop in any day after school or lunchtime for some support. <p>Past Paper Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practicing past paper questions will help to become more confident in the exam.• Focus on practicing specific question types or units, especially those you feel you need to work on the most.• Practice answering questions under timed conditions.• <i>Eg. Higher 10 Marker = 22 minutes, 20 Marker = 45 minutes, N5 1.75 minutes per mark, AH – 30 minutes for source questions, 60 minutes per essay</i>• Refer to the class Teams page for examples of past paper questions and model answers.• Refer to the SQA website for the Past Papers and Marking Instructions: https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47911.html
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**Links for
Websites,
Apps,
YouTube
channels
etc**

Digital Resources

- Class Teams Page: All lessons, resources, examples and class notes are available here.
- SQA Website for Past Papers and Marking Instructions: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47911.html>
- RE Quest: Content to support each unit: <https://request.org.uk/>
- BBC Bitesize: This has some videos to support course content and some general study guides: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z782fg8>

Music Revision Guide

Performing

- 20 mins quality practice 3-4 times per week
- If you don't have an instrument at home, speak to your teacher to arrange a time to use a school instrument.
- Record your performance on your phone and listen back. Self-assess your playing using the SQA criteria: [Current Coursework Templates](#)

Understanding (listening)

- Use your jotter notes to revise concept definitions
- Use the resources on your class TEAMS page
- Follow this link for practice questions/audio examples: [Music Listening Revision](#)
- Make sure you make a list of things you are still struggling with.

Drama Revision Guide

<p>National 5 Drama</p>	<p>Written</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise all National 5 Drama Concepts • Complete Past Paper Questions <p>Practical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Design Folio • Learn Lines • Annotate Scripts • Rehearsl
<p>Higher Drama</p>	<p>Written – Section 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Study Notes for Set Text • Create Mind Maps for Key Quotes • Research Set Text • Complete Practice and Timed Essays <p>Written Section 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Study Notes for Performance • Create Mind Maps for Key Quotes • Research Performance/ Re-watch Performance • Complete Practice and Timed Essays <p>Practical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn Lines • Annotate Scripts • Rehearse
<p>Resources/ Supports</p>	<p>https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47390.html - N5</p> <p>Higher Drama - Course Overview - SQA – Higher</p> <p>TEAMS - N5 & Higher</p> <p>Men Should Weep - Higher English - BBC Bitesize – Higher</p> <p>https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/ (Small Island) – Higher</p> <p>Twilight – Monday and Tuesday – Both N5 & Higher</p>

Art and Design Revision Guide

Art & Design exams consist of both practical coursework portfolios and a written question paper sat in May.

Practical Coursework Portfolios

The largest component of National Qualifications in Art & Design are the two practical coursework portfolios – **Expressive** (Art) and **Design**. Starting in August, students work on both portfolios in tandem, completing these over 8 months and submitting them to the exam board at Easter.

- At **National 5** level, the two portfolios represent **80%** of the final grade.
- At **Higher** level, the two portfolios represent **77%** of the final grade.

Extensive advice, support and step-by-step information is given to candidates, with key completion deadlines spaced throughout the year to help them maintain pace in the run-up to coursework submission. For the 2025/2026 session, this final coursework submission date is **Friday 20th March 2026**

Written Question Paper

National 5 and Higher have a written Question Paper that candidates sit in May.

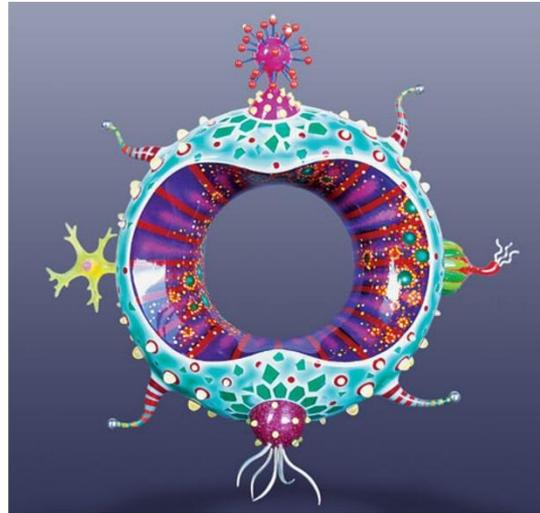
- At **National 5** level, the written question paper represents **20%** of the final grade.
- At **Higher** level, the written question paper represents **23%** of the final grade.

These question papers consist of 2 mandatory questions (one about an artist and one about a designer) as well as a selection of questions relating to ‘unseen’ pieces of art and design – two of these ‘unseen’ questions must be chosen and answered at National 5 level and four at Higher.

Whilst candidates cannot fully anticipate the ‘unseen’ questions, the two mandatory questions based on an artist and designer can be thoroughly prepared for. At Deans, we study the painting **‘Sweet Dreams’ (2012)** by **Sarah Graham**, and **‘Bracelet’ (2004)** by jewellery designer **Peter Chang**.



EXPRESSIVE art studied:
‘Sweet Dreams’ (2012) by **Sarah Graham**



DESIGN work studied:
‘Bracelet’ (2004) by **Peter Chang**

In both the National 5 and Higher, candidates need to be able to write about the visual, practical and conceptual qualities of the chosen art and design works, as well as being able to discuss and give examples of how Sarah Graham and Peter Chang’s work has been influenced by personal life experience and other external factors.

In both cases, students have been provided with comprehensive revision materials and support packs that are tailored to the work of Graham and Chang. These are provided to candidates in both hardcopy and digital versions and are available via the Senior Phase Teams pages and school website. In addition, we strongly recommend both BBC Bitesize and the SQA public websites for further guidance (please see useful links below) These documents break down the key aspects of the work and the creatives who produced them, but perhaps the most important thing for students to bear in mind when preparing model responses for revision is the ‘PEE’ format for their answers.

Always remember to ‘PEE’

PEE stands for **P**oint, **E**xpand and **E**vidence. When responding to prompts given in the question paper, candidates need to clearly make their point, explain this in more detail and also give clear evidence that backs up their point by giving specific examples from the piece studied. We explicitly mention this here as students frequently stumble at this particular hurdle. The ‘PEE’ format is vital as the examiner cannot award marks for a response that is missing one or more of these elements. For example, even if a point is well made and thoroughly explained, no marks can be awarded if the point is not supported by an example or evidence from the piece studied.

Again, please see our own materials and examples as well as those provided by BBC Bitesize and the SQA.

Conclusion

In overview, the single most important element of the Art & Design exams are the two practical coursework portfolios (77%-80%) As the 'Lions Share' of the qualification, these pieces are vital... However, in order to perform well in the exam, the written question paper cannot be overlooked or tackled last minute as an afterthought. Students are advised to find their own preferred revision strategies and use these consistently to familiarise themselves with the work and creatives mentioned here.

Useful Links

For National 5:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z6b8y9q/revision/1>
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47388.html>

For Higher:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zh7xkmn/revision/1>
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47892.html>

Accounting Revision Guide

Step 1 - Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for each area of the course. You should use information gained from:

- Assessment results
- Learning conversations
- Use Achieve to self assess your knowledge
- Read through notes and list areas you need to improve your knowledge

Step 2 - Revise

This involves using your notes to convert knowledge to memory. Different strategies include:

- Attend Twilight
- Summarise notes
- Flash Cards
- Mind Maps
- Revision Posters
- Step by step guides
- Watch videos on teams

Step 3 - Challenge

Put your knowledge into practice once you feel confident with the content of the course. Tasks include:

- Complete Past Paper Questions under exam conditions and use the marking scheme to check your work – available from:
 - Hyperlinks in the Learn section on Achieve
 - Excel Document in Teams with hyperlinks to questions
- Complete Quizzes on Achieve
- Test yourself using flash cards

[Achieve](#)

[SQA - NQ - Past papers and marking instructions](#)

[Higher Accounting - Course overview and resources - SQA](#)

[Higher - Accounting 📅 - YouTube](#)

[Teams and OneNote](#)

Administration Revision Guide

Step 1 - Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for each area of the course. You should use information gained from:

- Assessment results
- Learning conversations
- Use Achieve to self assess your knowledge
- Read through notes and list areas you need to improve your knowledge

Step 2 - Revise

This involves using your notes to convert knowledge to memory. Different strategies include:

- Attend Twilight
- Summarise notes
- Flash Cards
- Mind Maps
- Revision Posters
- Step by step guides
- Watch videos on teams

Step 3 - Challenge

Put your knowledge into practice once you feel confident with the content of the course. Tasks include:

- Complete Past Paper Questions under exam conditions and use the marking scheme to check your work – available from:
 - Hyperlinks in the Learn section on Achieve
 - Excel Document in Teams with hyperlinks to questions
- Complete Quizzes on Achieve
- Test yourself using flash cards

[Achieve](#)

[Past Papers & Marking Schemes](#)

[The Beginner's Guide to Excel - Excel Basics Tutorial](#)

[5 Core Principles of Customer Care - YouTube](#)

[Mrs Hamilton - YouTube](#)

[Simple Study](#)

Videos on Teams

Business Revision Guide

Step 1 - Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for each area of the course. You should use information gained from:

- Assessment results
- Learning conversations
- Use Achieve to self assess your knowledge
- Read through notes and list areas you need to improve your knowledge

Step 2 - Revise

This involves using your notes to convert knowledge to memory. Different strategies include:

- Attend Twilight
- Summarise notes
- Flash Cards
- Mind Maps
- Revision Posters
- Step by step guides
- Watch videos on teams

Step 3 - Challenge

Put your knowledge into practice once you feel confident with the content of the course. Tasks include:

- Complete Past Paper Questions under exam conditions and use the marking scheme to check your work – available from:
 - Hyperlinks in the Learn section on Achieve
 - Excel Document in Teams with hyperlinks to questions
- Complete Quizzes on Achieve
- Test yourself using flash cards

[Achieve](#)

[BBC Bitesize](#)

[BBC News for Real Life Examples](#)

[TwoTeachers.com](#)

[TwoTeachers YouTube Channel](#)

[SQA Past Papers & Marking Instructions](#)

[Understanding Standards](#)

Computing Revision Guide

Step 1 - Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for each area of the course. You should use information gained from:

- Assessment results
- Learning conversations
- Use Achieve to self assess your knowledge
- Read through notes and list areas you need to improve your knowledge

Step 2 - Revise

This involves using your notes to convert knowledge to memory. Different strategies include:

- Attend Twilight
- Summarise notes
- Flash Cards
- Mind Maps
- Revision Posters
- Step by step guides
- Watch videos on teams

Step 3 - Challenge

Put your knowledge into practice once you feel confident with the content of the course. Tasks include:

- Complete Past Paper Questions under exam conditions and use the marking scheme to check your work – available from:
 - Hyperlinks in the Learn section on Achieve
 - Excel Document in Teams with hyperlinks to questions
- Complete Quizzes on Achieve
- Test yourself using flash cards

[Randomly Generated Past Paper Q's \(N5 & H Available\)](#)

[SQA National 5 Past Papers](#)

[ADA Computing Science \(National 5 & Higher Available\)](#)

[SQA Resources to Support National 5 Computing Science](#)

[SQA Resources to Support H Computing Science](#)

[BBC Bitesize National 5](#)

[BBC Bitesize Higher](#)

[Computing Science Scotland YouTube Channel](#)

[Databases SQL N5](#)

[SDD HIGHER THEORY PAST PAPER KEY Flashcards | Quizlet](#)

Design, Manufacture and Graphics Revision Guide

Step 1 - Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for each area of the course. You should use information gained from:

- Assessment results
- Learning conversations
- Use Achieve to self assess your knowledge
- Read through notes and list areas you need to improve your knowledge

Step 2 - Revise

This involves using your notes to convert knowledge to memory. Different strategies include:

- Attend Twilight
- Summarise notes
- Flash Cards
- Mind Maps
- Revision Posters
- Step by step guides
- Watch videos on teams

Step 3 - Challenge

Put your knowledge into practice once you feel confident with the content of the course. Tasks include:

- Complete Past Paper Questions under exam conditions and use the marking scheme to check your work – available from:
 - Hyperlinks in the Learn section on Achieve
 - Excel Document in Teams with hyperlinks to questions
- Complete Quizzes on Achieve
- Test yourself using flash cards

[Higher Design and Manufacture Past Papers Mr Sheridan - Higher Design and manufacture Design and Manufacture - ACHIEVE](#)
[Higher Design and manufacture - BBC Bitesize](#)
[DIY GoPro LEGO Stabiliser Build Tutorial](#)
[Producttank](#)
Class Team – Files and Class Channel

Graphic Communication Revision Guide

Step 1 - Review

This step involves thinking about what you should know for each area of the course. You should use information gained from:

- Assessment results
- Learning conversations
- Use Achieve to self assess your knowledge
- Read through notes and list areas you need to improve your knowledge

Step 2 - Revise

This involves using your notes to convert knowledge to memory. Different strategies include:

- Attend Twilight
- Summarise notes
- Flash Cards
- Mind Maps
- Revision Posters
- Step by step guides
- Watch videos on teams

Step 3 - Challenge

Put your knowledge into practice once you feel confident with the content of the course. Tasks include:

- Complete Past Paper Questions under exam conditions and use the marking scheme to check your work – available from:
 - Hyperlinks in the Learn section on Achieve
 - Excel Document in Teams with hyperlinks to questions
- Complete Quizzes on Achieve
- Test yourself using flash cards

[Graphic Communication | Design, Engineering and Technology](#)

[The Graphics Class](#)

[Graphic Communication](#)

[Graphic Communication - ACHIEVE](#)

[Graphic communication - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Past papers and marking instructions](#)

Class Team – Past Papers & Theory PowerPoints

Tips for Parents

Helping your child prepare for exams isn't just about reminding them to study—it's about creating the right environment and offering the right kind of support. Here are some practical ways you can help:

1. Create a Positive Study Environment

- Ensure your child has a quiet, well-lit space free from distractions like TV and unnecessary devices.
- Provide basic supplies: pens, paper, highlighters, and access to revision resources.

2. Help Them Plan

- Encourage your child to make a realistic revision timetable and stick to it.
- Break study sessions into manageable chunks (e.g., 25–30 minutes with short breaks).
- Prioritize subjects or topics they find most challenging.

3. Be Involved (But Not Overbearing)

- Ask what topics they're revising and show interest.
- Offer to quiz them on key facts or flashcards.
- Avoid adding pressure—focus on encouragement rather than criticism.

4. Promote Healthy Habits

- Make sure they get enough sleep, eat balanced meals, and stay hydrated.
- Encourage short breaks and physical activity to refresh their mind.

5. Manage Stress

- Listen if they feel anxious and reassure them that effort matters as much as results.
- Teach simple relaxation techniques like deep breathing or short walks.

6. Limit Distractions

- Agree on boundaries for social media and gaming during revision periods.
- Consider using apps or settings that block distractions during study time.

7. Celebrate Progress

- Recognize their hard work, not just the outcome.
- Small rewards for sticking to their plan can boost motivation.

Resources and Templates

Below are some practical templates to support your revision. Use these as they are, or adapt to make it more personal to you.

- [Study Timetable \(hour blocks\)](#)
- [Study Timetable \(30 minute blocks\)](#)
- [Mind Map Template 1](#)
- [Mind Map Template 2](#)
- [Mind Map Template 3](#)
- [Revision Clock Template](#)

Revision Timetable (30 min blocks)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
8am							
8.30am							
9am							
9.30am							
10am							
10.30am							
11am							
11.30am							
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