

10 TOP TIPS FOR GCSE SUCCESS

1. KNOW YOUR COURSE

Make a topic checklist by going through your GCSE specification or by asking your teacher

2. MAKE A REVISION TIMETABLE

Draw up a plan covering all topics and set a realistic number of hours for revision each week. Note the dates of your exams and leave a week or two before each exam for final revision

3. REVISE EFFECTIVELY

Short bursts of about 30 minutes followed by a break work best. Make your revision active – summarise your notes, highlight key points, draw diagrams, use post-it notes, record yourself on cassette, ask someone to test you

4. BOOST YOUR MEMORY

Find the way of learning that suits you best. Try breaking down the topics into chunks and using key words, images, mnemonics, rhymes and colour-coding to trigger your memory

5. PRACTISE QUESTIONS

Get used to the style of questions used in the exams. Highlight the key words in the question, plan your response and ensure that your answer is relevant

6. THINK POSITIVE

Look back at your original plan from time to time, and realise the progress you have made. If there are areas that you find particularly difficult, ask your teacher for help

7. HANDLING STRESS

Start preparing for the exams early. Take breaks from revising, exercise regularly, eat and sleep well.

8. THE WEEK BEFORE

Allow time for final revision where you can go over essential or difficult points

9. THE NIGHT BEFORE

Look over a few points but don't try to cram lots of new information. Get all your equipment ready – pens, pencils, calculator, ruler etc. Have an early night!

10. IN THE EXAM

Follow all instructions in the exam paper. Read the questions carefully and ensure you answer the question asked. Check the number of marks available for each question and answer accordingly. Keep an eye on the time – make sure you answer the correct number of questions and leave time to read through your answers