



REVISION

Mrs K Room – AVP Raising Standards Lead

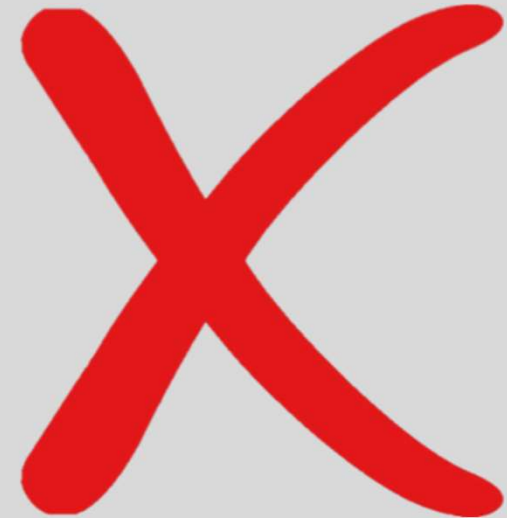
Effective revision...improves students' ability to:

- retrieve information;
- understand content; and
- connect ideas to use them successfully in an exam situation

TECHNIQUES

Traditional methods of revision typically rely on passive reading of notes and unchecked practice

- Copying notes
- Highlighting key words
- Adding colours to notes
- Re-reading a textbook or revision guide
- Mnemonics
- Summarising notes



EFFECTIVE REVISION IS ACTIVE REVISION

There is a lot of research on the most effective study strategies.

- **Retrieval Practice:** retrieving knowledge from memory, without any notes/cues.
- **Spacing:** leaving a gap between learning information and revisiting it.
- **Elaboration:** using 'how' and 'why' questions to explain our learning or teach others.
- **Dual-coding:** using images to help remember our learning.

The most effective strategies force your brain to work harder to retrieve and use information

ACTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES

- Brain dumps for retrieval
- Cornell notes
- Self-testing using effective flashcards
- Spacing and interleaving
- Mixed retrieval practice
- Elaboration

Guidance on active revision strategies can be found in
[The St John's Way to Revise](#) on our online Revision Hub

Using Past Papers:

- Using past papers helps students hone exam strategy and timings.
- But, students need an effective way of checking what they're doing right/wrong and understanding how to improve.
- Completing too many whole papers also leads to fatigue.



MIXED RETRIEVAL PRACTICE



1. Ask your child to use flashcards, revision guides or the internet to create retrieval questions



3. Be the quizmaster – test your child's knowledge using the questions



2. 'Shuffle' questions so that they randomly cover a range of topics. Try to vary the difficulty from simple fact recall to how/why questions



4. Focus further revision on questions they struggle to answer

ELABORATION



- Be the student - ask your child to 'teach' you about something they're revising



- Ask 'how' and 'why' questions and prompt them to explain terminology or concepts they use



- Encourage them to go deeper. Ask questions like "so what?"; "can you talk me through that?"; "why does that matter?" ; "what happens next?"



- If they struggle to explain something, that's where they need to focus their revision.

What are you revising today?

Photosynthesis?
What's that?

So how does it work exactly?

Wait, what's xylem?
Why is that important?

Ok, so what happens next?

Creating a revision plan

- Use the goals from the 'Year 11 Readiness Review'
- Target need, not ease
- Be flexible
- Be specific
- Set goals and keep track

Be realistic: Start with a light touch and plan in plenty of downtime. Ramp up over time.

Prioritise: Which subjects are most important, and which subjects need most improvement?

Break it down: List all the topics for each subject and prioritise these too.

Split time: Plan 30 minute 'chunks' with breaks in between - longer sessions decrease focus.

Populate the plan: start with priority subjects and topics, then fill in the gaps.

Keep it fresh: Switch between subjects and topics regularly. Work on a rolling 2- or 3-week cycle.

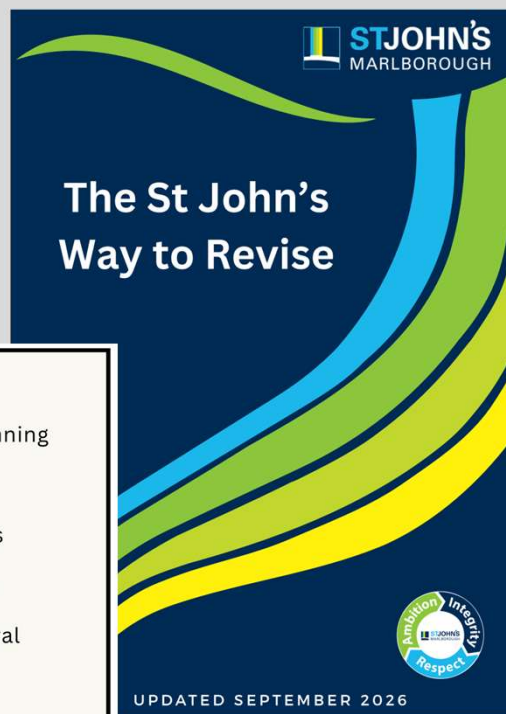
Be productive: Read through the guidance on revision strategies and plan which to use – mix them up to keep your brain alert.

Repeat: Keep returning to the same topics every few weeks. Once is not enough!

Review: Celebrate progress and adapt the plan if it's not working.

Revision Hub

The St John's Way to Revise



Contents

1. Revision planning
2. Flashcards
3. Cornell notes
4. Brain dumps
5. Mixed retrieval
6. Elaboration
7. Chunking & spacing
8. Practice papers

Step-by-step guidance on using active revision strategies

The St John's Journey



The St John's Journey
THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

STJOHN'S
MARLBOROUGH

English Literature

Year 11 Mock Exam Information

Exam specification and exam board	AQA English Literature 0802 GCSE English Literature Specification
Past papers	AQA Book Overview

The St John's Journey
THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

Year 11 Mocks

This is a suggested programme of revision for your mock exam – you can adjust it to meet your own needs and the time you have available. Each task should take no more than 20-30 minutes (except re-reading/watching the play!)

Essential)	Task 2 (Extension)
Inspector	Watch the play https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT0FgrQWM
Write a large visual "text map" on A3 paper showing: o Main characters in the centre with 3 key quotations each o 5-7 major themes (e.g. power, gender) branching out with supporting quotations o Key plot points marked in order	Choose a character and write a 'pen portrait' of them. • What are they like? • Do they change through the play? • How does Priestley describe them? • How does what they say define them? • What ideas do they represent? E.g. Birling = Capitalism.
For the poetry, create a theme-based comparison grid: o List the poems you have studied down the left side o Add theme columns across the top (power, conflict, nature, memory, etc.) o Fill in 2-3 short quotations per poem under relevant themes.	Choose two poems and map the connections between them. What are the similarities and differences between them in terms of language, theme, structure, attitude etc. Identify three comparison points and note them down with quotations.
For AIC, create a large visual "text map" on A3 paper showing: o Main characters in the centre with 3 key quotations each o 5-7 major themes (e.g. power, gender) branching out with supporting quotations o Key plot points marked in order	Working with quotations • Choose a quotation from your flashcards and write it out on a piece of paper. Zoom in on one (or more) of the words and explain why the writer has chosen it (what effect does it have?)

Questions and Answers

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- Full exam overview for every subject
- Summary of topics
- Recommended revision strategies
- Exam tips
- Weekly structured revision plans (some subjects only for mock exams)
- Available from today for mock exams
- Available in January for final exams