



BELVOIR
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Key Stage 3

Revision Booklet

**“Preparation is the
key to success.”**

**Alexander Graham
Bell**

**“Failure to prepare is
preparing to fail.”**

Benjamin Franklin

EXAM CHECKLIST

I know the date and time of my exam in this subject.

I know how long my exam is and how long I should spend on each question/section.

I know how many marks the exam paper is worth and how these marks are divided between questions.

I know what the main topic of this exam will be.

I have broken this topic down into sections or chunks so that I can revise it in smaller pieces.

I know what the questions or tasks on the exam paper will look like.

I know how to revise for this exam.

Science

Maths

English

How Do I Revise?

1. Space your practice

People who leave gaps between practice attempts go on to score higher. In fact, the longer the gaps, the higher the scores. The difference is huge: people who leave more than 24 hours between their first five attempts at a test/revision activity and their second five attempts score as highly, on average, as people who have practiced 50% more than them.

Research confirms this theory: if you want to study effectively, you should spread out your revision rather than cramming. This is easier said than done, but if you are organised enough, you can spend less time revising and remember more.

2. Make sure you fail occasionally

People who are most inconsistent when they first start have better scores later on. These people are pushing themselves to learn new things and make links with their existing knowledge which improves their overall memory and understanding.

The moral is clear: invest some time in trying things out, which may mean failing occasionally, if you want to maximise learning in the long run.

3. Practise the thing you'll be tested on

The big mistake many students make is not practising the thing they will be tested on. If your exam involves writing an essay, you need to practise essay-writing. Merely memorising the material is not enough.

Writing exam answers is a skill, just like playing an online game is a skill. You wouldn't try and improve at a game by trying to memorise moves, you'd practise making them. Other research confirms that practising retrieving information is one of the best ways to ensure you remember it.

4. Structure information, don't try to remember it

Trying to remember something has been shown to have almost no effect on whether you do remember it. The implication for revision is clear: just looking at your notes won't help you learn them.

Instead, you need to reorganise or rewrite the information in some way – whether by making notes of your notes, thinking about how what you're reading relates to other material, or practising writing answers.

5. Rest and sleep

A full night's sleep helps you learn new skills or retain information. Staying up all night to revise will increase your stress levels and cramming will not help your memory in the long term (see number 1).

How Do I Revise?

Mind maps

- Start with a large piece of paper.
- Revise a topic or a sub-topic.
- Use a selection of words and diagrams.
- Use colour, shapes, symbols, pictures and cuttings to bring the information to life.
- Use lines and arrows to connect ideas.
- Stick your learning map on your wall/door, anywhere it can be seen easily and often.

Revision Cards

- Reduce the information from one sub-topic to key points/bullet points. This could build up into a little booklet that you can carry wherever you are. You can put the key points on one side and the detail on the other if you want.
- Create a quiz for yourself. For example, write key words on one side of your revision cards and definitions on the other side. Get a friend or family member to test you.

Copy, Cover, Check

- Divide your page into three columns.
- Write key information in the left-hand column.
- Go back to the top of your page. Cover the left-hand column and see how much you can remember to write into the middle column. Uncover and check your answers. Correct any mistakes.
- Do it again! Cover both columns and try to recall more information to write into the final column. Check and correct.

Post-It Notes

- Create your own sorting activity. For example, write parts of a cycle or important dates on separate post-it notes and then try to organise them into the correct order. Do this a few times over a number of days.
- Decorate your bedroom (or even your house!) with key information, facts, definitions etc that you need to know so that you are seeing them all the time.

Online

- Ask your teacher for any key websites that might be useful to help you revise.
- BBC Bitesize is usually a great place to start as it covers lots of different subjects.
- Go on Youtube sites set up by teachers and watch and listen to the information. Search for the topic you want to revise and find a presentation.

Practice Papers

- Ask your teacher for a practice paper that you can try out at home.
- Look through your exercise book for questions similar to the ones on your exam paper. Try to rewrite your answers, improving them and following any teacher feedback.
- Work with a partner to create your own exam-style tasks, then try to answer each other's questions.