



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9 End of Year Exams

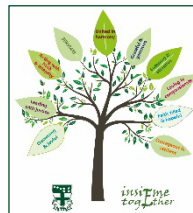
Information and Advice

Mr James F Roberts
Head of Year 9



Key Information

- End of Year Exams will take place Monday 12 June – Friday 16 June 2023.
 - Second week back after May Half-Term break*
 - Exam timetable on next slide.
- Exams will assess learning from across the whole year – not just most recent units / schemes of learning.
- Exams will be between 45 minutes and 1 hour, 15 minutes in length.
- Non-exam time during exam week will be allocated for independent revision in school.
- Revision information, including revision guides, is available*



Exam Timetable

Year 9 Exam Timetable 2023

Day	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
Monday	Maths (non-calc) 1hr		RE 1hr 15mins		Biology 45mins	
Tuesday	English 1hr 15mins		Computing 40mins		DT / Food 50mins	
Wednesday	Chemistry 45mins		French / Revision 1hr		Music 45mins	
Thursday	Geography 1hr		History 1hr		Maths (calc) 1hr	
Friday	Spanish / German 1hr		Physics 45mins	Art 1hr		

Students will be based in the Ursula (humanities) block for their exams.

Students will be lined up by HoY / SLT before each exam, at the start of P1, P3, P5.

Purpose of End of Year Exams



- End of Year exams are **formative** to help teachers identify any gaps in students' learning, and to help students identify targets and next steps.
- Results are **not** exclusively used to set students next year.
- Structured exam week, helping to prepare students for the future.
- Not the be-all-and-end-all; but a step on a longer journey.





How to prepare?

- Reflect – what area(s) does your daughter need to prioritise for revision?
 - **R/A/G** *rating topics and checklists can be a good way of thinking about this.*
- Revise – students should use the resources given them by their teachers to help them, along with the resources and techniques that work for them.
- Routine – students should allocate time to their revision, but also make sure there is time for everything else.
 - *Little and often is more effective than hours and hours of cramming.*



Revision Timetable (Example)

Term Time / Half Term










MY REVISION TIMETABLE								(Make one of these for each of the weeks before the exams)			How many sessions per week ?
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	Subjects			
9 - 10am								 ENGLISH	x		
10-11am								 MATHS	x		
11-12am								 SCIENCE	x		
12-1pm									x		
1-2pm									x		
2-3pm									x		
3-4pm									x		
4-5pm									x		
									MY REVISION T		

When do I work most effectively?
Morning?
Afternoon?
Evening?

Revision Timetable during term time

Are timings realistic?
Is enough time have a rest planned in?
Should the same amount of time allocated to each subject?

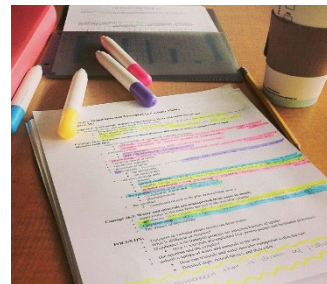
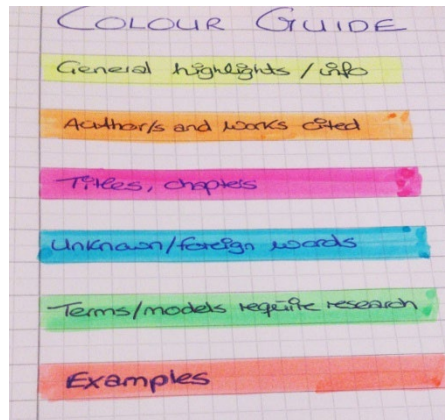
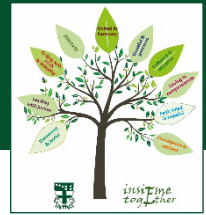
Review the timetable if it doesn't work.

MY REVISION TIMETABLE								(Make one of these for each of the weeks before the exams)								How many sessions per week ?	
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3-4pm													X				
4-5pm													X				
													X				
Blank Non-School Week																	



Revision Timetable during half term

Revision Techniques

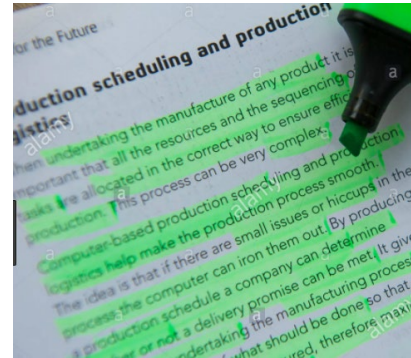


Remember – different people learn in different ways. What works for somebody else might not work as well for your daughter. That's ok!

What doesn't work so well

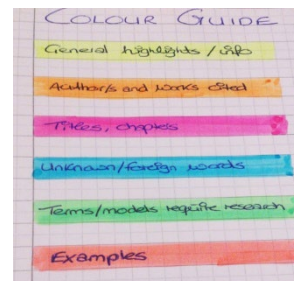


- **Re-reading class books / notes without summarising or note taking.**
 - Revision should be *active*: your daughter should be doing something with the information they revise.
- **Excessive or thoughtless highlighting of notes**
 - Can your daughter explain why they've highlighted what they've highlighted?
 - Have they used different colours for different things?
 - If the whole page is highlighted, what is the point?



Top Tip:

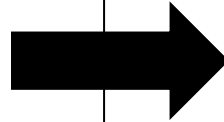
When re-reading your notes, you could summarise key points onto flashcards or mindmaps, or annotate your notes.



Effective Highlighting and Summarising



There are many forms of revision techniques that are thought to be effective, including: highlighting of notes; creation of flashcards and revision mindmaps; low-stakes quizzing; the use of past exam papers; creating songs, poems or raps to aid revision; presenting and talking about key concepts & ideas to others; and many more. Simply reading over lots of information has been shown to be less effective.



Good Revision:

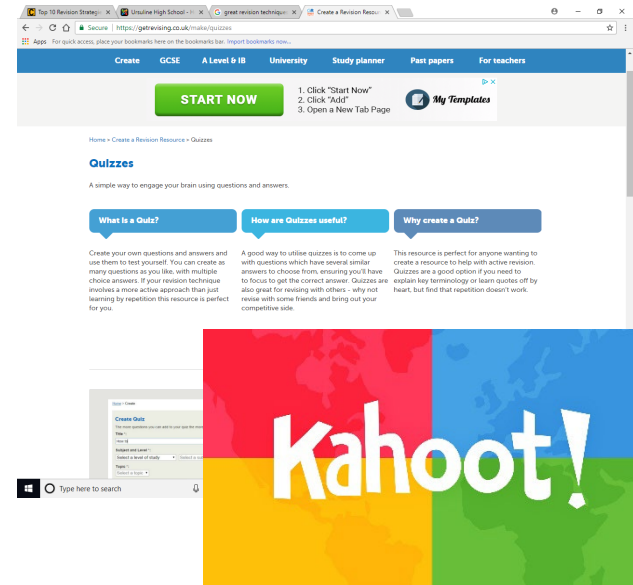
- ✓ Flashcards, mindmaps, posters.
- ✓ Past exam papers.
- ✓ Songs, poems, raps.
- ✓ Quizzes.

Bad Revision:

- Highlighting everything.
- Just reading over notes.
- Cramming the night before the test.

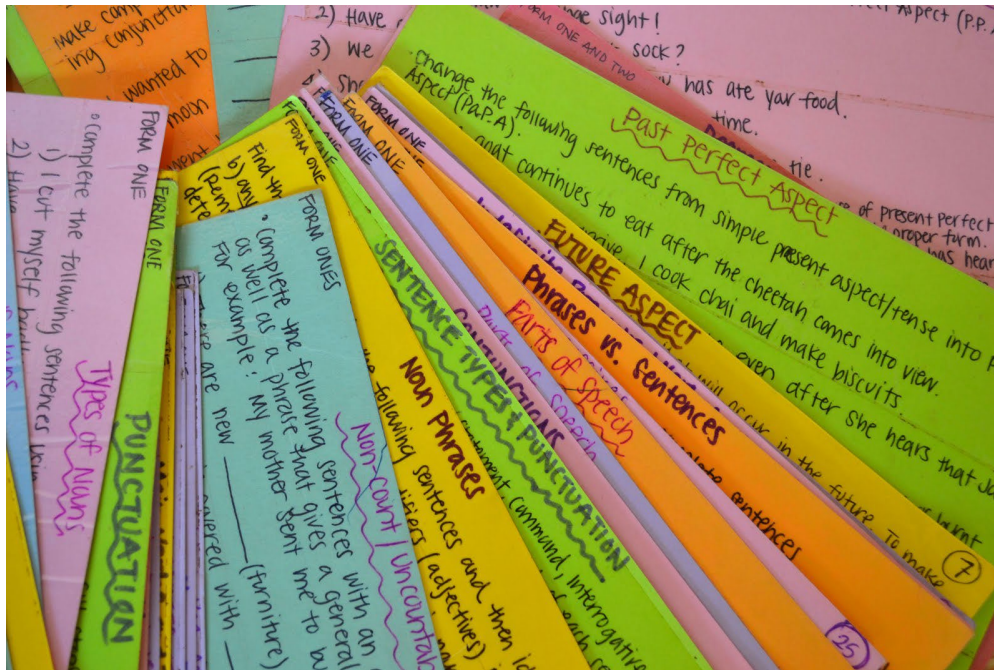
Quizzes and past papers

- Past papers and quizzes are ideal ways to get students self-testing:
 - Past Papers help students to practise technique;
 - Quizzes / knowledge testing is great for confidence-building, quick revision and identifying gaps.
- There are various types of quizzes: short answer, multiple-choice, true/false, etc.
- Students can create their own quiz resources to help themselves & their peers revise.



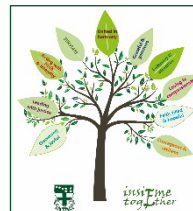
While past papers might not be as relevant to Year 9 as to GCSE and A Level Students, completing practise exam-style questions enables students to develop their exam skills in preparation for their tests!

Use of flashcards



Questions to consider:

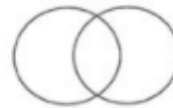
- Are the flashcards clearly labelled, e.g. with clear questions or headings?
- Are they arranged and organised in a logical way, e.g. by topic / unit?
- Is the information on the card(s) supported by images / diagrams?



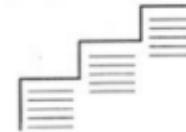
Active Reading

- Summarizing
- Explaining
- Identifying and key words and concepts
- Knowing why you read a text
- Knowing what information you look for
 - “From this information, I am looking for three reasons why...”

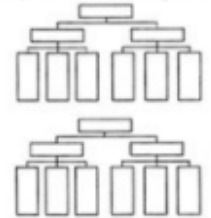
Venn Diagram



Sequential Thinking Model



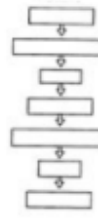
Sequential Thinking Model



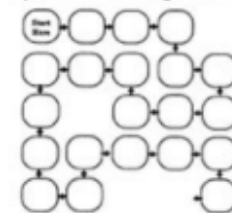
Chain



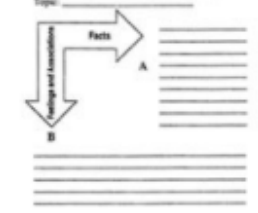
Chain



Sequential Thinking Model



Thinking at Right Angles



Spider Map



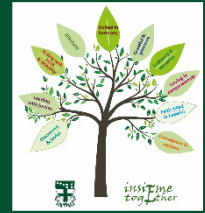
Web



Mind Map



Presenting/Teaching



Ask your daughter to present a topic for a minute or to teach you about what they've been revising.

WHY?

A good way of checking that your child is revising, and revising effectively.

Shows you are invested in their education.

HOW?

Parent: What have you been revising tonight?

Child: Science.

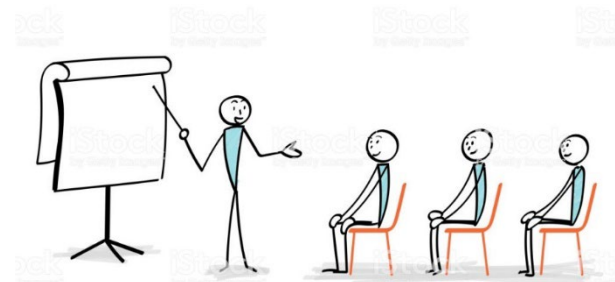
Parent: Specifically?

Child: Plant cells.

Parent: OK, tell me about...

MAKE IT
FUN

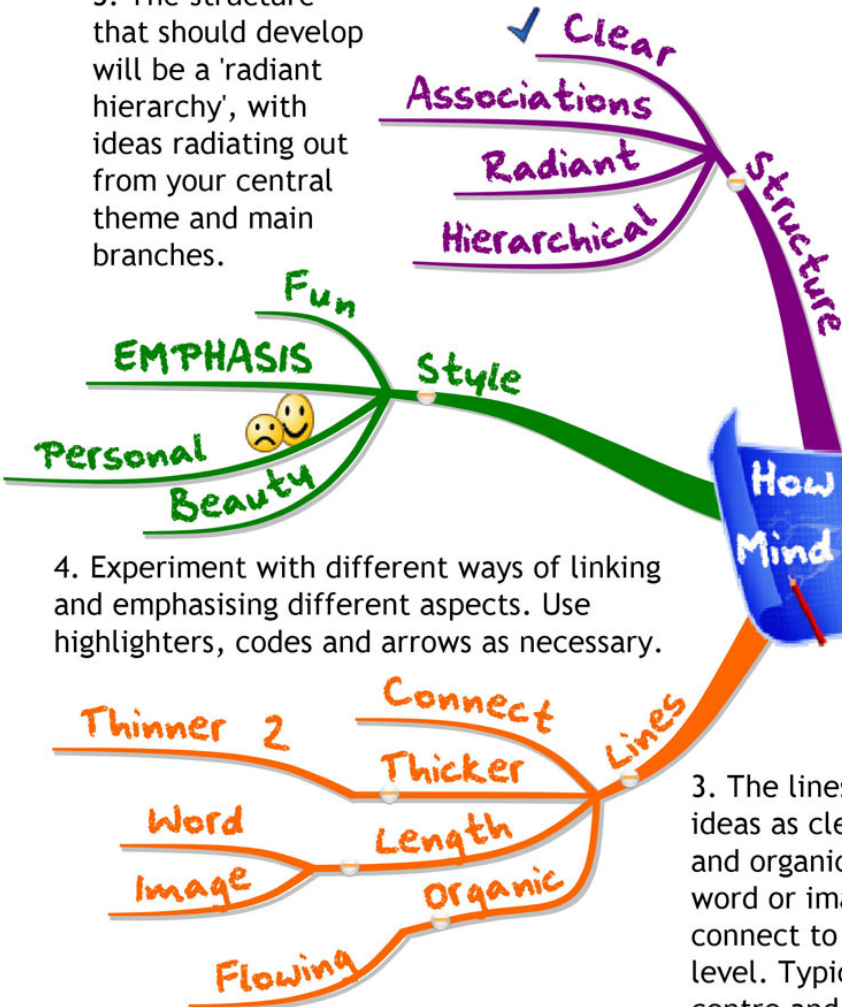
Why not play games like 'Just a Minute'. Give your child 1 minute to talk about a revision topic of their choice without hesitation, deviation, etc. Can you incentivise it?



Creating a Mindmap



5. The structure that should develop will be a 'radiant hierarchy', with ideas radiating out from your central theme and main branches.



1. Start at the centre of a blank, landscape page, ideally with a colourful image to represent your subject.

2. Use words and pictures throughout your map. Wherever possible use single KEY words, printed along a line. Each word or picture sits on its own line.

3. The lines make the associations between ideas as clear as possible. Make them flowing and organic, each line the same length as the word or image. Always ensure that lines connect to the end of the line at the previous level. Typically lines will be thicker at the centre and thinner further out.

4. Experiment with different ways of linking and emphasising different aspects. Use highlighters, codes and arrows as necessary.

How can parents help?

- Wherever possible provide a quiet dedicated space to revise.
- Check that a revision timetable is in place and that it allows for enough rest time.
- Ask your daughter to explain to you what she is doing.
- Ensure that distractions are minimized (mobile phones etc.).
 - Students may **say** that having music, etc. on helps them; this isn't *necessarily* true.
- Ensure that your daughter has enough sleep and refreshments.
- Check her school and revision material.
- **Provide reassurance.**
- Remind your daughter that support is available in school (Form Tutor, Head of Year, PSA etc)



What Resources are Available to your Daughter(s)?

- Her class notes.
- Revision guide in digital format:
 - Year 9 Revision Team.
 - Hard copy available via ParentPay.
 - See email from Mr. Nichols for details.
- Knowledge Maps
 - Provided by departments for each unit.



Q&A

If there are any urgent questions relating to revision, please do email me:

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