

TYPICAL HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING TASKS

KEY STAGE 4

BBC Bitesize GCSE

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jimp3>

Education Quizzes:

<https://www.educationquizzes.com/gcse/>

Revision World:

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/exam-tips-and-advice>

How to study:

<https://www.howtostudy.org/>

Using this simple method is excellent for reviewing main subjects and key ideas.

Summary	Notes	Questions
SUMMARISE NOTES HERE	WRITE NOTES IN THE MIDDLE COLUMN	QUESTIONS AND IDEAS GO HERE

READ, READ & READ AGAIN

Reading and re-reading your notes will help you remember work. **You can**



never read your notes enough!

- Read five times (out loud).
- Read and highlight key points and key terms.
- Write out highlighted points and terms in full sentences.
- Read notes five times.

Keep your notes safe (they will be a useful revision tool)

LISTENING & SPEAKING



- Read out your notes five times.
- Read and highlight key points and terms.

- Speak out your key points and terms (link them together so they flow).
- Close your notes and present them to yourself (or a friend, or your dog).

GET RID OF THE DISTRACTIONS

To learn effectively, you need to be able to focus your full attention on what you are learning.



MIND MAPPING

- Read your notes five times.
- Read and highlight key points and terms.
- Transfer your key points and terms into a mind map.
- Extend your first layer of the map to pull in other linked knowledge and ideas.
- Put the map away and re-do from memory.



KEEP PRACTISING

Even if you have done one of the above tasks before – do them again. The more you practise, the more confident you become.

PRACTICE makes PROGRESS.

QUESTION YOURSELF

- When you are going through your notes, write down questions. *You can use questions from your books or imagine you are a teacher or examiner and make some up.*
- Write out the answers to your questions.
- Re-read your notes.
- Close your book.
- Answer your questions.
- Mark your answers – give yourself some improvements.
- Do your improvements.

Don't forget to ask yourself what you think about something **AND WHY?** Can you argue your case with evidence



GET SOMEONE ELSE TO TEST YOU.

- When you are going through your notes, write down questions. You can use questions from your books or imagine you are your teacher or examiner and make your own up.
- Write out the answers to your questions.
- Re-read your notes.
- Close your book.
- Get someone else to question you.
- Mark your answers – give yourself some improvements.
- Do your improvements.



ENGLISH

Typical tasks for GCSE ENGLISH
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Punctuation/ grammar exercises2. Learning key terms for analysis of poetry, prose and media texts3. Reading non-fiction and media texts4. Essays (or parts of essays) for coursework or for examination practice5. Preparation for speaking and listening assessments
Examples of extension tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guide them towards extra punctuation and grammar practice on www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/grammar• Encourage them to use revision websites for poetry/prose texts.• www.universalteacher.org.uk• www.bcbitesize.co.uk/english• Encourage them to read widely – suggest that they read different genres, different authors. They could read the books that are short listed for the Carnegie Medal.
How can parents help?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test them on key terminology – spelling and understanding.• For longer pieces of writing, for example, coursework or examination essays, ask them to talk the plan through with you. Remind them that 5-10 minutes spent planning can result in a higher grade.• Encourage them to proof-read their work.• Listen to their individual talks and ask them questions that require them to develop their ideas further.

MATHEMATICS

Typical tasks for GCSE MATHEMATICS
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Researching a topic for self study and enrichment2. Consolidate classroom learning through further examples including past papers3. MyMaths activities including GCSE grade booster packs4. Revision for tests through completing questions, chapter reviews etc5. Self assessment: reviewing of performance against benchmarks and grade descriptors.
Examples of extension tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Past papers on (on exam board website)• Optional challenge/extension questions at end of homework activities• UK Maths challenge for gifted and talented mathematics students• Functional Maths: open ended investigations • Useful websites: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks4bitesize/ www.emaths.org.uk www.mathsguru.co.uk http://nrich.maths.org
How can parents help?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read through questions with your child and encourage them to pick out information needed to answer it.• Provide your child with revision guide and help them plan their revision.

- Encourage them to talk through topics and explain what they are currently covering. (Let them teach you!)
- Encourage a positive and “can do” attitude towards mathematics
- Look at your child’s work on a regular basis so that you can see progress of your child.
- Help your child if you can but please annotate any help given by writing a note/comment in their exercise book.
- Ensure students have correct equipment for lessons that include: natural display scientific calculator, pair of compasses, protractor, ruler and books (and know how to use them!)
- Ensure your child catches up on any work missed.
- Functional Skills: Get your child to relate Mathematics to real life eg percentages and best buys in shops. Any DIY projects get your child to estimate and measure. Read paper/watch news for interest rates.

SCIENCE

Typical tasks

1. Consolidation of work covered in class
2. Comprehension exercises
3. Practising written answers – especially describe, evaluate, analyse
4. Research and/or presentation of a given topic
5. Deliberate practice for assessments
6. Completing calculation exercises

Examples of extension tasks

- Past paper questions.
- Read some of the popular Science books as recommended on the Maiden Erlegh Trust Science page: <https://sites.google.com/maidenerleghschools.co.uk/maidenerleghtrust/home>
- Watch science video clips

How can parents help?

- You can help even if science is not your strength:
- Buy a revision guide that is tailored to the exam specification. Students can work through the questions and complete summaries of the material covered. Take to get either the Combined Science or Triple Science options depending on which exams you are taking.
- Ask your child to explain the science around them.
- Watch science, natural history TV programmes
- Watch the Christmas lectures
- Visit places with a theme of Biological science e.g Natural History museum in London, the Eden project in Cornwall, The Living Rainforest near Newbury
- Visit the Science museum in London
- Visit the one of the open days at the Diamond light source particle accelerator near Didcot <http://www.diamond.ac.uk/Home/Public.html>
- Visit the National Space Centre in Leicester: <https://spacecentre.co.uk/>

ART & DESIGN

Typical tasks
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Analysing the work of an artist using the Content, Form, Process and Mood model2. Creating observational drawings in tone and colour3. Using a range of media and materials to develop personal ideas4. Planning, drawing or designing 3 or 4 different outcomes showing connections with artists work5. Taking photographs to support your observation studies
Examples of extension tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using web- sites to conduct further research on artists to support ideas: www.tate.org.uk www.vam.ac.uk www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk www.britishmuseum.org.uk www.nationalgallery.org.uk• Visit a gallery or museum with friends• Work outside sometimes, possibly in the garden to create bigger work which you can photograph• Go out and about with a camera and sketchbook to record things first-hand• Try working with film, using the movie button on the camera• Create animations, download free software to experiment
How can parents help?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take them to a gallery or museum, locally or in London, or if away on holiday• Check the newspapers and the web to see what is on and if it might be appropriate to enrich their learning,• Encourage them to watch Art reviews and documentaries on TV, The Culture Show for example• Discuss ideas and help them to analyse their own work• Make sure that they have equipment to work with at home, pencils, rubbers, colour pencils, paint, glue etc

BUSINESS STUDIES

Typical tasks
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Multiple choice questions2. Learning business vocabulary and key terms3. Practicing business-related maths4. Completing case-studies5. Business Studies online specific tasks6. Research examples to put concepts into context7. Encouragement of reading around subject
Examples of extension tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fill in glossary of terms• Business Studies online specific tasks• Extensive case study practice• Watching Dragon's Den and Apprentice & related spin off shows• Familiarising with particular current affairs

How can parents help

- Test students on subject vocabulary
- Encourage students to complete the unit glossaries
- Provide newspaper cuttings / links to news websites of relevant articles
- Help them to research
- Watch Dragon's Den etc with the child and discuss the outcome with them – perhaps pausing before the decision is made (using sky+/btVision if available)
- Encourage students to visit the following websites:

www.examzone.co.uk

www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk

www.bized.co.uk

www.tutor2u.net/revision_notes_gcse

DRAMA

Typical tasks

1. Drama definitions and learning vocabulary
2. Writing a script (for example, a Duologue)
3. Line learning (own or published scripts)
4. Note making on productions seen throughout the course
5. Drawing up a table on the application of rehearsal strategies
6. Research tasks (for example, finding the stimuli and content for a devised piece)
7. Recording practical work to support Section A 1a-d of written examination paper
8. Practising past questions

Examples of extension tasks

- Practising past questions, and self mark and/or submit for marking
- Researching contextual information about their scripted piece e.g. past production images,
 - consider set & costume ideas
- Compiling a character profile for the character being played
- Reading other scripts by the playwright of a text being studied or performed
- Reading 'around the subject' (for example, reading about theatre practitioners such as Stanislavski)

How can parents help

- Guide them towards useful resources (e.g. past questions, marking schemes, examiners' reports) on the exam board website.
- Encourage them to see live theatre (special discounts and occasional free offers are worth looking out for)
- Test them on the meanings and spellings of specialist terms
- Remind them to refer to their Drama file, where lots of bespoke handouts have been prepared for them as support
- Test them on their lines
- Ask them about forthcoming deadlines and check their progress against this

MUSIC

Typical tasks
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rehearse/ practice for a forthcoming Solo or Ensemble performance2. Further development of/ completion of compositional technique exercise3. Research a topic area or genre in support of current area of study4. Research a topic area or genre in preparation for new area of study5. Planning and delivering a presentation (e.g. presentation for the class on your instrument)6. Research a particular composer or artist and create a fact file on this person7. Responding to set questions on areas of study8. Completion of theory-based worksheets9. Complete a listening task for your Listening Diary (in support of current or new area of study, or as revision)10. Learn key vocabulary and Italian musical terms
Examples of extension tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage use of internet to research around the areas of study and the specific set works• Encourage use of YouTube to assist wide variety of listening experiences
How can parents help?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to and encourage them in their practising• Ask them for a performance to be presented in front of family and friends at home• Encourage them to take part in concerts and performance opportunities at school and outside of school• Read through research to check for obvious cut & pasting!• If they are preparing a presentation, ask them to present this to you!• Test them on their musical vocabulary- for example, once they have learnt five words to describe 'tempo'• Encourage them to use this musical vocabulary when describing or analysing music in their Listening Diary• Suggest possible listening from your own CD collection which might support the areas of study.

HISTORY

Typical tasks
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learning key terminology and definitions2. Completing extended project-based work3. Writing essays4. Completing past examination questions5. Preparation for assessments6. Reading and research
Examples of extension tasks

- Guide them towards additional reading or research
<http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk>
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history>
- Encourage them to read about the books about history or historic novels.
- Get them interested in wider History by watching television series, films based on history. Maybe even watch some of the many documentaries on TV
- Go to museums and historical sites of interest.
- Research your family history.

How can parents help?

- Even if you know very little about History you can help by:
- Helping them get their folders organised.
- For longer pieces of writing and project work help with research, planning and read through the work before it is handed in.
- Test them on key terminology and definitions.
- Or simply talk to them about what they are learning.

GEOGRAPHY

Typical tasks

1. Complete glossaries.
2. Practice examination questions.
3. Photo, map and graphical analysis.
4. Mind mapping of new case studies.
5. Research for extended questions and coursework.

Examples of extension tasks

- <http://www.gatm.org.uk/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/>
<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/topics/?topicID=63>
http://www.ined.fr/en/homepage_of_ined_website/

Explore these websites to extend your knowledge and learning of Geography

How can parents help?

- Go through folder and help with organisation
- Help with case study revision (map mapping / recall)
- Check understanding of key terms in their glossaries.
- Familiarise yourself with the syllabus and print off past questions and encourage them to try to assess their own work.
- Discuss the geography around them and the weather – can they explain it clearly and in depth?

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Y10)

Typical tasks

1. Reviewing and revising the content of lessons.
2. Researching different, specific aspects of the ethical issue being studied.
3. Sorting and ordering information.
4. Personal reflection on course content.

5. Writing, crafting and redrafting essay responses to examination style questions. (These may be subject to time restrictions.)
6. Preparation and completion of milestone assessments.

Examples of extension tasks

- Maintaining an awareness of current affairs by having frequent contact with newspapers and news broadcasts.
- Watch topical, ethical programming on television e.g. 'The Big Questions'.
- Attempt past examination questions.
- Use websites to enhance understanding:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion
www.bbc.co.uk/ethics
www.reonline.org.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize

How can parents help

- Students are issued with detailed booklets for all units of study. Please familiarise yourself with these and monitor the completion of activities.
- Engage in discussion with the student about different ethical issues.
- Encourage students to share with you what they have learnt in the lesson and question their understanding.
- Provide a quiet, focused environment for completion of essays.
- Help monitor time restrictions when necessary.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Typical tasks

1. Memorising vocabulary off by heart (15-20 words at a time)
2. Memorising grammar patterns and structures
3. Completing grammar exercises
4. Completing translations
3. Reading/listening comprehensions
4. Longer written pieces
5. Preparation for speaking assessments
6. Reviewing and improving work, especially written work.

Examples of extension tasks

- Guide them towards extra vocabulary and grammar practice eg:
<https://languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/index.html>
<http://babelnet.sbg.ac.at/canalreve/jeux/tempsludiques/accueil.html>
- Encourage them to read about their favourite celebrity, music, sport in French by googling them on www.google.fr or www.google.de
- Get them interested in wider French/Francophone and German culture eg: reading translations of novels, finding out about key periods in, finding out about places where French and German are spoken ...
- Go to a French or German speaking country and make them do all the transactions!

How can parents help?

- Even if you don't speak a word of French or German you can help:
- Test them on the meanings of French/German words when they have to learn vocab or grammar

- For longer pieces of writing, ask them to talk you through the plan of their work in English before they start – to make them think about the structure of what they write.
- Get them to translate everyday phrases etc.
- Get them to label your kitchen, living room etc
- If they are doing reading or listening, get them to summarise what the text/extract is about in English – how fluently can they talk about it? Ask them what certain words mean – how spontaneously can they answer you?

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Typical tasks for

1. Researching by undertaking specific Primary and Secondary research tasks
2. Exploring and understanding specific real life design issues
3. Further research into materials, their properties and uses
4. Evaluating work by seeking the views of other people, thereby being able to draw their own conclusions, evaluations and recommendations of design solutions
5. Experimental and development of their own ideas through modelling solutions.

Examples of extension tasks

- Using web sites to explore the work of others
- Watching television programmes such as the Discovery Channel to gain an insight into design, engineering and manufacturing processes
- Visits to Design Museums and exhibitions
- Taking photographs of 'good' design and dis-assembly tasks
- Computer aided design work at home
- Preparation work for controlled assignments

www.design-technology.info/

www.mr-dt.com/

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks4bitesize/

How can parents help

- Discussing design ideas with their child
- Involving them with any practical activity that might be done at home.
- Encourage them to look at products with an enquiring mind
- Discussing with them how products within the home may be manufactured

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Typical tasks

1. Internet based research to find out the name, cost and main ingredients of a range of food products e.g. cake bars, ready meals or to find suitable recipes.
2. Preparing ingredients for a practical food session.
3. Drawing a range of food products which will meet a certain need.
4. Longer written exercises.

Examples of extension tasks

- Make use of:

www.nutrition.org.uk

www.sainsburys.co.uk

www.tescos.com

www.asda.com

- Read food magazines and newspaper articles.
- Watch cookery programmes and short documentaries e.g. Master Chef

How can parents help

- Encourage students to visit food outlets and supermarkets, to raise awareness of products, costs and packaging.
- Encourage students to cook healthy dishes on a regular basis and practice assessed work.
- Ask students when they are cooking and then provide them with the ingredients.
- Discuss the outcome of practical work completed at school, including any written feedback required.