

GCSE Tips & Tricks

By Pablo Gulias

It's that time of the year when students gather outside to share the agony and suffering amongst them before they enter the torture room. You guessed it, it's exam time! We all know the pain in the backside that exams entail but they are a necessary "evil" and once you go through them you will find that it was not that much of a deal after all.

If you are a class 9 or 10 student, you might be wondering about GCSEs and how you should revise for them.

Check out these websites!

- BBC Bitesize (www.bbc.co.uk/education) provides revision guides for a lot of subjects and includes little tests to check your knowledge.
- S-Cool (www.s-cool.co.uk) similar to Bitesize, provides revision guides with diagrams and useful videos.
- Maths (www.examsolutions.net), (www.mathsisfun.com) and (www.studymaths.co.uk) all offer good content and maths exercises.
- Quizlet (www.quizlet.com) lets you create your own set of flash cards to make revision more pleasant.
- Conqr (www.goconqr.com) is an online planner that allows you to create study timetables and mind maps.



Tips and tricks you must know

1. Start Early – Most students freak out when they find themselves having to study everything a few weeks before the exam. If you organise yourself properly and study a bit each day from the beginning, life will be a lot easier. A good example for this would be to condense the days' lesson into a single A4 paper; this helps you reinforce what you have already covered and can be very useful when it comes to revision.

2. Do your homework on the day it is set – I know this can sound as a very hard thing to do, but when possible, always try to do it. This gets it out of the way and avoids you forgetting about it. A good habit to get into is: do the homework first thing when you get home from school, as your mind is still in school "mode" (hopefully) and you will find it easier to concentrate.
3. Have a revision plan – This can sound very obvious but it actually works to have a time table with all the subjects you need to revise and how you are going to revise for them. It saves time so you don't need to be thinking about how you are going to do it and can go straight to the important stuff. It is also important that you identify your weaker subjects to give them extra priority in your revision plan.



4. Past Papers are your best friend! – Undoubtedly, this is the best way, in my opinion, to revise for an exam. It familiarizes you with the language used in the questions and also with the type of questions they might ask you (it doesn't vary too much from one year to another).
5. Use your teachers! – Although they can sometimes be annoying, keep in mind that they have already gone through the exams so they have experience and wisdom which they can give you. Do not hesitate in asking your teachers any doubts you might have; they are there to help you and want you to do well.
6. Focus on what you are doing – This goes for everything you do and it means that when you are doing something, whether it is studying or playing football, you should forget about everything else. A good example would be: when you are revising avoid checking your phone every minute as it will help you concentrate and finish the work earlier. If you are constantly waiting for the "beep" to go and check if your friends have posted something new, it will take you ages to finish your work correctly.