SMITHILLS SCHOOL
SUCCESS FOR ALL

YEAR 11 REVISION AND INFORMATION BOOKLET

PPE 1 w/b 23rd and 30th November
PPE 2 w/b 22nd February and 1st March 2027

PREPARE | PRACTISE | PROGRESS | SUCCEED



SMITHILLS SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

This revision guide is designed for pupils and parents/carers to provide useful information and guidance for revision and preparation towards the PPEs and final exams. It includes a range of practical ways and techniques for effective revision.

How can this booklet help?

- Provides you with ideas on the most effective ways to revise
- Provides you with guidance on how to plan and make the most of your time
- Helps boost your confidence

What do we already offer that you need to make use of?

✓ access to a wide range of support designed to help you succeed in Year 11
✓ quality lessons with clear instruction, guidance, and feedback
✓ homework tasks
✓ GCSE pods to watch
✓ Pupil Progress app to help direct you to your individual gaps in knowledge
✓ Boost Lessons and targeted Session 0 interventions
✓ explicitly taught revision strategies so you know how to revise effectively
✓ P2S (Pathways to Success) everyday after school

gcsepod
education on demand

pupil progress

PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

EVERY DAY • 3:15–3:45 PM

DAY	SUBJECT
MONDAY	Maths
TUESDAY	English
WEDNESDAY	Science
THURSDAY	Humanities
FRIDAY	Options



PPE TIMETABLE

Week A					
Mon 23 Nov	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	History - Paper 1 - Medicine (1hr 20m) Geography - Paper 1 (1hr 30mins)			Maths - Paper 1 (1hr 30mins)	
Tue 24 Nov	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	English Lang. - Paper 1 - (1 hr 45 mins)			Science Biology - Paper 1 (1hr 15mins) Separate Science: Biology - Paper 1 (1hr 45mins)	
Wed 25 Nov	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Computer Science – Paper 1 (1hr 30m) R.E. - Paper 1 (1 hr 45m)			Science Chemistry - Paper 1 (1hr 15mins) Separate Science - Chemistry - Paper 1 (1hr 45mins)	
Thu 26 Nov	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	English Lit. - Paper 1 (1 hr 45 mins)			M.F.L. - Paper 1 (Reading) (Foundation - 50 mins: Higher – 1 hr)	
Fri 27 Nov	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Maths - Paper 2 (1hr 30mins)			Computer Science – Paper 2 (1hr 30m)	
Week B					
Mon 30 Nov	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	English Lang. - Paper 2 (2 hours)			Maths - Paper 3 (1hr 30mins)	
Tues 1 Dec	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Enterprise (2 hrs)			History - Paper 2 - Germany (1hr 30mins) Geography - Paper 2 (1hr 30mins)	
Wed 2 Dec	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	English Lit - Paper 2 (2hrs 15 mins)			Science Physics - Paper 1 (1hr 15mins) Separate Science: Physics - Paper 1 (1hr 45mins)	
Thu 3 Dec	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Cambridge National (1hr 15m)			M.F.L. - Paper 3 (Writing) (Foundation - 1 hr. Higher - 1hr 20 mins)	
Fri 4 Dec	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Hair & Beauty (2 hrs)			Urdu - Listening (1hr) Spanish – Listening (1hr)	
Week A					
Mon 7 Dec	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Graphic Comm. - All day Photography - All Day				
Tue 8 Dec	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Graphic Comm - All day Photography - All Day				
Wed 9 Dec	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Hospitality & Catering Practical – All Day Art - All Day				
Thu 10 Dec	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
	Hospitality & Catering Practical – All Day Art - All Day				

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Pathways to Success is our subject-specific programme of revision that takes place from 3:15pm until 3:45pm, each day.

Students will attend P2S for every subject, every week. The revision in these sessions is not a continuation of the pupil's lesson but a programme of revision that is tailored to help students effectively prepare for their GCSE examination.

Attending all five sessions, each week, until GCSEs begin will mean that…
...students will have completed an extra 67.5 hours of study this year.
...students will have completed an additional 13.5 hours of revision, in maths, science, English and humanities
...students will have completed an extra 6.75 hours of revision per Option subject

PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

EVERY DAY • 3:15–3:45 PM

DAY	SUBJECT
MONDAY	Maths
TUESDAY	English
WEDNESDAY	Science
THURSDAY	Humanities
FRIDAY	Options

Wellbeing During Revision and Exams

🧠 Look After Your Mind 🧠

"Your mental health is just as important as your exam results."

✅ **Plan realistic revision sessions** – break your day into chunks
✅ **Get enough sleep** – aim for 8 hours of sleep each night to help your brain learn best
✅ **Stay positive** – it's normal to feel nervous but remind yourself of what you *can* do.
✅ **Talk it out** – if you're stressed or worried, talk to someone you trust.

💪 Keep Your Body Healthy 💪

"A healthy body supports a focused mind."

🥗 **Eat well** – Include fruit, veg, and protein at every meal.
💧 **Stay hydrated** – Keep a refillable bottle with you.
🚶 **Get moving** – Stretch, walk, or do a short workout daily.
☕ **Watch your caffeine** – Too much can make you anxious and disrupt sleep.

💬 Get Support – You're Not Alone 💬

"Asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness."

🏫 In School Support

If you're struggling, anxious, or need advice, you can speak to:

- **Year 11 Office – Mr Harrison or Mrs Shields**
- **Mrs Royal**
- **Mr Gunn**

📞 External Support (Available Anytime)

If you'd rather talk to someone outside school, these services are free and confidential:

Service	Contact	Availability
Childline	📞 0800 1111	24/7
Samaritans	📞 116 123	24/7
YoungMinds Textline	Text YM to 85258	24/7
Kooth	🌐 www.kooth.com	Online counselling & chat

🌈 Remember looking after yourself isn't a distraction from success — it's the foundation of it. 🌈

Take breaks. Breathe. Be kind to yourself. **You've got this.** 💪

WHAT IS REVISION?

Revision = making learning stick!
It's not just re-reading – it's **retraining your brain** to recall what you already know.

Think of it like this:
🧠 → You learn → You forget → You *relearn* → You *remember for longer*.

Your goal:
Move knowledge from **short-term** to **long-term memory** through active practice.

Tip: Watch short topic videos on **GCSEPod** first to remind yourself, then test your memory using the methods on the next pages!

What ***Doesn't*** Work When Revising?
🚫 **Just reading your notes** – Your brain stays lazy.
🚫 **Highlighting everything** – Looks colourful, but doesn't help memory.
🚫 **Cramming the night before** – You forget most of it by morning.
🚫 **Multitasking** – Revision + phone = no focus.

✅ **Better:** Test yourself, space it out, and use active methods (next pages).

REVISION AND YOUR MEMORY

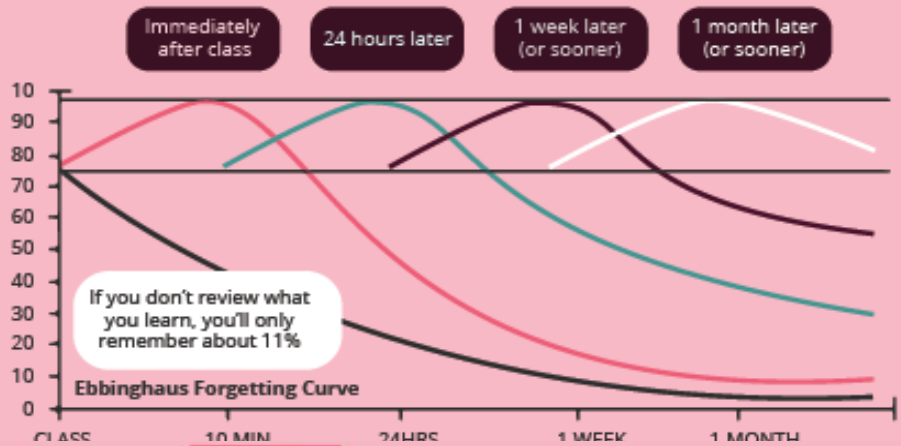
access

Education Curriculum and Assessment

GCSEPod

You'll Forget this in 24 Hours!

Did you know that you forget 80% of what you learn in the first 24 hours? This is why cramming for exams doesn't work!



It is proven that by reviewing what you've learnt at regular intervals, you can reduce how much you forget to just 10%

Review your work 4 times within a month and you'll remember nearly 100%

access Education

GCSEPod

Top Revision Tips

Don't let the stress of revision overwhelm you. Stay in control with these top tips.



Start early
Cramming at the last minute is stressful and has limited success.

Make a plan
Work out how muh time you have and how long you can spend on each subject.

Study space
Find a quiet spot away from distractions and keep everything all in one place.

Mix it up
Use a mixture of revision techniques for best results.

Take breaks
It is possible to work too hard, make sure you take regular breaks.

Get together
Meet with friends to chat through what you have learnt.

Use past papers
These are a great way to get used to exam format and testing what you have learnt.

Eat healthy
Certain foods boost your brainpower and will help you remember more.

For more information visit:
www.GCSEPod.com

REVISION STRATEGIES & IDEAS

Six Strategies for Effective Learning

LEARNINGSCIENTISTS.ORG

All of these strategies have supporting evidence from cognitive psychology. For each strategy, we explain how to do it, some points to consider, and where to find more information.

ELABORATION

Explain and describe ideas with many details



RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Practice bringing information to mind



CONCRETE EXAMPLES

Use specific examples to understand abstract ideas



SPACED PRACTICE

Space out your studying over time



INTERLEAVING



Switch between ideas while you study

DUAL CODING



Combine words and visuals

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Funding provided by the APS Fund for Teaching and Public Understanding of Psychological Science

REVISION STRATEGIES & IDEAS

LEARN TO STUDY USING...

Retrieval Practice

PRACTICE BRINGING INFORMATION TO MIND

LEARNINGSCIENTISTS.ORG

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HOW TO DO IT

Put away your class materials, and write or sketch everything you know. Be as thorough as possible. Then, check your class materials for accuracy and important points you missed.



Take as many practice tests as you can get your hands on. If you don't have ready-made tests, try making your own and trading with a friend who has done the same.



You can also make flashcards. Just make sure you practice recalling the information on them, and go beyond definitions by thinking of links between ideas.



HOLD ON!



Retrieval practice works best when you go back to check your class materials for accuracy afterward.



Retrieval is hard! If you're struggling, identify the things you've missed from your class materials, and work your way up to recalling it on your own with the class materials closed.



Don't only recall words and definitions. Make sure to recall main ideas, how things are related or different from one another, and new examples.

RESEARCH

Read more about retrieval practice as a study strategy

Roediger, H. L., Putnam, A. L., & Smith, M. A. (2011). Ten benefits of testing and their applications to educational practice. In J. Mestre & B. Ross (Eds.), *Psychology of learning and motivation: Cognition in education*, (pp. 1-36). Oxford: Elsevier.

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REVISION STRATEGIES

LEARN TO STUDY USING...

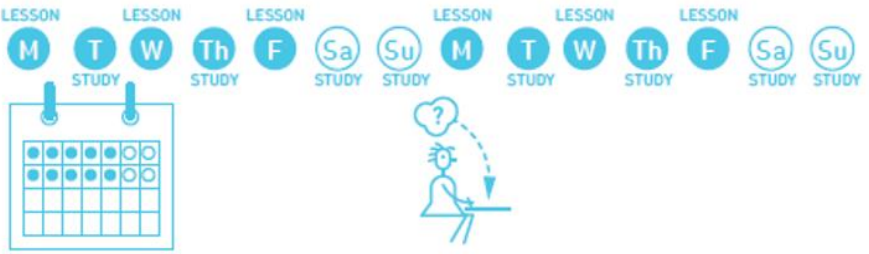
Spaced Practice

SPACE OUT YOUR STUDYING OVER TIME

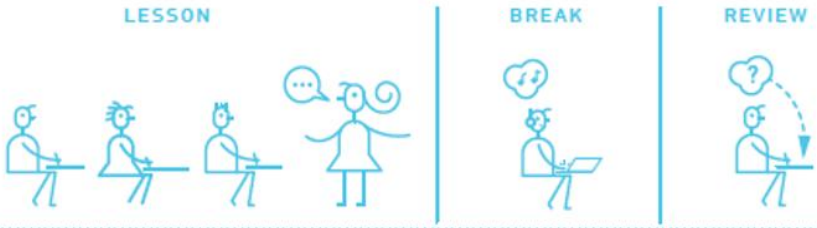
LEARNINGSCIENTISTS.ORG

HOW TO DO IT

Start planning early for exams, and set aside a little bit of time every day. Five hours spread out over two weeks is better than the same five hours all at once.



Review information from each class, but not immediately after class.



After you review information from the most recent class, make sure to go back and study important older information to keep it fresh.



HOLD ON!



When you sit down to study, make sure you are using effective study strategies rather than just re-reading your class notes.



This may seem difficult and you may forget some information from day to day, but this is actually a good thing! This forces you to retrieve information from memory (see Retrieval Practice poster).



Create small spaces (a few days) and do a little bit over time, so that it adds up!

RESEARCH

Read more about spaced pratice as a study strategy

Benjamin, A. S., & Tullis, J. (2010). What makes distributed practice effective? *Cognitive Psychology*, *61*, 228-247.

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REVISION STRATEGIES & IDEAS

LEARN TO STUDY USING...

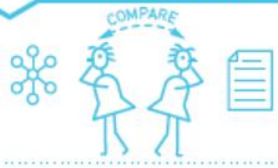
Dual Coding

COMBINE WORDS AND VISUALS

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HOW TO DO IT



Look at your class materials and find visuals. Look over the visuals and compare to the words.



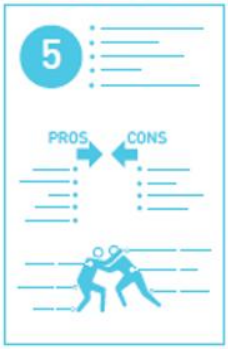
Look at visuals, and explain in your own words what they mean.



Take information that you are trying to learn, and draw visuals to go along with it.

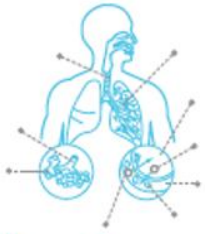
HOLD ON!

Try to come up with different ways to represent the information visually, for example an infographic, a timeline, a cartoon strip, or a diagram of parts that work together.













Work your way up to drawing what you know from memory.



RESEARCH

Read more about dual coding as a study strategy

Mayer, R. E., & Anderson, R. B. (1992). The instructive animation: Helping students build connections between words and pictures in multimedia learning. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *4*, 444-452.

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REVISION STRATEGIES & IDEAS

LEARN TO STUDY USING...

Interleaving

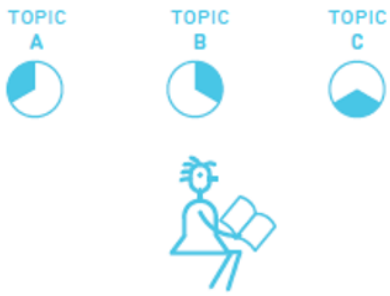
SWITCH BETWEEN IDEAS WHILE YOU STUDY

LEARNINGSCIENTISTS.ORG

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HOW TO DO IT

Switch between ideas during a study session. Don't study one idea for too long.



Go back over the ideas again in different orders to strengthen your understanding.



Make links between different ideas as you switch between them.



HOLD ON!



While it's good to switch between ideas, don't switch too often, or spend too little time on any one idea; you need to make sure you understand them.



Interleaving will feel harder than studying the same thing for a long time. But don't worry - this is actually helpful to your learning!

RESEARCH

Read more about interleaving as a study strategy

Rohrer, D. (2012). Interleaving helps students distinguish among similar concepts. *Educational Psychology Review, 24*, 355-367.

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REVISION STRATEGIES & IDEAS

LEARN TO STUDY USING...

Concrete Examples

USE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES TO UNDERSTAND ABSTRACT IDEAS

LEARNINGSCIENTISTS.ORG

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HOW TO DO IT

Collect examples your teacher has used, and look in your class materials for as many examples as you can find.



Make the link between the idea you are studying and each example, so that you understand how the example applies to the idea.



Share examples with friends, and explain them to each other for added benefits.



HOLD ON!



You may find examples on the internet that are not used appropriately. Make sure your examples are correct - check with your teacher.



Ultimately, creating your own relevant examples will be the most helpful for learning.

RESEARCH

Read more about concrete examples as a study strategy

Rawson, K. A., Thomas, R. C., & Jacoby, L. L. (2014). The power of examples: Illustrative examples enhance conceptual learning of declarative concepts. *Educational Psychology Review, 27*, 483-504.

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REVISION STRATEGIES & IDEAS

LEARN TO STUDY USING...

Elaboration

EXPLAIN AND DESCRIBE IDEAS WITH MANY DETAILS

LEARNINGSCIENTISTS.ORG

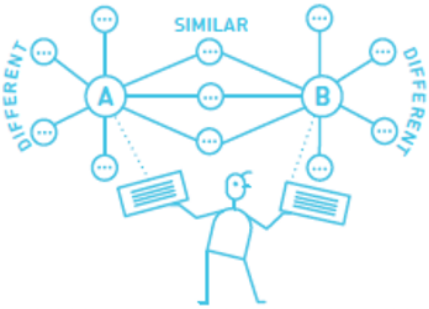
CC BY NC ND

HOW TO DO IT

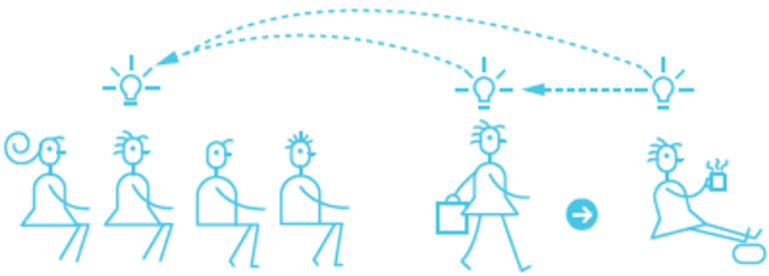
Ask yourself questions while you are studying about how things work and why, and then find the answers in your class materials and discuss them with your classmates.



As you elaborate, make connections between different ideas to explain how they work together. Take two ideas and think of ways they are similar and different.



Describe how the ideas you are studying apply to your own experiences or memories. As you go through your day, make connections to the ideas you are learning in class.



HOLD ON!



Make sure the way you are explaining and describing an idea is accurate. Don't overextend the elaborations, and always check your class materials or ask your teacher.



Work your way up so that you can describe and explain without looking at your class materials.

RESEARCH

Read more about elaboration as a study strategy

McDaniel, M. A., & Donnelly, C. M. (1996). Learning with analogy and elaborative interrogation. *Journal of Educational Psychology, 88*, 508-519.

Wong, B. Y. L. (1985). Self-questioning instructional research: A review. *Review of Educational Research, 55*, 227-268.

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REVISION TIMETABLE

Create a Revision Timetable - Plan smarter, not longer!

1. **Space it out** – Don't do the same subject every day.
2. **Interleave** – Mix subjects and topics (e.g., Maths → English → Science).
3. **Keep it short** – 30–40 mins sessions + short breaks.
4. **Build in rewards** – After 3 sessions, take a longer break.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Subject	Sessions per week
9am									
10am									
11am									
12pm									
1pm									
2pm									
3pm									
4pm									
5pm									
6pm									
7pm									
8pm									

Use GCSE Pod:
Add Pods into your timetable!
Use them at the **start of each topic** to refresh your knowledge or before testing yourself.

GCSE POD – PUPIL GUIDE

What is GCSEPod?

Our content is delivered in an easy-to-digest format to ensure learning sticks.

- One website, accessible anywhere & everywhere
- Over 7,500+ Pods
- Content produced specifically for mobile devices, tablets & PC's
- Designed to squeeze exactly the right knowledge needed for exam success into short 3-5 minute chunks
- Helps with learning, homework & revision

It can be as discreet as you want

Listen to Pods anywhere with nobody knowing what you are doing. Listen privately on the school bus, when you're walking the dog or shopping in town.

Convenient & Effective

Download to any device so you can watch them online or offline. wherever you go It's like you're carrying an entire world of knowledge & revision in your pocket. An expert reads and explains everything clearly and precisely with all the right facts, quotes, keywords and annotated diagrams on screen.

You won't need to use GCSEPod for long before you feel the impact.Consistent use in just 10 minute chunks is proven to support achievement

It will help get you organised

Create personal playlists to listen to in the run-up to an exam, to help with homework or on the go to help consolidate learning. Use the My Playlist feature to create your own revision playlists or access your favourite playlist to go over topic areas you find difficult. Download exam-specific playlists, with everything you need to know for the exam all neatly organised for you so you can easily manage revision.

How do you get it?

When your school has informed you that you have been registered with GCSEPod, you need to confirm some personal details so that you can access the site:

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com and click **Login**
2. Click 'I'm new to GCSEPod' and select 'Student'
3. Enter your name, dob and type in your school name. The school's name should appear in the dropdown menu. Click to confirm
4. Create a username and password

If you're having trouble finding your school, double check that you've entered the correct date of birth and full name as it appears on the school's register. Some schools are known by a shorter version of their name so make sure you're typing the full, official school name.

Key Features

Playlists

Create a new playlist, give it a name, add some Pods and save. Just like you would with Spotify! Watch the playlist online to brush up on your knowledge or download it and take it out and about with you on your mobile device.

Check & Challenge

Test your knowledge by completing our topic quizzes. Receive instant feedback on your answer with helpful tips to help you understand why it's right or wrong. Complete Check & Challenges as many times as you want to see your progress improve and win more diamonds!

My Exam Playlists

Keep yourself organised by viewing a list of your upcoming exams in subject or date order. View an exam playlist to see all the Pods relevant to that exam, select the areas you find tricky and download to watch on the way to school.

Homework

View homework set by your teacher, watch Pods and answer questions to help test your knowledge on a topic. Watch automatically created boosted playlists to fill any knowledge gaps once your assignment has been marked.

Learning Activities

Choose from a range of activities to enhance your earning and cement the knowledge you've learned from our Pods. Perfect for creating your own revision materials!

Webinars

Attend our fun and interactive student webinars, full of useful tips and tricks to make learning and revision fun and less stressful.

GCSE POD – PARENT GUIDE

access

Education Curriculum and Assessment

GCSEPod

Parent Quick Start Guide

Proven to help your child achieve one grade higher on average than non-users



What is GCSEPod?

Our content is delivered in an easy-to-digest format to ensure learning sticks.

- One website, accessible anywhere & everywhere
- Over 7,500+ Pods
- Content produced specifically for mobile devices, tablets & PC's
- Designed to squeeze exactly the right knowledge needed for exam success into short 3-5 minute chunks
- Helps with learning, homework & revision

A discreet way of learning and revising

Your child can listen to Pods anywhere with nobody knowing what they're doing. They can listen privately on the school bus or whilst they're walking the dog or shopping in town.

Convenient & Effective

Download to any device so they can be watched online or offline. Wherever they go, it's like they're carrying an entire world of knowledge & revision in their pocket. An expert reads and explains everything clearly and precisely with all the right facts, quotes, keywords and annotated diagrams on screen. Your child won't need to use GCSEPod for long before they feel the impact. Consistent use in just 10 minute chunks is proven to support achievement right up to grade 9.

Organised Revision

Your child can create personal playlists to listen to in the run-up to an exam, to help with homework or to help consolidate learning. The My Playlist feature allows your child to create their own revision playlists or they can access their favourite playlist to go over topic areas they might find difficult. Download exam-specific playlists, with everything they need to know for the exam all neatly organised so they can easily manage revision.

How do you get it?

When your child's school has informed them they have been registered with GCSEPod, all they'll need to do is confirm some basic details so they can activate their accounts:

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com and click **Login**
2. Click 'I'm new to GCSEPod' and select 'Student'
3. Enter their name, dob and type in their school name. The school's name should appear in the dropdown menu. Click to confirm
4. Create a username and password

If your child is having trouble finding their school, double check that they've entered their details correctly and as it would appear on the school's register. Some schools are also known by a short version of their name so ensure your child is typing the full, official school name.

GCSE POD – PARENT GUIDE

GCSEPod

How to Support Your Child Using GCSEPod



As a parent, supporting your child through their GCSEs can be a daunting task, but with the right tools and resources, you can make a significant difference. GCSEPod is a powerful educational platform designed to help students succeed by providing high-quality learning materials that align with the GCSE curriculum. Here's how you can support your child using GCSEPod.

1. Learning on the go!
GCSEPod is designed for flexibility, allowing your child to learn anytime, anywhere. Often likened to carrying textbooks in your pocket, GCSEPod lets students stream Pods online or download them for offline viewing. Ideal for study sessions when internet access might be limited, such as during commutes or trips.

2. Homework made easy
GCSEPod is an excellent tool for reinforcing what your child learns in school. Encourage your child to use Pods to support their homework tasks. Watching a Pod before starting homework can help refresh key concepts, making the task easier and more manageable.

3. Boost recall with memory cards
Memory cards are a fantastic way to enhance your child's recall abilities. Encourage your child to get in the habit of watching a Pod and then writing down key facts, dates, diagrams and quotes.
Do this together and test each other on what you have both learned!

4. Create Favourites
Encourage your child to make use of the Favourites feature. By marking Pods they find particularly useful or challenging, they can easily revisit them later. This is a great way to keep track of topics that require more attention.

5. Build Personalised Playlists
GCSEPod allows your child to create personalised playlists of Pods. This feature enables them to group Pods by subject, topic, or even by their own revision timetable. This will make revision more organised and focused, helping them target areas where they need the most support.

6. Check and Challenge
The Check and Challenge feature is an interactive quiz tool that helps your child assess their understanding of each topic. After watching a Pod, they can use Check and Challenge to test their knowledge, identify areas of weakness, and focus on improving those areas.

JCQ GUIDANCE FOR EXAMS

JCQ CIC

On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- ☐ the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- ☐ who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you will need:




- ☐ a clear pencil case
- ☐ at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**
- ☐ an approved calculator for relevant exams




- ☐ appropriate apparatus, such as a ruler or protractor, for relevant exams
- ☐ a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in. It **must not** have a label



Contingency sessions:

- ☐ There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2026 exam timetable on the morning and afternoon of 24 June 2026. Make sure you are available on 24 June 2026.

What you cannot take into your exams:

- ☐ any type of phone
- ☐ revision notes
- ☐ any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
- ☐ smart devices (e.g. Airbuds, smart glasses or tablets)



Other important information:

- ☐ Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions, which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- ☐ Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- ☐ If you need an additional answer sheet, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to provide one. Remember to add your details to this sheet.
- ☐ If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to escort you from the exam room.
- ☐ Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer. ?

You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at
www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

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