



Year 10

GCSE Success Evening

Helston Community College

13th May 2026

Students who take their Year 10 exams seriously and prepare well, perform significantly better in Year 11.

Year 10 Exams

Monday 15th June – Friday 26th June



Year 10 Exams

RE GCSE Short Course

Paper 2 – Wednesday 20th May

Paper 3 – Monday 1st June



New Grading	Old Grading
9	High A*
8	Low A* or High A Grade
7	Low A Grade
6	High B Grade
5	Low B or High C Grade
4	Low C Grade
3	D or High E Grade
2	Low F or G Grade
1	Low F or G Grade
U	U

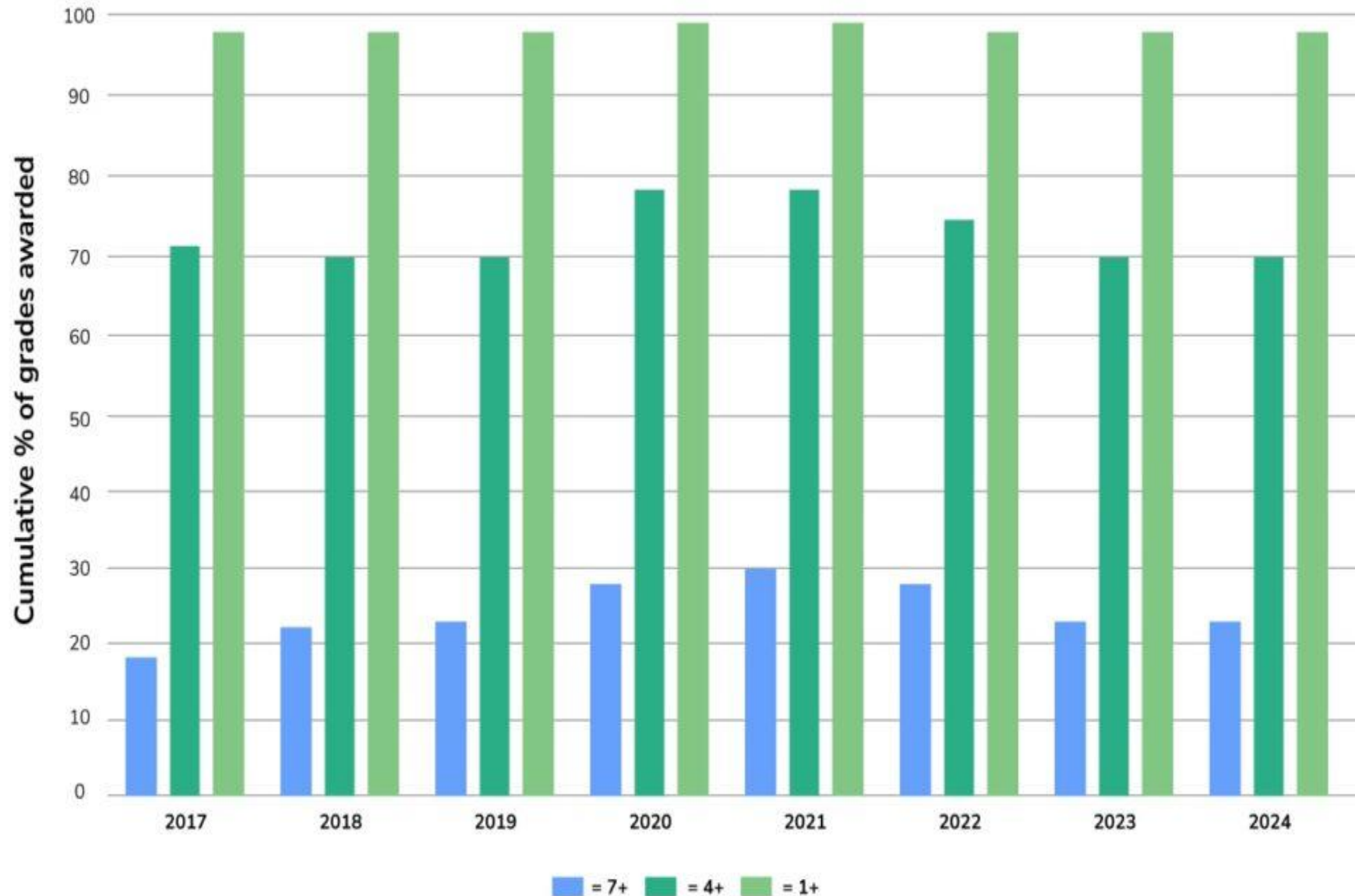
➡ Required for most A Levels

➡ Strong Pass

➡ Standard Pass

} Need to continue to study Maths/English post-16

All GCSE outcomes for 16-year olds in England, 2017-2024



The way the assessment system works in England means that 16-year-olds are all in competition with each other.

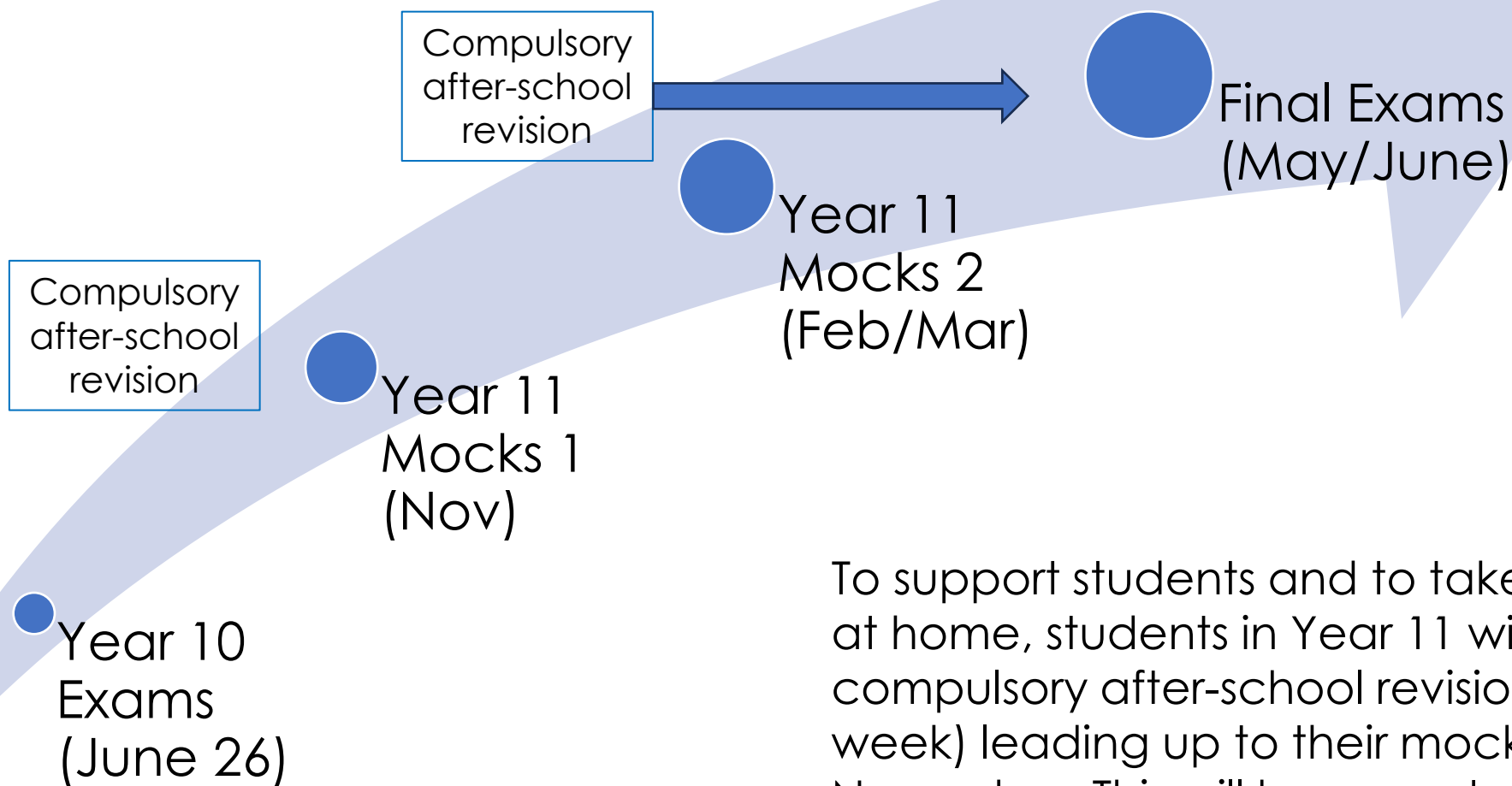
Only a certain percentage of each grade is awarded.

For example, we know that approximately 70% of students will be awarded a grade 4 or above.

Approximately, only 5% will achieve a grade 9



Results
Day
August
2027



To support students and to take a bit of pressure at home, students in Year 11 will have compulsory after-school revision (3 or 4 days a week) leading up to their mock exams in November. This will be repeated after February half-term until their exams begin in May.

Why do we do 'mock' exams?

1. It is good practice
 - Getting use to exam style questions
 - Building up resilience for longer assessments
 - Taking exams in a 'formal' setting
2. They provide excellent feedback
 - Areas of strength and areas to development
 - Knowledge or skills or technique?
3. An opportunity to deepen your learning
 - Ensuring effective revision



Art	1	NEA
Business	2	
Computer Science	2	
Construction	1	NEA
DT	1	NEA
Drama	1	2 NEA
English	4	
Food	1	NEA
French	4	
Geography	3	
Hair & Beauty	1	NEA
H&SC	1	2 NEA
History	3	
Maths	3	
Further Maths	2	
Media	2	NEA
Music	3	
Photography	2	
Science	6	
Spanish	4	
Sport	1	2 NEA
Travel	1	2 NEA

Exam Papers

English + Maths + Science = 13
3 options = up to 9

Longest paper = 2 hours 15 minutes

Examples:

English Lang – 1 hour 45

Maths – 1 hour 30

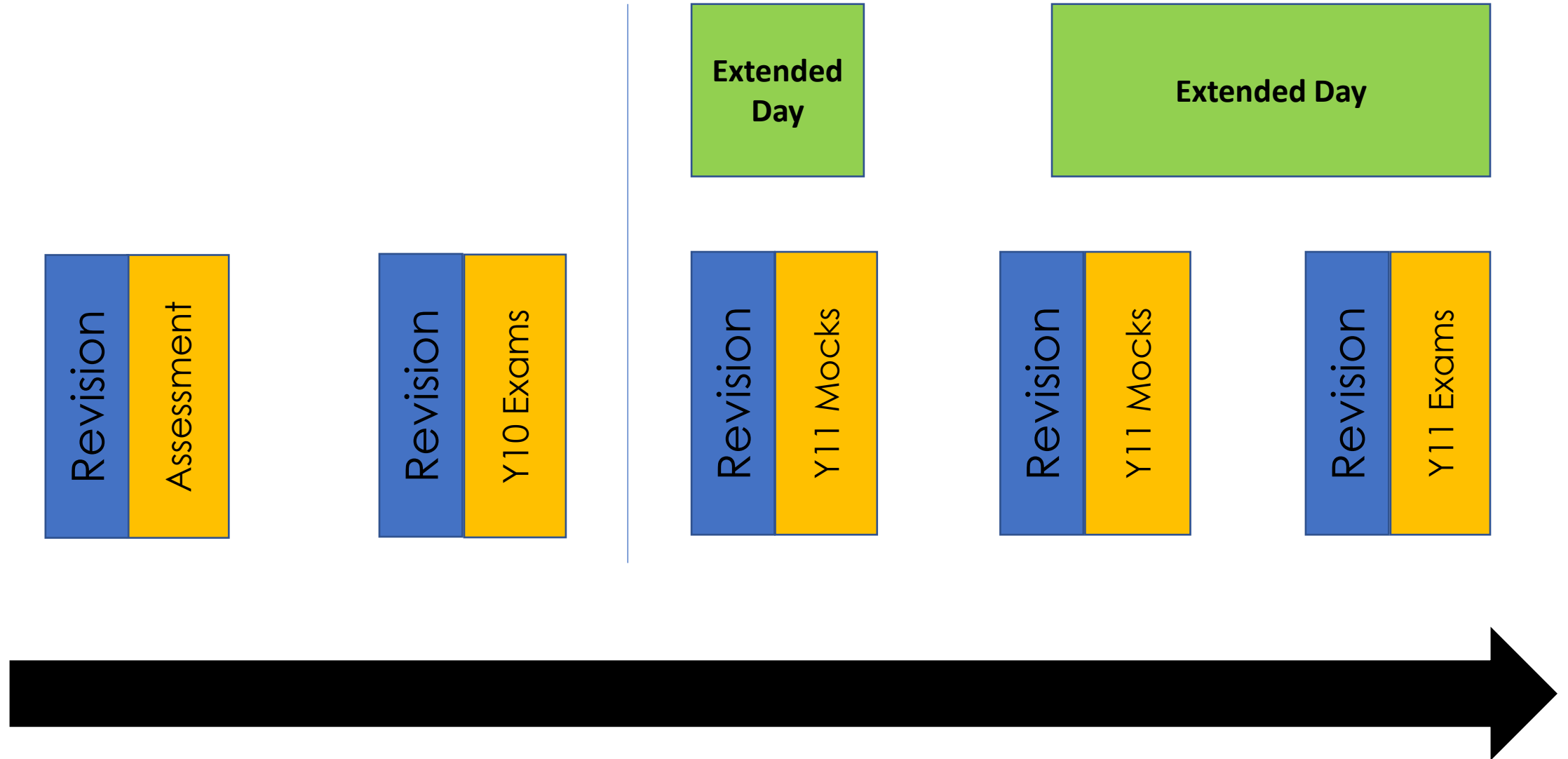
Science – 1 hour 15 or 45

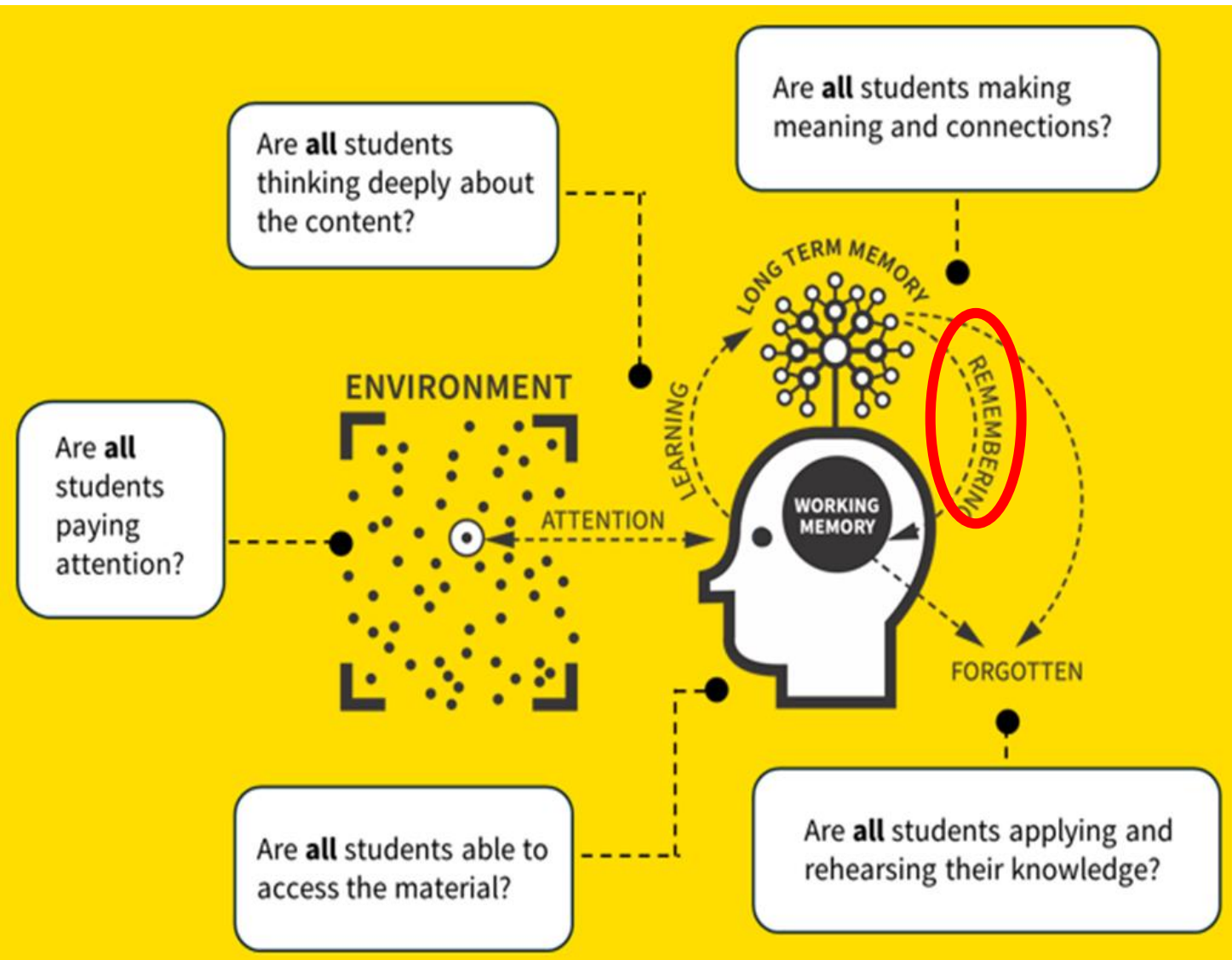
Construction/Hair – 2 hours

Leaving revision to the end (i.e. from Easter of year 11) isn't effective.



Having planned times for revision throughout the year is much more effective. It allows students to revisit topics which in turns helps to ensure them remember things in the long-term.





"Thinking takes real effort. It requires sustained attention." Psychology Today

"Learning happens when people have to think hard." Professor Rob Coe

Research by cognitive scientists has helped us understand how learning happens.

Firstly, it takes **effort** to concentrate (whether in a classroom or at home revising). Therefore, by **reducing distractions**, such as mobile phones or listening to music, concentrating or paying attention is easier.

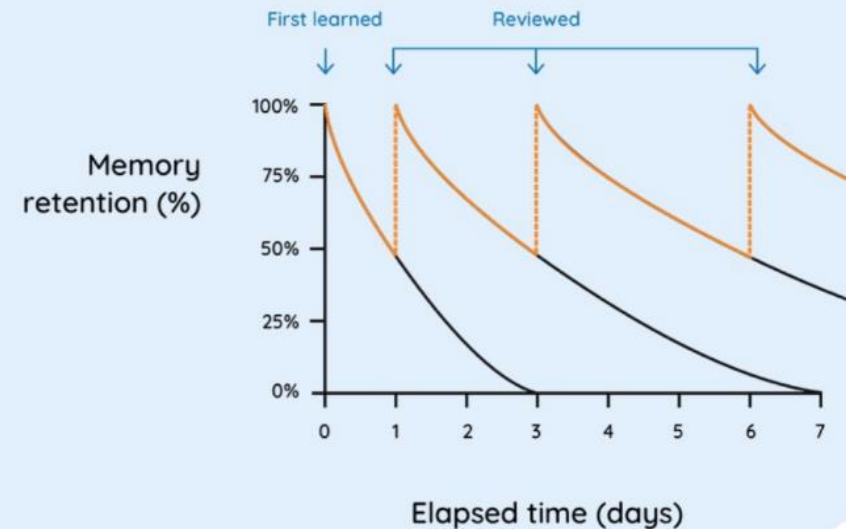
Secondly, to properly learn something students have to **think hard**. This again requires effort.

Thirdly, to be able to remember something we've learnt, we have to **revisit it over and over again**. Teachers will do this in class by getting students to recall things they have done in previous lessons, but students need to do this too through **revision**.

1. Boost Your Memory and Beat Forgetting

Imagine spending hours in class learning something, only to forget it a few days later. This happens to everyone, and it's called the "forgetting curve," a concept discovered by psychologist Ebbinghaus. Without revision, your brain naturally starts to forget information over time. But when you review regularly, you strengthen your memory and make sure all that hard work doesn't go to waste. Revising for your mocks is the key to remembering what you've learned for the long term, setting you up for success in both the mocks and the real exams.

The Forgetting Curve



2. Make Learning New Information Easier

Revising the things you've already learned gives your brain the foundation it needs to absorb new information faster and with less stress. When you walk into class already confident in the basics, you can focus on understanding new topics, rather than trying to catch up. This makes your entire learning process smoother and easier. Think of revision as building a strong base—without it, everything else gets harder!

3. Gain Confidence and Control

How often do nerves or panic get in the way of doing your best? By revising for your mocks, you're not only preparing for the content but also boosting your confidence. When you know what you're doing, you'll walk into the exam room feeling more in control, less anxious, and more focused on getting the grades you deserve. Confidence from good revision will help you stay calm, perform better, and manage the pressure.

4. Stay Ahead of the Competition

Whether we like it or not, grades are competitive. You're not just aiming for a pass—you're competing for the best grades that will get you into the college or job you want. There are limited places, and every mark counts. By revising properly for your exams, you give yourself the edge over other students who might not be as prepared. Think of it as training for a big sports event—the more you practice, the better you'll perform when it really counts.

5. Perfect Your Exam Technique

Revising helps you become familiar with the types of questions you'll face and the best ways to answer them. The more you revise, the better you get at managing your time and structuring your answers. This practice will be a huge advantage when the real exams come, because you'll know exactly what to do under pressure.

The Summer Exam Preparation Kit

Hard copies are available and an electronic copy had been emailed home.

Inside the booklet, there are pages devoted to each subject. There are links (or QR codes) to the resources the students need to help them revise.



This is an example page for English...

English Language: 18/06/2026

Date of the exam

Topics to revise

Revision resources

Topics to revise:

(English Language) Paper 1 Section A – Reading: language & structure analysis & Section B – Writing: descriptive or narrative writing. The assessment will last 1 hour & 45 mins.

Skills to Revise (Section A)

Language Analysis:

- Word choices, phrases, imagery, figurative language
- Effects on the reader

Structure Analysis:

- Narrative perspective, shifts in focus, foreshadowing, dialogue
- Paragraph links & contrasts, sentence structure (varied sentence lengths), openings/endings

Skills to Revise (Section B)

- Planning engaging ideas
- Communicating ideas clearly
- Using a range of methods (language techniques)
- Using ambitious vocabulary

Inference & Interpretation:

- What's implied vs. stated
- Character, setting, mood

Evaluation:

- How effectively the writer achieves their purpose

Techniques to Spot

- Simile, metaphor, personification
- Juxtaposition, contrast, repetition (patterns)
- Zooming in/out, flashbacks, cliff-hangers

- Structuring ideas in an interesting way
- Varying punctuation for effect
- Varying sentence lengths for effect
- Accurate spelling & punctuation

Revision resources:

BBC GCSE Bitesize:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh9b239/watch/zh44h4j	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3v3239/watch/zy77b7h
	

And Maths...

Maths: 19/06/2026 (non calc), 25/06/2026 (calc)

You will have 2 exam papers lasting 1 hour each.
You will have a non-calculator paper and a calculator paper.

The assessment will mainly cover topics that have been studied this year but questions may include skills from Key Stage 3 too.
The table below summarises the modules you have covered on your learning journey so far.

- There are two tiers: Higher Tier and Foundation Tier.
- At Higher Tier students can achieve grades 4 to 9
 - At Foundation Tier students can achieve grades 1 to 5
- Make sure you know which tier you are following. Ask your teacher if you are unsure.

Summary of modules covered so far during Year 10

Module Number	Module Title
1	Congruence, Similarity and Enlargement
2	Trigonometry and Pythagoras' Theorem
3	Equations and Inequalities
4	Simultaneous Equations
5	Angles and Bearings
6	Working with Circles
7	Vectors
8	Ratios and Fractions
9	Percentages & Interest
10	Probability
11	Delving into Data
12	Non-calculator Methods
13	Types of Number and Sequences

Equipment

You need to bring the correct equipment to each exam (black pen, ruler, pencil, pencil sharpener and eraser) and remember to bring your calculator for the second paper. A protractor and a pair of compasses are also recommended.

It is important to check that your calculator is in 'degrees' mode for it to work properly. You also need to know how to turn your answers into decimals – see your maths teacher if you are unsure.

Sparx Maths Independent Learning



- Go to www.sparxmaths.com and log-in using the log-in details you created in class with your teacher.
- Click on the 'Independent Learning' tab on the panel on the left of the screen.
- Make sure to select your curriculum as 'GCSE'.

Here is a screenshot of the main independent learning page:



Every topic in the syllabus is included. You should select topics from the key objectives lists below to work on.

The questions are split into 'introduce', 'strengthen' and 'deepen'. You should work your way through each of the sections. A video is attached to every question to help explain the skill required if needed.

You can adjust the difficulty of the questions, as necessary. There are 5 levels to choose from with level 1 being the easiest and level 5 being the hardest.

Maths Watch Login Details



Maths Watch Login Details
To work out your username, you use the following:
[Year you started at HCC] [First name] [Surname]@helston
e.g. James Smith-Jones in Year 10 who started at Helston in Sept 2022 would have this username: 22james.smith-jones@helston

Write your login here:

Everyone's password is 'hexagon'

Maths Watch



Print worksheets or complete interactive questions from [MathsWatch](http://www.mathswatch.co.uk/vle).

- Go to www.mathswatch.co.uk/vle and log in using your username and password
 - Click 'Videos'
 - Under 'Find a Clip', select 'GCSE' as the qualification
 - In 'Search' type in the topic you are looking for
 - In the 'Choose Clip' box, select the clip you are looking for – this will bring up the video in the 'Video' box
- Now that you have the correct clip, look at the top right hand corner of the video box:
- Worksheet – if you click this, it will bring up a pdf that you can print off to complete
 - Interactive questions – if you click this, it will bring up some questions you can complete online and will be marked automatically when you click 'Submit Answer'

Showbie



Your teachers have uploaded many resources onto your maths Showbie classes.
Review these resources again to help revise the work you have covered this year.

And Science...

Science and Triple Science – 22/06/2026 (biology), 24/06/2026 (chemistry),
26/06/2026 (physics)

Topics to revise:

Biology – all students	- B1 - Cell Biology - B2 - Organisation - B3 - Immunity and response	Monday 23 rd - 60 mins
Chemistry – all students	- C1 - Atomic structure - C2 - Bonding, structure and properties - C3 - Quantitative Chemistry	Tuesday 24 th - 60 mins
Physics – all students	- P1 - Energy - P3 - Particle model of matter - P4 - Atomic structure and Radioactivity	Thursday 26 th - 60 mins

- Knowledge organiser, checklists and revision maps have been allocated to you via class charts.
- A set of exam questions has also been allocated for you to use as part of your revision.
- A Showbie Science revision room for you to join with additional revision resources – **Code: EJ4G3.**

Good resources for revision

- Past papers – download from the AQA website [AQA | Find past papers and mark schemes](#)
- Revision guide, workbooks, revision card pack can be ordered from the school shop.
- Cognito videos with linked worksheets for each small topic/key concept [Cognito - YouTube](#)
- Seneca learning [Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 \(senecalearning.com\)](#)

Content	Details of resources available from Seneca learning.	
white sheet with black text and white text AI-generated content may be incorrect.	Seneca Learning Biology Course: Cell Biology Folder	
B2 - Organisation	Seneca Learning Biology Course: Organisation Folder	
B3 - Infection and Response	Seneca Learning Combined Science: Biology Course: Infection and Response Folder	
C1 - Atomic structure and the periodic table	Seneca Learning Combined Science: Biology Course: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table Folder	
C2 - Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter	Seneca Learning Combined Science: Chemistry Course: Bonding, Structure, and the Properties of Matter Folder	
C3 - Quantitative Chemistry	Seneca Learning Combined Science: Chemistry Course: Quantitative Chemistry Folder	
P1 - Energy	Seneca Learning Combined Science: Physics Course: Energy Folder	
P3 - Particle Model of Matter	Seneca Learning Combined Science: Physics Course: Particle Model of Matter Folder	
P4 - Atomic Structure	Seneca Learning Combined Science: Physics Course: Atomic Structure Folder	

Also, in the booklet there is some guidance on how to revise.
For example, how to make and use flashcards...

Flashcards

Summary: How to use flash cards



1.

Identify knowledge

What are you creating flash cards on?

Do you have your knowledge organizer?

Use your book to look at previous misconceptions from whole class feedback.



2.

Colour coding

Use different coloured flash cards for different topics. This helps with organization NOT recall



3.

Designing

1 Question per flashcard.

Making them concise and clear.

Use a one word prompt, so that you can recall as much as you can.

No extended answer questions.



4.

Using

Write your answers down, then check. Or say your answers out loud. This really clearly shows the gaps in your knowledge.

Do not just copy & re-read.

Shuffle the cards each time you use them.

Use the Leitner system to use flash cards everyday.



5.

Feedback

How have you performed when you look back at your answers?

Is there anything you need to revisit in more detail?

Is your knowledge secure? If so, move onto applying knowledge in that area in specific extended exam questions.

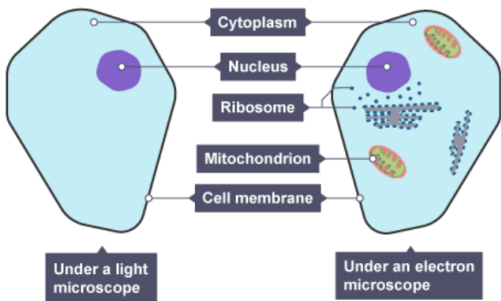
Avoid answering the questions in your head: research shows that when you read a question and answer it in your head, you aren't actually testing your knowledge effectively. Say the answer out loud or write it down before checking it against the card, so you are truly testing if you can explain the answer properly

Using some of the information below, here's an example flashcard for science...

Animal cells

Almost all animals and plants are made up of cells.

Animal cells have a basic structure. Below the basic structure is shown in the same animal cell, on the left viewed with the light microscope, and on the right with the transmission electron microscope.



Mitochondria  are visible with the light microscope but can't be seen in detail. Ribosomes  are only visible with the electron microscope.

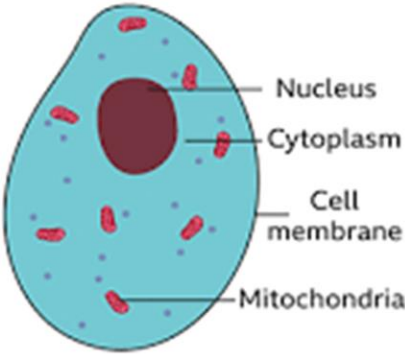
Cell structures and their functions

	Function
Cytoplasm	A jelly-like material that contains dissolved nutrients and salts and structures called organelles. It is where many of the chemical reactions happen.
Nucleus	Contains genetic material, including DNA, which controls the cell's activities.
Cell membrane	Its structure is permeable to some substances but not to others. It therefore controls the movement of substances in and out of the cell.
Mitochondria	Organelles that contain the enzymes for respiration, and where most energy is released in respiration.
Ribosomes	Tiny structures where protein synthesis occurs.

Most cells are specialised and are adapted for their function. Animals and plants therefore consist of many different types of cell working together.

Draw and label an animal cell

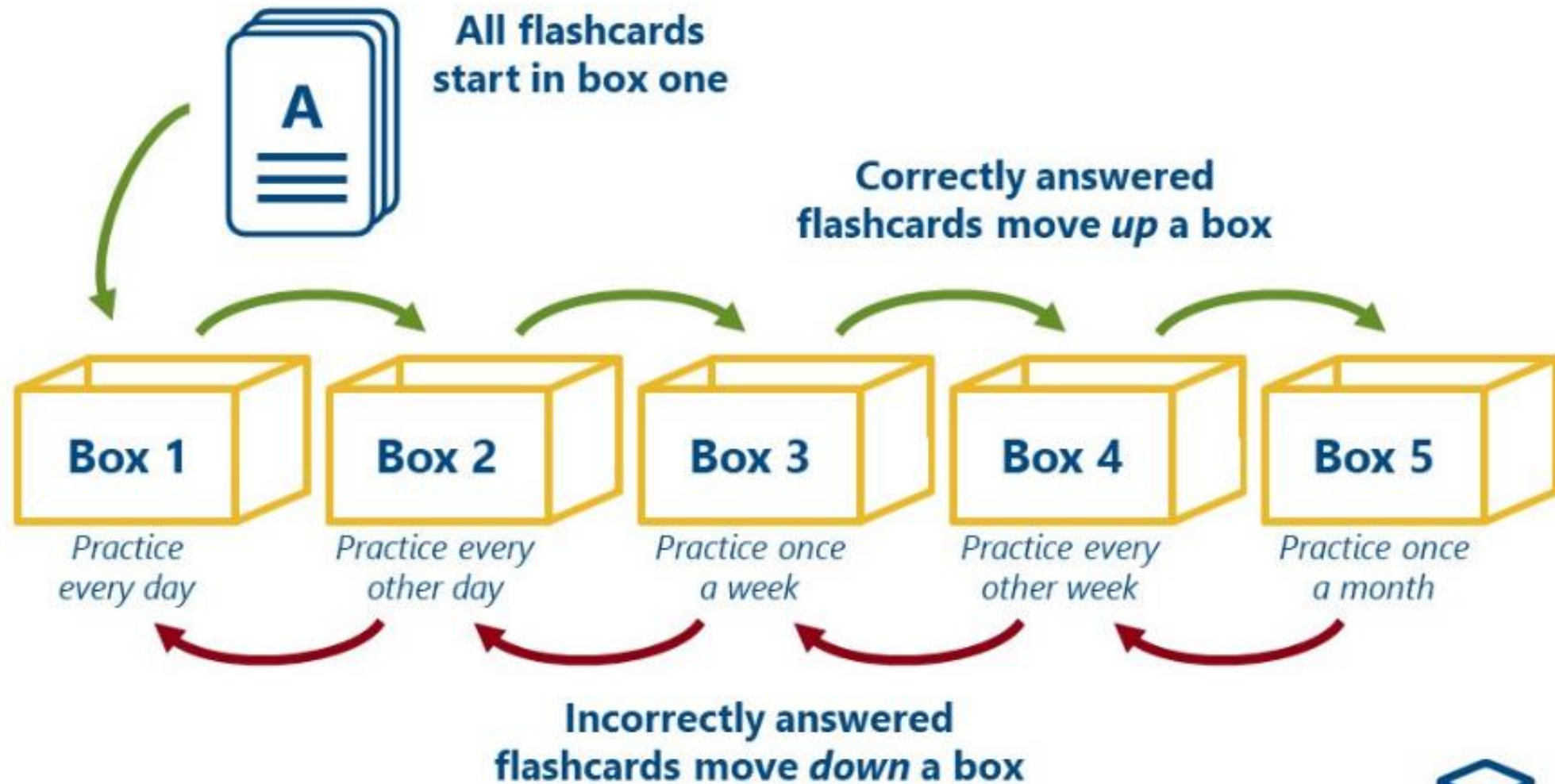
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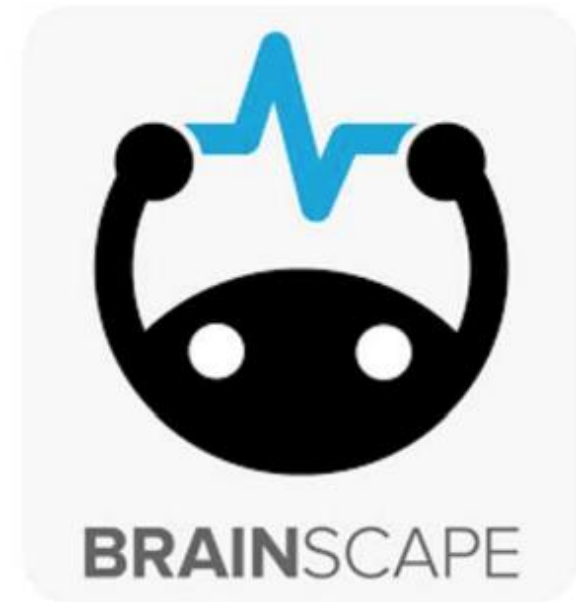
How to use the Leitner system for flashcards

Increase your memory with spaced repetition and active recall



Digital Flashcards

Brainscape is a digital flashcard app that uses spaced repetition to help you effectively study and retain information, making it a great tool for preparing for your mock exams in the UK. With the ability to create customized flashcards or access a library of pre-made ones, you can tailor your study materials to your specific subjects and needs. The app's interactive platform, progress tracking, and flexibility allow for efficient and engaging study sessions, ensuring you focus on challenging topics while reinforcing your knowledge in a convenient way.



Tutor Time Revision (am)

After May half-term, at least two morning tutor sessions will be dedicated to **creating** flashcards. All students will be given some flashcards of their own.

Tutors will support students to create effective flashcards using resources provided by the Maths, English and Science departments.

We will build up to '5 a day'.

Once students have completed 25, they will take them home to practice with.

Tutor Time Revision (pm)

Students will be supported by their tutor to do the following:

- Create more flashcards or test themselves with them.
- Complete Sparx Maths or Sparx Science revision
- Revise using the English, Maths and Science revision resources available in the Year 10 Showbie classroom.

Revision Tools

Students will create their own revision timetables to help them organise their time at home.

MAY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Revision Apps for Organisation



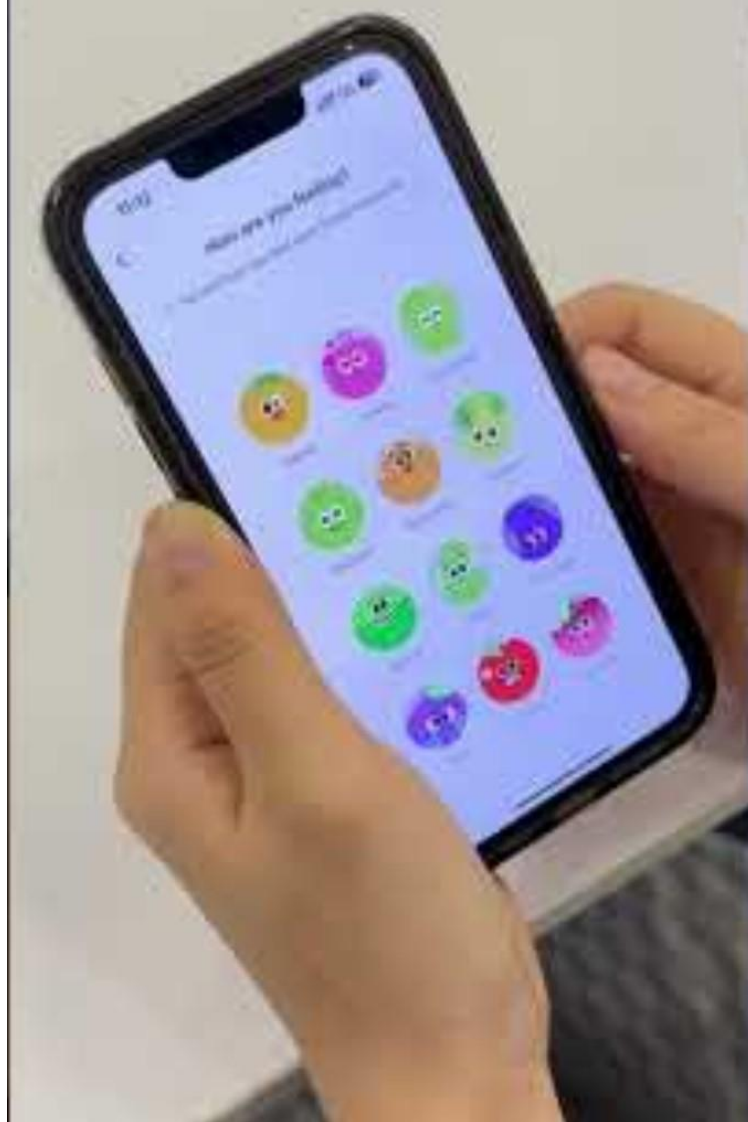
MyStudyLife

Forest



MeGrow

Tracking mood 😊





09:41



Keep up the good work!



00:01

Give Up

Recommended Revision Apps - on iPads

BBC Bitesize

(quizzes, flashcards, podcasts, practice questions)

Quizlet

(flashcards, practice questions)

Brainscape

(flashcards)



Recommended Revision Websites

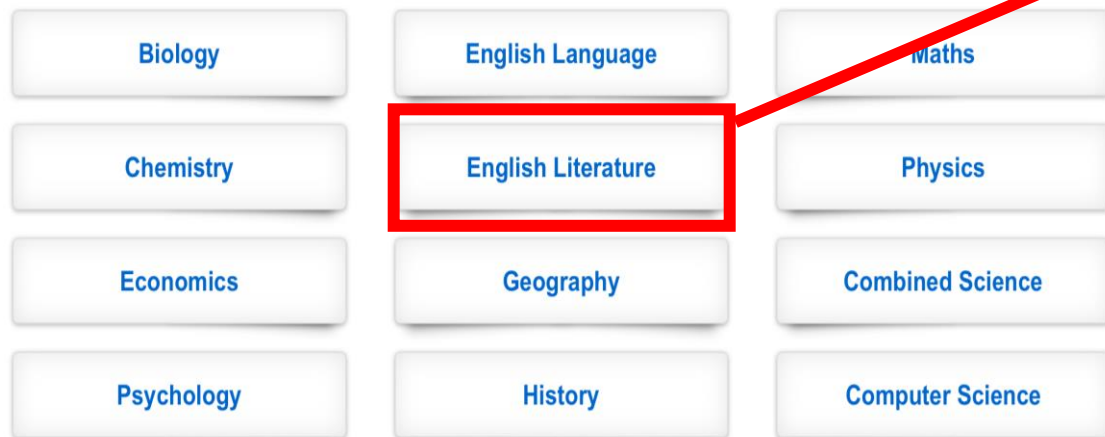


Past Exam Papers

Physics and Maths Tutor (don't be put off by the name!) has past papers for most GCSE subjects.

Below you will find AQA, CAIE, Edexcel, OCR, Eduqas and WJEC past papers and mark schemes for the following subjects:

GCSEs & IGCSEs



0 2 *Romeo and Juliet*

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Juliet is waiting for the Nurse to return with news from Romeo.

JULIET The clock struck nine when I did send the Nurse;
In half an hour she promised to return.
Perchance she cannot meet him: that's not so.
O, she is lame! Love's heralds should be thoughts,
Which ten times faster glides than the sun's beams,
Driving back shadows over low'ring hills;
Therefore do nimble-pinioned doves draw Love,
And therefore hath the wind-swift Cupid wings.
Now is the sun upon the highmost hill
Of this day's journey, and from nine till twelve
Is three long hours, yet she is not come.
Had she affections and warm youthful blood,
She would be as swift in motion as a ball;
My words would bandy her to my sweet love,
And his to me.
But old folks, many feign as they were dead,
Unwieldy, slow, heavy, and pale as lead.
Enter NURSE [with PETER].
O God, she comes!

0 2 Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents the difficulties faced by Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the difficulties faced by Juliet in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents the difficulties faced by Juliet in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Past Exam Papers

Exam board
websites, e.g.
AQA



Questions matter

SubjectsQualificationsProfessional DevelopmentExams AdminServices

Find

Home > Find past papers and mark schemes

Find past papers and mark schemes

Find past papers and mark schemes to help you prepare for exams.

Search past papers

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1234

Relevance

Items per page 10

Subject

☐ Accounting (40)☐ Art and Design (18)☐ Bengali (111)☐ Biology (185)☐ Business (196)☐ Chemistry (333)☐ Chinese (Mandarin) (103)☐ Citizenship Studies (33)☐ Computer Science (139)☐ Dance (34)☐ Design and Technology (71)☐ Drama (45)☐ Economics (127)

English

Showing 702 results



English - Question paper: Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading a...
Published 30 Jan 2025 | 599.15 KB | PDF

 Add to favourites



English - Question paper: Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th-centur...
Published 07 Dec 2024 | 379.81 KB | PDF

 Add to favourites



English - Question paper: Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and...
Published 30 Jan 2025 | 335.14 KB | PDF

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English - Question paper: Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading a...
Published 07 Dec 2024 | 994.78 KB | PDF

 Add to favourites

Year 10

Done

Exam Preparation

2 folders

Work Experience/Careers

8 assignments

PSHE/Citizenship

1 assignment / 5 folders

Key Documents

2 assignments

Assessments

3 folders

<

Exam Preparation

+ ...

Q Search

Year 10 Mock Revision Summer 2026

no assignments

RE

2 assignments / 15 folders

<

Year 10 Mock Revision Sum...

+ ...

Q Search

ASSIGNED

Revision Guide

no due date

1 >

Maths Knowledge Organisers

no due date

>

Science Knowledge Organisers

no due date

>

English Knowledge Organisers

date

>

Year 10 Showbie
Code: E77A3D

Revision Guides

- Available for every subject
- On ParentPay

