



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Exam Revision: Tips, Advice & Plan



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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How to Perform Well in Exams

This guide is intended to help you with your exam preparation, so that you can make the most of what you have learned. It does NOT offer you a way around the problem of lack of effort in the past, but it CAN help you make the best use of the time you have left!

The most important thing is to **LISTEN** and **PARTICIPATE** in class. Pay attention and ask for help if/when you need it. The harder you work in class **NOW**, the easier your revision and preparation will be later.

Revising isn't something that should be challenging or difficult at all. What revising is, unfortunately, is time consuming. It takes a while. That's why you might like to start early (nothing to do on a Sunday?)...

Plan Your Revision

Work out how long you've got to revise before the exams, and plan how best to use that time. Prepare a revision timetable. Pace yourself, revisiting each subject area regularly in the weeks before the exams. Don't fool yourself that 'cramming' the night before an exam will do the trick!



Preparation

- Be organised. Keep your folders, books etc tidy so that you don't have to waste time looking through clutter.
- Read the subject pages in this booklet carefully to find out what will be examined in each subject.
- Don't try to revise where there are distractions, like the TV or your games console.
- Eat well, sleep well and take physical exercise – cooping yourself up in one room day after day is unhealthy. You won't perform well if you've locked yourself up with books for weeks!
- Your brain can only concentrate for certain periods of time, so take regular breaks and treat yourself to a reward – go out for a walk, kick a ball about, listen to music.
- Don't let breaks take over though – stick to strict time limits, and don't slump for long periods in front of the TV.
- Make sure you know what equipment you will need for each exam.
- Make sure you know which exams are on which days. If you are ill on the day of an exam, make sure your parent/guardian telephones school immediately to explain.
- Make sure you are comfortable before you go into the exam room – (e.g. make sure you have been to the toilet)

Strategies for Revising

There is no one correct way to revise, and each person will have their own approach. Below are a few strategies that you could use to help you revise:



Looking at the subject pages in this booklet identify what areas you need to concentrate on. When you have identified these areas go through your work for the year and create some revision resources (mindmaps, flashcards, lists) with the relevant information.

Once you have these revision resources, you can use them to revise by:

- Testing yourself – hide the resource away, can you remember all the information on the resource?
- Get others to test you
 - Give the resource to a family member or friend and ask them to ask you questions relating to the information.
 - Give the resource to a family member or friend and see if you can tell them the information on the resource.
- Look at some of the relevant questions you have done throughout the year in your exercise book – re-do the questions using your revision resources as help.

On the next page is a suggestion on how you could organise your revision time!



End of Year Exam Revision Strategy

Gather →	Filter →	Learn →	Test
<p>Session 1 After the first time you have revised a topic, you should not need to do any further 'gathering'</p>	<p>Session 2 After the 2nd or 3rd time you have revised a topic, you should not need to do any further 'filtering'</p>	<p>Session 3 Give yourself a variety of activities and change where you work from time to time. Don't forget to revise with friends sometimes too.</p>	<p>Session 4 onwards As you approach your exam date you should be spending more and more time on the testing stage and making the tests more challenging.</p>
20% of your time	30% of your time	30% of your time	20% of your time
<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise books • Revision guides/checklists (see the section on the school website) • Questions you have tackled during lessons • Old assessments you have completed <p>Before you start, rank the topics you need to cover from most to least confidence. Begin with the topics lowest on the list.</p> <p>Read through and become familiar with the information that you need to know in order to be successful.</p> <p>Identify any bits of knowledge you have missing and go to see your teacher to help fill this gap.</p>	<p>Reduce the amount of information you have down to essential parts of the knowledge. You can do this by:</p> <p>Creating mind maps or flash cards.</p> <p>Creating Crib sheets – these are like pages from a revision guide with all the essential information.</p> <p>Writing 'perfect' exam answers from your notes.</p> <p>Making your own knowledge organiser or summary sheet of the topics.</p>	<p>Use these strategies to learn the information so that you can recall it easily.</p> <p>Look/cover/write/check</p> <p>Read and repeat information for 2–3 minutes, do something else for 10 minutes and then try to recreate from memory.</p> <p>Complete exam/assessment questions and then go back and self-mark. Fill in the gaps in a different coloured pen. Revise the bits you missed again.</p>	<p>Low stakes testing Easy, quick quizzes which test small pieces of knowledge. This works well for simple facts, dates, key words or important formulae. You must complete some low stakes testing within 24 hours of revising a topic to anchor learning in your memory.</p> <p>High stakes testing These are longer exam style questions which apply knowledge as you would have to in the exam.</p> <p>These should be completed within 48–72 hours of revising a topic and then repeated regularly to keep your revision 'fresh'.</p>
<p>Gathering is not revision; don't spend ages on this stage.</p>	<p>Copying out information word for word is not filtering or learning.</p>		<p>Silent. No support. Timed.</p>

Follow the instructions to the letter. Read any instructions given on the paper and/or listen carefully to the teacher who gives out the exam. Read the questions very carefully, and if there are examples given, study them carefully too. The clue as to how to answer the question will be in the example. Make sure you answer the question given – there isn't much point telling the examiner what you know if it has nothing to do with the question!

Plan your time well in the exam – if you only manage to attempt half of the questions, the best mark you can possibly get is only 50%! Make sure your answers are well-presented. Write clearly and neatly and label diagrams or pictures if this helps your answer.



DON'T PANIC!

Remember, exams are NOT designed to catch you out – rather, to allow you to show what you have learned. Being calm and thoughtful in the exam will help you get the most out of your preparation.

Message to all parents

Please make sure that your son/daughter is properly equipped for the forthcoming exams.



As a minimum, they should have several black pens, pencils, a rubber, ruler and pencil-sharpener, mathematical equipment (protractor, compass, and a working calculator) all stored in a clear pencil case.



WEEK 1

Date	Revision Topic 1	Revision Topic 2	Revision Topic 3
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

WEEK 2

Date	Revision Topic 1	Revision Topic 2	Revision Topic 3
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

WEEK 3

Date	Revision Topic 1	Revision Topic 2	Revision Topic 3
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

DATE EXAMS BEGIN: -----

NOTES & REMINDERS

Identifying Subject-Specific Focus:

ENGLISH

MATHS

SCIENCE

RE

ART

PRODUCT DESIGN

HISTORY

GEOGRAPHY

MUSIC

DRAMA

FRENCH

SPANISH

PE

ICT

FOOD TECH