



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Key Stage 3 Revision Booklet

Year 8

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CHURCH ROAD
LAVERSTOCK
SALISBURY
SP1 1QY

Dear Year 8 pupils,

In a few weeks, you will all be facing a series of formal examinations. These exams will test the progress you have made in your second year of secondary school.

Once your teachers have marked the exams, they will look at your results and come to a judgement about how much you have learned. Based on your achievements in these exams and your assessments throughout the year, subject teachers will be reviewing sets for their subject areas.

Once we have this overall picture, we will look at whether we feel it is appropriate that you 'move up' or 'move down' sets. Decisions about this will be made within weeks of you sitting the exams. If you have done particularly well, a letter of congratulations may be on its way... on the other hand, if you have not performed according to your ability, your parents may be asked to come up to school for an interview to discuss your progress.

As you can see, these exams are IMPORTANT for the school, for your parents, and (most importantly) for YOU.

So, what do you do now? Well, **REVISE**, of course! To help you do your very best in the exams, your teachers have drawn up revision lists – you will find them all in this booklet, along with revision tips and a revision planner to help you organise and use your time wisely. Remember – there should be no need to panic! If you have always worked hard in class and continue to do so, revision will be a pleasure rather than a chore, as it will simply be a matter of checking and confirming what you already know!

Your exams will happen during your lesson time and your teachers will inform you which lesson will be used for your exam. All exams will be taking place during the week beginning the 10th June.

All the teachers at St Joseph's wish you success in the forthcoming exams!

Mr R Rooney

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 (mind maps, 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 →
Session 1 After the first time you have revised a topic, you should not need to do any further 'gathering'	Session 2 After the 2nd or 3rd time you have revised a topic, you should not need to do any further 'filtering'	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.	Session 4 onwards As you approach your exam date you should spend more and more time on the testing stage and making the tests more challenging.
20% of your time	30% of your time	30% of your time	20% of your time
You will need: <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>
Gathering is not revision ; don't spend ages on this stage.	Copying out information word for word is not filtering or learning.		Silent. No support. Timed.

Follow the instructions to the letter. Read any instructions given on the paper and 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.

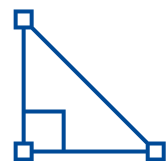


DON'T PANIC!

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.



WHAT YOU NEED TO REVISE: TECTONIC HAZARDS

Coasts:

- Constructive and Destructive waves
- Different types of erosion
- Cave, arch, stack and stump formation
- Coastal transport and longshore drift
- Hard and soft engineering

Development:

- What is development
- How do we measure development
- Factors affecting development
- Factors affecting trade

Ecosystems:

- Food webs
- Features of biomes
- Savannah ecosystem – living in the Savannah and threats to the ecosystem

China:

- Location of China
- China's population over time
- Trade
- Urbanisation in China

Crime:

- What is crime?
- Crime and place (where do different crimes happen)
- Strategies to reduce crime and fear of crime

WHAT SKILLS YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON:

Exam skills:

- Command words, e.g. 'List', 'Describe', 'Compare', 'Explain'.

Geographical vocabulary:

- Key words for coasts , e.g. hydraulic action, attrition, abrasion and solution

Structuring an answer:

- Logical sequencing (Firstly, secondly, finally...)
- Appropriate use and annotation of diagrams
- Use key words, processes, and features





WHAT YOU NEED TO REVISE:

1. You will have **recall questions** linking to content that you have studied from **across Year 8**.
2. You will then have an **extended writing** task focusing on:
 - The First World War



KEY WORDS:

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Imperialism
- Nationalism
- Assassination
- Desert
- Shellshock
- Stalemate
- Artillery

WHAT SKILLS YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON:

- Chronology
- Using historical terms
- Producing an accurate narrative of events (explain the causes)
- Producing an accurate narrative of events (write an account)
- Effective use of the PEE chain
- Making judgements
- Causation



You will answer 10 Multiple Choice Questions on your Shakespeare text and an extended question based on Romeo and Juliet.



What should I revise? How should I revise?

Knowledge Organisers:

- Your teacher will give you a knowledge organiser for your Shakespeare text in the next couple of weeks. You should use this to revise quotations and key aspects of the play. Try the method of look, cover, write and check and then get someone at home to test you on the facts.

Other Idea:

- Revise the overall plot (ask your teacher for help with this or look online)
- Revise characters (what do they represent? What are they like? How do they behave?)
- Revision of language analysis (What could you look for? What techniques do you know? Which words could you zoom in on?)
- Revision of context (How could you link this to the themes/ characters?)

How can I do this?

- Look back through your book. What have you done in lessons?
- Go onto a website like BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Use revision resources given to you by your teacher.

Key Topics Covered

Town and Home

- Vocabulary: Home, activities, places in town, tourist attractions, last weekend
- Grammar: Present tense, reflexive verbs, *se puede* + infinitive
- Phonics: Spanish syllables, strong/weak vowels, syllable stress
- Culture: Case study on Bilbao, Civil War poem by Antonio Machado

Last Weekend & Next

Weekend

- Vocabulary: Time phrases, weekend activities
- Grammar: Near future tense (*voy a* + infinitive), past tense (preterite), writing in 3 tenses
- Phonics: Stress patterns, spelling changes in preterite (-*qué*, -*gué*)
- Culture: South American town case study, pre-colonial culture

Holidays

- Vocabulary: Countries, transport, accommodation, booking tickets and hotels
- Grammar: Past, near future, and conditional tenses; comparatives and superlatives
- Phonics: Revisit key sounds and spelling changes
- Culture: Spanish holidays, Islamic influence on language

Grammar Focus

- **Present Tense:** Regular and reflexive verbs
- **Past Tense (Preterite):** *fui, comí, visité*
- **Near Future:** *voy a viajar, vamos a comer*
- **Conditional:** *me gustaría, querría*
- **Comparatives & Superlatives:** *más... que, el mejor*

Cultural Insights

- Explore Spanish towns like Bilbao
- Learn about South American culture and history
- Understand the influence of Islam on Spanish language and holidays

Assessment Tasks

- Speaking: Describe your town, holidays, and weekend plans
- Writing: 90–150 word tasks using 3+ tenses
- Reading & Listening: Understand vocabulary and grammar in context
- Translation: English ↔ Spanish using familiar structures

Top Tips for Success

- Use **sentence builders** to structure your answers
- Practice **phonics** to improve pronunciation
- Revise **vocabulary** regularly using flashcards or apps
- Try writing in **3–4 tenses** (present, past, near future, conditional)
- Explore **Spanish culture** through music, food, and films

Key Topics Covered

Town and Home

- Vocabulary: Home, activities, places in town, tourist attractions, last weekend
- Grammar: Present tense, reflexive verbs, introduction to past tense
- Phonics: *-ain/-in, è/ê, ai, oi, ch, ç, liaison*, nasal sounds

Last Weekend & Next

Weekend

- Vocabulary: Time phrases, weekend activities
- Grammar: Near future tense (*je vais* + infinitive), past tense (*j'ai fait*), using 3 tenses together
- Phonics: *qu, j, -tion, -ien*, silent consonants, nasal vowels

Holidays

- Vocabulary: Countries, transport, accommodation, holiday activities
- Grammar: Past, near future, and conditional tenses; comparatives and superlatives
- Phonics: *gn, r, eu/œu*, open/closed *o*, *th, eau/au*

Grammar Focus

- **Present Tense:** Regular (-er, -ir, -re) and irregular verbs (*avoir, être, aller, faire*)
- **Past Tense (Perfect):** *j'ai visité, je suis allé(e)* (with *avoir* and *être*)
- **Near Future:** *je vais visiter, nous allons manger*
- **Conditional:** *je voudrais, j'aimerais*
- **Reflexive Verbs:** *je me lève, nous nous amusons*

Phonics Tips

- **Nasal Sounds:** *an, on, in, un*
- **Silent Letters:** Final *s, t, x* often silent
- **Liaison:** Link final consonants to vowels (e.g. *vous avez*)
- **Common Sounds:**
 - *é* (as in *été*)
 - *oi* (as in *moi*)
 - *eu* vs *ou* (e.g. *bleu* vs *fou*)

Cultural Insights

- **French Towns:** Focus on Lyon and Champs-Élysées
- **Francophone Countries:** Explore culture and colonial history
- **French Holidays:** Traditions and celebrations
- **Inclusivity:** Representation of disability access and diverse cultures



Assessment Tasks

- **Speaking:** Describe a town, talk about past and future plans
- **Writing:** 90–150 word tasks using 3 tenses
- **Reading & Listening:** Understand vocabulary and grammar in context
- **Translation:** English ↔ French using familiar structures



Top Tips for Success

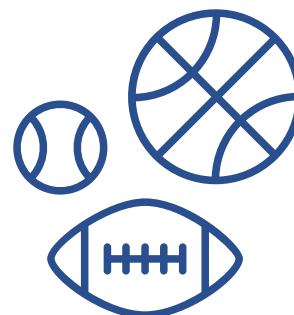
- Use **sentence builders** to structure your answers
- Practice **phonics** to improve pronunciation
- Revise **vocabulary** regularly using flashcards or apps
- Try writing in **3** (present, past, future)
- Explore **French culture** through music, food, and films

To assist with gaining knowledge on how the GCSE PE course is run, we will be completing a GCSE Rounders practical assessment. During this assessment you will be marked on your ability to perform the skills of the sport in isolation and in a competitive situation. Understanding the rules and the teaching points of the skills in rounders will assist with your overall grade.

WHAT YOU NEED TO REVISE AND PRACTICE

Rules to Rounders

- How many players on a team?
- How do you score half rounders/full rounders?
- How do you get a batting player out?



Applied Anatomy & Physiology: location of bones and muscles.

- What muscles are used when fielding in rounders?
- What are the muscles and bones in your arms?
- What are the muscles and bones located in your shoulder?
- What muscles and bones are in your legs?

Teaching points of each skill

- Bowling
- Batting
- Fielding positions (with focus on the 4 main roles)

Analysing performance

- Identify my strengths
- Identify my areas of development
- Suggest ways to improve my performance

WHAT SKILLS YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON – check your flightpaths!

- **Knowledge** – Do you know the keywords & terminology of your selected sport?
- **Describe** – Briefly identify the main outline of a game/match.
- **Explaining** – Can you explain specific rules of the sport and why they are in place? Use PEE chains.
- **Analyse** – Can you analyse your own performance to provide strategies for you to improve?

You may be asked questions during your practical assessment to assist with your overall mark.

What you need to know for your End of Year Test:

Use your exercise book and Sparx Maths to revise for this test, the chapters that the test is focusing on are as follows:



Collins Homework Book
Simplifying numbers
Algebra
Sequences
Graphs
Equations and Formulae
Proportion
Percentages
Interpreting data
Comparing Data
Ratio *use notes from your class book to revise this*

For more detail on the topics above ask your teacher.

How do I revise for Maths?



- Use the notes in your exercise book. Take note of the 'working out' methods.
- Go through previous homework on Sparx Maths to practice answering questions.
- Use the independent learning on Sparx maths (videos and online tasks). Check in with your teacher if you are unsure about anything.

To revise Maths, you MUST 'do' Maths. You can't just read from your exercise book.

Equipment needed:

Pen, pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener, ruler, compass, protractor, calculator.

Knowledge Organisers:

- Your teacher will give you a knowledge organiser for all topics and you will have in class revision session. These should be in addition to your at-home revision.



What knowledge do I need from each module?

Creation and Covenant

- Imago Dei
- The 10 commandments
- The greatest commandments
- Conscience

Prophecy and Promise

- Prophets, OT, NT and modern

Galilee to Jerusalem

- The Kingdom of God
- Jesus Miracles
- Jesus Parables
- Lourdes
- Mother Elvira

To the ends of the earth

- Resurrection
- Heaven
- Hell
- Purgatory

What skills you need to focus on:

- **Knowledge** – Do you know the keywords, concepts & stories?
- **Describe** – Briefly identify the main parts of stories/events
- **Explaining** – Can you explain what the stories mean? Use PEE chains.
- **Influence** – How do teachings change a believers behaviour?
- **Evaluation** – Can you consider different points of view and come to better conclusion?
Drawing on evidence from key text (e.g. scripture) and develop an explanation (PEE).



WHAT YOU NEED TO REVISE:

Music Theory

- Notes on the staff
- Notes on the keyboard
- The meaning of (you will need to look it up):
 - Crescendo and Diminuendo
 - The symbols '*f*' and '*p*'
 - Repeat signs

The Blues

- What are the key features of the Blues? (E.g. Blues scale, improvisation)
- What are the origins of the Blues (location/s and musical styles)?

Covers

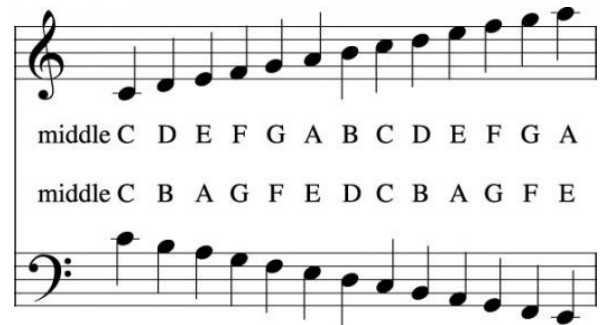
- What are the features of a cover version?
 - You will need to listen to a short extract of Music and compare the original to the cover version. You will then be asked some questions about what you hear.

Rap and Hip-Hop

- Where did Rap and Hip-Hop originate?
- What is the difference between Rap and Hip-Hop?
- Other art-forms/sports associated with Hip-Hop.
- Lyric writing techniques.

WHAT SKILLS YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON – check your flightpaths!

- **Knowledge** – Musical terminology and music history
- **Describe** – Being able to write about music and musical devices and describe the effect it can have on a listener
- **Writing about context** – Can you write down contextual knowledge (e.g. historical information) in structured paragraph answers?



TOPICS YOU NEED TO COVER:

1. Photosynthesis and Respiration

- Describe ways in which plants obtain resources for photosynthesis.
- Use a word equation to describe photosynthesis in plants and algae.
- Suggest how particular conditions could affect plant growth
- Use word equations to describe aerobic and anaerobic respiration.
- Explain how specific activities involve aerobic or anaerobic respiration.
- Describe similarities and differences between aerobic and anaerobic respiration

2. The Periodic Table and the Elements

- The elements in a group all react in a similar way and sometimes show a pattern in reactivity.
- As you go down a group and across a period the elements show patterns in physical properties
- Know metals are generally found on the left side of the table, non-metals on the right.
- Describe the properties and uses of metals

3. Work Done and Heating and cooling

- Explain observations about changing temperature in terms of energy transfer.
- Describe how an object's temperature changes over time when heated or cooled.
- Explain how a method of thermal insulation works in terms of conduction, convection and radiation.
- Describe how energy is transferred in moving an object
- Calculate the work done in simple machines for lifting

4. Climate and Earth's Resources

- Describe how climate differs from weather
- Describe how Earth's atmosphere has changed over millions of years and how that has affected the climate
- Describe how human activity is affecting the atmosphere and what effects that has on climate
- Understand carbon footprint and how it is calculated
- Describe the extraction and processing of metals, ceramics and minerals from the Earth for human use

5. Evolution and Inheritance

- Describe how variation can be measured within a population
- Identify inherited and environmental characteristics
- Describe how characters are passed from parents to offspring
- Draw diagrams to predict the outcome of inheritance.

6. Magnets and Electromagnetism

- Explain the difference between permanent and induced magnets
- Describe how the magnetic field of a magnet can be plotted
- Explain how magnets behave in relation to each other
- Describe how an electromagnet can be made and tested

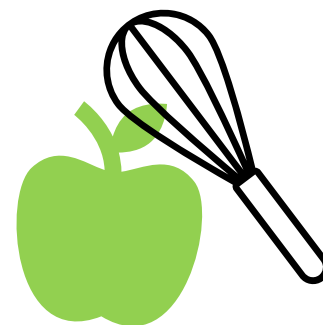
7. Checklists

[All KS3 Checklists](#)

[All KS3 Knowledge Organisers](#)

WHAT YOU NEED TO REVISE:

All the questions that will be in the test will be based on information that can be found in your project booklet or that you will have covered in homework tasks. To revise please read your project booklet and ensure you have a good knowledge of the following topics we have covered this year.



- Health and safety in the food room
- The Eatwell guide and nutrition
- 8 tips for eating well
- The function and sources of vitamins and minerals in our diets
- Facts and information relating to pastry
- Facts and information relating to eggs
- Nutrition - macronutrients and micronutrients
- Food safety and hygiene
- The uses of starch including gelatinisation
- Food and religion

WHAT SKILLS YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON:

- **Knowledge** – Do you know the keywords & terminology of the topics listed above?
- **Describe** – Can you describe the topics listed above and place them into context of your cooking or feeding yourself?
- **Explaining** – Can you explain your answers using specific PEE chains when necessary?
- **Analyse** – Can you analyse your answers to suggest improvements?

Art Revision

End of year assessment

Students will engage with the theme of landscape through the work of artist Deborah Phillips. They will investigate her techniques and the design elements she uses. Drawing inspiration from various resources, students will create their own unique landscape, resulting in a mixed media final piece

Material choices:

- Pencil
- Fineliner
- Acrylic
- Collage

This piece of work will be completed over 4 individual lessons.

Drama Revision

You will be assessed on a performance from the play ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime***. This will be performed to the class, and you will receive feedback from your peers and teacher. Your revision for this should be to take your scripts home and learn the lines. I have put some tips on how to memorise lines below.



1. Go over them every night before you go to sleep.
2. Ask someone at home to read in the other characters for you.
3. Record all the other characters lines on your phone and leave a space for your lines so you can say them.
4. There are Apps you can download, some are free, some you will have to pay for. These will have tips and also ways to record lines. Have a look on the App Store – Type ‘Learning Lines’ into the search bar on the App Store.
5. Move around when learning your lines. Do not sit still. You are more likely to memorise them whilst keeping your body active.

The ICT exam will focus on the topics that we have covered this year:

Understanding the Internet, Using Illustrator, Understanding Binary, and topics covered in the completion of the Silver Certificate on iDEA (Cyber Security, Online Safety, Responsibility of Internet Use, and Problem Solving).

You will be given a link to an online quiz that will be a set of multiple-choice questions testing your knowledge on the subjects that we have covered.



Understanding the Internet

- What is the Internet?
- What hardware is used as part of the Networks that make up the Internet?
- What are the common types of networks used?
- Know what networks would be suitable for certain users.
- How does information travel through the internet?
- Learn the basic terminology for software (e.g., IP address)
- Know what all the abbreviations we learnt stand for (e.g., LAN and WAN)

BBC Bitesize:
Internet and Communication
<https://sjcs.org.uk/bitesize-internet>

Using Illustrator

- What is a Vector Image?
- What is a Bitmap image?
- How are the different from each other?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages between them?
- What is the name of the Tool's you most used during the class activities?
- What are the functions of these tools (what do they do?)

BBC Bitesize:
Graphics Software
<https://sjcs.org.uk/bitesize-graphics>

Understanding Binary

- Know what numbers are used to create binary.
- Know the Denary number system so that you can convert:
 - Binary to denary
 - Denary to binary
 - Binary to ASCII
- Be able to complete simple binary addition and subtraction.

BBC Bitesize:
Introducing Binary
<https://sjcs.org.uk/bitesize-binary>

READ THOUGH the useful links provided from BBC Bitesize (see the “BBC Bitesize” boxes above) and do some research of your own to gain the knowledge that you need for this assessment.

Good luck – you'll be great!

Please remember to ask your
teachers if you need any help.



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