

Where to go for advice

Make the most of the knowledge of teachers, friends and family. And take a look at these websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/revision

Bitesize information on Key Stage 3, test-type questions and teachers to answer your queries.

www.samlearning.com

Centre ID: WS12KH

Username: Date of birth followed by two initials; first name then last name. Example 010890DJ is the User ID for David Jones born 1st August 1990.

Password: Initially same as User ID. Students are encouraged to change this to something difficult to guess or work out.

revision.ktconline.org.uk

Kingsmead Saturday Study Club

Open every Saturday 10am till 1pm!



BE PREPARED

Your Year 9 tests
revision guide

Every year 600,000 teenagers sit their Year 9 tests. You're about to join them! But there are plenty of ways you can make them go more smoothly - this revision guide shows you how.

Why do they matter?

Although there's no pass or fail, the Year 9 tests are designed to help you and your teachers assess your progress, ahead of your GCSEs. Research shows that if you work hard and do well now you're more likely to achieve better GCSEs - your passport to an interesting future.

Don't stress - why you needn't worry

The tests are taking place on Tuesday 6th May (Mathematics), Wednesday 7th May (English Writing Paper), Thursday 8th May (English Reading Paper and Shakespeare) and Friday 9th May (Science). Remember they're testing the work you have already done in class - there are no trick questions, and the examiners are trained to give you every mark they can. If you work hard, be prepared and do your best, that's all anyone ask.

Tips for the science tests

Words count. Make a list of terms and symbols and what they mean. Understand rather than remember. Don't be put off by a question you haven't covered in class. Instead of testing you on what you can remember, it's seeing if you can use what you know, to answer it.

- Get your results right. You'll almost always be asked to read results and identify trends from tables and graphs, so make sure you know how to do it.
- Remember that:
 - Questions with the word 'describe' want a description but ones with the word 'explain' need you to use the word 'because' in your answer.
 - Include units like s (seconds) or g (grams) where needed. In science, numbers without units mean nothing.
 - In food webs and light rays, make sure your arrows point in the right direction.

What to do if things seem to be going wrong in the exam

If ... **You don't understand the questions ...**
Read them again slowly. People often lose marks because they rush and miss what the question's actually asking. If you're really stuck, move on to a question you can do and come back to the tough one later.

If ... **You go blank or panic ...**
Relax. Think back to revision time and picture the notes or revision cards you used. As information comes back to you, write it down and fill in the gaps from there.

If ... **You're running out of time ...**
Move on to the next questions and answer as many as you can. Spend time on questions with the most marks. Reduce your answer to note form and you'll still get marks for it.

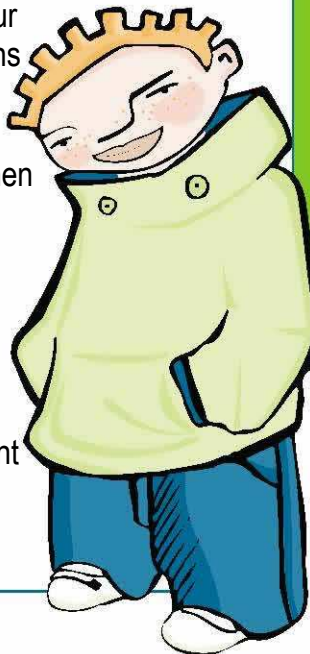
Tips for the English tests

- Pick out revealing words and phrases – ones that vividly describe a character, setting or atmosphere, for example. Use them in your exam.
- Make sure you're answering the question – re-read it to be sure.
- Start a new paragraph when you change the topic, time or viewpoint.
- Back up your answers with evidence. The formula PEE reminds you to make your **point**, give **evidence** (a quote or incident from the text to prove what you're saying) and **explore** the point in more detail.
- Plan an essay. Write down a few main points and number them to help your structure. If you're running out of time, reduce your essay to an introduction and a conclusion, using bullet points in the middle.

Tips for the maths tests

- Memorise key facts. Read the questions through right away and jot down crucial facts such as methods, equations and formulae if you're worried you'll forget them.
- Look for key words that tell you what to do. For example, if it asks for the **product**, you know you have to multiply.
- Show how you've worked something out. Even if your final answer is wrong, you'll get marks for calculations which show you understood the question.
- When you're doing a calculation, work out brackets first, then powers, then division and multiplication, then addition and subtraction.

Remember, algebra has the same rules as arithmetic. Try not to confuse an expression ($3n+2$) with an equation ($y=3n+2$). Never give the probability of an event as a ratio or as odds. The probability of an event that is certain to happen is 1. The probability of an impossible event is 0. All other probabilities lie somewhere between 0 and 1.



Work out a plan that suits you

Here are some simple tips to make revision easier.

Before the tests

- Make sure you have all the notes and books you're going to need for revision – and start revising plenty of time before the exam.

Get organised

- Make a study plan, divided into 30-minute sessions,
- Programme in time to relax as well as revise.
- Have a break after each half hour session.
- Break subjects down into small sections – it's less daunting.
- Plan to kick off each session with the topic you find most difficult.
- Decide where and how you work better – at home, in the library, alone, with a friend.
- Don't do more than two subjects a day – too confusing for the brain.

Give yourself the best chance

- The tests are going to happen, whatever you do. So you might as well give yourself the very best chance to do well.
- Don't rush your revision. Give yourself enough time, so that you do yourself justice in the tests.
- Speak to your teachers – they can help you. Ask for past papers and explanations on things you don't understand.
- Don't force yourself to keep revising if you're not taking it in.
- Take a break and come back to it after 10 minutes.
- Drink plenty of water. It sounds crazy but it hydrates the brain and makes it easier to learn. It really works!
- And get plenty of sleep. That's not nagging. It's simply giving you a head start.

Revision tricks

There are a few simple revision tricks that help minimise the stress

Go through the work you need to learn and make revision notes

Break down the notes into subheadings.

Use tables and lists.

- Colour code certain quotes and themes.
- Try to get a whole topic on one side of A4 paper, then read it,
- hide it and rewrite it. Then check whether you got it right.

Write revision cards or a poster

- Write your notes on index cards by putting a key word on one side and main points on the other. Learn a card each night.
- Make a poster of facts and put it where you'll see it often. You'll be surprised how much information you can absorb like this.

Use your friends

- Revising with a friend doesn't work for everyone. But some people find they can keep each other going.
- Do some question and answer sessions or swap and read each other's essays.

Practise real test questions

- The more familiar you are with what to expect, the less fearful you'll be.
- Ask your teacher for past papers or download them from the web.

Use memory-joggers

Mnemonics are an easy way to remember a list of facts. A classic one is My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming Planets. The first letter of each word is the first letter of a planet.

Before the test

- The week before, ask your teachers what you need to take into the test.
- Have two or more pens and pencils, in case one runs out/ breaks. And make sure your calculator works.
- Get everything ready the night before – and don't forget it!
- Don't spend the night cramming information into your head. Get a good night's sleep – the fresher you are, the more alert your brain will be.

