

# Revising for Maths

**Before you start revising, get all your notes sorted and draw up a list of all the topics you need to cover or use the one provided by your Maths Teacher.**

This serves two purposes: you will definitely cover everything you need to, and a bit of tidying and sorting out is a nice relaxing way to

**Plan exactly when you are going to revise and be strict with yourself.**

Don't just wake up one Saturday and say that you are going to be revising all day, because you probably won't get a lot done. Say that you will work from 10 until 11, then take a half hour break, then work until 12:30, then have some nice lunch, then do another hour, then go for a walk, and so on.

If you revise in small chunks knowing your next break is just around the corner, your revision is likely to be much more focused and effective.

**Don't just read through the revision guide!**

The best way to revise Maths is to DO Maths. You will do much better spending 20 minutes doing Maths questions than spending 2 hours just reading a textbook. The more questions you do yourself, the more you will get right, the higher your confidence will be, the more you will enjoy your revision and the better you will do in the exam.

### **Use the internet.**

The internet is like having your own personal teacher who is available for you whenever you like. There are websites that can set you questions and mark them for you, take you through step-by-step how to tackle certain topics, and use fancy illustrations and animations that might just make that really annoying topic finally make sense. There are free video and audio podcasts that you can watch on your computer (or even iPods) which is like having a Maths lesson in the comfort of your own bedroom, or in the park, or wherever you choose. They can be started, paused, and, watched as many times as you like until you've got it! There are Maths games which you can play to practise crucial skills in a more fun way. All this stuff is out there for you, so use it!

### **Don't just practise the topics you can do.**

If you are really good at fractions it is very tempting to keep doing lots of fractions questions and then smiling as you keep getting them right. But, unfortunately, the exam is probably not going to have more than one or two fractions questions. Although it can be painful, work your way through the topics that you struggle with. It is much better to struggle on them at home, when you have time on your side and the answers available, than it is to struggle in the exam.

### **Give yourself little treats and things to look forward to.**

If you do a good day of revision, take the night off, watch some telly, go and see your friends, put all thoughts of Maths and school to the back of your mind. Buy yourself some chocolates, but only let yourself eat it once you have achieved what you need to do.

***If it works for you, try revising with a friend for a bit of the time.***

*You will find that one of you understands one topic more, whilst the other is a bit of an expert on another. Just by explaining things to a friend, you will find that your understanding increases, and likewise, you might learn a different way of thinking about and understanding a topic.*

***Make sure you ask for help.***

*Once you are in the exam you are on your own, but during revision, you certainly are not. If you are stuck on a topic or question, then ask one of your classmates, your teacher, someone at home, or use the internet.*

*A Maths teacher will always be at the Maths Office ready to help you however small your question.*

***Practise doing questions under exam conditions.***

*Get someone to pick you a set of questions from a textbook or revision guide, get some from a Maths website, or use Method Maths. Try doing them in silence, with no help, for a fixed amount of time. This will get you used to what it will be like in the exam, how fast you need to go and this is the best way of checking that you really understand a topic.*

## **Practise using your calculator!**

Many people seem to assume that any question that lets you use a calculator is easy, and all calculators work the same way. Those people are wrong! All calculators work differently, and unless you have used yours for lots of different types of questions (Trig, Pythagoras, negative, fractions, indices, standard form, etc.), you might come unstuck in the exam.

Remember to bring your calculator to every Maths lesson.

## **Recommended internet sites**

<http://corbettmaths.com/> Under the revision tab, choose 'Quizlet Flashcards'. This opens up a variety of revision activities: revision cards, tests and scatter activities. Also, choose the Symbaloo tutorials, neatly organised by grade.

<http://www.hegartymaths.com/> There are tutorials on everything and also some full practice exam papers with accompanying solutions. Higher students should also register. This will allow you to access higher revision checklists.

<http://justmaths.co.uk/> Login: ..... Password: .....

Aimed at students securing a grade C/B. Use 'Student Area' to print off Clip Worksheets to accompany the "Top 40 Tutorials." Delving deeper into Teacher Toolkit gives practice exam papers with worked solutions.

<http://www.mymaths.co.uk/> Login: ..... Password: .....

Use the booster packs to identify the key topics that need to be covered. Work your way through the lessons and then try the on-line homeworks.

## **Key Notes**

Reflect after each past paper. Be honest when RAGing, this will allow you to have a record of your strengths and weaknesses. Also: Have you learnt a new skill? Condense these new techniques into easy to follow steps that you will be able to use next time a similar question comes up.

Stick post-its around your house showing key things you need to remember.