

Miss Alexanders' Exam Top Tips

• Week(s) before the exam

- * Before the exam – do you know what to expect in the exam
- * Make sure you know the rules and expectations of the exam halls
- * Plan your revision timetable
- * Revise every night for at least 30 minutes

• Night before the exam

- * Normal routine
- * Pack your bag for the exam ensuring you have packed all the equipment (in a clear pencil case) including water bottles (with the label removed)
- * No last-minute cramming; go to bed at a normal time

• Morning of the exam

- * Eat breakfast, drink plenty of water
(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-17741653>)
- * Plan your journey to school
- * Ensure all electronic devices (mobile phones, smart watches) are left at home or are away in your bags

Revision Planning

Revision should be carried out in blocks of roughly **45 minutes** and you should factor in time for a break.

Step 1: Get a calendar – either using an app or create a grid on a piece of paper (see below)

Step 2: Fill in other commitments e.g. football practice / matches / time for exercise

Step 3: Break down subjects into topics – use the specification and subject pages of this booklet

Step 4: Decide upon the area/s that require the most attention, e.g. topics you find most difficult.

Step 5: Allocate topics to slots on the timetable, ensuring you get a good balance and don't do the whole of a topic in one session, spread it out over several sessions to space out your learning

Step 6: Position topics you are likely to find challenging when you know you tend to **work best** in the day.

Step 7: Decide what you are going to do in each session – e.g. *make 2 mind maps, quiz myself on them then write 5 exam questions and answer them*

Step 8: Stick the timetable up on your bedroom wall or in your study area

Step 9: Focus on what you have achieved not the time you have spent on it

Step 10: Tick off a session when you have done it well to help with motivation

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4.00pm							
5.00pm							
6.00pm							
7.00pm							

Active Revision

During Revision/ intervention sessions

- Create revision resources (mind maps, flashcards, quizzes etc) with the relevant information for the topic you are looking at. Remember that creating the resources is the first step and should not take all of your time.
- Active revision comes from using your resources. Examples of how to do this are below:
 - * 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.
- With a friend take it in turns to describe key terms from the resources to look at some of the exam style questions you have done throughout the year in your exercise book – re-do the questions using your revision resources as help.

Strategies for Revising

There is no one correct way to revise, and each person will have their own approach.

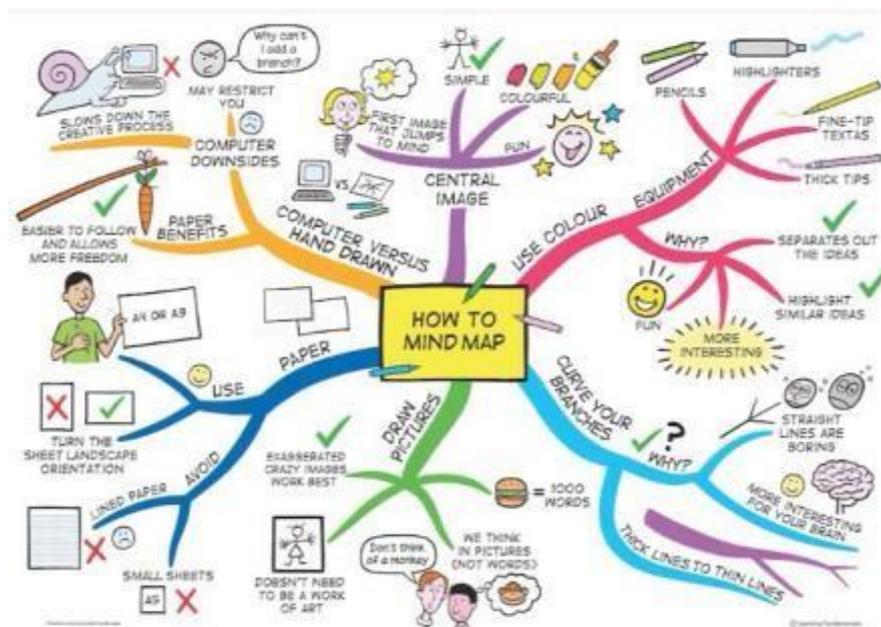
Mind Maps:

How to make a mind map

1. Start with the theme in the centre of the page and work outwards.
2. Then develop your main idea.
3. Each branch must relate to the branch before it.
4. Use only key words and images.
5. Key words must be written along the branches.
6. Print your keywords to make them more memorable.
7. Use highlighters and coloured markers to colour code the branches.
8. Make things stand out on the pages so they stand out in your mind.
9. Brainstorm Ideas. Be creative.
10. Design images you can relate to which will help you remember key information.

Remember, once you have made a map, cover it and test yourself on different strands or give it to someone else to test you.

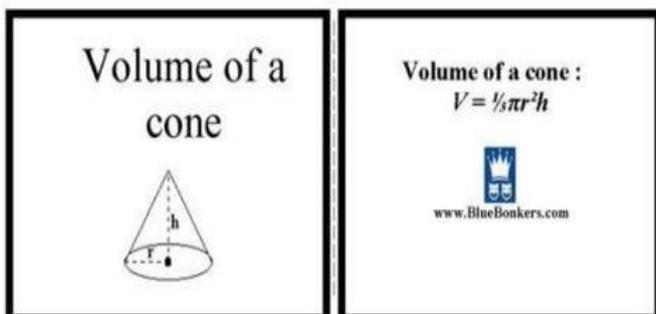
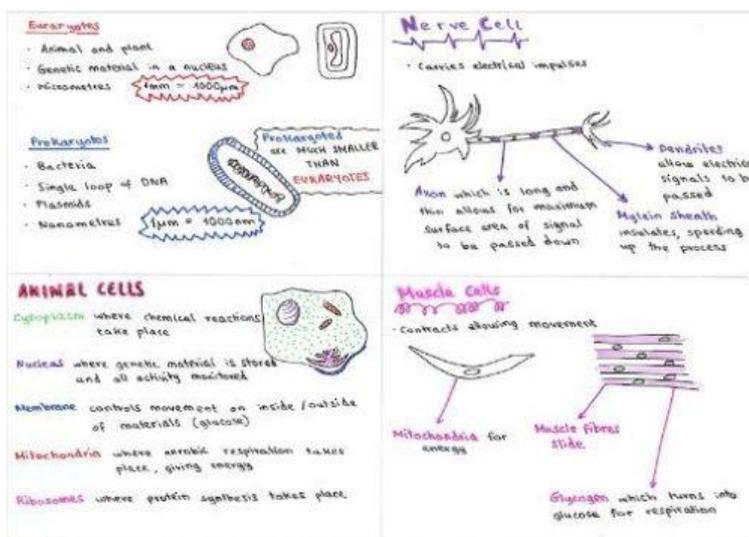
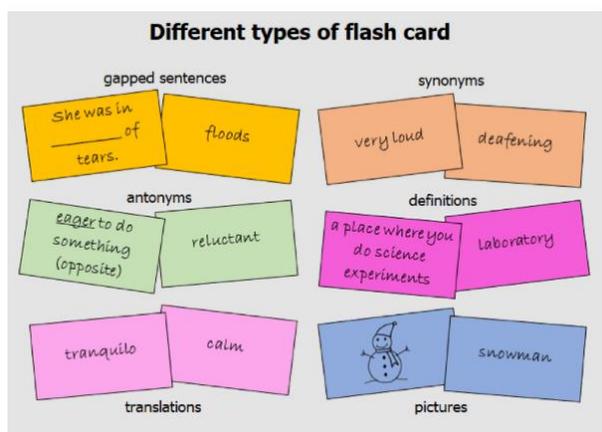
20% of your time should go on making the map 80% on using it



Flash Cards:

Flash/cue cards are a very good and simple revision and self-testing method. They can be created electronically on apps or simply by cutting up card to make your own. Examples of how to use them include:

- **Key words and definitions:** Put the key word on one side and definition on the other
- **Equations:** Put the equation on one side and description on the other e.g. Pythagoras theorem - **Topics and key dates / Names of people and quotes**



Number Pairs

This technique is like the weird pairs technique except that you use numbers instead of links between each pair. Numbers aren't very easy to make strong visual links to, so the number pairs system converts them into words. The list opposite uses words that rhyme with numbers.

Try it out

Using number pairs

GCSE History specifications often require students to understand the ways the Nazis used propaganda to control and influence attitudes in 1933-39. Here are five ways you might remember:

- 1 Nazis took control of the media, including all radio broadcasts.
- 2 They used films and posters to spread propaganda messages.
- 3 They organised rallies – huge spectacles of support for the regime.
- 4 They used the 1936 Berlin Olympics for international propaganda.
- 5 All writers, artists, journalists and musicians had to register with the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda to get their work approved.

You then combine the number rhymes with the things on the list, as with weird pairs. For example:

- 1 Number one is **bun** so pair one from the list could be a **bun** squashing a radio (because number 1 on the list above is **bun**).

- 2 Number two is **shoe** so pair two from the list could be a film projector showing **shoes** marching.

- 3 Number three is **tree** so pair three from the list could be a Nazi rally with every supporter holding a **tree**.


Come up with your own pairs for numbers four and five – you don't need to draw them; the drawings here are just to give you the idea.

1 = Bun

2 = Shoe

3 = Tree

4 = Door

5 = Hive

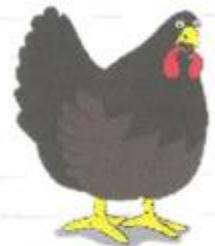
6 = Sticks

7 = Heaven

8 = Plate

9 = Line

10 = Hen

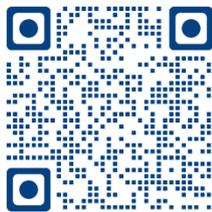


DO NOT PANIC. Remember, exams are NOT designed to catch you out – rather, to allow you to show what you have learned. Being calm and thoughtful in the exam will help you get the most out of your preparation.

Useful Videos

Scan the QR codes below to watch videos with tips on how to revise effectively.

1. *How to revise using your Knowledge Organiser*



2. *Year 11 Top Tips for Revision*



3. *GCSE Mocks – Most effective ways to study*

