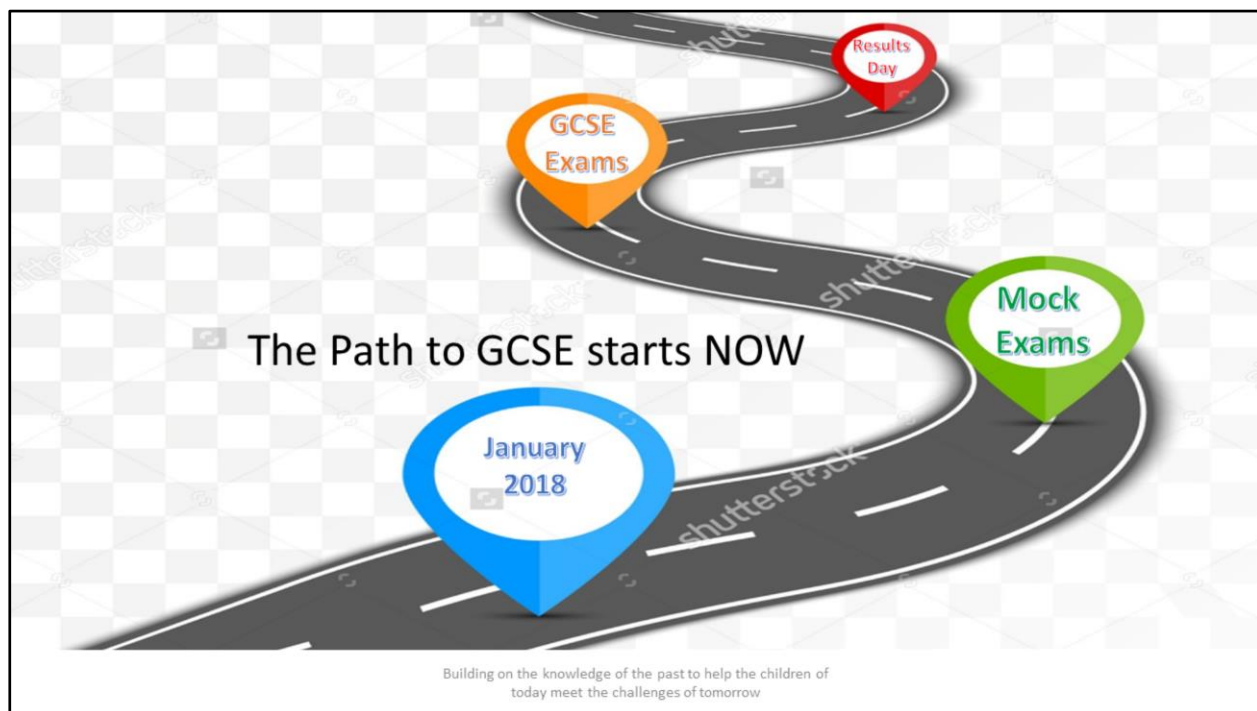




Exam Preparation Evening

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children of
today meet the challenges of tomorrow

This presentation is intended to offer some guidance on revision in light of the changes to GCSE exams. These changes make revising well even more essential as everything rests on the terminal exam, as well as which there is a greater amount of knowledge required for the exams.



All year 11 students should be revising regularly by now. Revision should take place each evening in small chunks. For example, 20 minutes of Maths followed by 20 minutes of English followed by 20 minutes of Science, is more effective than trying to revise all one subject at once.

Mock Exams

- November 2017
- February 2018

**“How did it get so
late so soon?”
–Dr. Seuss**

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children of
today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Students now do two mock exams in order to give them plenty of practice ahead of the GCSE exam. In the past, time would have been spent on completing and refining coursework; now, with the emphasis on terminal exams, the time is better used preparing for and practising exams.



**HOPE
IS NOT A
PLAN**

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children of
today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Teenagers sometimes think that if they 'hope' for something it will happen. However planning and preparation are the only ways to achieve the grades you hope for. The new GCSEs are competitive in nature – previously grade boundaries were set and as long as you gained above the grade boundary you would be allocated the grade, so in theory every child in the country could have achieved a grade A.

In the new system, only a certain percentage of students are allocated grades, for example the top 10% of students will each be awarded grade 8 or above – thus in order to gain a particular grade, you have to perform above other students nationally to achieve this. Giving yourself the best possible advantage by planning, preparing and working hard is crucial.

What's on the path?

- Frequency of revision and practise
- Repetition and recall
- Review learning
- Memorisation
- Deepening understanding
- Practice exam questions



Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children of
today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Much time can be wasted with ineffective revision techniques. Smaller chunks of focussed revision are better than hours of browsing revision websites. Memorising and recalling are the two most important techniques. Students can spend a lot of time reading through notes, but unless they test themselves and commit it to memory this is wasted time. Read-test-read-test-read-test is the best technique.

Work ethic

How well you do in
exams is up to you!

It is up to you to ask your teacher about things you are not sure about

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children of
today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Hard work is the factor that makes the biggest grade difference in the end. GCSEs are more a test of what has been learned and remembered than a test of intelligence. Putting in the time and effort now will reap the rewards later.

Grit

‘Researchers have found that ‘grittiness’ – rather than IQ or standardised test scores – is the most accurate predictor of school grades. Grit may be as essential as talent to high accomplishment.’

Dan Pink

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Similarly, students who are resilient and develop a positive mindset towards the workload and accept the challenges, perform better. An intensive focus on studying between now and the final exam is expected, with the reward of a long, relaxing summer holiday at the end.

The only way to be 'good at' Exams



Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Many students approach revision via their computers. Whilst the internet is a useful source of revision material, it is not the most useful way to learn and memorise the information. There are no computers in exams so practising and revising using pen and paper methods is the best preparation.

Make notes, summarise, test yourself and complete practice questions.

I'm very busy doing things I don't
need to do in
order to avoid
doing anything I'm
actually supposed
to be doing.

your  cards
someecards.com



In addition there are many, many distractions on computers. Spending time in a space without any technology can be a helpful way to focus purely on the information to be learned.

Boredom

‘build a bridge and get over it’



Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Revising can be boring, but not everything that is boring is bad! Accept that it is boring sometimes but do it anyway.

A useful technique is to alternate between topics that you like and topics that you don't like as much.

Revision Plan

- For each module, list the topics you need to cover
- Estimate how much time you have left to revise
- Assign topics as either topics you enjoy or do not enjoy
- Divide out your remaining time between these topics
- Alternating between topics you enjoy, and those you don't
- Create a master timetable – BE REALISTIC
- Take into account all your other commitments e.g. employment, family etc.
- Tick off the topics as you complete them
- Pat yourself on the back frequently by looking back on what you have already covered.

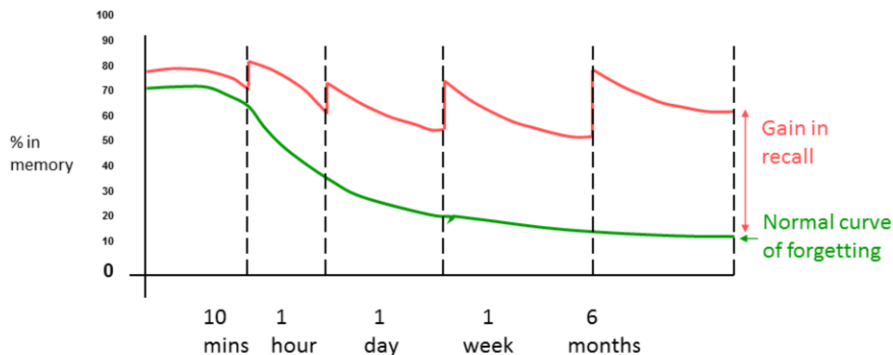
Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Plan out a weekly revision timetable. Use knowledge organisers to identify what you need to know in each subject – these are available on the website for each subject. Tick off topics as you learn them to make sure you don't miss anything.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday there is a study session, staffed by Leadership, in the Sixth Form Study Area, from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm.

How to remember everything you learn! The review cycle

Imagine again that you have had a successful morning revision session



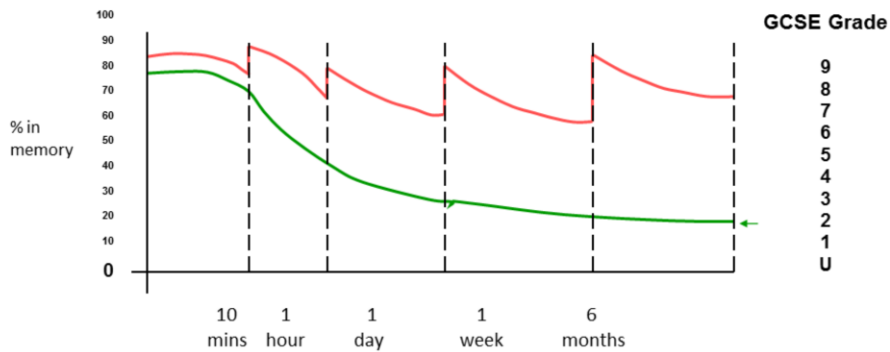
Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

There is such a lot to remember but the good news is that once you've learned something, you can't unlearn it, so a huge amount of information and knowledge has already been learned throughout a student's schooling that is ready to be accessed.

Memorisation and recall and reviewing regularly are key to making it stick! The review cycle demonstrates that if you revise something once, over time you will start to forget it, thus it is important to review it regularly so that it stays in your memory. For example, if you revise Macbeth on Monday, do a quick review the next day before you start a new topic, and then again at regular intervals.

Or another way to look at the importance of reviewing....

If the percentage you remember is equivalent to the percentage you would get in the GCSE exam



Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

This chart demonstrates the importance of reviewing regularly and the difference this can make to grades.

Learning Logs for revision

- **SUMMARISE**

- A good starting point is to summarise the notes you have on each topic:

- Try to reduce your notes to key words and phrases.
 - This will form the basis of your revision notes.
 - Reduce your notes further so that information fits into your learning log

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Use exercise books and learning logs to make condensed revision notes that you can refer to regularly as part of reviewing your learning.

Eight General Keys for Memorising

1. Try to understand it first
2. Create a hook (picture, pattern, rhyme, story, first letter)
3. Link it to something you already know
4. Don't bite off more than you can chew (don't overload your brain)
5. Get emotionally involved (personalise it)
6. Sleep on it (review before bed and when first awake)
7. Use it or lose it (access it, think about it, apply it – soon and often)
8. Quiz yourself periodically (like exercising a muscle)

Simply reading a particular piece of text over and over again is going to be the long road to memorization. You need to let your brain practice **recalling** the data so it can strengthen the same pathways that will fire when you need to remember the information later on. You can't practice recalling until the information is at least partially contained in your short term memory.

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Students have a tendency to read notes, highlight and then re-read, this creates familiarity with the information but not necessarily a strong memory of it.

Recalling information is what makes it stick, so read and then test yourself. Working with a friend to test each other can be helpful with recall, but this is only useful once you have started to memorise the information first.

Revision Tips

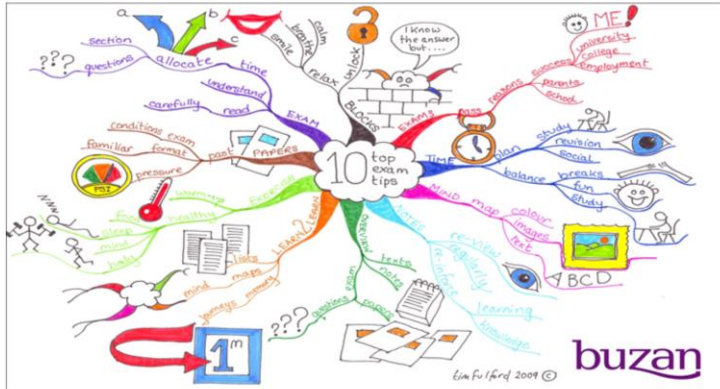
- **COVER CARDS**

- As you are revising from your book, read what you are trying to memorise.
- Use the cover card to conceal what you've just read.
- Try reciting, or reading facts from memory.
- Check until you are sure you have mastered the facts.

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Revision Tips

- MINDMAPS



Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Revision Tips- recall and review

- **READ THROUGH YOUR NOTES**
- **Recall** - close the text and try to remember what you have read and then note the key points.
- **Review** - the final stage involves checking your notes against the text. Spend some time filling the gaps and correcting errors.

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the children
of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Q + A sessions

- Read the following passage:

Electrolysis An electric current can split a salt into its elements if it is molten or dissolved in water.

Electrolysis = electricity splitting

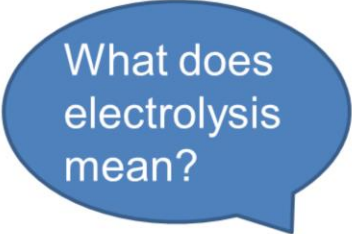
First discovered by an English chemist, Humphry Davy – used electrolysis to isolate the elements potassium, barium, strontium, calcium and magnesium.

The negatively charged ions move towards the positive electrode and the positively charged ions move towards the negative electrode.

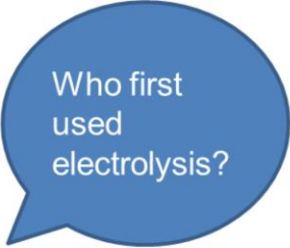
At the electrodes the particles turn back into atoms.

- Make up 3 questions to ask your child about the passage.

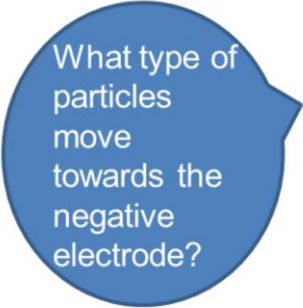
Who can make the hardest question – you or them!



What does
electrolysis
mean?



Who first
used
electrolysis?



What type of
particles
move
towards the
negative
electrode?



What is
an ion?

Being Active in your learning...

- Corbettmaths.com
 - Turton Website subject areas
 - Knowledge organisers
 - Apps:
 - ‘Quizup’;
 - ‘Test and learn’ by CGP
- [just check that it is for the correct Exam Board!]
- Online:
 - [Flashcard maker](#)
 - [More flashcards](#)
 - [Wheel of fortune](#)
 - [Fruit machine](#)

Building on the knowledge of the past to help the
children of today meet the challenges of tomorrow

Applying to Sixth Form – what parents need to know!

Application

- Made on UCAS Progress – online
- This should have been completed before Christmas!
- Same application for other providers

Interviews

- Started in December, can run through to March
- Come in school uniform
- Interview on their own

A-levels or BTECs

- Grade 6 or above: A-level
- Grade 4: BTEC

Results Day

- Fingers Crossed it all goes well
- Don't Panic if it doesn't!
- Make sure your son/daughter comes for an interview, and we will go through the different options available
- Students on the right course are more likely to succeed – if the course is too hard, then the student won't enjoy it
- If you need more time to think about the options then take it – we will still be here in September!

Changes to courses

- We want students to make the right choice, so there is the ability to change course until the end of September, but it should only be done after careful consideration.
- Students will study 3 courses (except if you take Further Maths)
- If they want to try a new subject, then pick 4 to start with

Any questions

- Mrs Bali, Head of Sixth Form balik@turton.uk.com
- Miss Howsham, Careers Advisor howshamh@turton.uk.com
- Mr McGowan, Head of Y13 mcgowanc@turton.uk.com
- Mrs Lane, Head of Y12 lanel@turton.uk.com