



# Success in Examinations and Tests by Revising Effectively



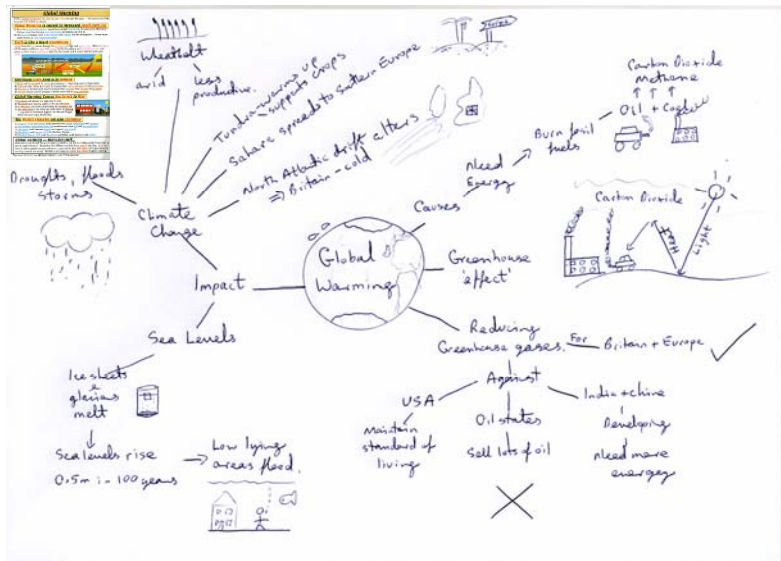
- Revision makes a **big** difference to how successful you are in tests / exams.
- Research suggests that a good revision programme at home can raise your GCSE grades by as much as 3 grades. Get into good habits – **set up a regular time each day for revision.**
- If you are going to revise, you want to revise in the smartest and most effective way – maximum gain for your effort. The following guide shows you how.....

- 1) **Identify your strengths and weaknesses.** There is no point spending lots of time on what you can already do. You need to **practice / revise areas where you are not so good** (your mock exams will give you a good idea).
- 2) There is a big difference between being able to understand / recognise something (passive recall) and being able to recall and answer questions on it (active recall). To find out if you really know enough for the exams **try out lots of exam questions** (e.g. SAM learning).
- 3) Find out what you need to revise (ask your teacher) and then **construct a revision plan** leading up to the exams / tests spending more time on areas of weakness.

Subject	1/5/06	2/5/06	3/5/06	4/5/06	5/5/06	6/5/06	7/5/06
Science	Plants	Metals	Atoms	Energy	Heart	.....	.....
Maths	Triangles	Circles	Fractions	Shapes	Coordinates	.....	.....
Geography	Erosion	Volcanoes	Water cycle	Rivers	Population	.....	.....

4) For areas that you need to revise: Underline / **highlight** key words in your notes / exercise books. Revision guides often do this for you. You can then quickly pull out the important information by just reading the highlighted / underlined words.

5) Construct a **mind map** (or revision notes) using the key words / ideas – use pictures / colour / anything unusual to help you remember.



- 6) **Talk through your mind map** with a friend or on your own (speak the words – if you can put it in words, you should be able to write it).
- 7) **Turn over the Mind map and try to talk it through again** (speak the words, try to picture the Mind map) – Review the bits you forgot and then try again.
- 8) Now try a question on the topic.
- 9) Write out **key ideas** / formulae / things you need to remember and **stick them on** your bedroom **wall** or kitchen **cupboard**. Every time you have breakfast / go to bed .....
- 10) Try **different ways to revise** e.g. **E-learning** (see separate sheet), **mp3** audio revision & **mobile phone** (Bitesize), **questions and answers with a friend** etc.