Name: _____ Personal Tutor:_____

Year 11 Revision

"How to do better at your GCSEs"

What is included for you:

- ✓ Quick tips for revising
- ✓ Hot Tips on revision and tackling the exam
- ✓ Some exam words unravelled
- ✓ Example of an evening and weekend revision diary
- ✓ A blank evening and weekend revision diary for you to copy/complete
- ✓ A blank Personal Tutor time revision calendar for you to complete

A copy of this guide and also be found on the Academy website at www.lfata.org.uk

Remember

- Start revision early
- Be well prepared
- Read the questions carefully
- Test yourself regularly

Quick tips for revising

- Make yourself start however much you don't want to – the hardest bit is over with then!
- Build in short breaks.
- Do frequent short exercises – stretches, neck and shoulder rolls, walking around etc.
- Drink water and get fresh air. Keep the temperature cool.
- Eat 'brain food' – avoid sugar and have lots of healthy snacks around to eat little and often.
- Get plenty of sleep
- Take a day off and do something completely different.
- Don't leave the difficult bits to the end.
- Do something relaxing between revising and bedtime.
- STOP and take a break if you start feeling frustrated, angry, overwhelmed. Make a note of the problem to take to your next lesson, and move on to something else.
- Focus on what you have done, not all the things that you haven't – every little helps.
- Promise yourself little rewards after each session – a favourite TV programme, reading a trashy novel or going out with friends.
- At the end of each session, file away your notes and clutter so that your work-area is clear for the next session.

Doing better in Exams: Some Advice for Students

Year after year students don't do as well as they could in exams because they don't revise well and they make very common mistakes in exams. This advice can help you make the best of what you have learned.

Revision tips:

• Reading through your notes **IS NOT REVISING**

• Start your revision in good time.

• Plan a revision timetable.

• Highlight examination dates and times.

• Spread your subjects out over time so you cover each one several times.

• Plan for half-hour or, at most, one-hour slots. Any more of one subject and nothing extra is likely to sink in.

• In the evenings after school, plan one or two subjects only. Leave time for relaxation.

• Plan to revise specific topics or aspects of a subject – for example, not just science but human systems, or waves, or chemical reactions, or electricity.

Revising at home:

Know how you learn best

• Everybody has a way of learning that suits them well. What works best for you?

• Try watching **Konnie Huq's "Revision Tips" Videos on You Tube**, they take about two and a half minutes each and you may find something that works for you.

Try some of these to see what works for you

- Music in the background sometimes helps, but don't try to revise with the TV or radio on and definitely not whilst on MSN.

- Read through a topic and make brief notes on cards or post it notes which can be used for further revision later. Maybe stick up the post it notes around the house so that you can read them often.

- Instead of writing notes in words, draw pictures. These visual images can be very powerful.

- Redraw diagrams and check how well they match the original.

- Use flow charts to sequence events or activities. Use linking words between boxes to illustrate the nature of the sequence.

- Use colours to highlight key words in your notes or revision books.

- Work with a partner to help and test each other on, for example, explaining the meaning of key words (and spelling them correctly), rearranging chemical equations, performing calculations, recalling linked facts or dates, drawing conclusions from evidence.

Tackling the exam

• While waiting for the exam to start, read the front of the exam paper so you know exactly what to do.

• Read each question carefully – twice is better than once. Check how many marks are available for the answer. Write neither too much nor too little.

• Answer the question; don't simply repeat it or make up a question of your own.

• Write your answer if you feel confident. If not, go on to the next question. Don't spend time on questions you are unsure of until you have been through the whole paper once.

• Check all calculations. Does the answer make sense and have you included the units?

• Check information in graphs, tables and pictures. Did you read them correctly?

• Check your spellings of specific words, but if you are not sure of the spelling write your answer anyway. You may get the mark.

• If you have to draw diagrams, charts or graphs, use a sharp pencil and draw accurately, using a ruler where necessary.

• Once you have answered all the more straightforward questions go through the paper again, tackling those questions which are more difficult. If on the second reading a question is still very difficult, move on to the next question.

Avoiding common exam mistakes

• **Read the question** correctly so you don't miss the point.

• Check how many marks are given for each question and write enough but not too much.

• Look at tables, graphs, drawings and photographs very carefully so you don't miss anything.

• Use the correct words and try to spell them properly.

• Answer the question; don't just repeat it.

Examination Question Words - Unravelled

Function of:	state its job
Structure of:	what it is made up of, the way the text is organised
Explain:	make clear, show how something works
Describe:	state how something looks, feels smells etc
Define:	give the exact meaning of
Analyse:	find or show the characteristic of
Assess:	estimate the value of
Appraise:	value it
Evaluate:	assess or appraise
Method:	describe what you did
Results:	state what happened
Conclusion:	explain why what happened, did
Interpret:	explain the meaning of
Variable	something that you can change eg temperature
Independent variable	is the variable that you are changing
Dependent variable	is the variable you measure or observe
A Control	a sample that has not been changed
Advise	to offer information
Argue	to put forward a viewpoint
Fact	information that is true
Fiction	literature that describes imaginary events or people
Imagery	the use of language to create a vivid image or picture
Metaphor	a form of imagery when one thing is said to be another Eg you are my sun and moon
Narrator	the person who tells a story
Persuade	to convince a reader or listener to accept a point of view
Simile	a form of imagery when one thing is compared to another Eg he had a face like a wrinkled prune

Organising your revision timetable

You can use the copy of the blank calendar included or devise your own.

Write in any critical dates such as exams (use your exam timetable).

In the evenings, plan to revise two or three subjects.

Decide whether you will revise on Saturdays or Sundays. Perhaps you will do a little on both days, but it's a good idea to have one day clear every week.

Begin to map out a rota for revising all your subjects. At first just write the subjects in against a date. Then try to identify particular topics you plan to revise. For example, where you are doing science revision you may write 'science – animal and plant cells' or 'science – electricity'.

Now have a good look at the whole plan. If possible, share it with one of your parents or an older brother or sister who has been through GCSEs already.

Check that:

- You have time to revise everything and to go over topics more than once
- You are not taking on too much at any one time
- Just before each exam you have enough time to go over that subject

Put your plan on your bedroom wall or somewhere you can easily see it.

Try to stick to your plan, but remember you can adjust it as you go along as long as you don't skip bits.

Example of an Evening and Weekend Revision Diary

Day	Date	Subjects	Time	Activity
Monday	17th March	French Science Maths	4.00 – 4.25 4.30 – 4.55	Science – the Heart Maths – algebra
			5.00 – 5.25 5.30 – 5.55	Dinner Maths past paper
			6.00 – 6.25 6.30 – 6.55	French – learning vocabulary French – past paper
			7.00 – 7.25 7.30 – 7.55	Maths – past paper Science – the Heart
			8.00 onwards	Watch TV
Tuesday	18th March	English History	4.00 – 4.25 4.30 – 4.55	English – attend the English Café at the Academy
			5.00 – 5.25 5.30 – 5.55	Walk home Dinner
			6.00 – 6.25 6.30 – 6.55	History –Section A History – Section B
			7.00 – 7.25 7.30 – 7.55	English – Section A English – Section B
			8.00 onwards	Watch TV
Wednesday	19th March	Science Child Development	4.00 – 4.25 4.30 – 4.55	Attend Science revision at the Academy
			5.00 – 5.25 5.30 – 5.55	Walk home Dinner
			6.00 – 6.25 6.30 – 6.55	CD – learning vocabulary CD – practice paper
			7.00 – 7.25 7.30 – 7.55	Science – periodic table Science – past paper
			8.00 onwards	Watch TV

Take copies of the next page to create your own diary

Evening and Weekend Revision Diary

Day	Date	Subjects	Time	Activity
Monday			4.00 – 4.25 4.30 – 4.55	
			5.00 – 5.25 5.30 – 5.55	
			6.00 – 6.25 6.30 – 6.55	
			7.00 – 7.25 7.30 – 7.55	
			8.00 onwards	
Tuesday			4.00 – 4.25 4.30 – 4.55	
			5.00 – 5.25 5.30 – 5.55	
			6.00 – 6.25 6.30 – 6.55	
			7.00 – 7.25 7.30 – 7.55	
			8.00 onwards	
Wednesday			4.00 – 4.25 4.30 – 4.55	
			5.00 – 5.25 5.30 – 5.55	
			6.00 – 6.25 6.30 – 6.55	
			7.00 – 7.25 7.30 – 7.55	
			8.00 onwards	
Thursday			4.00 – 4.25 4.30 – 4.55	
			5.00 – 5.25 5.30 – 5.55	
			6.00 – 6.25 6.30 – 6.55	
			7.00 – 7.25 7.30 – 7.55	
			8.00 onwards	

Friday			4.00 – 4.25 4.30 – 4.55	
			5.00 – 5.25 5.30 – 5.55	
			6.00 – 6.25 6.30 – 6.55	
			7.00 – 7.25 7.30 – 7.55	
			8.00 onwards	

Saturday			9.00 – 9.25 9.30 – 9.55	
			10.00 – 10.25 10.30 – 10.55	
			11.00 – 11.25 11.30 – 11.55	
			12.00 – 12.25 12.30 – 12.55	
			13.00 – 13.25 13.30 – 13.55	
			14.00 – 14.25 14.30 – 14.55	
			15.00 – 15.25 15.30 – 15.55	
			16.00 – 16.25 16.30 – 16.55	
			17:00 onwards	

Sunday			9.00 – 9.25 9.30 – 9.55	
			10.00 – 10.25 10.30 – 10.55	
			11.00 – 11.25 11.30 – 11.55	
			12.00 – 12.25 12.30 – 12.55	
			13.00 – 13.25 13.30 – 13.55	
			14.00 – 14.25 14.30 – 14.55	
			15.00 – 15.25 15.30 – 15.55	
			16.00 – 16.25 16.30 – 16.55	
			17:00 onwards	

Remember, either revise all day Saturday or Sunday, or do a half a day of each

Tutor time Revision timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17th March	18th March	19th March	20th March	21st March
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
24th March	25th March	26th March	27th March	28th March
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
31st March	1st April	2nd April	3rd April	4th April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7th April	8th April	9th April	10th April	11th April
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
14th April	15th April	16th April	17th April	18th April
				Easter Holiday
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
21st April	22nd April	23rd April	24th April	25th April
Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28th April	29th April	30th April	1st May	2nd May
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
5th May	6th May	7th May	8th May	9th May
Bank Holiday Academy closed				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
12th May	13th May	14th May	15th May	16th May

There will be revision classes held in the INSET week of the 19th May. These will be confirmed in writing to you.

From the 2nd June, you will be expected to attend the learning sessions of those subjects you still have examinations in.