



NHGS Good Revision Guide- Generic Revision Exercises

Students at NHGS often ask themselves how much work they should be doing at home to help support their progress in school. This may be a question asked when first starting school or when students are moving towards an important set of examinations. The most expert evidence available on the amount of time students should be working independently states that;

'At secondary level, studies indicate that there is an optimum amount of homework of between one and two hours per school day (slightly longer for older pupils), with effects diminishing as the time that students spend on homework increases beyond this point.'

Education Endowment Foundation, Working with Parents to Support Children's Learning, 2018

Students may not always be set this amount of homework on an evening so it is important to think about using the most effective generic revision strategies to work towards completing the recommended amount of independent work. If students are ever stuck for how to start revising they may use any of the exercises outlined below across all their subjects in school.

Self-quizzing/retrieval practice

1. Write down a topic, idea or concept in the middle of blank page.
2. **From memory only** write down information relating to the topic you have chosen. Don't only recall words and definitions. Make sure you recall main ideas, how things are related or different from one another, diagrams and any examples.
3. **Use your resources to recap the topic.** This can be an exercise book, textbook, knowledge organiser, website or GCSEPod.
4. **Correct any mistakes in the original and add further detail.** Use the additional material to add any key ideas or important examples that you feel you will need to remember next time.

Practice testing

This involves answering questions to test your subject knowledge in a specific area. Questions can be self-generated, from a textbook, from a knowledge organiser, from a website or asked by a partner. It is good to focus on a particular topic and answer around five to ten questions per exercise. It is important that you keep the questions whenever you get any incorrect and then revisit these at a later date in order to make sure that you gain mastery of the knowledge.

Dual Coding

Dual coding is the process of combining verbal materials with visual materials. There are many ways to visually represent material, such as with infographics, timelines, cartoon strips, diagrams, and graphic organisers. When you are looking over your class notes/knowledge organisers/revision guides, find visuals that go along with the information and compare the visuals directly to the words.