

December PPEs

Exam preparation

From: Tuesday November 24th

To: Friday December 11th

2026 NOVEMBER	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					
2026 DECEMBER	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		

Top Tips for GCSE success

*Don't take my
word for it*



16 20

northampton_school_for_girls
Our best-ever GCSE resu... more
20 August



16 20

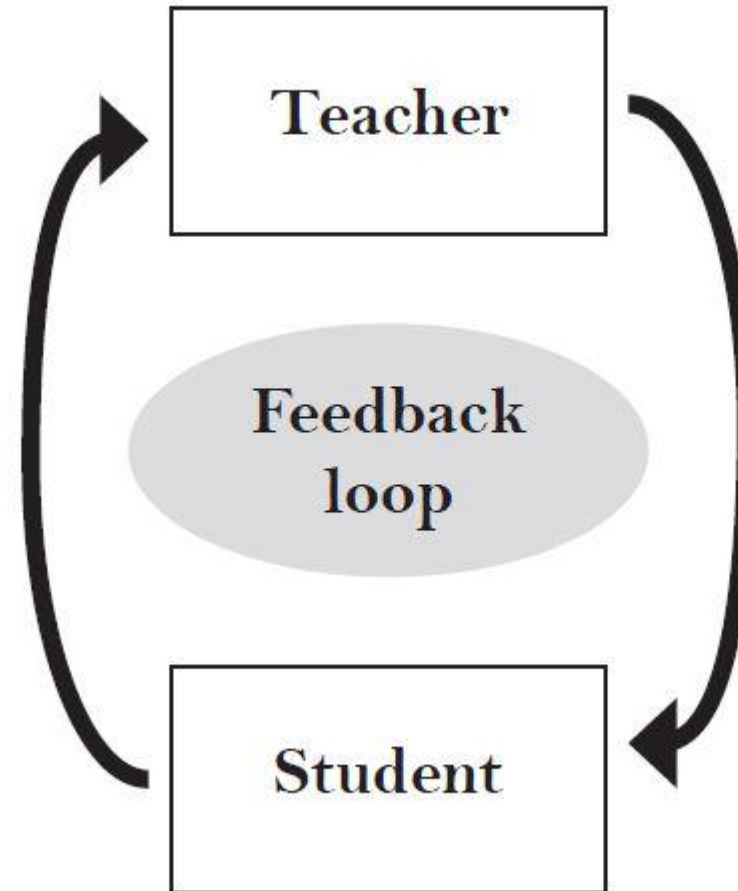
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Our best-ever GCSE resu... more
20 August

Lisiana - Using your teachers

- Ask questions
- Remain interested
- **Get Feedback**



Teaching is adapted based on student responses.
So that ...
Teaching is responsive.



Regular and specific improvement points are used to close the learning gap.
So that ...
Learning is informed.

Lisiana - Go to revision sessions and set timers

The sessions are for YOU.
My last year's favourites...

- History
- English



GCSE
REVISION



Evie - Online flashcards - Gizmo

- Create quizzes
- Active recall
- Variety of question styles
- Challenge friends



13:20 Thu 1 Oct

Gizmo

 Home

 Social

 My decks

 Public decks

 Study groups

 Profile

 Study

+ Add

My decks

+

79%

Northampton School for Girls

Decks Leaderboard

Day

Week

Month

All Time

  Phoebe

3.8k XP

  jess

2.8k XP

  sanaa

2k XP

4  Zuzanna

1.4k XP

5  u

1.2k XP

6  Isabelle

908 XP

7  wiktoria

660 XP

Create knowledge organisers and condense information.



The stoplight method for studying

Color code your notes using red, yellow, and green markers to indicate your level of comfort with the material.

For example:

Red

You're lost. These are areas where you need to ask your professor or teaching assistant for some help.

Yellow

You've almost got it. You need to review this info a couple more times to feel confident.

Green

You're a pro. You're confident on this topic.

Another clever way to use this method is by making three piles of flash cards. Color code the cards based on the stoplight scheme, circulating the red cards the most.

- Strong visual learning aids
- Improves recall

AQA Language Paper 1
Realising potential
knowledge organiser
Explorations in creative reading and writing
READING SECTION

KEY EXAM INFORMATION
IMPORTANT
• You are given one source – this will be a prose extract from a novel or short story from either the 20th or 21st century
• There is a Reading section and a Writing section
• Exam length = 1 hour 45 minutes
• Reading section = 1 hour (40 marks); Writing section = 45 minutes (40 marks)
• Total marks for the whole exam = 80 marks

MARK SCHEME
Band descriptors (4–1):
4 = detailed, perceptive
3 = clear, relevant
2 = some attempts
1 = simple, limited

Reading section assessment objectives (AOs)
AO1: Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas; select and synthesise evidence from different texts
AO2: Explore, compare and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers; use relevant subject terminology to support views
AO4: Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references

QUESTION 1
Read lines 1–... Use 4 things you learn
• Highlight key words in question
• Get information from right lines
• Make sure points are about the question focus
• Write 4 points – no more, no less
4 marks, 5 minutes

QUESTION 2
How does the writer use language to...?
• Highlight key parts of the question – question focus and lines to write about
• Write about correct part of the source
• Write about language
• 3 PETER paragraphs
• Use quotations and terminology
• Quotations should be short and precise
8 marks, 10 minutes

QUESTION 3
How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?
• Write about structure only
• Be analytical, not narrative (don't retell what happens)
• 3 PETER paragraphs:
• Para 1: beginning
• Para 2: middle
• Para 3: end
• Use quotations and terminology
8 marks, 10 minutes

QUESTION 4
Statement about the source – how far do you agree?
• You do not have to agree – do what is logical
• 4 PETER paragraphs
• Write about correct part of the source
• Write about language and structure
• Start with a response statement – 'I agree / partially agree / disagree'
• Respond to all of the statement – if there are 2 parts to it, address both
• Use quotations and terminology
20 marks, 20 minutes

PETER paragraph
P = point
• The writer attempts to ...
• The text strongly shows that ...
E = evidence
• An example of this is ...
• This is shown by ...
T = technique
• The writer uses [NAME TECHNIQUE] to ...
• This is an example of [NAME TECHNIQUE]... which is used to ...
E = explanation
• The demonstrates that ...
• The writer uses the ...
• This emphasises...
R = reader (effect on)
• Therefore [WRITER'S NAME] presents the idea ... that makes the reader think / feel...
• Therefore it is evident that ... [LINK TO WORDS IN QUESTION] and the effect on the reader is ...

Key terminology
LANGUAGE: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, superlative, simile, metaphor, personification, imagery, sensory language, emotive language, hyperbole, imperatives, declaratives, exclamations, interrogatives, simple / complex / compound sentences
STRUCTURE: beginning, middle, end, dialogue, first person narrator, third person narrator, flashback, foreshadowing, cyclical structure, focus shift, suspense, tension

Can be used later on for blurring and similar methods!

Emma - Exercise, regular breaks and rewards

Exercise

- Does not need to be long or intense
- A walk or light stretching allows you to rewind and take productive breaks

Regular breaks - Breaks are **crucial**

- Help to maintain concentration, make revision more manageable and provide a reset during revision of difficult concepts or intense memorisation

Rewards

- Set a clear goal (e.g. completing a past paper or going through some flashcards)
- Plan something enjoyable afterwards to provide motivation

Rewards include: Watching a new episode of a series, enjoying your favourite snack, listening to music, meeting a friend, allocating time for a hobby etc.

Emma - Exercise, regular breaks and rewards

HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR TIME WITH POMODORO TECHNIQUE ✓



SET OUT TASK
TO DO



WORK FOR 25 MINUTES
OR 1 POMODORO



RECORD YOUR
PROGRESS



TAKE A SHORT
BREAK



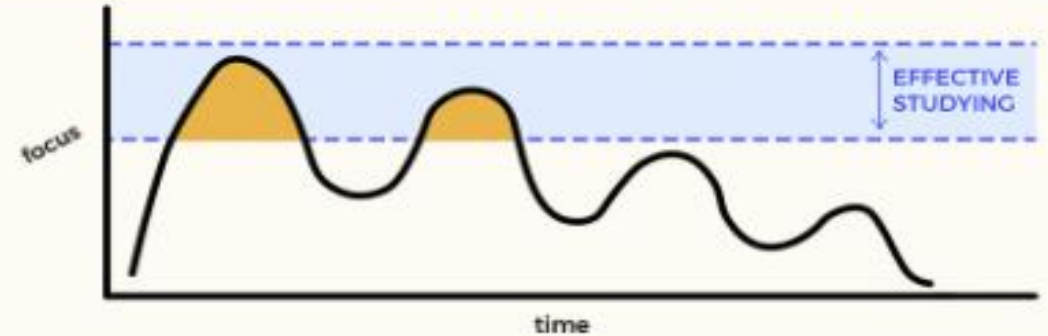
BACK TO WORK



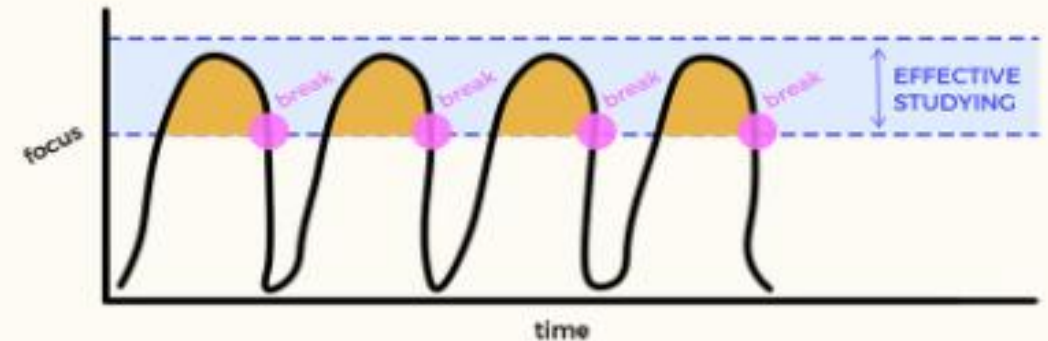
LONG BREAK AFTER
3 POMODORO

Importance of Study Breaks

NO STUDY BREAKS ☹



REGULAR BREAKS ☺



Emma - Use of AI



 Test your knowledge of topics and make revision schedules

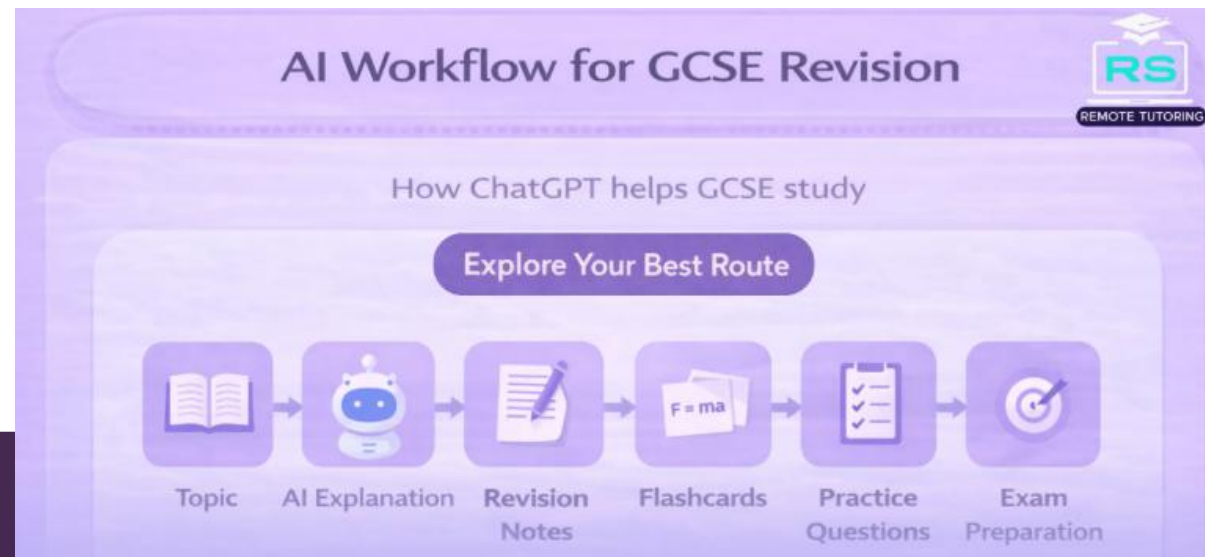
 Explain harder concepts in simple terms

 Gain feedback for practice questions

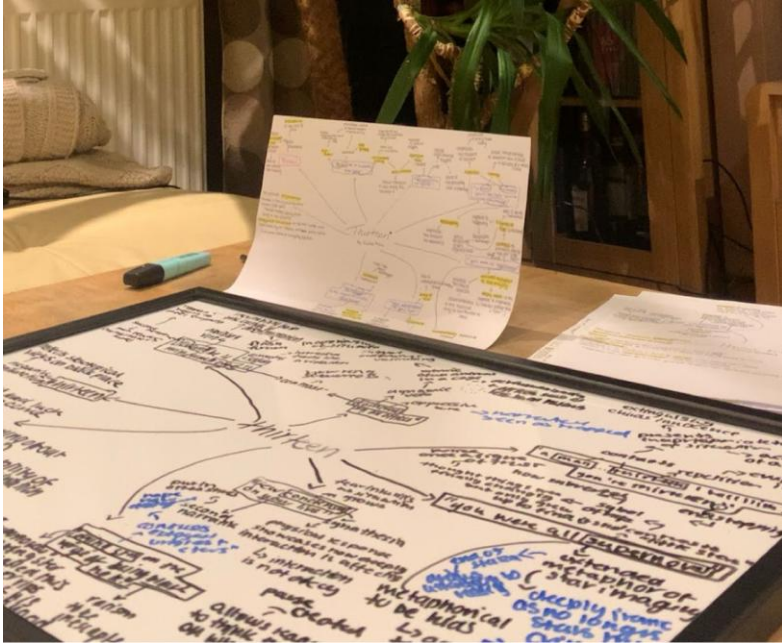
 Personalise feedback using specification and mark schemes + adjust difficulty level



*Remember to try answering the questions yourself first rather than passively reading
AI can make mistakes, so check against your specification, class notes and teacher feedback*



Karina - Mind Maps and Blurting

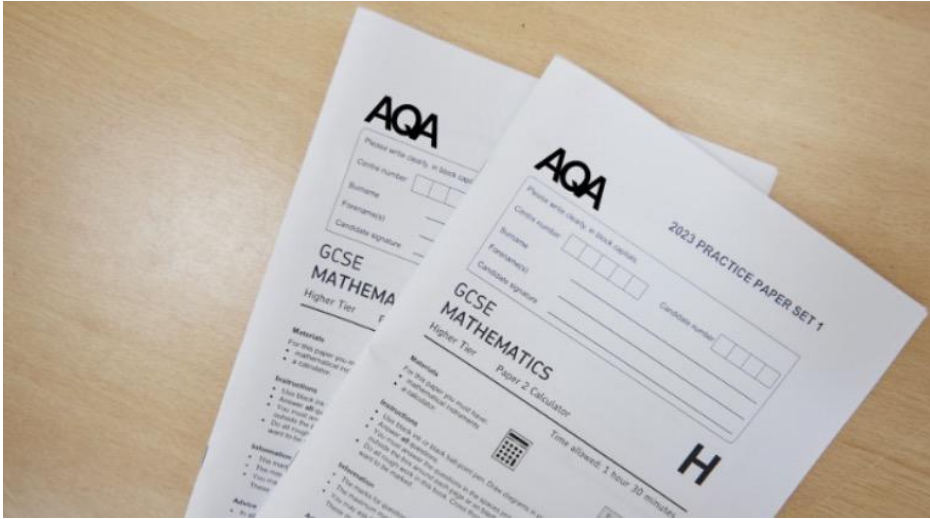


- **Organise** key topics and information visually
- For english - mind maps allowed me learn good analysis with quotes
- **Test yourself** on what you can remember
- **Identify gaps** in your knowledge and repeat

Worked best for me in:
History and English Literature

Mind map → Cover → Blurt → Check → Repeat

Karina - Using Past Papers



- Using past papers in your revision allows you to **apply** your knowledge
- Get used to exam style questions.
- Learn from your mistakes and **identify gaps** in your learning
- Watch **walkthrough videos** on Youtube

Websites i'd consider using:

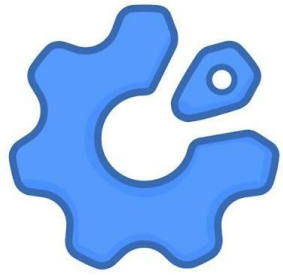
Maths - first class maths, maths genie

Science - physics and maths tutor, mme revise

Worked best for me in:

Maths and Science

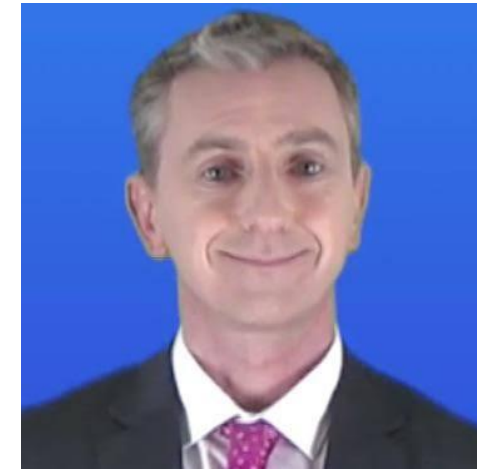
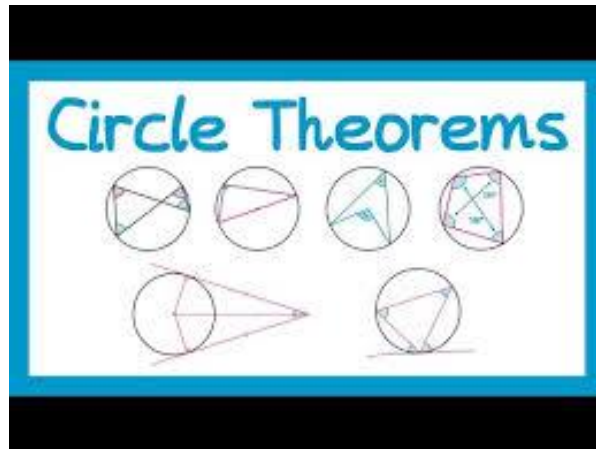
Clodagh - Utilise online videos



Cognito



First class maths



Free science lessons



First rate tutor

Clodagh - Participate in class



Passive learning



Active learning

Kyla - Study bunny

Study bunny is a productivity and focus app that uses a virtual pet to help you stay on task.



Kyla - Active Recall

Is a study method where you test memory by pulling information directly from your brain instead of passively reading notes.

Passive Study vs Active recall

- Creates a false sense of familiarity rather than true memory
- Proves what you actually know and improves test performance

Study Smarter Not Harder ♡

How to Revise Using Active Recall

Less reading + More remembering = Better results!

What is Active Recall?

Active recall means trying to remember information from your brain without looking at your notes. It makes your memory stronger and helps you actually understand, not just read again and again.



Why Use It?

- ✓ Helps you remember for a longer time
- ✓ Improves understanding
- ✓ Finds what you don't know (gaps)
- ✓ Saves time in the long run
- ✓ Useful for both boards & NEET

It feels hard at first, but it gets easier and faster! ♡

Step-by-Step Guide

1 Study First

Read and understand the topic once (your normal study).



Focus on understanding, not just memorising at this stage.

Use your textbook, notes, or short videos.

2 Close Your Notes

Now put your book or notes away. Don't look at them!

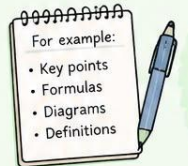


No looking!

This is the "active" part — you are recalling from memory.

3 Recall & Write

Try to remember what you studied. Write it down, say it out loud, or explain it in your own words.



Don't worry if you can't remember everything. Just try! ♡

4 Check & Correct

Now look at your notes and see what you missed or got wrong.

Your recall	Actual notes
• Solar system • 3 laws • Formula... (etc)	• Solar system • 3 laws • Formula... (etc)

Correct your mistakes and add the missing points.

5 Repeat (Spaced)

Do this again after some time. Use spaced repetition (e.g. 1 day, 3 days, 1 week).



Each time you recall, it gets easier! ♡

6 Use Different Methods

Keep it interesting! You can try:

- 📇 Flashcards
- ❓ Questions (MCQs / short)
- 🗣️ Say it out loud
- 📐 Draw diagrams
- 📖 Teach someone (even your imaginary friend!) ♡

Extra Tips

- ✓ Use short notes & keywords.
- ✓ Make your own question bank.
- ✓ Revise active recall with a timer (5–10 min per topic).
- ✓ Keep your phone away while recalling.
- ✓ Be consistent, not perfect! ♡

Remember ♡

You are not just studying to pass a test, you are building a stronger, smarter you.

Quick Example

Topic: Cell Structure (Biology)

- 1 Read your notes.
- 2 Cover them.
- 3 Write/draw the cell parts from memory.
- 4 Check and correct.
- 5 Repeat after 1 day, 3 days, etc.

You got this! ♡