REVISION TECHNIQUES

The Core 5

The Core 5 techniques below are the most effective ways to revise for GCSEs. They help you remember more, spot gaps, and improve exam performance.

What to do	What to do	Why this works	Top Tips
Past papers 	Answer real GCSE exam questions or full papers Work under timed conditions where possible	Shows you exactly what exams are like Helps you practise exam technique, timing and command words	Always check your answers using the mark scheme Learn from mistakes – errors help you improve Redo questions after revising weak topics
Flashcards 	Write a question or keyword on one side Write the answer on the back Test yourself regularly	Improves memory and recall Ideal for definitions, quotes, formulae and key facts	Keep answers short and clear Test yourself without looking first Get someone else to quiz you if possible
Mind Maps 	Write the topic in the centre of the page Add key ideas, facts, examples and diagrams around it Use colour and keywords	Helps organise knowledge Makes links between ideas Supports understanding of a whole topic	One topic per page Use keywords, not sentences Add examples or diagrams where possible
Brain Dumps 	Write everything you can remember about a topic Do this without notes Check afterwards and add missing points	Tests what you really know Highlights gaps in memory before exams	Do this at the start or end of revision Add missing knowledge in a different colour Repeat regularly to check improvement
Look, Cover, Write, Check 	Look at your notes or revision guide Cover them up Write everything you remember Check and correct your work	Builds strong memory recall Moves information into long-term memory	Don't copy – write from memory Correct mistakes in a different colour Repeat until you can recall it confidently