



Expectations of independent study at Parkhall Integrated College



Revision Technique



Exam Top Tips



Folder Organisation



Extra Curricular



Home Learning



Independent Study Periods



ART



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Use 'exam preparation' time to structure how long certain practical tasks may take you
- Practice and refine materials and techniques
- Devise a time plan on how to use 15 hour timed test period



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Sketchbooks and portfolios should be maintained and presented with care
- Be prepared – all materials/equipment
- Keep in storage. Art department individual draw.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Visit relevant exhibitions - respond to the work seen
- Further reading on books/ articles
- Specific websites to use
- Attend free workshops
- Art conference
- Life drawing workshop



HOME LEARNING

- Expected to study 5 hours outside of lesson and 2 practical nature of the course
- Use the Art department during free periods to refine work



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Continue to use study periods in the Art department or study space
- Discuss your work and ideas with peers and teachers
- Be aware of your deadline dates – plan ahead.



BUSINESS



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Practice exam questions
- Check your answers using the mark scheme and examiners reports
- Create flashcards with keywords/formulas.
- Choose a topic and study it for 20 minutes
- Practice an exam question on that topic.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Make links with the case study on other topic areas
- Save enough time to answer all the questions
- Read the case study and highlight key points (linked to the question! Not everything!)



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Make links between the themes
- Print out specification
- Have a separate section for exam practice
- Use dividers to organize into different parts.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Read books on entrepreneurs
- Listen to business podcasts
- Take part in business essay competitions
- Write a business plan for your own idea.



HOME LEARNING

- Look for current business news and make links with what has been studied in class
- BBC News/ Business
- The Guardian/ Business
- Revisit note and make links between different themes.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Create mind maps from your last lesson. What did you learn? How did it link to the big picture?
- Watch the YouTube series 'The diary of a CEO'
- Read the Financial Times 'Business' section.



DRAMA



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Line learning techniques, recording lines with a partner
- Practice exam questions
- Book the drama studio to rehearse group performances
- Watch live theatre of the set texts.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Re-read set texts
- Make sure your 'cheat sheet' has been created with detailed notes in line with exam rules



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Divided up into components of study
- Keep notes from lessons in order
- File past exam questions and homework
- Ensure that you always bring set texts to lessons – keep these in your folders.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Take part in Drama workshops, summer schools, look out for performance opportunities
- Deliver Drama club for KS3
- Write a script – enter the National Theatre Script competition.



HOME LEARNING

- Read the set texts prior to the study at the start of Year 13
- Research plays to find performance monologues.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Write up notes from the lesson which you will not have time to do at the end of practical lessons (some lessons will be entirely practical, and you will need to keep a detailed diary for evaluation purposes)
- Rehearse your play/ learn lines
- Support GCSE Drama and KS3 Drama where possible



ENGLISH LIT



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Map key themes
- Map character trajectories
- Map narratives by key events
- Complete past papers and self-evaluate
- Create flashcards to remember key ideas
- Practice skim reading blank (i.e. unannotated) versions of the texts to find key moments
- Memories key quotations from texts and critics



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Stick to timings!
- Approach as if closed book, do not be reliant on the texts but rely on your knowledge!
- Take time to annotate essay plan and prepare.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Clearly divided by text.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- EMC, Critical literary essay evaluations
- Actively seeking opportunities to critically explore literature
- Support English department with poetry evening, literature events and KS3 lessons



HOME LEARNING

- Reading widely – prose and poetry
- Completing past papers or practice essays
- Reading critical essays on key texts
- Watching adaptations and comparing to original texts
- Reviewing feedback and redrafting sections.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Annotating texts
- Planning essays
- Reading and making notes on how to succeed from examiners reports.



GEOGRAPHY



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Timed essays/Practice papers/ use of perfect answers
- Practice theory and case studies from memory maps
- Teach others
- Ask for help/talk it through with your teacher
- Examiners reports/mark schemes
- Mind maps/concept maps
- Annotated diagrams
- Use must, should, could when creating perfect answers.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Learn and practice using key terms in all answers
- Create case study profiles and use to self-assess case study exam questions
- Practice essays – redo to improve using feedback
- Online revision videos/quizzes – Tutor2u, Cool Geography.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Three folders – Human/Physical/Field Work or Decision Making divided clearly into two sections, one for theory and one for past paper practice.
- Jotters and folder of past papers
- File each lessons work logically behind correct divider
- Bring student booklets and revision guides to EVERY lesson.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Set up a class WhatsApp group to share lesson info and ask for help
- Go and visit places learnt about, if possible, in person or using virtual field work apps (Newcastle – Co Down, Dublin, Cambridge, Freiburg - Germany)
- Become a member of the RGS
- Be an ambassador – helping at KS3 and 4.



HOME LEARNING

- Use folder dividers to see what future learning will focus on and read/research ahead
- Consolidate classwork to enable active revision when it is exam time
- Complete all homework tasks for deadlines
- Watch the news – update case study knowledge



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Go and see/email teachers if there is anything you need help with
- Practice exam questions under exam conditions using lesson notes
- Go through each lesson's notes and complete any unfinished work.



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Create flashcards and mind maps to help you remember key information
- Practice exam questions then use the mark scheme, and examiner reports to check your answers.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Practice writing essay questions and drawing diagrams
- Save enough time to read through all questions and answer them fully.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Using dividers to organise your notes and topics
- Make links between topics
- Print out the specification
- Have a separate section for essays and exam practice.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Go beyond the syllabus to explore health & social care in the real world
- Watch documentaries e.g. Panorama, 24 hours in A&E
- Read articles or reports from the NHS
- Volunteer in a care setting.



HOME LEARNING

- Complete all homework and assignment tasks independently and to a high standard
- Meet coursework deadlines and follow guidance from assignment brief
- Apply theory (e.g. Maslow's hierarchy, Piaget's stages) to real-world scenarios
- Reflect on work experience placement or case studies.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Use non-timetables periods productively for research, planning and revision
- Stay on top of long-term tasks by breaking them into weekly goals
- Work through assignment tasks bit by bit, not all at once
- Set targets like "research safeguarding policies" or "write P1 and M1 or unit 2".



HISTORY



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Mind maps
- Timelines – annotated/colour coded with themes
- Essay planning
- Knowledge quizzes.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Planning, planning, planning!
- Never write an exam answer without planning it first.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Separate folder for each unit
- A4 day folder for school. Lever arch at home
- Each topic separated by a divider and labelled
- Essay tracker at front of folder.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Utilise available reading lists
- Listen to recommended podcasts
- Check the google classroom list (updated regularly)
- Get involved in trips and clubs
- Use recommended YouTube channels



HOME LEARNING

- Wider reading around the subject
- Creating revision materials
- Essay practice.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Reviewing and organising content from the lesson
- Re-drafting work based on feedback
- Organising notes and folder
- Seeking support and help from teachers.



ICT



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Review key theory and technical concepts regularly to prepare for internal or external exams.
- Flashcards for terminology.
- Flowcharts and diagrams for processes.
- Practice with past paper questions.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Demonstrate independent thinking, technical accuracy and problem-solving ability in all assessed work.
- Back up written points with examples or screenshots.
- Understand how to evaluate and analyse, not just describe.
- Use technical vocabulary correctly (e.g. “cloud storage” vs “remote access”).
- Check formatting, spelling and clarify in reports and documentation.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Organise physical and digital folders clearly for each unit or topic
- Save drafts, feedback and final versions separately.
- Create unit folders
- Label everything clearly.
- Keep a checklist of assessment criteria and track your progress.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Engage with ICT beyond the classroom to broaden your technical understanding and awareness of the digital industry.
- Complete online coding or IT courses (e.g. FreeCodeCamp).
- Research careers in IT.
- Explore real-world applications of ICT in business, education or government.



HOME LEARNING

- Complete all homework, assignments, and project work on time and independently.
- Use home learning to apply knowledge practically (e.g. creating databases, spreadsheets or presentations).
- Meet all criteria for coursework units (Pass, Merit, Distinction) using research, analysis and development skills.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Use study time for coding practice, coursework development, revision or self-paced learning.
- Set small, focused targets for each session.
- Use online platforms to practise digital skills.
- Review feedback and improve previous work.
- Update evidence logs or documentation for coursework units.



LANGUAGES



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Print the exam board specification to ensure you understand how the exam works and what each paper looks like
- Create an essential vocabulary list to practise regularly in small chunks
- Make a revision poster with essential grammar and punctuation rules and formations
- Create mind maps per topic with vocab and structures
- Complete past paper questions
- Attend all your sessions with the language assistant.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Read the question carefully and answer in the correct language
- Focus on keywords to not misinterpret the question
- Don't leave multiple choice questions blank
- Learn to recognise distractors
- Don't expect to understand everything
- Focus on what you know.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Tracker at the front
- Divided by topics



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Netflix series in the Target Language, with or without subtitles, in the Target Language
- Listen to podcasts or playlists of French/ German/ Spanish speaking artists
- Complete a Duolingo challenge every week
- Switch your devices to the target language
- Read a blog/ Instagram page/ novel in the TL
- Watch the news in the TL.



HOME LEARNING

- Use online resources such as Kerboodle for explicit exam practice or general interactive tasks on the topics
- Create Quizlet quizzes to help learn vocabulary
- Work on feedback given by teachers; correct and improve work
- Practice essay writing
- Read extensively about the topics covered



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Work on your Individual Research Project
- Go through lessons and complete any unfinished work
- Research the topic you are currently studying in TL
- Create mind maps/flashcards/Quizlet cards from your lessons



MATHS



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Use of Parkhall Maths website
- Past paper practice questions from group past paper questions booklet
- Work collaboratively with your peers



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Timed assessments both in class and independently
- Use of Parkhall Maths website.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Subject information at the front
- Order by chapter, using dividers
- Unit/chapter assessments at the back of each section with teacher feedback.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Wider reading on topics
- Maths inspiration trips to see maths in action and the focus for it
- Maths seminars



HOME LEARNING

- Work set by class teachers
- Completing textbook questions from one lesson to the next on content covered in the lesson that is independently marked.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Plan periods specifically for maths work
- Create a revision timetable over the holidays to ensure you are consistently reviewing content
- Practice, practice, practice!!



MEDIA STUDIES



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Pay particular attention to the revision packs. These have been designed specifically for the exams
- Complete all activities and practice questions.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Read data questions carefully and apply real world knowledge.
- Make sure to include theorists and specific examples in all questions.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Folder to be organized into sections for each unit
- Any missed work to be caught up on.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- David Gauntlett thinks about the Media
- Evan Puschak's web series is funny, challenging and very smart
- The Guardian is a good place for updates on all aspects of the Media
- Re-watch source material
- YouTube – Mrs Fisher, Mr Weir's Computer Science, Ten, Ten, Ten.



HOME LEARNING

- In addition to any set homework students are expected to revise concepts and theories covered in lessons
- Students at times will be required to film outside school and this needs to be coordinated and managed by the student in-line with deadlines
- Students are required to keep up to date with Media products for example if one of their products has an app or social media account they are expected to monitor the updates to assist them with exam questions.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- At times this will require technical work like editing in the Media suite – this must be pre-arranged with Miss Beckett
- Students at times will need to collaborate with others on projects and this can be done most effectively by collaborating with someone within the school to maximise the benefits of study periods.



POLITICS



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Cornell notes
- Exam question practice
- Exam question framework/planning
- Content mind maps
- Multiple Choice Questions.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Planning, planning, planning!
- Never write an exam answer without planning it first.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

1. Essays and top sheet at front
2. Notes in chronological order
3. Homework.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Read the NY times and Washington Post
- Listen to recommended podcasts
- Watch Prime Minister's questions
- Select committee hearings (parliament TV)
- Newspaper/radio review shows.



HOME LEARNING

- Watch the news – politics changes daily. This includes keeping up to date with American politics!
- Politics bookshelf/club available in H4.
- Students must know what is happening in current political discourse and backdrop.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Reviewing and organising content from the lesson
- Re-drafting work based on feedback
- Completing homework
- Seeking support and help from teachers.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Blurting
- Power hour - revise a question and complete
- Read reporters comments and Mark schemes
- Stay consistent - Revise Regularly.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Knowing key philosophers
- Biblical justification
- Knowing key terms



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Sectioned with notes, booklets and worksheets
- Half termly folder check!



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Peer assisted Study sessions
- Read around the subject
- Philosophy Now – website.



HOME LEARNING

- 5 hours a week on subject
- Wider reading
- Organising work
- Finishing notes
- Condensing notes.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Are there any academic journals on the topics?
- Reading
- Gathering and using information
- Discuss and Debate
- Analyse your strengths and weaknesses
- Reflect.



SCIENCE



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Turning phone off if not required for the work
- Short and regular
- Practice questions
- Check knowledge against specification.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Complete past papers, some under exam conditions
- Underline key words/language in question
- Check calculations (do x2)
- Show working out
- Check units and significant figures rounding.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Handbook at front of folder – *actively used*
- Work divided by: (a) each teacher (b) each unit
- Section for assessments/feedback
- Section for revision/refined notes
- Practical work in separate book/folder.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Join a Science institution
- Complete Cambridge Science challenges
- YouTube lectures
- Taster days at Universities
- Visiting some of the Science buildings in London.



HOME LEARNING

- Reading through textbook or similar context rich activity
- Identify areas for lack of understanding
- Revisiting material covered in class
- Watch SnapRevise videos on the topic just covered in lesson.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Producing condensed lesson notes
- Producing flashcards
- Completing homework
- Going over class material.



SPORT



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Mind maps
- Flashcards for each topic
- Pump up my answer – exam questions, exam style questions
- Past papers
- Student homework guide.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Manage time
- Plan your answer
- Coursework – paragraphing!!
- Create your own revision notes.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Students must bring their folders to every lesson unless stated by the teacher
- Folders:
 - Command words
 - Key terms
 - Folder dividers
 - Content
 - End of topic tests.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Set up a class WhatsApp group to share lesson info and ask for help
- Watch more live sport and on TV, try to apply your knowledge to what you are watching.
- Be an extra- curricular coach – helping at KS3 and 4.



HOME LEARNING

- Must always be completed on time
- Must always be detailed in relation to the topic
- Presented well within the folder.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Research the topic area you are currently studying
- Draw upon what has been learnt in the classroom by creating mind maps/completing dividers that we use in BTEC PE.



EMPLOYABILITY



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Experiment with and apply effective revision strategies that work for you .
- Develop active revision habits rather than passive ones (e.g. summarising, self-quizzing)
- Use a mix of techniques to support long-term recall and understanding.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Prepare strategically for assessments throughout the year, not just before exams
- Understand exam board expectations, command words and mark schemes
- Regularly practice under timed conditions to improve performance
- Read the questions carefully - underline key terms.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Keep your subject folders clearly organised and up to date
- Use labelled dividers – (e.g. Topic, Past papers, Revision notes)
- Ensure every lesson has a date and title for easy review
- Use colour coding or symbols for key ideas, definitions and exam hints
- Digitally back up important notes.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Engage in learning beyond the curriculum to deepen understanding and strengthen applications (especially for university)
- Reflect on your expectations and what you've learned.
- Completing MOOC's (Massive Open Online Courses).



HOME LEARNING

- Complete all homework on time and to a high standard – this is minimum expectations
- Use homework as an opportunity to stretch and consolidate learning, not just a tick box
- Prepare for upcoming lessons.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Use study periods in your timetable productively – these are not “Free” lessons
- Balance short-term homework with long-term revision, wider reading and planning.
- Keep mobile phone away.



UNIFORMED PROTECTIVE SERVICES



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Use active revision to prepare for unit tests or external exams
- Focus on understanding roles, responsibilities, procedures, and real-life application
- Create flashcards for key terms
- Mind maps for laws and policies affecting services
- Case study analysis of real incidents (e.g. multi-agency responses).



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Learn how to meet Pass, Merit and Distinction criteria by applying feedback
- Work independently to improve the quality of analysis and evaluation
- Always link your points to real services or incidents
- Avoid copying – all work must be your own (plagiarism = automatic fail)
- Use Havard referencing (if required by the exam board)



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Keep your folders (physical and digital) well-organised with labelled unit sections
- Include assignment briefs, research notes, draft feedback and final submissions
- Use colour-coded dividers for each unit
- Keep a checklist of criteria met vs outstanding
- File all teacher feedback for review and improvement.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Engage with wider learning beyond lessons to show commitment to public service
- Attend police or fire service open days
- Watch documentaries (e.g. 999)
- Volunteer with cadet forces, St Johns Ambulance
- Visit courts or local council meetings.



HOME LEARNING

- Complete all assignments on time, using appropriate research and referencing
- Apply theory to real-world services (e.g. comparing how different forces operate)
- Meet all assessment criteria independently before deadlines
- Research legislation (e.g. The Equality Act, Human Rights Act).



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Use study periods wisely to complete assignment prep, research or practical reflection
- Manage deadlines proactively
- Create a weekly timetable of goals per unit.



TRAVEL & TOURISM



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Actively review key concepts, terminology, and case studies to prepare for assessments or exams
- Know industry-specific terminology and real-world examples to support your answers
- Use flashcards for key terms (e.g. sustainable tourism, business tourism)
- Mind maps for customer types, travel motivations or transport links
- Practice applying theory to different destinations.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Work towards meeting Pass, Merit and Distinction criteria by researching thoroughly and applying to learning
- Take ownership of your written communication and presentation
- Use real-life examples to support your points
- Reference your sources
- Proofread work before submitting.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Maintain an organised physical or digital folder for each unit
- Include assignment briefs, research notes, drafts, final submission and teacher feedback
- Separate content by unit
- Store copies of important policies e.g. Health & Safety in Tourism.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Engage in wider activities to expand your knowledge of the travel and tourism industry
- Visit local tourist attractions and writing reviews or case studies
- Attend careers fairs or tourism expos
- Watch travel documentaries or follow tourism boards on social media
- Read articles from VisitBritain, ABTA.



HOME LEARNING

- Complete all homework and assignment tasks independently, on time and to the best possible standard
- Use a range of sources to research destinations, organisations, customer types and industry trends
- Compare types of tourism e.g. inbound vs outbound
- Analyse the impact of current events (e.g. COVID-19, climate change, security threats).



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- Use Non-Teaching timetabled periods to research assignments, review feedback, or work on unit-based tasks
- Plan ahead to avoid last minute stress
- Create a checklist of assignment tasks and due dates.



ECONOMICS



REVISION TECHNIQUES

- Create flashcards and mind maps to help you remember key information.
- Practice exam questions then use the mark scheme, and examiner reports to check your answers.



EXAM TOP TIPS

- Practice writing essay questions and drawing diagrams
- Save enough time to read through all questions and answer them fully.



FOLDER ORGANISATION

- Using dividers to organize your notes into topics
- Make links between topics
- Print out the specification
- Have a separate section for essays and exam practice.



SUPER CURRICULAR

- Visit a bank
- Take part in Economics essay competitions
- Listen to Economics podcasts
- Attend LSE events
- Books to read:
Freakonomics, The Undercover Economist.



HOME LEARNING

- Download the 'CoreEcon' app and work through topics in the textbook
- Read the BBC news website daily and make links to has been studied in class.



INDEPENDENT STUDY PERIODS

- The Financial Times
- Sloman Economics News
- The Economics Observatory
- Watch 'The Masters of Money' series on YouTube: Keynes, Hayek, Marx.