



HuishEpiscopi

# Science Core Exam Preparation

Get your GCSE's off to the best  
start

# Why Bother to Revise?

Revision is to review previously studied material in preparation for an exam or test.

Studies show that on average if students revise effectively prior to an exam then this leads to a 1.2 grade boundary increase.

Completing revision can alleviate stress and produce positive endorphins during this difficult time.

# How the Science Exam is broken down

- o At the end of Yr 10 in the summer you will receive 1 GCSE in Science Core. This can not be changed, altered or improved next year....that grade stays.
- o The paper is broken into 4 areas of 25% each. These are Physics, Biology, Chemistry and a Controlled Assessment grade. These combined make up 1 GCSE grade.

# How the Science Exam is broken down

- o The Yr 10 will sit either the Higher Tier Paper or the Foundation Tier Paper based on the students ability and previous results.
- o There are always two 6 mark questions in the paper. (20% of the exam)
- o There are many 1/2/3 mark questions all the way through

# How the Science Exam is broken down

- o Higher Tier (60 Marks total)
- o A\* = 50+
- o A = 45
- o B = 35
- o C = 27
- o D = 25
- o E = 18
- o Foundation Tier (60 Marks total)
- o C = 33+
- o D = 27
- o E = 25
- o F = 18
- o G = 12

# How the Human Brain Works

We learn...

10% of what we read

20% of what we hear

30% of what we see

50% of what we see and hear

70% of what we say

90% of what we say and do

Therefore we need to combine these aspects for effective revision.

# Revision Aids

There are many online revision tools you can use but they need to be used in the correct ways. They are not specific to the Exam board we use however. 'Revision Buddies' are probably the best App to use currently.

Revision guides are available from the Science Prep Room at a cost of £2 each and these are very specific to the exam this summer.

# Effective Ways to Revise

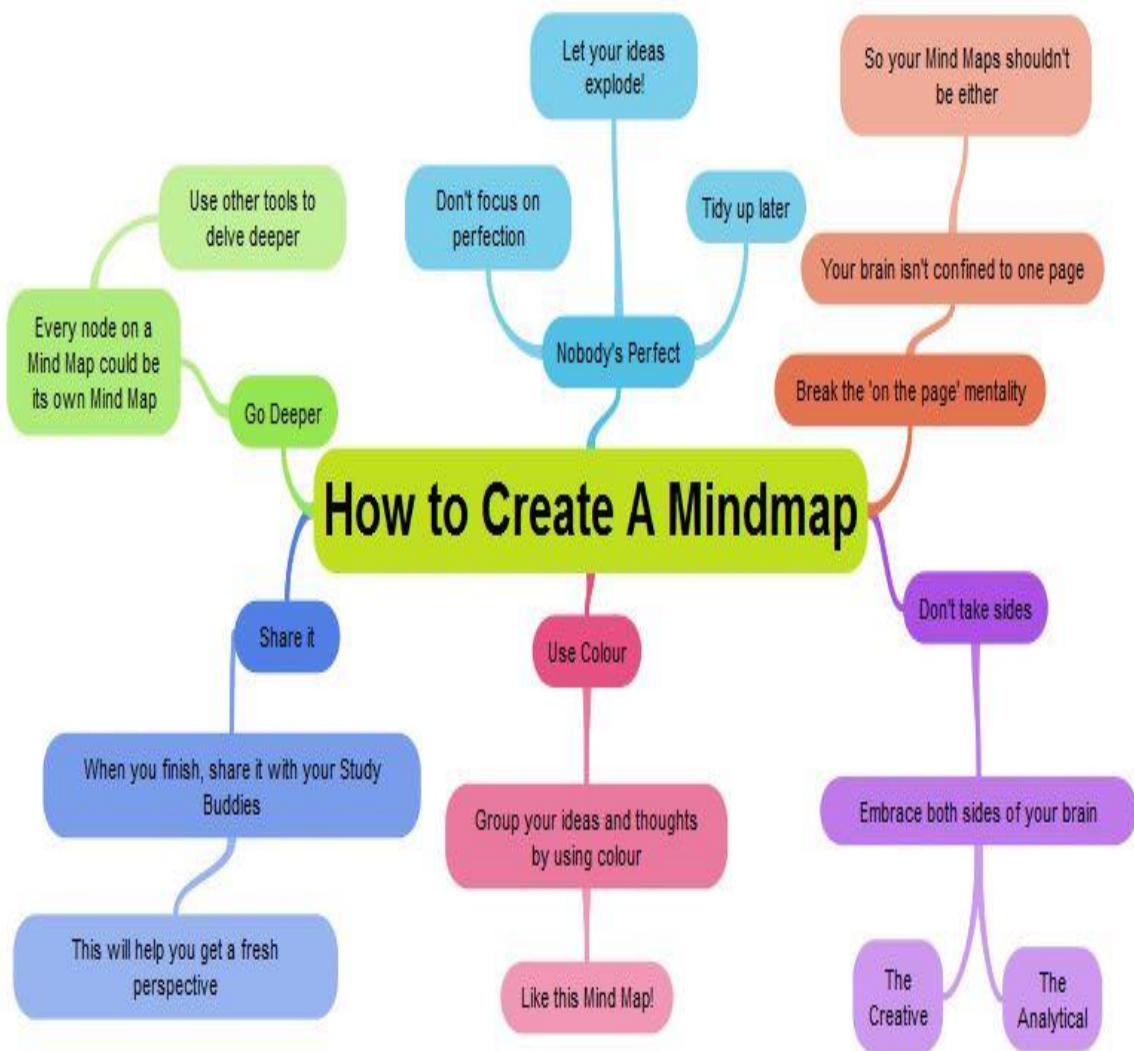
- o Highlighting can be an effective use noting the key points. What you produce afterwards with this information is key for progressive, effective revision to take place however.
- o Studies show that appropriate use of colour, repetition, learning styles and your environment will all have a positive result on your ability to answer set questions.



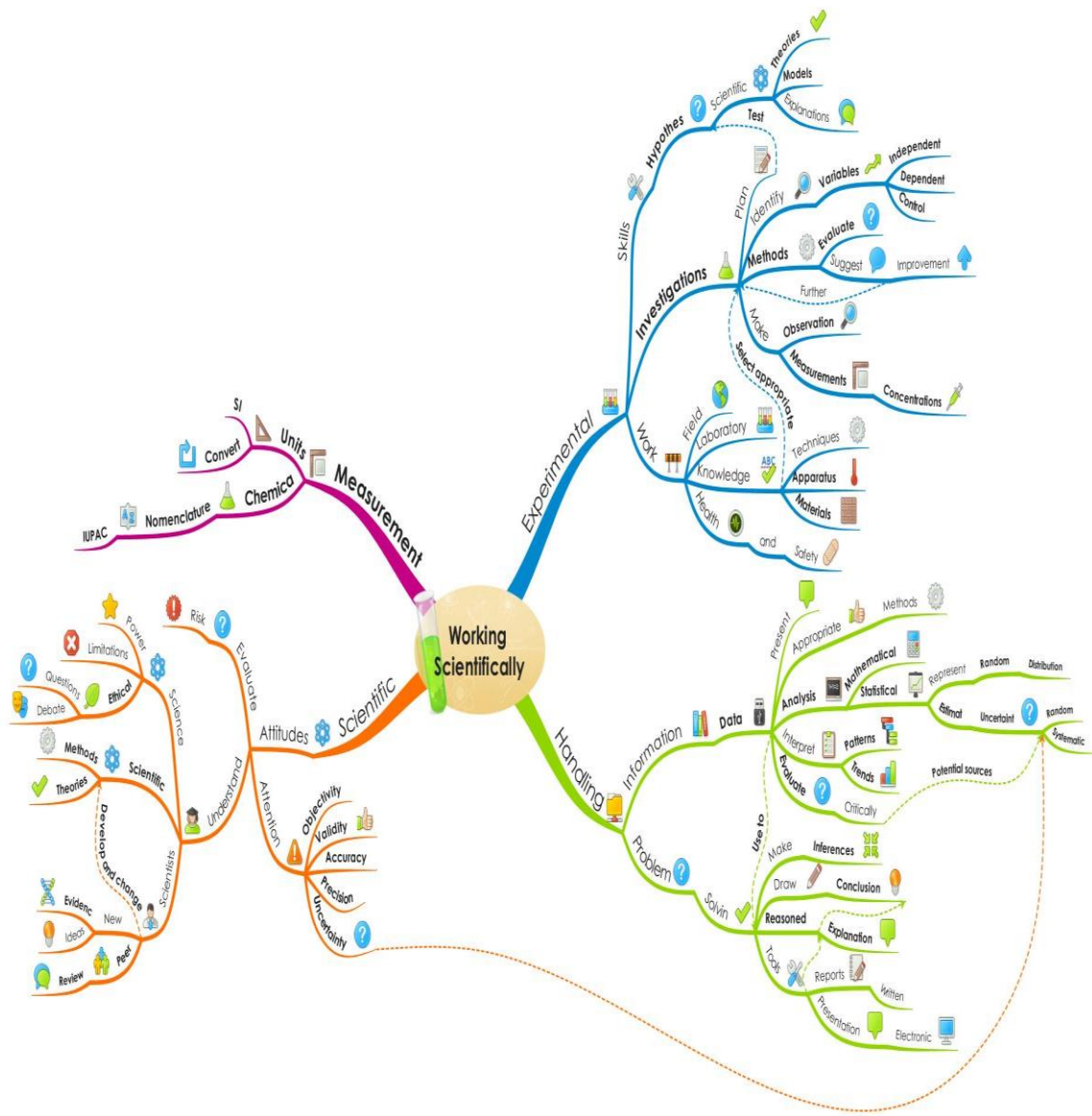
# Use of Past Papers

- o You need work through past papers, especially in the areas you are **weaker** in.
- o You need to practice these regularly so you can get used to the style of questions and what they are specifically asking you to do.
- o Words such as **compare, contrast, explain, discuss, justify, solve, analyse** can all cause problems on written papers if you do not know what they mean and how they should be used on that exam paper.

# Mind Maps/Thought Trees



# Mind Maps Example



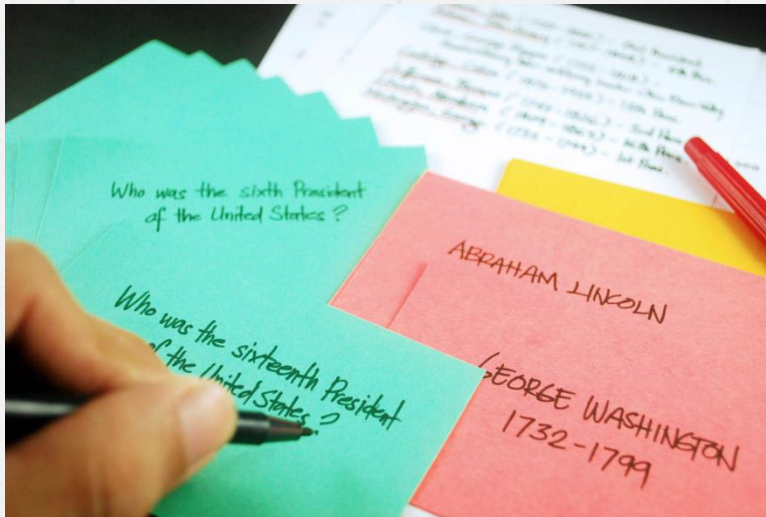
# Mind Maps

- Should have colour representing specific strands or key words.
- Let your thoughts wander as you make a mind map then consolidate this later by again breaking it down into manageable diagrams.
- Change and redo mind maps regularly depending on the topic and need.

# Cue Cards/Flash Cards

- Write points, phrases, equations, dates etc and at the top of the card.
- Include underneath key information in bullet form that links to this.
- Make sure information is clear and accurate. You don't want to have too much on each card or it could overload you when trying to recall the facts. (You could include acronyms in this also to help revision)

# Cue Cards/Flash Cards



# Toilet Door Revision



# Toilet Door Revision

- o Use post-its in places that are commonly visited eg the toilet, fridge, mirror etc.
- o These should contain brief lines or facts and figures that can be easily recalled later.
- o The post-its should then stimulate more recall about other aspects linked to these.



# How long? How Often? Where?

Recommended that revision is **20 – 40 mins** per session.

Recommended that you complete no more than **3 sessions** at any time. For these Science exams I would recommend 2 areas of Science a night for 30 mins each.

Revision should take place in the **same place each time with minimal opportunities for distraction.**

# Testing Your Revision – the Key to Success and Progression

After you have completed your sessions of revision then you should give yourself a break.

After the break your family members (parents) then need to test you on what you have revised!

This feedback will form the basis for your next starter activity in that subject/topic.

Keep your materials for future use and testing.

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# On exam days

- o Check you have the necessary equipment the night before
- o Get up in **plenty of time** to feel relaxed and confident
- o Eat a balanced healthy **typical** meal
- o Don't discuss your **revision before the exam**
- o Don't discuss your **answers after the exam**

# Be content with your preparation

The old saying 'Failure to prepare is preparing to fail'

If you have revised regularly, effectively and consistently then you can do no more.....but please do something!

o Whatever result you get we will all live with and be proud.