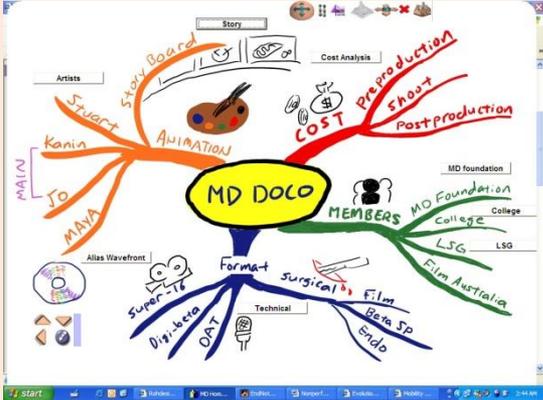




Tuesday 30th January
2018



Revision Tools

Key Stage 4 Revision Evening



Questions that **students** are asking?

- **How much** revision should I be doing?
- **How often** should I be revising?
- **What** should I be revising?
- What are the most **effective** ways to revise?
- Can you revise the **same way** for all subjects?
- Am I allowed **time off** from revision?
- How can I cope with **stress**?
- Who can **help** me?
- How much **longer** will this last?
- How did I do in my **mock exams**?



Questions that **parents** are asking?

- **How can I help** my child revise?
- **How often** should my child revise?
- Is **music** good or bad for revision?
- Should I be **nagging** my child all the time about revision?
- **How much longer** will this last?
- How did they do in their **mock exams**?

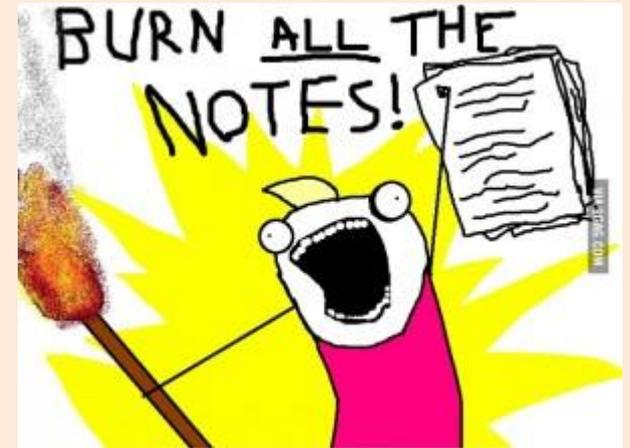


Questions to ask?

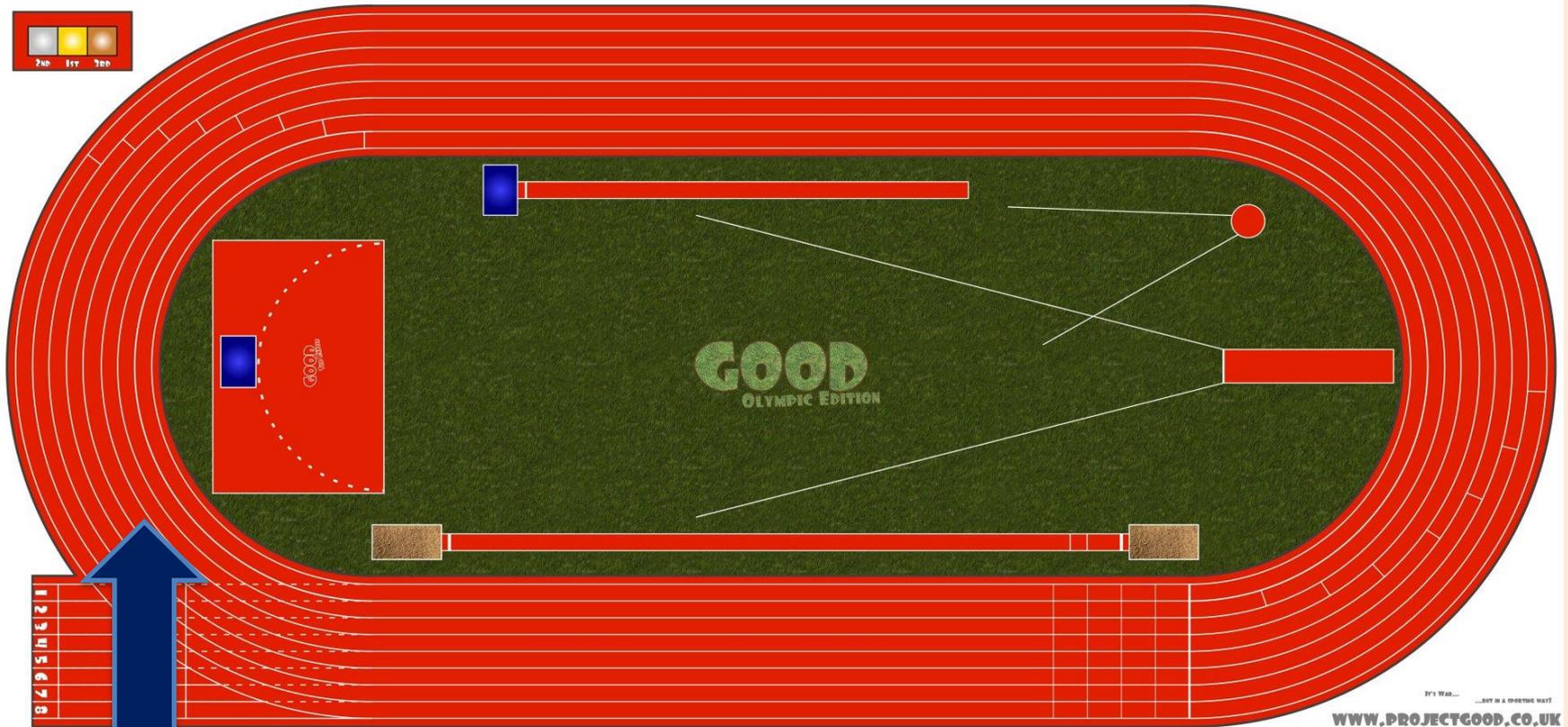


Answering your questions

- **How long** will it last?
- The final GCSE exam is....
- **Friday 15th June**
- So **19 weeks** or **136 days**



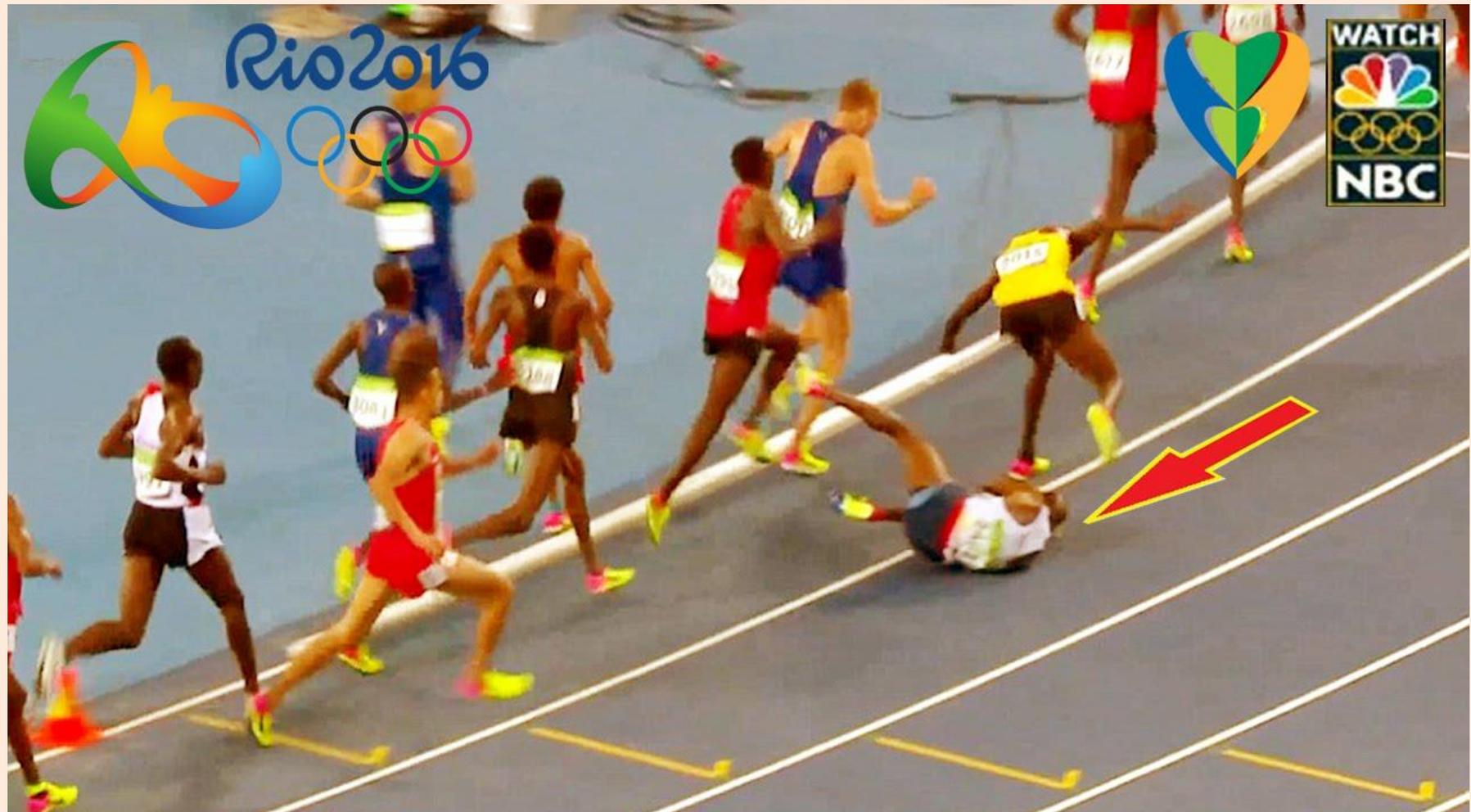
The GCSE Race



You are here

The Finish Line is here

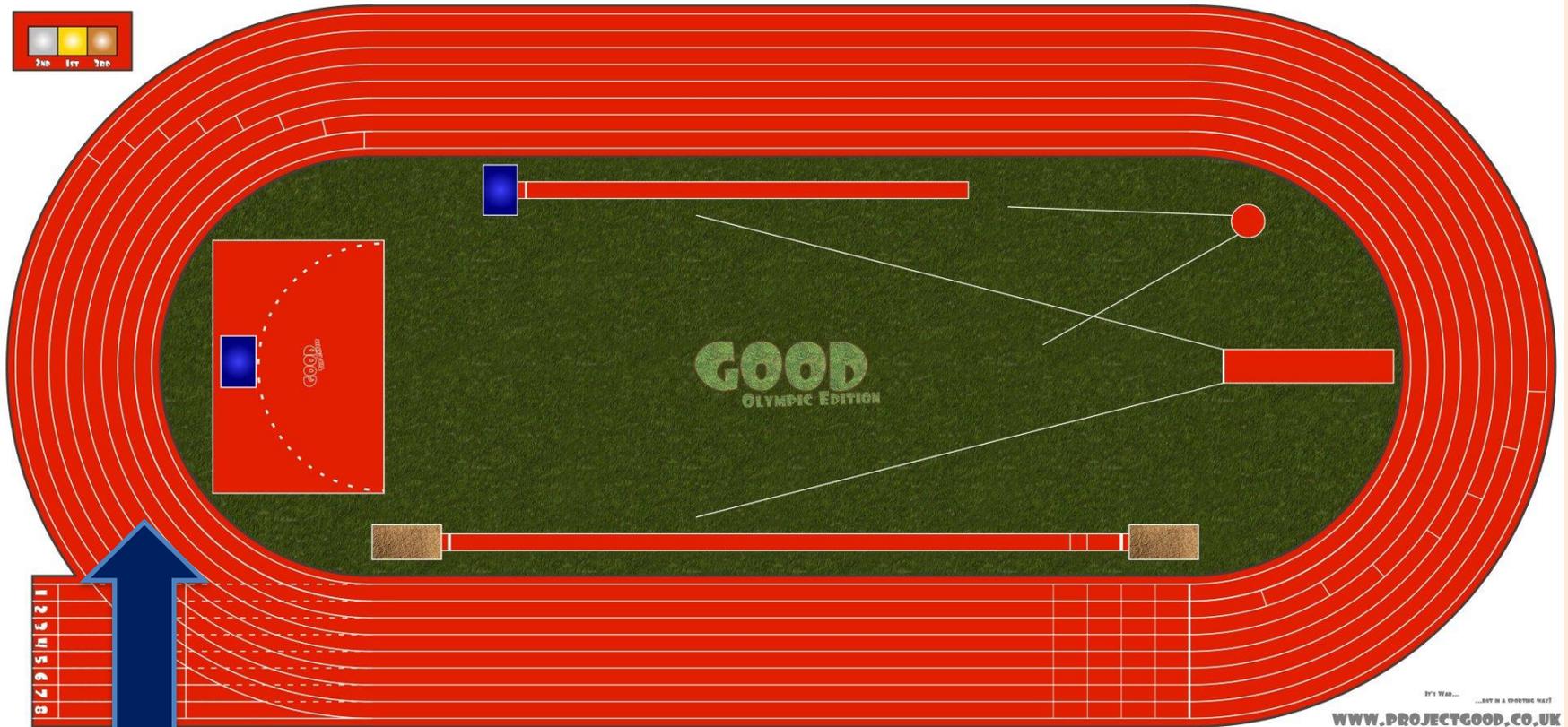
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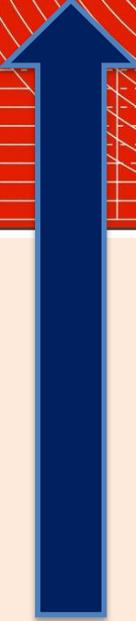
Rio 2016™



The GCSE Race



It's War... ...but in a sporting way!
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You are here



The Finish Line is here

Answering your questions

- **How long** should I revise for and **how often**?
- **20 minute** bursts
- At least **once 6 days a week** now
- Ideally **2-3 bursts** of revision 6 days a week
- Have a **day off**



Have I got time to revise?

- Many parents and some teachers believe that revision has to take a long time. They are wrong
- **Revision should be a maximum of 20 minutes only. Your concentration span is your age in minutes plus 2 minutes – 16 year old's concentrate for 18 minutes – FACT**
- Once you accept that revision is only 20 minutes it becomes much easier to find time to revise. Look at your busiest day – even the most frantic day probably has at least 3 20-minute blocks when you could revise if you wanted to.
- Plan out when you could revise each day. When have you got 20 minutes free? Don't give up on the things you want to do and enjoy. If you miss out on your favourite TV show to revise you will spend that time resenting the revision and achieve very little. Instead fit revision into your day – can you revise for 20 minutes before your favourite programme?
- Your body clock works better at different times of the day. At least once try getting up 20 minutes earlier and revising straight away. The risk is that you may hate it – but you may just find the perfect time to revise for you. One advantage of early-morning revision is that it is done and out of the way at the start of the day. The rest of the day is yours!

20 minutes is the absolute maximum revision time. If you can't find 20 minutes - do 15



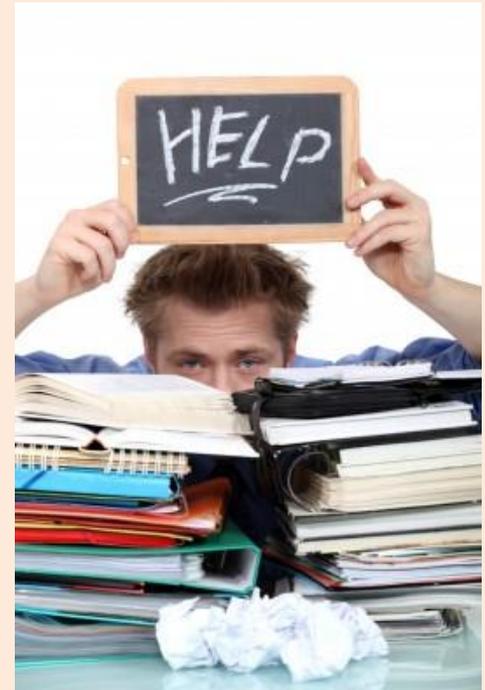
Answering your questions

- **How can I help** my child revise?
- Give them **time** to revise
- Give them a **space** to revise
- **Reward** them for revision
- **Talk to them** about their revision
- Feel free to **carry on nagging**
- **Music** is good and bad for revision



Answering your questions

- How can I cope with **stress**?
- Stress is **normal**
- Every revision session **makes you better**
- **Exercise and sleep**
- Enjoy your **time off**
- **Stress-management** sessions



So what have you tried?

- You have seen lots of revision ideas

- I have used it



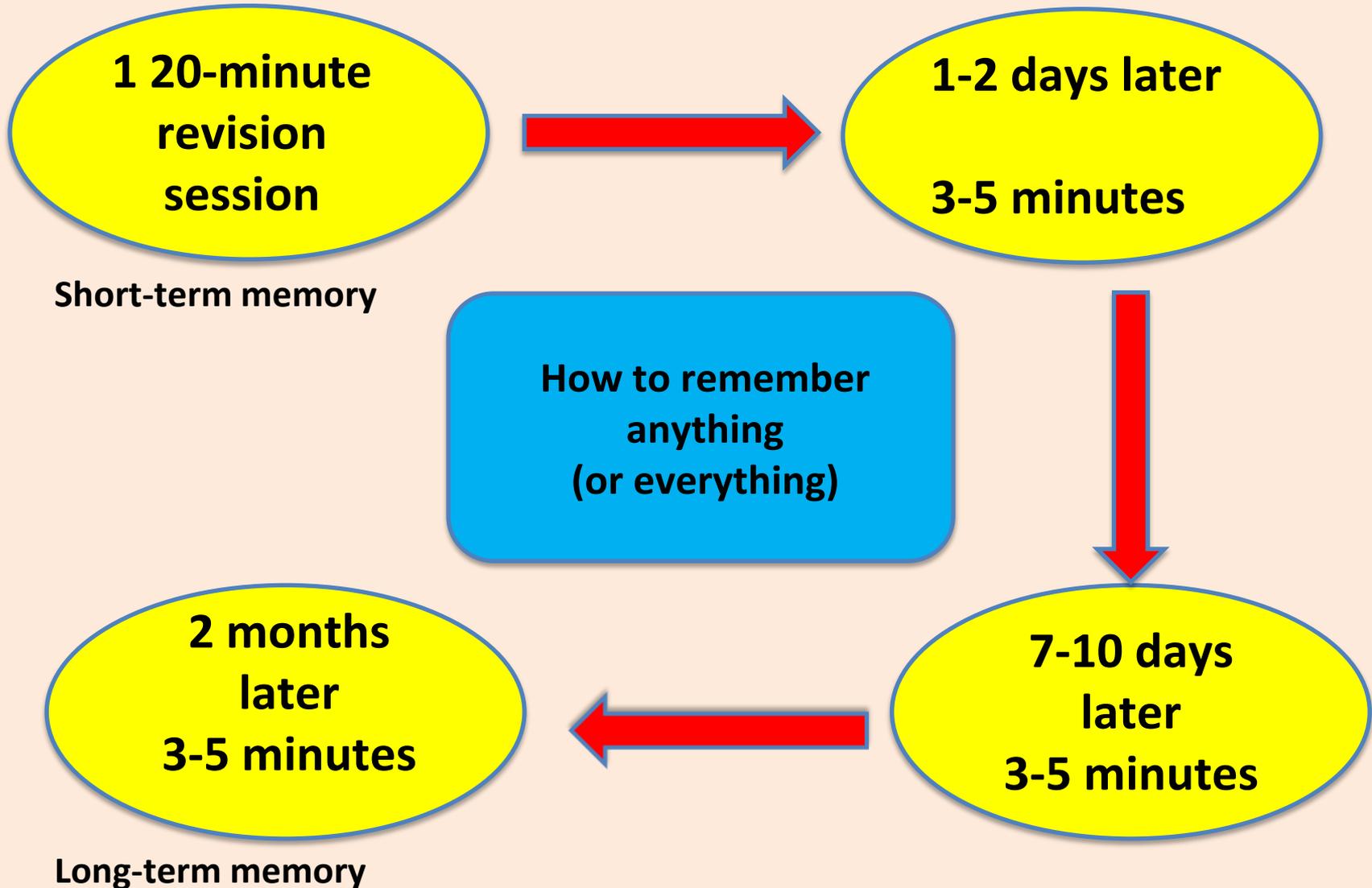
- I have used it and it didn't work



- I might give it a try



Retrieval Practice



The Dump Test

- You really should start every revision session with a good dump!
- Take a blank sheet of paper. Decide which subject you will revise and which precise topic, i.e. Science – Photosynthesis; English – Of Mice and Men – Lenny; History – Treaty of Versailles.
- Using no books or notes spend exactly 60 seconds dumping everything you know about the topic onto the paper. It does not need to be structured – random words or images are good.
- You are accessing prior knowledge and sending messages to the memory to retrieve the information.
- Put the Dump Test away and spend 15-16 minutes revising the topic in any way you want.
- At the end, put all books and notes away again. Pick up the Dump Test again. Take a different colour pen. Dump again for 60 seconds – You will write down on average 7-15 things which you could not write at the beginning of the session. This is progress – it visibly shows that you have just got better.

All students revise at least once. Some never revise twice. Often students give up on revision because they can't see the benefit. The Dump Test proves success.



Draw What You Know

- Take a section of notes and transform it into images, pictures or symbols.
- Ideally draw images yourself but you could always cut and paste from Google Images.
- Try and use as few words as possible. Bad drawings are great – they are more likely to stick in the memory. If possible – show the drawings to some one else and explain what they mean.
- You are converting knowledge into understanding by personalising information.
- You can then stick the drawings up around the house. Over the course of 1 week you will see that picture over 1,000 times – each time reinforcing the image in their memory.
- (A word of warning – if you are revising Biology – be careful what you draw when revising reproduction. Ask first!)

Make revision easy. This is a way of giving you something to look at 1,000 times a week



Podcasts

- The vast majority of students have smartphones or tablets - all of which take podcasts. Some teachers have already recorded revision podcasts – you can download them from Edmodo. If your teachers haven't recorded any yet – nag them!
- Even better, record yourself talking about a particular topic. **Audioboom** is a really good program for this and can be downloaded for free from the internet.
- Some students have done all of their revision on the school bus, doing a paper round, jogging, working on a farm or shopping in ASDA. The easier you can make revision the more likely it is that you will do it.
- Experiment with listening to podcasts last thing at night – revision in your sleep!
- If you have a Smartphone – download Audioboom– this will allow you to make your own 5-minute podcasts

The best ways to revise are those that mean you can still do something else at the same time.



Post-it note Revision

- Spend 1 20-minute revision session putting notes on a particular topic onto post-it notes. Each post-it note can have a maximum of 10 words on it – the fewer words the better though. At the end of the session, stick the post-it notes onto a door, wall or sheet of paper. They must be visible.
- Every day for the next week return to the post-it notes for 3-5 minutes and rearranges them in any way you can think of: most important, least important, chronological, alphabetical, similar/different. You will find that each day you come up with a new way to rearrange them. This activity again helps you to make links within a topic and also reinforces memory.
- An alternative could be to use fridge magnet letters to make different words on a particular subject each day – the good point about this is that hopefully other members of the family will ask what it means and you will have to explain it – easy revision.

Without consciously thinking about it, part of your brain will work on revision – even when you are not aware of it



Talk Until You Stop

- One purpose of revision should be to find the things you can't remember or don't really understand yet. This is not easy – try to tell anyone something you have forgotten! Often we can flick through a book without reading it convincing ourselves that we do know it.
- For this technique, select a specific topic. No books or notes are allowed. You have to talk out loud on that topic for as long as possible. If you feel self-conscious – turn the stereo up louder.
- You will talk for a period of time but will eventually stop, often in mid-sentence, because you have reached a part they don't fully understand and can't explain or have forgotten something. You should make a note of either what you didn't understand or what you said just before you stopped.
- You have just found the part you need to revise. It is important that you talk out loud so you notice when you stop.

Revision is not about learning anything new – it is about finding what you can't remember or don't understand yet



Apps

- Use your Smartphone or Tablet for Revision.
- Go to the **Itunes App Store** and search for “**revision apps**” – GCSE Bitesize have just brought out great, cheap revision apps for Science, Additional Science, Modern World History, Business Studies and Religious Studies
- There is also a great free app called **Exam alert** which will help you organise yourself and plan your revision
- New apps include Flashcards – great for making your own flashcards and testing yourself



**Use your
Iphone and
Ipad to
revise**

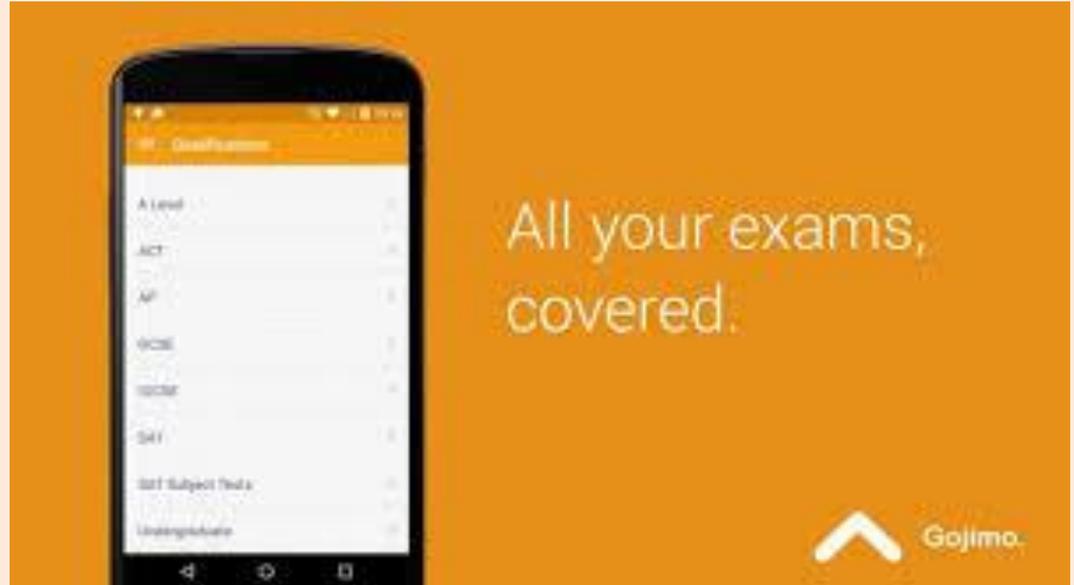


Revision Apps

Recommended by Year 11 students:

Gojimo

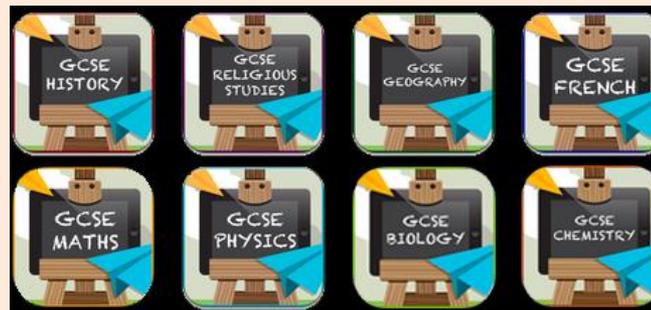
Tests for all subjects at any level – including A Level. Also available online



Revision Buddies

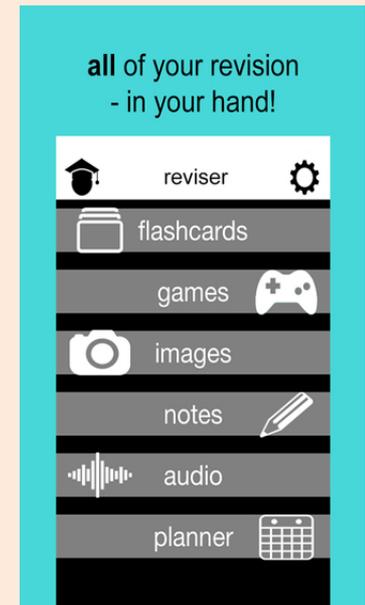
Subject specific so need to get separately.

Tests but also Past Papers and markschemes – GCSE only



Reviser

Create own flashcards, tests, games and revision timetables



The Voice of Experience

Remember – there are over 100 students in our **Sixth form** who have been through GCSE revision successfully – ask them how they did it

Specialist revision

- **Can I revise the same way for all subjects?**
- Do you have to do anything different to revise for Science, English and Maths?
- If you need any revision help at all please contact me at golding.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk