



**AllSaints**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# All Saints School 6<sup>th</sup> Form

## Teaching and Learning

### Student Newsletter – Exam preparation guidance

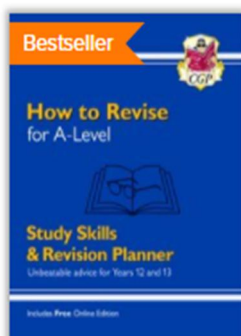
All Saints Catholic School

**Check out Action Jackson -----stay Motivated and Why YOU CAN SUCCEED VIDEO!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DjDt67aMMg>



Here is a useful study Skills book ..it covers key revision tips for most exam subjects



 [Quick View](#)

**How to Revise for A-Level: Study Skills  
& Planner - Unbeatable advice for Years  
12 and 13**

Remember there are a range of revision guides and workbooks available for most subjects online.

Purchasing a kindle version is often cheaper if you feel the need to purchase them.

CGP, Letts and Collins have a large range of revision guides available to support your study. Do check with your teacher first as they can give you guidance if you need them.

# Useful Resources to aid your revision



PIXL Login for students

<https://students.pixl.org.uk/#!/login>

**PIXL school no:** 405694

**Password:** Indep166

## **The 12 days of Easter - supporting links using Pixl**

pixl.org.uk - Subject and tools – select a subject – PiXL Knowledge – click ‘up a folder’ to see all subjects

pixl.org.uk - Subject and tools – select a subject – PiXL Independence – click ‘up a folder’ to see all subjects. The student website details are at the top of the page.

pixl.org.uk – PiXL Strategies – Thinking Hard – Revisit booklets and Cornell notes blank sheet.

Template items are also found alongside these resources: RSL – Useful documents – Easter 12 days of Easter.

Personalised Learning Checklists (PLC) are also available for subjects here.

**The websites below cover a range of subjects which include revision notes, quizzes, exam papers and videos to help with your revision.**

<https://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk/>

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/a-level-revision/>

<https://studywise.co.uk/a-level-revision/>

[https://getrevising.co.uk/resources/level/a\\_ib](https://getrevising.co.uk/resources/level/a_ib)

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision>

## Popular Revision Apps

### Gojimo - GCSE, A Level Revision

Has a range of revision quizzes.

### Quizlet

Quizlet is a free revision tool that allows you to create a study set of flashcards, and add your own terms and definition

### . Timetable

Timetable is one the popular revision timetable app that can help students structure and plan their revision schedule.

### Kahoot

Has a range of quizzes available.

## Useful Revision links

Here are some sites we think are helpful for revision, organised alphabetically by subject.

### Biology

[GCSE Biology revision](#) Simple revision notes

[Mark Rothery's Biology Website](#) For A-level Biology students

[Biology4all](#) Particularly helpful if you are thinking about studying Biology at university

[Biology-Innovation](#) AS and A2 resources focused on the WJEC specifications

[Cellsalive](#) All about cells

[Science pages: Biology](#) Links for A-level Biology

[Biology-Online](#) Includes forums for any Biology related questions, a Biology dictionary and Biology articles

[Science animations](#) Lots of links to science animations

## Business Studies and Economics

[Biz/Ed](#) Mostly for teachers but loads of notes and other resources for Business Studies

[Revision Guru](#) A-level Economics and Business Studies revision notes

## Chemistry

[Creative Chemistry](#) Includes wordsearches, experiments, work sheets and a host of other features

[Revision Resources for A-level Chemistry](#) Quizzes and other helpful resources

[Science Animations](#) Lots of links to science animations

## English

[Englishbiz](#) Tips on skills needed for success in English and lots more

[Converse](#) Free resources on English Literature

## Geography

[Internet Geography](#) Geography revision and advice

[GeoResources](#) Stacks of links and information

[Geography-Revision](#) As it says, top-class Geography AS and A2 revision

## History

[SchoolHistory.co.uk](#) Great for fun games and quizzes

[Greenfield History Site](#) Resources for GCSE Modern World History

[Ilovehistory](#) Free revision podcasts

## Maths

[Mathsrevision.net](#) Revision notes for GCSE and A-level Maths

[Mathsrevision.com](#) Resources for Maths students in Scotland

[Examsolutions.co.uk](#) A-level Maths revision site with Maths tutorials, past papers and worked solutions for Edexcel, OCR exam boards, Maths forum and a directory of tutors

[Dr. Xargle's GCSE Maths Revision](#) Resources include past papers and model answers

[Adamzone](#) Adam Spencer is obviously a very clever boy. He provides some basic Maths explanations on this site

## PE

[TeachPE](#) is packed with great information and resources for PE and Sports Science students at all levels

## Psychology

[Simply Psychology](#) Extensive range of resources

[Psychologist World](#) Revision notes and articles for A-level.

[PsYonline](#) Links and information for A2 Psychology

[Psychade](#) Helpful revision guides for A-level Psychology

## Sociology

[Sociology Central](#) A range of revision materials for Sociology A level mainly. Site also contains masses of other stuff

[School Sociology](#) Masses of information and worksheets for both GSE and A level

[Esociology](#) Presentations on popular areas of the A-level course

[Ruth's Sociology Pages](#) Well organised site with resources on the key topics

## Exam boards

The main exam boards have past papers, mark schemes and examiners' comments. Essential

[AQA](#)

[OCR](#)

[Edexcel](#)

# Revision Techniques

## ***Ace Your Grades and Stop Procrastinating!***

### ***Set Goals for what you want to achieve at the end of each study day.***

**Which revision techniques get the best results?**

You've got a choice when it comes to exam season. You can either choose ineffective revision techniques (like passively reading your text-book on your bed checking your phone every five minutes). Or, you can choose revision techniques that are more effective, more efficient and more active and actually get you great results.

How to choose the right revision techniques for you

The first thing to realise is that not every revision technique works for every person. So, just because your best friend is using mind maps with great success it doesn't mean you should jump on the mind-maps bandwagon.

**Before you start revising take some time to reflect on how you learn best. Use these prompts to help you.**

1. Write down three occasions where your learning has worked particularly well. They could be lessons from the classroom or from when you've been studying independently at home.
2. Why did these learning methods work so well for you?
3. What kind of environment do you need to be in to make your learning effective? Do you need quiet, gentle background noise, to be with other people who are studying or to be alone in silence?

When you've answered those questions you'll have a good idea about how you learn best.

**Next, you need to work out how you're going to apply those learning methods to independent revision at home.**

*"There is a theory that says using visual cues will help you remember more effectively. A mind map is a simple diagram you make with lots of branches demonstrating related ideas. Why not start each session by drawing a mind map and you may find you include ideas you had forgotten or that may be genius inclusions even your teacher or lecturer has not considered."*

For example, if you learn particularly well from class debates you might like to think about how you could mimic class debates in your own bedroom. Maybe you could get a group of fellow students together to have your own debate (using zoom??).

**Now, you need to creatively apply your best learning methods to your own revision. But remember, active techniques (where you're actually doing something with the information) are always more successful than passive techniques (like simply reading).**

### **Monitor your success**

As you're revising you should always be thinking to yourself, 'How successful is this revision? How well am I remembering this? How well am I understanding it?'

If all is going well then keep doing what you're doing. However, if there's a problem you need to work out what it is and solve it.

Sometimes you might just be tired and need a break. Other times you might just need a change which you can get by using a different revision technique. Identify the problem, find a solution and go with it.

**Set a timer for short intervals and take breaks in between. It puts pressure on to get work done in short bursts but doesn't tire you out!**

## **Do past papers**

One thing lots of students put off doing is past papers. It's common to think that you'll do all the content learning first then do loads of past papers. This rarely works well as you end up not having enough time to do enough past papers.

A great way to solve this problem (and to monitor how successful your revision is as you go along) is to **do revision power hours**.

### **Revision power hours have five simple steps:**

1. Choose a past paper question (or an extract from a question). All are available on exam board websites.
2. Revise the content you need to know to answer that question.
3. Do the question.
4. Mark your answer using the mark scheme from the exam board's website
5. Check how good your marking is with your teacher --- you can always email them with questions!!

This is a great technique as it makes you repeat the section of knowledge that you're focusing on three times in one short revision session through:

- Memorising content
- Explaining it in your own words
- Reviewing what you've written with reference to the mark scheme

Of course, it also improves your exam technique as well!

Fail safe revision techniques for everyone

While I very much encourage you to focus on revision techniques that work for you, there are some techniques that are very effective for everyone.

Revise on the move. Having your notes recorded means you can listen to them anywhere - on your morning commute, whilst waiting to see the dentist etc."

## **Teach someone else**

When you've finished learning some content find someone to teach it to. If you can't get them to understand then you don't understand or know it well enough yourself yet.

## **Revision cards**

The beauty of revision cards is that they force you to reduce what you need to know down into bite-sized chunks. These days you can choose between actual physical cards or an app like Quizlet. However, I would encourage you to go the old-fashioned way as actually going through the process of thinking about what to write and physically writing it down is part of the process of getting the information to stick in your head. Use a different colour for each subject!!

**There are ways in which you can make revision fun. Yes, really! Here's some slightly unusual, inventive ways to keep that revision in your head**

## **Watch YouTube Tutorials**

YouTube is not just good for time wasting and subscribing to videos of cats falling off sofas. You can use it to watch educational walkthroughs in pretty much all topics, and most will jazz them up a bit to really gain your attention. Use the hashtag #education to find the videos.

Flashcards and the like are ageless revision techniques, and there's a reason for that, it's because they work. Use different colours for different subjects.

## **Make PowerPoint Presentations**

This technique uses your creative side a bit more, and it also means you'll have to repeat the material whilst typing to keep it inside your head too.

## **Test Your Friends**

Get some friends round and have a revision-themed quiz. Who doesn't love some friendly competition?---- Use the app Kahoot.

## **Post-it-Notes**

Under the stairs, in your shoes, on the dog. Put them EVERYWHERE. They act as a healthy reminder on topics you might want to dodge in revision, so give yourself little reminders so you don't forget the most important info.

## **Schedule Your Day, Starting Early**

Print off a simple grid and give yourself time slots to revise (and importantly, when to relax) as you would on a working day, to give your body and mind a routine.....

Know When to Finish for the Day Too!! Breaks are important!!

## **Try out Different Voices**

Cues can act as good reminders on different topics. For example, using a lower voice for biology, and a higher voice for geography gives you an association, and therefore avoids crossover and complication in your brain.

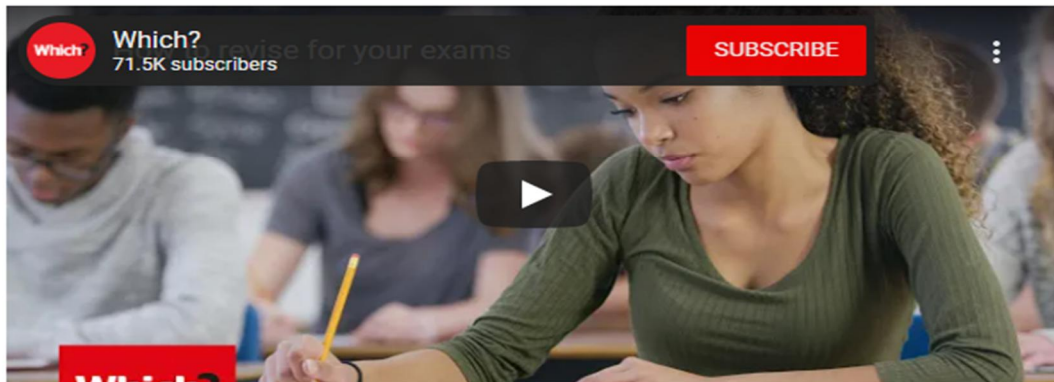
## **Treat Your Self With Prizes**

Revising is draining, and you deserve some mini celebration when you've completed each mental task. This can be anything you want it to be, a quick bite to eat, a social media break or simply a lie down.

## **Take Your Revision Outside**

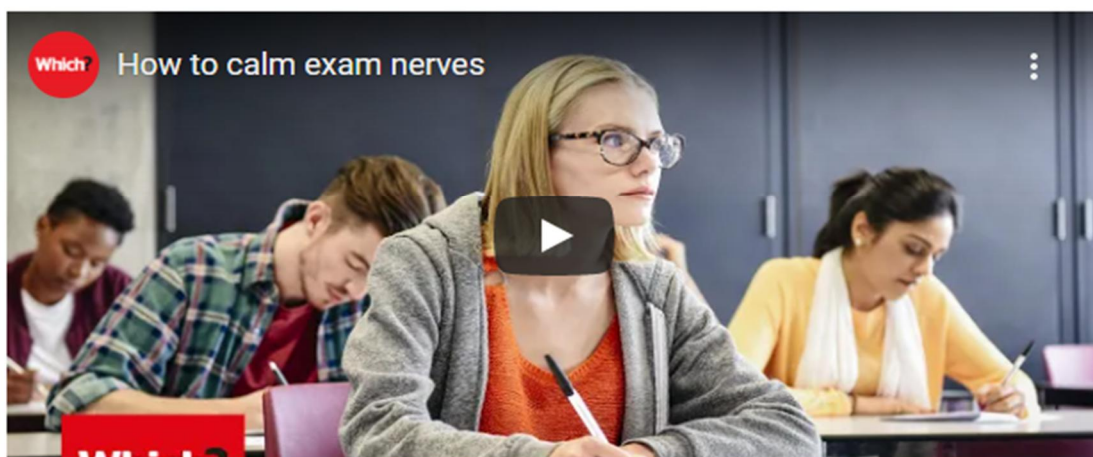
Being inside for so long can be extremely depressing and demotivating, so if the sun is shining, take your revision with you and perch outside. Not only will you be learning, but you'll get a dose of Vitamin D too.

Watch now: How to revise for your exams



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqFKzfLFrVs&t=3s>

Watch now: How to calm exam nerves



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QCvfdp0JhE&t=2s>

# 10 Steps

## To Create the Perfect Revision Space

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### 1. Get Rid of the Clutter

Having an untidy desk and room will make it harder to find things, stress you out and present an easy way to procrastinate. Your first priority when setting up a study space should be to get everything as organised as you possibly can.

### 2. Keep Distractions Away

What are the things that most commonly distract you from work? Write down your answers to this question and then make sure none of them are anywhere near the area where you're going to be revising. Television, computers and phones are the obvious ones to avoid.

### 3. Get comfy

No-one wants to be spending hours every day in a space that isn't actually comfortable. While it's not advisable to do your revision in bed, you should definitely be working somewhere that's comfy enough for you to get absorbed in your work.

### 4. Let There Be Light

Lighting is one of the most important things to a room's mood and you should try and find the right level for you. Make it too dark and you'll be straining to read your notes and tiring yourself out. However lights that are too bright can leave you feeling overstimulated and may contribute to headaches or stress. Try and get as much natural light as possible to minimise these negative effects.

## **5. Set the Noise Levels**

How your revision space sounds is just as important as how it looks. Some people will find that they need background noise to get any work done while others will benefit from perfect silence. Whatever your preference, you should try and find a place where the noise will be consistent and suited to your tastes.

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## **6. Personalise It**

If you're going to be spending hours every day in one place, you should definitely add some personal touches to it. Leave some photos or items of personal significance close by to help keep you grounded and inject some colour to boost your mood. It should be your zone- do whatever will improve it for you!

## **7. Make it Easy to Manage Your Time**

A clock should be easily visible from where you are sitting, ideally an easy-to-read digital one and not a smartphone (otherwise you may be unable to check the time without checking your Snapchat as well). It is also good to keep a revision schedule close by so you always know what you should be doing and how long you should be spending on it.

## **8. Get Your Supplies Ready**

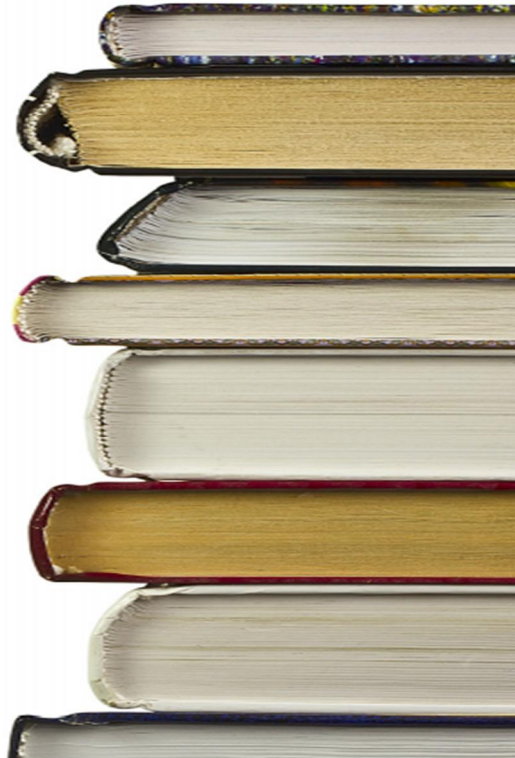
Your revision will be broken up constantly if you keep getting up to find the stationary and snacks you need to keep your work flowing. Ensure that you have everything you will require on a regular basis close to hand and you'll save yourself time and energy that is better spent studying or taking a proper break.

## 9. Maintain it

Setting up your dream study space is only half the battle. It's vital that over the days and weeks you don't allow it to become messy and disorganised. Don't leave out books or work that you don't need urgently and dedicate five minutes every morning to cleaning up the room you'll be working in.

## 10. Remember: There Are More Important Things

It's easy to convince yourself that you're being really productive when you're creating a study space but it can sometimes become a form of procrastination itself. Remember that the most important thing about having an area to revise in is that you actually do some revision. If you find yourself organising your post-it notes for the fifth time in an hour, you might not be getting the best use out of your time.



# Types of Learner

Not everyone learns in the same way. Some of us are better at taking in information visually while others much prefer to listen or watch a video. If you're still not sure what might work best for you, take a look at the tips below for some additional pointers.

If you are unsure of what type of learner you are, you can take a quick quiz to find out on the Education Planner website: [www.educationplanner.org/students/self-assessments/learning-styles.shtml](http://www.educationplanner.org/students/self-assessments/learning-styles.shtml)



## Visual learner

If you find you can bring up a mental picture of your class notes when you are thinking back over a lesson, then chances are you are a visual learner. To capitalise on this you need to make your revision techniques as visually stimulating as possible.

- Make your revision notes as colourful as you can. Use highlighter pens or coloured pens to section out different types of information.
- Vary the layout of your notes, making each page slightly different so you can quickly bring up a mental picture of the page containing the information you are trying to recall. Also try cartoons, flow charts, graphs, bullet points, timelines and sketches – all help to break up the text and make it more memorable.
- Mindmaps are an ideal revision tool that combines all these ideas – colourful, visual images that contain a high volume of information in one single image.
- Many students, but not all, find that writing their notes out by hand leads to a higher retention rate than if you are creating resources onscreen.



## Auditory learners

Do you prefer to watch videos or listen to someone else talking through the topic rather than reading or writing notes? If so you could be an auditory learner.

- Try recording key learning points onto your phone and then listening to them as you walk or take the bus to school. It's a great use of otherwise dead time and will help reinforce revision you have already done.
- Similarly you could try playing your recordings back to yourself as you go to sleep.
- If you are musical, why not create rhymes, raps or a song to help you remember key points?. Don't be shy, nobody but you has to hear them. If you need inspiration check out Lana Rose on YouTube. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQVKT4rU4sI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQVKT4rU4sI)
- If you like revising with a partner then take it in turns to explain concepts to each other in your own words. Or make up questions for your partner to answer and then reverse the roles.
- Try podcasts – there are lots of free ones available on iTunes. Again you can download these and listen to them on the go, or before you go to sleep.
- Some people find that listening to soothing, gentle music can help aid concentration and relaxation. However be careful not to either pick music that is too loud or upbeat as it could be distracting. Conversely music that is too soporific will lull you to sleep, somewhat defeating the purpose!
- Some auditory learners need quiet for concentration so why not try working in your local library – the change of scene breaks up the task and the quiet will help you focus.



## Kinaesthetic (Tactile) learners

Do you have difficulty sitting still? Are you always on the go, and speak with lots of hand gestures? Do you like to take things apart to find out how they work? Chances are you are a kinaesthetic or tactile learner. You learn best by try wherever possible, to be active, act things out, make things and revise on the go.

- Sticky notes are your friend. Write each key point or concept on a sticky note and post them at strategic positions around your room. Then each time you walk past, stop to review the notes.
- Colour coding will help you keep things separate but be careful not to mix up your sticky notes between subjects.
- You might prefer to learn by doing, so make your study time active. Try walking and reading your notes out loud to yourself. Go and visit museums or exhibitions that can help you - the experience will be more memorable than revision alone.

## Why Past Papers are the Best Way to Revise

There are lots of ways to revise that work but there's only one that gets close to actually sitting an exam: doing past exam papers from previous years. Here's why you should do as many as you can get your hands on.

## **You can practice your timing**

Time management is perhaps the most important skill when it comes to sitting exams. If you don't set yourself a strict limit for how long you intend to spend on one section or another, you're going to find yourself running out of time with big chunks of the paper still to fill in. Past papers can train you to avoid this situation. By learning how long you need to dedicate to a particular section or kind of question, you can get an idea of how best to spend your time in the exam itself.

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## **You'll learn the patterns**

No matter what subject you are studying, this year's exam will share certain patterns and probably appear in a similar format to last year's. This gives you invaluable information about what to expect and what to prepare for: you'll know how many long questions to expect and how many short ones, how much reading or consideration you'll need to do, and a whole load of other useful knowledge.

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## **You can identify your weaknesses**

As you go through a past paper, keep a note of what topics you can answer questions on easily and which present more of a challenge. You should then alter your revision plan around this information: you'll get much more value from your time if you focus on your weaknesses rather than going over your strengths again.

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## **They simulate the stress**

Perhaps the most demanding part of actually sitting an exam is dealing with the stress of the day. You need to be mentally prepared to finish the paper in one sitting and with no access to your notes. The best way to recreate this is to make your revision process as close to the actual exam as you can. It may sometimes feel punishing, but past papers are by far the best way to do this.

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## **You get to see how they're marked**

If you're filling in a past paper, it's worth assessing how well you did with the mark scheme provided. This will show you what sort of answers and technique your markers will be looking for when they go through your paper. You can then try and mimic these techniques to ensure that the information you've gathered while revising can be put down on paper when the day comes.

## You'll know what came up last year

It's never a good idea to miss something out of your revision schedule simply because it featured in last year's exam paper. If you're wrong, this can lead to the absolute disaster scenario of you being completely unable to answer a question. However, it is still worthwhile to see what was included and what was absent in recent years. It's worth putting extra time into a big or interesting topic that hasn't appeared in the last few exams.

**How to Use Past Papers Effectively** – Past papers are most useful when you answer them under exam conditions. This means sticking to the time limit, not checking your notes and marking yourself strictly. It can be tempting to go easy on yourself but this won't give you the full benefits that you could be getting from this style of revision.

# Effective Exam Techniques

1. **Read the question – then read it again and make sure you have really understood what it's asking for.** One of the biggest mistakes students make is to charge in and answer the question they think is being asked, and not the question that is actually being asked.
2. **Identify the questions that are worth the most marks, and spend the most time on them.** Spend less time on those questions worth fewer marks.
3. **Check and see if you can answer the questions out of order.** If you can, then write the answer to the questions you are most comfortable with first, leaving your weakest answer until last.
4. **Plan your answers in advance.** Write very brief notes to help you focus and ensure you don't forget anything vital.
5. **Keep calm and carry on!** It's normal to feel nervous and it's easy to panic, especially when you first turn over the paper. If you feel yourself getting worked up then take a few deep breaths, look back at your notes

and carry on. Picking out the questions you feel most comfortable with will help you gain confidence at the start of the exam, and will help you stay calm throughout.

6. **If you are running out of time and have more than one question left to do, then just answer the first part of each of them.** You will pick up more marks if you half answer two different questions than fully answering one. Use bullet points to get across as many points as you can and don't feel restricted to writing a complete answer - the objective is to demonstrate your knowledge.
7. **Read your answers at the end.** Make sure what you have written is clear and you have included all the points you made in your planning notes.
8. **Never leave an exam early.** There is always something you can check again.
9. **Drink plenty of water – stay hydrated.** The act of sipping the water will also help keep you calm. Just don't overdo it – you don't want to spend the whole time fighting the urge to go to the loo.

**Finally watch this video from this student**



[10 Things I Did to Get A\\*A\\*A\\* in my A Levels \(A\\* Revision Tips and Techniques 2018\) | Jack Edwards - YouTube](#)

## Exam Prayer

Lord, I know you are with me and love me.  
Give me peace of mind as I prepare for this  
time of study.

Help me to focus on my books and notes.  
Keep me from all distractions so that I will  
make the best use of this time that is  
available to me.

Give me insight that I might understand  
what I am studying, and help me to  
remember it when the time comes.

Above all, I thank you for the ability to be  
able to study and for the many gifts and  
talents you have given me.

Help me always to use them in such a way  
that they honour you and do justice to  
myself.

Amen



# GOOD LUCK !!