

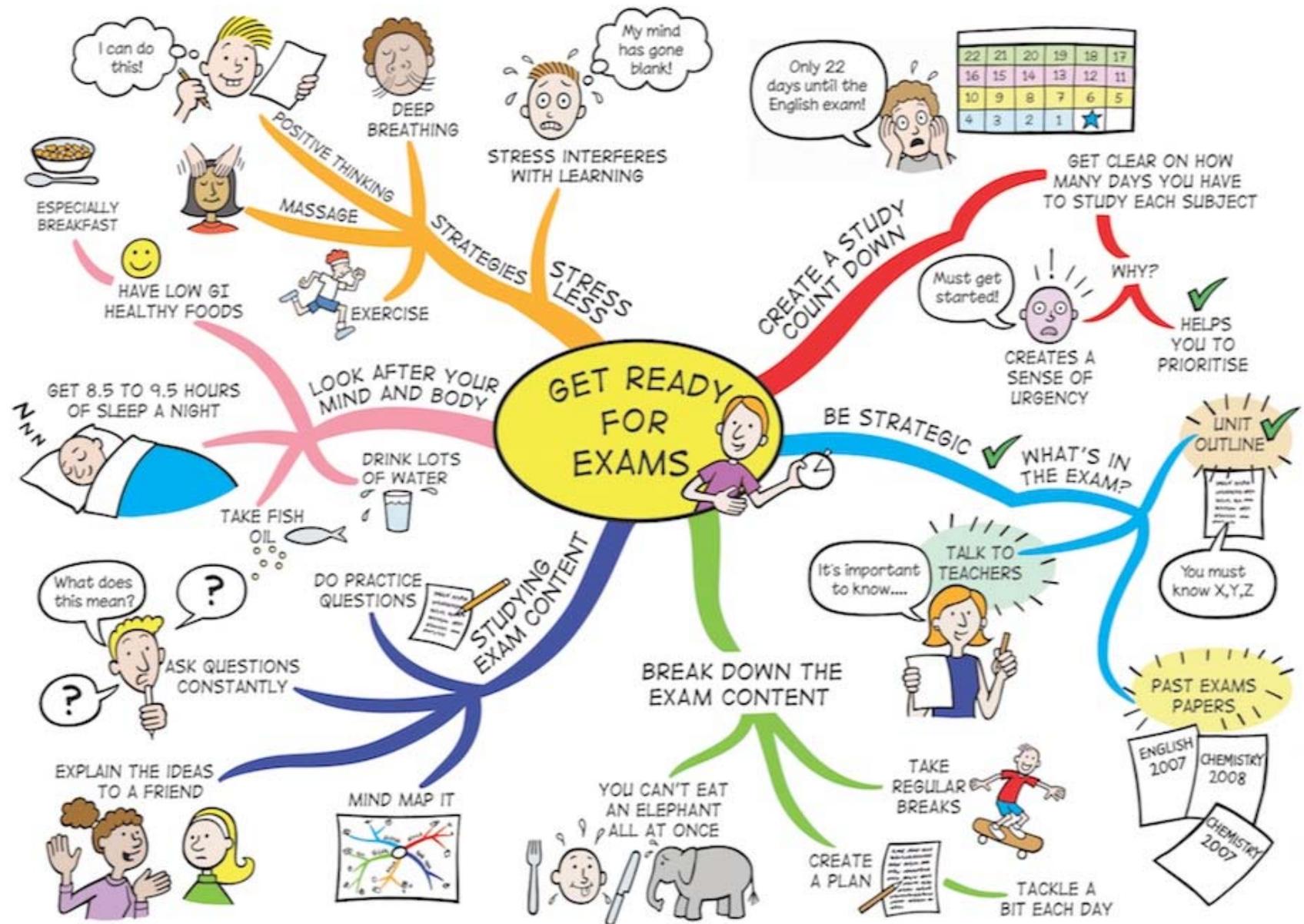


# Year 11 examination preparation support 2016/17

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# Memory cards

Great for remembering all the key words you have for each subject!

Quick recall of ideas gives you more 'thinking time' for the exam question.

## What you need:

- Card or revision cards from a shop
- Coloured pens
- A stopwatch (e.g. on your phone, iPod)



## What to do:

- Write the key word on one side of the card.
- Write the definition/description on the back of the card.
- Lay them all out on a table or floor.
- Get your timer ready and press start.
- Pick a card and try to say the definition word perfectly. Turn over the card and check the definition. If you got it right leave it definition face up. If you got it wrong put it back key word face up and come back to it again later.
- Stop the timer when you have said them all correctly.
- Take a note of your time.
- Repeat again and try to beat your time!

You can also consider an online tool to help you with this such as Quizlet.

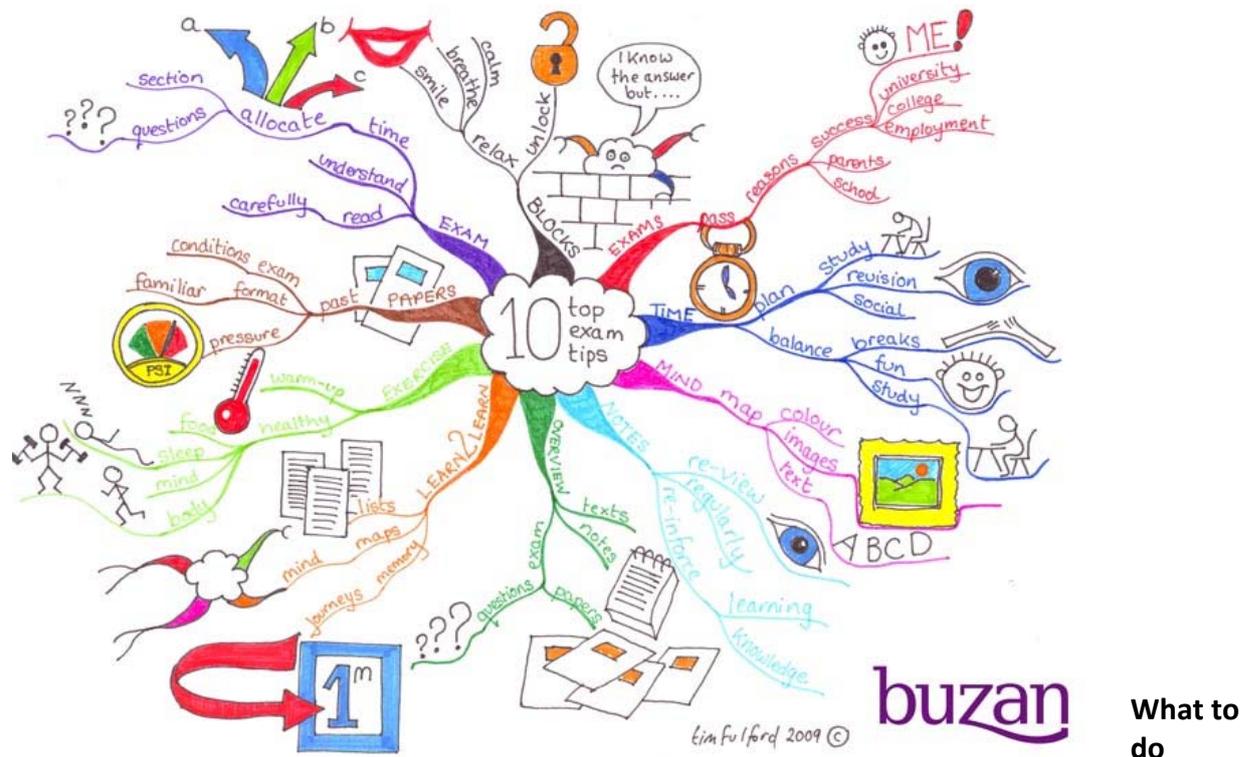
# Mind maps

A fantastic way to organise ideas for a topic!

They help you remember and understand because your Brain works by **association**. It likes to link two (or three, or four) things together. If you connect the branches, you will understand and remember a lot more easily.

## What you need:

- Blank unlined paper
- Coloured pens and pencils
- Your Brain
- Your imagination!



(from Tony Buzan, inventor of mind mapping):

- Start in the CENTRE of a blank page turned sideways.
- Use an IMAGE or PICTURE for your central idea as it helps you use your imagination.
- Use COLOURS throughout. Why? Because colours are as exciting to your Brain as are images.
- CONNECT your MAIN BRANCHES to the central image and connect your second- and third-level branches to the first and second levels, etc.
- Make your branches CURVED rather than straight-lined. Why? Because having nothing but straight lines is boring to your Brain.
- Use ONE KEY WORD PER LINE. Why? Because single key words give your Mind Map more power and flexibility.
- Use IMAGES throughout. Why? Because each image, like the central image, is also worth a thousand words. So if you have only 10 images in your Mind Map, it's already the equal of 10,000 words of notes!

# Exam questions

Writing exam answers is a skill, just like playing a game on an Xbox is a skill. You wouldn't try and improve at the game by trying to memorise moves, you'd practise making them. Memorising the information is not enough! The bonus is that answering questions also helps you remember it!

## What you need:

- The internet (exam board websites)
- Revision guides (often have exam questions in them)
- Past papers
- A pen!

## What to do:

- Exam board websites have lots of past papers on them and the mark schemes.
- Download past papers from the relevant exam board.
- Answer the questions from the past paper.
- Mark the questions yourself to see what you did well and what you need to improve on. Then revise the areas again that you need to improve on.

## Improving how you answer questions:

**ReBUGG** the question so that you read it carefully and answer the question that is being asked!

**Read** the question.

**Box** the command word.

**Underline** the key words.

**Gauge** how many marks, how many points to make and how many minutes.

**Glance** back over it to check your answer.

Use your timer again to check you spend the right amount of time on each question (1 mark = 1 minute).



# Read actively



Active reading helps you make meaning of what you have read and therefore helps you to understand and remember it.

## **Underlining and highlighting:**

Pick out what you think are the most important parts of what you are reading with a highlighter or coloured pen.

## **Note key words:**

Record the main headings as you read on a piece of paper. Use one or two keywords for each point.

## **Questions:**

Before you start reading, prepare for your reading by noting down questions you want the book/website to answer.

## **Summaries:**

Pause after you've read a section of text. Then: put what you've read into your own words; skim through the text and check how accurate your summary is and fill in any gaps. Annotate around this summary how this fits in with your other learning.

## **Transform what you've read:**

Turn what you have read into a diagram or a picture so that you have to really think about what you've read.

# Useful websites

There are many good websites that will help you revise, here are a few for a start, you can ask your subject teachers for their recommendations of others

<b>Useful WEBSITES</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>	AQA past papers and mark schemes.
<a href="http://www.edexcel.com">www.edexcel.com</a>	Edexcel past papers and mark schemes.
<a href="http://www.ocr.org.uk">www.ocr.org.uk</a>	OCR past papers and mark schemes.
<a href="http://www.mymaths.co.uk">www.mymaths.co.uk</a>	Activities, games and assessments that you can use to revise and improve your learning (you have been given a login).
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/">www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/</a>	Revision for all subjects
<a href="http://www.s-cool.co.uk">www.s-cool.co.uk</a>	Lots of 'chunked' information for all most subjects.
<a href="http://getrevising.co.uk/">http://getrevising.co.uk/</a>	You can create resources to revise and revision planners online.
<a href="http://www.gojiomo.com">www.gojiomo.com</a>	Revision and exam preparation app
<a href="http://www.quizlet.com">www.quizlet.com</a>	Create your own study sets, flashcards, tests, and study games
<a href="http://www.getrevising.co.uk">www.getrevising.co.uk</a>	A resource to provide key revision skills and to provide digital learning support, which is completely free

