

# REVISION TOOLKIT



*Produced by D. Leung 2018. Adapted from “Higher Education Assignment Toolkit”, De Monfort University, 2010; “how to write a PETER paragraph”, The Sholing Technology College, 2014; “How can I revise?”, English Martyrs School Geography Department, 2015; “A students guide to exam preparation at English Martyrs School.”, English Martyrs School, 2014.*



# ST Study Tips



Wed 16 May, 14:25

iMessage

**It's ok to speak up if you're feeling stressed, anxious or overwhelmed with your exams or study. Always speak up to a trusted parent/guardian, pastoral team, teacher or TA, if you feel burnt out or over tired.**

**Take breaks. Take breaks! It can freshen your mind and help your brain to rest and re-focus. Breaks are important to prevent burnout. Try making a cup of tea, mindfulness/prayer or taking a quick walk.**



**Find a technique that works for you, and you only! It's your results and your exam. Your ideal method is specific to you and only you!**

**Practice past papers and look at mark schemes from the exam boards. They're all online.**

**Make a study timetable. This will help you focus your time and ensure that distractions like smartphones are put away!**

**Find your space to get in the zone!** Studies have shown that working away from your bedroom improves sleep and your study time. Some people work better in quiet, maybe going to a library, some people enjoy listening to music.

Thanks for sharing your study tips! Good luck! :-)



Write a message...



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## HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

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### 1. Get Organised

- Make sure you have a checklist of topics you need to revise.
- Make sure you have a list of case studies and key-terms to learn and are able to recall key facts and figures as well as precise definitions.
- Make sure you have all the revision guides/notes and resources.
- Create a realistic revision plan, including some 'you time' and factoring in when your exams are.

**2. Active Revision** Use your preferred revision style from the following suggested examples. Engaging with your notes will be more productive than just sitting and reading your notes over and over. Reviewing what you have learnt four or five times over a period of weeks will improve your retention.

**3. Think!** As well as learning facts and details, you must be able to understand and think through what you are learning. Relate your knowledge and understanding to an exam question. Try to understand what a question asks of you. Have a go at practicing a question!

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## WHAT WORKS FOR ME?

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Have I found a good place to study?

Do I know when I will be studying? Have I  
made a revision timetable?

Do I have someone to speak to if I become  
stressed/anxious?

What three revision techniques will I be using?

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## IMPROVE YOUR MEMORY

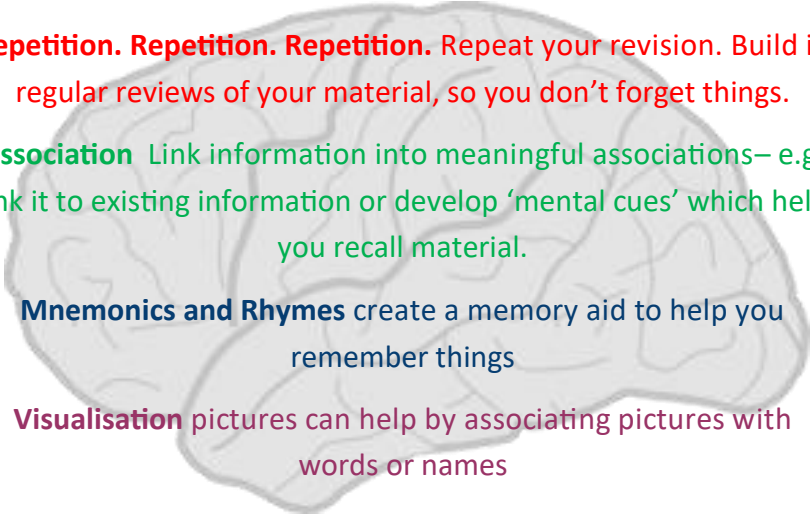
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**Repetition. Repetition. Repetition.** Repeat your revision. Build in regular reviews of your material, so you don't forget things.

**Association** Link information into meaningful associations— e.g. link it to existing information or develop 'mental cues' which help you recall material.

**Mnemonics and Rhymes** create a memory aid to help you remember things

**Visualisation** pictures can help by associating pictures with words or names



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## STICKY NOTE SHUFFLE

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**Do you prefer lists or shuffling ideas around?** Write your ideas with colour on post-it notes and arrange on large paper, walls and doors around your home/room!





## STICKY NOTE SHUFFLE– example

### Order of Operations

BIDMAS

Brackets Indices

Division Multiplication

Addition Subtraction

- Always do brackets first
- Work from L to Right
- Always work in pencil

( )

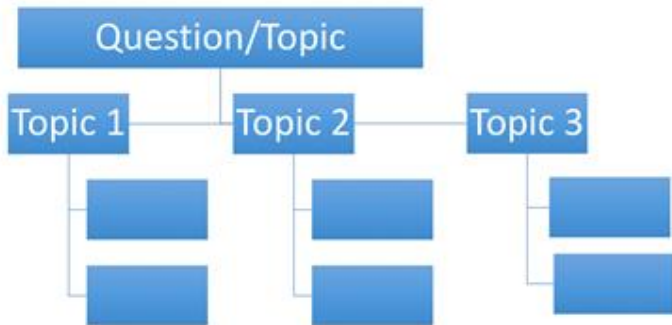
Indices– squares

÷ × + -

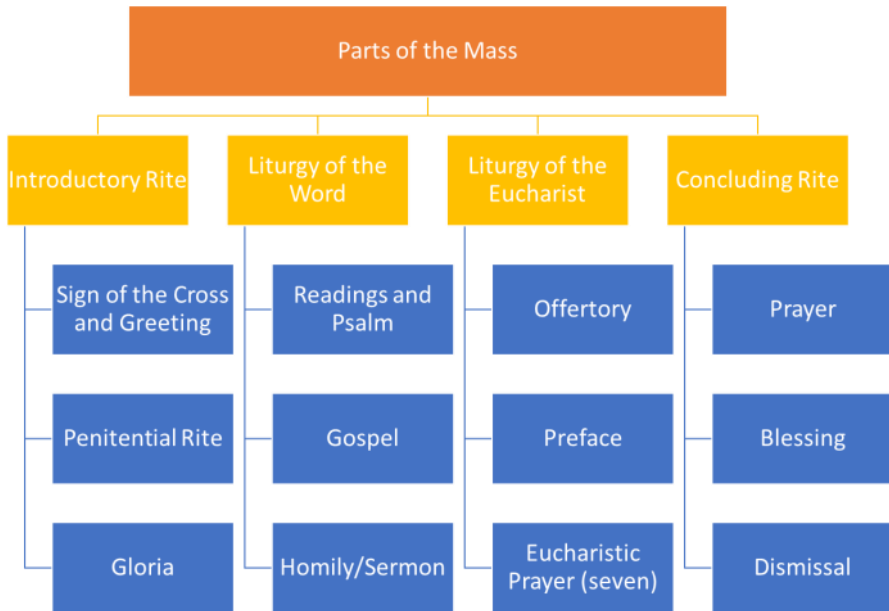
## THE FAMILY TREE

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**Do you prefer to break down the question/topic?** The ‘family tree’ approach helps to see how ideas fit together. Start with the basic title and break down the topic/question into smaller parts:



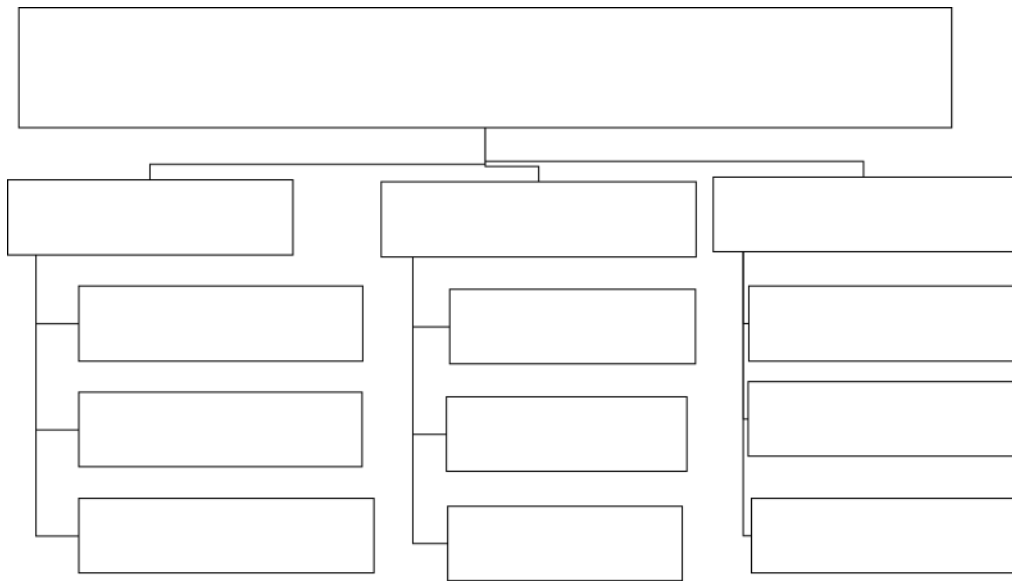
## THE FAMILY TREE– example



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## THE FAMILY TREE– your own

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## THOUGHT MAPPING

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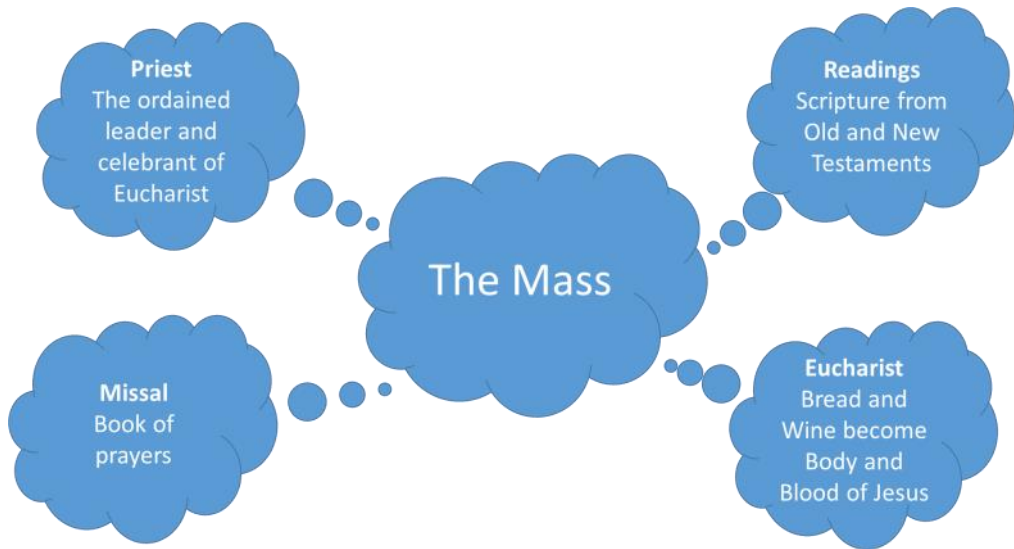
**Are you creative? Do you like handouts and pictures?** Try mind mapping with colours and symbols. Put your question or topic in the middle and your ideas around. Add more bubbles as you get ideas!



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## THOUGHT MAPPING– example

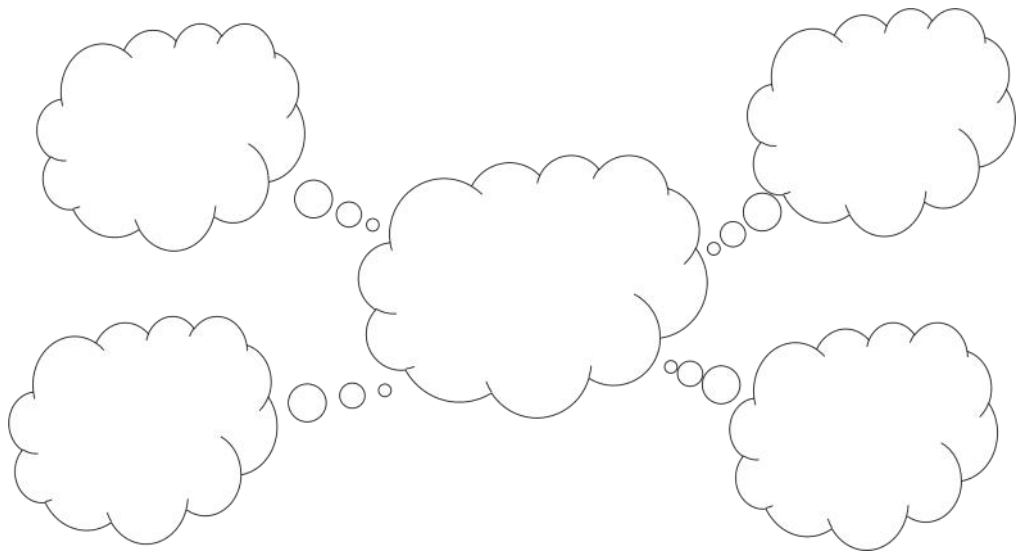
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## THOUGHT MAPPING– your own

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## TIDY TABLE APPROACH

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**Is your approach quite tightly structured and organised?** A table can keep you focused with:

- Topic
- What does this mean?
- What do I already know?
- What do I need to know?

<b>Assignment Title/Question</b>			
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>What does this mean?</b>	<b>What do I already know?</b>	<b>What do I need to know?</b>
1			
2			
3			
4			



## TIDY TABLE APPROACH– example

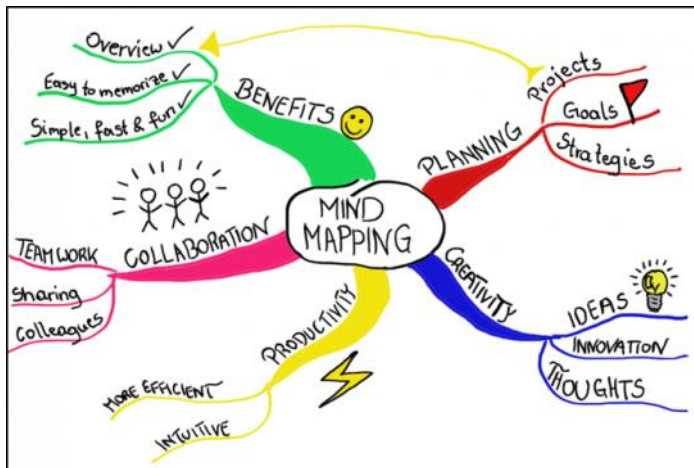
<b>Discuss the ways the government protected citizens during the Blitz</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>What does this mean?</b>	<b>What do I already know?</b>	<b>What do I need to know?</b>
1 Underground	Shelters in train stations in London	90% of underground stations used	How effective was it protecting public?
2 Blackouts	Curfew in London	Blackout curtains issued	Were blackouts required in evacuation areas in the country side?
3 Gas Masks	Public issued with gas masks for adults and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People fined £5 to replace gas masks</li></ul>	How many were lost, and how often were they used?

## TIDY TABLE APPROACH— your own

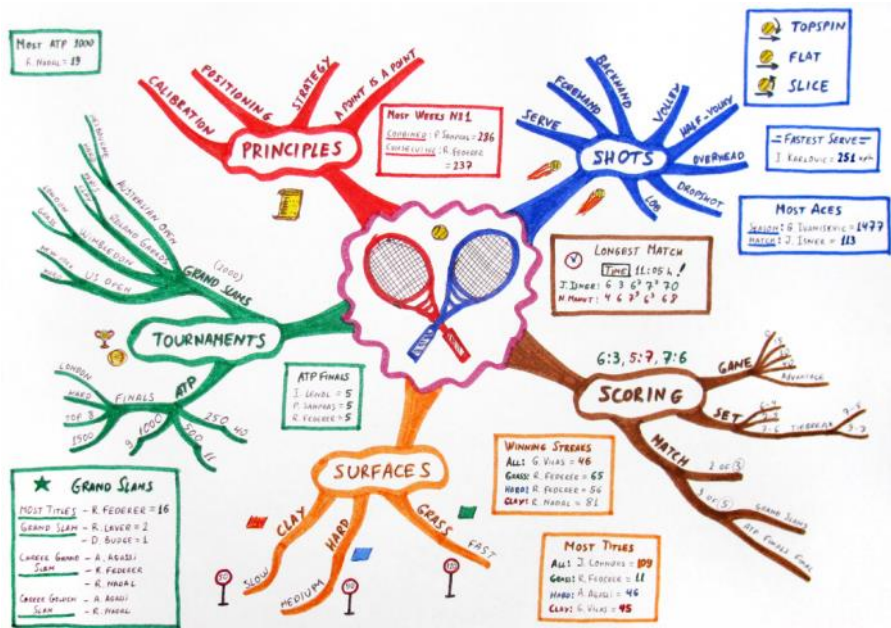
<b>My question:</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>What does this mean?</b>	<b>What do I already know?</b>	<b>What do I need to know?</b>
1			
2			
3			

## MIND MAPS

Patterned notes or mind maps can be helpful to develop, plan and revise ideas. Each branch represents one theme or idea, with further branches representing sub-points. You can see your ideas and how they link together. Make it even more helpful by using colour and images!



# MIND MAP- example



## LINEAR NOTES— example

### Acids and Alkalis

- Definition Acids: A chemical substance that reacts with produce a hydroxide or metal oxide
- Definition Alkali: a compound that is a soluble base and produce hydroxide ions when dissolved in water
- Common alkalis: Sodium Hydroxide ( $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ), Zinc Oxide ( $\text{ZnO}$ ), Copper Oxide ( $\text{CuO}$ )
- Indicators can include litmus paper and universal indicator tests to measure PH

## LINEAR NOTES

Make a list of notes, with a title and subtitle and bullet point your ideas. Use colours and clear titles to make sure they are organised. Re-writing your notes, not just re-reading can help you to remember better.

*Title*

*Subtitle*

- Bullet point*
- Start a new line for each point*
- Leave space around each point  
you may want to add later*

## REVISION CARDS

Revision cards are a popular way of studying with students. Having your revision on cards means that your notes can be pocket-sized and portable! Keep notes short and brief, and using colour and pictures can help you memorise information.

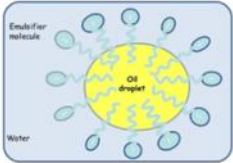
### Emulsions

Oils do not dissolve in water  
Emulsion → Where oil and water are dispersed (spread out) in each other  
→ These often have special qualities

Emulsifiers Stops water and oils mixing

Hydro Water	phobic Hating	■
Hydro Water	philic Loving	+

Examples:  
Mayo, Milk, Ice-Cream, Paint, Cosmetics



The diagram shows a central yellow circle labeled 'Oil droplet'. Surrounding it are several blue, teardrop-shaped molecules labeled 'Emulsifier molecule'. The entire assembly is contained within a light blue rounded square labeled 'Water' at the bottom left corner.

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## Mnemonics and Rhymes

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**Mnemonic** (Sounds like: Mem-on-ic)

A mnemonic is a simple rhyme or phrase which helps you remember factual information in the right order. Simply take the letters from the words you wish to remember and use them to make a memorable sentence. E.G.

**My Very Easy method Just Seeds Up Naming Planets** (Planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto).

**Lions Eat Ice Cream Every Saturday Tea Eat Raspberries** (Spells Leicester)

**Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived.** (Fate of Henry VIII's six wives).

Why not audio record your mnemonic and listen to it on your phone?



# ANSWERING QUESTIONS





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## UNPICK THE TITLE– BUG the question

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**BUG** the question. **Box** the keyword, **Underline** the aspects and subjects, **Glance** back over the question: What is the question asking me?

Questions often usually include a:

- **Keyword** (telling you how to write your work),
- the **aspect** of the subject (a specific element of the topic),
- a **subject** (what the topic is)
- and possibly **restrictions** (a time frame or specific part the subject).

KEYWORD		ASPECT	SUBJECT		RESTRICTION
Discuss	the	impact of	the Spanish Armada	during the	reign of Elizabeth I

*Telling you  
what to  
include*

*Telling you  
the relevant  
effect to  
write about*

*The topic of  
discussion*

*The time frame  
to write about*

**What is my question?**

**Can I identify the following in my question?**

**KEYWORD**

**ASPECT**

**SUBJECT**

**RESTRICTION**

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## KEYWORDS

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### **DISCUSS**

Write about the most important characteristics of something. Give arguments for and against and look at the topic from a variety of perspectives.

### **TO WHAT EXTENT....**

How far something is true, or not true and contributes to a final outcome?

### **DESCRIBE/RETELL/ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT...**

Tell someone or write about what you have learned well enough for them to learn from you. Ask more about a topic.

### **OUTLINE**

Give only the main points, show only the main structure.

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## KEYWORDS

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### **ANALYSE**

Examine something in very close detail and from a number of angles. Identify the important points and chief features, and understand their relationships.

### **COMPARE**

Examine two or more ideas or things in close detail and explain how they are similar or different. Show you understand more than one view.

### **EVALUATE**

Weigh both arguments for and against something, and assess the strength of both sides, using evidence to support your opinion.

### **EXPLAIN**

Make it clear why something happens or why it is the way it is.

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## KEYWORDS– this is an orange example

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This is an orange



**Compare** An orange is a fruit.

**This means** it grows and it is good to eat. It is good for you **because** it contains vitamins and fibre, which we need to stay healthy. A banana is also a fruit. It is similar to an orange because it is nice to eat and good for you.

**However**, it is a different shape and colour. It is also **different** because it contains vitamin B6 which helps brain development.

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## KEYWORDS– this is an orange example

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**Describe** This is an orange. It is orange inside and orange on the outside. It has leaves and is juicy.

**Explain** An orange is a fruit. **This means** it grows. It is good for you **because** it contains vitamins and fibre, which we need to stay healthy. **For example**, vitamin C helps your body fight diseases.

**Evaluate Which is better**– an orange or a banana? **An advantage** of oranges is that they are refreshing and they are a nice colour. **However**, sometimes they can be bitter. **On the other hand**, bananas are always sweet when the ripe and they are nice in smoothies. A **disadvantage** of bananas is that they squash easily. I prefer bananas because of their texture.

**Analyse and justify** Bananas are **by far** the best. **Even though** oranges have the advantage of being a nice colour and shape, bananas are **considerably** better because of their versatility.



**WHERE?**

Where did it occur?

Where is the evidence?

**WHO?**

Who is involved?

e.g. historical figures,  
groups/organisations

**HOW?**

How has the situation  
been reached?

How has it developed?

**QUESTION/SUBJECT**

**WHEN?**

What is the  
timeframe/genre to  
be considered?

**WHY?**

Why has this happened?

Why has it developed in  
this way?

**WHAT?**

What are the problems/issues involved?

What impact has there been?

What evidence and/or research  
supports points?

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## STRUCTURING AN ESSAY– PEEL/PETER

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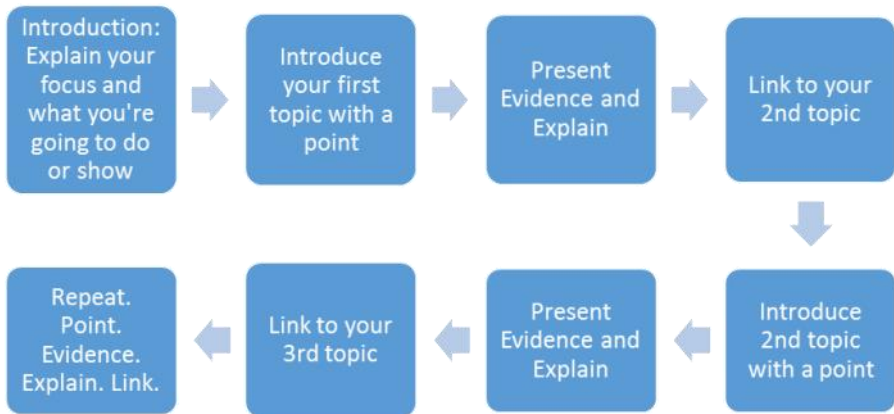
You can structure an essay with an **introduction** which explains in brief the topic, and an outline of your essay, signposting the points you will make.

Followed by **Paragraphs** constructed around **PEEL** that firstly introduce a **POINT**, then give your **EVIDENCE** then **EXPLAIN** the evidence and **LINK** to the next point.

Some essays may better fit **PETER**, that firstly introduce a **POINT**, then give your **EVIDENCE** then identify a **TECHNIQUE**, (like a language technique e.g. ‘rule of thirds’ or political device e.g. ‘propaganda’) then **EXPLAIN** the evidence and technique, and **RELATE** or link to the next point.

Repeat as necessary, and at the end of your essay, provide a **conclusion** summarising your ideas and stating a clear answer to the question, having considered the evidence.

## STRUCTURING AN ESSAY– PEEL/PETER



## ESSAY WRITING WORDBANK

<b>To add more detail</b>		<b>To Sequence</b>		<b>To Compare</b>
And	Also	Firstly	Next	Equally
Furthermore		Secondly	Then	Similarly
Moreover		Finally	Afterwards	Likewise
In addition				In the same way
<b>To contrast/argue</b>		<b>To give an example</b>		<b>To explain cause/effect</b>
Alternatively		Such as		Because
Whereas		For example		Therefore
On the other hand		For instance		So
But		In the case of		Consequently
<b>To Qualify</b>		<b>To add emphasis</b>		<b>To explain reasons/results</b>
However	Yet	In particular		Consequently
Although	As long	Especially		As a result
Unless	as	Significantly		For this reason
If	Except	Above all		

### Using complex vocabulary

happy: contented, cheery, jocular, buoyant, glad, ecstatic.

Sad: regretful, miserable, downcast, gloomy, glum, wretched, sombre, mournful.

Angry: irate, indignant, furious, incandescent, hostile

Calm: idyllic, peaceful, tranquil, idolise, vernacular, informal, unorthodox.

Personification, juxtaposition sibilance, onomatopoeia, rhetorical question, oxymoron, alliteration

### Words instead of 'shows'

Suggests, demonstrates, highlights, emphasises, implies, indicates, presents, portrays, proves, reveals, exposes, describes, argues, tells, informs, remarks.

### Using adverbs

- This **dramatically** exposes...
- This **strongly** suggests...
- It **vividly** highlights...

Gruesomely, shockingly, disturbingly, surprisingly, humorously, sarcastically, angrily, persuasively, subtly, boldly, harrowingly, chillingly, purposefully, subtly, ambiguously, clearly, strangely.

# REVISION LINKS





## DIGITAL REVISION



### **Office Lens App**

Allows you to take pictures of a document and stores it on your phone.



### **Kahoot** [www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com)

Create your own multiple choice interactive quizzes to test you or your friends!



### **YouTube App** [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)

Why not search on YouTube for revision videos, news reports or TED talks?



### **AnkiApp App**

Flashcards with text, sound, and images, or download pre-made ones.



### **BBC Bitesize** [bbc.com/bitesize](http://bbc.com/bitesize)

Interactive revision materials for all subjects and exam boards created by the BBC



### **SENECA** [senecalearning.com](http://senecalearning.com)

Online revision courses at GCSE level tailored to the exam boards. Website includes interactive quizzes.



### **Quizlet App** [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)

Create your own quizzes, flashcards and revision materials.



### **Gojimo App** [www.gojimo.com](http://www.gojimo.com)

Allows you to access practice questions from a range of exam boards and across subjects.



### **Video/Voice recorder App**

You can use your smartphone voice or video recorder to record someone reading out your notes and listening to them again and again can help memory.



## My Login Details



Resource	Username	Password
Office 365 <a href="https://portal.office.com">https://portal.office.com</a>		
MathsWatch <a href="https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/">https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/</a>		
My Maths <a href="https://www.mymaths.co.uk/">https://www.mymaths.co.uk/</a>		
Seneca <a href="https://www.senecalearning.com/">https://www.senecalearning.com/</a>		
<b>Coursebook websites</b>		

**Audiopi**

**AUDIO PI [www.audiopi.co.uk/subjects/english-literature](http://www.audiopi.co.uk/subjects/english-literature)**

*Detailed series of audio podcasts, tutorials and recordings on English Literature texts.*

Username: englishmartyrs@audiopi.co.uk

Password = englishmartyrs



**LitCharts**

**LITCHARTS [www.litcharts.com](http://www.litcharts.com)**

*From the makers of Spark Notes, revision resources with plot synopsis, literature guides, and thematic charts on literary texts. Use the search box to look up your set text for GCSE, Animal Farm,*



**SPARK NOTES [www.sparknotes.com](http://www.sparknotes.com)**

*Study Guides on a range of subjects, but useful for English and includes full modern translations of Shakespeare.*

# MATHS

ENGLISH MARTYRS'  
MATHS DEPARTMENT

**EM MATHS DEPT.** <https://emsmaths.weebly.com/>

*Departmental website for the English Martyrs maths department*



**PADLET** *More resources available below:*

<https://padlet.com/westonmaths/usefulwebsites>

*Links to past papers, maths teachers and revision websites*

<https://padlet.com/tessmaths1/revision>

*Teaching resources and downloadable revision calendars*

[https://padlet.com/missradders/kjs\\_maths](https://padlet.com/missradders/kjs_maths)

*Resources, problem solving, starter exercises and tools*



**MATHS WATCH** <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/>

*Maths Watch includes video explanations, activities and downloadable worksheets. School login required.*



**MY MATHS** <https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

*My Maths is an interactive online website with quizzes and games. School login required.*

## MATHS



**MATHS BOT** <https://mathsbot.com/#Manipulatives>

*Visual resources for a range of topics to help visualise fractions, counters, tiles, number square e.t.c.*



**RESOURCEAHOLIC** <http://www.resourceaholic.com/>

*A blog with resources for a range of maths topics, and a regular maths podcast and the blog was voted best UK Education Blog 2017.*

**PRET**

**MATHS PRET HOMEWORK** <http://prethomework.weebly.com/>

*Website with homework worksheets uploaded by teachers*



**KAHN ACADEMY– MATH** <https://www.khanacademy.org/math>

*A website with video tutorials and interactive quizzes and games*



hegarty

**HEGARTY MATHS** <http://mathswebsite.com/>

*Sign-in required, this website has tutorial videos*

**TEACH IT MATHS** <https://www.teachitmaths.co.uk/>

*Different resources uploaded by Maths Teachers*

## SCIENCE

The logo for 'Free Science Lessons' features the words 'free', 'science', and 'lessons' stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a blue background that is shaped like a staircase, with each step being a different shade of blue.

**FREE SCIENCE LESSONS** [www.freesciencelessons.co.uk](http://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk)

*A website with YouTube videos, past papers and resources for GCSE Physics, Biology and Chemistry. Subscription available for workbooks and additional access to further past papers.*

The BBC Bitesize logo consists of the letters 'BBC' in white inside three black squares, with the word 'Bitesize' in white below it. The entire logo is on an orange rectangular background.

**BITESIZE** [www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv](http://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv)

*BBC Bitesize website with quizzes, videos and bullet points.*

The 'Pass My Exams' logo features the words 'Pass my' in blue cursive above 'ex(A)ms' in red cursive. The 'A' in 'ex(A)ms' is circled in red. The text is underlined with blue lines.

**PASS MY EXAMS** [www.passmyexams.co.uk](http://www.passmyexams.co.uk)

*Fully animated and easy-to-follow revision notes, for GCSE Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry.*



**FOOTPRINTS SCIENCE** [www.footprints-science.co.uk/](http://www.footprints-science.co.uk/)

*Science animations, activities and quizzes in a interactive format*

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## OPTION SUBJECTS

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### Geography

**Live Geog** <https://livegeog.wordpress.com/>

*Geography department blog with resources relevant to in-class and live geographical news.*

### Business Studies

**BBC Bitesize** <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zpsvr82>

### History

### English Martyrs Departmental Revision

*<http://www.englishmartyrs.org/index.php/school-department-websites>*

All the school department websites and revision sources are here.