

L/O = How do I revise in history?

Key Words

- Chronology
- Quizzing
- Exam questions

1. The Importance of Past Papers for GCSE History

Past papers are invaluable for GCSE History revision, improving writing structure and subject knowledge. Your teacher will guide you on how to structure various question types, but extra practice is vital.

Don't rely solely on class-provided questions; practice extensively with past papers to enhance your exam technique. Initially, practice with information at hand under timed conditions, but switch to unaided practice once you've mastered question structures.

Past papers not only solidify answer structures but also highlight weaker content areas, helping you prioritize your revision effectively.

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2. Using Mind Maps for GCSE History

Mind maps help summarize knowledge and link information, which is essential for detailed GCSE History answers.

To achieve top grades, you must show a wide range of information about the study period. Additional facts linked to your main points will be beneficial. Organize your mind maps based on specific aspects or overall views of a time period.

Here's an example for "Medicine Through Time":

Categories:

- Important Individuals
- Causes of Disease
- Treatments and Prevention
- Medics and Care
- Case Study

Time Periods:

- Medieval
- Renaissance
- 18th & 19th Centuries
- Modern

Maintaining an organized filing system for your mind maps is crucial.

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3. Colour Coding for GCSE History

Given the breadth of GCSE History, breaking down information into small chunks is essential. Using colours can help visual learners link information and make revision more manageable.

E.g. Colour code medicine notes into the key themes of: Public Health/Understanding causes of disease and surgery/treatment

Keep it simple:

- Organize revision resources by areas you find hardest to link, such as historical figures, time periods, events, or places.

- Be consistent in your color-coding method for it to be effective.

While useful, colour coding should complement other techniques like flashcards, notes, and mind maps, not replace them.

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4. Get an Easy to Digest GCSE History Revision Guide

Have you ordered your GCSE revision guide from school gateway yet?

Revision guides will break down the information you have to learn into clear, concise points, which are much more manageable than the large chunks of text that you will find in your textbook.

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5. Create Your Own History Flashcards

Flashcards are invaluable for GCSE History due to the vast amount of information. Ideally, make flashcards from the start to consolidate learning. The process of creating flashcards helps identify knowledge gaps.

Tips:

- Summarize information concisely; avoid writing too much on each card.
- Flashcards should include key points you can expand upon in exams.

Example (Medicine Through Time):

- **Q:** What was Hippocrates' role in Medieval Medicine?
- **A:** 4 Humours, Hippocratic Oath, Healthy Lifestyle

• Although this may seem like a very short answer, it includes the relevant keywords, which you should be able to expand on when writing a GCSE History exam question.

Remember, flashcards should complement your other revision techniques.

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6. Take Breaks Using the Pomodoro Technique

GCSE History demands high information retention, making cramming ineffective. Instead, take short, frequent breaks during revision sessions.

The Pomodoro Technique:

- Work for a set duration (e.g., 45 minutes).
- Rest for a set duration (e.g., 15 minutes).
- Repeat this cycle.

Using the Pomodoro technique can help you better understand and utilize your knowledge in exams. Give it a try to enhance your GCSE History revision.



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7. Vary Your GCSE Revision Techniques

Different revision techniques are useful for different aspects of GCSE History. For example:

- **YouTube videos/timelines:** Best for event sequences.
- **Flashcards:** Great for specific dates and periods.
- **Mind maps:** Useful for linking events, causes, consequences, and key individuals.

Avoid relying on one technique; mix methods to cover all bases. Stay organized to prevent redundancy in your resources.

8. Utilize YouTube for Revision

YouTube is a valuable and free revision tool. While some videos may contain misinformation, many channels provide excellent tips and techniques. Recommended channels include:

- Revise GCSE History
- Lessons in History
- History Revision Success

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9. Know Your Exam Board's Specification

Familiarize yourself with your Exam Board's GCSE History Specification, which outlines essential topics and aids revision by breaking them into bullet points. This helps identify essential textbook parts and additional facts to impress examiners.

While the Specification is a great revision tool, remember it doesn't specify the exact exam facts. Use it to guide your revision resources, ensuring you cover all important parts and stay organized.

The GCSE History Specification is available online (e.g., AQA).

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/specifications/AQA-8145-SP-2016.PDF>

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10. Use Timelines for Understanding Events

Timelines are crucial for understanding the order of events in GCSE History, often overlooked by students. They enhance comprehension and aid in remembering dates.

Usage Tips:

- Create detailed, color-coded timelines combining mind maps to branch off information.
- If overwhelming, keep it simple with dates and events to understand event order.

Timelines should complement other revision resources; avoid relying solely on one method.

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11. Choose the Best Time to Start Revising

Timing your revision can be tricky. While cramming before exams is ineffective, starting too early may lead to burnout. For GCSE History, there's no such thing as starting too early. Create revision resources throughout your course to stay on top of the material and avoid last-minute panic.

Take in-class assessments seriously, tackling small amounts gradually for effective learning. However, intensive revision should begin closer to exams, as it's unsustainable over two years. For guidance on when to start serious revision, refer to this [*article on when you should start revising for your GCSE exams.*](#)