



6 WEEKS TO START OF EXAMS

Please encourage your son/daughter to use the Easter holidays to focus on their revision – it can make a huge difference to their exam results.

ISSUE 4 – 31 March 2017

According to the Exams Officer the PPE2's went exceptionally well. Students were on time, well prepared, knew where to line up and where they were supposed to be sitting and completed their exams without issue. This bodes well for the final examinations which are not far away now. There were some disappointments and some smiles of elation, so in that respect they mirror what we are likely to see in the final examinations.

Key now is to learn from these in preparation for the final examinations, to do more of what worked, to do differently that which did not. To continue to do the same things and expect different outcomes is at best naive, so whatever strategies work for your son/daughter – flashcards, podcasts, writing notes, mindmaps, videos, exam papers – they just need to use them, but not leave it all to the last minute.

We have included some revision tips in this edition which you can discuss with your son/daughter. If they are not sure what strategies work best for them, they need to speak to me and we will be able to help them find out.

Mr Bowman, Head of Year 11

GCSE Revision Guide and New Revision Section on our Website

On the last day of term, we gave Year 11 students a GCSE Revision Guide. This guide will hopefully help them with their revision over the Easter holidays.

We also have a new section on our school website with useful links and downloads for students and parents. Just click on the button on the homepage at www.kes.essex.sch.uk



GCSE Science - A/A* Club

Open to all GCSE Triple and Higher Tier Double students who are aiming for A/A* grade in the upcoming exams.

This will be focussed revision based on the A/A* content and technique for answering the high demand questions in order to maximise your achievement in GCSE Sciences.

Fridays 14.30 in D14 with Miss Wheeler.

Leavers Hoodies, Prom Tickets and Yearbooks

Hoodies and Prom tickets MUST be purchased by the end of April.

- **Prom tickets** are available to buy via School Gateway.
- **Leavers Hoodies** are available from: www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/shops/SL35378.
- **Yearbooks** are £3.50 and available to buy via School Gateway before 26 May.

Students can collect their Prom ticket, Yearbook and Hoodie at Book-Back-Day on Thursday 22 June.

ECDL Feedback

A number of our current Year 11 students have been undertaking the 'European Computer Driving License' (ECDL) course this term. The course gives students excellent core skills in the most frequently used Microsoft programmes, namely; Word, PowerPoint and Excel. The ECDL lasts for 4 days (Monday to Thursday), where students are firstly taught extensive software skills and then complete an online test at the end of each day.

I am delighted to report the fantastic results students have been achieving in this course. With over 70 students having already completed the course, students have achieved an average grade of a 'Distinction' (GCSE A grade equivalent). This has been down to a huge effort from all students involved and their perseverance to complete the work to such a high standard for 4 consecutive days.

Congratulations to all of our Year 11 students who have already attained their Driving Licences and good luck to those who are yet to take on this great course.

Top 5 Revision Tips for Mathematics

- Use the Target booklets to make sure that you are revising the correct topics
- Use Revision websites (Mymaths, Mathswatch & PIXL App)
- Use Revision Guide & Workbooks (Pearsons)
- Do exam style questions
- When answering questions:
 1. Make sure that you READ the question carefully
 2. Check that you have shown enough workings
 3. Have you answered the question fully (units, in correct form, rounded, written)

Subject Conferences

Subject conference is being held for HISTORY on 21 April it will be held in school during school hours. The aim of this student conference is to provide our students with practical, engaging and motivating revision for the Edexcel Modern World History examination. Throughout the day, students will work with examiners and practitioners with a focus on improving their grades. Benefits of attending:

- A fully interactive day: the Edexcel Modern World GCSE Specification brought to life with lively, motivational sessions, comedy sketches (performed by professional actors), student activities and quizzes, exam focus sessions
- You will gain first-hand experience from top, experienced examiners and subject experts: a unique insight into how to improve your grade
- Develop strategies to move marks and grades from D to grade C and from A to A*
- Benefit from the opportunity to ask the Subject Experts direct questions in Question Box
- Engage with focused sessions on problem topics and exam questions
- Take away in depth insights into answering examination questions on Cold War

The Geography subject conferences are on April 27 and 28. Students will be looking at exam technique with Bob Digby – author and ex chief examiner. Students will be in a session for an hour and a half.

GCSE English Revision Tips

English Literature

1. Re-read the set texts making notes as you go key themes, characters and quotations.
2. Complete the quizzes on SMHW which will help you to revise context, content and quotations.
3. Practise analysing the language of short extracts.
4. Use sample papers to make up your own questions.
5. Complete and hand in extra practice questions.

English Language

1. Access the revision sheets on SMHW - see example.
2. Revise and re-do your weakest questions from the PPE.
3. Look at examples of 19th century fiction.
4. Look at examples of non-fiction texts.
5. Complete and hand in extra practice questions.

Explanation of
each question

Timings for each
question

English Language Paper 1, Question 2: The Question (3 marks)

What are you being tested on?

- This question tests you on your ability to interpret information from a short text.

How will the question be worded?

- This question usually only refers to a few lines of the source, part of the question will tell you which lines you need to look at.
- You will be asked to find two pieces of evidence which relates to the question.
- You are allowed to use quotations or you can put it into your own words if you find **that easier**.

You need to look at these lines

You are looking for words of quotations which **match/relates**

2. From lines 2 - 24, give two ways the characters' behaviour shows that they are related. You may use your own words or quotations from the text.

1.
1.

(Total for Question 2 = 3 marks)

English Language Paper 1, Question 2: The Answer (2 marks)

How should you answer the question?

- You will be given enough space to write out the phrases you have found.
- Do not copy but using quotations from the text, just be precise and concise - you are looking for single words or phrases, not whole sentences.

English Language Paper 1, Question 2: Sample Response (2 marks)

Sample Response

2. From lines 2 - 24, give two ways the characters' behaviour shows that they are related.

1. They're both drinking

1. They were both surprised to see each other

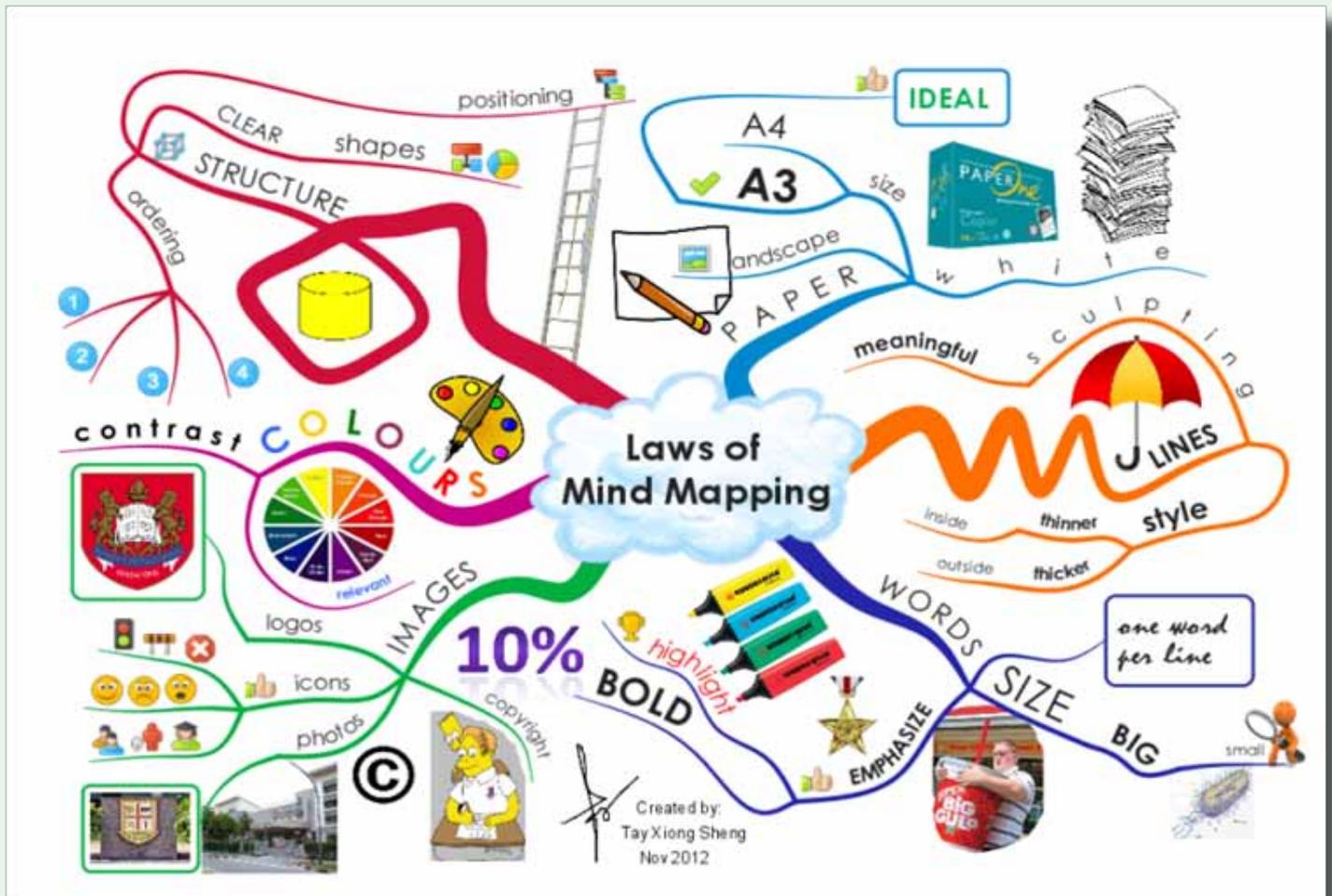
(Total for Question 2 = 2 marks)

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Sample
response

Instructions on
how to answer

What a Good Mind Map Looks Like



Six Steps to Organise Independent Studies

1 When / where do I focus best?



right place and time to work

2 What order should I study?



plan study timetable

3 What do I already know about this?



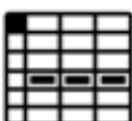
link to prior knowledge

4 How do I study best?



read, chunk, diagrams, quiz

5 How am I getting on?



review progress

6 What else do I need to know?



focus on weaknesses