



The Cornerstone Academy
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Year 9 Rank Order Assessments

Summer Term 2026

Information & Support for Students & Parents

14th May – 22nd May 2026

All students will have had the opportunity to take part in a revision workshop. Revision strategies can be found on the school website by going to the student area of the school website > Revision > Revision skills.

Please look at the exam timetable on the next page and highlight when your tests are.

An electronic copy can be found on the school website in the 'Preparing for Success area'



YEAR 9 ROA TIMETABLE MAY 2026

Each exam will take place in normal lesson time in the classroom, unless you have access arrangements, this will be communicated to you on an individual basis.

Date	P1	P2	BREAK	P3	P4	LUNCH	P5	P6
Thursday 14th May	French Listening and Reading (45 minutes)							
Monday 18th May				Biology (30 mins)			English Reading (45 minutes)	
Tuesday 19th May	Religious Studies (60 mins)						History (60 mins)	
Wednesday 20th May				Geography (60 mins)				Chemistry (30 mins)
Thursday 21st May	French Writing (45 minutes)			English Writing (45 minutes)			Maths Non-calculator (45 mins)	
Friday 22nd May	Maths Calculator (45 mins) - GS,1,5			Maths Calculator (45 mins) - 2/3/4				Physics (30 mins)



How to Revise: A KS3 Student Guide

Revising doesn't have to be confusing or boring. With the right methods, you can learn faster, remember more, and feel confident in tests. Here are three powerful revision strategies you can start using today.

1. Mind Maps – Great for Big Topics

Mind maps help you see the big picture and make connections between ideas.

How to make a mind map

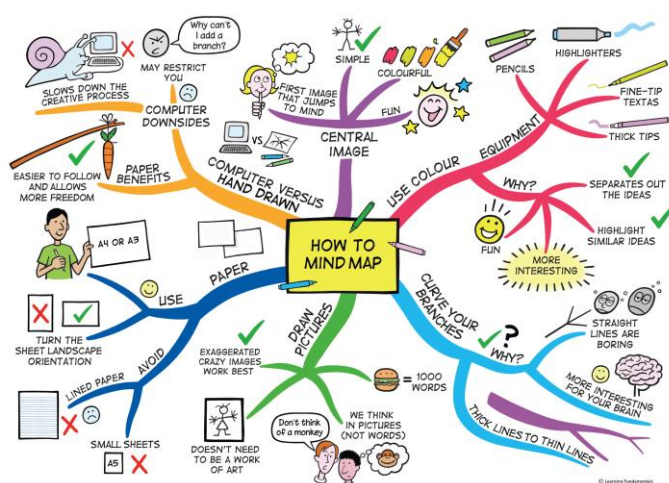
1. Write the **main topic** in the centre (e.g., "Photosynthesis").
2. Draw **branches** for sub-topics (e.g., "Chloroplasts", "Sunlight", "Glucose").
3. Add **keywords**, small drawings, or colour coding.
4. Keep words short (1–3 words each) to make it visual and memorable.

Why mind maps work

- They organise knowledge visually.
- They help your brain create links between ideas.
- They're quicker than long notes.

When to use them

- ✓ Science processes
- ✓ Geography case studies
- ✓ English texts and characters
- ✓ History events





2. The Leitner Method – A Smarter Way to Use Flashcards

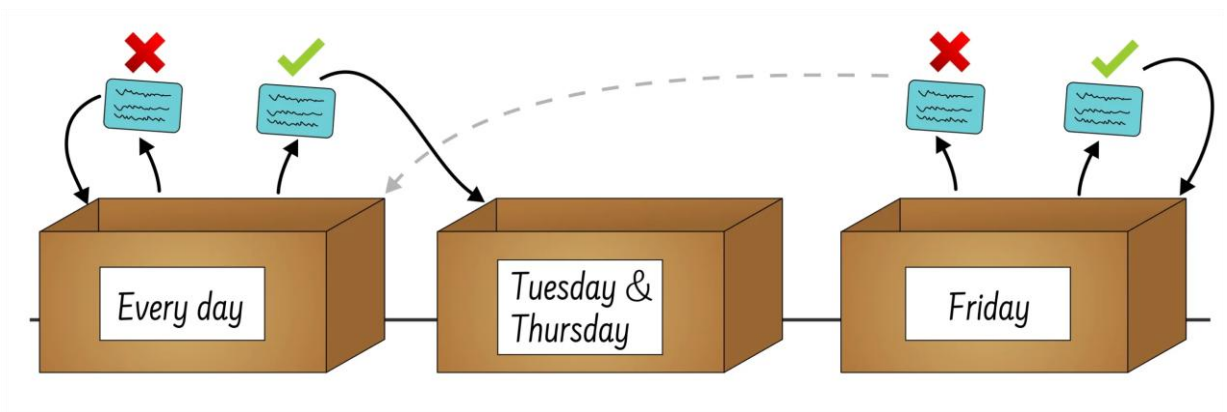
The Leitner method helps you focus on the things you *don't* know yet.

What you need

- A set of flashcards
- 3–5 boxes or piles

How it works

1. Put **all cards** in Box 1.
2. Test yourself:
 - a. If you get it *right*, move the card to the next box.
 - b. If you get it *wrong*, put it back in Box 1.
3. Review each box at different speeds:
 - a. Box 1 → review every day
 - b. Box 2 → review every 2–3 days
 - c. Box 3 → review weekly
 - d. Box 4 → review before the test



Why it works

- You spend less time on things you already know.
- You revise tricky topics more often.
- It's perfect for vocabulary, definitions, and key facts.



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3. Mnemonics – Memory Tricks That Stick

Mnemonics help you remember information by turning it into a pattern or funny phrase.

Types of mnemonics

Acronyms

Use the first letters of words to create a new word.

- **HOMES** → The Great Lakes (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior)

Acrostics

Create a silly sentence.

- **Never Eat Shredded Wheat** → North, East, South, West

Rhymes and Raps

Turn information into something catchy.

- “i before e except after c...”

Chunking

Break information into small groups.

- Phone numbers
- Key dates

Why mnemonics help

- They make boring facts easier to remember.
- They work well for long lists, sequences, and rules.



Putting It All Together: A Sample Revision Plan

Step-by-step example

Topic: Medieval England (History)

1. **Mind map** the main events, people, and causes.
2. Create **flashcards** for key terms like “feudalism” or “Magna Carta” and use the **Leitner method** to review them.
3. Use **mnemonics** to remember lists (e.g., causes of the Black Death).

Quick Tips for Better Revision

- Revise in short bursts: **25 minutes work + 5 minute break**.
- Switch topics to avoid boredom.
- Teach a friend or family member—explaining boosts memory.
- Start early, not the night before!
- Sleep, eat, and take breaks—your brain needs them.



Mathematics

Contact: scarffj@cornerstoneacademy.org.uk

Students will sit two 45-minute exams; one non-calculator exam and one calculator exam.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

Term	Unit	Topic
HT1	9.01	Decimal Manipulation
	9.02	Estimation and Limits of accuracy
	9.03	Related Calculations
	9.04	HCF & LCM of large numbers
	9.05	Fraction Calculations
HT2	9.06	Algebraic Manipulation
	9.07	Index Laws
	9.08	Standard Form
	9.09	Expanding & Factorising 2
HT3	9.10	Forming expressions & substitution
	9.11	Direct and Inverse Proportion
	9.12	Probability 1
HT4	9.13	Solving equations 2
	9.14	Inequalities 1
	9.15	Sequences
	9.16	Pythagoras
HT5	9.17	Interior and Exterior Angles
	9.18	Vectors 1
	9.19	Transformations 1
HT6	9.20	Plans and Elevations
	9.21	Arcs and Sectors
	9.22	Surface Area

Revision resources:

Sparx homework will be set in line with the SOW, this will cover content from the whole year to aid with revision. Teachers will plan in revision lessons in the lead up to the EOY exams and provide sparx codes for additional revision.

All homework will be requested for submission on their first lesson back after the May half term break.

How can you revise Maths?

Students should aim to complete additional revision on sparx independent learning each week. Staff will provide all students with a list of sparx codes prior to their exams that can be used on sparx maths to access specific topic revision. Students will all have a lesson where staff guide them through this process and highlight the best topics for students to work on.



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English

Contact: smithl@cornerstoneacademy.org.uk

Students will sit an English Literature style assessment lasting 45 minutes on the text they have been studying this term, which is Sherlock Holmes stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. As well as completing a 45 minute English Language style assessment where they will be asked to write a piece of persuasive writing.

The reading section of the exam will assess students' ability to respond to the text by answering the question 'How does the writer present...?' Students will then be asked to complete a piece of persuasive writing with a given title.

Topics covered in the exam:

Reading:

Comprehension

Inference

Writing about a writer's choice of language

Writing:

Using the correct conventions for a piece of persuasive writing including language, language features and structural features for effect spelling, punctuation, grammar and ambitious vocabulary

Resources to help students revise and prepare:

- Class exercise books.
- Models for responding to the text questions (in class exercise books)
- Sherlock Holmes Knowledge Organiser.
- Reading the text outside of school.

How can you revise English?

Students can re-read the short stories that have been studied this term and whilst reading students should be thinking about and exploring how each character is presented and what themes they can recognise within the text. Students can write practice responses for the analytical question (Sherlock Holmes) and the non-fiction writing question and ask their teachers for feedback on these.



Science

Contact: bennettb@cornerstoneacademy.org.uk

Students will sit three exams in Science: one biology exam, one chemistry exam, and one physics exam. Students will have 30 minutes to complete each exam. The exam is synoptic and consists of topics that have been covered in lessons with an emphasis on disciplinary skills developed during practical lessons. Students will need a calculator for these exams.

Topics to be covered in the exams:

Biology – 30 minutes	Chemistry – 30 minutes	Physics – 30 minutes
<u>Plants and Photosynthesis</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts of the plant and their adaptations Photosynthesis Uses of sugar Transport in plants Plants and the atmosphere Plants as food <u>Biological Systems and Processes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skeletal system Respiratory system and gas exchange Aerobic and anaerobic respiration Effects of smoking and alcohol DNA and inheritance 	<u>Reactivity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atomic structure and reactivity Bonding Relative formula mass Reactions of acids Reactivity series and displacement Metal extraction and uses of metals <u>Energetics and Rates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring rate of reaction Concentration and rate Surface area and rate Catalysts Exothermic and endothermic reactions Combustion Thermal decomposition 	<u>Matter</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Particle theory Density Diffusion Pressure in liquids Upthrust, floating, and sinking Atmospheric pressure <u>Forces in Action</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forces and their effects Moments and balance Work done Simple machines Hooke's Law <u>Sound Waves</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waves Speed of sound Hearing Ultrasound Microphones and speakers

Knowledge from any year 7 or year 8 topic may also be assessed in each exam.

How can you revise Science?

Use the independent learning sections on Sparx Science to review key concepts. After you have revised a topic, use [KS3 Science Revision Quizzes for Years 7, 8 and 9](https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/science/) (<https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/science/>) to check your understanding.

Resources to help students revise and prepare:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class exercise books BBC Bitesize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuity Oak Lessons Seneca Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGP revision guide (This can be purchased from Amazon) Sparx Science
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History

Contact: Huskinsonf@cornerstoneacademy.org.uk

Students will sit a 1-hour examination which is split into three parts.

Section A-15 Marks

- 5 Multiple choice questions
- 5 closed quiz questions
- Sequencing activity put 5 events in order from oldest to most recent.

Section B-

- What two things do you learn from source A about X?
- Which of the below statements best describes the message of source A?
- Using the provenance (origin) what is the purpose of source A?
- Identify the argument made in interpretation 1.
- Use your own knowledge to support interpretation 1.
- Identify what a counter-interpretation may argue?

Section C-16 Marks +4 SPAG

- Extended writing on 'how far do you agree'. Students have a choice of 2 questions

Topics that will be covered in the exam:

- Causes of WW1
- Women's Suffrage
- Rise of the Nazi Party
- The Holocaust
- Civil Rights in the UK.

Resources to help students revise and prepare:

- Exercise book
- [Knowledge organiser](#)
- Seneca
- BBC Bitesize [The fight for female suffrage - KS3 History - BBC Bitesize World War One - KS3 History - BBC Bitesize](#)
- Oak Academy student lessons [Unit - Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](#)

How can you revise History?

Building, perfecting and memorising your mental models:

1. Create 'mental models' [e.g a mind map/list/time line] of topics, e.g causes of World War One. Then add information to these models, e.g Militarism/Imperialism/Alliances/Nationalism.
2. Then add further information in order of: what it is/when it was/examples of it/why this was a cause of WW1.
3. Then use existing information that you know to be **complete to improve** your mental model by **making corrections and adding information**.
4. Once your mental model is complete and correct, you can then use it as your model example. Over increasing spaces of time, try re-writing your perfect mental model from memory.
5. Once you have finished return to your original perfect mental model – have you missed any of the key information?
6. Add missing/incomplete information in a different colour pen to your partial mental model so you know which information you are struggling to remember.
7. Repeat this process over increasing spaces of time.

This process is backed up by **cognitive science** and will enable your child to improve their medium and long-term recall for **all subjects**.



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Geography

Contact: foster@cornerstoneacademy.org.uk

Students will complete a 1-hour exam on Climate change and Life in an emerging economy

Topics that will be covered are:

1. Climate change:
 - Evidence of climate change
 - Natural and human causes of climate change
 - Impacts of climate change
 - Effectiveness of methods used in response to climate
 2. Life in an emerging economy:
 - Location of newly emerging countries and characteristics of them
 - Why rural to urban migration is a key feature of life in emerging countries
 - Opportunities and challenges faced by people living in a city in an emerging country
 - Social, environmental, economic and political impacts of a TNC(s) in an emerging country
- BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrw76sq>

Students will also receive 2x revision lessons prior to the ROAs to revise content and practice exam skill.

How can you revise Geography?

Resources to help students revise and prepare:

- A3 revision sheets done in class (2 weeks prior to exams)
 - Seneca (website - <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>)
 - Knowledge organisers - [Knowledge Organisers | Academy Life | The Cornerstone Academy](#)
 - Exercise books
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- Use the resources mentioned above to focus on weakest areas. Once you have revised a section try and practice your knowledge retrieval by creating a revision clock, mind map or flash cards from memory, then add anything on that you missed.
 - With each piece of knowledge you have revised (where applicable) practice your double development, using 'this means that...' and 'due to this...' to construct PDD points.
 - Quiz yourself/ each other. Do you know your key facts and figures ('plc' information) to get top level marks for extended question.



French

Contact: duffy@cornerstoneacademy.org.uk

Paper 1. Reading and listening. 45 minutes.

The reading paper will involve comprehension of short texts that cover the vocabulary from this year. Basic vocabulary from years 7 and 8 will also be included.

Students will answer questions to show what they understand. These may be multiple choice or written answers.

In the listening paper students will answer questions in English about what the French that they hear.

Paper 2. Writing paper. 45 minutes.

In the writing paper students will be asked to write an extended answer in French about a topic they have covered in year 9. They will be expected to use past, present, and future tenses accurately.

Vocabulary and structures that will be covered are:

- Relationships with family and friends
- Hobbies - Opinions
- Future plans
- Talking about last weekend
- Festivals and celebrations
- Town and local area
- Environmental issues.

Resources to help students revise and prepare:

- [Knowledge organiser](#)
- Extended pieces of writing practiced in class and available in exercise books
- [Languagenut](#). Students have passwords to access this online platform. They will find exercises on relevant vocabulary and grammar with instant feedback.

How can you revise French?

Students should aim to complete some Languagenut exercises each week. Students can practise listening and reading on this platform.

Students will all have revision lessons where teachers will go over key vocabulary and grammar required for both papers.



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RE

Contact: roastc@cornerstoneacademy.org.uk

Students will sit a 1-hour exam paper. The paper will be divided up into two sections.

Section A: Christian Beliefs

This will include work on:

- The Nature of God (Omnipotence/Omnibenevolence)
- The Trinity
- Jesus' death and resurrection
- Salvation and Atonement
- The Problem of Evil and Suffering
- Life after Death

Section B: Matters of Life and Death

This will include work on:

- Creation (Christian/Scientific/Humanist/Buddhist)
- The Environment (Christian/Humanist/Buddhist)
- The Sanctity of Life (Christian/Humanist/Buddhist)
- Abortion & Religious Responses (Christian/Humanist/Buddhist)
- Euthanasia & Religious Responses (Christian/Humanist/Buddhist)
- Life After Death (Christian/ Humanist)
- Funerals (Christian/ Humanist)

Each section will have 4 questions:

Part a) Definition of a key word (2 marks)

Part b) Describe question (5 marks)

Part c) Explain question (8 marks) – what Christians or Buddhists think about a topic.

Part d) Evaluation question (15 marks) – A discussion question. Students must include a non-religious view in the part d) questions of Section B (Matters of Life and Death)

How can you revise RS?

Resources to help students revise:

- [Knowledge Organisers | Academy Life | The Cornerstone Academy](#)
- The revision resources used during in class preparation
- Online resources linked below:

[Seneca \(Link to Eduqas Revision Resources\)](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zf9g4qt/revision/1>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zdhmtv4/revision/1>

If students feel they need extra support with a specific topic, then they could also watch the Oak National lesson on that topic, links below:

[Christianity Beliefs and Teachings](#)

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/christian-beliefs-and-teachings-700f>

[Matters of Life and Death](#)

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/matters-of-life-and-death-da6c>



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Please use the following pages to plan out what you are going to revise over the coming weeks to help you get prepared and feel confident going into the ROAS. I have left the date part blank for you to fill out.

EXAMPLE	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Topic to revise	Probability ✓	/ / / / /	Inference ✓	/ / / / /	Civil Rights (UK) ✓	French - Hobbits ✓	The Trinity ✓
Break							
Topic to revise	Aerobic resp. ✓	/ / / / /	Impacts of climate change ✓	/ / / / /		Jesus' Death ✓	
Break							
Topic to revise	Anaerobic resp. ✓	/ / / / /		/ / / / /			
Break							
Topic to revise		/ / / / /		/ / / / /			
Break							
Topic to revise		/ / / / /		/ / / / /			
Break							
Topic to revise		/ / / / /		/ / / / /			

