Year 11 Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 15th September 2026

Welcome

Graeme Martin – Deputy Headteacher (Year 11)

Claire Thomas – Pastoral Lead (Year 11)



The aim of the evening is for Parents of Year 11 Students to leave with:

- Information regarding key dates and events
- An understanding of what, alongside the curriculum, the school is providing support students with preparation Year 11
- An understanding of what student independent learning will look like as they prepare for upcoming PPEs and beyond

Key Dates for the Year:

- Exam Season 2026 - May*
- PPE 1 – 19th October – 6th November (Half-Term in between)
- PPE2 – 8th to 26th of February (Half-Term in between)
- Reports – 15th October (Progress reports), 10th December (full reports including PPE grades), 18th March (Progress reports)
- Parent evenings: Thursday 15th October, Thursday 18th March (Intervention Evening)

Key web address: https://www.southamcollege.com/ (Scroll down to Year 11 blog)

Year 11 2026-2027

Welcome back! We hope you've had a good summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

This is an important year as you'll be working towards your GCSEs and I am looking forward to working with you to make the most of your time in school this year. While the final exams may seem a long way off at the moment, the work you do from the start of the year will make a real difference when the summer arrives.

Over the coming months, we'll be focusing on building effective revision habits, developing study skills and helping you plan your time well. Our aim is to make sure you feel prepared and confident as you move through the year.

We'll also be supporting you as you start thinking about your next steps after Year 11, whether that's sixth form, college, apprenticeships or other pathways. There will be lots of opportunities to explore your options and prepare for the future.

Of course, Year 11 isn't just about exams. It's also your final year at school, and we're looking forward to celebrating your achievements along the way. As the year progresses, there will be plenty of milestones to mark, culminating in the end-of-year celebrations and Prom!

I wish you all the best for the year ahead,

Mrs Thomas

Upcoming Events:
Tuesday 15th September, 6pm - 7pm: Parent Information Evening in the Main Hall

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- Year 11 Tutors
- Science Revision Questions
- Top Tips
- Revision Resources
- Revision Guides

Revision Guides

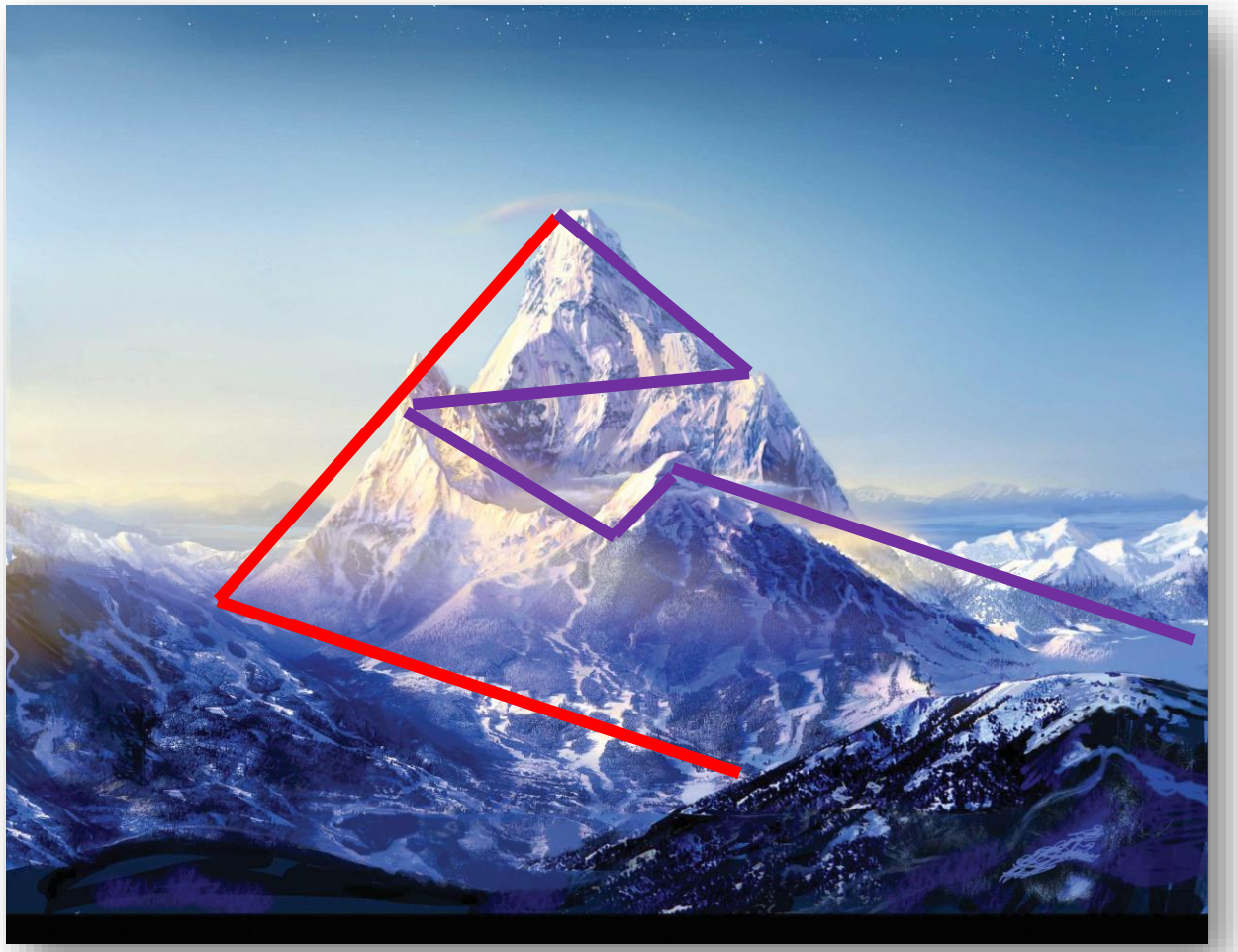
SAFEGUARDING

Key web address:
https://www.southamcollege.com/
(Scroll down to Year 11 blog)

Key Messages

Southam College

- Don’t make the year a mountain to climb
- This year is undeniably important, but in the end the exam will be a success due culmination of hard work
- Exams are not something which you will be either lucky or unlucky at
- **Time**, not ability, is our biggest challenge this year.



So why do routines falter?

- The behavior isn't attached to an existing routine.
- The plan is too ambitious
- Willpower / Results are delayed
- Too much friction – hard to get going, what to focus on, how do I go about focusing?



What can we all do:

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- Support with a routine
- Encourage a healthy balance of work, life and **quality down time**
- Keep informed of key events at school, and get in touch if you've any questions/queries.
- Don't let kids 'settle' :
  - Watch out for self-deprecating language around their ability/performance
  - Wanting to drop tiers/ subjects/thresholds – why are they feeling insecure?
  - Reduction of ambitions, or aiming low ("I *only* need a")

Aim high: They absolutely can do it, and they absolutely deserve to achieve their potential

Learning, Teaching & Revision in Year 11

What happens when you revise/revisit?

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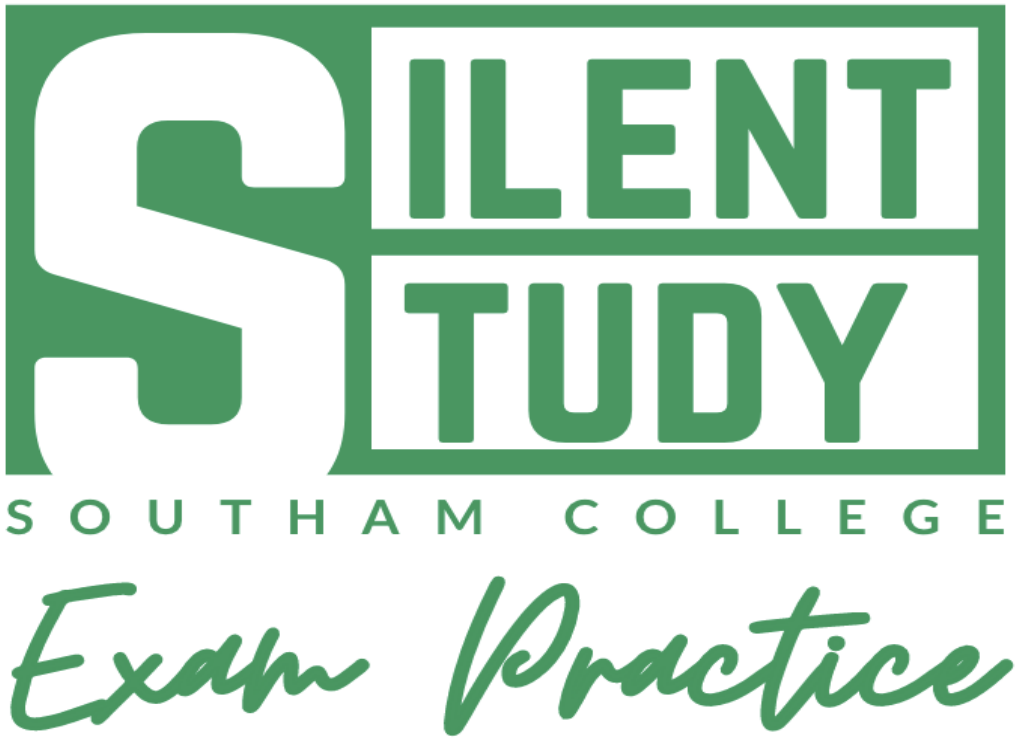
What do we do in lessons?

"Retrieval" quizzes at the start of every lesson to help students remember and retain information in their long-term memory.



What do we do in lessons?

Regular opportunities to practice exam questions under exam conditions in the classroom.



What do we do in lessons?

Feedback in exam questions at regular intervals. The feedback is designed to move students up a grade. **Students should respond to the feedback to show they have understood and can make progress.**



Home Learning/Revision:

- In-line with curriculum learning
- Focused on the application of work using past exam papers
- Provide revision tasks specific to upcoming assessments including PPEs and final exams.

Tutor Time/Assemblies

- Strategies for revision
- Wellbeing tips and check-ins
- Subject based interventions

Pastoral Care/ Wellbeing



Maintain a healthy routine

- Stick to regular sleep, balanced meals, and some physical activity — even short walks or stretching.
- A stable routine helps reduce stress and improves focus.

Use active revision strategies

- Break study into shorter, focused sessions with clear goals.
- Use methods like practice questions, flashcards, or teaching someone else instead of just rereading notes.

Build in downtime

- Schedule short breaks and activities they enjoy (music, sports, gaming, reading).
- Downtime prevents burnout and helps the brain consolidate learning.

Stay connected

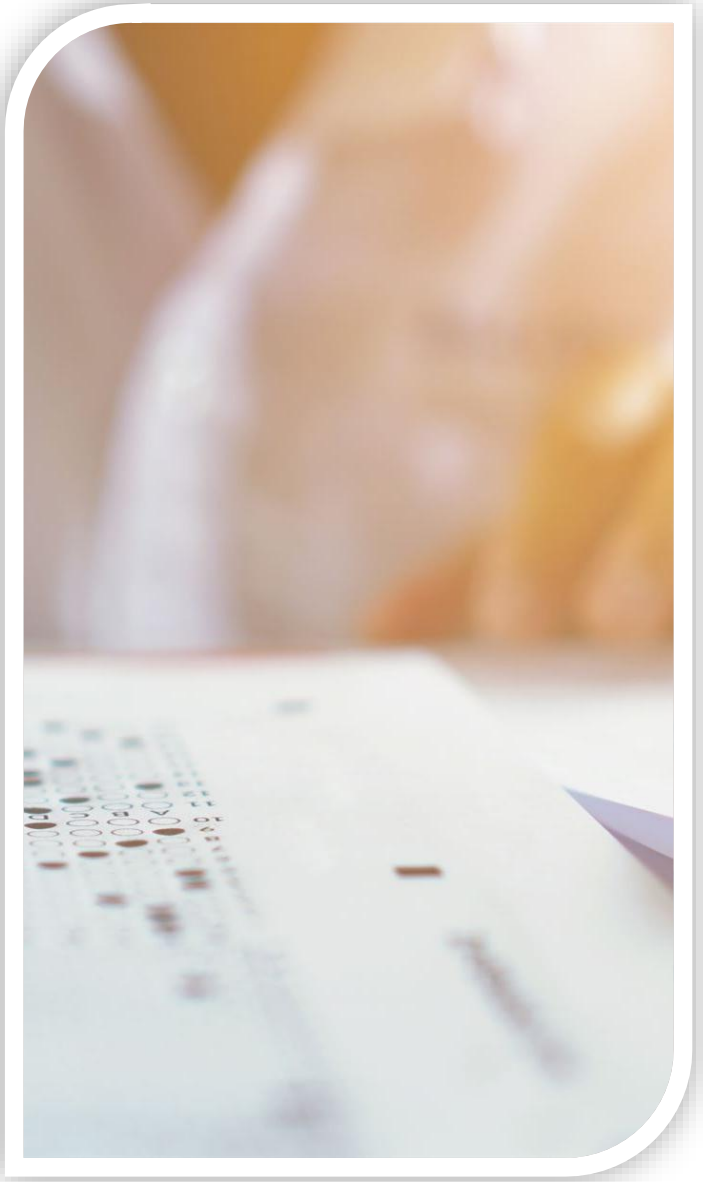
- Talk to friends, family, or teachers about worries.
- Sharing how they feel reduces anxiety and helps them feel supported.

Manage stress positively

- Practice relaxation techniques like deep breathing or mindfulness.
- Focus on what can be controlled (effort, preparation) rather than worrying about results.

Edexcel GCSE Maths Exam Structure

- There are three exam papers all with equal weighting
- Higher – Grade 4-9
- Foundation – up to Grade 5
- Each paper is 90 minutes long and 80 marks
- Paper 1 is always non-calculator
- Papers 2 and 3 are always calculator
- Average Pass – Grade 4, High Pass – Grade 5
- Fluency, Reasoning and Problem Solving



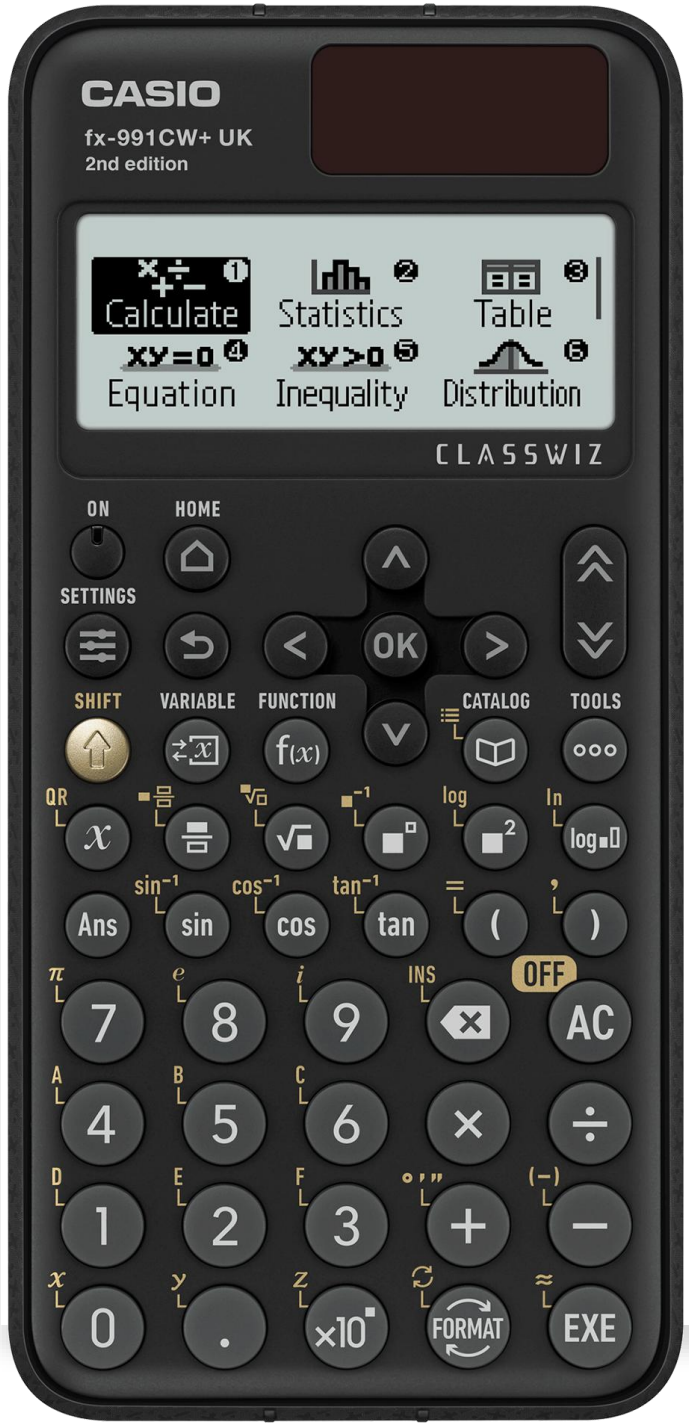
Summer 2027 Maths GCSE Dates

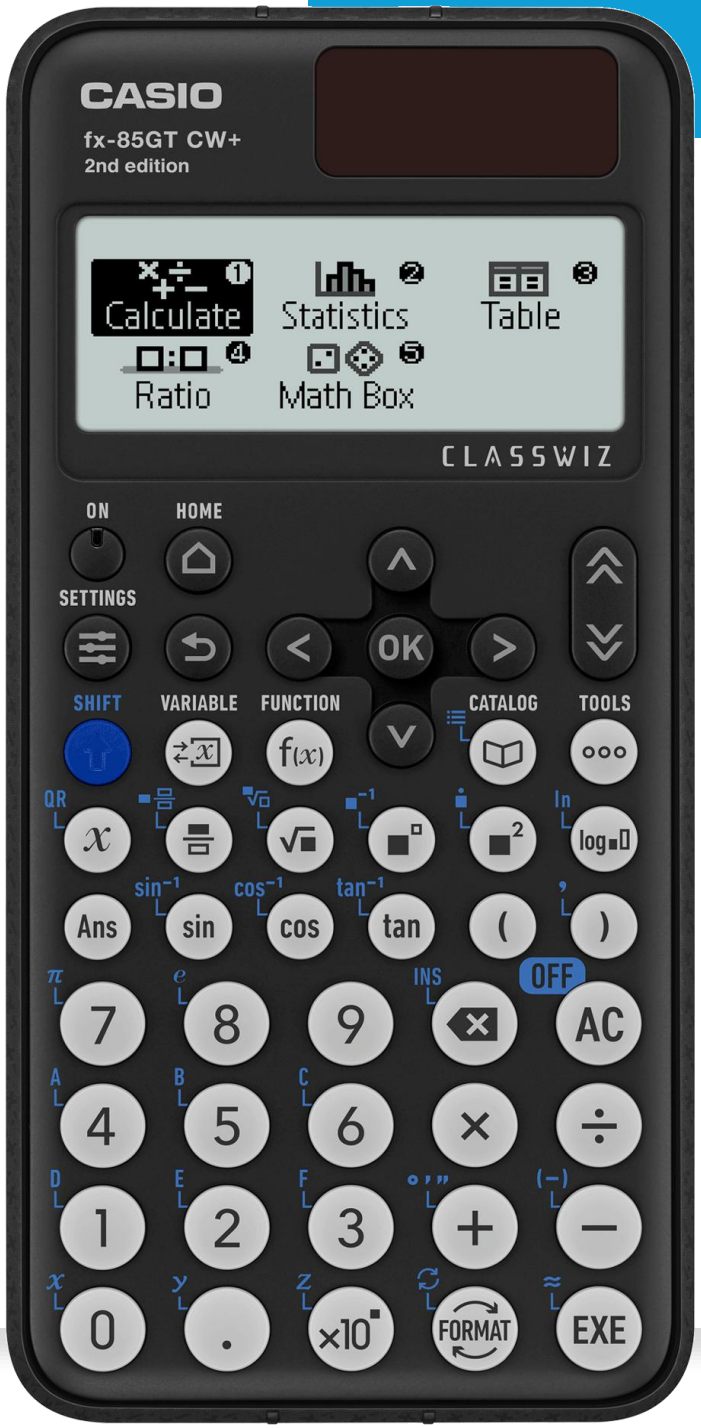
Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) is on Friday 14th May 2027

Paper 2 (Calculator) is scheduled for Thursday 27th May 2027

Paper 3 (Calculator) will be on Monday 14th June 2027

Recommended - Casio Calculators





In-Class Practice and Assessments

Ri5 and Silent Study

Every lesson will include exam-based Revise in %’s and a period of silent study.

Timed Practice Exams

Students participate in timed assessments mirroring real GCSE exams to build exam technique and stamina.

Personalized Feedback

Feedback from assessments helps set personal targets to guide effective revision and improvement.

Progress Monitoring

Teachers use assessment results to monitor progress and adjust instructions for individual needs. This include personalised schemes for classes depending on their specific needs



Effective Maths Revision Techniques

Regular Problem Solving

Consistent practice through problem-solving builds fluency and reinforces understanding of mathematical concepts.

Exam-Style Practice

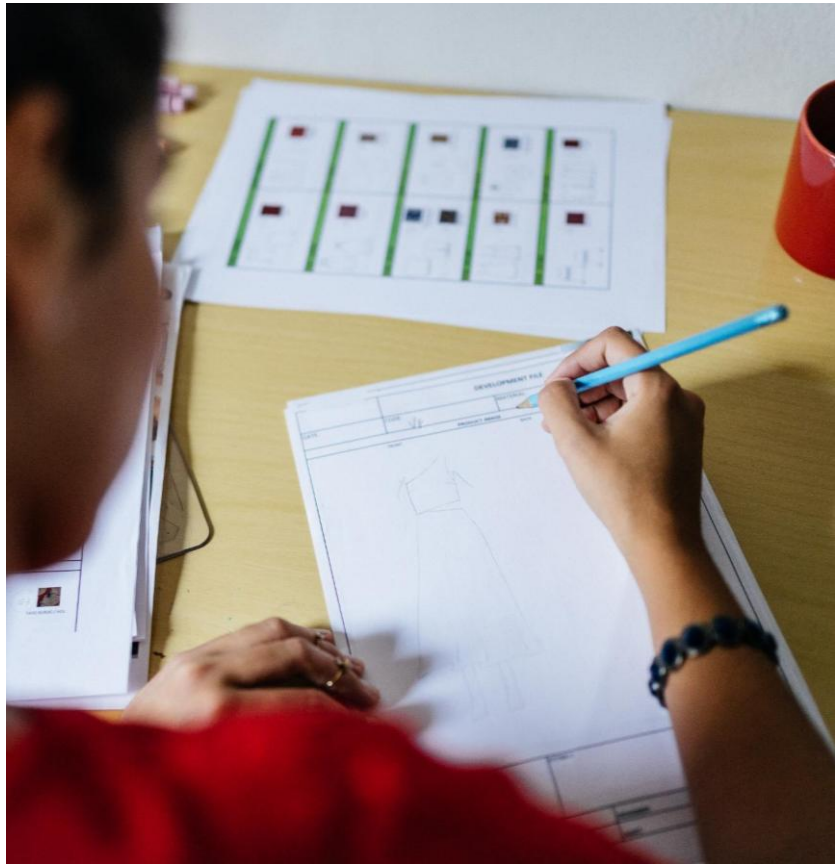
Using exam-style questions familiarizes students with test formats and expectations to improve exam readiness.

Revision Cards and Guides

Revision cards assist quick recall of formulas while structured guides provide thorough syllabus coverage.

Goal Setting and Support

Setting revision goals and tracking progress motivates students; parental support enhances study environment.



Top Revision Websites

Maths Genie Platform

Maths Genie offers video tutorials, exam questions, and solutions for both Foundation and Higher tiers of Edexcel GCSE Maths.

Corbett Maths Resources

Corbett Maths provides concise videos and printable worksheets for targeted practice and reinforcement.

On Maths

An online platform with past papers which mark work online and can give a grade.

BBC Bitesize Features

BBC Bitesize offers topic summaries and interactive quizzes for quick review and self-assessment.



Homework Expectations

Homework Purpose and Duration

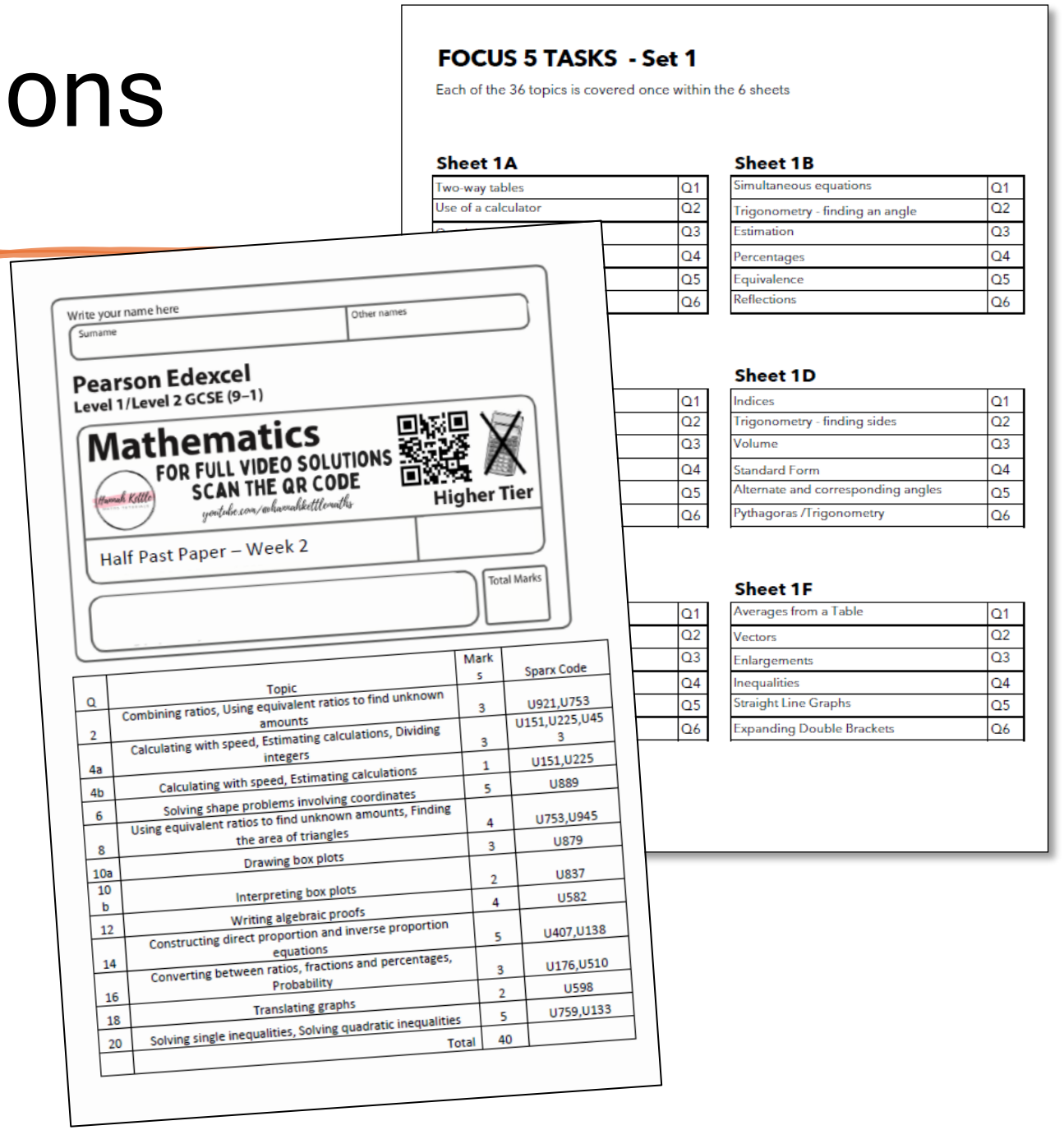
Homework reinforces learning and exam preparation, assigned weekly based on student ability.

Half Papers and Exam questions

Students are given weekly ‘half papers’ for exam practice which also includes a walkthrough guide on TikTok and worked solutions, along side a second homework booklet with target grade exam questions.

Parental Support Importance

Parents are encouraged to monitor homework, provide a quiet space, and necessary equipment for effective study.



FOCUS 5 TASKS - Set 1

Each of the 36 topics is covered once within the 6 sheets

Sheet 1A

Two-way tables	Q1
Use of a calculator	Q2
	Q3
	Q4
	Q5
	Q6

Sheet 1B

Simultaneous equations	Q1
Trigonometry - finding an angle	Q2
Estimation	Q3
Percentages	Q4
Equivalence	Q5
Reflections	Q6

Sheet 1D

	Q1
	Q2
	Q3
	Q4
	Q5
	Q6

Indices	Q1
Trigonometry - finding sides	Q2
Volume	Q3
Standard Form	Q4
Alternate and corresponding angles	Q5
Pythagoras /Trigonometry	Q6

Sheet 1F

	Q1
	Q2
	Q3
	Q4
	Q5
	Q6

Averages from a Table	Q1
Vectors	Q2
Enlargements	Q3
Inequalities	Q4
Straight Line Graphs	Q5
Expanding Double Brackets	Q6

Write your name here

Surname | Other names

Pearson Edexcel

Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

Mathematics

FOR FULL VIDEO SOLUTIONS SCAN THE QR CODE

Higher Tier

Half Past Paper – Week 2

Total Marks

Q	Topic	Marks	Sparx Code
2	Combining ratios, Using equivalent ratios to find unknown amounts	3	U921,U753
4a	Calculating with speed, Estimating calculations, Dividing integers	3	U151,U225,U453
4b	Calculating with speed, Estimating calculations	1	U151,U225
6	Solving shape problems involving coordinates	5	U889
8	Using equivalent ratios to find unknown amounts, Finding the area of triangles	4	U753,U945
10a	Drawing box plots	3	U879
10 b	Interpreting box plots	2	U837
12	Writing algebraic proofs	4	U582
14	Constructing direct proportion and inverse proportion equations	5	U407,U138
16	Converting between ratios, fractions and percentages, Probability	3	U176,U510
18	Translating graphs	2	U598
20	Solving single inequalities, Solving quadratic inequalities	5	U759,U133
	Total	40	

Treating PPE1 as the Real Exam

Importance of PPE1

PPE1 is a crucial benchmark for Year 11 students in their GCSE Maths journey.

Real Exam Preparation

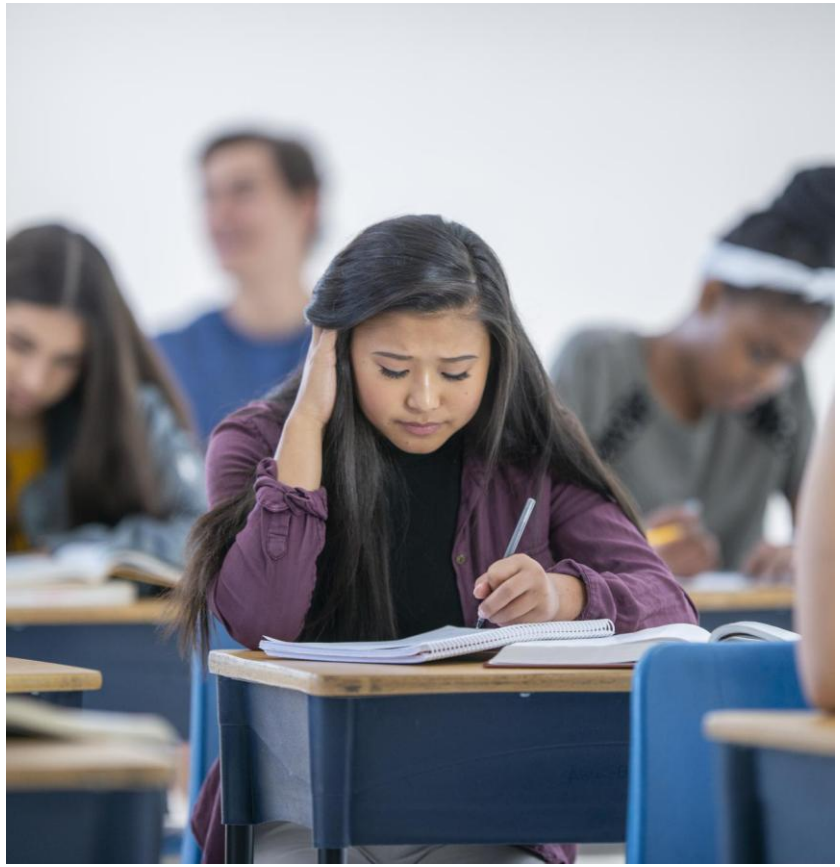
Treating PPE1 as the real exam builds experience in exam conditions and time management.

Early Performance Insight

PPE1 results help identify strengths and weaknesses for targeted support early in the year.

Building Confidence and Morale

Good PPE1 results boost student confidence and guide revision strategies effectively.



Revision Lists and QLA Feedback

Tailored Revision Lists

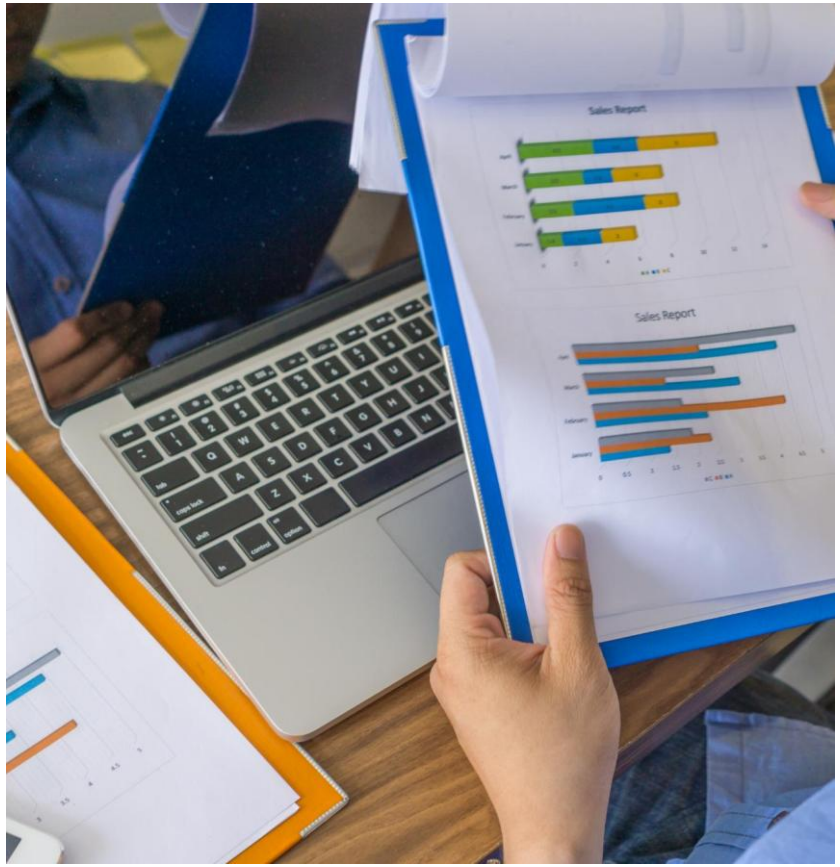
Students receive focused revision lists aligned with exam topics to enhance targeted preparation.

Question Level Analysis (QLA)

QLA provides detailed feedback highlighting individual strengths and weaknesses by topic.

Focused Study and Feedback

Personalized feedback guides students' focused revision and aids teachers’ targeted support planning.



GCSE English: Key Information

- **English Language and English Literature are two separate, equally important GCSE qualifications**
- **English Language assesses reading and writing skills through unseen material**
- **English Literature assesses reading skills through pre-read texts and some unseen material**
- **Both qualifications are 100% exam, but there is a spoken language element to the English Language GCSE (this is separately marked to the numerical grade)**
- **Both qualifications have 2 exams – so there are 4 exams in total that students will sit in the summer 2026 series**
- **There are no tiers of entry: all students sit the same exam!**

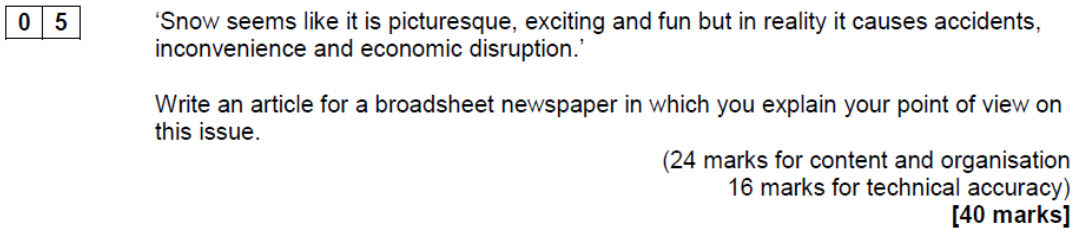
GCSE English Language

- **Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (40 marks – 16 are for SPAG)**
- **Section B: Writing (50% of the marks for the paper)**
- **A choice of questions – either descriptive or narrative**
- **E.g. A piece of writing inspired by an image such as this:**



GCSE English Language

- **Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (40 marks – 16 are for SPAG)**
- **Section B: Writing (50% of the marks for the paper)**
- **1 question – writing to argue and persuade**
- **The question will be based on the reading material**
- **Students will be given a statement to argue for or against**



0 5 'Snow seems like it is picturesque, exciting and fun but in reality it causes accidents, inconvenience and economic disruption.'

Write an article for a broadsheet newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this issue.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

GCSE English Literature

- **Paper 1: Shakespeare & the 19th Century Novel (1 hour 45 minutes) 40% of GCSE**
- **Section A: Macbeth Question**
- **Extract to whole (30 + 4 marks) up to 4 of these marks are for SPaG**
- **Section B: A Christmas Carol**
- **Extract to whole (30 marks)**

GCSE English Literature

- **Paper 2: Modern Text & Poetry (2 hours 15 minutes) 60% of GCSE**
- **Section A: An Inspector Calls (30 + 4 marks) up to 4 of these marks are for SPaG**
- **Choice of 2 questions, no extract – all quotes need to be from memory!**
- **Section B: World & Lives Poetry (30 marks)**
- **1 named poem (printed) & students have to compare to one other from the cluster they have studied (choice of 14 poems and this has to be from memory)**
- **Section C: Unseen Poetry (32 marks)**
- **Part 1: Analysing 1 unseen poem (24 marks)**
- **Part 2: Comparing 2 unseen poems (8 marks)**

Research Survey Findings…

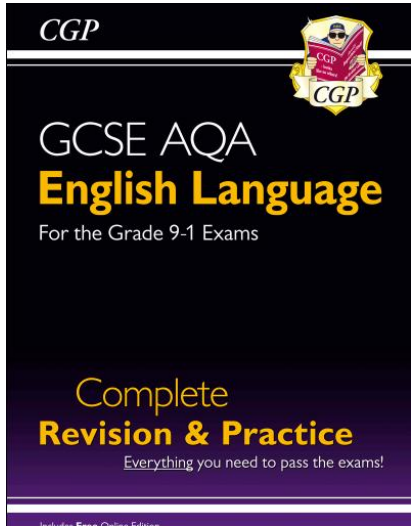
<u>Pupils who regularly achieve their target grade or higher owe their success to:</u>

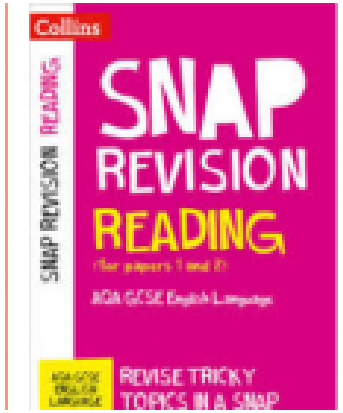
- **Being helped/monitored at home with their home-learning**
- **Handing their home-learning in on time**
- **Reading at home/outside of school**
- **Not having games consoles or televisions/laptop computers in their bedrooms or reducing the time spent on these devices**
- **Feeling confident with their written accuracy**
- **Having wide range of vocabulary**
- **Receiving individual attention to support with their learning**

How can you help?

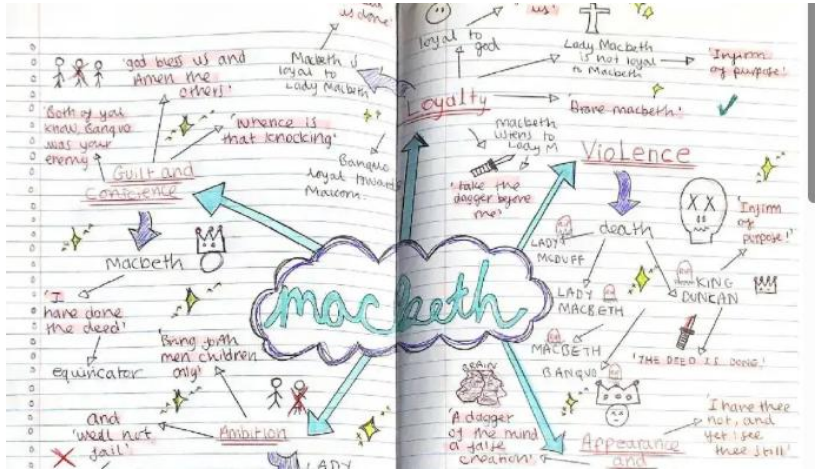
- Encourage wider reading of 20th and 21st Century novels
- Support your son/daughter to include English revision in their revision timetable – purchase a revision guide for them
- Ensure that your son/daughter is completing their home-learning on time
- Provide opportunities for reading of the news online and in print
- Encourage them to attend revision sessions (advertised on our social media)
- Watch plot summaries on YouTube of their set texts (like Macbeth) so you can offer support or have a discussion about key themes in the text
- Practise reading texts from the past together e.g. Letters or diaries by famous writers such as Charles Dickens, Florence Nightingale, Charles Darwin
- Practise spellings and punctuation by reading their work with them and testing them on spellings and homophones
- Log in to Class Charts and support students with completing home-learning

How can students revise?





ClassCharts



YouTube GB



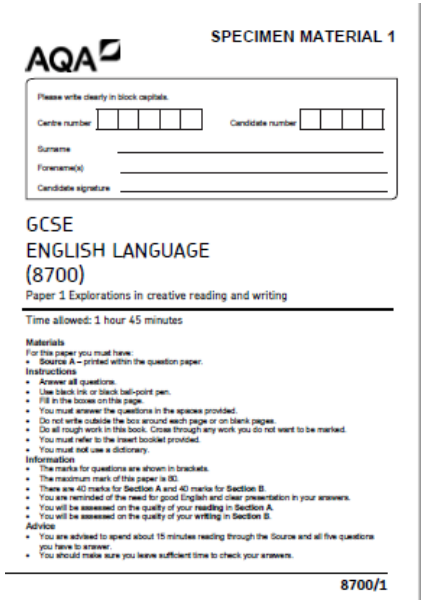
Mr Bruff

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I am an English teacher dedicated to makin

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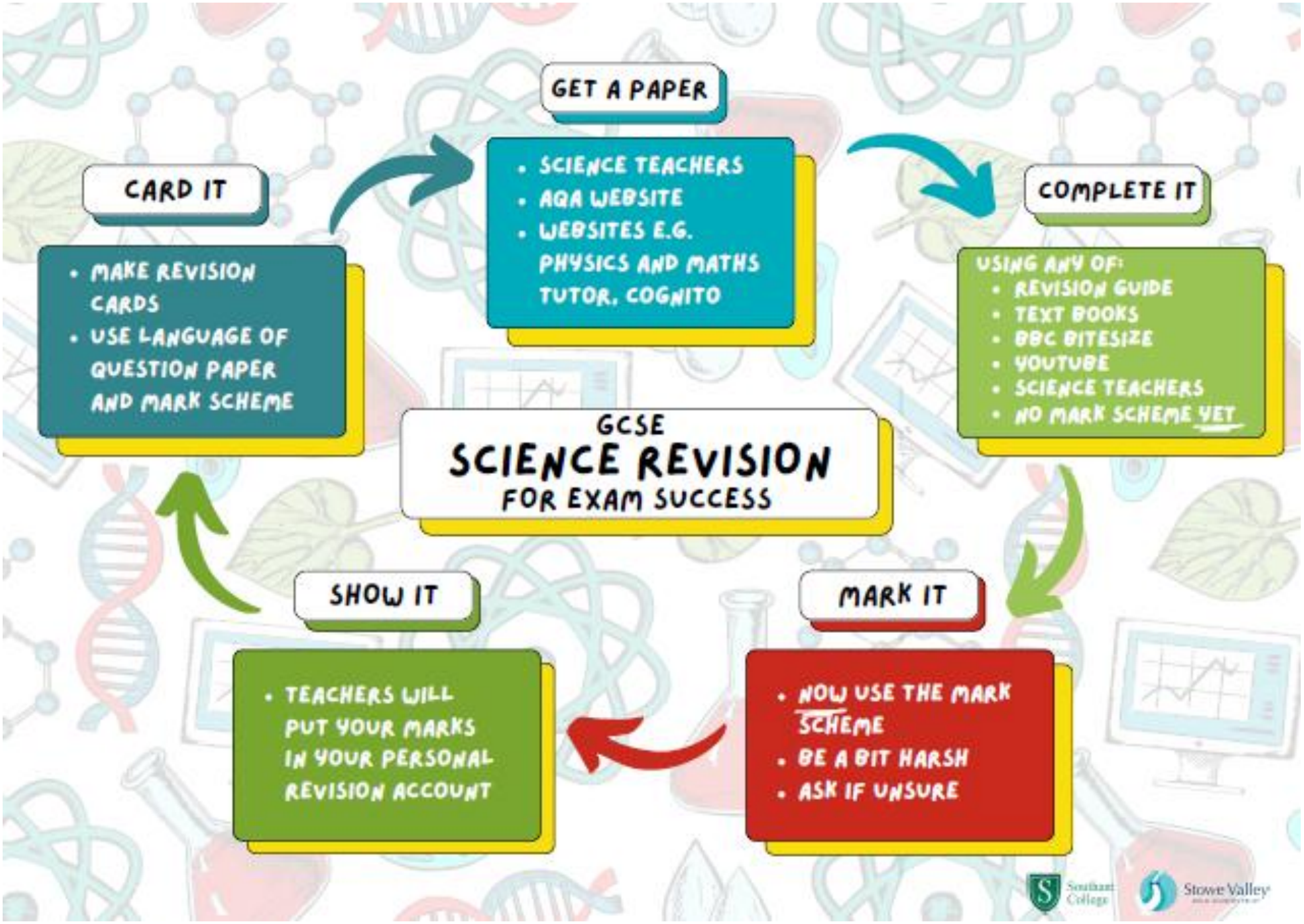
My Hypothesis:

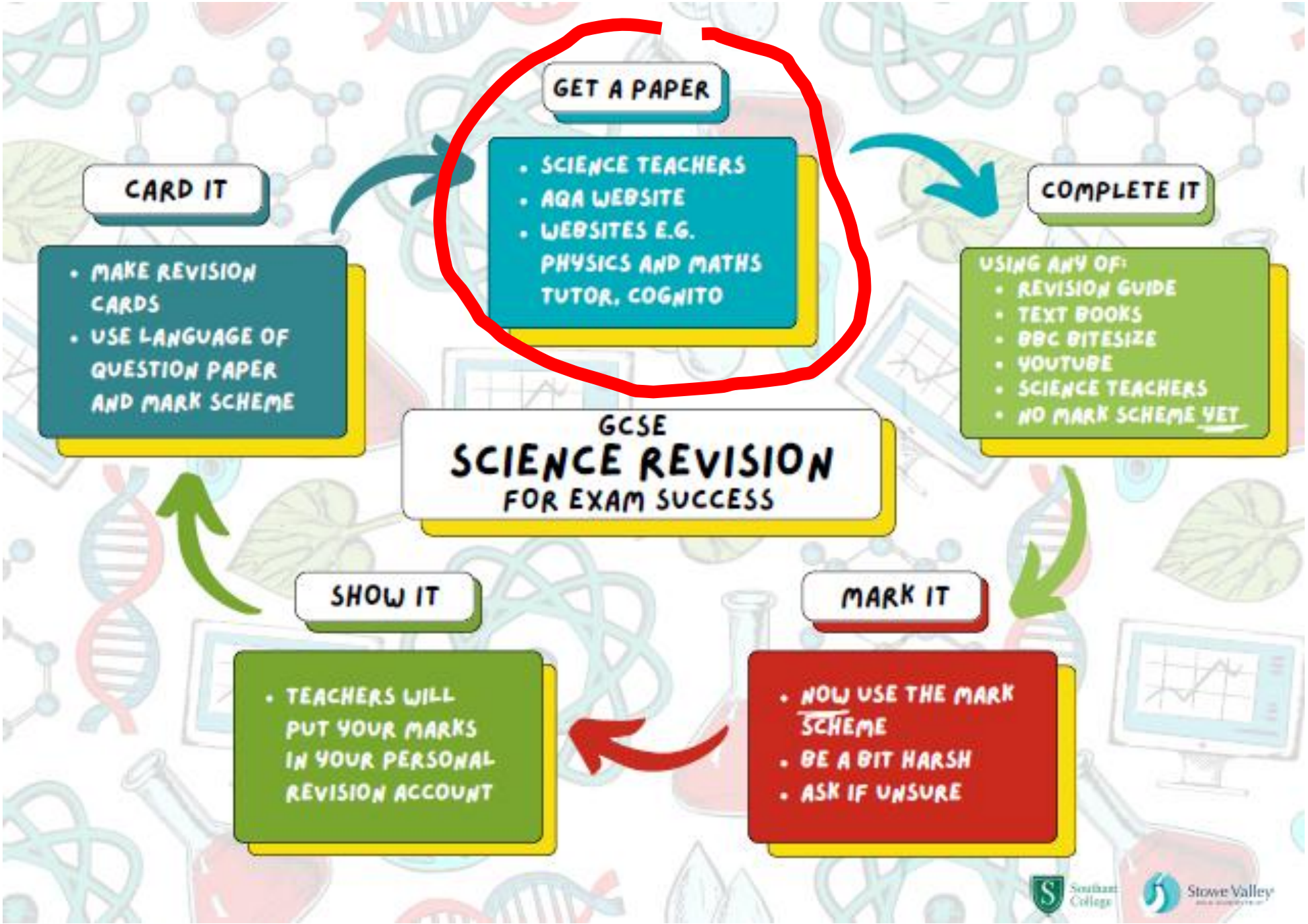
‘Whole past papers are the best way to get ready for GCSE exams in the Sciences’.

PRA

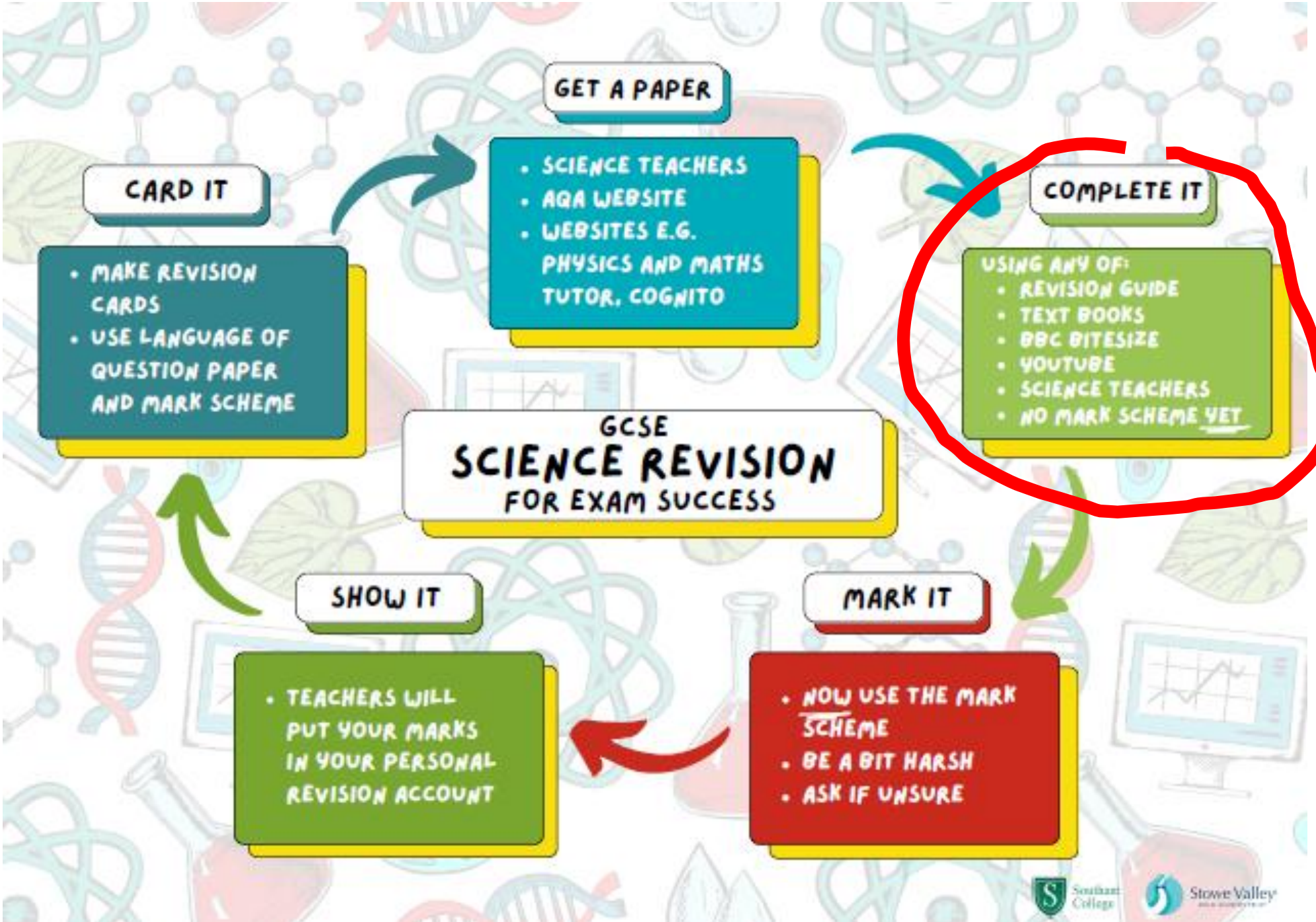
So, what exactly is PRA?

I shall explain.


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COMPLETE IT
USING ANY OF:
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TEXT BOOKS
BBC BITESIZE
YOUTUBE
SCIENCE TEACHERS
NO MARK SCHEME YET
GCSE
SCIENCE REVISION
FOR EXAM SUCCESS
MARK IT
NOW USE THE MARK SCHEME
BE A BIT HARSH
ASK IF UNSURE
SHOW IT
TEACHERS WILL PUT YOUR MARKS IN YOUR PERSONAL REVISION ACCOUNT
CARD IT
MAKE REVISION CARDS
USE LANGUAGE OF QUESTION PAPER AND MARK SCHEME
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We will give you a paper every fortnight.


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Take your time, use everything you have to get the best possible marks.

NOT CHEATING, …

…**REVISION**.

(DO NOT USE THE MARK SCHEME, NOT YET.)

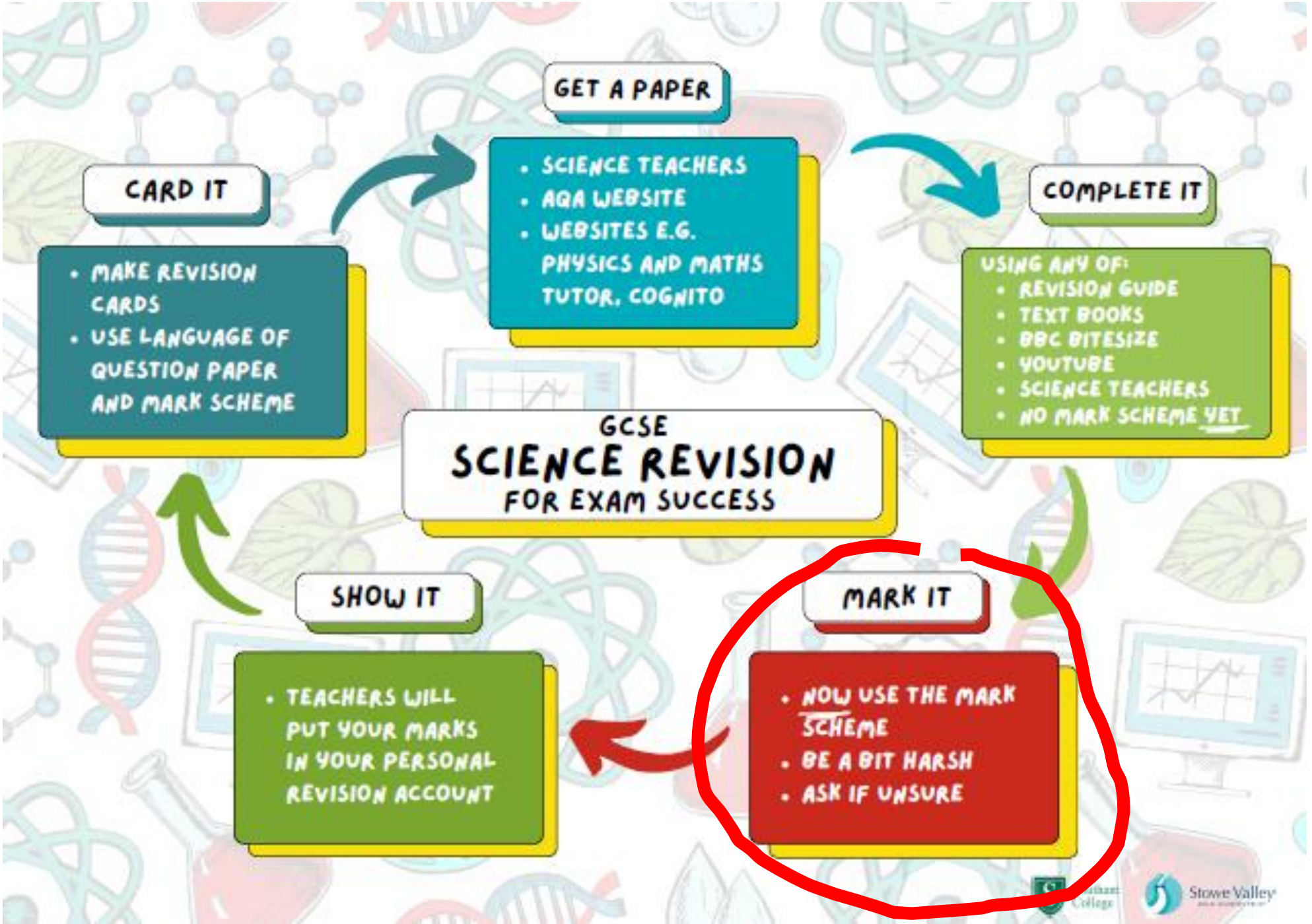


Year 11 PRA Support

Paper 1

Use the checklists along with the BBC bitesize pages to revise topics identified whilst working on your PRA past exam papers on each paper 1 topic.

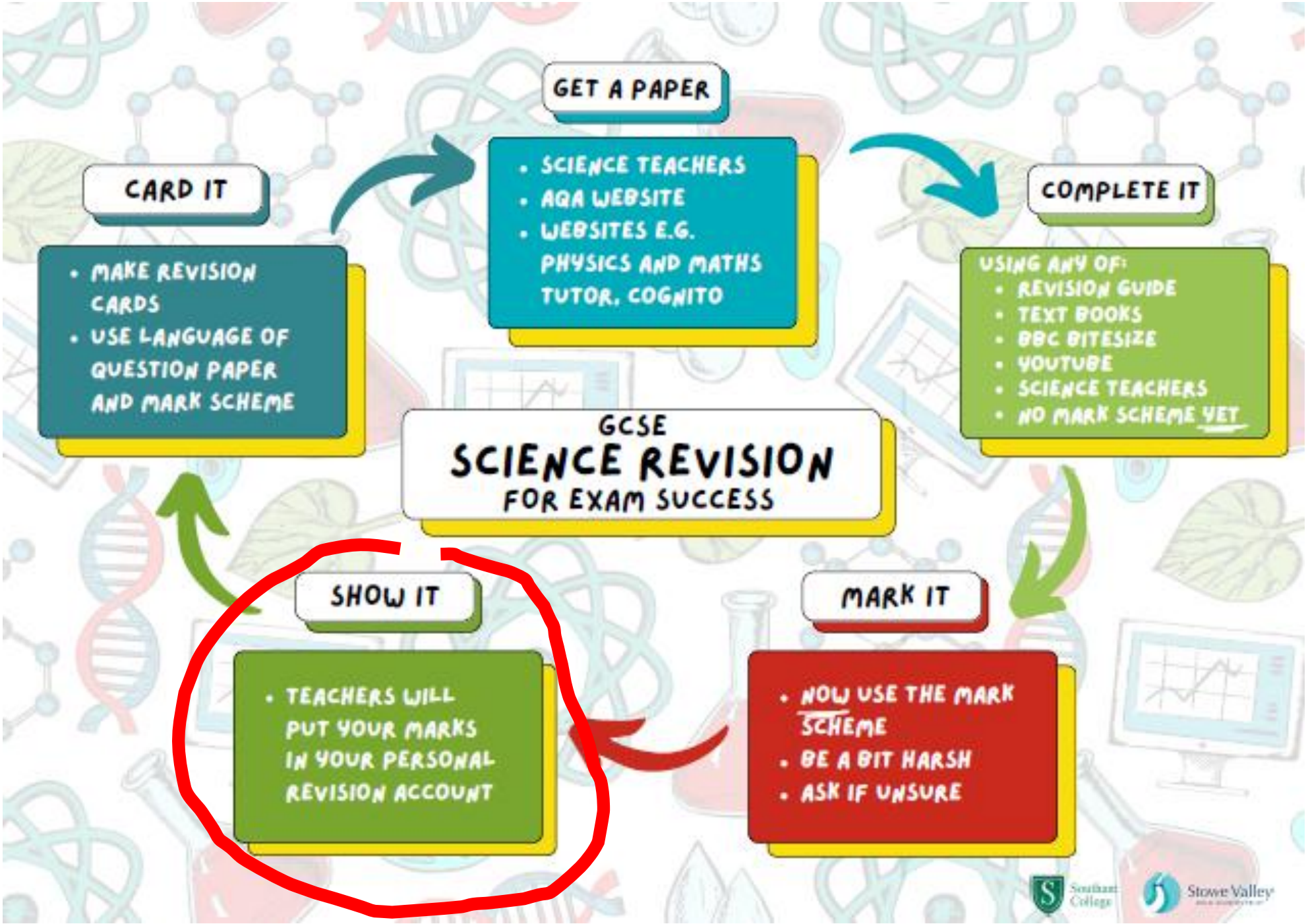
Please look after this booklet. If you misplace it, please print yourself another one using the electronic version in Class Charts.

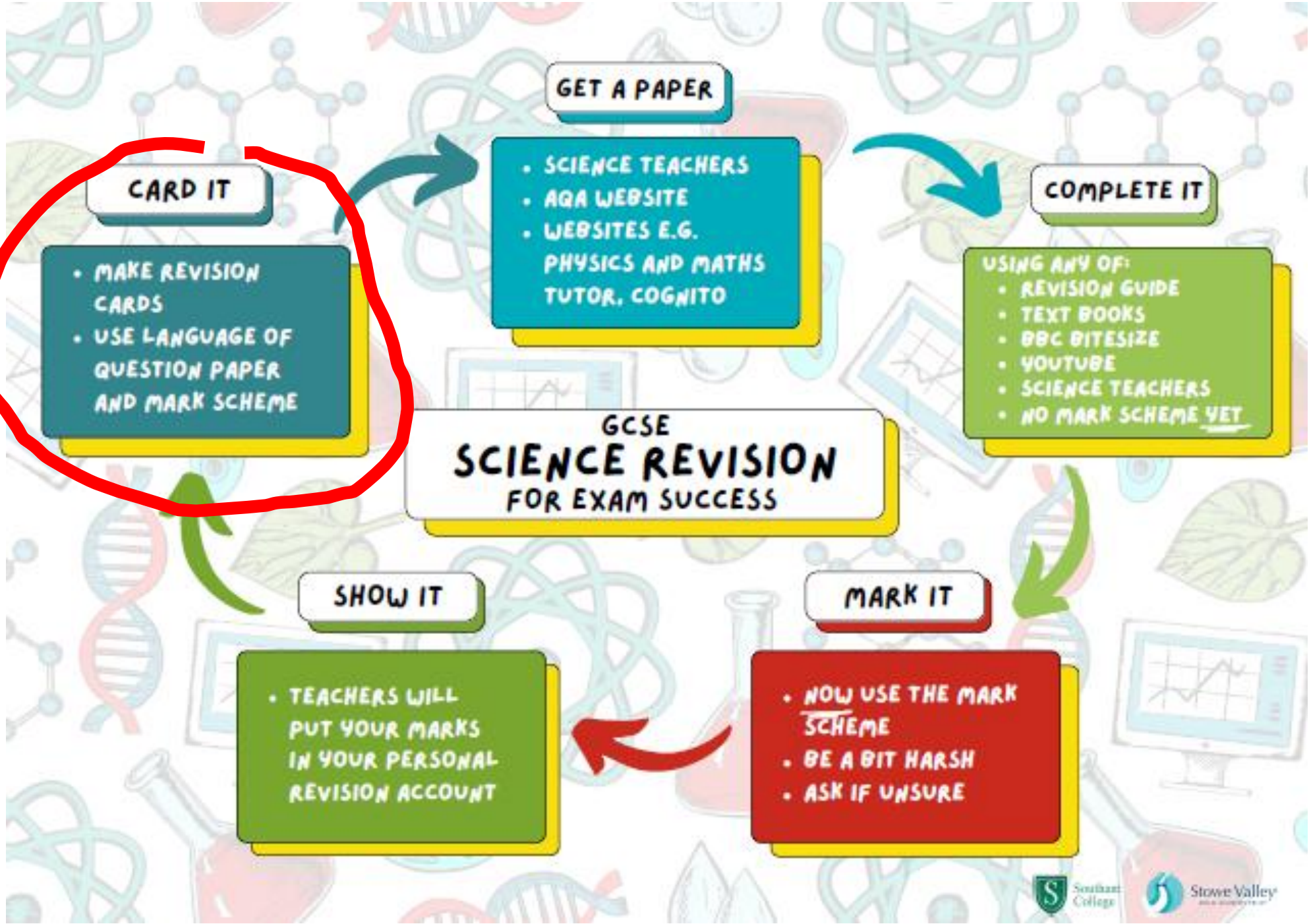

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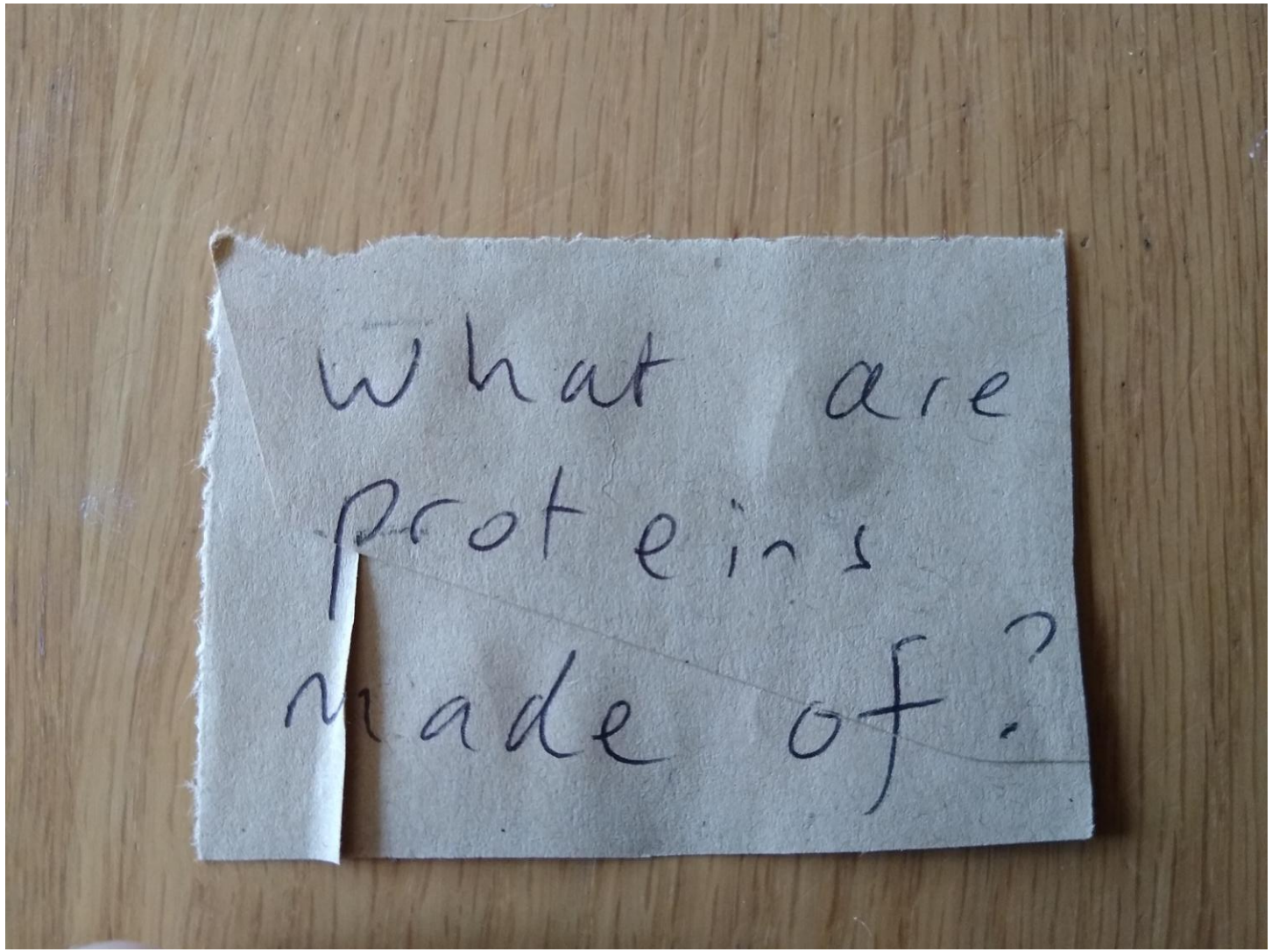
Now use the mark scheme.

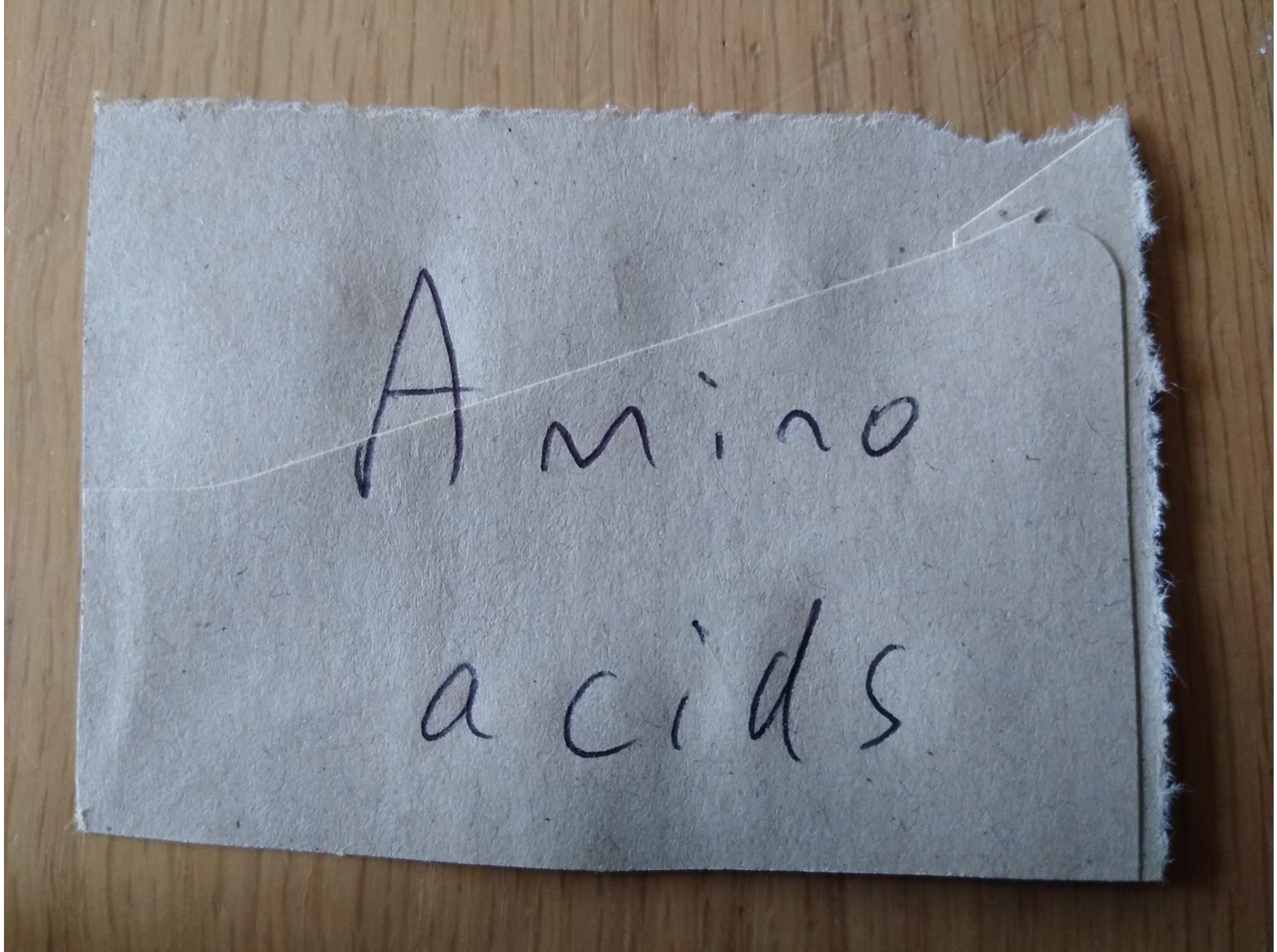
We will help you, …

…but you must learn how to do this yourself.


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CARD IT
MAKE REVISION CARDS
USE LANGUAGE OF QUESTION PAPER AND MARK SCHEME
SHOW IT
TEACHERS WILL PUT YOUR MARKS IN YOUR PERSONAL REVISION ACCOUNT
MARK IT
NOW USE THE MARK SCHEME
BE A BIT HARSH
ASK IF UNSURE
Stowe Valley


what are
proteins
made of?


Amino
acids

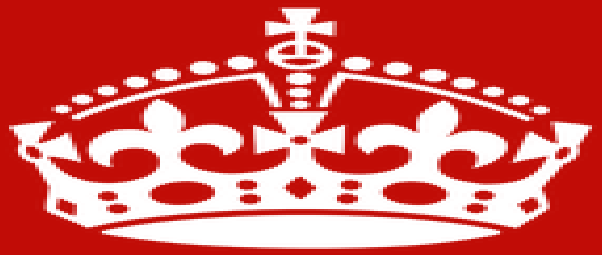
Make the cards.

Use them.

- Carry them.
- Test yourself.
- 2 piles:
- ‘know it’
- ‘don’t know it YET’
- Repeat with DKIY until it disappears
- start again
- Add new cards as you make them.







KEEP
CALM
AND
DO IT ALL
AGAIN

How to mess up your Science GCSEs

- Copy out **all** your notes again.
- Make **all** your notes into flash cards.
- Show off by talking about ‘hours spent revising’.
- Colour everything in.
- Just read through stuff.
- Spend more than 20-30 minutes on one thing.
- Aim too low, e.g.

‘I just need a 7 to do A level’ .

‘I’ll be happy with a 4,4’.

How to support your own GCSE student

- Encourage them to use small pieces of ‘spare’ time to make progress.

e.g. ‘I’ll wash up, you do a Science question while I do it, THEN I’ll take you to football’.

‘I’ll make the packed lunches/ clean out the goldfish / walk the dog, you sit right there and do another question’

Show an interest.

e.g. ‘How are you getting on with that Biology paper?’

‘what paper are you going to do next’?

Be specific when ‘giving a nudge’.

e.g. ‘why don’t you do another Chemistry question’ …

..not

‘Go and do some revision!!!’

(what does that even mean?)

FAQ: When should they start revising?

They already have.
The first PPEs are in October, …
…and we set the first paper over a week ago.

FAQ: What if a question in a past paper features a topic I have not yet been taught?

Do it anyway.

Where’s the harm?

(build some resilience)

FAQ: What happens if I run out of past papers?

Congratulations on doing all 60!

Now repeat your worst one and get a better score…

…my work here is done.

The 2018 Biology paper 1 is due this Friday, 18.09.26. (Along with 10 revision cards... ...or 2 mind maps).

How can students revise and how can you support them? (more information at the Pathway to Success Evenings)

Check class charts **every day** and look at home learning the day it is set. Students can then contact their teacher if need.

Complete activities that will force them to regularly recall information and put it into practice. They can:

- Make mind-maps
- Revision poster and revision cards – colour code according to topic.
- Regularly quiz themselves (you can help here!) using flash cards and other revision materials.
- Complete past papers and exam questions***, ensuring they know the criteria for their target grade before they start.***

The impact of attendance:

- Above the 95% attendance target (max 9 days off) sees students achieving a grade higher than students who have between 85% and 95%.
- This grade loss becomes critical when considering students not making threshold for 6th form courses – e.g. 6 to 7 and even for college courses who see students achieving under the entry requirements by mere marks.
- Below 85% sees a drastic drop off with regards to grades achieved compared to similar performing peers.
- 85% is 29 days across the school year – it might seem a lot, but it is easy to accumulate, and odd days here and there really begin to add up
- Please come into connect with us where you feel support is needed.



Study Seminars.

- Students will have the opportunity throughout the year to attend our study seminars.
- These sessions are scheduled after school using class charts.
- Unless stated otherwise students selected for study seminars have been specifically chosen by their teachers for bespoke support – this could be for a particular topic, skill or coursework
- We schedule these sessions via ClassCharts – it will initially show as an alert – similar how detentions are listed
- However, once the seminar has been attended the incident will be removed.
- There will be an opportunity for parents 'opt-out' of the study seminar program – information on this will follow



ClassCharts

Ingredients for Success:

- Work consistently and routinely throughout the year

- Ensure all home learning is completed, this all counts as revision for both PPEs and final exams.

- Think about the following:
  - What routines are in place to support students with this?
  - What incentives are there for students to complete work at home?
  - How do you know whether your child is completing their homework?

Finally, to celebrate all of the hard work....

...Year 11 Prom 2027





Thursday, 24th June 2027

Coombe Abbey Hotel