



Highams Park School

SUCCESS THROUGH OUR ENDEAVOURS

Respect | Responsibility | Resilience

PRACTICE
RETRIEVE
IMPROVE
SUCCEED

THE GCSE SUCCESS FORMULA

Small steps. Big results.

ATTEND

BE THERE, BE READY



Be in school every day



Arrive on time



Be ready to learn



REVISE

PRACTISE & RECALL



Use effective revision strategies



Practise and recall regularly



Test yourself



COMPLETE

DO THE WORK



Complete all classwork



Hand in homework on time



Take pride in your work



SEEK SUPPORT

ASK & IMPROVE



Ask questions



Use your teachers, friends and family



Learn from feedback



Keep a positive mindset



GCSE SUCCESS

BRIGHTER FUTURES



Achieve your potential



More opportunities



Progress to your next steps



Be proud of your achievements

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

Success through our Endeavours



GCSE REVISION: REMEMBER MORE, ACHIEVE MORE

A practical guide to using retrieval practice to improve your learning and exam success.

2 HIGHAMS PARK STRATEGIES

Use these six proven strategies to actively retrieve information from memory and make it stick.

1



MIND MAPS

- Create and redraw mind maps from memory.
- Organise and link ideas.
- Use colours and images to make connections.

2



EXAM PRACTICE

- Complete practice questions and full past papers.
- Practise under timed conditions.
- Build confidence with real exam style questions.

3



EXAMINER LOGIC

- Review examiner reports.
- Understand mark schemes.
- Think about what the examiner is looking for.
- Use this to improve your answers.

4



FLASHCARDS

* Create after each lesson
& use [AI tools](#) to support.

- Create your own flashcards (written or digital).
- Test yourself regularly.
- Focus on key facts, definitions and processes.

5



VOCALISE

- Explain key concepts out loud.
- Teach someone else (a friend or family member).
- Use your own words.
- Identify gaps in your understanding.

6



SPACED REPETITION

- Regularly revisit topics over time.
- Use a revision timetable.
- Focus on topics you find difficult.
- Strengthen your long-term memory.



The struggle of retrieving knowledge from memory is exactly what makes it stick.

The best students aren't those who study the longest, but those who retrieve the most.





PRACTICE
RETRIEVE
IMPROVE
SUCCEED

3

REVISION IMPACT: RECOGNITION VS RECALL

Active retrieval has a much greater impact on long-term learning than passive recognition.



LOW IMPACT (PASSIVE)

Typical activities



Highlighting notes



Reading textbooks



Copying notes



Using revision guides



Cognitive impact:

- Recognition only.
- Can feel productive, but is less effective.
- Often leads to struggles in unprompted exam retrieval.



HIGH IMPACT (ACTIVE)

Typical activities



Mind maps (from memory)



Flashcards (self-testing)



Past exam questions



Explaining aloud



Cognitive impact:

- Direct retrieval practice.
- Strengthens long-term neural recall.
- Improves confidence and performance in exams.

