

GCSE Science - Revision Strategy

1. Traffic light your Personal Learning Checklist:

- **green** = really confident
- **amber** = not fully confident yet (still need to revise)
- **red** = know nothing of this (revision priority)



2. Build your knowledge base – retrieval practise using flashcards (red/amber areas first):

- Key word/question on one side and definition/answer on the reverse.
- Use the PLC to make the questions.
- Use the Kerboodle textbook, my GCSE Science or your notes to find the answers.
- Shuffle the cards so that they are in a random order (interleaved).
- Test yourself repeatedly and only discard a card from the pack once you have got it correct at least 3 times.



3. Test your knowledge using:

- Practise Questions from the **Kerboodle textbook** and my GCSE Science.
- **BBC Bitesize** has quizzes and sample exam questions for each topic:
 - [GCSE Biology \(Single Science\) - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)
 - [GCSE Chemistry \(Single Science\) - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)
 - [GCSE Physics \(Single Science\) - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)
 - [GCSE Combined Science - AQA Trilogy - BBC Bitesize](#)
- Past **exam questions** from physics and maths tutor –
 - [AQA GCSE \(9-1\) Biology Revision - PMT \(physicsandmathstutor.com\)](#)
 - [AQA GCSE \(9-1\) Chemistry Revision - PMT \(physicsandmathstutor.com\)](#)
 - [AQA GCSE \(9-1\) Physics Revision - PMT \(physicsandmathstutor.com\)](#)
 - The questions are arranged by topic and there are also readymade flashcards!
 - The website does NOT have a combined science section – all combined science topics can be found in biology, chemistry and physics, but don't do any topics/questions that are not on your PLC!



4. Establish where and why you have lost marks in the exam questions:

- Mark your answers using the mark scheme.
- Use FUMS to analyse your errors (F = fact you got wrong, U = understanding of concept, M = misread the question, S = skill area).

5. Work on your weak areas:

Reason for lost marks:	Action:
F fact I got wrong	Make and use flashcards to test your recall of knowledge. Remember little and often is the best approach – the more times you revisit a topic the better you will remember it.
U understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch the my GCSE science video.• Read the section of the textbook.• Ask your teacher!
M misread the question	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read questions twice before you start to answer them.• Circle command words (state, describe, explain etc.) and key pieces of information.• For calculations, make sure that you circle the data in the question. Check the units (and convert if needed), use the correct equation and give your answers to the appropriate number of significant figures.
S skill area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My GCSE science has videos on all of the required practicals and help sheets on lots of different skills in the 'free resources' section: Blog - My GCSE Science (my-gcse-science.com)• BBC Bitesize has resources on the required practicals and a useful section on practical skills: Planning - Practical skills for carrying out a scientific investigation - GCSE Combined Science Revision - AQA Trilogy - BBC Bitesize• Mathswatch for mathematical skill practise – lots of the skills are the same in science and maths!• Science skills weeks – go back through the PowerPoints from the skills week lessons.• Ask us! If you are struggling with a skill area let us know so that we can plan this into the lessons and the tasks we set.



6. Consolidating, refining, extending and building confidence:

- **Go back to step 1 and repeat** the process - keep doing this until there is no red left!
- **Set a timer when you do exam questions** so that you get used to answering them in a limited amount of time – there is approximately 1 minute per mark in the real exams!
- **Be strict with yourself!** Don't cheat when practising exam questions – stick to the time and don't use your notes/mark schemes until you have finished. This is the only way that you will be able to identify what you can/can't do and so know what you need to work on.