



Online Learning Tools

While we wait to get started, please think or talk amongst yourselves about any online learning platforms that you may have come across so far, that could help your son/daughter prepare for their GCSEs



Online Learning Tools

Potential advantages

1. Linked to the exam board specification (usually) so all the information should be relevant
2. Often have interactive sections that provide feedback
3. Easy to access from most devices
4. Usually easy to navigate

Potential disadvantages

1. Can encourage passive learning
2. The device they are using often comes with other distractions
3. Many platforms are not reliable sources of information
4. Accessing the wrong material is easy to do (i.e. selecting the wrong exam board)





Some of the popular platforms

BBC Bitesize

BBC Bitesize website interface showing navigation links (Home, Learn, Support, Careers) and a table of subjects for Secondary Levels (Ages 11 to 16).

England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
KS3 Year 7, 8, 9	KS3 Year 8, 9, 10	3rd level S1, S2, S3	CA3 Blwyddyn 7, 8, 9
GCSE Year 10, 11	GCSE Year 11, 12	4th level S1, S2, S3	KS3 Year 7, 8, 9
Careers	Careers	Naiseanta 4 AS4, AS5	CBC Blwyddyn 10, 11
		Naiseanta 5 AS4, AS5	GCSE Year 10, 11

Seneca Learning

Seneca Learning website interface. Main headline: "Learn 2x faster for free with Seneca". Subtext: "Join 8,500,000 students using Seneca as the funnest way to learn at KS2, KS3, GCSE & A Level. And it's free!". Buttons: "Students, use for free", "Teachers, use for free", "Parents, use for free".

Quizlet

Quizlet website interface. Main headline: "Make big subjects easier to digest with flashcards and practice tests". Subtext: "Join over 60 million students around the world using Quizlet's science-backed flashcards, practice tests and games to reach their goals at school, university and beyond." Button: "Sign up for free".

Get Revising

GetRevising website interface. Main headline: "Reach your target grades". Subtext: "Smart revision tools proven to boost your grades". Button: "Get started".

Homework and exam help

Search over 402,000 study resources

Try the 'Cold War', 'DNA' or 'Algebra'...

Search

YouTube

YouTube website interface showing a grid of video thumbnails. Videos include: "The FIFTY - 42/50 - Avalanches and Blue ice on the Columbia...", "How the food you eat affects your gut - Shilpa Ravella", "FULL FILM: McLaren Speedtail vs F35 Fighter Jet | Top Gear", "GCSE Foundation Paper 1 November 2017 Edexcel...", "Our Planet | Frozen Worlds | FULL EPISODE | Netflix", "EXTENDED HIGHLIGHTS | England v South Africa...", "So today I was rejected from Oxford (& there were tears...) Unlabeled Jade", "A Day in the Life of a Cardiac Surgeon".

What does effective online revision need to entail?

1. 'Active' revision – i.e. something is produced using the information provided (flashcards would be out recommendation)
2. Self-testing – this is where they test their knowledge/skills on a topic they have not looked at recently – reading about the topic then self testing immediately has much less learning benefit
3. Applying knowledge and skills in an exam style scenario – the vast majority of GCSE marks do not come from multiple choice quizzes!



Online learning pitfalls

1. **Distractions from the device they are using to access the online platform** – set up parental controls on devices during revision times. To avoid conflict you could negotiate this as a way to support them keeping focused during revision time
2. **Selecting the wrong exam board** – the subject area of the school website details which exam boards are used for each qualification
3. **Wrong content** – some less regulated websites can contain incorrect information (i.e. YouTube or TikTok) – your child's teachers may be able to recommend suitable channels on YouTube i.e. 'freesciencelessons'
4. **The temptation to be passive (which includes overusing quick quiz functions)** – the online platforms are the source of information and resources, it is the learning activities that come after that which will make the difference





Browsing and question time...

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