

Revising for your A-Level Chemistry

1. **Get a copy of the syllabus** at this link. It is vital that you know what you need to know!
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/chemistry/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Use the **syllabus** to **guide your revision**. Start at the beginning and tick off the statements that you are confident with. This will highlight the areas that you need to concentrate on.
3. **Don't simply read the text book!** You will not gain much by doing this. Your revision must be active work, where your brain is working hard. This is usually in the form of answering questions.
4. If making notes, do not copy from the text book. Instead, use the syllabus as your guide to the places in the textbook... don't forget to use the index of the text book.
5. **Past papers:** These present a wealth of useful information. It is essential that you do them. There are a few available on the Edexcel Chemistry website but the rest the Chemistry Department shall provide you with. Do not treat them as a memory test! You *must* use your text book to help you answer the questions you do not immediately know. You will then be learning. The mark schemes are there to check your answers.

When doing past papers you must commit yourself to *writing down* answers – do not just think to yourself “oh, I know that”. Only when you commit yourself to putting pen to paper will you appreciate whether, or not, you know the correct answer.

Lots of questions of the same type come up every year. Go through the papers and find these questions. **Definition** questions, such as “what is an isomer?” or “define isotopes” are usually two or three easy marks... **learn them!**

6. When answering questions on the exam, you must read them properly. Take your time and **read the full question**. Make sure that you understand and that you give yourself time to think about what is being asked. A lot of the time there is plenty of information in the question to help you.

Good luck!