



Find Your Future

Pride

Respect

Success

Assessment Information

Spring Term 2025 Year 9 Edition

Key information for
parents/carers and students
about Learning Cycle 1



Year 9

The Learning Cycles

Year 9 - Spring Term

Learn

Students are taught new content during their lessons. Teachers will regularly check understanding and set specific homework tasks to support learning.



Assess

Students sit standardised assessments in their lessons to check their knowledge of the content studied across the learning cycle, and relevant prior learning.

Improve

Gaps in learning identified from the assessments sat by students will be re-taught by teachers and students will be given the opportunity to undertake specific activities to improve.

Progress Evening

Save the Date

Thursday 26th
March 2026

Find out how to support your child with assessments



The Core Four

At Penrice, students learn four simple revision strategies that we call **The Core Four**:

Brain Dumps | Mind Maps | Flash Cards | Quizzing

These help students build confidence, remember key knowledge, and become more independent learners.

Brain Dump



Brain Dump

Students recall everything they can without notes, then check and add any missed points in a different colour.

How you can help:

Ask them to talk through their brain dump with you or explain what they added afterwards.

Mind Maps



Mind Maps

Students put the topic in the middle of the page, then build out the key ideas using words, diagrams or colour.

How you can help:

Ask them to describe the five most important parts of their mind map.

Flashcards



Flash Cards

Simple is best. One question on the front, the answer on the back.

How you can help:

Test them for five minutes - little and often is more effective than long sessions.

Quizzing



Quizzing

Students practise key knowledge using cover-and-answer, online quizzes, or by making a 10-question test.

How you can help:

Ask them to complete a short quiz or help them create one.

Want to learn more?

[Click here to access the resources](#)

How to support at home

- Encourage short, regular revision sessions
- Test them with flash cards or quick-fire questions
- Ask them to "teach you" what they've learned
- Celebrate small wins — confidence grows step by step



Find out what is being covered in this cycle



What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Ambitious vocabulary to describe a setting (colour, use of the 5 senses, interesting verbs and adjectives)			
A range of descriptive methods to describe a setting (similes, personification, metaphors etc)			
Structural methods to engage your reader (shift in focus, zooming in, foreshadowing, building tension, a twist)			
Using an accurate range of punctuation (A . , ' ! ? ; ; -)			
Using an accurate range of sentence types and sentence openers			
How to plan and write an effective description using a picture as inspiration			
The poem Ozymandias: what the poem is about, key quotations and methods used			
The poem London: what the poem is about, key quotations and methods used			
The poem Checking Out Me History: what the poem is about, key quotations and methods used			
The key vocabulary from the Protest Poetry unit: definitions			
Structural methods used in poetry			

Top tips for revising

1.	Make flashcards to learn key information, vocabulary, methods and quotations. Use these to test yourself and get other people to test you.
2.	Practise writing descriptions. Choose an image of a setting and think about the mood you want to create. Use a range of vocabulary, methods and structural features to convey this mood.
3.	Your English book is full of strategies, great ideas and examples – use it! Read through your notes and use them to help make your flashcards, to write your practice description and check any misconceptions.
4.	Annotate blank copies of the poems using your existing knowledge. Then, use your books or Mr Bruff YouTube tutorials to extend your knowledge in a different coloured pen.
5.	Revising little and often (15-20 minutes) will help make the knowledge stick!

What topics do you need to know about?	Sparx Code	RAG		
Stem and Leaf Diagrams	M210 / M648			
Averages from Frequency Tables	M127 / M287			
Drawing and Interpreting Box Plots	U879 / U837			
Expanding with Single Brackets	M237			
Expanding and Simplifying with Single Brackets	M792			
Expanding Double Brackets	M960			
Expanding Triple Brackets	U606			
Finding Percentages of Amounts	M437 / M905			
Simple and Compound Interest	U533 / U332			
Reverse Percentages	M528			
Percentage Change	M476 / M533			
Growth and Decay	U988			
Factorise into One Bracket	M100			
Factorising into Two Brackets	M908 / U963			
Completing the Square	U397			
Enlargement	U519 / U134			
Reflection	M290			
Mixed Transformations	M881			
Plotting and Reading Quadratic Functions	U989 / U667			
Cubic Functions	U980			
Exponential and Reciprocal Functions	U229 / U593			

Top tips for revising

1. Identify key areas by using the RAG ratings – Which topics are you least confident in?
2. Pick ONE topic to improve at a time – Little & Often Revision!
3. Improve your confidence in each topic, by using the “Independent Learning” tab on Sparx.
4. Work through the 3 question levels – Introduce / Strengthen / Deepen.
5. Reflect on how well you understand each topic you complete, by updating your RAG ratings.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Cell biology - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Digestion - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Enzyme reactions - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Atoms, elements and compounds - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Atomic structure - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Periodic table - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Ionic bonding - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Giant ionic lattices - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Covalent bonding and simple covalent structures - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Giant covalent structures - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Metallic bonding and alloys - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Energy stores and transfers - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Energy demands - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Specific heat capacity - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
States of matter - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			
Density - Click here to be taken to an online revision resource			

Top tips for revising

1. Create mind maps using the above links and your own knowledge.
2. Create flash cards.
3. Create quizzes to test your memory
4. Brain dumps- writing down everything that you remember about a topic
5. Exam questions - Use the independent learning section of Sparx Science to choose topics to answer questions on. Alternatively ask your class teacher for some exam style questions.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
The Holocaust			
Laws against the Jews 1933-1939			
Kristallnacht 1938 – Key details			
Interpretations on Police Battalion 101			
Examples of Jewish Resistance			
Apartheid			
Reasons why the National Party came to power 1948			
Changes/Laws brought on by National Party after 1948			

Top tips for revising

1.	Use Mind Maps for Big Picture Revision
2.	Use timelines to understand the chain of cause and consequence
3.	Remember, you need a good overall understanding, specific details are additional. For these use flashcards.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
China & Urbanisation			
Define a megacity			
Describe the process of urbanisation			
Explain how the growth of megacities has changed over time			
Explain the human and physical features of China			
Use a line graph to describe how the population of China has changed over time			
Calculate percentage increase and percentage decrease			
Describe how the Quality of Life in China is changing as megacities develop			
Define rural-urban migration			
Describe the push and pull factors caused by rural-urban migration			
Describe how China's One Child Policy has impacted the population			
Evaluate the opportunities and challenges created living in a growing megacity			
Power of Geography			
Define soft power			
State what unipolar, bipolar and multipolar mean			
Describe how Saudi Arabia is dependant on oil			
Describe one human and physical feature of Saudi Arabia			
Define water security and water scarcity			
Evaluate the opportunities and challenges of hydroelectric energy			
Explain how the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is causing conflict between Egypt and Ethiopia			
Explain how the GERD can create both opportunities and challenges for the water security in Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan			
Define a natural resource			
Explain how lithium mining can create jobs in Cornwall			
Evaluate the costs and benefits of extracting lithium in the UK			

Top tips for revising

1.	Look – Cover – Write – Check
2.	Use "This means that..." whenever you need to explain

What to Revise

Key Phonics for French: Click here for online revision resources				
Key Phonics for Spanish : Click here for online revision resources				
What to revise		Pre-RAG	RAG 1	RAG 2
Key vocabulary	Myself - introductions			
	Questions, ages, birthdays			
	Family members			
	Describing people's appearance			
	Describing people's personality			
	Making comparisons			
	Relationships- to get on/ argue etc.			
	Daily routine			
	Times of day			
	Healthy living			
Grammar points	Present tense (including reflexive verbs)			
	Imperfect tense			
	Negation			
	Comparative and superlative			

Top tip for revising

Make sure you revise the following vocabulary and grammar topics. You can use your Knowledge organiser or look for the vocab lists and grammar videos on This is School. Make sure you use a range of strategies to memorise vocab, including self-testing, look-cover-write-check and flashcards.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
The differences between a first & second-hand observational drawing			
What is a still life?			
Information & facts about the artist Paul Cezanne			
Information & facts about the artist Angela Faustina			
The similarities & differences between the work of Paul Cezanne and Angela Faustina			
Oil Pastel drawing techniques			
Information & facts about the artist Joel Penkman			
What is egg tempura? Why do artists use it?			
Why does Wayne Thiebaud base his work on food?			
The differences between semi-photorealism, Realism & Photorealism			
How to create a semi-photorealist drawing			
The history of food over time in Art			
The illustrative style & techniques of the artist Georgina Luck			
Who are Claes Oldenburg, Peter Anton & Paul Rousso?			
What is a thumbnail sketch?			
Air Dry Clay techniques			

Top tips for revising

1.	Refer to Knowledge Organiser set on Class charts.
2.	Use revision time in lesson, to look through sketchbook and Do It Now Booklet, remembering key facts and information.
3.	Recognise and remember the styles of the artists learnt.
4.	Make a flash cards with 8 key facts – learn them and test yourself!
5.	Write down or tell someone as much as you can about the Art keywords and definitions.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Why engineers spend time understanding the design brief			
Why engineers carry out research in the design process			
What type of information goes into writing a design specification.			
How designers create ideas			
What a prototype is			
Why engineers use prototyping in the design process			
What materials engineers use to make prototypes			
Drawing techniques used by engineers			
Machines, tools and equipment in the workshop			
Health & Safety in the workshop			

Top tips for revising

1.	Do a little bit of revision and repeat it often- small chunks
2.	Use the class chart homework to test your knowledge
3.	Make flash cards to help you revise key facts
4.	Brain dumps – write down or tell someone as much as you about the topic in one minute.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Stanislavski and Naturalism			
Naturalistic Acting Techniques			
Non Naturalistic Techniques			
Physical and Vocal Skills			
Physical Theatre			
DNA – Plot and key themes			
DNA – Key characters			

Top tips for revising

1.	Focus on one topic at a time
2.	It is better to revise little and often
3.	Make flash cards for each topic
4.	Use your knowledge from your 'Let's do it now' tasks
5.	Write down or tell someone as much as you can about the drama keywords and definitions.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
What is obesity and how is it measured? Click here for an online revision resource			
Macronutrients and their functions Click here for an online revision resource			
How to thicken sauces, making a roux and gelatinisation Click here for an online revision resource			
Food Miles Click here for an online revision resource			
Food Costs			
Local and seasonal produce Click here for an online revision material			
Cause of food poisoning Click here for an online revision material			
What does the term coeliac mean? Click here for an online revision material			
Identifying small specialist equipment			

Top tips for revising

1.	Do a little bit of revision and repeat it often- small chunks
2.	Use the links provided to gather more research
3.	Use the class chart homework to test your knowledge
4.	Make flash cards to help you revise key facts
5.	Brain dumps – write down or tell someone as much as you about the topic in one minute.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Words related to tempo.			
Words related to dynamics.			
All of the musical elements.			
Words related to rhythm and note durations.			
Identifying chords using chord diagrams.			
Identifying percussion, woodwind, string, percussion and African instruments.			
Devices such as Imitation, Call & Response, Unison etc.			
The meaning of DAW and the elements of DAW.			
Background of minimalism			
Minimalist techniques and their meanings.			

Top tips for revising

1.	Listen to examples of Minimalism to remind yourself of the key techniques.
2.	Make flashcards with key words and test yourselves on these.
3.	Remember the note durations from Year 7 and 8 and recap these and the symbols.
4.	Look at BBC Bitesize and recap the musical elements.
5.	Look at images of musical instruments and the orchestra as well as African instruments.