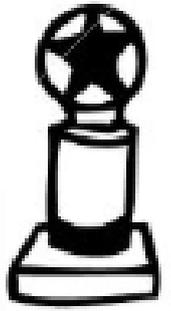


# Revision

A little progress each day adds up to big results

## TIPS



### Go Public

Make a revision timetable and post it somewhere others can see, letting other people know your plans is a good way to motivate yourself.



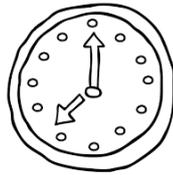
### Mix it up

Switch between ideas during study sessions. go back over ideas again in a different order to strengthen understanding

### Find your spot!

Make sure you have a nice quiet place for revision and that you have ALL the tools and equipment you need to hand.

### Time it to perfection



Don't try and complete marathon revision sessions. Work for around 40 minutes at a time to ensure you stay focused.

### Spaced Practice

Review the information you need to learn regularly. Review new information within 24 hours, then again after a week and again after a month.



### Switch OFF

Turn your electronic devices to aeroplane mode to allow you to focus on the task



### Stay rested

Make sure you are getting enough rest and are getting enough sleep each week



### Retrieval Practice

Test yourself on the things you need to learn. Use flash cards, past paper questions, revision workbooks, quizzes, =.





# Interleaving

- Switch between ideas during a study session. Don't study one idea for too long.
- Go back over the ideas again in different orders to strengthen your understanding.
- Make links between different ideas as you switch between them.
- Don't switch too often! You need to make sure that you fully understand the ideas before moving on. Don't switch to avoid working hard!
- Interleaving will feel harder than studying one topic for a long time. Don't give up– it will be more effective!



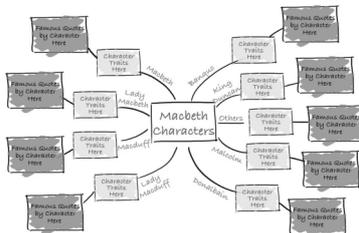
# Concrete examples

- Collect examples of exam questions and high quality responses from class, revision guides or websites.
- Make links between what you need to learn and the examples you have collected.
- Identify the qualities that you can emulate in your own responses.



# Dual Coding

- Take information that you are trying to learn and draw visuals to go along with it.
- Try to come up with ways to represent the information visually.



# The Dump Test



- You really should start every revision session with a good dump!
- Take a blank sheet of paper. Decide which subject you will revise and which precise topic, i.e. Science –Photosynthesis; English – Of Mice and Men ; History – Treaty of Versailles
- Using no books or notes spend exactly 60 seconds dumping everything you know about the topic onto the paper. It does not need to be structured – random words or images are good.
- You are accessing prior knowledge and sending messages to the memory to retrieve the information from your long term memory.
- Put the Dump Test away and spend 20 minutes revising the topic in any way you want.
- At the end, put all books and notes away again. Pick up the Dump Test again. Take a different colour pen. Dump again for 60 seconds – You will write down on average 7-15 things which you could not write at the beginning of the session. This is progress – it visibly shows that you have just got better.

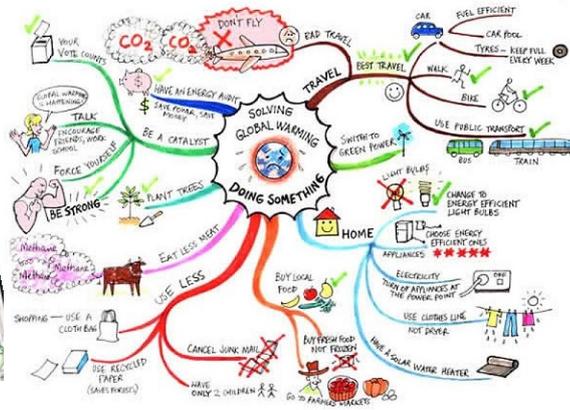


## Draw What You Know

- Take a section of notes and transform it into images, pictures or symbols.
- Ideally draw images yourself but you could always cut and paste from Google Images.
- Try and use as few words as possible. Bad drawings are great – they are more likely to stick in the memory. If possible – show the drawings to some one else and explain what they mean.
- You are converting knowledge into understanding by personalising information.
- You can then stick the drawings up around the house. Over the course of 1 week you will see that picture over 1,000 times – each time reinforcing the image in their memory.
- (A word of warning – if you are revising Biology – be careful what you draw when revising reproduction. Ask first!)

# Mind Maps and Revision Posters

- Some people find it incredibly difficult just to use images. Constructing mind-maps or revision posters is a good alternative.
- The basic rules for mind-maps are very simple: put the topic in the centre of the page, draw 6-7 different coloured branches – each one should be about something different, add smaller branches to each big branch giving a bit more detail – try to only write 1-2 words on each branch (this will help you select the most important words), add an image to each branch
- A revision poster can be set out in any design you like.
- Some students get into making revision posters on PowerPoint and either printing them or setting them up as screensavers and wallpapers on computer screens.



## Words and Links

- Write down 20 words that would have to be used when describing/explaining a particular topic – use your notes or textbook to help you with this. You could compare your 20 with other students and/or your teacher and argue about whose words are more important.
- Now reduce the 20 words to 10 – which ones are the most important now and why? Can you reduce them even to 7?
- Another alternative is scatter the 20 words across a sheet of A4 or A3 paper and draw arrows linking 2 words together. On the arrow write why it is linked. Draw as many arrows as you can – it encourages you to make your own links and therefore develop understanding. Ask your teacher to give you sheets with the 20 words on – you then do the arrows and links



# Sticky Note Revision

- Spend 1 20-minute revision session putting notes on a particular topic onto sticky notes. Each sticky note can have a maximum of 10 words on it – the fewer words the better though. At the end of the session, stick the sticky notes onto a door, wall or sheet of paper. They must be visible.
- Every day for the next week return to the sticky notes for 3-5 minutes and rearranges them in any way you can think of: most important, least important, chronological, alphabetical, similar/different. You will find that each day you come up with a new way to rearrange them. This activity again helps you to make links within a topic and also reinforces memory.
- An alternative could be to use fridge magnet letters to make different words on a particular subject each day – the good point about this is that hopefully other members of the family will ask what it means and you will have to explain it – easy revision.



## Talk Until You stop

- One purpose of revision should be to find the things you can't remember or don't really understand yet. This is not easy – try to tell anyone something you have forgotten! Often we can flick through a book without reading it convincing ourselves that we do know it.
- For this technique, select a specific topic. No books or notes are allowed. You have to talk out loud on that topic for as long as possible. If you feel self-conscious – turn the stereo up louder.
- You will talk for a period of time but will eventually stop, often in mid-sentence, because you have reached a part they don't fully understand and can't explain or have forgotten something. You should make a note of either what you didn't understand or what you said just before you stopped.
- You have just found the part you need to revise.. It is important that you talk out loud so you notice when you stop.

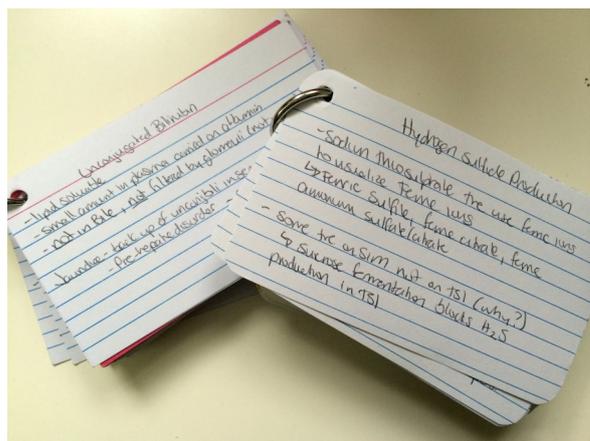
## Revising With Others

- Revision does not have to be done alone. Some of the most successful students in recent years have worked with other people to revise.
- One activity is to use each revision session to make up tests and quizzes for each other.
- Pick a topic, spend 10-12 minutes making up questions on it and then test each other.
- You could be physically together (as in you are in the same room – any closer and you are enjoying revision far too much) but you could send the questions and answers to each other by e-mail, or on Facebook, What'sApp or even by text. You can use Edmodo to test each other.

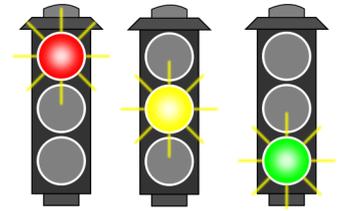


## Flash Cards

- Write key questions that are part of a particular subject on one side of a small cue card.
- Bullet point the key info that needs including on the back of the card.
- Encourage friends and family to ask you the questions.



## Past Exam Papers

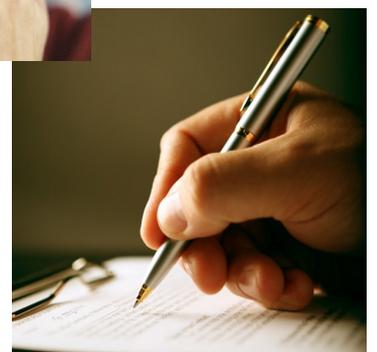


- This is the biggest single thing that students say has improved their performance in exams.
- This does not involve sitting down and completing a whole 2 hour exam paper.
- Look through past exam questions and traffic light the questions – green for those that you could do now, orange for those that you could have a stab at and red for those that you don't have a clue about. This will help prioritise where your revision needs lay.
- Another way of using past exam questions is to spend five minutes planning different questions.
- Collect some examples of exam questions with high quality answers. Make links between what you need to learn and the high quality answers. Identify qualities that you can emulate in your own responses.



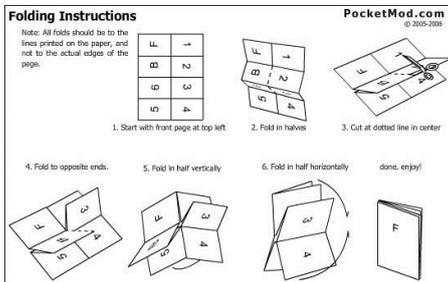
## Look, Cover, Write, Check

- This works well for some people.
- Look over revision materials for a key issue.
- Cover them up.
- Write down the key points you can remember.
- Check what you did not include.



# Peer Teaching

- To teach it you must be able to understand it – in the past students have organised themselves into small groups and met for revision sessions.
- This can include formal taught inputs, where each takes it in turns to teach one aspect of the subject they are covering. This can also involve other group activities such as using question cards (as explained above), bringing revision posters and explaining them to the group as well as taking it in turns to plan exam questions and then feedback to the group.
- You can also play revision games like Pairs (where you have a key word/person/concept/formula on one card and an explanation on the other – you then have to match up), Pictionary, Charades, Revision Cranium; the list is endless.
- Revision is so much more enjoyable if you have some-one to talk to about the subject. Friends can help sort out things you are not sure about.



## Mini books

- You can create your own mini-books about different topics.
- These can be presented in whatever way works for you.
- Some are books of poetry, others are mainly picture books with 5 key words on each page, while some students prefer to have a key question followed by a list of key points/evidence.
- If you fold up 1 sheet of A4 into pages you can carry a book around with you and have a quick look at it when you have 5 minutes spare
- The key thing is that the books need to be mini and focus on distilling notes until you have recorded the most crucial points. This is also useful to do in a group and explain your books to other people.

## Self quizzes

- This is way to practice your retrieval technique.
- Write yourself a set of low stakes quiz questions which will allow you to easily test your knowledge on a topic.
- On the reverse ensure to add the correct answers
- Wait for



## Build Up Writing With Speed

- Writing in an exam is different to writing in class where you are (usually) under less pressure.
- Practice building up your writing speed by speed writing.
- Find a short question from a past exam question or make one up yourself.
- Set the alarm on your watch/phone for 5 minutes. See how much you can write in 5 minutes. You will be surprised (in a good way).
- This is not an activity that can be done in front of the TV. You need somewhere quiet so you get used to the exam environment and really focus on your writing.
- You will quickly build up an internal clock so you will know instinctively what 5 minutes writing feels like