

Be **NICE**, Work **HARD**

# How do I revise?

Name: .....

Form: .....

I got **99 PROBLEMS**  
but **REVISION** ain't one



## Revision strategies

### What are revision strategies?



#### Understanding revision

The way most of us tend to revise is to read through things several times and hope some of the information sticks. In fact, this isn't the best way to revise. You need to unpick the information and then explain it to yourself.

This is because your brain learns best when you ask it to make connections and create meanings.

#### Pick and mix

Not all these revision strategies will work for you, and some will be better for some subjects than others. If you get stuck with revising a topic in one way, try out another strategy to see if that helps.

### Condensing your notes

Condensing your notes means making summaries of the main points. Why is this a good idea?

- Making the summaries is good revision.
- The summaries are a lot easier to revise from

There are four steps to condensing your notes:

1. Get your notes organised
2. For each page of your notes, write a summary of the main points on a piece of paper.
3. Condense each summary down to the main ideas, key terms and key points.
4. Write your condensed notes on index cards, leaving plenty of space between points

## **Memory strategies**

Memory strategies are tried-and-tested ways of helping your brain remember things. There are lots of different methods, here are three of the best:

### **First-letter phrases**

Use the first letters of a list of things you need to remember to make up a memorable phrase.

For example, here are six types of hard-engineering coastal defences; rip-rap, seawalls, revetments, offshore reefs, groynes, gabions. The first letters could make up the phrase: Rip Saws Really Open Great Gaps.

### **Brain dump**

1. On a piece of paper, write down everything you can remember about one topic. E.g. photosynthesis. 60 seconds only
2. Put the paper to one side
3. Spend 15 minutes using books, revision guides revising that topic. (READ, COVER, WRITE, CHECK)
4. Close your books, add all your new learning onto your original piece of paper in a different colour pen

**PROGRESS AND SUCCESS IS VISIBLE**

### **Make unusual connections**

Your brain locks on to things that seem unusual. Try thinking of weird connections to things you need to remember. For example, if you had to remember that Patrick Manson discovered the spread of disease by mosquitoes, you could imagine a man and his son running from a huge mosquito.



## Flashcards

These revision strategies sometimes work better for some subjects than for others. Flashcards are often used in Languages because they are great for testing yourself on vocabulary. You could use them for testing yourself on key terms in lots of other subjects, too.

Flashcards have something to remember on one side of a card, and the explanation or definition on the other; you can make them using card or paper. It can also be useful to make a presentation with the first slide of a pair being the thing you need to revise, and the next slide being the answer.

### Technique

- Start by reading your classwork
- Split your notes into topics
- Write the key words and concepts on your flash card
- Read over it
- Test yourself or get others to test you

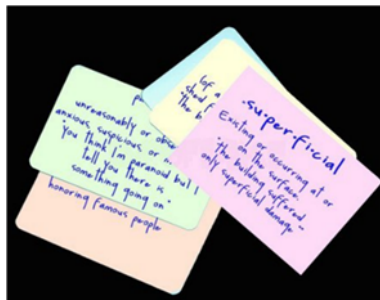
## **REPEATED TESTING WORKS**

### Successful revision strategy sequence

Combine approaches for a revision 'power-up':

- ✓ Condense your notes.
- ✓ Explain your summaries to someone else.
- ✓ Make flashcards from your summary points.

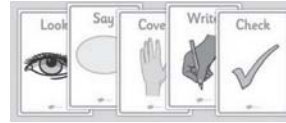
## **Test yourself using your flashcards.**



## **Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check**

Good for People Who...

- Want to revise processes or complex ideas/case studies.
- Have already done their revision notes and want to push themselves.
- Prefer to hand write notes.



### **Technique:**

1. Get out some classwork notes for the process/idea that you want to focus on.
2. Break down the notes into a mind map or bullet points.
3. Read you points for 30 seconds.
4. Hide the notes away from view and write down as much as you can remember on a new piece of paper.
5. Now compare your memory notes to the ones you completed with your notes. Fill in any points you missed in a different colour and repeat but pay special attention to the ones you forgot the last time.

## **Post- it Notes Around the House**

Good for People Who... Struggle to set aside revision time.

Learn better when moving around. Have issues with focusing for long periods of time.

### **Technique:**

- Using a pack of post-it notes, write small pieces of information on each one (works well with key word definitions or facts).
- Stick them around your house in places you pass often (door frames, light switches, mirrors etc.)
- Every time you pass one, repeat the information out loud to yourself.

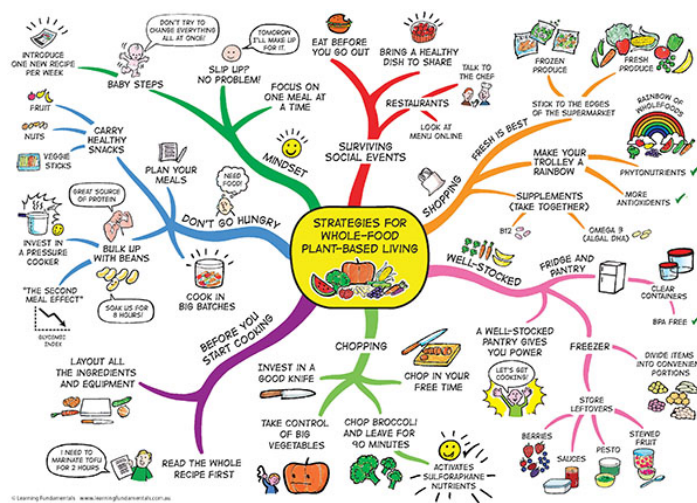


## Mind Maps

This is a very **effective** way of representing **large amounts of information** in an attractive, easily-remembered way. You may have used a 'spider diagram' – which are very similar.

Technique:

- Use a large piece of paper turned landscape
- In the center write a name of the topic that you are going to revise – and add a simple illustration if you wish
- Now draw lines like branches (coming out from the center) to represent the main areas of the topic. Each of these can be illustrated or could be in different colour – or a different type face
- In turn, each of these could sub-divide into several more sections. Continue adding more branches until all the main information is on the mind map
- Finish your mind map. It could contain diagrams, names (and pictures) of important people, dates, places, etc. If it gets too crowded, you could create a separate mind map for that particular section

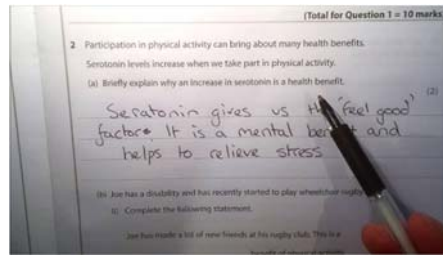


## Past papers

Not original... but it works!

Useful for:

- Command words
- Timings
- Style of question



## Techniques:

1. Complete the past papers on your memory stick. Self-mark using the mark scheme.
2. Open up some past papers and write down the questions on one side of a flash card/piece of paper.
3. For the best results, have lots of different questions.
4. Copy a model answer using the mark scheme onto the other side of the flash card.
5. Go through and test yourself. Write an answer to the question you choose and then check it using the model answer/mark scheme.
6. You can get friends, parents, relatives to test you using this technique.

## **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE**

### JUST REMEMBER

- ✓ To give yourself plenty of time. Don't try and cram hours before the exam. All of these techniques are more effective the more time you do them.
- ✓ REPEAT REPEAT REPEAT! The more you go over something, the more likely you are to remember it.
- ✓ Take breaks. For every 30 minutes of revision, take a 10 minute break.
- ✓ Avoid distractions. Get someone you trust to change your social media account passwords if you think you will be tempted. Remove distractions from around you when revising.
- ✓ Find a space. If you struggle to find a quiet space at home, could you use the school library/a teacher's classroom