



# ***How to revise effectively***

*Seven steps to effective revision*

# Step 1: Produce a revision timetable

- o There is advice on how to do this on the school website.
- o It is vital that you draw up a revision timetable and you stick to it.
- o Put it up around your house so that your family know when you should be revising and what you should be doing.

REVISION TIMETABLE - OCTOBER

WC	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5/10	History – The Wall Street Crash and the New Deal		Maths - Algebra	Football Training		Football Geography – Volcanoes and Earthquakes	20 minute review
12/10	English – Of Mice and Men		Biology – Enzymes and Digestion	Football Training	Physics – Forces and Motion		20 minute review
19/10	PE – Injuries in the skeletal and muscular system		Chemistry – Acids, Bases and Salts	Football Training		Football Computing – Networks	20 minute review
26/10	History – The Yalta and Potsdam Conferences		Maths - Geometry	Football Training		Football Geography – Urbanisation in LEDCs	20 minute review

# Step 2: Produce topic lists for each of your subjects

- o It is vital that you produce topic lists for each of your subjects.
- o This will ensure you revise everything that could possibly come up on the exam.
- o Ask your teacher if they have a topic list they can give you.

## **Biology**

B2.1 – CELLS AND SIMPLE TRANSPORT

B2.2 – TISSUES, ORGANS AND ORGAN SYSTEMS

B2.3 – PHOTOSYNTHESIS

B2.4 – ORGANISMS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

B2.5 – ENZYMES AND DIGESTION

B2.6 – AEROBIC AND ANAEROBIC RESPIRATION

B2.7 – CELL DIVISION AND INHERITANCE

B2.8 – SPECIATION

# Step 3: Make sure you have all the resources you need

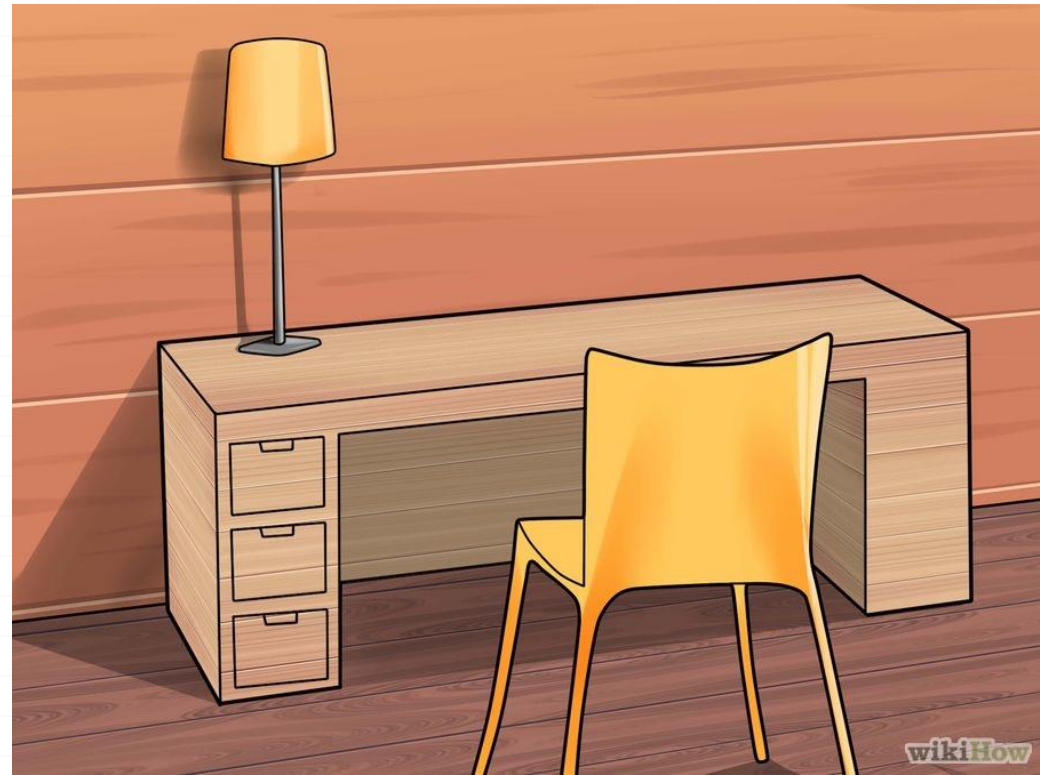
○ There are a number of different resources that would be useful the main ones are:

- Your work books for each subject
- Text book or revision guide
- Coloured pens/Highlighters
- Paper/ post it notes/ flash cards
- Revision websites
- GCSEpod



# Step 4: Find a good place to study

- You need to find a quiet, well lit place to study which is away from distractions.
- Log out of, or temporarily disable social media like Facebook.

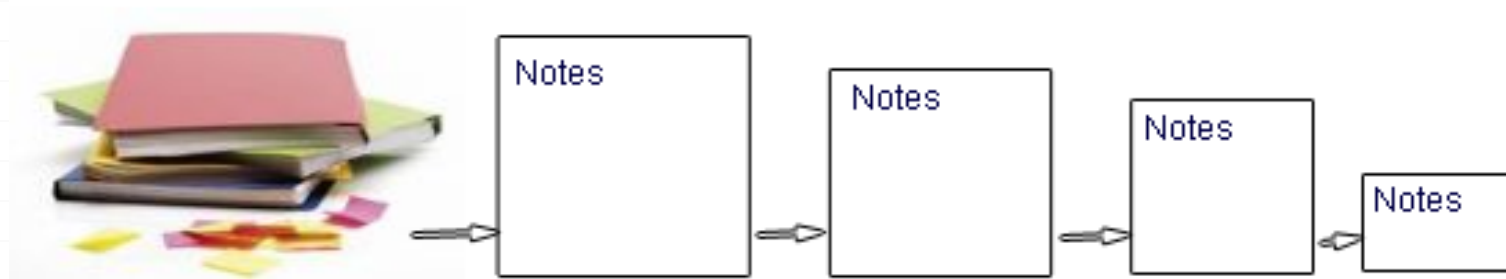


# Step 5: Use revision strategies that actually work

- o Too many people think that simply reading through their notes is effective revision.
- o Unfortunately it isn't, mainly because your brain doesn't have to think too much while you do it.
- o The next few slides suggest some revision strategies/techniques that do actually work.

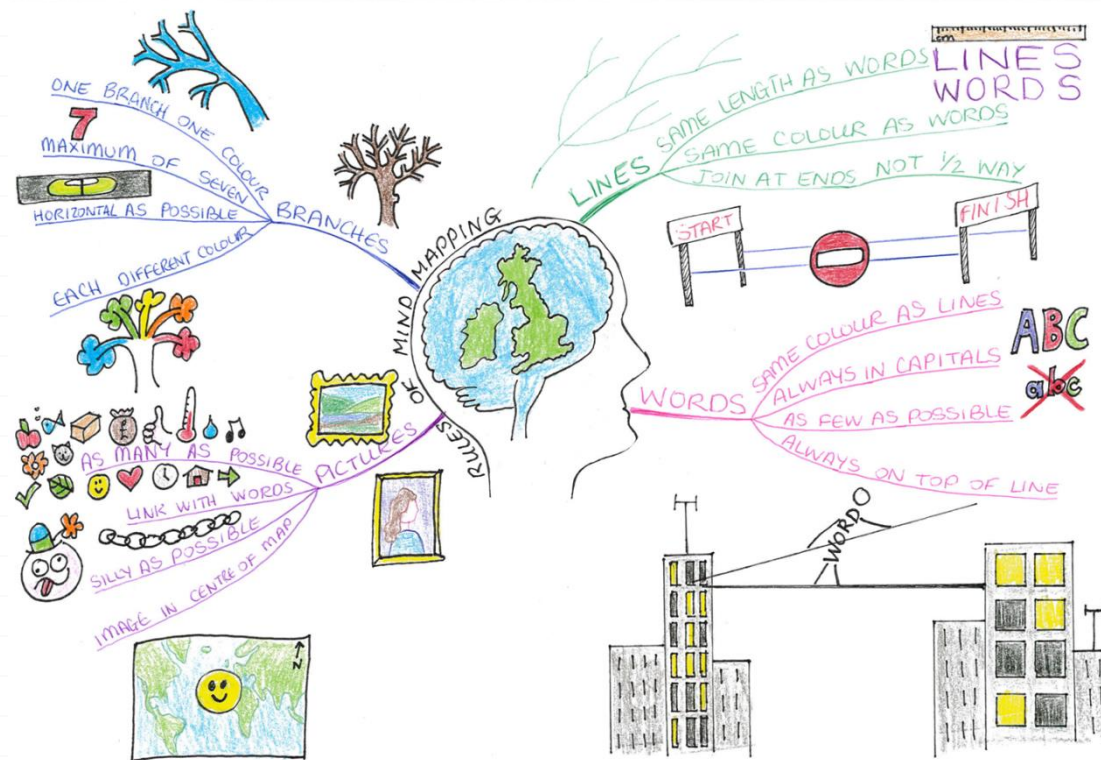
# Condense Your Notes

- One of the best things to do is to try and condense your notes.
- You should be trying to reduce the information in your work book or textbook into just the key points.





# One of the best ways to do this is to create a mind map



- There are instructions on how to make a mind map on the website

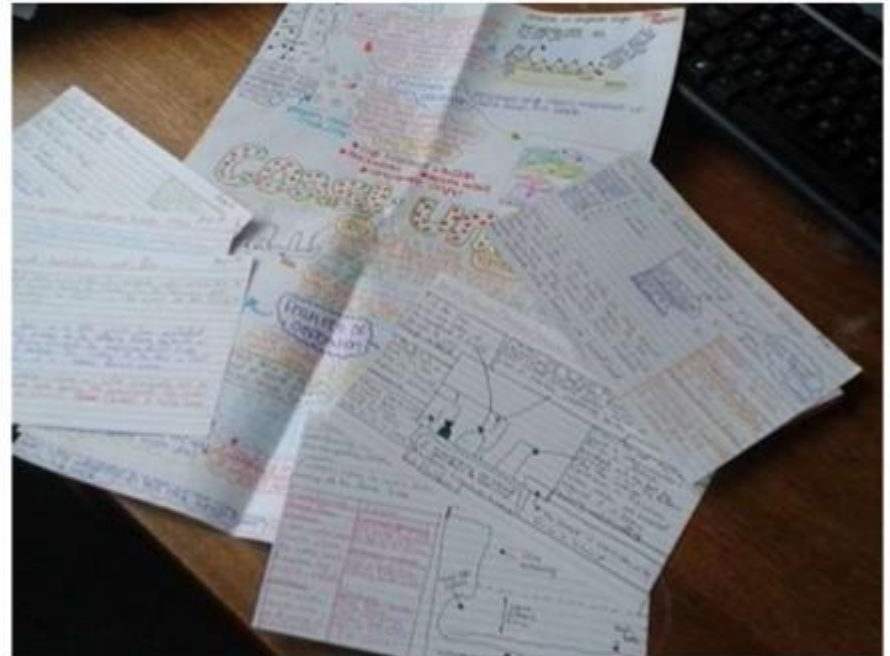


Another effective method is to  
use Flashcards



# Flashcards

- Because a flashcard is small you need to summarise the information for a particular topic.
- Each flashcard should be on one key idea or concept.
- The key information should be summarised on one side.
- Use bullet points and diagrams.



# Summary Grids

- An alternative to flashcards is a summary grid.
- To produce a summary grid you write the title of a topic at the top of the page.
- You then produce a brief summary.
- You then summarise your summary by reducing it to three key points.

Title: (What title would you give this?)

Summary: (Write bullet points, draw diagrams, flowcharts of the most important points)

Summary of my summary: (What are the 3 main points)

•  
:  
•

Next time I revise this topic I will need to:

Just skim over this topic:

Go over this in more detail:

# Post it notes

- o Post it notes are a great way of testing yourself.
- o Put a question on one side and the answer on the other.
- o Then stick them around your bedroom or, if your parents allow it, around the house even in the bathroom!
- o Whenever you are near a post-it note try and answer the question before looking at the answer on the other side.
- o Add a tick each time you get it right without having to look at the answer first.
- o Aim to get 10 ticks on each question.



# Keyword Cards

- These could be made using revision cards or post its.
- For each subject you should have a list of keywords.
- Write a keyword on one side of the card/post it and the definition on the other.
- Test yourself over and over again.



# Use past papers

- It is extremely important that you use past papers in your revision.
- You can access past papers and the mark schemes on the exam board websites.
- You should attempt to answer as many questions as you can and then use the mark scheme to see how well you did.






# Use images/symbols

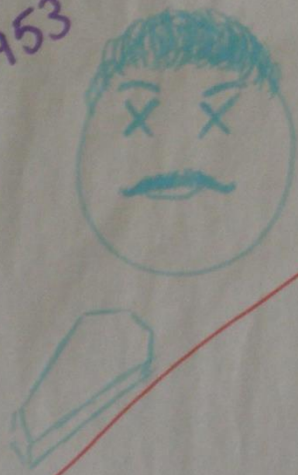
- o Most people remember images more easily than words.
- o You could create revision posters where you are only allowed to use 10 words.
- o If you are trying to remember a story why not try turning it into a cartoon strip.
- o The funnier the images the more likely it is that you will remember the story.
- o Likewise, in a subject like history you might use images on timelines to help you remember key events.
- o The example on the next slide is a timeline produced by a student showing the main events of the Cold War.

1948-1955

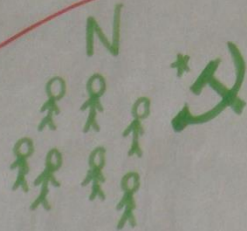


  
WESTERN COUNTRIES  
NATO  
1949

1953



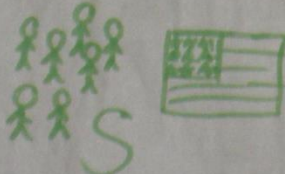
N  
1950-53

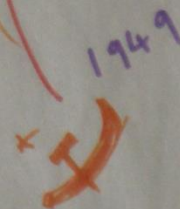
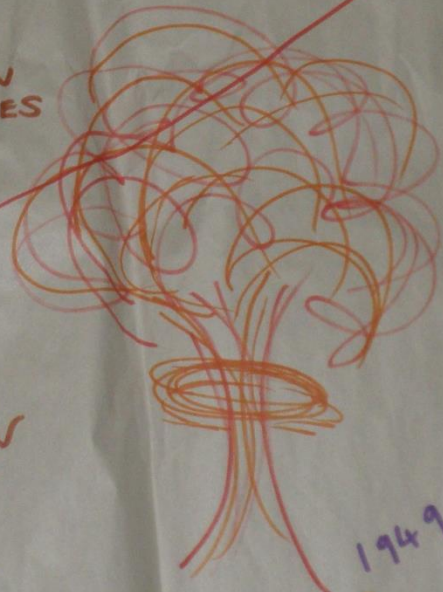


This block contains a group of stick figures arranged in a circle, with a hammer and sickle symbol to their right. The letters 'N' and 'S' are written above and below the figures respectively.

WARSAW PACT  
1955

  
EASTERN COUNTRIES

  
S



# Make use of technology

- o If you prefer working on computer make a revision video which you can play back to yourself.
- o Alternatively you could record yourself reading your notes about a topic and then play it back to yourself.

# Create music

- o Can you name a song and recite all the lyrics to that song word for word?
- o If so, why not make up your own revision songs for certain topics and put them to well known tunes.
- o Have a listen to this example from a history teacher.

# Use Mnemonics

- Mnemonics are memory aids.
- You use the first letters of words to help remember them.
- For example:

Richard **O**f **Y**ork **G**ave **B**attle **I**n **V**ain

**R**ed, **O**range, **Y**ellow, **G**reen, **B**lue,  
**I**ndigo, **V**iolet

**M**y **V**ery **E**asy **M**ethod **J**ust **S**peeds  
**U**p **N**aming **P**lanets **S**imply

**M**ercury, **V**enus, **E**arth, **M**ars, **J**upiter,  
**S**aturn, **U**ranus, **N**eptune, **P**luto, **S**edna

## 5 Bones in Hand



**D**istal  
**I**ntermediate  
**P**roximal  
**M**etacarpals  
**C**arpals

Can you create a mnemonic from this?



# Look, Cover, Write, Check

- o Another way of trying to memorise information is to use the Look, Cover, Write and Check method.
- o You need to have a source of information in front of you such as a revision guide page, exercise book page or Internet webpage
- o You then set a timer for one minute
- o Focus on the information trying to memorise as much as possible
- o When the time is up, hide the information and try and recreate as much of it as you can
- o When you've written as much as you can remember start again!

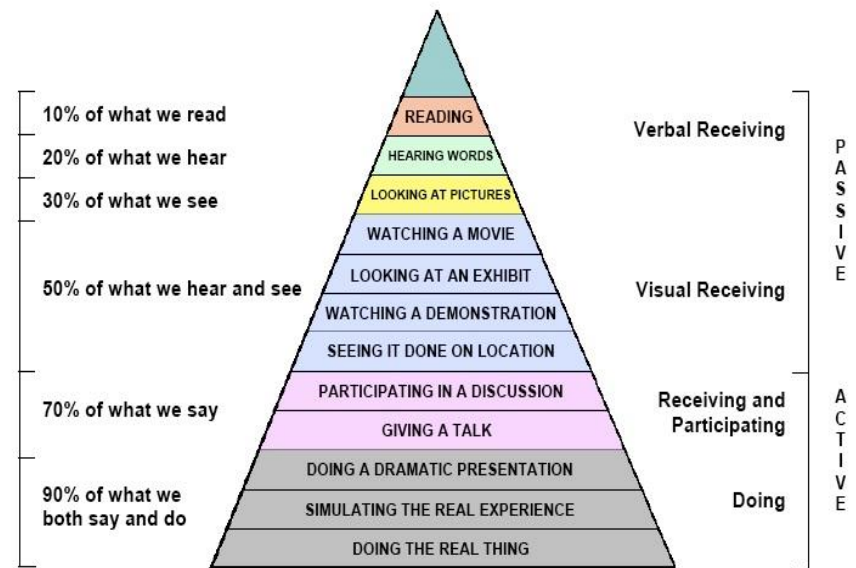
# Teach Others

- A very powerful way of revising is to teach others.
- Once you have revised a topic try teaching someone in your family about it.
- Let them ask you questions to see how well you know a topic.

## CONE OF LEARNING

WE TEND TO REMEMBER OUR LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

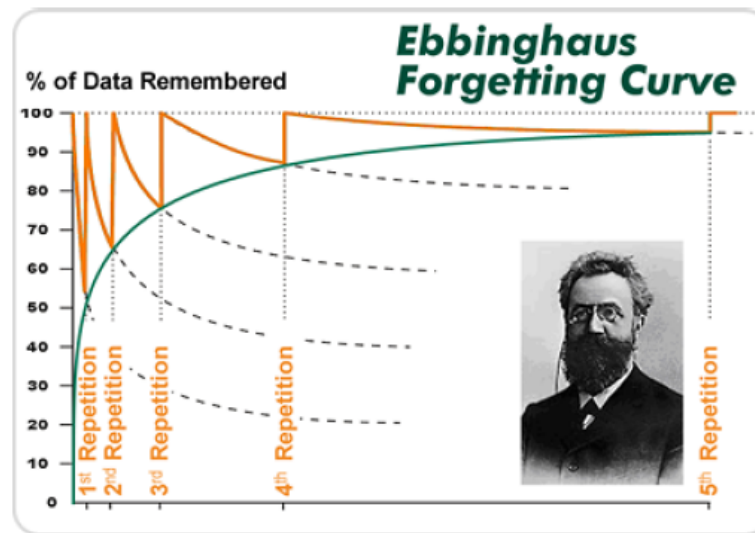
(developed and revised by Bruce Hyland from material by Edgar Dale)



Edgar Dale, *Audio-Visual Methods in Teaching* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), Holt, Rinehart, and Winston (1969).

# Step 6: Revise things more than once

- Research suggests that you need to revise a topic four times before you truly understand it and memorise it.
- Make sure that you revise every topic more than once in the run up to your exam.



# Step 7: Test yourself regularly

- This is the most important thing that you can do.
- Research has proven that without regular testing revision does not work.
- You should try and complete past exam questions in timed conditions.
- Try and get a friend or a member of your family to test you on what you have revised at the end of each day and at the end of the week.



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There are also revision resources online. You need to make use of...

o [www.gcsepod.co.uk](http://www.gcsepod.co.uk)



# Is there anything else I should know?

- o You need to give yourself regular breaks during revision. If you have set aside 1 hour to revise a topic, you should spend 40 minutes revising and then have a 20 minute break. If you have set aside 30 minutes for revision you should revise for 20 minutes and then have a 10 minute break.
- o At the end of each day or week you should set aside 20 minutes to go back through everything you have revised that day/week. This helps you remember it.



# Is there anything else I should know?

- o Drink plenty of water, get regular exercise and make sure you get a good nights sleep while revising. Sleep has been proven to improve memory and retention.
- o Energy drinks actually have a negative effect on your concentration levels while revising – don't drink them.
- o Revision isn't easy. If you are doing it right it should be tiring and it should make your brain hurt. However, the benefits of revision are huge.