

Revision Techniques

1. Retrieval (Look – Cover – Write – Check).
2. Mind mapping
3. Flashcards

Interesting Facts!

1. Researchers state that memory has a limitless capacity. Everything is stored in there but, without rehearsal, memories become harder to access.

2. When something comes to mind quickly, i.e. we do no work to recall it, no learning occurs. When we have to work hard to bring it to consciousness, something cool happens: we learn.

3. It turns out that for long-term retention, memories are more easily recalled if learning is mixed up. Therefore you should use a variety of revision methods to aid memory recall.

Retrieval Practice

Retrieval practice enables you to really focus on the topics that you don't understand or struggle with.

By doing this effectively, it will help you build upon your knowledge until you fully understand everything that you need to know.

How to use Retrieval Practice

1. Start by studying the section of your knowledge organiser that you are focusing on.



2. With your knowledge organiser closed, write down as much information from it that you can remember. This needs to be as accurate as possible.

3. Check what you have written, with your knowledge organiser to see how accurate you were. Have a look at any mistakes that you made, focus on these.



Top Tips!

Retrieval practice works best when you check your knowledge organiser for accuracy afterwards.

Retrieval practice is difficult—if you're struggling to remember certain words, focus on one or two of these definitions, then slowly build up to the whole section

Don't just recall the definitions—come up with examples to help you to remember them

How to Mind Map

Mind mapping helps you break large topics down into manageable chunks, so that you can make associations easily and generate new ideas.

A good mind map shows the relative importance of individual points, and the way in which facts relate to one another. This means that a mind map is very quick to

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How to produce a Mind Map

1. Start at the centre with the page with a circle or square ('central node') indicating the main top-



3. Create smaller sub-branches which extend out from every branch. Think of these as sub-headings. Try to find connections between the various branches and sub-branches; this is a crucial aspect of critical thinking.

2. The main ideas that make up the topic should be represented by thick branches that emanate from the central node. Your branches should have one word or two for the purpose of clarity. Think of each branch as a heading in an essay or a book.

Top Tips!

- Use single words or simple phrases: These can convey the same meaning more potently. Excess words clutter a mind map and therefore it can lose its visual clarity.
- Use colour to separate ideas: This will help you visualise the mind map for recall. Colour can help show the organisation of the subject.
- Use symbols and images: Pictures can help you remember information more effectively than words, so, where a symbol or picture means something to you, use it.

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How to use Flash Cards

Flash cards are one of the classic study tools, and for good reason – they promote studying through **active recall**, which is one of the practices through which our brains learn most effectively.

How to use Flash Cards

1. Make your own flash cards. This creates strong neural pathways in the brain. When you use pre-made flash cards, you're skipping that entire part of the process.

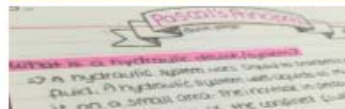
2. Mix pictures and words. Adding pictures to your cards can make them a lot more memorable.



3. Use mnemonics. The use of mnemonics helps to create mental connections. A classic mnemonic that almost everyone knows is ROY G. BIV – the acronym that helps you remember the order of the colours in the visible light spectrum.

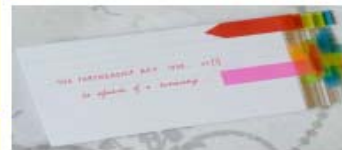
4. Write only one question per card. By including multiple facts on one card, you're more likely to run into illusions of competence. These happen when you think you know something that you actually don't – a situation that usually arises when your brain mistakes recognition for recall.

5. Break complex concepts into multiple choice questions. Some concepts or ideas are too complex to be encapsulated in one question. These kind of concepts need to be broken down into multiple questions in order to be studied well using flash cards.



6. Say your answers out loud when studying. By having someone else quiz you, you will be forced to say the answers out loud. By doing this there is no way that you can 'fudge' the answer.

7. Study your flash cards in both directions. When you're studying your flash cards, make sure you review them from both sides. By doing this, you're going to build strong neural pathways that can be traced easily in both directions. If you *don't* do this, you increase the probability that you'll only be able to recall one side of the card.



8. Place flash cards into piles. When you answer the questions, place the cards into two piles. One pile for the ones you answered correctly and one pile for the ones you got wrong. Next time you use the cards start off with the 'wrong' pile. Be careful not to miss out going back over the 'right' pile as you may forget these too if you leave them out to often.

9. Use other methods of revision too. As well as making flash cards you can use other revision strategies. These may include creating a quiz, using mind maps or venn diagrams or practice past examination questions.

Bad revision...

- Do not think that simply reading information will make it magically fly into your brain. Only a maximum of 10% of what you read will make its way into your memory.
- Starting to revise the night before a test won't work – your brain needs repetition in order for the information to move into your long term memory.
- If you are disorganised or do not have the right information, you will not revise well. The knowledge organisers are what you need so don't try revising other information.