

Quick Revision Guide

Introduction

To help support you over the exam period we have put together this advice sheet. It contains all the key information you will need to get revising for your exams.

In addition to this booklet there is a downloadable revision planner available from the school website

<http://www.toothill.notts.sch.uk/html/revision.asp>

Stage 1: Planning

Planning your revision is essential if you are to take control of your learning and not get too stressed.

That's not as easy as it sounds because to do it really well you have got to plan in loads of detail.

Remember that 30 minute sessions are best, then have a short break.

It's better to do 1 to 2 hours a night over a long period of time than cram it all in at the last minute.

Here is an example of a revision timetable...

Date	Session 1 (30min)	Session 2 (30min)	Session 3 (30min)	Session 4 (30min)
Mon 21/05	Maths	Science	English	French
Area	Number	Planets	Anthology	Oral
Method	Mind Mapping	Cards	Notes	Cards
Aim	To understand...	To list the...	To look for...	To prepare...

Stage 2: Creating an effective revision space

A clean, well equipped study environment helps revision. It removes distractions and promotes an organised approach to study...things you can include:

- **Creating a tidy undisturbed place to work.**
- **Having a comfortable chair.**
- **Using a table which gives enough room for books, etc.**
- **A bright lamp.**
- **Pens, pencils, other equipment including scrap paper.**

Stage 3: Active Revision Techniques

Simply reading through work is a **VERY POOR** way of remembering it. You can spend hours thinking that you're revising by doing this – but actually, very little information stays in your head!

Active revision methods are much better. The ten active revision methods are:

1. **Summarise points on revision cards (we will look at this in more depth in Stage 4); these can be cut down again nearer to the exam.**
2. **Use mnemonics (we will be looking at these in Stage 4).**
3. **Make mind maps/spider diagrams; stick them on the wall (again we will be looking at these in Stage 4)**
4. **Repeat lists or processes aloud over and over again.**
5. **Tape notes and play them back.**
6. **Set yourself questions from your notes – go over wrong answers.**
7. **Explain work to a friend/parent.**
8. **Get someone to test you.**
9. **Try the activities on the Bitesize videos (just watching the video isn't good enough) Go to the LRC they have the videos!**
10. **When you feel ready, practice exam questions.**

Stage 4: Specific Revision techniques

Listed below are 3 really effective revision techniques

Mnemonic

To create a Mnemonic all you have to do is write down your list of facts or information. As an example I am going to try to remember the order of the planets that circle our sun. So the first thing I do is write them down in order:

Mercury Venus Earth Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune Pluto

Then I need to take the first letter from each of the planet names:

M V E M J S U N P

Now, I need to create a memorable sentence or phrase that uses each of the letters above in turn as the first letter of each word in my new sentence...sounds complicated but it isn't:

My Very Early Morning Jam Sandwich Usually Nauseates People

Simple!

Revision Cards

A very good way to turn the notes you have made in lessons into a form that is more manageable when you come to revise is to make a set of **REVISION CARDS**.

A good **REVISION CARD** should contain all the **KEY POINTS** on a topic in a clear and concise way. It should be a condensed version of whatever you have in your notes and you should be able to take in the information on the card at a glance.

By transferring information from your notes to the **REVISION CARD** you are re-learning what you have covered in class. This is because you have to put information in your own words and to do that you have to understand it!

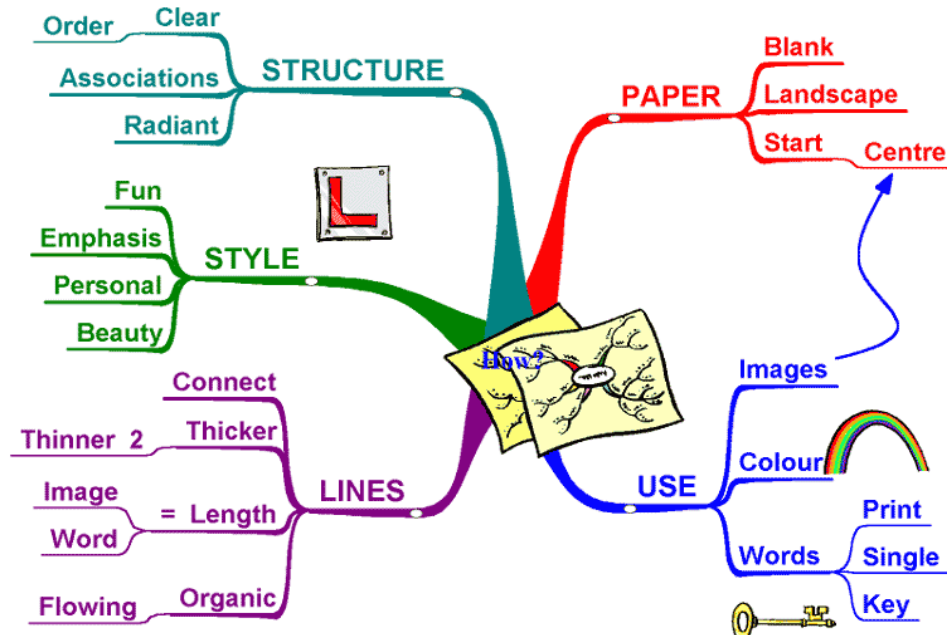
A **REVISION CARD** should just have the key points on. It shouldn't have loads and loads of detail. If you come back to a **REVISION CARD** and you don't understand it use your more detailed class notes.

The Planets

Mercury
Venus
Earth
Mars
Jupiter
Saturn
Uranus
Neptune
Pluto

Mind Maps

- Use just key words, or wherever possible images.
- Start from the centre of the page and work out.
- Make the centre a clear and strong visual image that depicts the general theme of the map.
- Create sub-centres for sub-themes.
- Put key words on lines. This reinforces structure of notes.
- Print rather than write in script. It makes them more readable and memorable. Lower case is more visually distinctive (and better remembered) than upper case.
- Use colour to depict themes, associations and to make things stand out.
- Anything that stands out on the page will stand out in your mind.
- Think three-dimensionally.
- Use arrows, icons or other visual aids to show links between different elements.
- Don't get stuck in one area. If you dry up in one area go to another branch.
- Put ideas down as they occur, wherever they fit. Don't judge or hold back.
- Break boundaries. If you run out of space, don't start a new sheet; paste more paper onto the map.
- Be creative. Creativity aids memory.



Summary

These are just a few of the techniques you can use to revise. Remember to use the Exam Board websites and the school website for more revision materials!