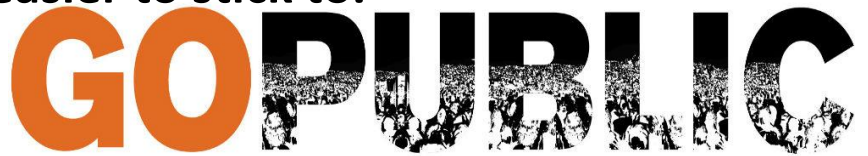


Getting The Most From Revision

Step 1 Plan for revision and tell others when you are starting. This will make it easier to stick to.



- When will you revise?

Small chunks of revision work best. E.g. 20-45 minute sessions with a break before starting another. How many days per week will you revise? 4 or 5 is good!

- What will you revise?

E.g. which subjects on which days; what topics will you work on?

- When will you revisit your revision?

Do you have a plan for revisiting things that you've already revised so that you don't forget them?

- Have you created a timetable?

Digital timetables (e.g. on google calendar or iCal) are great but on physical timetables, you can tick off the revision that you have completed and see where you are up to.

Step 2 Revise Actively

Prior to your revision and getting started:

Think about how you will make the most of your time.



- Procrastination? Do you need to leave your phone somewhere to avoid procrastination? Do you need to set an alarm so that you will get a cue for when your time is up, rather than keep looking at the time and therefore wasting it?

- Equipment? Have you got everything close to hand, from pens and paper / card, to drinks and snacks?

Revise actively:

You will learn the most if you revise in an active way, where you take information and change it into a new format. Reading your notes / books is the **least effective** method. You will retain approximately 10% of the information.

Some popular and successful revision methods are:

- ✓ writing flash cards or revision notes,

- ✓ drawing diagrams or charts,
- ✓ creating revision posters,
- ✓ creating post-its of important information and placing them around the house in obvious places,
- ✓ creating mind maps / spider diagrams
- ✓ reading notes aloud,
- ✓ recording key points onto a phone / iPad and listening back to them
- ✓ discuss topics with a friend,
- ✓ writing yourself tests / quizzes.

Step 3 Practice, practice, practice!

You need to check what you have learned. Revising smartly includes checking what you know and then revisiting what you don't.

Popular methods of checking what you've learned and practicing are:

- ✓ completing exam questions
- ✓ completing quizzes and tests that you have written
- ✓ writing all of the info that you know about a topic on a piece of paper and then checking / correcting it
- ✓ discussing topics with friends and family
- ✓ pairing up with friends and testing each other

Why revisit and practice?

Over time, what you learn is forgotten. If you revisit it for a short time, you can avoid this easily.

Initial learning (45 minutes)

- 10 minutes later **practice for 10 minutes**
- 1 day later **practice for 5 minutes**
- 1 week later **practice for 2 – 5 minutes**
- 1 month later **practice for 2 – 5 minutes**



Specific Revision Skills: Mnemonics

A **mnemonic** is a tool to help remember facts or information. It can be a song, rhyme, acronym or a phrase to help to remember things in order. E.g.

Acronym:

R I C E for treating an injury.

Rest the injury

Ice the area

Compression with a bandage

Elevate the injury

Rhyme:

“In fourteen hundred
and ninety-two,
Columbus sailed
the ocean blue. . .”



Phrase:

My **v**ery **e**xcited **m**other **j**ust **s**erved **u**s **n**oodles

Mercury **V**enus **E**arth **M**ercury **J**upiter **S**aturn **U**ranus **N**eptune

Specific Revision Skills: Transformations

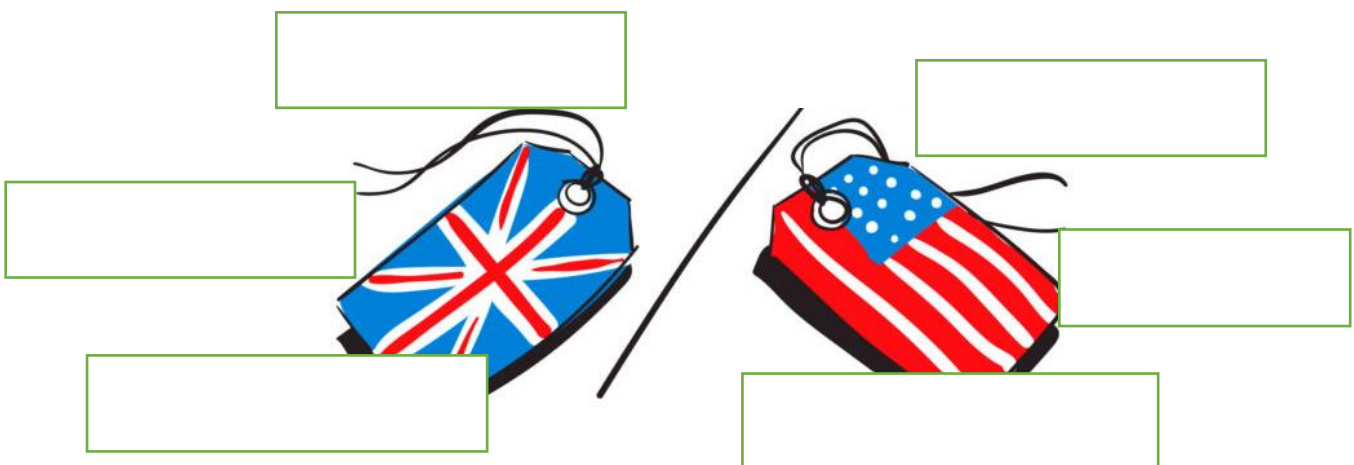
Transformations can work in several different ways. The aim is to take a piece of information and turn it into something else. It takes creativity to do this, so helps to build a strong memory.

E.g. turn the content into a positives / negatives grid

Positives	Negatives

E.g. 2 Be creative and create song lyrics

E.g. 3 Create an image to show the content clearly



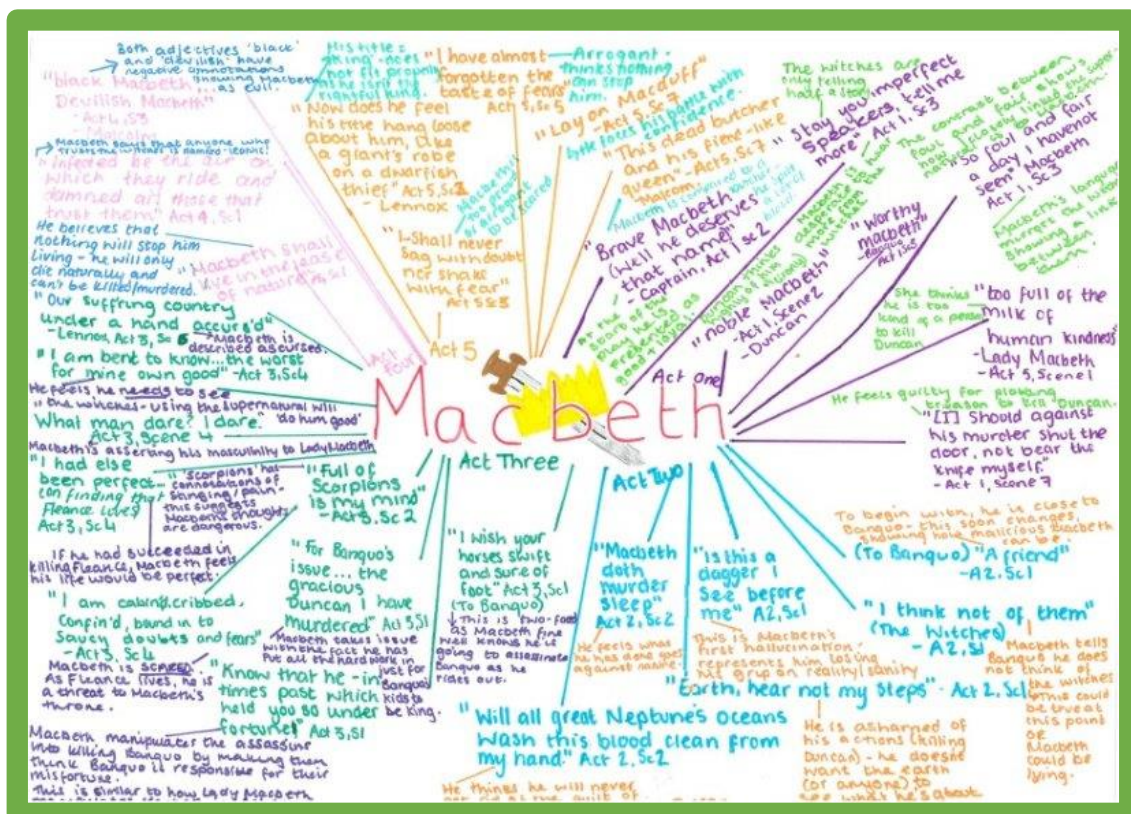
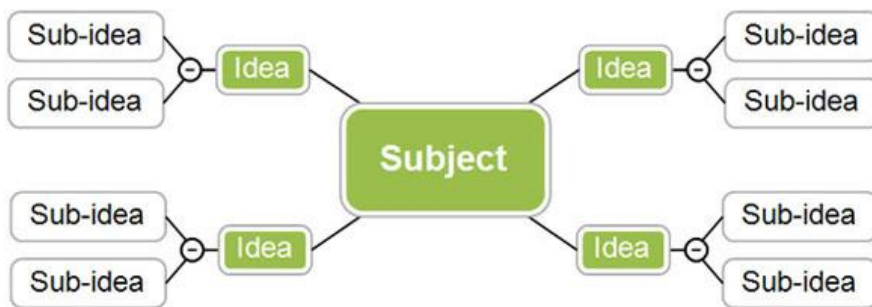
Specific Revision Skills: Mind Maps

A mind map is an **easy way to organise thoughts** without worrying about order and structure. It allows you to **visually structure** your ideas to help with analysis and recall.

A mind map is a diagram for representing tasks, words, concepts, or items linked to and arranged around a central concept or subject.

A mind map can turn a long list of monotonous information into a **colourful, memorable and highly organized diagram** that works in line with your brain's natural way of doing things.

Basic Example:



Specific Revision Skills: Flash Cards

Flashcards are a popular way to study. Using flashcards to self-test helps you learn information, and also helps you to identify any weak spots you may have with the material.

It is better to discover weaknesses while you are studying, when you can still improve on them, instead of when you are in the middle of your exam.

Method:

- 1) Write a question or term to define on one side of an index card. For example, if one of your vocabulary words is "altruistic," write the word on the front of the index card in ink.
- 2) Jot down the answer to the question or the definition of the term on the other side of the card. Write the answer in pencil so you won't be able to see it through the card. For example, if the front of the card says "altruistic," you should write the definition, "devoted to the welfare of others," in pencil on the back of the card. Make flash cards for all of the terms or facts you'd like to memorise.
- 3) Quiz yourself on the information by reading the front of each card --- the portion written in ink --- and trying to recall the answer. If you get an answer correct, place that card in a pile designated for facts you've memorised. If you miss an answer, put that card in a pile of facts you still need to learn.
- 4) Retry the questions you've missed by repeating the cards until you've memorised all of your flash cards.

When was Macbeth written and why is this significant to our contextual understanding of the play?

Macbeth was most likely written in 1606, early in the reign of James I, who had been James VI of Scotland before he succeeded to the English throne in 1603. James was a patron of Shakespeare's acting company, and of all the plays Shakespeare wrote under James's reign, *Macbeth* most clearly reflects the playwright's close relationship with the sovereign. In focusing on Macbeth, a figure from Scottish history, Shakespeare paid homage to his king's Scottish lineage.

Specific Revision Skills: Cornell Note Taking

Cornell Notes: Example

What do we notice?

The NOTES (yellow) are abbreviated and NOT word for word.

The CUE section (blue) has questions to remind us of the topics. The answers are NOT given – you should look at the questions when you study and form your own answers.

The SUMMARY section (red) has the main points and the answers to the Cue section. It is very short.

Physics: Cornell Notes	
Objectives: • 5 main points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Cornell Notes?? • Who came up with Cornell notes? • Why take Cornell notes instead of my own style of notes? • How do Cornell notes improve my retention and study habits? • How do I take Cornell notes?
What are Cornell notes?	What are Cornell notes?? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • widely used note-taking system in which your notes are organized in a systematic format.
Who created them?	Who came up with Cornell notes?? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1950's, Walter Pauk, at Cornell University
What is the purpose?	Why take Cornell notes instead of my own style of notes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organize your notes without any extra effort. • better understand notes when going back to study.
How will they improve my grade?	How do Cornell notes improve my retention and study habits? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeing it at least three times. • First, you write your notes. • Second, create a unifying question • Last, you write a summary
Cornell notes are a note-taking system developed by Walter Pauk in 1950. They are used to better organize your notes and promote better retention by seeing the notes at least three times .	

Step 1: Choose a small chunk of your target course.

Step 2: WITHOUT your notes in front of you, write down what you know in the large section of the notes.

Step 3: Add to your writing using your class notes.

Step 4: Write questions in the margin that you should be able to answer.

Step 5: Write a 25-word summary.

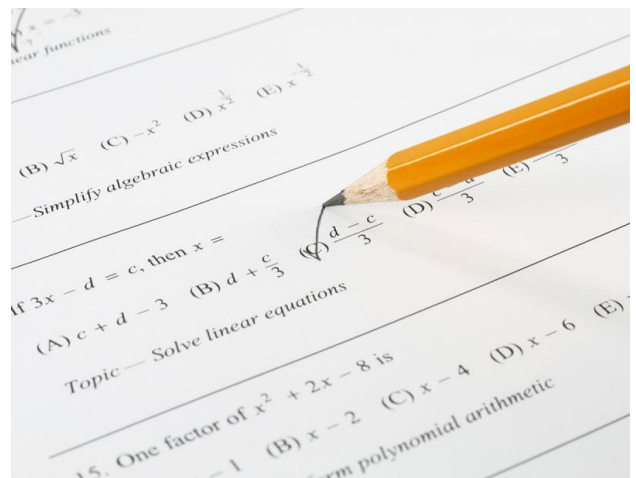
Specific Revision Skills:

Retrieval Practice: Past Papers

Step 1: Find out from your teacher what exam board you follow.

Step 2: Go to the exam boards website and download a past paper.

Step 3: Complete the past paper without notes.



Step 4: Go through again with notes and add to your answers in another.

Step 5: Only then should you download the mark scheme and check your answers. Act on what you got wrong. Can you revisit it or use one of the revision techniques to learn it?

This also works for content in revision books and text books.