

STUDENT HANDOUT: REVISION SKILLS

GENERAL RULES



DIFFERENT TYPES OF REVISION

MIND MAPS:

- Focus upon one topic per mind map
- Give yourself 5 minutes to create a map around one key phrase or word:
E.g Photosynthesis
- Use a Mind Map to test your knowledge on a given topic
- Add additional information in a different colour
- Use colour for each branch
- Develops semantic links and connections between information
- illustrate some of your points
- Don't use sentences – use keywords only

REVISION CARDS:

- Use for summarising key information
- Useful for maths – add examples for each key concept: e.g. simultaneous equations
- Use bullet points rather than whole sentences
- One card per concept or keyword
- Make sure they are accurate – refer to text book if necessary
- Create them as you go along
- Write a question on the front and the answer on the back –test yourself and each other
- Write a word on the front and the definition on the back
- Write the advantages of something on the front and the disadvantages on the back
- Place them around the house to aid memory

CHUNKING:

- Break information into small units – between 3 and 5 pieces of information is best
- This is particularly useful for learning dates, spellings, formula

MNEMONICS:

- Particularly useful for learning key dates and phrases
- Add humour
- Associate the first letter of the sequence with the first letters of each word of a memorable phrase or sentence



USE OF DIAGRAMS:

- Particularly useful for processes, such as in Biology and Chemistry and History
- Sometimes text boxes and/or diagrams are useful for revision for visual learners

READ ALOUD:

- Useful for auditory learners
- Prevents you from switching off
- Walk around the room whilst you are reciting information

HIGHLIGHTING NOTES:

- Especially useful for learn key words and dates

VISUALISING:

- See the information or content in your minds-eye as if you are there
- Visualising your notes

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

- Aids learning subject-specific vocabulary

WORK WITH A FRIEND:

- Keeps you focused and on task – provided you don't get distracted
- Ask each other questions about a topic
- Ask for definitions, explanations, dates, quotes...

USE REVISION APPS AND WEBSITES:

- Useful for practising questions
- Use for practising key terms, concepts and how to solve problems

EXAM QUESTIONS:

- Useful for testing your knowledge once you have revised
- Useful for finding out what you know
- Particularly useful for maths and science

REVISION GUIDES:

- Provide all the information you need in one place
- Useful revision quizzes and questions provided, with answers



EXAM TECHNIQUES

Highlight key words and directives

Read the question carefully

Use all the data provided

Be careful not to mis-read information

Use subject-specific vocabulary

Don't waffle

You need to make one point per mark

Do not be vague in your answer

Pace yourself

Write key formula and dates on the paper at the outset

Plan longer essays using bullet points

Work out how long you have for each question

Ask yourself: Have I answered the question?

Always check your answer

Is your answer worth the marks awarded?

Check for vocabulary, spelling and punctuation

Answer the questions which you can answer easiest first

Use all the time allowed to check your work