

REVISION TECHNIQUES

L.O-

- To understand how to revise in a way that is best for you.
- To practise revising 'Better Not Harder'.
- To learn brain friendly revision techniques.

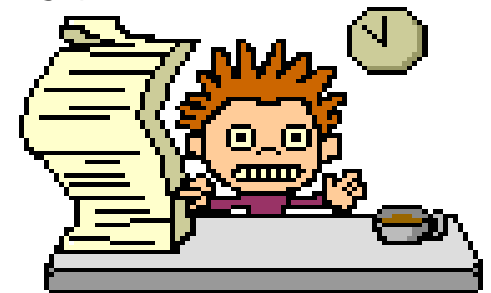
Please remember different techniques work better for different people!

When revising you could do the following:

1. Read through your books
2. If you do not understand something ask somebody.
3. Choose the memory tricks that work best for you
4. Create posters to help you to organise information
5. Create cards with key points and practice
6. Use past papers to practice answering questions



OR



FREAK OUT!



Your own notes are best.

Whilst revision guides can be useful, the more you personalise your revision the more effective it will be, so the notes you make are best. The process of making the notes is part of your revision and once you "own" the work it is easier to remember.



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Chunking



Chunking is breaking up a big piece of information into smaller chunks rather like steps in a ladder. It can be used for numbers and words. Often students use Bullet points to break up information.

Try to remember this by breaking it up into chunks:

The average person can take in four numbers or words at a time, can concentrate on revision for a maximum of 45 minutes at a time and remembers information best shortly before bedtime.

Chunked:

- ❖ **Remember 4 words/numbers at a time**
- ❖ **Revision max 45 mins.**
- ❖ **Remember best before bedtime**

Stands
For
Something

Mnemonics

Mnemonics help you to remember by using short words that stand for something to help you. Here is a Mnemonic for **REVISION**.

Rest

Exercise

Variety

Imagination

Structure

Individual

Ongoing

Not too long

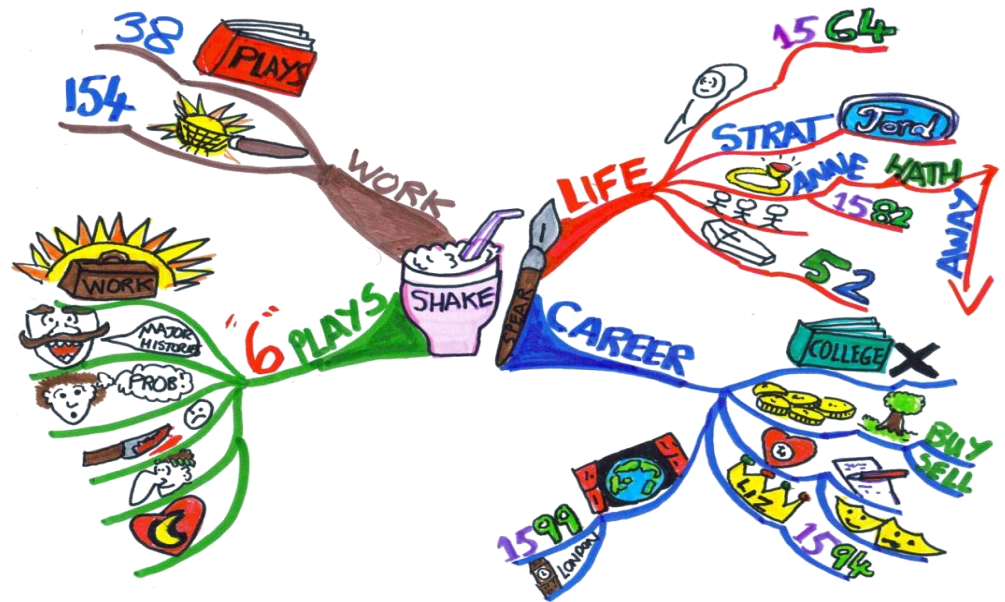


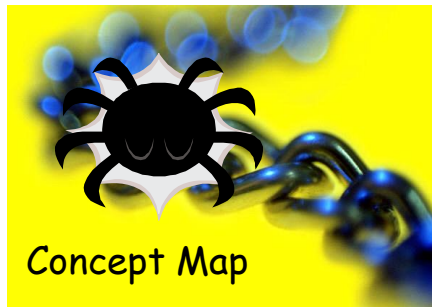
Association



Association helps a lot of people to remember, because it is much more powerful when we use our imagination. The idea is to link objects and ideas to each other in the craziest way possible.

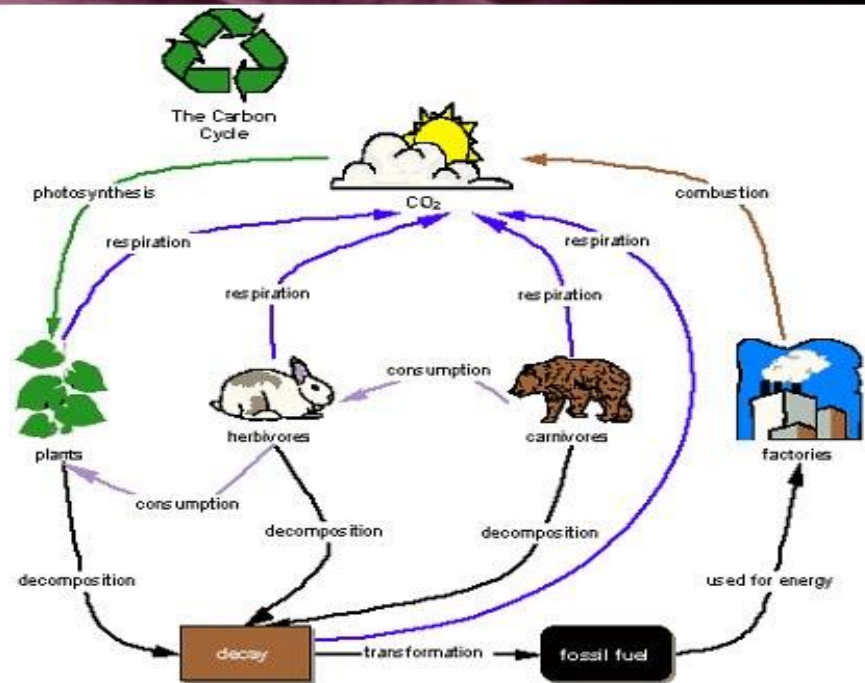
Mind maps (Also called Spider grams) are good for remembering topics and sub-topics, such as characters in a book. On the other hand concept maps are good for remembering items where the order is important, such as the storyline (plot).





Concept Map

2. Now imagine that Spider's Web falling down and turning it into some kind of weird chain with the words concept map on it. The spider can go backwards and forwards and around so he knows how ideas connect, but there are no sub-topics.



Card Cover



Two ways to practice with cards:

1. Put the answers on the back, but you will need to remember more at once before you check

OR

2. Use a piece of paper and move down to reveal answers as you guess the contents.

These techniques are very useful for checking that you know key facts.



Practice

QUIZZES

Test Cards

1. I read
2. I cover it up
3. I test myself



PAST PAPERS



LOCI

Loci is the memory trick of memory masters. It involves thinking about a journey that you know well and the landmarks along the way. You then add in images to help you remember information. (They do not have to be famous, but things that you notice as you go by.)



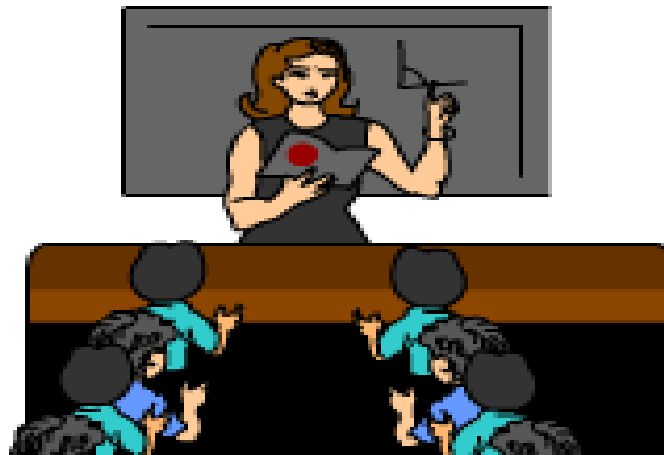
Now let us take a journey from **New Bridge** to **Macy's Academy**.

1. On the bridge itself you see a huge book
2. You reach the large roundabout and see your teachers, your last English lesson and the person that sits next to you in class.
3. You see the houses on the left and there is a magician performing magic tricks.
4. On a billboard on the fence of Macy's you see a huge poster with your revision on it.
5. As you walk into the gate you see a huge pile of revision cards.
6. When you arrive into the canteen you see test papers set out for you on all the tables.



By Rote

Learning by rote is simply reading the text **over and over until you remember it**. It is the most basic kind of revision, but **without the help of other techniques may not be very effective** and it can be **very boring**. There are a few students with excellent auditory memories, who can learn effectively this way.



By Rote

Read it again and again and again and again and again and again
and again and again and again and again and again and again and
again and again and again and again and again and again and
again and again and again and again and again and again and
again and again and again and again and again and again and
again and again and again and again and again and again and
again and again and again and again



Brain Friendly Revision

My Amazing Memory

listen to these words and try to remember as many as possible.

Now lets see how many you have remembered?

Which words did you remember?

- let's hear as many of them as you can remember.



Brain Friendly Revision

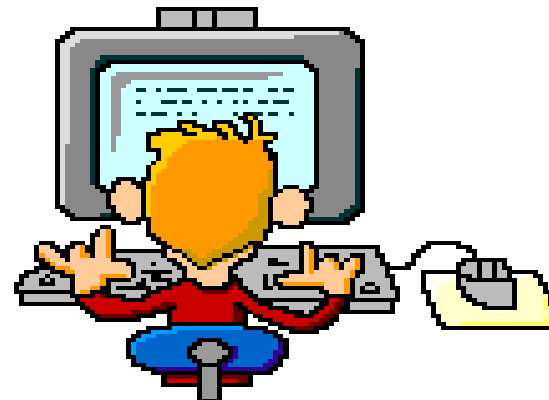
- You remember the words at the **beginning** and at the **end**, it's the ones in the **middle** that get lost
 - **why?**
- It helps to make categories of words in your mind - colours, modes of transport, moods etc.
- It helps to make links or associations - **fish, chips, peas, salt and vinegar**
- It helps if words are repeated - e.g. **'the'**
- Some words stand out
- Some words have strong emotion attached to them, e.g. **'exams'**



Brain Friendly Revision

OK, now we are going to try this again and this time try to focus on listening for categories and see how many you can remember this time.

I can tell you there are four categories of words in this list.



Brain Friendly Revision

Believe in yourself.

I can do this

Remember:



WHETHER YOU THINK YOU CAN
OR YOU THINK YOU CAN'T,
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

Brain Friendly Revision



Order/Sequence

Have a look through your notes/books and order or sequence the notes. Place them in a logical sequence so you can see how things progress. You may find a more logical way of seeing things.



Reading Out Loud

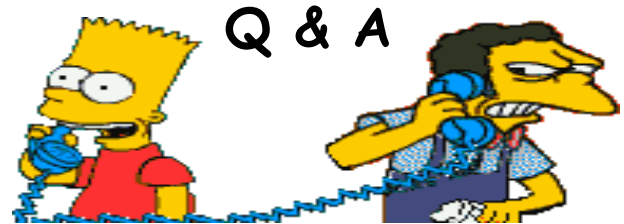
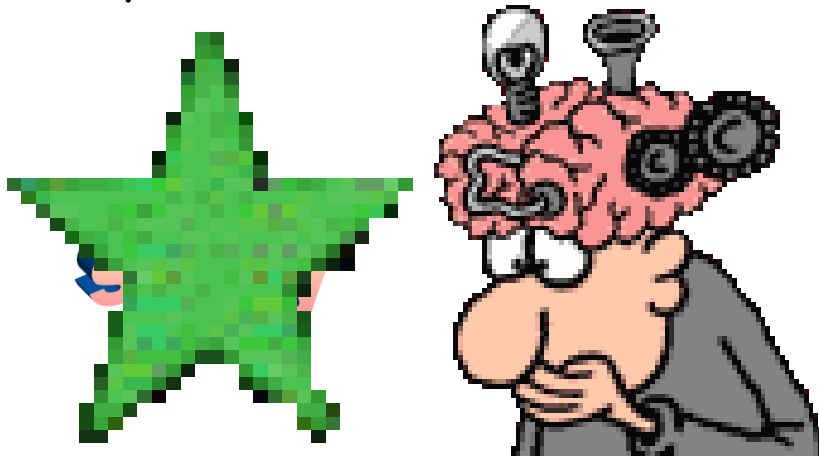
Read your revision notes out loud to a particular rhythm - this could be set by music playing in the background or tapping your foot or by walking calmly and steadily. This is a sort of walk and talk.



Brain Friendly Revision



Change key words in the topic for pictures or symbols or abbreviations and use those in your revision



Q & A

Devise questions and answers about a topic for other people and quiz each other.

You could think of doing a "Who wants to be a millionaire" game where the questions are graded according to the difficulty you choose.

Brain Friendly Revision

Questions



Ask questions before you revise anything. Think about the topic to be studied and take some time out to think about the questions you would like to have some-one answer for you. Write them down and as you read through your notes jot down any answers you find.

The brain likes looking for answers. Go and get help for any answers you do not find.

WHY? WHERE? WHEN? WHAT?

Post-its



Write information on post-it notes and place them on the wall, door, large sheets of paper etc. You can then rearrange them according to a variety of ideas:

- Group various things together
- Organise them into what you know and don't know - rearrange as you learn more
- Follow trends or themes

Brain Friendly Revision

Tapes

Make a tape for yourself to revise from. It could be you reading your notes out loud. It could be you singing your notes.

It could be you reading and then stopping to summarise what you have read (key words, ideas, phrases, quotations)

or



Asking questions on what you have covered.

Listen to the tape as you lie in bed, walk to school, travel on the bus.

Visuals

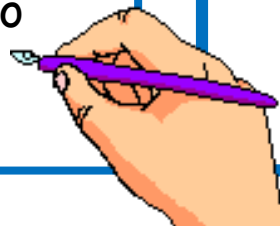
- Make good use of drawings /diagrams in your revision.
- Use different colours.
- Replace key words /ideas /people/places with pictures.
- Create and put posters up around your home.



Brain Friendly Revision

Highlighters

As you read through your notes use different coloured highlighters to pick out key words / themes / ideas / points etc. You could try a different colour for each theme or topic. There are revision websites where you can read revision notes and highlight as you go. You can use very small post-its to highlight things as you go along.



Underlining

- ❖ As you read through the work in your exercise book underline key words.
- ❖ You could come up with a predicted list before you start or you could make a list of the key words at the end.
- ❖ You could underline in different colours, patterns or lines like wiggly, thick etc.



Brain Friendly Revision

Make lists

- Bullet point them

Or

1. number them

Or

- a) letter them

According to what suits you best. Numbers will definitely suit those who are more comfortable using their left/logical, side of the brain.



Use Colour

Your brain just adores **colour** and will **remember** things much more easily **if you use it**.

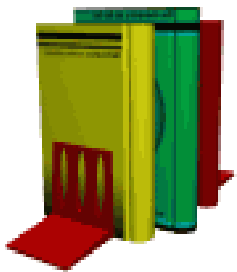
E.g. put all the important words in **red**, the important concepts in **green**, important dates in **purple** etc.



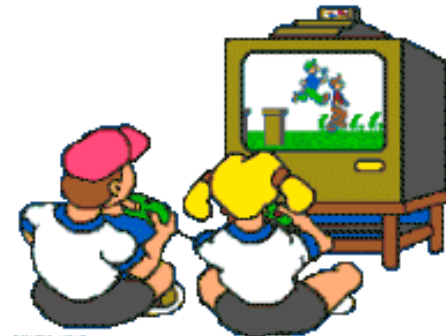
Brain Friendly Revision

Re-write the topic in
your own words.

Find out why you are
learning it—then make it
interesting
for you.



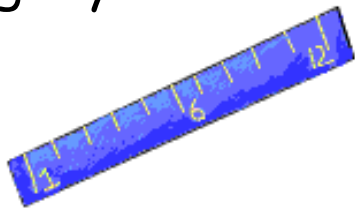
Reward yourself
Once you have learned
something give yourself
a treat. Go out with
some friends for an
hour, watch TV but only
once you have reached
your revision target.



Helpful tips. On the day:

Make sure you have everything you need.

- ❖ A watch
- ❖ Pens, pencils (spare or sharpener),
- ❖ ruler
- ❖ Calculator if needed and allowed (spare battery)
- ❖ A pen you can write with quickly, comfortably and legibly



Make the most of your short term memory. Learn the **10** most important facts whilst waiting to go into the exam and write them down as soon as you are allowed to pick up a pen.



In the exam

- Read:



- ❖ - the instructions.
- ❖ - all of the questions before you choose which to do.
- ❖ - each question carefully.



- Time yourself



Divide the time appropriately between the number of questions you have to do and watch the clock to stick to this.

Do not panic if you run out of time - but make sure you round off your answer even if facts are missing - conclusions are worth a lot.



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- Try this link to BBC webpage which gives you more information on MindMaps:
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/keyskills/extra/module4/1.shtml>