



Revision Guide for Parents



Should I help with revision?



Research and experience show that children whose parents/carers take the opportunity to be frequently interested in their child's learning make most progress.

Why encourage your child to start their revision early?

- It can reduce panic - it gives them control and confidence.
- It means exams reflect what they can do, not what they didn't do.
- It can help them to identify problem areas while there is still time to do something about it.

Where to start? When to do it?

- Help them work out how much time they have, being realistic.
- Get them to take into account their ideal time of day to work - work out when they will revise.
- Break it down to make it seem manageable.

What and how ? ! ? !

- Does your child know what they need to know...?
- What will actually be tested in the exam?
- On what day is the exam?
- When does the exam start and how long does it last?

Do they have the notes and material they need?

Yes:

Exercise books, textbooks, folders etc. contain the information they need.
Most revision guides have key information already summarised.

No:

If there are any gaps, encourage them to ask their subject teacher as soon as possible.

How can I help with Revision?

Helping with revision will encourage your child to develop positive attitudes to learning.

Encourage them to revise by **TASK** rather than **TIME**.

Encourage them to see the 'big picture' by creating a timetable or 'task-table'. (See pages 11 & 12)

Encourage them to follow **RADAR** (see page 14 in their Homework Diary).

Ask your child specific questions. For example, not '*What did you do in French today?*', rather, look at a page in their book and use it to ask questions e.g. '*What is white in French?*' '*How do you say... 'my name is'...*'

We learn:

10% of what we read

20% of what we hear

30% of what we see

40% of what we see and hear

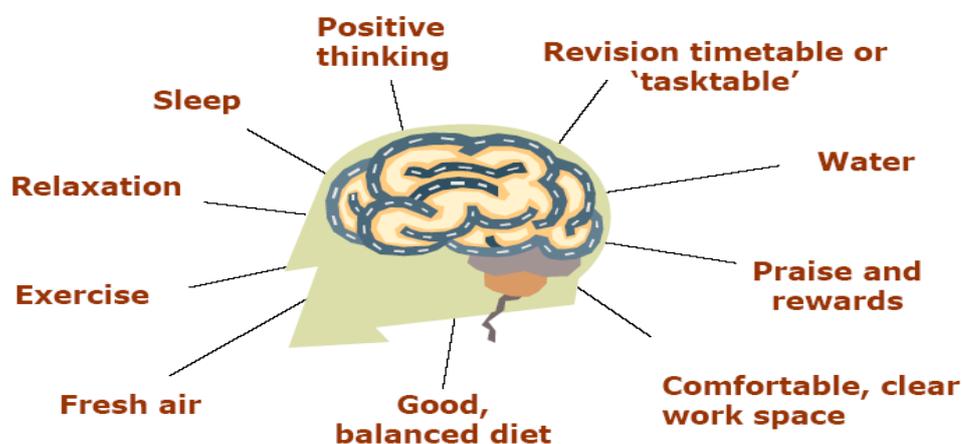
70% of what is discussed

95% of what we teach to someone else

This means that the best method of learning is having to explain or teach a topic to someone else, so ask your child to explain their work to you.

Ten Top Tips

... For keeping the Amazing Brain Happy



Learning Styles

Learners' preferences can be categorised as mainly:

Visual - people who learn best visually - colour, pictures, charts, diagrams
Approximately 29% of people have a visual learning preference.



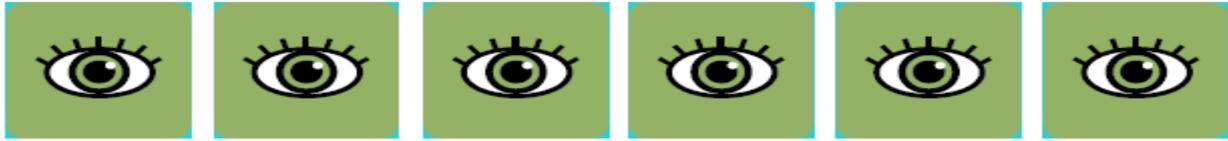
Auditory - people who learn best through what they hear - discussion, audio recordings
Approximately 34% of people have an auditory learning preference.



Kinaesthetic - people who learn best through 'doing' - practical activities, drama
Approximately 37% of people have kinaesthetic learning preference.



In practice, while most people will have a preferred style, they will benefit from mixing and matching techniques from different categories. Some of the following techniques may be helpful:



Visual:

- Use 'post its' and stick on wall.
- Summarise notes.
- Highlight or circle important information.
- Use a traffic light system to indicate progress in learning and action points.
- Draw diagrams, pictures, mind maps, collage.
- Display keywords around the room.



Auditory:

- Make up mnemonics, rhymes.
- Create a podcast and listen.
- Test yourself or friends.
- Be the teacher - teach someone else something you're revising.
- Create rhymes, chants, verses and dramatic readings.
- Use music for energising, relaxing, visualising and reviewing.



Kinaesthetic:

- Make your own PowerPoint.
- Create your own revision cards.
- Act topics out!
- Play a revision game on BBC Bitesize/other internet sites/iPad.
- Design and build activities.
- Use gestures or movements to demonstrate a concept

Examples of Revision Strategies

TECHNIQUE:

Making study cards

- Take key information from the highlighted text, make yourself a study card on that topic - You only need 20% of the words
- Use coloured pens/ highlighters/ pictures
- MAKE IT MEMORABLE!
- *Just MAKING that card is revision and is helping your brain to revise.*

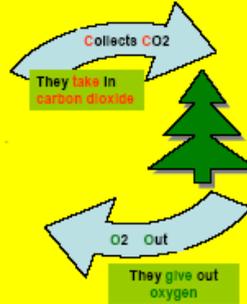
Study card example

Key facts - plants:

Need food



and light.



Plants need:

nitrogen
hydrogen
Oxygen
Carbon



Never
Hide
Our
Car

TECHNIQUE:

Making mnemonics

Mnemonics that you probably already know:

Never Eat Shredded Wheat

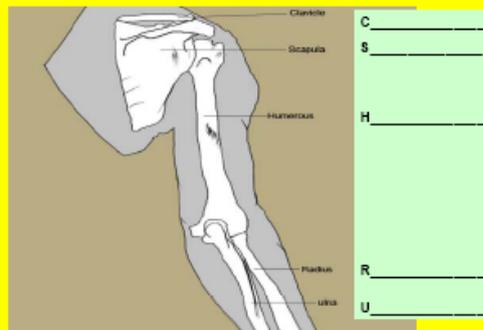
(North, East, South, West on a compass)

Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet colours of the rainbow)

Why and How?!

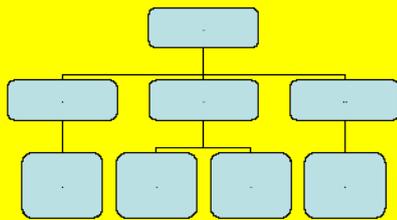
- Mnemonics give your brain a 'hook' to hang a memory on.
- You use the first letter of each word that you need to remember to make up a memorable catchphrase
- Try to make up a mnemonic to help you remember all the bones of the arm in order

The sections of the arm – use a mnemonic to learn them

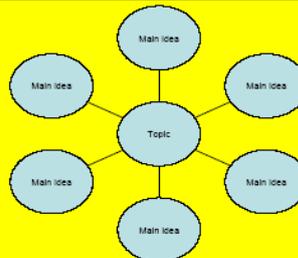


How about using 'CRUSH'?

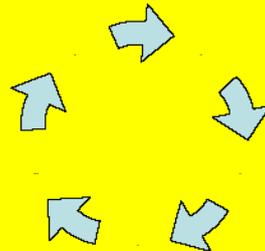
Useful to show hierarchy



Useful to summarise main ideas



Useful for showing processes



It is not just the making of the card that counts - encourage your child to revisit these cards over and over again.

Help provide the right resources for your child to revise actively:

Post-it notes
Pen, ruler, paper, scissors & glue
Internet access, if you have it
A dictionary
Highlighter pens
Coloured pens
Revision guides, revision CDs and podcasts
Notebooks / cards for keypoint notes

Help your child by asking the right questions:

When is your exam...?
What are you likely to be tested on...?
What do you need to take on the day...?
What strategies are helping you most...?
You've been studying...What can you teach me...?
What support do you need...?

10 tips for stress-free support

1. Be positive about your child's attempts. Make an appointment with their Head of Year if you are concerned about their progress.
2. It's a good idea if your child has a break and something to eat before starting revision.
3. Be patient! Help your child to become an independent learner. Explain how to look up information or find a word in a dictionary rather than simply giving them the answer in order to get the task finished.
4. Don't let working together become a chore. Make it a special time that you can both enjoy.
5. Turn off the television while revision is underway, but do let your child work to music if they find it helpful.
6. Agree a place and a time for help - listening while you do another chore can work too.
7. It doesn't need to be a marathon session; **little and often is usually best.**
8. Recognise your own emotional state - if you are tense or worrying about something else, it might not be a good time to work with your child.
9. Don't be afraid to STOP if it isn't going well. Try to agree what the difficulty is and when to come back together later.
10. ALWAYS end with praise (they'll feel good, you'll feel good). It should be enjoyable for both of you!

Hints for an Ideal Revision Area

providing some of these will go a long way to helping your child...



This booklet should be used to complement the other aspects of revision guidance that have been given to your child:

- the information in your child's homework diary
- the information on the BRA website
- material provided in tutorials
- subject-specific guidance from class teachers.

Technology - Embrace or Forbid?

Computers, laptops and tablets are now integral in most homes and can form the basis of how a lot of young people spend their free time.

Our advice to parents is to turn off social media while your children are revising. If you can encourage them to turn Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram etc. off, you'll find they will be a lot more productive and remember a lot more because they are not being distracted.

If you wish to let your child use an iPad or laptop for revision, but are concerned they may get distracted, you can use a form of 'iNanny' which limits or prohibits the use of social media while the iPad or laptop is in use.



There are some great apps and websites that can help with revision. For revising languages, we love Lingo - Tangible Translation that was built after winning the O2 Think Big Appskool competition. If you're looking for more revision based apps, check out:

1. Revision App - iPhone/iPad

Perhaps the most appropriately named App, the 'Revision App' supports students with revision on the move with over 1 million revision notes, flash cards and quizzes covering everything from GCSE, A-Level and University subjects. The app allows students to create their own flash revision cards with video, text or audio which can be saved for future revision sessions and sent to friends to support group studies.

The app accommodates different types of learner to help the student learn faster, whether they're a visual learner or they process information acoustically/kinaesthetically.

Price: Basic app is free. Add 69p for revision notes, flash cards and information on each subject.

2. Remember the Milk - Remember the Milk, iPhone/iPad

Not only does this app have a great name, it's one of the best organisational apps out there. The app has an attractive and easy-to-use user interface, and lets the student organise and prioritise lists, revision sessions, reminders and tasks the way they want.

Price: Absolutely free.

3. iMindMap - ThinkBuzan, iPhone/iPad

One for visual thinkers and learners, iMindMap is a brilliant mind mapping application that turns an iPad or iPhone into a personal brainstorming and thought-structuring device.

The app is great for dyslexic students, who often find visual learning a helpful revision tactic. It's a unique workspace for brainstorming, revising, note-taking and planning that will automatically cross-platform sync across iPhones and iPads.

Price: Absolutely free.

4. Oxford A-Z of Grammar and Punctuation - all Android phones

Every English student will love this one: the Oxford A-Z of Grammar and Punctuation App has 250 grammar themed questions, along with a lot of basic information about grammar and punctuation of the English language.

Not just for English students, this app will provide help across all subject areas and give students a boost to their grammatical skills.

Price: Absolutely free.

5. Exam Countdown - iPhone/iPad

Counting down the days, hours and minutes until the next exam is high on the agenda of students. Being able to visualise the order of exams helps students to prioritise effectively their revision sessions for each subject and to prepare effectively for their exams.

As the name suggests, this app is a countdown clock letting students input and know exactly how long they have before their exam dates. It's simple, but effective and allows students to prepare fully for all upcoming examinations.

Price: Absolutely free.

6. Explain Everything - iPad

This app lets you download web content; create notes and presentations, and then turn your revision into short video clips that can be opened at any time on any smart device.

Price: £1.99

Also, consider using the voice recorder and video functions to record yourself, and play back your revision thoughts at any time.

We hope you have found this guide helpful.

Thanks to Mr Dorman for putting it together.

**If you have any top revision tips which would be helpful for other pupils/parents,
please let us know!**

An example of a Task Table

TOPIC												