

Using colour

Use colours helps you make links. You can use colour to help you remember **dates**, **people**, **events** or themes.

Approach your revision as a whole – create a colour-coding key. For example - **Red** could be important dates, **Green** could be important facts, **Blue** could be important people, etc.

Once you start using it to colour code all of your notes, you will help your visual memory. You could help your revision by remembering that a particular topic has 4 **red** sections (important dates) and 2 **blue** sections (important people).

Mnemonics

Richard **O**f **Y**ork **G**ave **B**attle **I**n **V**ain

This is probably the most famous mnemonic ever. It helps you to remember the order of the colours in the rainbow – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

A mnemonic is a short rhyme, phrase, or other mental technique for making information easier to memorize.

Summarising with diagrams and symbols

Visual stimulation can really help some people revise. Sometimes **images** will stay in your brain more than words do.

Using your **note-taking cards** as a source, create a new set of cards or add **diagrams** to your notes. Instead of summarising your revision notes in words, summarise them using diagrams and **symbols**.

When you are in your exam and trying to remember **facts**, visualise the **diagrams** and **symbols** that you created – these should help you remember the facts.

Note Making and Key Facts

Making your own notes about topics you have to revise is one of the most effective ways of remembering a subject.

- Don't just rewrite information word for word. Read the information and then **summarise** it in your notes.
- *Read* your cards through regularly. Once you're confident you know the information write **Key Facts** about the topic on a card and revise from these. As you revise more, you will need fewer prompts to remember the information.
- Once you have summarised your **notes** on revision cards, stick **copies** of them all around your bedroom and bathroom.
- Make posters with **illustrations** about the key words in each topic and put them up somewhere you will see it every day.
- Review your **notes** and **key facts** frequently, so the material is fresh in your memory.

Vocab Cards

Knowing your **vocabulary** doesn't just apply to modern languages, but to all the subjects you are studying. Try making **sets of cards** to help you remember vocabulary and terminology.

- Write a set of **index cards** for each topic. Write the word on the front, and the definition on the back.
- For each word, try coming up with a **specific visual example** to help you remember the meaning.
- If the topic is very big, you could **categorise** the words into **sub-categories**.
- Choose a different topic to look at every day. Shuffle the cards and **test yourself**, or get someone else to test you.

Revision in pairs

Revising with a friend and ***testing*** each other can really help you remember your facts. The tester should pick a topic and then choose questions from your ***notes***. If you don't know the answer, make note of it so you can revise it more thoroughly later.

You don't always have to revise with a friend who is also taking the exam. Parents and family will be able to pick out questions to ask you, even if they don't understand the topic.

Questions

When you are making notes, think about questions that you may be asked in the exam. What questions would you ask if you were the examiner?

- Create a pile of **questions cards** for each topic you are revising. Write a question or term on the front of each card, and on the back write the key facts about the answer.
- Use your notes and text as a **resource**, but put the answer in key facts and in your own words if you can.
- Shuffle the cards.
- Pick a card off the top of the pile. Try to write down an **answer** to the question or **explain the term**.
- **Check** your answer against the key facts on the back of the card. If you have all the points correct then put the card to the side. If you have made a mistake, or missed out key facts then you need to **revise** that topic further. Look up the topic and see what information you have missed out. Put the card back at the bottom of the pile.

You can carry these cards with you everywhere and test yourself anywhere.

Mind mapping

A mind map is a stylised spider **diagram** that contains **information** in the form of **pictures** and **text**. Mind maps can be used to plot information about different topics in any subject.

When you create a mind map, try using lots of **colour** and include **diagrams** and **sketches**. This makes the information more interesting to your brain and hopefully makes your revision more enjoyable.

How to create a mind map:

- In the centre of a piece of landscape paper put the name of the topic you are creating a mind map about.
- Now draw the main topic branches. These need to contain the main categories of information that will be included in your diagram. You could use subjections of the topic, or if it is an essay try the: What? When? Why? Where? So What? technique.

Now add the **detail** on to your map. Once you've added details and diagrams, try to see **connections** and **themes** in your notes. If one area has a lot of notes on it, start a new mind map especially for that area.

Reading out loud

During your revision you will have used lots of different **methods** to create useful revision notes – try reading them out loud to help them stick in your memory.

Reading out loud means that you hear the information as well as see it. If you are reading notes in your head you may skip words or skim read. When you read out loud, make sure you read every word.

Hints and tips

- *Try taping yourself* reading your notes and then listen to them again.
- *Read different things* - your notes, textbook chapters, quizzes about information, your mind maps.
- *Try stopping during your reading to test yourself* by writing down notes on what you have just read, or trying to recite dates etc.

Talk out loud – explain science theories to your cat, tell your plants how you remember mathematic equations, inform your walls about historic events! Explaining or telling a story forces you to organise your thoughts.