


Exam success

What grade would you like to achieve in the summer?

**"THERE IS NO ELEVATOR
TO SUCCESS...YOU
HAVE TO TAKE THE
STAIRS"** 





ETONBURY
ACADEMY

GCSE Preparations

Thursday 9th November 2023

Presented by: L Jones

Welcome to our GCSE Preparation Evening

- Introduction
- The months ahead
- Memory strategies
- Revision strategies



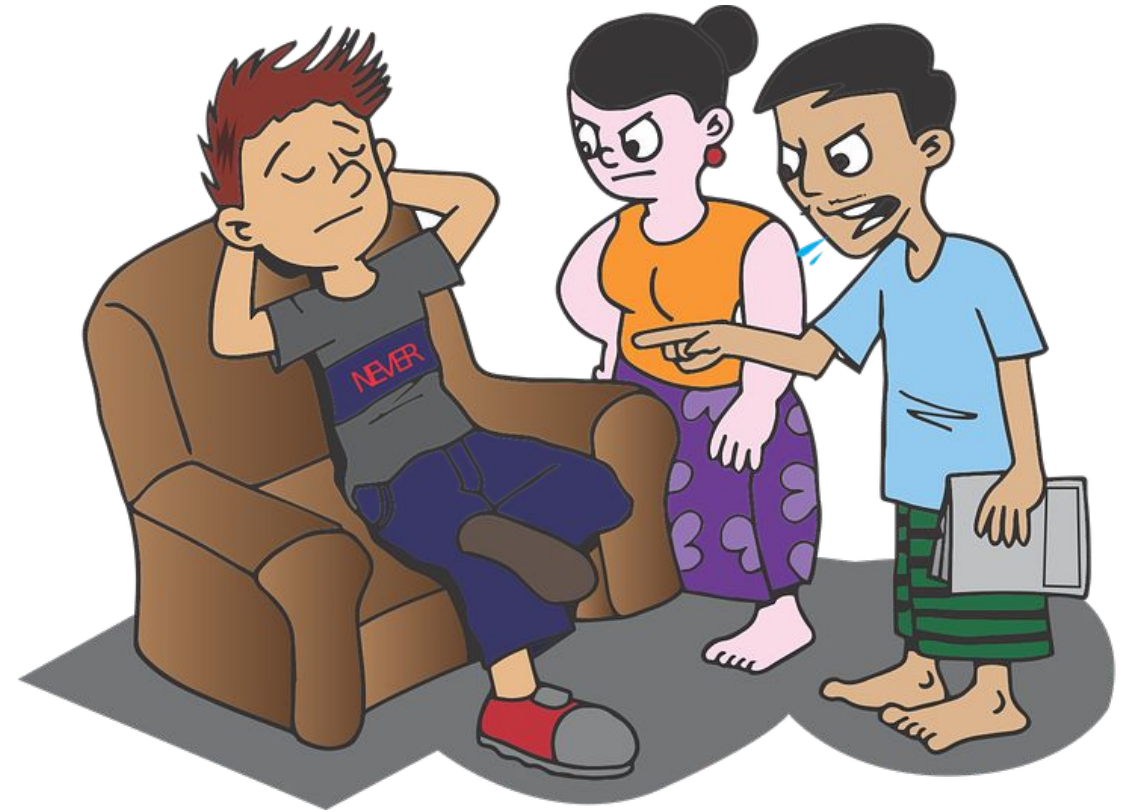


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Scenarios – which one will you choose?



VS



1. Create a realistic revision timetable.
2. Provide a quiet and organized study space.
3. Practice past papers.
4. Encourage healthy habits.
5. Stay positive and provide emotional support.





1. Create a realistic revision timetable.

Weekly Revision Timetable

Name: _____

Day	9:00 – 10:00	10:00 – 11:00	11:00 – 12:00	12:00 – 1:00	1:00 – 2:35	2:35 – 4:00 <small>(Revision / Break)</small>	4:00 – 5:00	5:00 – 6:00	6:00 – 7:00	7:00 – 8:00	8:00 – 9:00	9:00 – 10:00
Monday												
Tuesday												
Wednesday												
Thursday												
Friday												
Saturday												
Sunday												

***Remember: make sure you give yourself breaks and allow time to relax and do the things your want to do and enjoy doing./



1. Create a realistic revision timetable (EXAMPLE)

Weekly Revision Timetable

Name: _____

Day	8:30 – 10:00	10:00 – 11:00	11:00 – 12:00	12:00 – 1:00	1:00 – 2:35	2:35 – 4:00 (Revision / Intervention)	4:00 – 5:00	5:00 – 6:00	6:00 – 7:00	7:00 – 8:00	8:00 – 9:00	9:00 – 10:00
Monday						English	RE	Break	Music	English	Relax	Relax
Tuesday						Science	Break	Break	Maths	Geography	Relax	Relax
Wednesday						Break	Geography	English	Break	Maths	Music	Relax
Thursday						Maths	Science	Break	Business Studies	Relax	Relax	Relax
Friday						Play football	Break	English	Break	Maths	Business Studies	Relax
Saturday	Science	Maths	Geography	Science	Football	Football	Football	Football	Relax	Relax	Relax	Relax
Sunday	Geography	Football	Football	Relax	Relax	Science	maths	Break	Geography	RE	Relax	relax

*****Remember: make sure you give yourself breaks and allow time to relax and do the things you want to do and enjoy doing.**

- Chunking is taking big pieces of information and breaking it down into smaller, easy to manage chunks
- A good starting point is to look at a topic a student are revising, and break it into more manageable subtopics
- From there they can use effective revision techniques and it is not so daunting

Tip to parents/guardians:

Ask your child to break each subject down into sub-topics, and then use this to do their revision timetable.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday																														
<p>Date:</p> <p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>English</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Macbeth Themes</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td>✓</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Quotations that are linked to themes of 'Supernatural' and 'Conflict'</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!	✓			<p>Date:</p> <p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Biology – Stem Cells</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>What are stem cells?</i><i>Where are they found in animals?</i><i>What can they be used to treat?</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>What are the ethical issues with the use of stem cells?</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓		<p>Date:</p> <p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Medieval Medicine:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Surgery</i><i>Public Health</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!			✓	<p>Date:</p> <p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>English</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Paper 2, Question 5 – Practice Writing in Timed Conditions</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Using a variety of sentence starters</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓		<p>Date:</p> <p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Physics – Ohm's Law Equation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>What is the equation?</i><i>How do the IV graphs show us if they support ohm's law</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!			✓
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<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Medieval Medicine:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Ideas about causes of disease</i><i>Treatments</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Medieval Surgery</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓		<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Geography: Living World – Deserts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Location, Distribution</i><i>Climate, Soils and Adaptations</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Characteristics of Deserts</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓		<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Physics – Drawing IV Curves</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>What are the graphs for diode, resistor and filament lamp?</i><i>How do you experimentally obtain the graphs?</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Why do the graphs look like they do?</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓		<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Chemistry – Bonding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Ionic bonding properties</i><i>What do they bond?</i><i>What do Ionic Bonds look like?</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Move on to Covalent Bonding and compare with Ionic Bonding</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!			✓	<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Geography: Living World – Deserts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Desertification – Causes and Solutions</i><i>Sahel Desert Case Study</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!			✓
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<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Physics: Electricity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>What are the current and voltage rules for Series and Parallel circuits?</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Electrical Circuit Symbols</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!			✓	<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>English</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Sign of Four – Re-Reading Chapter 1</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Be able to summarise the chapter in four points</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓		<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Biology – Therapeutic Cloning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>What is therapeutic cloning?</i><i>How does therapeutic cloning happen?</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>What are the advantages of using therapeutic cloning over a transplant?</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓		<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>Geography: Living World – Deserts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Sahel Desert Case Study</i><i>Opportunities and Challenges</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Opportunities and Challenges in the Sahel</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓		<p>Subject Topic (Revision 'Chunk' up to 30mins): <i>History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Renaissance Medicine Pioneers:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Vesalius</i><i>Fate</i> <p>Rate how you feel about your knowledge of this after revision:</p> <table><tr><td>Not sure</td><td>OK</td><td>Great!</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>I must recap:</p> <p><i>Hawkey</i></p> <p>Revision Guide Page Number:</p>	Not sure	OK	Great!		✓	
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<p>Other notes from this cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Must continue on with Biology and Chemistry revision next week</i><i>History – Review Germany topics</i><i>English – Attempt more timed questions within my revision</i>																																		

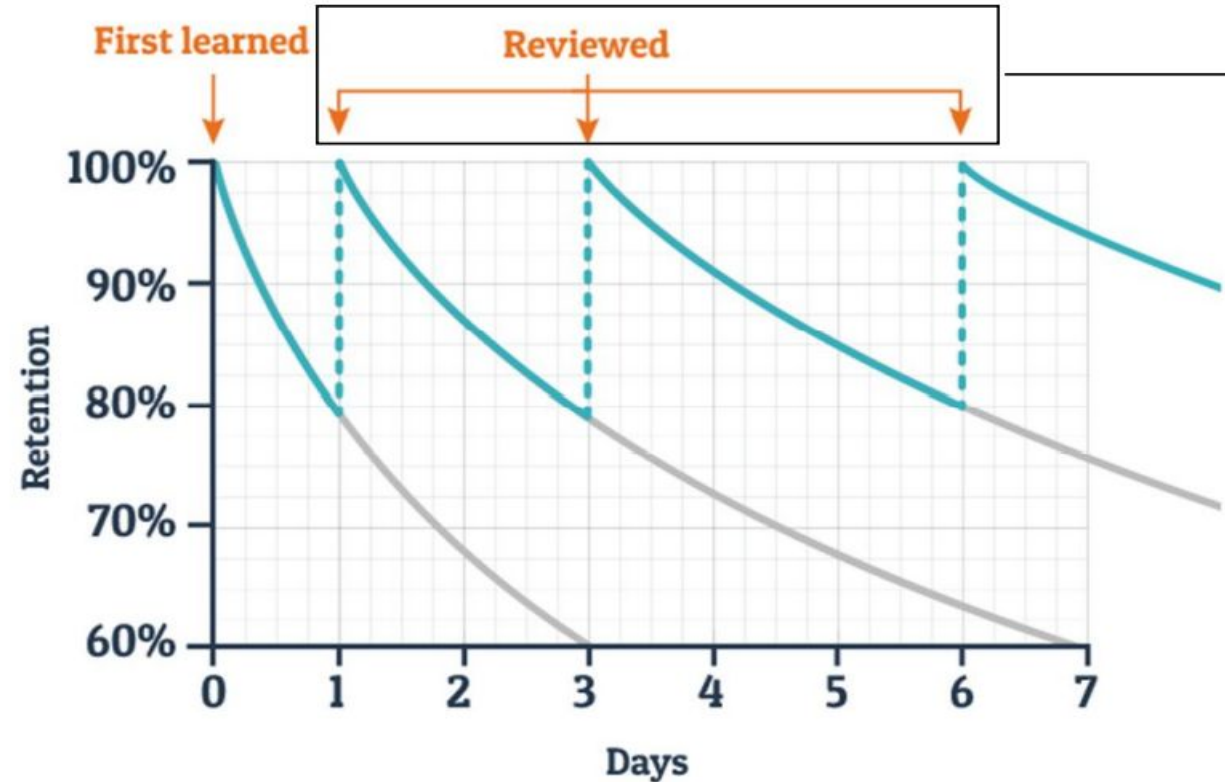
- Start with the most important or most difficult subject topics.
- Split the knowledge content of subjects into manageable chunks... Choose a 'chunk' at a time to memorise...Review and recap...
- Space the subject topics out to ensure you cover them and review your revision on a regular basis.

Why do we need to revise?

1. Reinforce learning
2. Improve retention
3. Boost confidence

We all forget things!

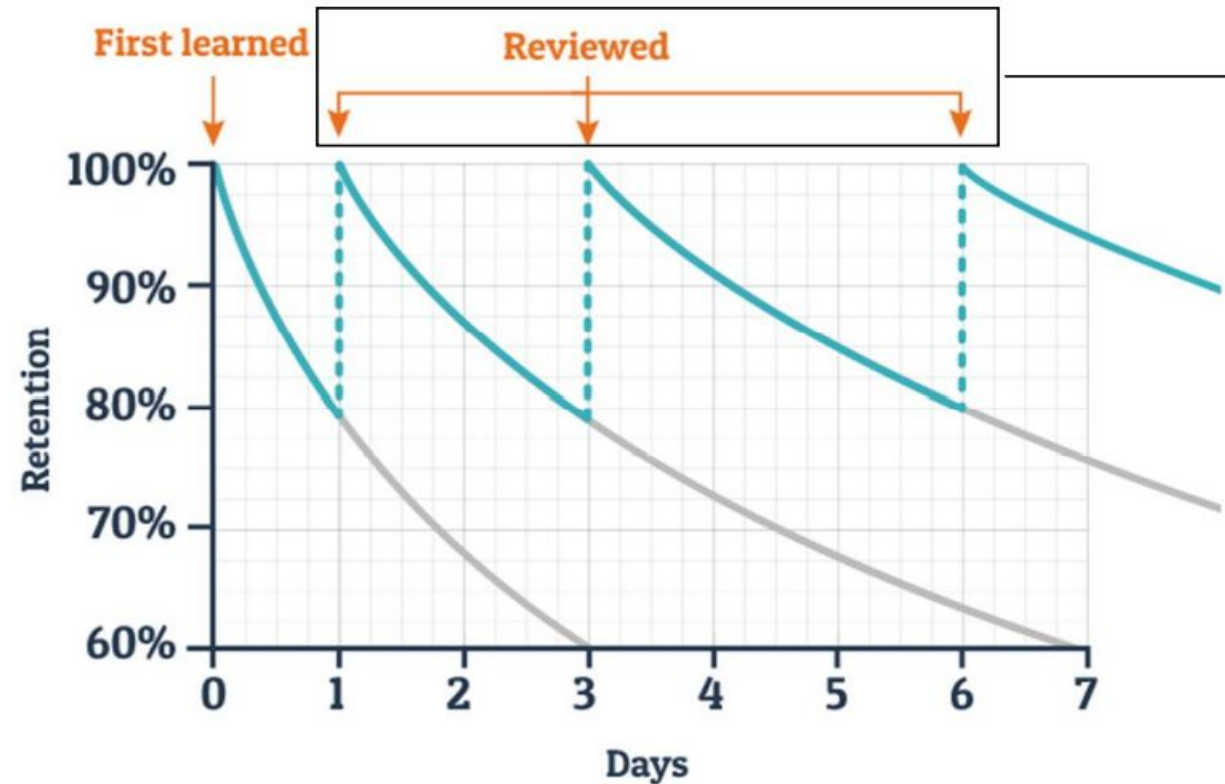
Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



Regularly reviewing and using information in a variety of ways improves our 'retrieval capacity'.

Our 'storage capacity' is virtually limitless but if the information is not used, retrieval capacity approaches 0%

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information





Effective revision **must** involve:

Application

Understanding

Memory / Knowledge

Flashcards are the staple revision technique of any student.

Short flashes of important facts and figures stick in your memory.

When making flashcards, use the specification.

Phrase your flashcards as questions

Take the time to try to think before flipping over your flashcards.

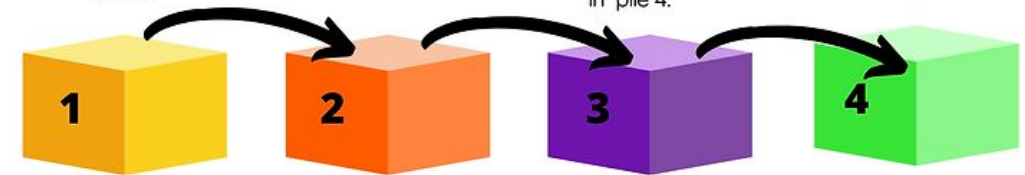
Introducing the Leitner System

All flash cards start off in pile 1 .
As you review the cards, each card you answer **correctly** goes into pile 2.

If you give the wrong answer the card stays in pile 1.

When you review cards in pile 2, if you **get it right** you move the card to pile 3 and so on until all cards are in pile 4.

If you answer a card incorrectly in any pile it moves back to pile 1 for you to go over again.



The whole idea behind the system is that flashcards you answer incorrectly are revised more frequently . This is the perfect way to focus your revision.

You can choose the frequency that you revise each pile however, a suggestion is:

Pile 1: Every day

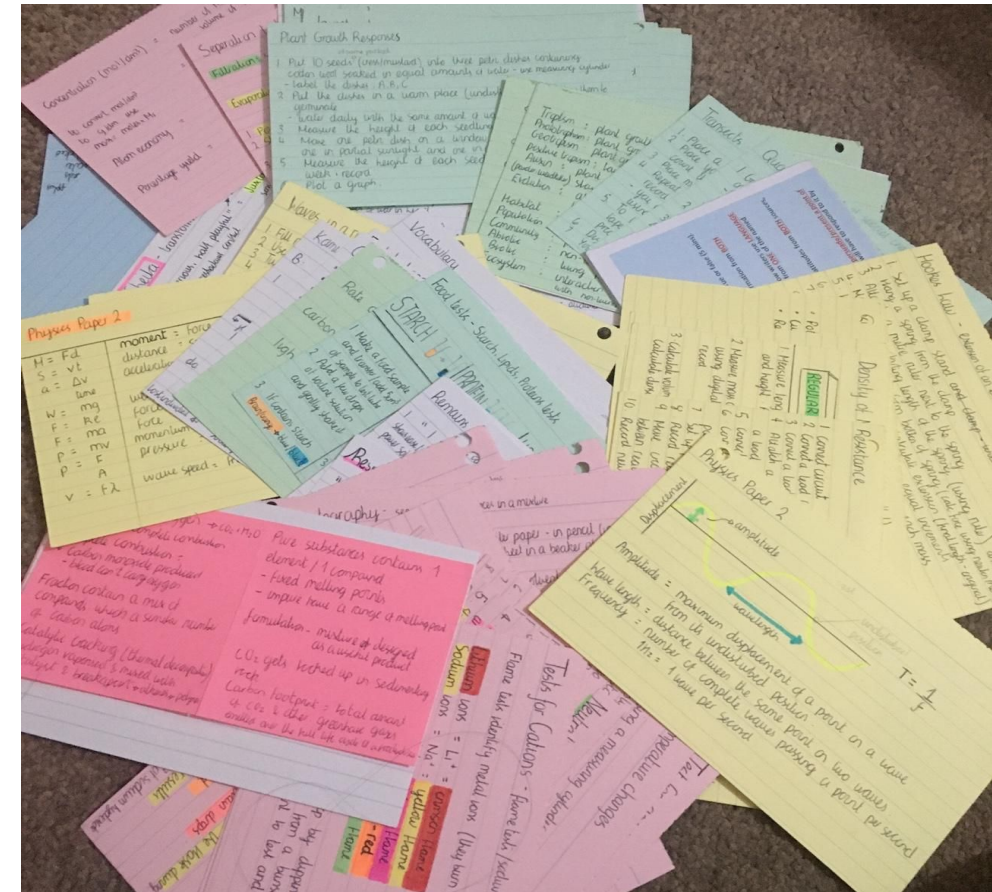
Pile 2: Every 2 days

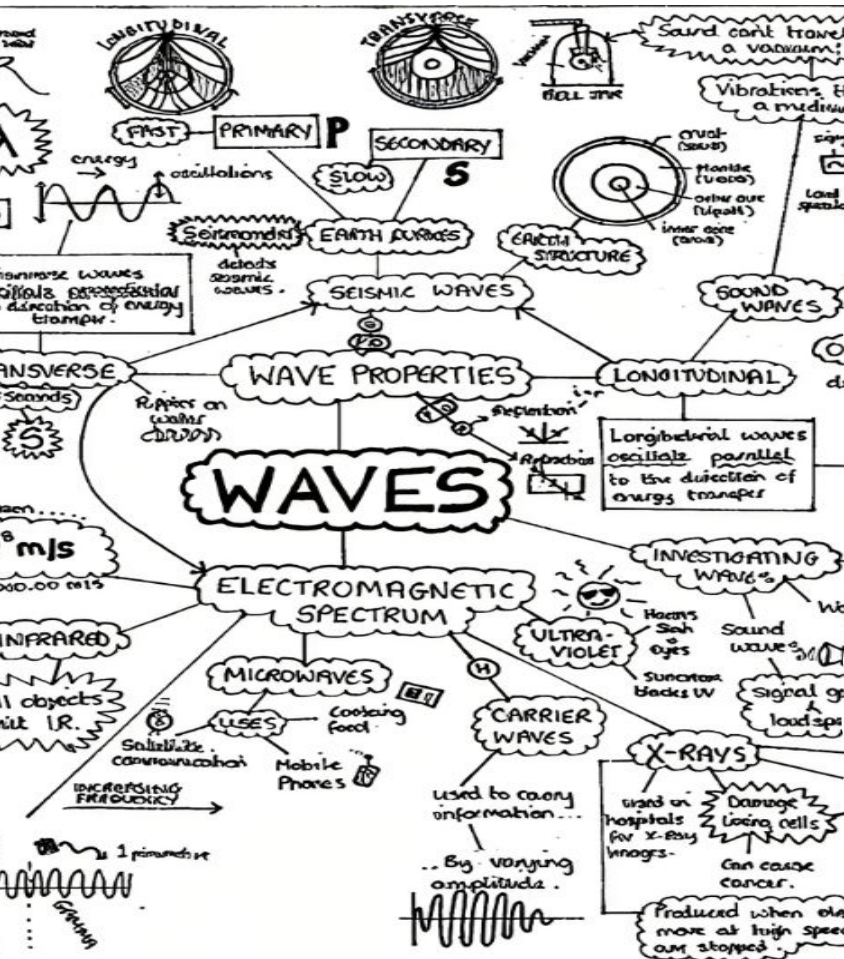
Pile 3: Every 3 days

Pile 4: Every 4 days

Flashcards Tutorial -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H67INevrLg4>



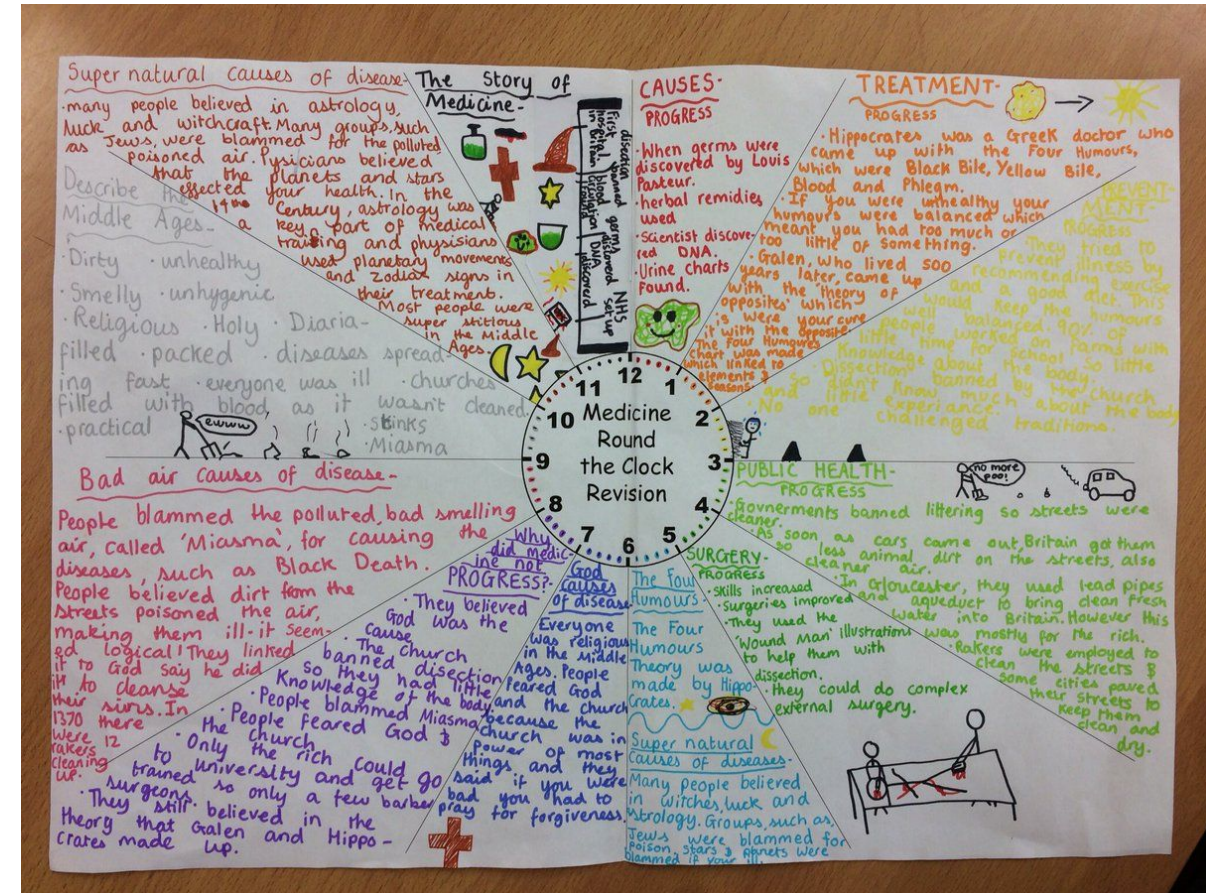
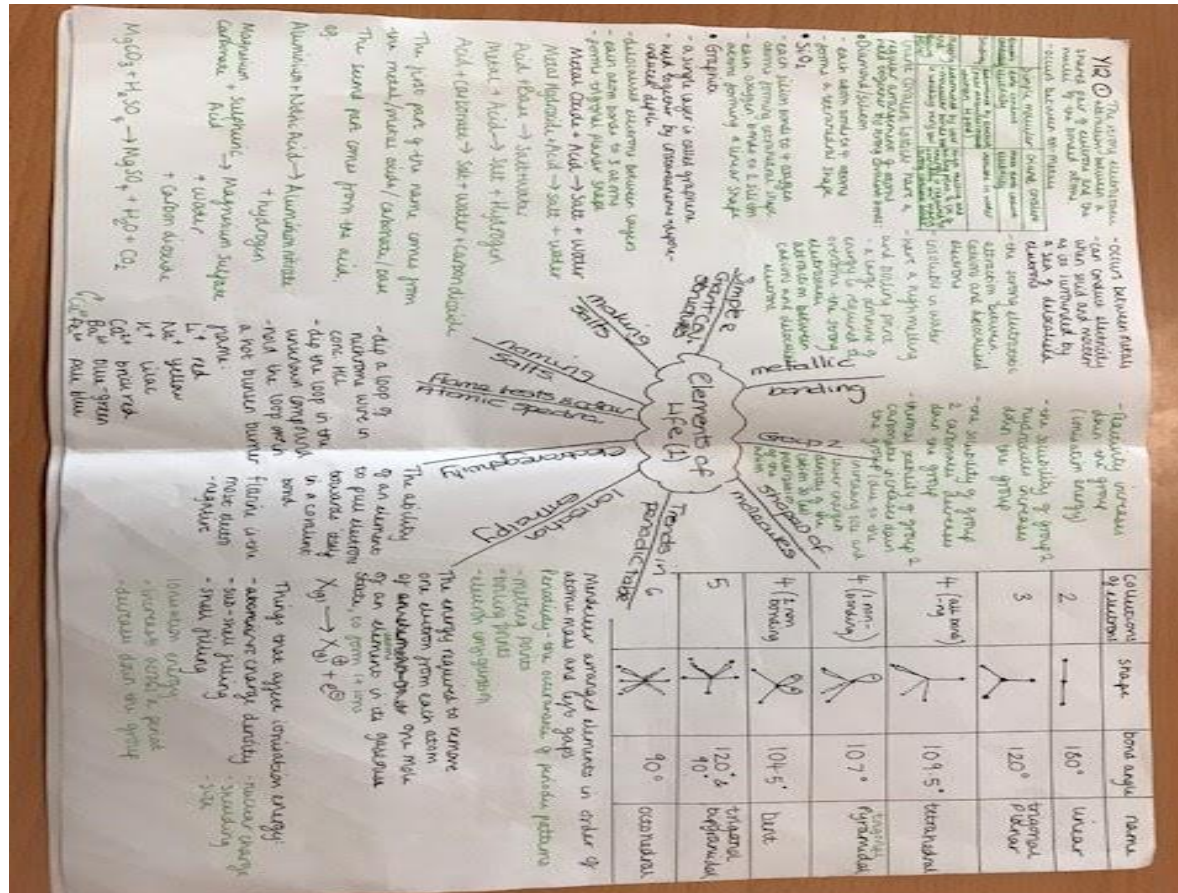


- *The best mind maps can help you revise a whole topic's content within the space of half an hour.*
- *The secret key to effective mind maps is memorability.*
- *Adding drawings to different parts of your mind map will make it so much easier to remember. (duel code)*
- *They should be used at the start of a revision session. Then **APPLY!***
- *Highlight the areas that you know a lot about, this then identifies the areas that you don't.*



Mind maps tutorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcOHqs0ygpQ>



Teach someone else: 'Protege Effect'!



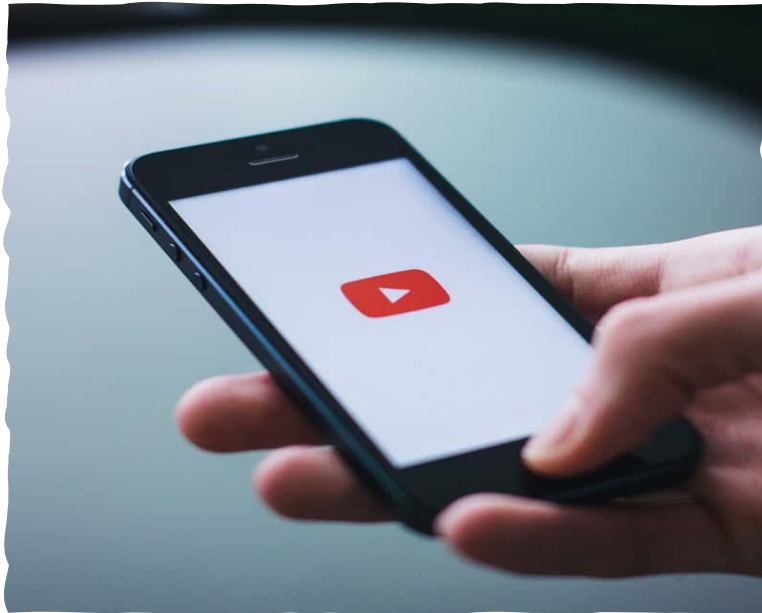
Tip to parents/guardians:

Pretend to be the student and ask your child to teach you about the topic/ subject area. You could hold their cue cards or revision notes and prompt them. Or tell them what they missed once they have finished!

- The protégé effect is a psychological phenomenon where teaching, pretending to teach, or preparing to teach information to others helps a person learn that information.
- ***Helps improve your own understanding*** of a subject or topic.
- *When you are teaching someone, they will ask a lot of questions. Each of these questions you will have to explain in detail. Therefore, it is very likely that they will ask a few questions you won't know the answer to.*
- **Similar to mind maps, teaching someone else reveals those hidden gaps before you reach your exam.**



- ***Available for every subject.***
- They improve your knowledge of the content, but they also boost your exam technique.
- Ways to use:
 1. ***Most common (and most simple) way of going through past papers is to do all the questions in the allotted time, and then check your answers after.***
 2. ***Take as much time as you need to do the questions. Just work on getting them right with full marks, and then move onto full exam style***
- ***Just make sure you're not constantly looking at the answers. They won't be during an exam...***
- ***Save your past papers until just a few weeks before your exam.*** Gets you in the exam mood and transitions from revision to the real thing.
- ***If you can't find any go to your teachers!***



- Videos are great for revising, as long as you're watching videos on your course content.
- *Hearing something explained in a different way can be the difference between you not understanding a topic and you being the master of that topic.*
- *There are lots of great websites and resources that can all be accessed through our KS4 revision website.*

- **Make sure you don't end up on the dark side of YouTube! Don't drift off.**

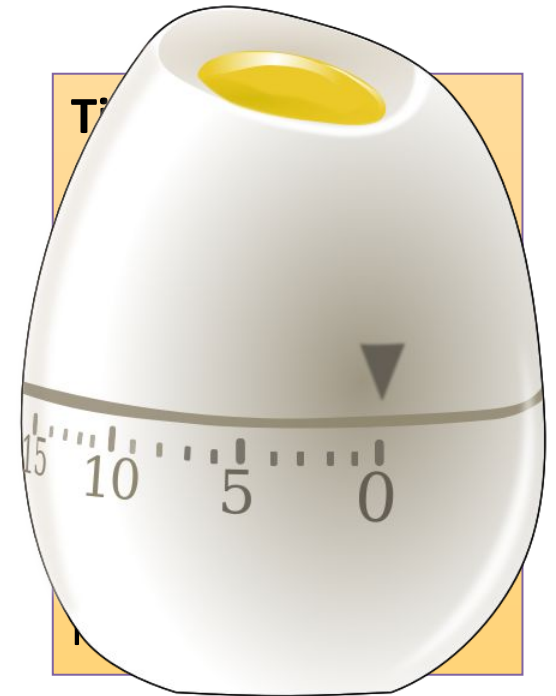
- Mobile phones (selfcontrol app)

- Just 90 seconds on a mobile phone per hour means a student loses 30 hours of valuable learning time per year – and that's before they even start revising



The Pomodoro Technique

- This time management technique was developed by Italian psychologist Francesco Cirillo in the 1980s
- Getting a very basic egg timer (not one on your smartphone) and setting it to 25 minutes is probably the best mental preparation you can do for revision.
- There is a simple rule – when the timer is ticking, you are working.



**“If it begins, it rings.” –
Francesco Cirillo**



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We hope this has helped you to feel empowered in supporting your child to take control of their assessment preparation.

It is a marathon not a sprint!

‘DO SOMETHING TODAY THAT YOUR
FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU FOR’