

Revision Techniques a guide for students....

Don't let this be you...



Plan ahead!

Revision Techniques

There are many effective ways to revise, the key is to use the techniques that work for you and experiment with new techniques and this in itself will command information to be stored in your long term memory ...

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Revision cards</u></p> <p>Put a simple piece of information and/or a picture on one side of the card, and a full explanation/definition on the other. This is particularly useful for revising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Key people or dates ◆ Formulae ◆ Key words ◆ <p>There are also some fantastic flashcard Apps on the Appstore and in the Android Marketplace – both free and paid. Some even allow you to draw pictures. Just search for ‘flash cards’.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mindmaps</u></p> <p>Put the main point (e.g. ‘human reproduction’) in the middle of the sheet. Coming out of this, put subdivisions for this topic.</p> <p>Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pictures/diagrams ◆ Colour-coding <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Revision Powerpoints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Summarise main points ◆ Devise your own Q & A’s ◆ Deliver to friends studying the same subject 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Traffic lights</u></p> <p>Highlight your notes in terms of how confident you are with different parts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Red/pink = priorities for revision; things you really don’t understand ◆ Orange/yellow = things you have some understanding of ◆ Green = things you are confident about <p>Once you’ve done this, you can apply other revision strategies to the things you have put in pink/red.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Practise exam questions in timed conditions ◆ Write your own mark schemes ◆ Get a friend who is studying the same subject to check
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Post-it notes</u></p> <p>Write short, sharp notes about things you find it hard to remember, and stick them in places where you know you will look (light switches, the kettle, by the toilet roll...).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Colour coding</u></p> <p>Come up with a colour-coding system for your notes. For example: key words are in one colour, case studies in another, positive/negative points in another. You can also apply this to mind maps or revision cards.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Write mnemonics or rhymes</u></p> <p>Writing these for yourself can help you to remember sequences of information, especially when they need to be in a particular order. For example: My Vicious Earthworm Might Just Swallow Us Now = planets!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Work with a friend</u></p> <p>Do your revision with someone else who wants to revise the same thing. You can help each other out if you’re stuck, and test each other.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Write summaries</u></p> <p>Write a summary of each section of your exam; condense an entire set of notes into one A5 set of bullet points.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Make recordings</u></p> <p>Record yourself saying key things and play them back. Mobile phones all have a voice-recorder function, as do all computers (as long as they have a microphone).</p>

Revision using Digital Technology

Using digital technology can be an effective way to revise and there are 100s of free 'apps' for your child to download and 100s of supporting revision websites that will support your child during this stressful revision period. Here are a recommended few for starters...

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YouTube: have many clips on 'top tips for revision' and are subject specific

Padlet can be used through Facebook so you can ask revision questions to your friends and create a conversation and /or question and answer session with a few or a group of friends

'Get Revising': a free website that offers practical support for young people in terms of organising and creating revision materials

GCSE Bitesize: This 'tried and tested' website is very useful in summarising the key facts and figures for most subject areas.

Google "GCSE Geography revision – oceans on the edge" For interactive Geography revision

SMART phone apps: there are 100s of FREE apps your child can download. Go to the App Store or Google Play Store

Mobile Phones: Your child can use the 'reminder' facility on their phone that offer key facts and figures throughout the day!

IPods/IPhones: Your child can record their own voice and listen to it through their IPod/iPhone (*people will think there're listening to music so all 'street cred' is maintained!!*)

• At City Academy Norwich we strongly recommend the following websites/apps:

- Gojimo – a free app to download that helps students to pass their exams
- www.gcsepod.co.uk - a great way to download podcasts for specific subjects, it allows you to select the exam board and gives you practical hints and tips on revising for exams (also a link on the website).
- Pixl Maths App – Centre id – CN1466
Username (eg) TEMPLEK
Password TEMPLE – All capitals!
- Maths watch - Centre id Cityacademy norwich
Username – (eg) ktemple
Password – canmaths



Doddle – username – LisaSmith

Password- norwich (unless student has changed it) link also on CAN website

Understanding Command Words

Make sure you understand the nature (meaning) of the command words that commonly come in examination questions.
If you are unsure ASK YOUR TEACHER!

Assess	Make a judgement on something, using evidence
Compare	Identify the similarities and differences
Contrast	Identify the differences
Discuss	Look at something from a range of perspectives – this may involve looking at several sides of an argument.
Evaluate	How good/effective/useful is something? Give arguments from all perspectives, and then make a decision.
Explain	Give a reason for something
Interpret	Say what something means to you/someone else
Justify	Give reasons for a situation, or explain why something might be seen as acceptable

Top Tips for Revision

Formal examinations and the necessarily heavy revision schedule that accompanies this can be highly stressful your child. There are some simple yet effective things that can be done in order to reduce the levels of anxiety / stress.

(See the 'Family Revision Guide' posted on this section of the website for further details on this...)

1. Take regular breaks
2. Do chunks of revision between 30 minutes - 1 hour at a time and have small break in-between.
3. Eat healthy food to keep you awake, energetic and able to concentrate
4. Work with a friend - test each other
5. Plan treats for yourself too - sport, TV, music, some social networking etc to look forward to
6. Keep checklists so you know what you've done and what you haven't
7. Prioritise things that you understand the least, or that are coming up soonest
8. **Do not** just read your notes - this doesn't work. Simple. (See revision techniques for advice about effective ways in which to revise)
9. Revise somewhere quiet and calm
10. Devise and stick to a revision timetable
11. Practise examination style questions in timed conditions after a 'block' of study
12. Ensure you understand the meaning of 'command' words used in examination questions so that you can *answer the question correctly*



Revision Tools

know which ones help you

- Flash cards – active recall
- Dingbats and other quizzes
- Mind maps
- Notes
- Post it notes – stick them all over the house!
- Record yourself and listen to it through headphones – no one will know that you are listening to!
- Past paper questions
- Revision guides