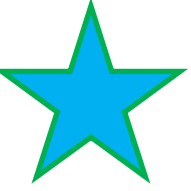




GCSE Revision

Tips For Parents



GOOD and BAD revisor:

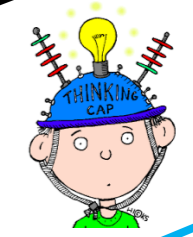
What is Revision? It means literally 're-looking' at information you have learnt previously. The aim is that you know the information you will be tested on and can remember it in the exam.
The aim of Revision: To reduce the amount of information relating to a subject to a series of key points, any of which you can expand upon in an exam answer. The key point, phrase or word prompts your brain to retrieve the information stored in it.



Active Revision:

Active revision involves you actually doing something with the information you are trying to learn and not just sitting there staring at a revision guide or textbook. Active revision techniques allow you to chunk down course content and process it in a number of ways, making it easier for you to learn it. Remember, people revise best in different ways. In other words, the most effective revision technique is a personal thing so choose what works well for you so long as it is an active technique. This is **ESSENTIAL** to allow your brain to learn, make connections and remember.

Revision Technique: Make your revision **ACTIVE** or **INTERACTIVE** rather than passive. Passive revision is just simply reading your notes or copying them. While this is better than nothing, research shows that you will remember more if revision is **active** or **interactive**.



1. Make bullet point notes in your own words from your exercise book, textbook and/or revision guide.
2. Condense your revision notes onto small index cards or blank postcards with just the key facts and key words.
3. Draw spider diagrams & memory maps with small pictures, symbols and key words. Particularly effective for visual learners and helps to show how concepts are linked together.
4. Use colours and highlighters to emphasise important parts of you notes.
5. Write keywords or concepts on post it notes and stick them all over the house so you can challenge yourself as you walk around (the back of the toilet door is an old favourite so you can revise on the loo!).
6. Use mnemonics, rhymes or even songs to help you remember things.
7. Practise doing past exam papers that your teacher has given you. Then use the mark scheme or your textbook/notes to mark your answers.
8. Ask a friend or parent to test you by asking you questions, using a revision guide, textbook or your own notes.
9. Record your revision notes onto your iPod and then play them walking down the street or during your paper round!
10. Use one of the websites recommended to you by your teacher but don't just surf the web looking for revision websites because you will get distracted and the site might not be suitable for the GCSE course you did.

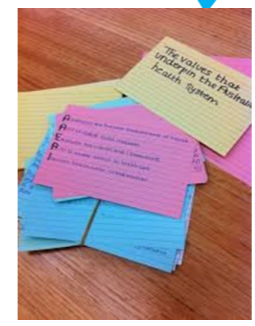
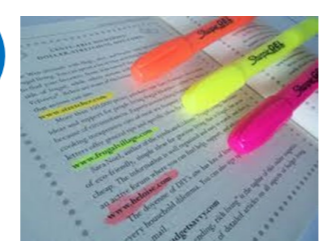
Supporting your child in setting themselves up for and doing revision

- *Talk to your child about how you can support them and what they would find helpful.
- *Help your child to plan their revision timetable. It will take an investment of your time, but it is the single thing that will make the biggest difference to the effectiveness of the revision and therefore the outcome.
- *Children vary in the amount of support they need at each stage of the process. Support your child in sticking to their revision plan and keeping to the start and finishing times they have agreed.
- *Praise them when they do it, and if necessary agree a reward structure.
- *Be flexible – use the 80/20 rule. If your child is sticking to the plan 80% of the time they will be doing alright, so if they want to go out to a party on a revision night, agree when they will make the time up.
- *Be sensitive to the pressure your child is feeling – let them know that if they are really not up to it on odd days, it isn't the end of the world – let it go when it really matters to them, and remind them of all the good work they have done and will continue to do. It's the big picture that will count in the end.
- *Keep up with regular 'check ins' (see check-ins bubble for more info) and don't nag in between times. Show an interest in how the revision is going, talk through any difficulties and be prepared to help them reschedule their planning as necessary.
- *Keep things in perspective – your child may not be doing things the way you would do them, or as often as you would like, but they are doing the best they can in the way that works for them at the stage they are at.



Helpful websites:

- <http://www.wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk/curriculum/key-stage-4>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>
- <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/>
- <http://www.sparknotes.com/>



Check-Ins: agree regular 'check-ins' where you are 'allowed' to discuss with your child where they are in relation to each subject's deadlines, areas they're enjoying/having difficulty with etc. Once every 2 to 3 weeks is a good aim. Having a set time to discuss work beats nagging which is often how teenagers perceive adult interest in their progress.