

Revision Techniques

What works for YOU?

What is revision?

It is quite literally 're-looking' at information you have already learnt. It is an opportunity to just go over and consolidate what you already know.

What is the aim of revision?

To ensure that you know about the key topics and questions for each exam and that you understand them in order to answer effectively.

Through this your extensive and detailed notes should be reduced and you should focus on the key aspects of each topic you cover.

Good revision techniques:

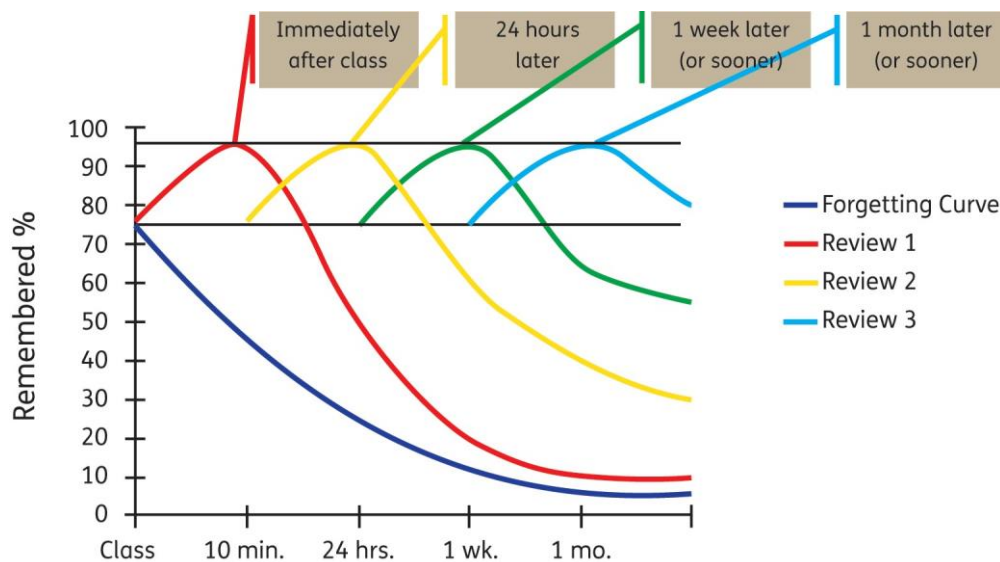
- Always have an aim for every revision session and ensure that it is achieved by the end of it.
- Break things down into small and manageable chunks.
- Test yourself and then address the areas you don't know.
- Revise each section of every topic by doing something that makes you remember it. You won't remember by just reading.
- Focus on key points, phrases, quotes, formulae or words not just lots and lots of notes.
- Keep testing yourself to check what knowledge you have developed.
- Keep a list or log of topics and key areas of revision. Tick this off when you have achieved it as it boosts your confidence.
- Revisit your notes briefly after a day, week or month, as well as just before the exam or assessment. By doing this it will stay in your longer term memory.

Effective revision:

- It is important to actually do something in order to learn the information as your brain learns best this way. We all learn better in different ways but by putting an action with the information will make it stick better. Think about what works for you.

Students who do their best in the GCSE exams work hard all through Year 11 rather than relying on last minute revision. It is best for students to start revision early and to keep revising during the year by doing little but often. This will give your child time to review what he/she has studied and to strengthen the memory and this will avoid the panic of leaving things to the last minute.

This diagram called the Ebbinghaus Forgetting curve illustrates how information is quickly forgotten unless it is reviewed at spaced intervals.



You can support your son by helping them to follow these tips and techniques:

- Do not revise for more than one hour without taking a 5-10 minute break. Have a glass of water or something similar to drink.
- Stay focused. Hours can be easily wasted on social networks and mobile phones.
- In the evenings after school, plan to revise one or two subjects for one to two hours. Leave some time for relaxation.
- Plan to revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once.
- Ensure that each revision session starts by tackling the most difficult topics first.
- Plan to cover each subject several times and revisit each one nearer to the exams.
- Revising or studying with the TV or radio on or with loud music is not a good idea. Quiet background music may help some students.
- Reading is not enough. Making brief notes in either words or pictures will help students to remember.
- Answering questions from past papers, sometimes under exam conditions is a good way to test learning.
- Don't leave revision to the last minute.

Revision techniques

Visual

- Write notes on post-its and stick on walls
- Make notes on key ideas
- Summarise notes onto card
- Highlight/circle key information
- Draw pictures diagrams, mind maps, graphs
- Display key words around your room
- Create a picture in your mind of what you have studied

Auditory

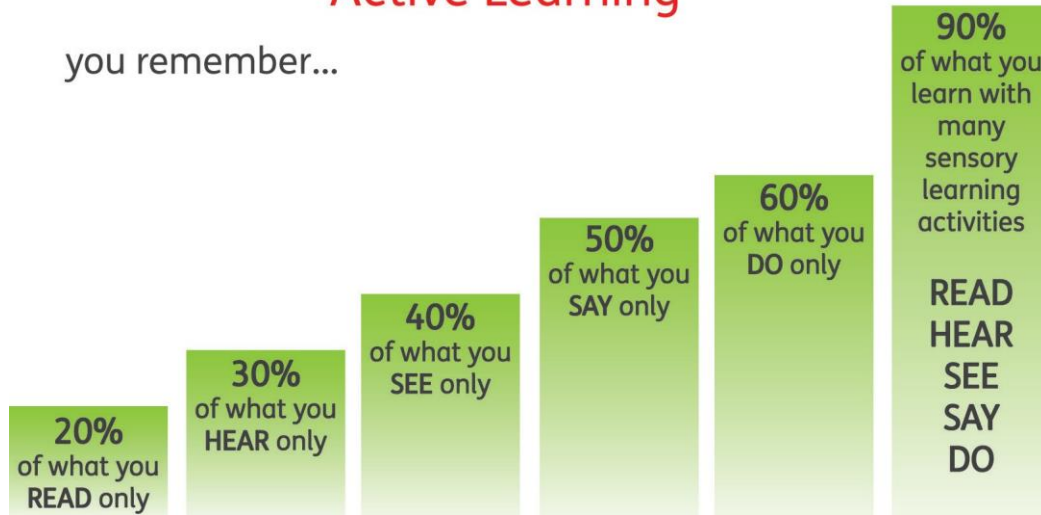
- Make up rhymes, mnemonics (e.g. Never Eat Shredded Wheat – North, East, South, West)
- Test yourself or your friends
 - Get someone to test you
 - Teach someone what you have revised
 - Read your notes out loud or record them and play them over and over

Kinaesthetic

- Create revision cards
- Act topics out
- Use gestures to demonstrate concepts

Active Learning

you remember...



Parents Role

The school has an important role to play and provides the expertise and resources to help your child to gain the skills that they need to do their best in each subject. However, one of the hardest tasks for Year 11 is to understand the long-term importance of doing the best they can now in the interest of the long-term benefits of education and exams.

Year 11 students differ in their levels of maturity, their ability to take responsibility for their learning, organisational skills and levels of motivation. This is where you come in. You are the expert on your own child and have always been his or her most important teacher. Your support, encouragement and interest can make a big difference to your child's motivation and ability to cope with the academic and organisational demands of the exams.

Your role may include some or all of the following:

- **Attendance officer** – making sure your child attends school on time and understands the importance of making the most of lesson-times. Government statistics show that there is a link between attendance, punctuality and results at GCSE. Everyday lost in attendance reduces your child's chance of achieving their best.
- **Partner with school and child** – going to parents' evenings, asking questions and finding out how you can best help your child at home.
- **Provider of the tools** for homework and revision
- a quiet space for study, pens, paper and other necessities.
- **Banker** – paying for the tools, files and revision guides they need.
- **Study buddy** – showing an interest in the subjects, helping with homework (but not doing it for them), testing them when they ask you.
- **Adviser** – helping your child to break tasks down so that they are manageable, keeping a subtle eye on progress and celebrating achievements. Seeing a positive way forward when things go wrong.
- **Project manager** – agreeing the rules for homework or revision, helping them to make a realistic timetable, balancing work time against recreation time and reviewing the plans as necessary.
- **Go-between** - for your child and the school when necessary; making sure problems are addressed quickly.
- **Information provider** - finding copies of old exam papers, searching out websites, finding out about the subject, exam structures and content.