#### **MNEMONICS**

Mnemonics (or Acrostics) help you to remember by using short words that stand for something to help you. A common mnemonic is, 'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain', to remember the colours of the rainbow (Red, Orange, Yellow etc.). Here is a Mnemonic for REVISION. Make your sentences or words as memorable as possible. The sillier the better, when it comes to acrostics.

Rest

**E**xercise

**V**ariety

**I**magination

**S**tructure

Individual

On-going

Not too long

What they're good for: Learning a list of key words or concepts or the structure to apply to a certain type of answer.

#### MIND MAPS

Imagine a Mind Map is like a giant Spider's Web with all the ideas around it. The spider (or main idea) is in the middle and everything is around it. The most important ideas are in the middle and the sub-topics go out further and further. The key is to remember that a mind map is a visual tool and the following rules should be applied:

- 1. Use a key image to represent the topic at the centre
- 2. Use large branches for the main topics and smaller branches (branching off) for the sub-topics
- 3. Make each main branch a different colour
- 4. Use lots of images that will trigger your memory
- 5. Use key words and phrases, don't write too much text.

What they're good for: Testing your knowledge of a whole topic. Getting everything you need to learn onto one page. Good for visual learning (using images to trigger memory).

An alternative to this is making big mind maps on the floor using post its and string/ strips of paper. You would have to have used the post its to identify key words, ideas/knowledge and then scatter

them on the floor using the string/strips of paper to make connections with the content.

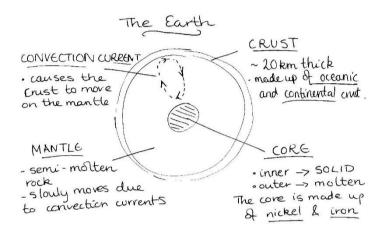


## FLASH CARDS / QUESTION CARDS

Flash cards are a great revision technique because they allow you to condense your notes onto a set of small cards, which can then be used to test yourself later. It is worth spending time on your flash cards using images, diagrams and colour to make them visually appealing and to break up lots of text. The process of creating revision cards is great revision in itself, as you are identifying key information. Once created, your revision cards can also act as Question cards, perhaps with the answers on the reverse?

Good flashcards include some or all of the following:

- Bitesize chunks of information
- Main points
- Mnemonics
- Colour coding
- diagrams
- Keywords
- Definitions
- Lists



As you revise, you can form a pile of topics you are happy with and a pile, which you need to spend more time on.

What they're good for: Visual learning and summarising your understanding of a topic in one diagram.

#### **TEACH IT**

The best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else. Adopt this approach with your friends, at home or perhaps during your revision lessons. Each students (or pair) becomes specialists in a topic and prepare a 5-10 minute session to teach it to their friends. Use any techniques and activities you like. When you have done, swap over and let someone else teach their topic.

What it's good for: Those who like learning with friends. Learning topics in-depth.



#### AUDITORY REVISION (SONGS, PODCASTS AND RECORDING YOURSELF)

Auditory revision can be done in a number of ways. One is to use your phone or computer to record you explaining a topic. This way, you can listen to yourself at any time. You might also be able to find podcasts you can listen and/or watch created by your teacher or one you have downloaded from GCSEPod (accessible through the school portal). You should also speak to each of your teachers to identify the best sources for revision videos and podcasts. For example, http://www.my-gcsescience.com/ is a fantastic source of short revision videos for GCSE Science. Youtube is a great source of support. Ask your teachers if they recommend any particular channels/sites.

What they're good for: People who like to revise on the go



use run

take sleep go watch see study

sing

### **REVISION GAMES**

When revising with friends try to make your revision as active as possible and incorporate quizzes, board games or even a version of your favourite quiz show. These techniques will add variety and (hopefully) some fun to your revision by competing with your friends. Playing the games is great revision, but time spent making them is just as valuable. QUIZLET and MEMRISE are a good place to start!

What they're good for: makes revising more fun. Good if you like revising with someone else

#### PAINT COLOUR CARDS

Go to your local DIY and 'obtain' some colour swatch cards in order to help you explore a topic in depth.

Once you have the colour charts you can carry out a variety of tasks, such as:

- Subject vocabulary
- **Definitions**
- **Processes**
- Reduction of information
- Synonyms of a word on each colour
- Verbs/adverbs/
- Nouns/pronouns
- Word and then an opposite word
- Alternative words to overused words such as big, said, then
- Write what you know, want to know and will learn
- Create similar keyword cards

Exam questions- 2/3/4/5 marks



What they're good for: Memorable, great way for organising information, colourful

#### COOTIE CATCHERS/FORTUNE TELLERS



These are good for key words, concepts and chunks of knowledge.

You can make your own or you can type in to google 'cootiecatcher templates' You will need colours, imagination and knowledge.

/ What they are good for: These are a great way of organising learning as well as being fun and memorable.

#### **EXAM REVISION MAT**

Create a mat of 'key content' for a topic. Add questions to generate deeper understanding; challenge and evaluate knowledge. You could produce separate revision cards from the answers. When finished, think about how you can make it visually appealing and use colour to link ideas together. A good idea is to use cue cards to revise the information and then make an exam revision mat to consolidate and reinforce learning.

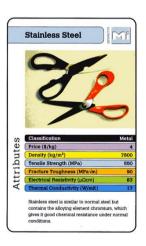


What they are good for: Visual and compacts information.

#### TOP TRUMP CARDS

These are useful for most subjects. They are particularly useful for revisiting knowledge and significance of things or people. They are good for recording categories, hierarchy (most/least important), definitions, reduction of information and comparison and evaluation of contribution of people or character in such subjects as RE, History, English Science.

What they are good for: Visual, interactive, collaborative when Playing games, memorable and great way to organise learning.



# PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Practice questions are an excellent way to revise. Although it is unlikely the same question will come up in your exam (although it might!), practise questions help you test your knowledge, practise time management skills and understand what to expect from the exam. You should collect a variety of practise exam papers from your teacher and build them into your revision plan. It is always good to finish a revision chunk with some practise questions to test what you know - 'practise makes perfect'.

What they're good for: Well... practising!