

How to revise effectively



Effectively: in a way that produces the intended result or a successful result.

Revise/revision: the process of learning work for an exam

Effective revision makes our brains work and helps us to remember the information.

There isn't just one way to revise.

The best way to revise is using a range of different techniques.

However, whatever you choose to do is best done in short bursts (20 minutes at a time, before having a 5 minute break before revising for another 20 minutes and so on). This helps to keep you motivated.



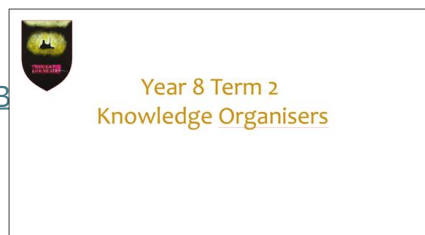
Research shows our brains can work best on a task for 20 minutes, before needing a short break. This can maximise our brain's potential for revision.

Why plan in short 5 minute breaks when revising?

- It helps keep you on task
- Your brain will struggle to remember additional information after 20 minutes without a short break
- It helps us to become more productive

Where will you get the information to revise from?

- English: Knowledge organisers and exercise books
- Science: Knowledge organiser and BBC Bitesize. Revision Monkey videos: <https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyf3OO9ddzgngB>
- Maths: Sparx Maths (online), Sparx club and KO's
- German: Phonics on Languagenut; vocabulary and grammar books (as well as your knowledge organisers).
- Geography: Knowledge organisers
- History: Knowledge organisers, and additional hand out
- R.S: Knowledge organisers



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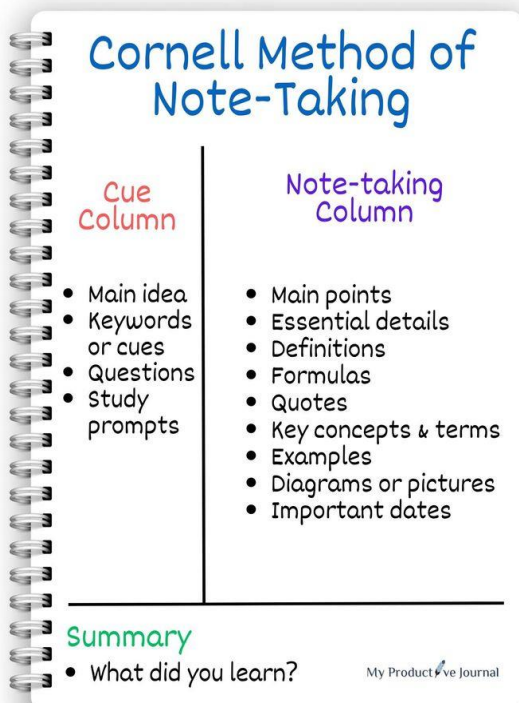
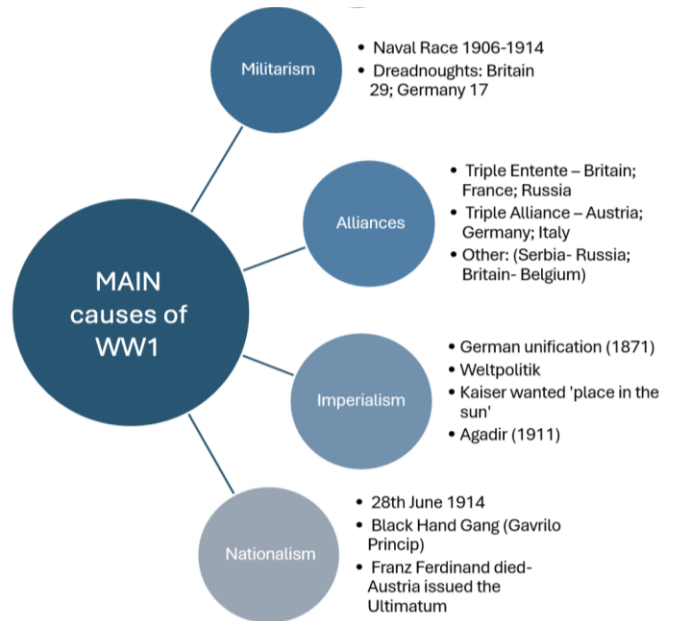


Look, say, cover, write, check

This is good for remembering key words/phrases, as well as dates.

Mind Maps

- Summarise the key information from your knowledge organisers
- Use the 'branches' as stems with each topic
- Use it to ensure you've included key words/concepts



Cornell Notes

- Summarise the key information from your knowledge organisers
- Use the side as headings for key words/ideas/titles
- The main information, ideas, diagrams go in the biggest part of the sheet

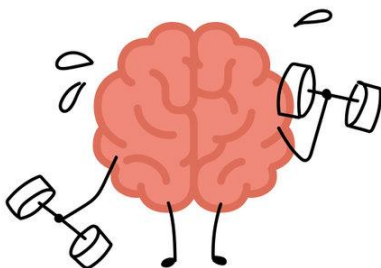


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Flash Cards/testing

- Summarise the key information from your knowledge organisers
- Each flash card can be a different key word, or enquiry question, for example:
 - Why is the climate changing? (Geography)
 - What were the consequences of Industrial Britain? (History)
 - What are the major organs of the body? (Science)
- The best way to use Flash Cards is then to get a friend/family member/carer etc to test you on the question. This is because it gets you to think about the questions.



What do effective revision environments look like?

- Phone away (silence notifications)
- Somewhere quiet (e.g. library, a quiet space in our homes etc)
- Ensure you have a good night's sleep before effectively revising
- Somewhere away from other distractions e.g. TV/computer/gaming consoles etc.
- Make a plan – don't just revise things you want to revise/subjects you find easy!
- Positive mindset throughout!

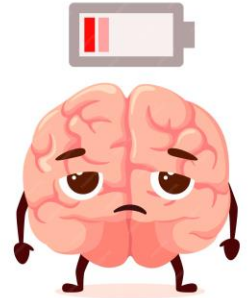
You can get resources to revise from the school library!

What types of revision are ineffective?



Ineffective revision is revision which does not produce the intended result (this means you cannot remember all of the information).

Revision is ineffective when it doesn't get our brain to work hard. We may feel we're doing something, but the information doesn't 'stick' long term.



Ineffective revision:

1) **Just** highlighting your knowledge organisers

- Yes, it looks nice
- However... it doesn't engage our brains or makes us think, therefore, our brain is less likely to remember it

2) **Just** re-reading information/ knowledge organisers

- It makes us *feel* like we're doing something
 - However, just reading information doesn't help us remember it all because again, our brains aren't working hard.
- We have to do something with the information we read to help it 'stick'.

3) **Just** revising what we want/only revising some subjects

- You must revise all subjects, including those you feel confident in. Otherwise, you are not giving yourself the best opportunity to succeed.

4) **What does an ineffective revision environment look like?**

- We will not learn in the best way if we work somewhere which is very noisy and where it is easy to get distracted.
- You also won't work the best and revise well if you are not getting a good night's sleep – if you are tired your brain might not be able to take in as much information as when you are well rested!