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1. Why Revise?

Revision means to 'go over again'.

'Being familiar with something is not the same as knowing it'

We can often falsely assume we really know something. If we haven't actually engaged something, and being made to think hard about this, it's likely we aren't able to recall this.

Look at the multiple-choice question below.

1. Which logo is the correct colour combination for Google?

- A) 
- B) 
- C) 
- D) 

Whilst Google is a logo we have all seen multiple times each week, or even daily, we haven't necessarily studied the correct colour pattern, and therefore, we aren't able to correctly recall the correct answer.

Revision is the bridge in achieving this. Going over content again and again means that the information is far more likely to stick in our long-term memory.

However, in order for revision to be purposeful, we have to 'think'.

The following strategies listed below are **NOT effective**, and often give the illusion that we feel we are revising, when actually it serves very little impact:

- Reading
- Highlighting
- Re-writing notes out in the same format

2. Top Tips for Effective Revision

- Revision needs to be carried out in a quiet space with no distractions (put your phone away, turn the TV and your earphones off).
- Revision needs to be short. Carry out short 20-minute sessions with a small break in between.
- Revision **MUST** be spaced out. Cramming a few nights before your exam is proven to not be effective.

3. Effective Revision Methods

Effective Revision is a cycle. This cycle needs to be repeated continuously for core knowledge to ensure it gets stuck in our long-term memory.

- 1) Prepare
- 2) Retrieve
- 3) Apply

Part 1) Prepare

First, we need to break down the important information to our own words.

Making revision material is an important part of revising. When you make your own resource, you are taking large amounts of content from a revision guide or textbook and reducing it down.

Part 2) Retrieve

This step is about checking your knowledge. Here you need to work out what is sticking in your brain and what you are struggling to remember so that you can go back over it.

Part 3) Apply

Attempt your questions **FROM MEMORY**, do not copy from your notes - it is important for you to find out what you can remember!

1. Prepare

Mind Maps

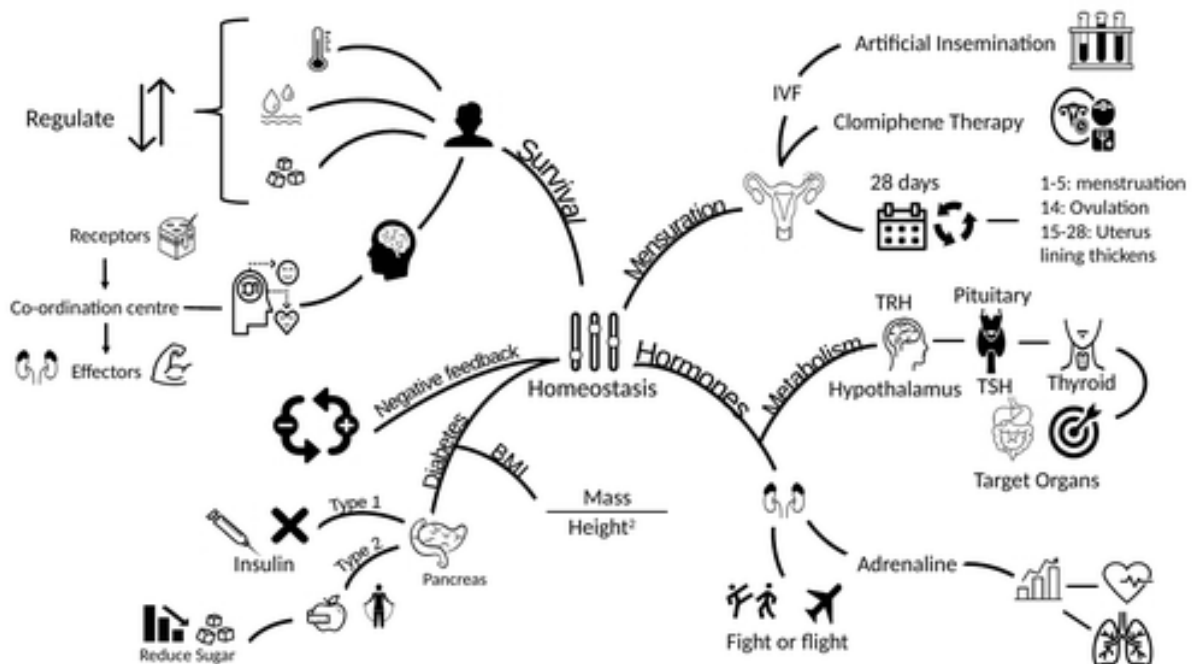
Creating Mind Maps

Step one: Read through the material you want to review and highlight (or underline) the important points.

Step two: Identify the sub-topics in what you have read, and then add these to your mind map.

Step three: Add the important points to the correct sub-topic (make sure it is short and to the point)

Step four: Add colour or images to make important points stand out.



Flashcards

Front

What happened during the Battle of Hastings?

Back

Harold Godwinson's army made a shield wall on top of Senlac Hill.

The Norman army tried to break the shield wall with archers, knights and foot soldiers.

The Normans pretended to retreat and the English army left the safety of the hill.

The Normans won and Harold Godwinson was killed.

Creating Flashcards

Step 1) Take one page of A4, and cut this into four squares.

Step 2) On the front cover, write the topic title and key questions - 'How can you support your child with their revision?'

Step 3) On the reverse side write 4-5 short facts which answer the question or are linked to the topic.

2. Retrieve

Look, Cover, Write, Check

Step 1) Read through the content in your knowledge organiser.

Step 2) Cover up the information and see how much you can **write from memory**.

Step 3) Go back and **check**. Did you miss anything? If so, add in your corrections in a different colour pen.

Step 4) Repeat again until you can write everything out from memory, with no corrections needed.

- 1.) Most volcanoes and Earthquakes occur along plate boundaries.
- 2.) ^{At a} Convergent Plate Boundary, plates move towards each other. ^{and one oceanic plate or two continental plates}
- 3.) ^{This can} Can occur with one continental plate or two oceanic plates.
- 4.) ^{boundaries} At a divergent plate boundary, plates move away from each other. ^{apart}
^{happens} mostly under oceans.
- 5.) At a conservative plate boundary ^{boundaries} the plates slide past each other.
- 6.) Volcanoes can be formed away ^{plate boundaries} from each other, called hotspots.

Using Flashcards

Step 1: Organise your flashcards in a pile with the questions facing up.

Step 2: Ask yourself the questions on each flashcard, then turn it over to see if you got it right. Create a pile for the ones you answered correctly and a pile for ones you didn't.

Step 3: Repeat step 2 for the cards you got wrong until all of the cards are in the correct pile.

Step 4: Shuffle the cards ready for the next time you use them (at least three times).

Other ways of using flashcards

1. Get someone else to test you using the questions and answers.
2. Use the flashcards with the answer facing up. Can you work out what the question was?

3. Apply

- Re-do questions from their exercise books or homework
- Example questions in revision guides and workbooks

How to make a revision timetable

Making a revision timetable will help keep you organised and on track before the start of assessment week. It will also help you space out your revision, making it more effective.

You do not need to revise all day, every day. Choose the time of the day you work best and plan 2-3 revision slots of no more than 20-30 minutes at a time. Make sure you include time for breaks.

Once you know when you will be revising, you then need to decide what you are going to do. Try following these steps:

1. Choose the subjects you will be revising, making sure you are revising all of your subjects at least once per week.
2. Choose the topics you will revise (focus on your weakest areas)
3. Identify what stage of the revision cycle you are on. This will help you decide what activities you will be doing and the resources you will need.

Example timetable

Week: 1			
	Subject/Time	Subject/Time	Subject/Time
Monday	Computing (Data Science) 5:00-5:30 Prepare	English (Imaginative writing) 5:40-6.10 Apply	Biology (Ecosystems) 6.20-6.50 Prepare
Tuesday	Geography (Urban change) 5.00-5.30 Prepare	RE (Suffering and Persecution) 5.45-6.15 Retrieve	Chemistry (Ionic bonding) 6.30-7 Retrieve
Wednesday	Maths (Simultaneous equations) 5.15-5.45 Apply	DT (Metals) 6.00-6.30 Prepare	Physics (Motion) 6.45-7.15 Prepare
Thursday	RE (Suffering and Persecution) 10.45-11.15 Apply	History (Rise of the Nazis) 6.00-6.30 Retrieve	Biology (Ecosystems) 6.45-7.15 Retrieve
Friday	French/Spanish (daily routine) 6.30-7 Retrieve	Geography (Urban change) Retrieve 7.15-7.45	Chemistry (Ionic bonding) 8-8.30 Apply
Saturday	Computing (Data Science) 2.00-2.30 Retrieve	History (Rise of the Nazis) 2.45-3.15 Apply	Physics (Motion) 3.15-3.45 Retrieve
Sunday	DT (Metals) 10.00-10.30 Retrieve	Art (Hyper realistic drawing) 10.45-11.15 Apply	Biology (Ecosystems) 11.30-12 Apply

