

Aim:

To reduce the volume of notes you are revising from and prioritise key points. This will save you time in the weeks and days before your exams.

How to start:

Pick a subject and select a specific topic. Using your class notes, reduce the amount by using one of the methods listed.

Key to success:

- ▲ Start early – this is not something you can cram in just before an exam.
- ▲ Get organised – Arrange your class notes before you start

Cue Cards

Note or cue cards are useful for listing information, definitions, rules and formulae you need to learn. You can use them to learn vocabulary or write key words from an event or story to help you fill in the gaps later.

These are an excellent revision resource that once created, can be used all the way up to your exam.

Mind Maps

A great way to condense a great deal of information in a visual way that is easy to revise from. Using colours for different topics can help the information stick in your mind, too.

Choose a topic and place it in the centre of your page. List the main themes/topics as sub headings around the central theme. Finally, add details to the sub topics but remember to prioritise the key information.

You should be able to reduce a topic down on to a single piece of A4 paper.

Timelines

These are particularly useful to display key information in chronological order.

You can use timelines to follow a character in a story, to list historical events or remove the time aspect and use them to show a process.

The visual aspect of timelines can be very useful.

Aim:

To test your knowledge of the basic information in a subject or topic. Once you know them, you can apply them in exam answers.

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Quizzing

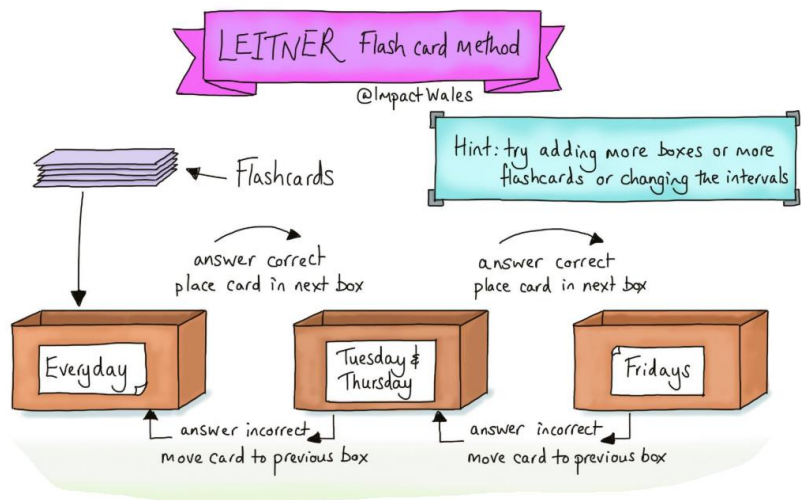
This is a very effective method and is really quick, too. It can be done in many forms but in essence, it involves you testing yourself on all the knowledge you will need in a subject. You can construct questions/facts on paper, cards or simple post-it notes.

Flash cards

Write a question on one side of the card and the answer on the other – simple! Use these for formulae in maths and science, characters or quotations in English, vocabulary, definitions, key facts and so on. Once you have constructed the cards, you can test yourself or get friends and family to test you. It is fine to get these questions wrong: the more you quiz yourself, the more will go in.

Leitner Method

Quiz yourself on a subject or topic every day. When you get a question wrong, it goes back in the 'every day' box. When you get it right, it can move to the 'twice a week' box. This method ensures you quiz on the areas you do not know more often. It is really powerful!



Aim:

To understand the demands of the exam and refine your revision needs.

How to start:

Ask teachers for copies or use exam board website to download past papers.

Key to success:

- ▲ Once marked, use the gaps in your knowledge to create flash cards and revision materials
- ▲ Make sure you understand the command words in each subject – check with teachers if you need to.

Complete past papers

A brilliant way to prepare for the real thing. You have to put yourself in difficult positions when preparing for difficult challenges. The first time you complete a past paper under exam conditions, it will feel challenging. As with most things, the more you do it, the easier it gets.

Step 1: Complete the paper under exam conditions and stick to the time limit. Make sure you prepare for this and have all equipment to hand. Avoid all distractions during this time. Completing past papers gives you a true feeling of how the real thing will be. You get to practice the timings and which parts of papers you need to keep an eye out for.

Step 2: Mark the paper using the official mark scheme. This stage tells you so much more than simply if you got a question correct. Make a note of topics, information and formulae you did not know so you can use one of the other methods to revise them and then quiz.

Step 3: Seek specific feedback on the questions you found difficult. This could be through the use of the examiners reports which cover the misconceptions of students nationally. Alternatively, speak to your teacher and discuss how you could have improved. Your teacher will be very happy to go over things with you and point you in the right direction.

Past papers are a vital part of revision. Put simply, if you complete as many as you can for a subject, you will have seen most questions ever asked in any exam. That has to put you in a good position going into the real thing.