



## REVISION GUIDE

### How to approach Tests

To revise for your tests effectively you need to do a few important things:

1. Have a positive attitude, even if you have found some aspects of your year's study difficult, remain positive about what you can achieve in the tests.
2. Choose a good place to study – it should be somewhere quiet and well-lit in your home.
3. Organise your time – try to make it earlier in the evening and during the mornings of the weekend. After 30 minutes, take a break for about 5 mins and have a drink of water.
4. Don't spend too long revising each evening otherwise you will be too tired for school next day!
5. If you don't understand something, ask someone else – this could be a parent, a friend or your teacher.
6. It's a good idea to study one subject each evening and within this subject to divide up your time related to the areas of study eg studying the Romans on one evening. Hinduism on another etc.
7. Remember to revise what you have revised! This means that once you have revised a subject, you need to go back and test yourself (or ask someone else to test you) a few days later.
8. Draw up a timetable of when you are going to revise – be realistic though and don't cram in too much in one evening!
9. Drink plenty and get enough sleep.
10. There are many different ways to revise but all of them should include the following:
  - a. When you start a new topic, quickly skim over what you need to read first so that you can jog your memory with what the topic is about.
  - b. The next time you read, be active! This could mean putting information in a table, highlighting key words, drawing a mind map, summarizing key points etc.
  - c. Ask yourself these important questions about what you have read so that you can test yourself: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE & WHY.
  - d. This all adds up to: 1. Understand, 2, Condense, 3. Memorise, 4. Review.
  - e. There's no point studying something if you don't understand it so make sure you get help with this stage first if you are stuck!

Tips for your learning style:

How do you find it easiest to learn? Depending on what type of learner you are, there are different methods of studying that you can use.

*If you find it helpful to look at things then you are a Visual Learner*

- Rewrite your notes as mind-maps
- Use colour to highlight important things
- Draw diagrams and sketches to help you remember points.

*If you find it easier to remember things if you hear them, then you're an Auditory Learner*

- Read your notes aloud, you might like to imagine that you are giving a speech to your teacher.
- Record yourself on cassette reading key points of your notes aloud, then listen to the tape afterwards.
- Revise with friends if you can and discuss what you are revising.
- Sing the main points! Linking them with a tune may help you remember them.

*If you find it best to learn by writing things down, these are tips for you.*

- Copy out your notes in numbered points.
- Read your notes silently.
- Rewrite the key points using different words.
- Write down key points from memory and then check.

*If you are an active person who finds it hard to sit still then you're an Active Learner.*

- Do some short physical exercises in-between revising key points.
- Move around the room as you say key points, clap your hands, click your fingers etc.
- Mentally review what you've been revising while you're swimming or jogging.

*Active Revision*

It's not enough just to re-read notes, make your revision active! Here's how:

Paper

Have plenty of paper and a pen handy and make mind maps, tables, bullet points etc.

Memorise

Study a section of your notes, and memorise the essential points.

Write

Put your notes out of sight, and write down from memory the essential things you've learnt. If you're going to label a map etc then it's a good idea to do this in pencil so that you can rub it out and use it again as a revision aid.

Check

Check with your original notes

Learn

Note any points you omitted or got wrong, and learn them.

### Cards

1. Reduce notes to essential points, either by highlighting or underlining.
2. Use these points to make memory aids on index cards or similar-sized pieces of paper.
3. Use a separate card for each topic.
4. Write down important points to remember about each topic.
5. Review the cards in your spare moments.

### **Memory Techniques**

For your tests you need to remember things. There are lots of different types of memory techniques to choose from and you can use these with all sorts of subjects. Look at some of the memory techniques below and use them with your different subjects.

#### First Letter Triggers

Take the first letter of each word you need to remember and use them to make an imaginative sentence (this is a mnemonic device).

Eg to remember the order of the planets you can use this mnemonic:

My Very East Mnemonic Just Speeds Up Naming Planets

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.

#### Rhyming Triggers

Rhymes, rhythms and tunes help to keep information in your brain because they are fun and creative – this is often why advertisers use them.

#### Condensing

You need to help your brain revise by condensing information. This is because the brain doesn't think in terms of words and sentences but in terms of ideas and concepts. Only about 20% of written information contains the ideas that you need and so your task in revising is to draw out this important 20%. You can do this by condensing the information into bullet points, highlighted words etc.

Websites that are useful to revise all subjects in lower school are:

KS2 Bitesize Revision website

KS2 Mathszone.co.uk

KS2 Woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk