

Name:

Form:



RIVERSIDE SCHOOL
'EXCELLENCE FOR ALL'

REVISION STRATEGY BOOKLET

5 TOP TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE EXAM REVISION

AS RECOMMENDED BY PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!

1. START EARLY

Don't leave it to last minute! Start revising a couple of weeks before your exams to give your brain time to absorb.

2. PLAN YOUR TIME

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail, so plan wisely. Make a schedule to document what you will revise and when!

3. AVOID YOUR PHONE

Revision is tough, but looking at social media every ten minutes won't help you learn! Put your phone away so you can focus.

4. PRACTISE!

Athletes don't win gold without rigorous training, and neither will you! Actively practising (e.g. doing mock exams) can help re-inforce knowledge.

5. TAKE BREAKS

Your body needs rest in order to get stronger, and so does your brain! Be sure to take regular breaks during revision - your mind will thank you.

Good luck!

SIMPLY
EDUCATION

What revision strategy should I use for what purpose?

1. Secure knowledge

Do this when:
You have gaps in your knowledge
You do not know something
You are not confident on a topic

2. Apply knowledge to questions

Do this when:
You want to test if you really have the knowledge.

Knowledge recall

- Memory organisers
- Flash cards
- Look, cover, write, check
- Cornell Notes

Application to questions

- Exam questions and mark schemes

Principles for effective revision

- Specific topic chosen
- Recall from memory
- Identify gaps
- **Re-learn** (trigger words, mnemonics, word associations, worked example etc.)
- Re-attempt to see if you have learnt it

Principles for effective revision

- Specific topic/unit chosen
- Attempt exam questions to time
- Check answers: tick off marks, correct and complete
- Re-attempt questions to see if they have learnt it

MEMORY ORGANISER

What to do to **secure** core knowledge?

What do I need: Memory organiser sheet with key headings (topics and subtopics), revision guide, spare piece of paper/pink book

1. Under each heading, **from memory**, write down all knowledge about the particular topic and subtopic in **black** pen.
2. Using exercise books, revision guides and any other materials, check first attempt (in **green** pen, tick and cross – do not correct) and **identify any gaps in knowledge**.
3. **Re-learn all knowledge** which was missing or incorrect in the first attempt (e.g. using look, cover, write, check/ acronyms/ mnemonics/ connections/ trigger words).
4. Cover your notes and in **green** pen re-attempt gaps and mistakes from the original sheet **from memory**.
5. Keep repeating steps 3 and 4 until fully correct.
6. *Stick the memory organiser on the wall and revisit at a later date.*

LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK, RECALL

What to do to **secure** core knowledge?

What do I need: Revision guide, spare piece of paper/ pink book

1. Write down the topic title and underline.
2. Write the subheading and underline.
Read all the information under the first subheading.
3. Re-read the first paragraph/section under the first subheading.
In ***your own words/diagrams, summarise the key points*** and write this down in your pink book.
4. Say this summary 3 times out loud or in your head.
5. Cover your summary and **re-write it from memory.**
6. Uncover the sentences to check if the summary you wrote is correct. Make corrections in **green** pen.
7. If not fully correct: repeat steps 5, 6, and 7.
8. Stop and try to **RECALL** all the summaries you have written so far – say them out loud or in your head.
9. Then continue with the remainder of the page/topic.
Include subheadings and underline so it is clearly laid out.
10. Without looking at your notes, answer questions based on the topic you have just learnt. Check and correct your answers in **green** pen.

FLASH CARDS

What to do to **secure** core knowledge?

What do I need: Revision guide/textbook, blank flash cards

Creating flashcards:

1. Select your topic and find a textbook/revision guide section to provide the correct information.
2. Pick a sub-topic to focus on, write the **KEY TERM** on one side of the card.
3. Read the correct **DEFINITION** from the information in the revision guide/textbook and write it on to the other side of the card.
4. Repeat this process for all key terms in the sub-topic.

Testing yourself:

5. Create a pile with all the cards having the **KEY TERM** facing up and put revision guide/book away.
6. Read the **KEY TERM** and try to remember the definition – you can say this out loud or write it down in your pink book.
7. Turn the card over to **check your answer**.
8. If it was NOT 100% correct, put the card in a 'unknown' pile. If you did get it 100% correct then put it in a 'known' pile.
9. Once finished, repeat the testing with the stack of 'unknown' terms until they are all in the 'known' pile.
10. Shuffle the cards and repeat the whole process.
11. Write down the key topics you were less confident with in your pink book.

CORNELL METHOD

What to do to **secure** core knowledge?

What do I need: Revision guide, Cornell Method sheet

1. Write down the subject/topic on the Cornell Method template.
2. Read the first page/chapter that you are starting to revise.
3. Make notes in Section A. These can be bullet points, mind maps, pictures, diagrams etc.
4. Create **prompts** and cues from section A and write them in section B. For example, key quotes, key words or phrases, processes, formulae; anything that acts as a trigger for your knowledge.
5. **Memorise the prompts** in section B and say out loud what they trigger to yourself.
6. **Cover up** section A and section B.
7. **Jot down the side of section C** all the key phrases/prompts you remember from section B.
8. Write a summary of the topic using the phrases/prompts in section C (full sentences).
9. Uncover section B. In **green** pen, tick off the key words/prompts from section B in section C.
10. Which key words/phrases/prompts did you miss out in your summary? Highlight them in section B.
11. The highlighted words in section B are the ones you must **re-learn**. Use the look, cover, write, check method for these on your mini-whiteboard.
12. Turn over your sheet and in black pen write another summary in section D without looking back.
13. Check back and if you have still missed a key word/prompt, add a further sentence in **green** pen.

EXAM STYLE QUESTIONS & APPLYING MARK SCHEMES

What to do to **apply** knowledge and skills?

What do I need: exam questions, mark schemes, revision book, pink book

1. Choose a topic from your revision list/ question level analysis.
2. Read the exam-style question, circle the command words and underline key words/ key information. Keep the mark scheme covered; do not look at it yet.
3. Write down any structures or key information you will need to recall to be able to answer the question.
4. Re-read the exam-style question and then start attempting the question fully, ticking off steps/ key information after you have used them.
5. Read your answer and check: Have you answered the question(s)? Have you used all the key information/ steps ? Does your answer make sense? Is it complete?
6. Uncover the mark scheme. In **green** pen, give yourself a tick next to each working step which awards a mark.
7. Write any and all missing steps/ knowledge in **green** pen, using the guidance from the mark scheme.
8. **Identify where you went wrong (gaps in knowledge or application).**
9. **Re-learn the knowledge or structure** which was incorrect or missing in your first attempt (e.g. use look, cover, write, check/ acronyms/ mnemonics/ connections/ trigger words)
10. Attempt a similar question to check application of skill or knowledge from memory.
11. Repeat steps 2 to 10 on the same topic until you have achieved full marks twice.

LINKING WEBS

What to do to **apply** core knowledge?

What do I need: Instruction sheet (concept, links to be made), revision guide, spare piece of paper/ pink book

1. Write the concept/ title in the middle.
2. Add branches to the main concept and **from memory** recall information (refer to instructions).
3. Add more branches and recall the information that links to the previous knowledge (refer to instructions) **from memory**.
4. Keep adding branches and linking the information to cover all links and knowledge set out in the instructions **from memory**.
5. You may need to annotate the branches with the links made.
6. When you cannot remember any more: Using exercise books, revision guides and any other materials, check first attempt (in **green** pen tick and cross – do not correct) and **identify any gaps in knowledge**.
7. **Re-learn the knowledge** you which was missing or incorrect in the first attempt (e.g. use look, cover, write, check/ notes/ acronyms/ mnemonics/ connections/ *trigger words*)
8. Cover your notes and in **green** pen re-attempt gaps and mistakes **from memory**.
9. Keep repeating steps 7, 8. and 9 until fully correct.
10. Complete exam questions based on this topic without looking at your mind map. Check and correct your answers in **green** pen.



SUBJECT:

TOPIC:

**B PROMPTS/
CUES (5 MINS)**

KEY WORDS, PHRASES,
PROCESSES, FORMULAE,
TRIGGERS

A

STUDY/REVISION NOTES (15 MINS)

BULLET POINTS, MINDMAPS, PICTURES, DIAGRAMS ETC.



C

SUMMARY (5 MINS)



1. COVER UP SECTION A AND B. 2. WRITE A SUMMARY. 3. CHECK AGAINST SECTION B AND TICK KEY WORDS WITH GREEN PEN 4. HIGHLIGHT MISSED WORDS IN SECTION B.

D

SUMMARY TAKE TWO (5 MINS)



1. COVER UP A, B AND C. 2. IN GREEN WRITE ANOTHER SUMMARY. 3. CHECK AGAINST SECTION B AND TICK KEY WORDS WITH GREEN PEN 4. ADD A FURTHER SENTENCE IN BLACK IF YOU HAVE MISSED A KEY WORD