



**Stoke High School – Ormiston Academy**

# Revision Strategies

Academic Year 2025-2026

# Strive for 5

To strive (verb) , “to try very hard to do something or to make something happen, especially for a long time or against difficulties”

- ✓ I will have **good attendance** to school and lessons
- ✓ I will be **punctual** to all lessons
- ✓ I will **actively** take part in all lessons
- ✓ I will show **resilience**
- ✓ I will **practice** until I improve

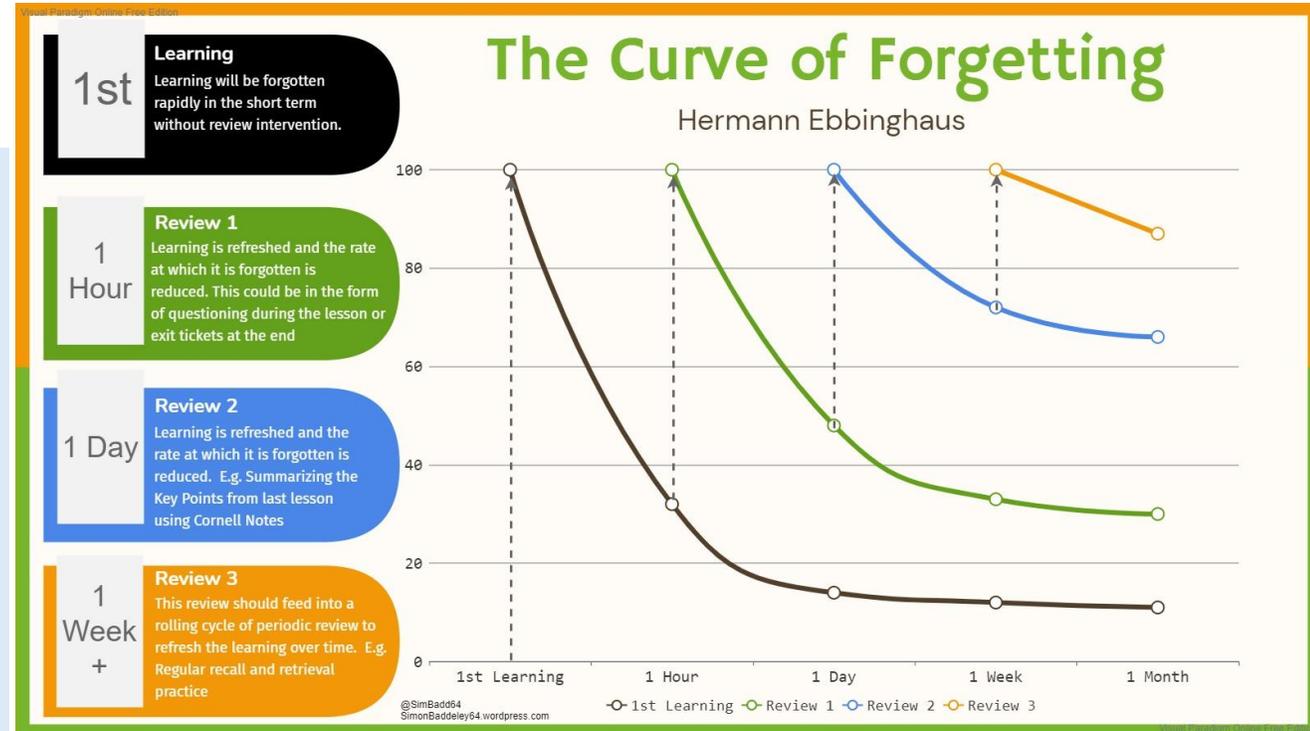


## Why is it important to revise?

- The term revision means to look (vision) again (re).
- Scientists studying the process of learning confirmed that we either ‘use it or lose it’: unless learning is regularly reviewed (retrieval), we are very likely to forget it.
- An item of knowledge in your schema is part of long-term memory. Schema organises different items of knowledge into groups that link together, helping us to understand new knowledge and making it more ‘sticky’. Our schema should be constantly growing as the more items of linked knowledge we have, the stronger our memory and understanding becomes..
- Studies have shown that ineffective study strategies include re-reading notes and highlighting as they are passive – you are not doing anything with the knowledge so you will forget it.
- Effective study strategies include retrieving learning from memory with activities like brain dumps, flashcards and quizzes.

## Why is it important to revise?

- Forgetting is completely natural. Research has shown that over time you forget a majority of what you have learnt and it happens immediately.
- Information, if not revisited, is 'lost' from our memory.
- This **forgetting curve** can be minimised with **spaced repetition, active recall, and meaningful engagement with revision.**



**The forgetting curve shows that your memory rapidly declines shortly after learning, therefore it is important to schedule in regular times to revisit core knowledge and exam skills to ensure success in your exams.**

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Visual Paradigm Online Free Edition

1st

### Learning

Learning will be forgotten rapidly in the short term without review intervention.

1 Hour

### Review 1

Learning is refreshed and the rate at which it is forgotten is reduced. This could be in the form of questioning during the lesson or exit tickets at the end

1 Day

### Review 2

Learning is refreshed and the rate at which it is forgotten is reduced. E.g. Summarizing the Key Points from last lesson using Cornell Notes

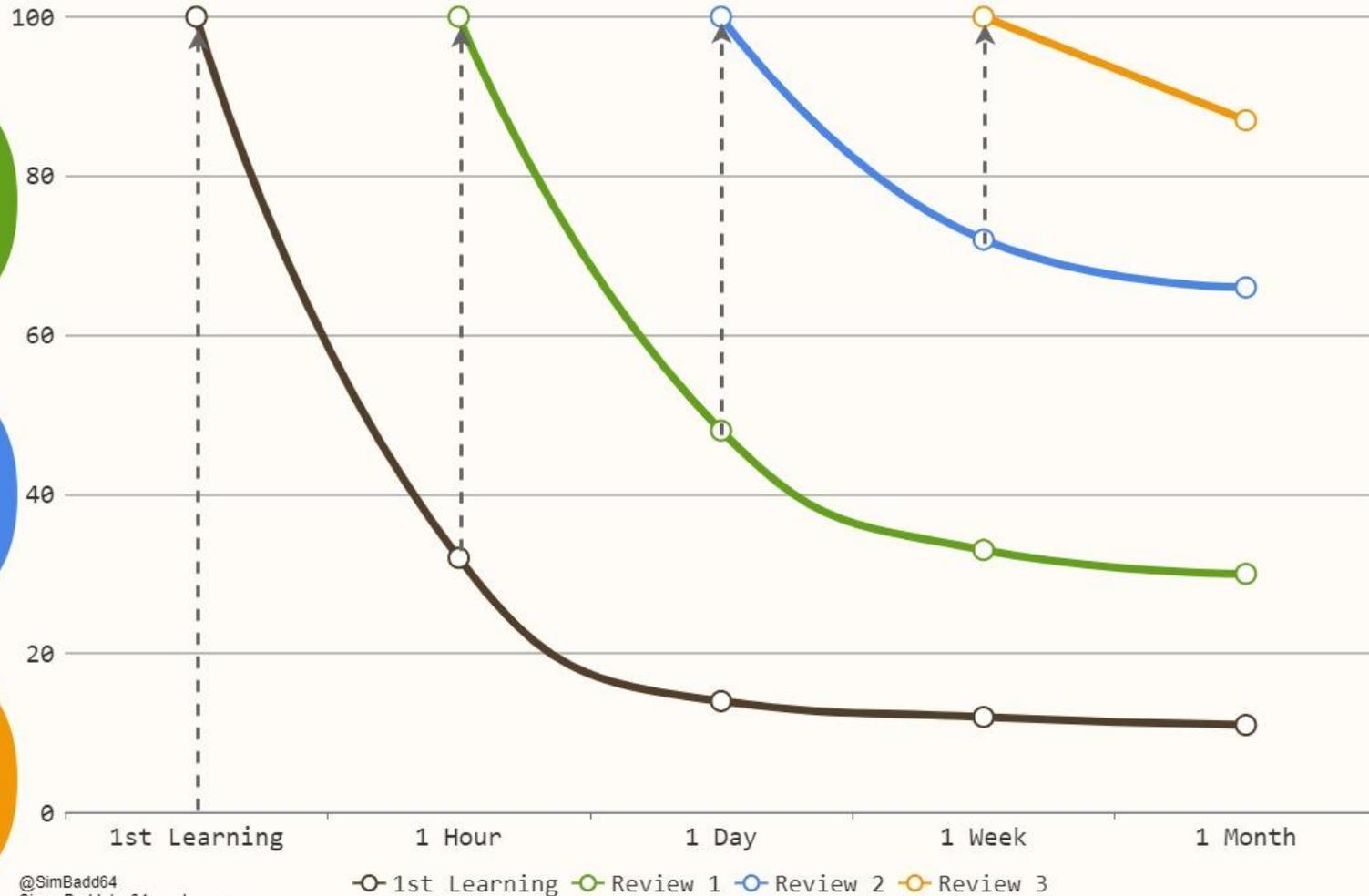
1 Week +

### Review 3

This review should feed into a rolling cycle of periodic review to refresh the learning over time. E.g. Regular recall and retrieval practice

# The Curve of Forgetting

Hermann Ebbinghaus

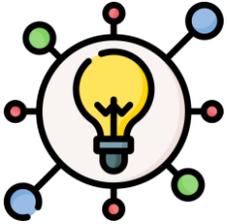
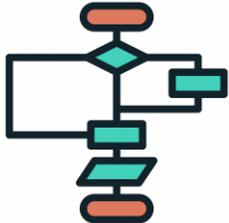
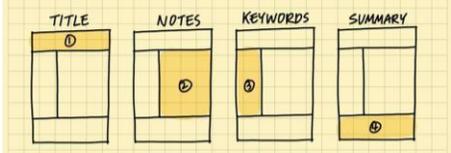


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# Revision Techniques

Revision techniques are reviewed and explored in form time sessions and in lessons. It is important to find a range of strategies that work for you and your subjects.

<b>Mind Maps</b> 	<b>Timetabling</b> 	<b>Command Words</b> 
<b>Flashcards</b> 	<b>Quizzing</b> 	<b>Websites</b> 
<b>Pomodoro Technique</b> 	<b>Flow Charts</b> 	<b>Past Papers</b> 
<b>Cornell Method</b> 	<b>2357 Timetable Method</b> 	<b>Blurting</b> 



How can you make sure you have everything you need to **successfully revise**?

1. Have a **quiet study space**, use the **BAR (8AM) and HUB (until 4PM)**
2. Have a **revision plan** and make sure you have a **do list**
3. Use **active revision techniques** such as flash cards, quizzes...
4. **Retrieval practice is important** this helps you remember what you have learned
5. Have a **break, schedule regular breaks**
6. Get enough **rest** and enough **sleep** – remove **distractions** such as your phone
7. Ask **questions**, if you are not sure what to do then ASK!
8. **Reward** yourself when you have achieved a **milestone**

## What **should you** do for **effective revision**?

### DO



1 Active recall strategies – practice with flash cards

2 Thinking hard – practice exams questions

3 Self test – check your knowledge and test again

4 No distractions – turn your phone to **DO NOT Disturb**

5 Organise your time – stick to a schedule – plan with a timetable



## Revision Strategy: Revision Timetables

1. Write down when all your **exams** are
2. Break each subject into **topics** – use a topic planner PLC
3. Fill in your **revision timetable**- start from the end of exams and work backwards
4. Divide your time into **sessions** – think about when you work best
5. Fill in your **commitments** – think about hobbies, time with friends/family
6. Add your **subjects**- work backwards from the exam
7. Add your **topics** – include topics multiple times so you can revise them thoroughly – **space** your revision slots out
8. An **example timetable** can be found on the next slide.
9. **Templates** are provided

**Top tip:** Start revision as early as possible– regular revision helps your memory

**Example of a completed revision timetable – all subjects are spaced out across a two-week period so that you revisit them at regular intervals.**

	Subjects this Day	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm
<b>Monday A</b>	Science, English, Maths, Health and Social, Drama	French - Writing	Maths – Percentages, Fractions and Decimals	Dinner	Drama – Set Text	English – A Christmas Carol
<b>Tuesday A</b>	PE, Maths, English, History, French	Science – Biology	History – Nazi Germany	Dinner	Maths - Algebra	Maths - Algebra
<b>Wednesday A</b>	Science, Maths, English, Drama, History	French - Reading	English - Poetry	Dinner	Science – Physics	Drama – Live Theatre
<b>Thursday A</b>	Science, English, History, French, PSHE	Science - Chemistry	History – Cold War	Dinner	Football	Maths – Shapes, Area and Perimeter
<b>Friday A</b>	Science, English, Drama, History, Maths	English – Romeo and Juliet	French - Speaking	Health and Social - Keywords	Dinner	Science - Chemistry
<b>Weekend</b>		Swimming	English – Language Papers	Maths – Past Papers	Dinner	Read
<b>Weekend</b>						
<b>Monday B</b>	English, Science, Drama, Maths, French	Maths - Calculator	Health and Social - Research	Dinner	Science – Physics	College Applications
<b>Tuesday B</b>	Science, English, French, History, Maths	Drama – Set Text	English - Poetry	Dinner	Maths – Multiplication and Division	History - Elizabethan
<b>Wednesday B</b>	English, Science, Drama, Maths, Health and Social	French - Writing	Science - Biology	Dinner	Maths – Trigonometry	English – A Christmas Carol
<b>Thursday B</b>	Science, History, English, French, Maths	Science – Physics	Drama – Live Theatre	Dinner	Football	Maths - Algebra
<b>Friday B</b>	English, Health and Social, RE, Science, History	French - Reading	History - Crime and Punishment	English - Romeo and Juliet	Dinner	French – Speaking
<b>Weekend</b>		Swimming	Science – Past papers	Drama – Past Papers	Dinner	Read

	Subjects this Day	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm
Monday A						
Tuesday A						
Wednesday A						
Thursday A						
Friday A						
Weekend						
Monday B						
Tuesday B						
Wednesday B						
Thursday B						
Friday B						
Weekend						11



# Revision Timetable

Month:				Weeks to go:	
Time:					
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Time:					
Saturday					
Sunday					

## Top tip:

- Weekdays - 2 subjects per evening
- Weekend - 4 subjects in total

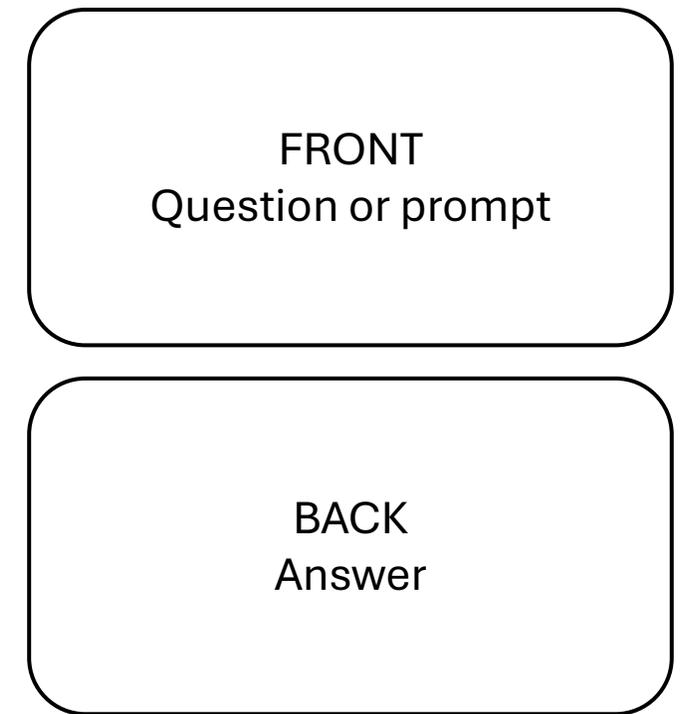


## Revision Strategy: Flash cards

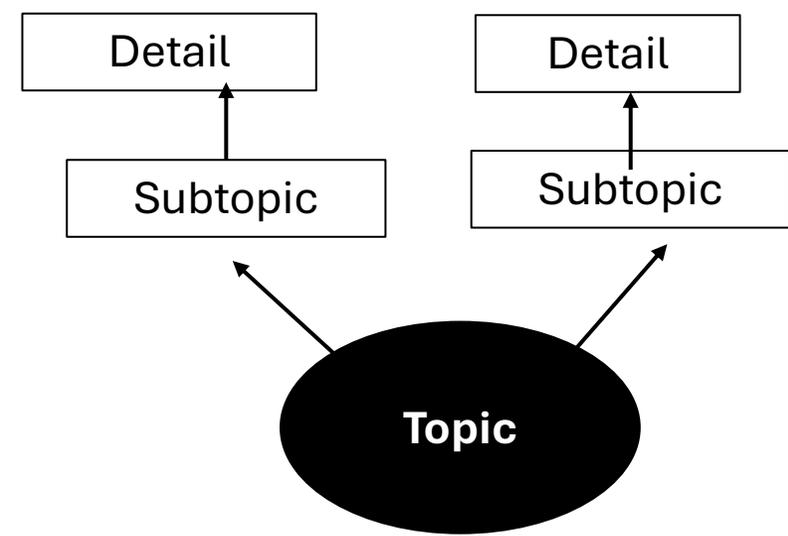
- These small information cards can help have **information or questions** on one side and the **answer** on the other side
- Flash cards are good for finding **gaps in knowledge** by **testing yourself**
- Also good for: **retrieval of dates, key words with definitions, labelled diagrams, formulae**
- **Test yourself** until you get all the **answers correct – ask someone else to test you**
- Test yourself again after a **spaced amount** of time

1. Quiz yourself on your flashcards 3 times
2. Take a break
3. Quiz yourself again – any you get right in one pile, any you do not get right in another pile
4. Try the questions in the incorrect pile again
5. Repeat three days later

### Top Tips



1. Write a **question or prompt** on one side
2. Add **symbols/ diagrams** to help recall information
3. Complete the other side with the **answer**
4. Keep cards **simple** – keep one piece of information per card



## Revision Strategy: Mind Maps

- **Mind maps** are a **visual ways** to organise information
- One mind map **per topic**
- Name of the topic in the centre – **subtopics** around the outside
- Details are **short** and **to the point**
- Use of **colour and images** to highlight key information
- **Visually organising** information makes it easier to recall in an exam
- Can help you **find links** between topics.

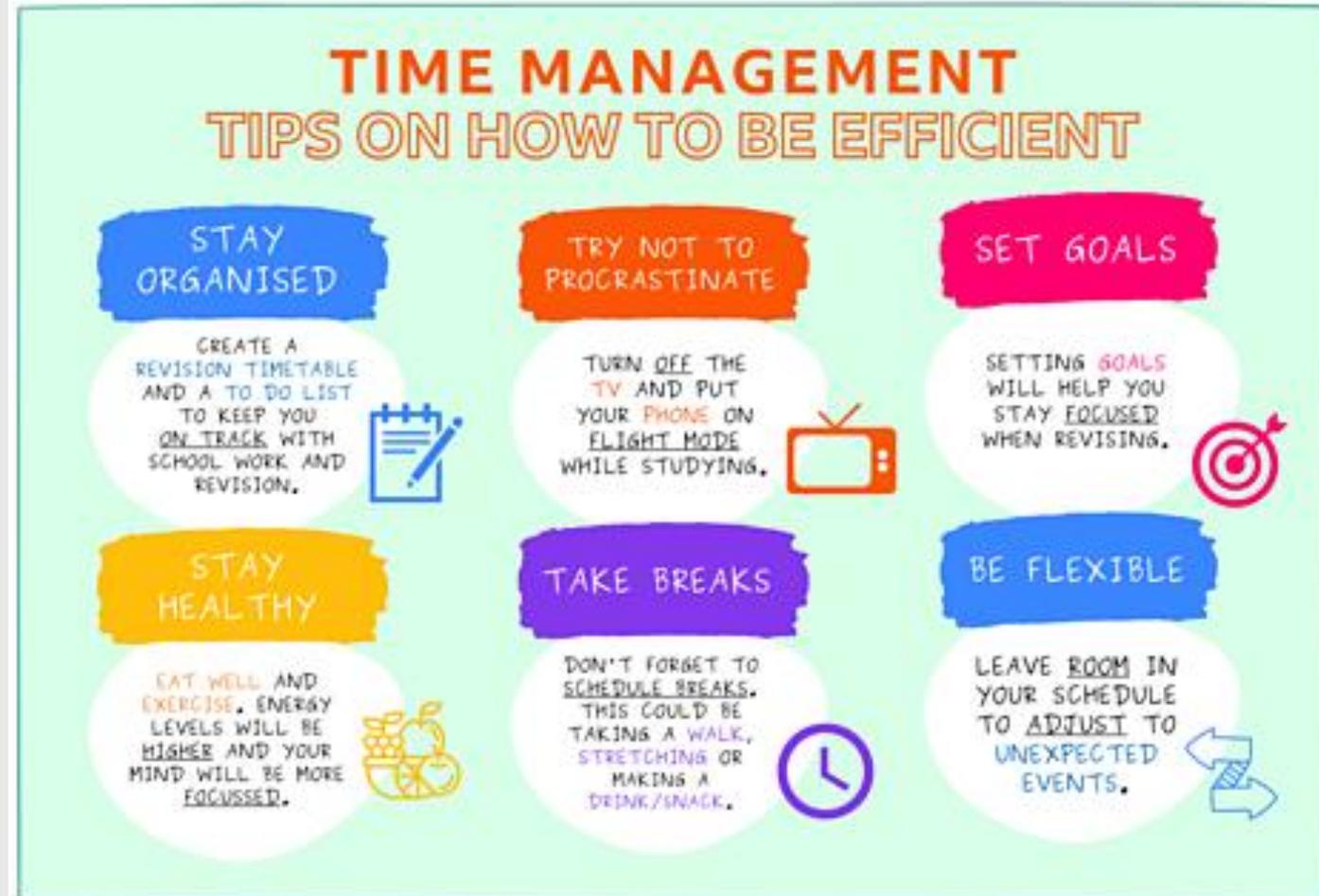
- **At the start:** Use your notes and resources to create the mind map
- **During revision:** Pin up your mind maps somewhere so you can see them regularly
- **Test yourself:** Draw the mind map from memory, then look at what still needs to be revised.





## Revision Strategy: Organisation

- With mobile phones, social media and the many other temptations at your fingertips, it can be easy to get **distracted** with your revision, especially if you aren't properly organised with your subject notes.
- **Tip 1: Turn off your phone** or hide it away. It is important to have dedicated revision time.
- **Advice tip 2:** It is important to consolidate your notes regularly to spot any gaps in your knowledge.
- **Advice tip 3:** Keep your workspace tidy, as having a tidy room helps to keep a tidy mind.
- **Advice tip 3:** Breaking subjects down into the topics can really help you identify what you don't know within a subject – see **topic planner/PLC**.





## Revision Strategy: Know your Command words

1. Know the **command words**
2. Read the **exam question CAREFULLY** – this might mean you need to read it **more than once** until you understand it
3. Look at how **many marks the question** has and use as a guide for **how long to spend on a question**
4. **BUG** the question: **Box-Underline – Go back**



**Some common command words – it is important that you know what these mean in the context of your subjects:**

- State...
- Outline...
- Describe...
- Evaluate...
- Calculate...
- Discuss...
- Interpret...
- Analyse...
- Explain/ suggest reasons for...
- Justify...
- How far you agree...

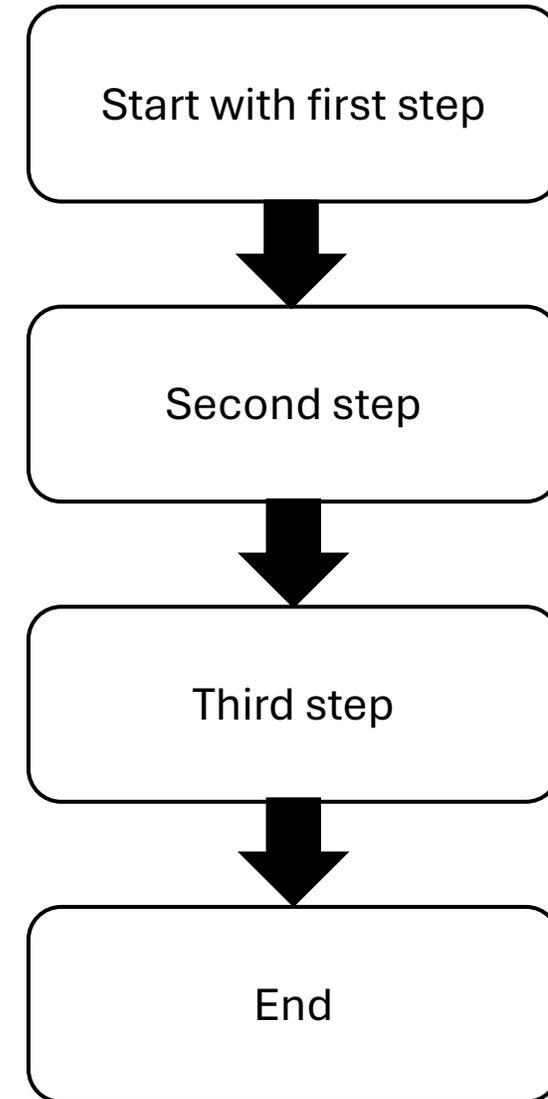
### Top Tips

Not sure? Ask your **subject teacher** and make sure you know what each type of **command word** is asking you to do – you could create a table to remember these



## Revision Strategy: Flow charts

1. **Flow charts** are **diagrams** that show a process from beginning to end
2. **Words** and **images** can show what happens next in the process
3. Can be used for lots of different subjects to **show stages/ events / processes**
  - *E.g. Geography – different stages of erosion, History – events that led to another event, Biology – how food moves through the digestive system, Business Studies – how different stages move through the supply chain.*





## Revision Strategy: Past Papers

1. **Read the question carefully** – do this **twice** e.g. explain, describe, explain, state (*link: Do you know your command words?*)
2. Make sure you know what the question is saying **BEFORE** you start
3. Make sure you **answer the question that is asked**
4. Have a go at **every question**
5. Know the **timings** for each question- should you be spending 4 mins or 40 mins?
6. **Stuck** on a question? Move on then go back at the end

1. Write **neatly and clearly**
2. Check the **number of marks** and spend the correct amount of time on the question
3. **Go through all your answers at the end** and make sure there are no careless mistakes
4. **NEVER** leave **blank spaces**
5. Become **familiar** with what the paper needs you to do *e.g. all of section A or only two question?*

**Remember – BUG the question**  
**Box** the command word,  
**Underline** key words,  
**Glance** back at the question



## Revision Strategy: Quizzing

1. Create a **quiz** with questions based on your core knowledge from revision guides, classwork books
2. Write down the **answers** to your questions – somewhere where you cannot see them easily
3. Next time you are about to complete the quiz **answer previous questions** first
4. **Cumulative quizzing** means you **add questions** to the end of quiz and answer these
5. Keep **adding questions** – the list will get longer but answering questions will be easier

### Top tips:

1. **Self-testing** should be **stretching and challenging** and always be an **active revision strategy**
2. **Spaced learning** helps with challenge so make sure you have a **break** between topics/ subjects but **revisit them regularly – space out your revision slots**



## Revision Strategy: Revision Websites

1. Use **websites** for your subjects to revise your memory and knowledge of key areas
2. Many websites allow you to watch how to **videos**
3. Often websites will have **practice questions** or **quizzes** to ensure that you can practice active recall of knowledge

### **Useful websites – see last page for a list:**

[Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2](#)

[Sparx Maths – Home](#)

[GCSE - England - BBC Bitesize](#)

### **Top tips:**

- Have you looked at the **POD**? There are resources from your subjects including revision guides- these can be accessed through Teams
- Have you checked **Teams**? Many of your subject areas will post exam questions, revision guides and links to revision websites to support you with your learning
- Make sure you know your **exam board** so that you can access the correct exam specification



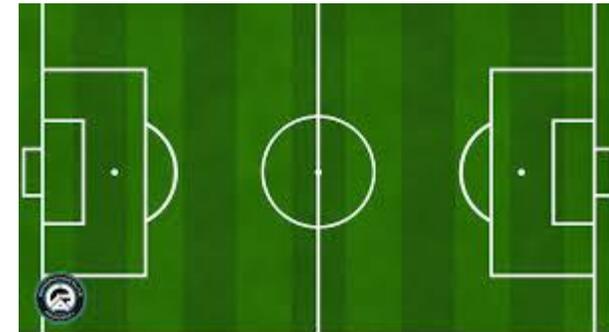
## Revision Strategy: Pomodoro technique

1. This technique involves dividing up your time and giving yourself a break to ensure that you maximise your revision time
2. It follows the pattern of **25 minutes** studying and then a **5 minute break**
3. If it is easier – think of your revision strategy as a football game – **two halves (45 minutes each) and a 15 minute break in the middle**
4. Use a **timer** to divide up your revision and break slots

### Top tip:

Your brain works better if you revise in short bursts

This will help information move to your long term memory





# Revision Strategy: How do I create a PPE revision timetable?

## Try the **2357** method

1. Write all the exams/PPEs on your timetable (remember day 1 is the actual exam date)
2. Go backwards and plan a revision session for the
3. subject the day before the exam/PPE
4. Then plan another one 2 days back from that session
5. Do the same from there for 3 days, then 5 days and finally 7 days
6. You can also add further revision session in between should you wish
7. The next slide will show you an example of what this method looks like on a timetable....

### **PPE preparation -There will be exams in:**

- English Literature Paper 1 Romeo & Juliet and Christmas Carol
- English Literature Paper 2 - Inspector Calls/ Poetry
- Maths (Calculator and non-calculator)
- Science – Combined/ triple
- History – Crime punishment and Elizabeth/ Cold War
- Geography – Component 1 and 2
- Travel and Tourism
- Citizenship
- Health and Social Care
- Drama
- Business Studies
- Photography
- Food
- Sport
- ICT



## Example- Revision Timetables

### THE 2, 3, 5, 7 METHOD



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Revise Maths	6 Revise English
7	8	9	10 Revise Biology	11	12 Revise Maths	13 Revise English
14	15	16	17 Revise Maths Revise Biology	18 Revise English	19	20 Revise Maths
21 Revise English	22 Revise Maths Revise Biology	23 Revise English Maths exam	24 English exam	25 Revise Biology	26	27 Revise Biology
28 Biology exam	29	30	31			

### Top tips:

Find the answers to these questions to help you get planned:

1. Do you know when your PPEs are?
2. Do you know when your revision sessions and #6 slots are?
3. Do you know the dates for your exams?



# Revision Strategy: Blurting method

1. **Blurting method** is a way to help **recap** and showcase what information you have retained
2. It is an **active recall** method
3. It is a quick way to **reflect** on what you have learned and review on what you need to revise over again
4. Follow the **process** and use **the revision checklist below** to reflect on your learning

**What I remember:**

**What I forgot:**

**What I got wrong:**

## 1. Gather your notes

Select the topic  
Divide it up into smaller sections  
Pick a section to start with

## 2. Start reading

Read material carefully  
Explain the key points to yourself

## 3. Grab pens and paper

Write down everything you remember  
Set a timer

## 4. Revise

Mark your work with a different colour pen  
What are your weak points? Focus on them for next revision session





## Revision Strategy: Essay Skills

1. **BUG** the question first (Box – Underline- Go back)
2. Read **texts/sources** that you need to
3. Check you know how to **answer the question**

Step 1

1. Make a **plan** – jot down your main ideas
2. Link your **ideas** – themes/ topic
3. Outline the **structure** of your answer

Step 2

1. Use standard English – avoid informal words
2. Explain things clearly using phrases such as:
  - ***This signifies...***
  - ***This highlights***
  - ***This suggests that...***
  - ***Furthermore...***
3. Use linking words such
  - ***However...***
  - ***In contrast to...***

Step 3

### Top tip:

- Use a **timer** to ensure that you use the right amount of time for planning and writing practice essays
- Use **mark schemes** to mark your own work
- Are there **acronyms** that remind you about key ideas and structures? 27



## Revision Strategy: Useful Revision Websites

Website	Subjects
Sparks maths: <a href="#">Sparx Maths – Home</a>	Maths (students have a login)
Seneca learning: <a href="#">Free Homework &amp; Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 &amp; KS2</a>	Various e.g. geography (Eduqas), Science (AQA), History (Edexcel)
On maths: <a href="#">onmaths   The home of GCSE Maths</a>	GCSE Maths practice
BBC Bitesize: <a href="#">Home - BBC Bitesize</a>	Various subjects – you can search for KS3 or GCSE
Save My Exams: <a href="#">Revision Notes, Past Papers &amp; Exam Questions</a>	Practice exam questions for a variety of subjects

### Top tip:

- Check you know which **exam board specification** you are following for your course
- Give yourself **regular breaks** from looking at the computer screen