

Supporting your young person to test how effective their revision has been

Lots of young people get caught up in the 'preparation stage' of revision, creating resources. The best revision takes place in the 'practice stage', this is where young people actively test their learning. Here are some ways they can do this:

- Practice papers – on the curriculum pages of our website you will find the course information from each subject. By searching online for the course and 'past papers' you can access previous exam papers for free, all exam boards have these online. Young people can then find a past question which links to the topic they have revised and attempt this in exam conditions (without notes and under timed conditions).
- Test for your future self – at the end of any revision time save 10 minutes to create a 'test for future you'. Using the material you have revised create a test of ten questions, start with easy questions and make this progressively harder. Write down a score out of ten that you'd be happy with (we aren't always going to get 10/10!) The next time you pick up this content to revise have a go at your test.
- Explain it to me – parents can be brilliant listeners, if your young person is revision a topic you could ask them to explain it to you. If a person can explain something they've been learning well then you know that have understood.
- Review your process – encouraging young people to reflect on how they have prepared for an assessment is key to improving their approach next time. If your young person returns home with a result they are disappointed with, you could ask the following questions:
 - How did you revise? What did you think was useful about this approach?
 - How long did you spend revising? Were the conditions perfect for good revision (e.g. quiet, no distractions)?
 - How much effort did you put into your revision? Was this more in preparing resources or in practice, reviewing your understanding?
 - What techniques do you think might be more helpful in the future? What do you need to use these methods? (you might share some of the techniques in the other PHS – Parent Guides)
- Design an evil mock paper – ask your young person to think of the worst possible topics/questions that they could have in an exam in a subject. They should then design an evil mock paper. Following this, plan a response to each question and attempt them in timed conditions. Following responding they can then return to their notes and look at what they've missed that they could have included.

