

Success Fair



Useful Revision
Techniques

General Advice

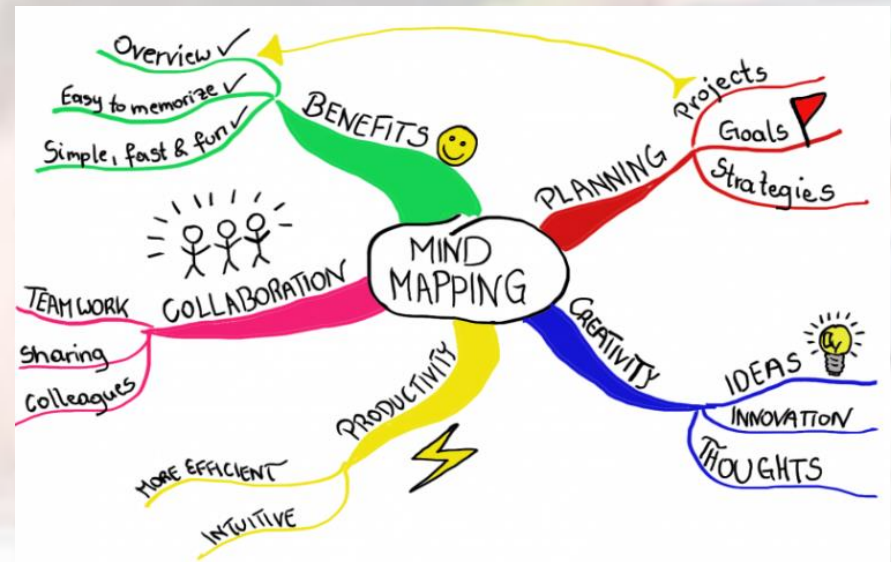
1. Set a revision timetable to ensure all subjects are covered – mix your favourite/easiest subjects with some of the harder subjects you are not looking forward to.
2. Set achievable goals – this should be something specific that you can check, for example “create a timeline of the causes of WWII”, rather than “revise WWII”.
3. Take regular breaks – your revision will be much more effective if your brain is functioning well! Plan yourself some nice treats in between revision sessions.

REVISION							
TIME	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
8:30-4:30	chem	physics	chem	chem	chem	*	*
4:30-5:00	media	physics	media	maths	english	*	*
5:00-5:30	english	physics	media	maths	english	maths*	=
5:30-6:00	=	=	maths	maths	english	maths*	=
6:00-6:30	english	english	=	english	media	=	=
6:30-7:00	maths	english	=	=	=	=	=
7:00-7:30	=	=	english	chemistry	chemistry	=	=
7:30-8:00	=	=	physics	chemistry	=	*	biology
8:00-8:30	maths	biology	=	=	=	*	media
8:30-9:00	maths	maths	maths	biology	chemistry	english	=
9:00-9:30	=	=	=	physics	=	english	=
9:30-10:00	biology	maths	biology	maths	phys*	=	=
10:00-10:30	media	physics	biology	media	phys*	=	=



General Advice

4. Use the specifications and past paper questions to know what you are working towards.
5. Do something active – highlighters can make a text look much prettier, but reading alone is not enough to remember large amounts of information. Make your own notes or try teaching the material to a classmate.

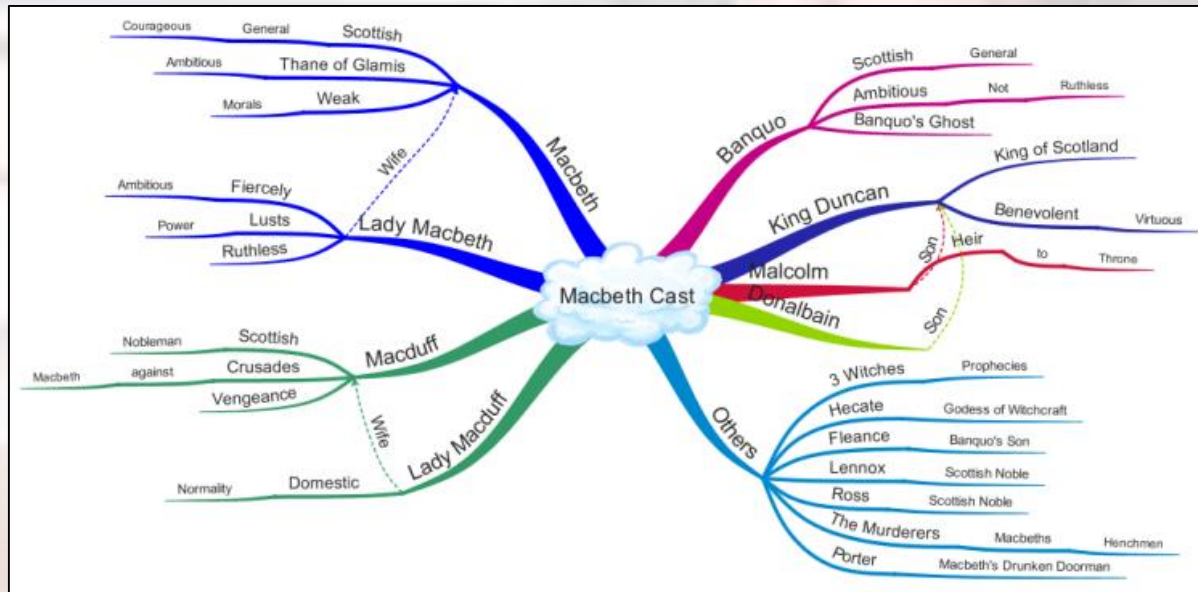


Technique 1 – Mind maps

Mind maps are a useful tool for summarising information on a topic. Start with the topic or key question in the centre and begin by breaking this down into the key ideas, sub-themes or 'branches'. Then, add on the 'twigs' by adding on all related ideas.

- Keep the information short, ideally single words
- Use different colours for different branches
- Make sure all 'branches' and 'twigs' relate back to the key theme/question

Try to create links between branches – can something fit into 2 sub-themes? What is the link?



Worried about making it messy? Try an online mind map generator:

app.mindmapmaker.org

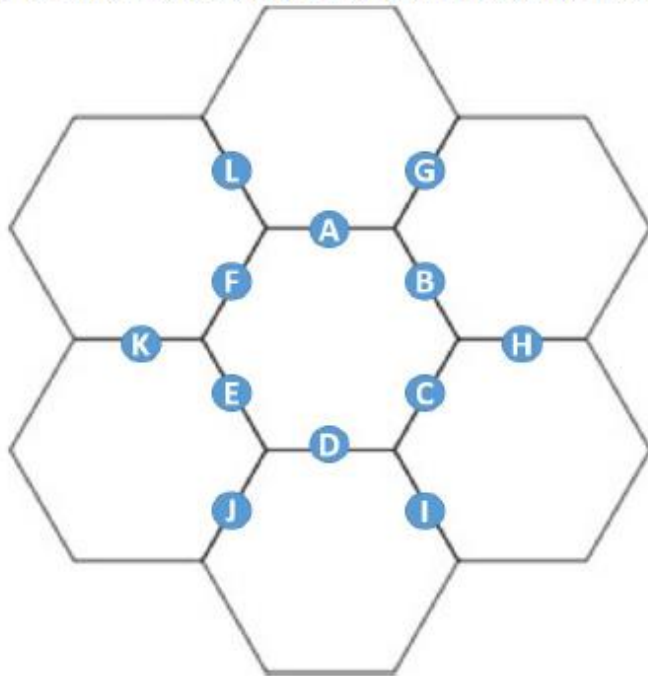
www.mindmup.com

Technique 2 – Key word links

Coming up with key words for a topic is a great starting point, but in an exam you will have to be able to explain the significance of each one or link ideas together to make a point.

Key Word links

Place a different key word from your topic in each of the 7 hexagons. In the grid below, explain how each word is linked to the one next to it, e.g. for “A” you would explain how the word in the centre hexagon links to the word in the top hexagon.

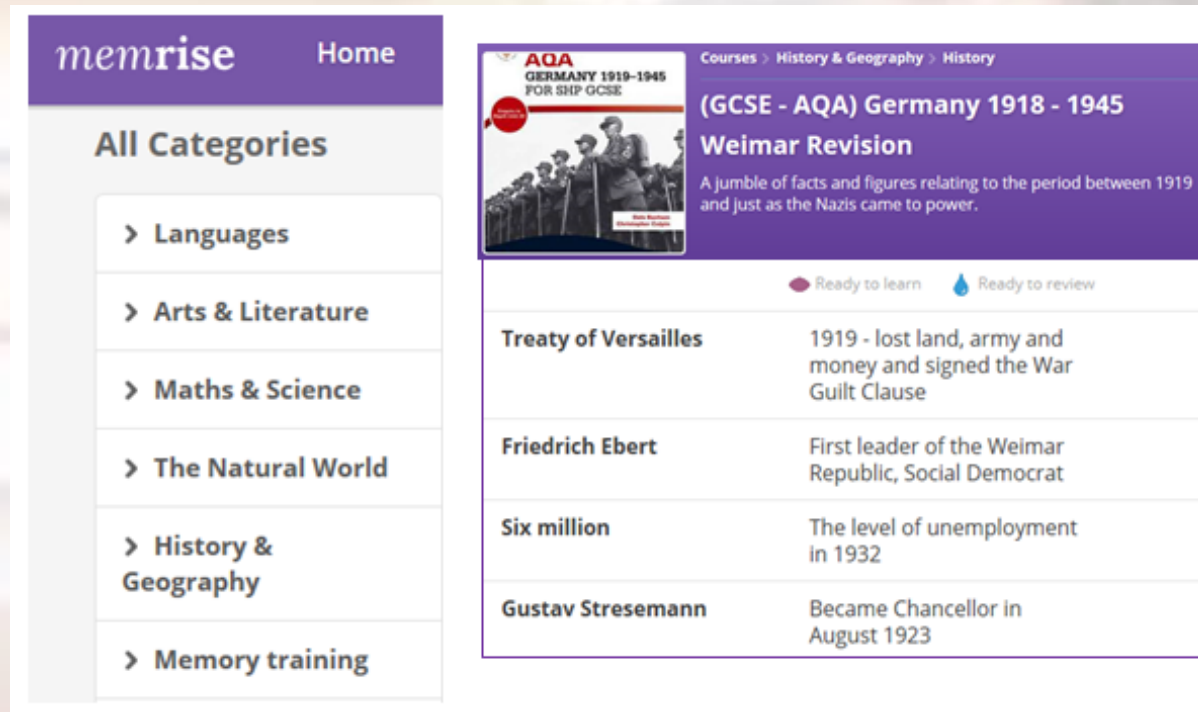


A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I
J	K	L

Technique 3 – Retrieval practice

The best way to truly learn something is to test yourself repeatedly: revision, re-revision and re-re-revision.

Using websites like Memrise and Quizlet can be good for learning key words (vocabulary in languages, for example), definitions or equations. These websites work by constantly re-testing you at increased intervals on things you have already learned – you should aim to do the same thing in your own revision.



The screenshot shows the Memrise website interface. On the left is a sidebar with the 'memrise' logo and a 'Home' link. Below this is a section titled 'All Categories' with a list of subjects: Languages, Arts & Literature, Maths & Science, The Natural World, History & Geography, and Memory training. The main content area displays a course titled '(GCSE - AQA) Germany 1918 - 1945 Weimar Revision'. It includes a small image of soldiers and text describing the course as 'A jumble of facts and figures relating to the period between 1919 and just as the Nazis came to power.' Below this is a table of revision items with two columns: the item name and its description. The items are 'Treaty of Versailles', 'Friedrich Ebert', 'Six million', and 'Gustav Stresemann'. Above the table are two buttons: 'Ready to learn' (purple) and 'Ready to review' (blue).

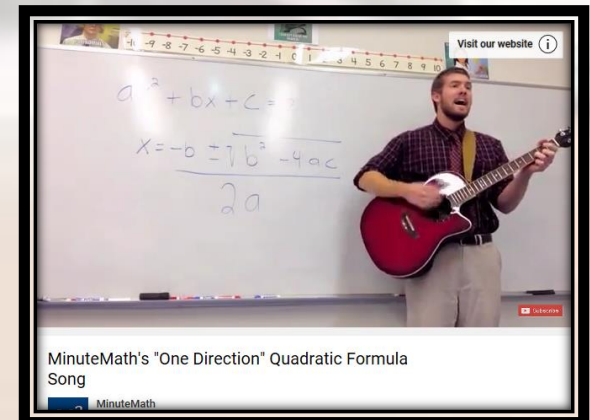
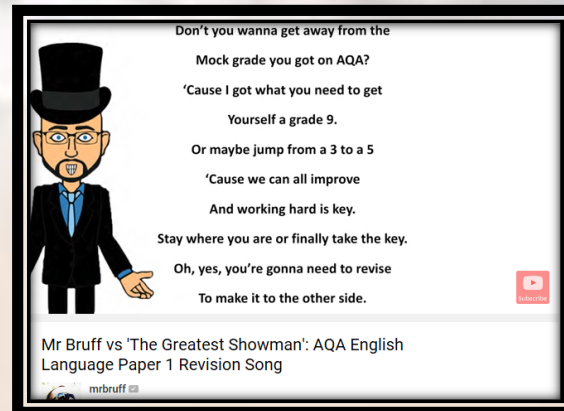
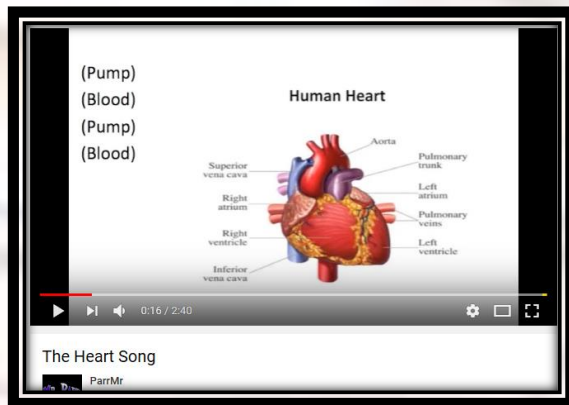
Treaty of Versailles	1919 - lost land, army and money and signed the War Guilt Clause
Friedrich Ebert	First leader of the Weimar Republic, Social Democrat
Six million	The level of unemployment in 1932
Gustav Stresemann	Became Chancellor in August 1923

At the end of a revision session, write yourself a quiz of key questions. When you come back to this subject a few days later or the following week, start by testing yourself on this quiz to check you still remember what you previously revised. Maybe give a copy of the quiz and the answers to your parents so they can test you randomly around the house!

Technique 4 – Learn through song

Your brain is really good at remembering information heard through music. Just turn on the radio and see how long it takes you to sing or hum along to the first song that comes on – you have thousands of song lyrics and melodies stored away in your long-term memory!

See if you can find songs (or write them if you're particularly musical) that link with topics you are revising. YouTube is a great resource for this.



Technique 5 – Space for a post-it

Use post-it notes with key facts, figures, equations, key words, quotes etc. around your house in the places you see most often –the back of the bathroom door, the fridge, the kettle, the corner of the TV, the outside of the shower or the mirror where you put on your make-up.



(This is maybe a little too far)

Not only will you see these post-it notes every time you go to that place, but you will begin to associate the place with that fact. Try having a different subject in different rooms of the house or on different coloured post-its. In your exam, go on a mental tour of your house to remind you of where the post-its were and what was written on them.

You could even try putting 2 post-it notes on top of each other with a question on top and an answer underneath.



Some other things to try

- Record yourself – use the voice recorder on your phone to record yourself reading out some important notes or information and listen back to it while you're on the bus on before you go to bed.
- Make links between things you are trying to remember. Try turning your notes into a story or depicting them through a series of pictures.
- Schedule regular breaks. Try the Pomodoro method to keep your brain active (and learn the Italian word for 'tomato' at the same time!)



J'ai regardé un film romantique qui s'appelle "Titanic".

