

Revising

The important thing is to use techniques which are active, and which force you to test yourself.

1. Make [effective notes](#) as you read through revision guides. Take the information you're reading and extract the key points which will help you remember it. Copying text word for word is pointless. But, the act of summarising information with notes forces your brain to focus on the subject matter.

2. Write down a summary of a topic before you move on to the next one. If you are able to sum up all of the key points from memory, you can confidently say that you know it.

3. Create [flashcards](#) to distil information into an easily reviewable format. You can then use these cards to test your memory and find out which topics you need to revise more thoroughly.

4. Draw [mind maps](#) to organise information visually. Mind maps help some people to picture information and remember the connections between key details.

5. Practise along with educational videos. For some people, watching videos is far more engaging than reading. If you're one of those people, make sure you actively take notes or practice questions while the video is running. This will prevent your mind from wandering.

6. Discuss your ideas with your classmates and friends, especially for opinion-based subjects such as [English Literature](#). Opening yourself to their ideas will help you formulate your own opinions. You should debate your ideas amongst each other, and try to persuade them with your own arguments. This will prepare you to express your opinions in the exam. *Who do you think was really to blame for Macbeth's death in the play? Who was the most responsible for Eva Smith's downfall? When did Jekyll first go too far?*

7. Try teaching a topic to someone who knows nothing about it. If you can teach someone else about a topic, then you have a good grasp of it. Remember, if you recognise any gaps in your knowledge while you're trying to teach a topic, make a note to go back and revise it.

8. Draw diagrams and tables whenever appropriate. For some people, picturing a diagram is far easier than simply trying to remember the information that diagram represents.

9. Create a slideshow presentation to summarise a topic. To create a PowerPoint presentation (or any similar slideshow format), you will need to work creatively to divide your topic into sections and visually organise it. This creative work will help you engage your brain and form long term memories.

10. Test your friends and have them test you back. Remember - there's no point cheating by using a textbook! If you don't know the answer to a question, make a note and review it later.

11. Answer practice questions to continually practice how you'll apply your knowledge in an exam. You can find revision questions for any subject online. There are also handy revision apps such as [Gojimo](#). But, remember that practice questions may not be a good representation of the questions you'll face in the exam.

12. Do past papers, under timed conditions, without your notes! There are only a limited number of past papers available online for your subject and exam board, so you should only attempt past papers when you think you're ready to do so. But, when you do, this is the best possible way of testing yourself and preparing yourself for the exam.

Repeat, repeat, repeat

There is one final thing you need to remember: **repetition is how you create long term memories.**