

REVISION TECHNIQUES

Different techniques suit different people, but it is clear that revising needs to be far more active than just reading through notes. Some tips are suggested, in related clusters:

Underline and link key ideas

Rewrite notes as **mind-maps**

Use **colour** to highlight important things

Draw diagrams to relate aspects

Put **Post-it notes** around the house

Shorten and then read notes **out loud**

Form some notes into a rap or 'song'

Read and **record notes** (e.g. on a dictaphone), playing them back later

Use recorded TV revision programmes

Revise with other students – talking through your understandings

Write brief notes and copy them out a few times

Chunk and read notes carefully in these sections

Rewrite key points using other words

Reduce notes to **key ideas** on postcards and always have a few with you

Skim read notes, looking for headlines as you go

Squeeze or bounce a ball as you review facts, stepwise

Move around as you read your notes

Listen and move to music as you write and rewrite notes

Get someone else to **test** you on key facts as you move around

ACTIVE REVISING

Reduce the bulk of your notes into key facts

Flashcards help

Have plenty of paper handy

Study a chunk at a time – pace yourself

Test yourself or get someone to test you

Do not dwell on easier subjects/topics – try to aim for a balance

Possibly skip harder topics

Possibly make up mnemonics to help remember facts

Your memory probably works better than you think it does – allow for repeated practice

Look after yourself and reward yourself

OTHER MATERIALS

Use past exam papers and revision guides to correct points you are unclear about

Computer software can be very helpful (e.g. Bitesize, SAM learning, not MSM chatrooms)

Recorded audio and video revision materials can be good

A library or a café can be a good place to revise – for a change of scenery

www.bbc.co.uk lists revision programme times and has e.g. revision planner blanks

