



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL

*Achieving Excellence Together*

# REVISION TOOLKIT



## Snakes and Ladders

Use a snakes and ladders board. Either devise questions to be asked for each snake and ladder or what the snakes and ladders are for each topic are. e.g. it may be that background radiation is a ladder as it's easy whereas alpha radiation is a snake!



## Flashcards

These can be made for all sorts of topics and can be quite small. The idea here is to put key things on the cards. When you have finished shuffle them up, turn them over and then take one at a time and try to explain the key word or idea out loud or to someone else.



## Others

Take a topic and make notes for someone else. Think about what they might need to know and try to include this in your notes. Get someone else to do this as well on a different topic and swap them over.



## Post-its

Write information on post-it notes and place them on a wall, door large sheet of paper etc. You can then rearrange the post-its in different ways....

- Group into categories
- What you know and what you don't
- Themes



## Timeline

Write out separate card or post-its for parts of a sequence /events in a book or war etc. Jumble them up and then place them in the correct order. This could be on a table or stuck to a wall or sheet of paper.



## Questions

Ask questions before you start to revise anything. Think about a topic to be studied and take some time to think about the questions you would like to have answered. Write them down and as you read through your notes jot down any answers you find. The brain likes looking for answers.



## Mimes

This may sound very daft but try to make up some silly mimes for key words, people, places etc. You need to think through what mimes are suitable for the work you are revising. Every character in a book can have an overall mime that fits them. A chemical group could have a linked mime to remember all the elements in it.



## Ask the expert

Share the topics out between a few people in your group and become an expert in a particular area. Be prepared to answer questions from the group at a later date.



### Attendance/Attention

One of the biggest reason why people can't revise is that they weren't in the lesson or didn't understand when they did it – you can't remember things you don't know or don't understand so make sure you attend all lessons and pay attention when you're there!



### Aliens

Imagine you are revising a particular topic that you will have to explain to someone else – In this case an alien.

How would you write out your notes to explain something clearly so that they could understand?



### WWW review

Go through a topic and highlight what you think are the key ideas/people/words etc. Do a search for the topic on the internet and pick 3 sites to review. Devise a tool of assessing how good the site is in dealing with the topic. Share your review with others.



### Rewrite

Rewrite the topic in your own words. You may want to read a chunk of work and think how **you** would phrase it. In other words what does it really mean and how you can record it in your own voice. You are more likely to remember how **you** say things than how others do.



### Review

Review your notes on the same day you make them, even if it's just for a few minutes. Look at them again in a day's time and then a week and then a month to keep it fresh in your mind. You will have to make sure you have a really reduced set of notes so you can review them quickly.



### Reduction

Set yourself a challenge of reducing the amount of notes you have by half – you need to decide. You can set the number and challenge yourself to beat personal scored. So you could reduce 3 pages of notes down to 1 or 200 words to 70 etc. You must be careful to keep the overall meaning of the topic.



### Mistakes

Get your teacher to demonstrate, read, show something with loads of mistakes in it – wrong stages, words, processes etc. You then have to find all the mistakes! It could be exam papers filled in for you or you could do it yourselves as a role play – the good, the bad and the ugly!



### Read

Read your notes/books in a comfy place where you feel relaxed – think about your normal room and where else you could go. Try to concentrate for short periods of time and then either put the book down and just relax for a break or get up and do something else for a few minutes.



## Notecards

Use small notecards to record your revision notes. There should be one topic only on a card. There could be key words/ideas/symbols/pictures on it – depends on you. The hard part will be reducing the noted from a number of pages onto a small card. The reverse of the card could have a worked example on it.



## Words and meanings

Take the key words from a topic and either write their meanings down next to the word or try to work out what they mean and then check. When you think you know the words and meanings then try to use the words in a sentence or exam question.



## Exponential decay

The first time you revise a topic count the number of pages of notes. As you write it out aim to reduce it to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the number of pages. When you come back to it a second time try to reduce it by half again. On the third go reduce by half again! You should now have a small set of notes that is quick and easy to read.



## Workshop<sup>(not revision session)</sup>

Attend a workshop on any topic you need. Workshops are not revision sessions, as they tend to be more interactive and you use it as a chance to discuss issues around the topic. If there are not workshops offered ask about having some put on.



## Colour coding

Use different coloured paper for revision notes on different topics. The colour will be associated with the topic and will be easier for some people to recall. You will need to decide on the colours you will use and try not to use similar colours for similar topics so you avoid any confusion.



## Favourite places

Put up any revision notes/post-its around the house especially in your favourite places like the fridge, top of the telly etc. Use these places and stop there to consider the notes.



## The best answer

When you are given revision/exam questions to practice try to write 3 alternative answers.....

- The worst answer
- Average answer
- Best answer

You could imagine yourself to be the best person in the class or the teacher in order to write the best answer. Think about what makes it the worst answer and what makes it only average.



## 10 Commandments

What are the 10 commandments of a particular topic? Go through a topic and decide on the 10 key people/ideas/events for the topic. You could also compare your list to other people.



## Why?

Try to find out why you are learning this particular topic. The try to make it more interesting for yourself. In other words why is this important for you?  
Find a context for the learning.



## Card games

Make up a card game to test your knowledge about a topic. It could be based on an existing card game with a tweak to the rules or completely invented. It could involve collecting sets of cards or a matching game.



## Tapes

Make a tape for you to revise from. It could be you reading out the notes as they appear in your exercise book. Alternatively you could read your notes, stop at various points and recall what you've just covered – key words, ideas, phrases, quotes etc.



## Symbols in Short

Look at all the key words in a particular topic and come up with a symbol for them. Think hard about an appropriate symbol. Write out your revision notes using these instead of the key words.



## Revision session

Look at the topics you need to revise for a particular subject. Pick those you know least on and attend a revision session on it. If the topic you need is not there talk to a teacher about putting one on – there will always be other people who need it as well!



## Concept mapping

Go through a topic and pick out the key words/ideas/symbols/pictures and write them on different pieces of paper or post-its. Start to group words together that have a connection. Arrange them, on a large sheet of paper and stick them on with blu-tack so that you can move them around. Add arrows between words and add phrases along them to show how they connect.



## Visuals

Make good use of drawing and diagrams in your revision. Use different colours in the pictures. Replace key ideas etc with pictures. You could try mind mapping with pictures only to make your brain work harder!



## Problem page

Before you revise a topic try to come up with the typical problems you think other students would have. Make a note of them. Now go through your notes and try to find answers to them. Once you think you have some idea, try to complete an answer that would make everything seem clear.



## Walking

Make you notes on small notecards that fit in your pocket and go for a walk. If you enjoy being outside take them with you....

You can read as you go along then put them away and try to recall them out loud, or picture them in your head or think through ideas.

Go to your favourite place and enjoy the fresh air



## Mark schemes

Get a copy of an old paper and try to work out how the examiners would mark it. What are the criteria for different sorts of answers, what are the key things to be included etc.



## Cartoon strip

Take a topic and draw it out as a cartoon strip. Think about the fewest number of boxes you can use – limit yourself. Include speech and thought bubbles. Use lots of colour and symbols.



## Reading out loud

Read your revision notes out loud to a particular rhythm – this could be set by music playing in the background or tapping your foot or walking calmly and steadily.



## Logical order

Have a look through your notes/book and then physically place them in a logical order or sequence. This will help you to see the connections and progression across topics.



## Revision books

There are lots of different books you can buy. There are ones with just information to read and others that are more interactive like question and answer ones. You can even get computer programs. The thing is to decide what sort suits you best and what you can afford.



## Taboo

Make up some small cards with a box at the top and 5 lines underneath. In the box write a key word and in the spaces underneath write 5 words that are closely associated with the word in the box. To play the game take it turns to describe the word in the box without using any of the other 5 words underneath. These are Taboo!



## Text messaging

Try to summarise a topic in only 160 spaces!  
This will make you prioritise and abbreviate.  
This will really make you think!



### Teach it

Take a topic and prepare to teach it to a friend. Put yourself in the position of the teacher, think about how your friend learns best and decide how you could best teach them.



### Visualising

As you revise stop at regular points and close your eyes and try to visualise what's been going on. This could happen at the start, middle or end.



### Mnemonics

Consider the topic you are studying and see if you can sue mnemonics to remember key facts and/or a sequence. The one you might already know is the colours of the rainbow in the correct order Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain



### Study Buddy

Pick someone you know/don't know and arrange to work together to do some revision, You could meet somewhere different and try a variety of different ways of revising from silent reading and then discussion to asking each other questions. Compare different techniques and support each other.



### Story

Make all your revision into a story. Link all the ideas/words/theories into a story. You make up the characters, the period in which it's set and how it all fits together.



### Music

Listen to certain music as you revise. Chill out, baroque or even classical is best. Try to use something without words as your brain will tune into the lyrics rather than your revision! You could try listening to certain music when you revise a certain topic so that they become linked in your mind.



### Q&A

Devise questions and answers about a topic for other people and quiz each other. You could think about doing a "who wants to be millionaire" where the questions are graded according to difficulty – you choose!



### Collage

Each time you come across a key idea/word/process in a topic, take a few minutes to flick through a magazine and find a picture that sums it up. Keep all the images and at the end of the topic place them on paper – grouped, random, linked – it's up to you.... Enjoy the creative process!



### Underlining

As you read through the work in your books underline key words. You could come up with a predicted lists before you start or make a list of the words you have underlined at the end. You could underline in different colours, patterns or different sorts of lines etc.



### Highlighters

As you read through your notes/exercise books use different coloured highlighters to pick out key words/themes/ ideas/points etc. You could try a different colour for different topics or themes. Try internet revision sites where you can highlight on-line.



### Posters

Make a poster on each topic - you pick the size you want. (A4 to A1). After reading all your notes and information and drawing on what you already know try to condense it all into one poster. Use plenty of images and symbols and try to limit the amount of text you use.



### Rhythms

Take your notes and after revising sections make them into a song, rap, poem or rhyme. You could look for rhythms within the text and find patterns. You could take an existing song and change the lyrics.



### Mind Maps

Take a topic and mind map it onto one page. Make sure you follow the basic rules:

- Plain paper
- Landscape
- Central image
- Branches going out
- Key words only
- Write on the lines
- Symbols & pictures



### Jigsaw

Choose a subject where you need to learn words and their meanings.



### What do I already know

