Chesterfield College Group

Ofsted Good Provider

Revision Tips & Techniques

Top Tips

- **Start revising early** - i.e. months, not days before the exam.
- **Plan your revision using a timetable** - planning out your revision means you can spend more time revising and less time worrying you've forgotten something.
- **Don't spend ages making your notes look pretty** - this is just wasting time. For diagrams, include all the details you need to learn, but don't try to produce a work of art.

- **Set up a nice, tidy study space** - you'll need somewhere with good lighting, your pens close by, your phone out of sight and your TV unplugged. Try not to revise on your bed.
- **Try a variety of different revision techniques** - answering practice questions, writing down notes from memory, and using Revision Guides, Flash Cards, Exam Practice Workbooks etc.
- **Stick revision notes all around your house** - so in the exam you think, "Aha, quadratic equations, they were on the fridge..."

- **Do lots of practice papers and questions** - you'll find it far easier to answer questions in the exam if you've tried similar ones at home beforehand.
- **Set aside time to do fun things** - don't totally stop yourself from having fun. This'll help you stay motivated, relax, and allow you to keep up with your favourite hobbies.
- **Keep your phone and other distractions away** - phones are great, but they're a one-stop shop for procrastination. Phones AWAY!

Don't just read your notes - WRITE STUFF DOWN - repetition works.

Sleep and eat properly - sleep is more important than you'd imagine, it helps your brain store all the information you've learned throughout the day. Drinking plenty of water and eating healthy foods will also boost your concentration throughout the day.

Study tips!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p60rN9JEapg

Different learning styles:

- What kind of learner are you quiz: https://www.quizony.com/what-kind-of-learner-are-you/index.html > Take the quiz

- Learning styles quiz: http://www.educationplanner.org/students/self-assessments/learning-styles-quiz.shtml > Take the quiz

- Take either of the two quizzes above to explore what type of learner you might be.

The Seven Learning Styles

Visual (spatial): You prefer using pictures, images, and spatial understanding.
Auditory (auditory-musical): You prefer using sound and music.
Verbal (linguistic): You prefer using words, both in speech and writing.
Physical (kinaesthetic): You prefer using your body, hands and sense of touch.
Logical (mathematical): You prefer using logic, reasoning and systems.
Social (interpersonal): You prefer to learn in groups or with other people.
Solitary (intrapersonal): You prefer to work alone and use self-study.

Learning Styles

WHAT'S YOUR LEARNING STYLE?

VERBAL

Words are your strongpoint! You prefer to use words both in speech and in writing!

VISUAL

You prefer to use pictures, diagrams, images and spatial understanding to help you learn

MUSICAL / AUDITORY

You prefer using sounds or music or even rhythms to help you learn.

PHYSICAL / KINAESTHETIC

You use your hands, body and sense of touch to help you learn. You might 'act things out'.

LOGICAL / MATHEMATICAL

Learning is easier for you if you use logic, reasoning, systems and sequences.

SOCIAL

You like to learn new things as a part of a group. Explaining your understanding to a group helps you to learn.

SOLITARY

You like to work alone. You use self-study and prefer your own company when learning.

COMBINATION

Your learning style is a combination of two or more of these styles.

Visual learners:

- Copy down all the diagrams you can
- Get visual heavy textbooks
- Watch videos
- Use highlighters
- Use flash cards
- Replace words with symbols or initials

Verbal learners:

- Discussion
- Debate
- Audio tools
- Videos
- Voice notes
- Social / group revision

Auditory learners:

- Voice record your notes, and play them back
- Make speeches and presentations
- Read aloud your notes
- Revise with your peers and discuss points
- Discussion

Physical/ Kinaesthetic learners:

- Make learning physical
- Work on whiteboards
- Get involved in practical's
- Draw out diagrams
- Act out processes

Logical learners:

- Create and use lists by extracting key points from your material.
- Use statistics and other analysis to help you identify areas you may want concentrate on.
- Make use of 'systems thinking' to help understand the links between various parts of a system.

Social learners:

- Group revision
- Bounce ideas off each other
- Test each other
- Group tasks
- Discussion

Solitary learners:

- Begin revising well in advance
- Goal set
- Find somewhere quiet to revise
- Listen to music
- Test yourself

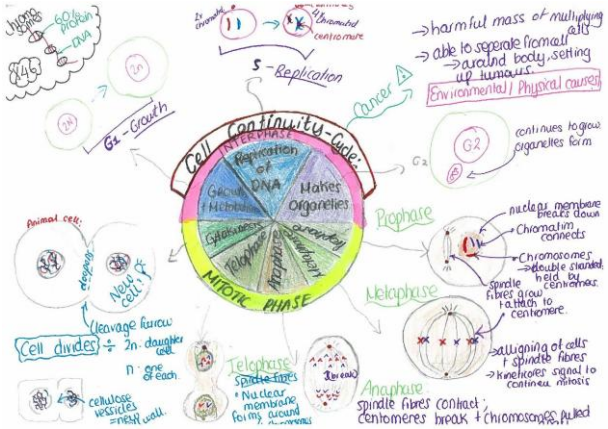
Active recall:

- This video is on active recall; it takes a different approach to revision.
- Active recall is focused more on repetition, active tasks and instant information retention.
- Active recall video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97Rs3oDzEtc

Mind maps

Mind maps can be used in two ways:

- Writing down everything that you can remember to identify gaps in knowledge.
- Displaying the topic visually in a way that helps you to remember.



Tips:

- Create a main focus for your mind map so there is a structure.
- Add colour and shapes – bright colours help your brain to remember what you're doing.
- Use as many keywords as possible – keywords strengthen the links you have between bits of information.
- Include small, sketched diagrams – sketching diagrams will help you to remember.
- Stick them on your wall once completed so you are looking at them all the time.

Flash cards

Tips:

- Phrase your flashcard as a question on one side and the answer on the other.
- When testing yourself, make a pile of cards you got exactly right and a pile that you got wrong. Keep going until all the cards are in the ‘right’ pile.
- Make sure you give yourself time to think and don’t reply on the ‘answer side’.
- Repeat this process several times.

Past Papers

Tips:

- You can either complete the paper in timed conditions and then check your answers.

or

- Take as much time as you need to and concentrate on getting full marks.
- Use the mark scheme!
- Save your past papers until a few weeks before the exam so you don’t run out of them.
- Speak to your tutor for each subject, they can tell you the best place to find past papers.

Ways to memorise facts and figures

- Use mnemonics e.g. 30 days have September…., Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain.

- A mnemonic can also exploit the number of letters in a word e.g. Lots of people struggle to remember that the ship port is on the left and starboard is right. The word ‘port’ has four letters, which matches the number of letters in the word ‘left’, giving it a distinction and making it easier to remember.

Teach someone else

Processing information with the view to re-laying it to someone else, in a way that they will understand, will help you to remember information in a different way to if you are just learning it for your own benefit.

By teaching the information to someone that you know, you are creating memories around this information that links to someone who is familiar to you. This is turn will help you to remember the information itself.

The Art of Association

If you can turn facts or figures into eccentric images in your head, it will be much easier for you to remember it.

- Practise making word associations as often as you can e.g. to remember that Athens is the capital of Greece…

If you associate ‘Greece’ with grease oil and ‘Athens’ with ‘hens’, you can imagine ‘greasy hens’ and link this back to Greece and Athens.

- If you can make up a story using a set of facts or figures, you’ll be able to embed them into your memory.

The Pomodoro Technique

1. **Decide** on the task to be done.
2. Set the timer to **25 minutes**.
3. **Work** on the task until the timer rings.
4. Take a short 5 minute **break**.
5. Take a 15-30 minute **break**.

repeat 4 times

FRACTUS LEARNING

#bitesizePD

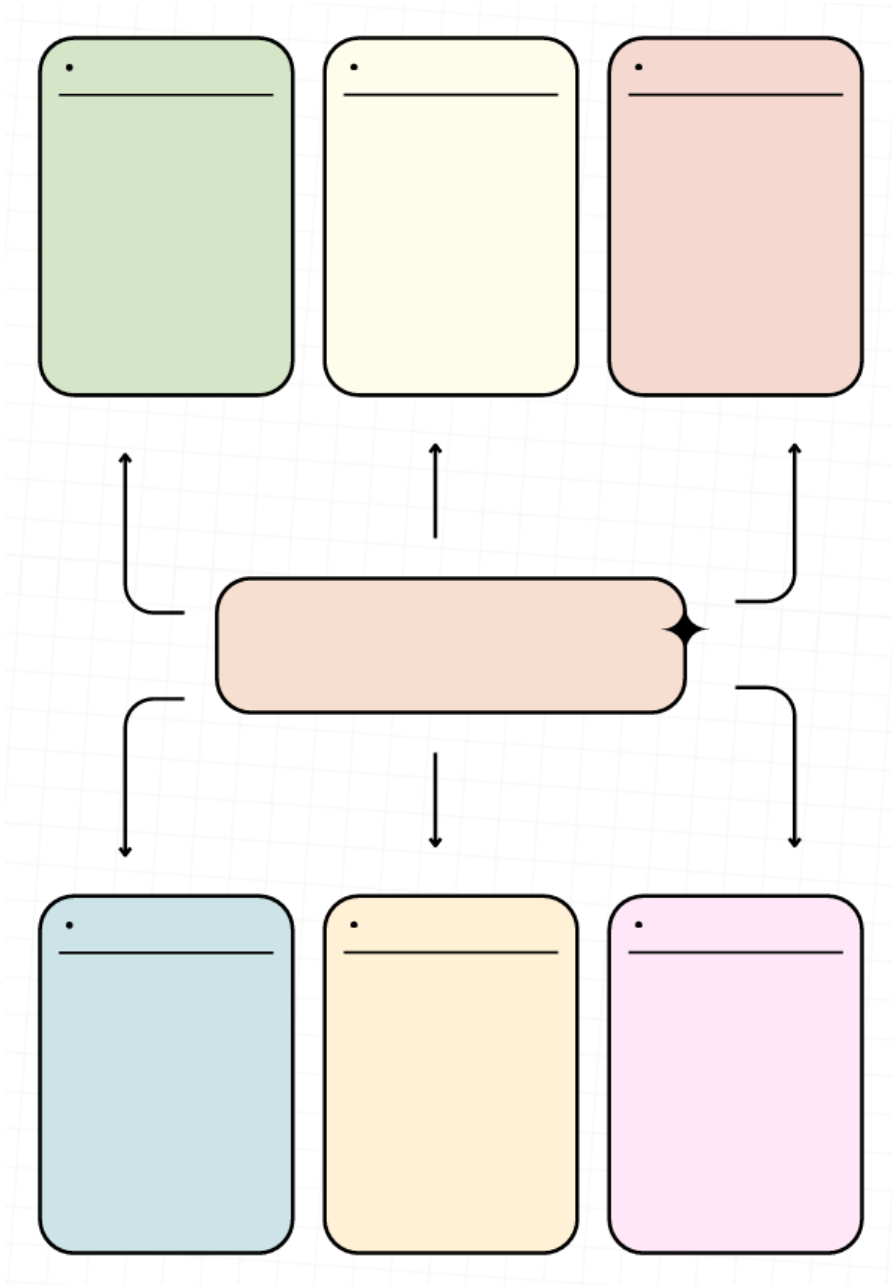
Revision Resources

Flashcard Templates

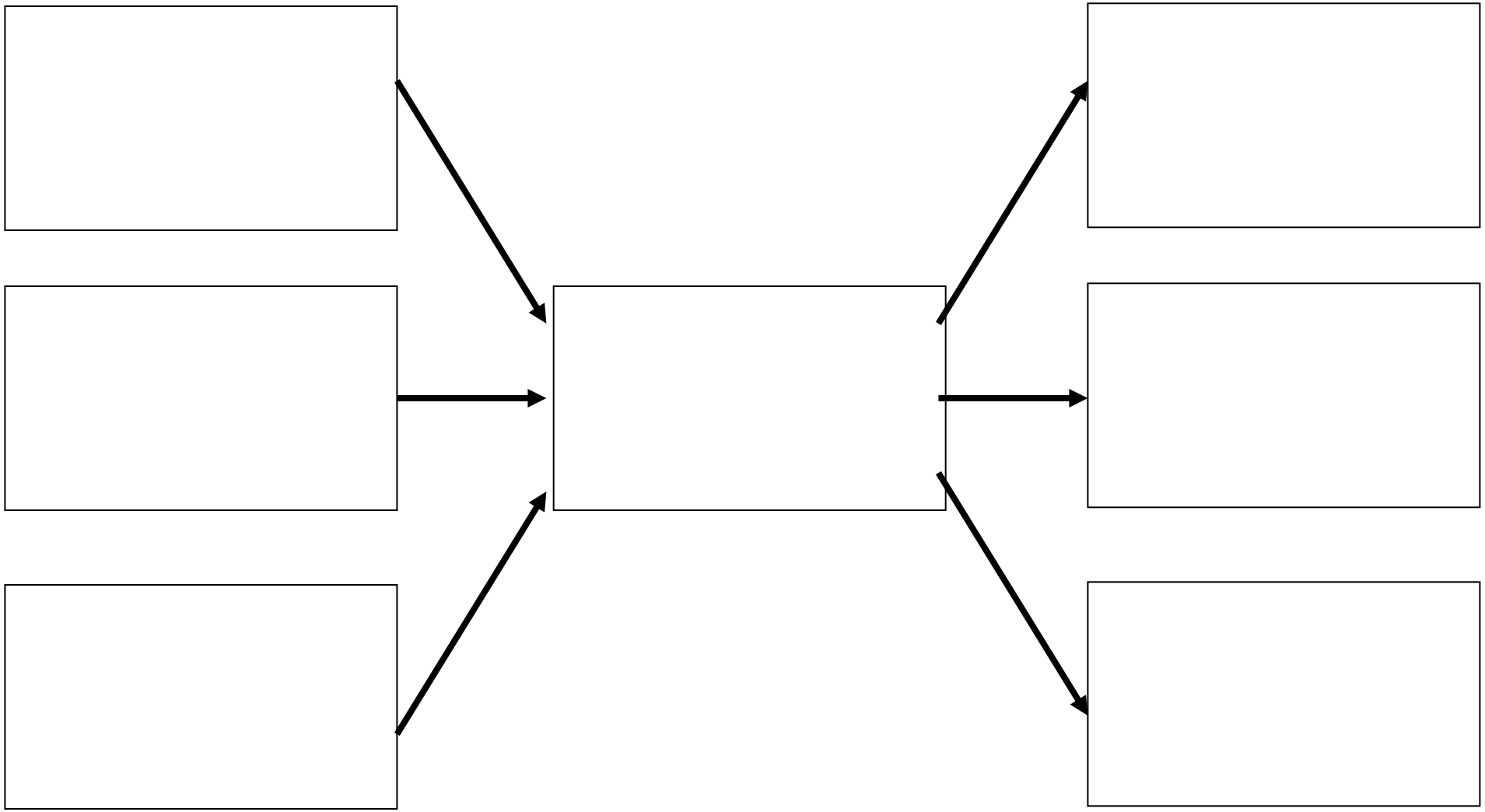
Question	Question
Question	Question
Question	Question

Answer	Answer
Answer	Answer
Answer	Answer

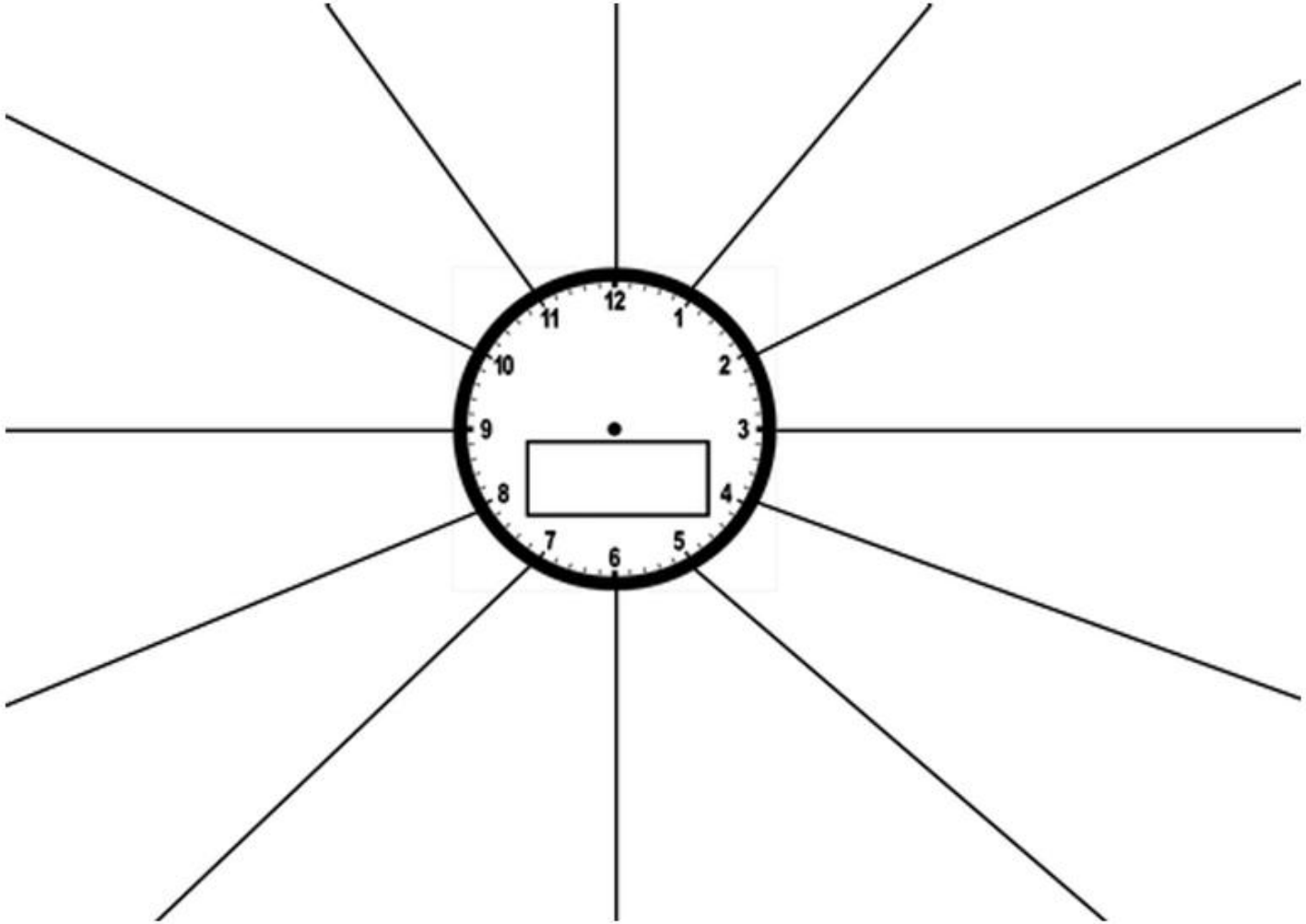
Mind Map



Multi-flow



Revision Clock

Revision Clock

Each segment of the clock is a space for notes on a particular part of the wider topic. The clock segments also could represent time limits (e.g. spend 5...10...20...minutes writing out all you can remember).