

SIMPLE TIPS FOR EXAM PREP – STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Avoid all distractions:.

- ⇒ Be honest and strict with yourself;
- ⇒ Keep your TV, computer, laptop, ipad, phone, kindle, Facebook, twitter and any games away
- ⇒ If **music** becomes a distraction, get rid of it.
- ⇒ Do not waste time or delay starting.

In your breaks:

- ⇒ move around;
- ⇒ drink water;
- ⇒ eat something .

Sleep well:

- ⇒ Do not work into the early hours of the morning
- ⇒ give yourself a break between finishing revision and going to bed.

Find a space you are comfortable revising in:

- ⇒ This might be your bedroom, or a study or the kitchen. Some of you might find it easier to revise if your parents are there with you.



- ⇒ Clear space to store folders, textbooks and revision.
- ⇒ It is going to be around for a while so make space for it somewhere in your house. Make sure you tell parents what it is and where it is so they do not move it or throw it out!

You will need a **desk or a table** that is not cluttered so you can spread things out on. You might want to leave things out for the next session.

Do some form of **exercise** during revision and exams.

Reward yourself at the end of your revision session.

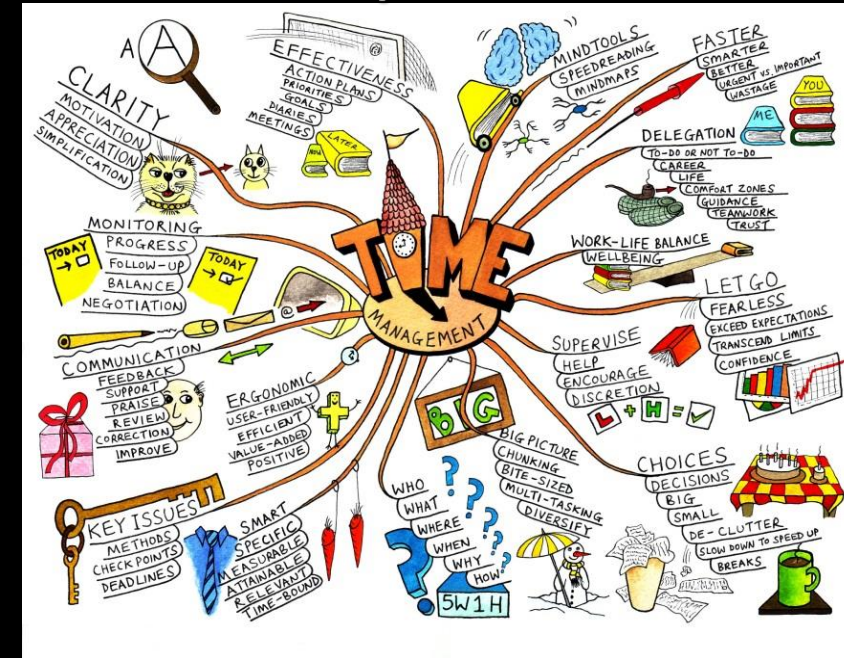
Tell your parents/family or who you live with when you are revising:

- ⇒ They can help by **keeping distractions away** from you including themselves, brothers, sisters, friends and pets and keeping the house quiet.
- ⇒ They can help and support you by **testing you and keeping you on track** if you lose focus.

Linear notes on paper:

- Reduce what is in your folder/exercise book/textbook;
- Read through what you need to summarise before you actually summarise it;
- Use headings and subheadings
- Keep notes brief;
- Write everything in a way that you understand;
- Do not copy huge chunks out;
- Add detail
- Underline key words; highlight; write in different coloured pens;
- Use bullet points, arrows or numbers to keep it clear and organised;
- Leave spaces to add points;
- Use arrows or dotted lines to link points.

Some revision techniques



Title: LINEAR NOTES

1.0 Heading: Styles of notetaking

1.1 Sub-heading: Listed/ Linear

Notes: a) Listed - uses list points style
b) Linear - uses headings etc

1.2 Sub-heading: Spray/ Mindmapping

Notes: Uses diagram form, less structured

Mind maps or spider diagrams:

- Key question, exam question or a key topic in the centre;
- Subtopics or subheadings;
- Add key pieces of information;
- Develop some of your points;
- Add symbols or images;
- Use different coloured pens or highlight different points;
- Use different sized pieces of paper.

Revision cards:

- A5 or A6;
- Key questions, headings or subheadings on each one and key information;
- Lots of cards with different information, answering one question;
- Move them around or stick them down on larger pieces of paper or around your room with blue tack.



Post it notes:

- Definitions;
- Bullet point the answer to key questions;
- Different post it notes, each containing different parts of an answer to one question;
- Can be moved around, linked or prioritised.

• **Summarise:** Once you have written out your revision notes, it's time to condense that information into small manageable facts. This is where memory cards come in to play.

• **Word power:** For each topic, write bullet points of key facts on a set of index cards.

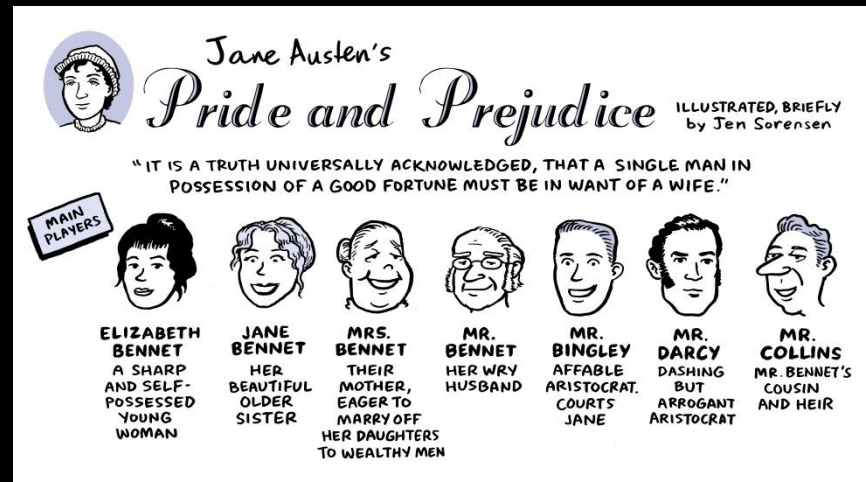
• **Organise:** Categorise the facts into sub-categories, then sub-sub-categories so you can understand how they all link together.

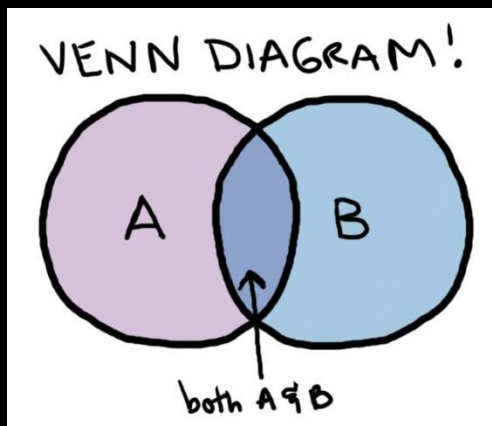
• **Link:** Don't just remember the key facts on the cards. They should act as prompts for all the other revision facts you've been learning.

• **Portable:** The great thing about small index cards is that you can put them in your bag/pocket and take them anywhere. That way you can look at them on the way to school or even when you're out shopping!

Drawing memory anchors or picture based notes:

- Combination of key words, numbers and pictures;
- Create a key;
- Use a combination of notes and pictures.



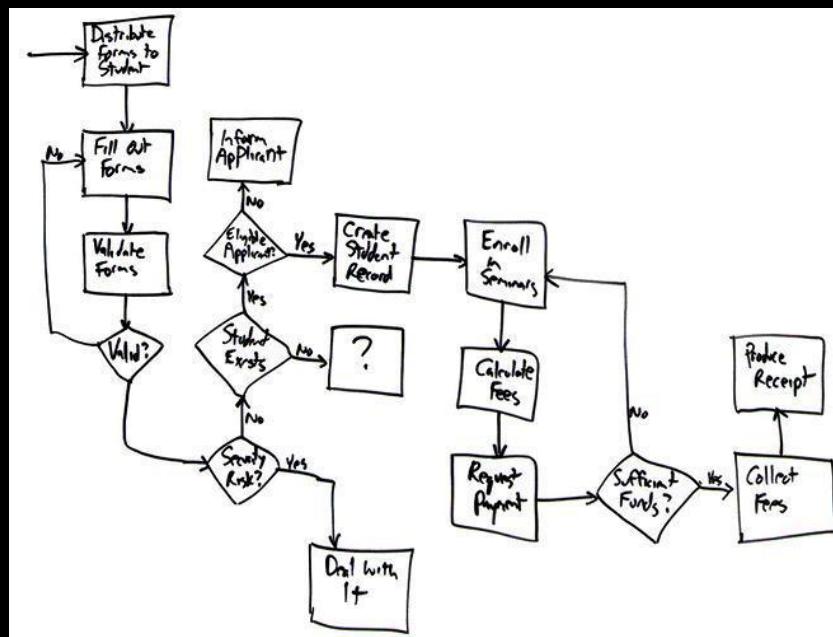


Flow charts or timelines:

- Large pieces of paper (rolls of wall paper or pieces stuck together);
- Key dates, ideas, processes or stages;
- Add the information as you go along;
- Use different coloured pens or highlighters;
- Add images or diagrams.

Other techniques:

- Songs; poems or raps!
- Mnemonics (devices to help you remember numbers and words);
- Quizzes;
- Question and answers;
- Read, cover, up, say, write, check;
- Role play;
- Teach somebody else;
- Read, summarise (write), record (speak) on recording device and play back (listen).
- Colour code text picking out different points each time;
- Create Venn diagrams or diamond 9 shapes.



Plenty of exam papers and questions:

- ⇒ Revise a topic and attempt an exam paper;
- ⇒ Use the questions as headings and subheadings for revision notes, mind maps and cards;
- ⇒ Get your head round the skills needed for each question;
- ⇒ Recognise the question types;
- ⇒ Apply formulas you have learnt (especially for science and maths);
- ⇒ Make a note of the question you have no idea about.

Other resources:

- If you have worked throughout the course of your GCSEs your folder/exercise book and any textbook your teacher recommends should be more than enough to revise and get top marks. You can however also use additional resources:
- **Getrevising.co.uk** (you can make flashcards and revision notes and it tests you interactively);
- **U2learn.com** (gives you links to all the key subject based websites that have handy revision material, like GCSE bite size).

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VENN DIAGRAM!

