



# The English Martyrs Catholic School and Revision Made Easy

**“Nobody ever left an exam wishing they’d revised less!”.**

Need to start revising, but not sure what the best way is? There are many different revision strategies to help you achieve the grades you deserve!

## Revision misconceptions

- X** Don't do hours of 'cramming'. 20 minute stints are recommended.
- X** Re-reading, highlighting material and watching videos are popular BUT... your brain needs to 'DO' something with this info! (build the muscle – make it work)
- X** Don't just stick with one technique – if it doesn't work for you try something else!
- ✓** Review what the priorities for revision are. What is it that you struggle with the most? Start with this!
- ✓** Create a revision timetable and start early.
- ✓** Remove distractions, such as TV and mobile phone. Reward yourself with these for doing a stint of revision.
- ✓** Stay healthy. Chunk revision, exercise, eat well, sleep well and drink lots of water.

## Here are 6 techniques to get you started.

There are many more, you just need to find one that works for you.

1. Duel Coding
2. Flashcards
3. Revision clocks
4. Mind mapping
5. Cornell note taking
6. Mnemonics



SIMPLE: Building layers of knowledge



# Revision Made Easy

## Duel Coding

This means 'recalling' or 'remembering' information previously learnt. This is carried out by pairing text and images in your revision notes. If you keep it simple, this will help it remain in your memory.

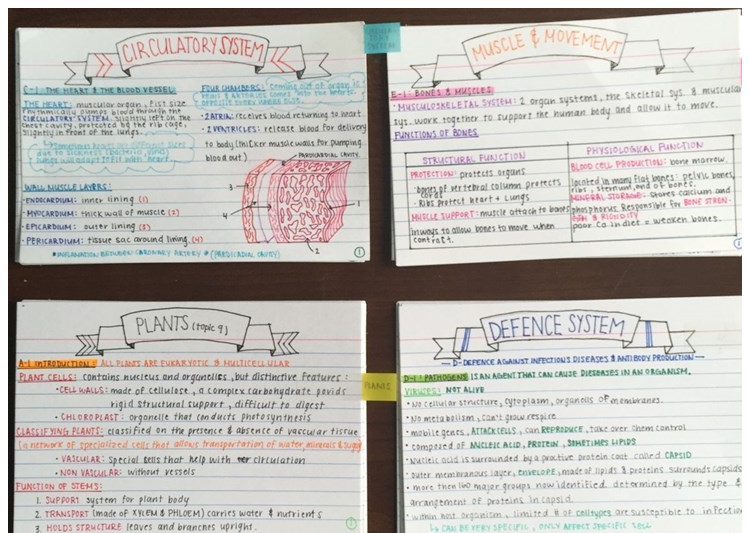
Secondary Effects	Natural Hazards	Hazard Risk 
Primary Effects	Immediate Responses	Structure of the Earth 
Conservative Plate Margin	Long-term responses	Plate Movement
Destructive Plate Margin	Constructive Plate Margin	Distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes

1. Cut out the grid and stick it across a double page (or print on A3).
2. Draw an icon to represent the contents in the box.
3. Using resources such as your exercise book and textbooks, write an overview of each factor on the outside of your sheet.
4. In a few days, repeat this, using **only your memory!**

## Flash Cards

Revision cards are **small, double-sided flashcards that emphasise key information**. They usually mention the topic/question on one side and important details, keywords, mnemonics, etc. on the other. This helps the brain make better connections between those two pieces of information.

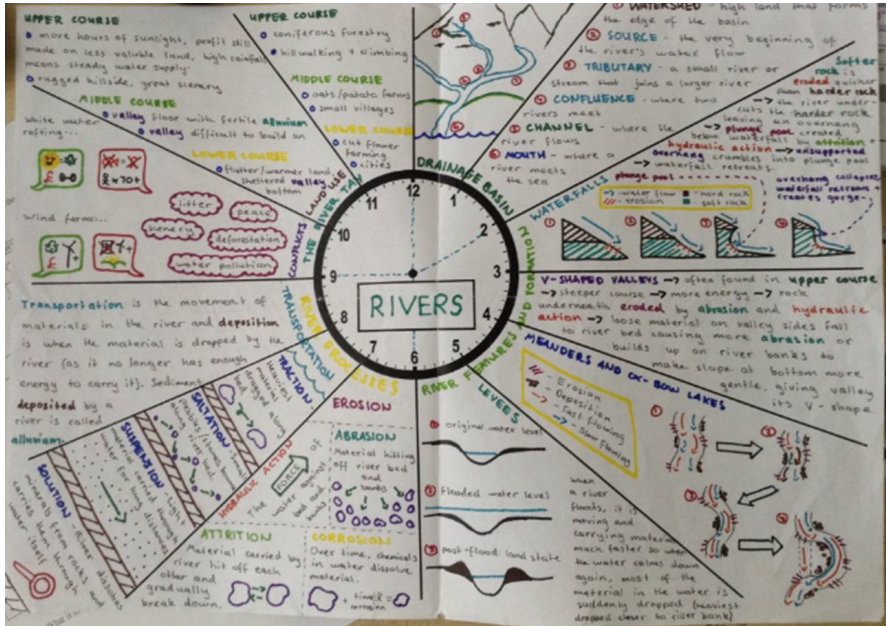
- These can be bought or made
- Use colour to separate and organise ideas
- Use images and text
- Don't overload
- Make as neat as possible
- Spread large topics over multiple cards
- Place quiz questions on the back of them and quiz in pairs



# Revision Made Easy

## Revision Clocks

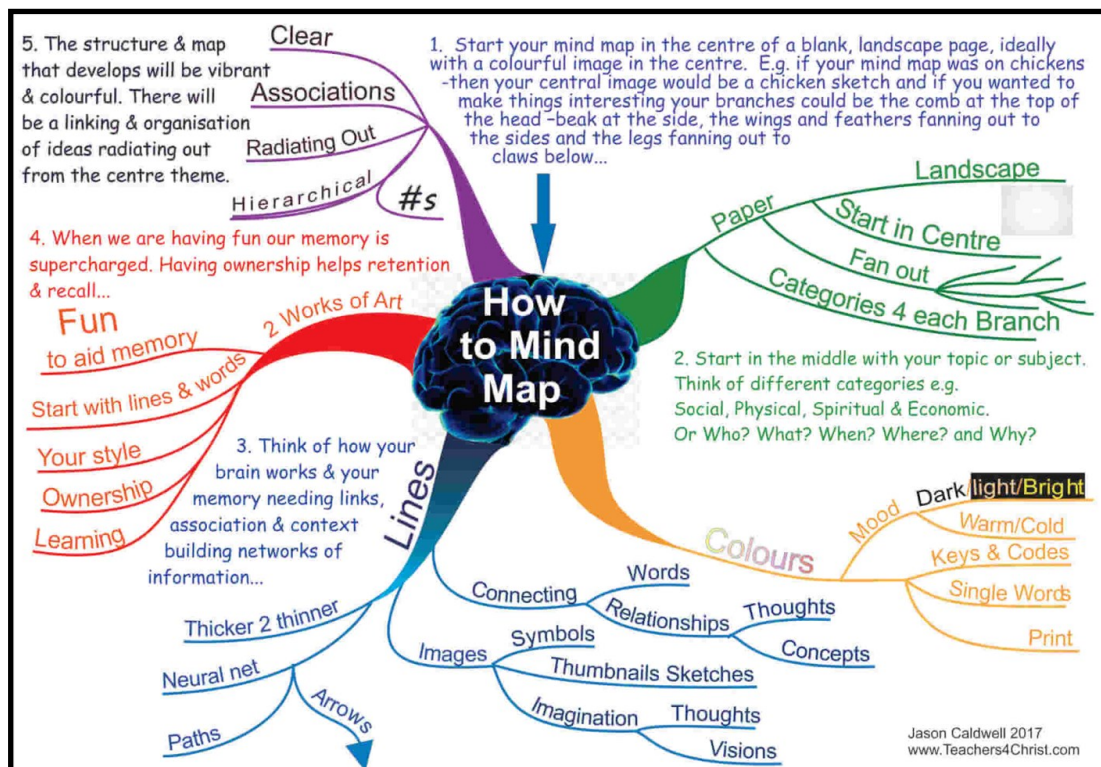
Revision clocks are a great way of **breaking down information in up to 12 manageable chunks**. By breaking down an area you are revising, it allows you to see the big picture, as well as focus on the important aspects of the unit. By spending 5 minutes on each chunk it helps keep you focussed and makes revision more manageable.



1. Take one topic
2. Divide into 12 small chunks of notes/diagrams
3. Each section is 5 mins of revision of that knowledge/ understanding/skill/ command words
4. Try to memorise the information then use it to quiz a friend, get an adult to quiz you!

## Mind mapping

Mind maps provide a structured way to capture and organise ideas and information. They help users to understand concepts by **breaking them down** into their component parts. The technique is used to develop new ideas, or to break down and better understand existing information. Mind maps help you to see how information fits together.



# Revision Made Easy

## Cornell Note taking

There are many different ways of making notes. Some prefer to take a structured approach and use an outline method to take notes, some may prefer a visual way and draw mind maps. Some may even use no structure at all. However, there is **one note taking technique that is considered superior to others** and science has proven that it is not only more efficient but also makes it a lot easier to review notes, for example when preparing for an exam. Cornell note taking helps with 4 important revision strategies:

**Reduce** Chunk information down by 80%. Summarizing clarifies and strengthens memory.

**Recite** Cover the Note Taking Area. Using only your questions in the Key Question column, say over the facts and ideas of the notes as fully as you can, not mechanically, but in your own words. Then, verify what you have said. (talk to yourself)

**Reflect** Draw out opinions from your notes and use them as a starting point for your own reflections on the topic.

**Review** Spend 10 minutes every week in quick review of your notes, and you will retain most of what you have

Subject:	Topic:
Key Questions	Revision Notes
2: For each "note" think of a question that could be asked	1: Read text and write "shorthand notes" of key points
	4: Cover the "notes" and use the questions to test yourself.
Summary	3: Now write a summary of 5-10 key terms

Cornell Notes	Topic/Objective:	Name:
AVID	Identify significant literary devices that define a writer's style and use to interpret work	Class/Period: Lang. ARTS Date: Oct. 12, 2009
Essential Question: How does Langston Hughes' poem, "Mother to Son", advise the reader to overcome difficulty and keep from giving up in life?		
Questions:	Notes:	
What is the significance of the speaker in the poem?	<p>Speaker</p> <p>voice that communicates a poem's ideas, actions, descriptions, &amp; feelings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- similar to narrator</li> <li>- can be unknown or specific (like character)</li> </ul>	
How does a poet's choice of speaker affect the mood/meaning of a poem?	<p>Imp.</p> <p>Poet's choice of speaker: contributes to the poem's mood/meaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- who speaks is as imp. as what is said</li> <li>- different points of view regarding same event (ie. parent, child, elderly person)</li> <li>- the person telling the story gives point of view and affects the message told</li> </ul>	
How does Hughes use vocabulary to contribute to and convey his message?	<p>writer's/poet's style</p> <p>helps to understand meaning</p> <p>"crystal stair" = luxuries (metaphor)</p> <p>ie. "lik' for me ain't been no crystal stair"</p> <p>"reachin'" - replace letter at end of word (dialect)</p> <p>"'cause" = because → slang</p>	
Summary:	The speaker/voice in the poem is important because it communicates the ideas/feelings of the poem. Who the poet chooses as the speaker identifies the point of view and affects the message/meaning. Hughes uses vocabulary and style to convey the message that life is hard when Mother says "aint been no crystal staircase."	

## Mnemonics

- A mnemonic device is a verbal mind memory learning aid such as a small poem, phrase or special word used to help you remember something.
- Mnemonics come in various different forms. For example, many mnemonics use the letters in a word that you need to remember to spell out sentences.

Never  
Eat  
Shredded  
Wheat



M	MERCURY
V	VENUS
E	EARTH
M	MARS
J	JUPITER
S	SATURN
U	URANUS
N	NEPTUNE

College  
Study Tips

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Maximize your mnemonics for memorization.

Can you say that 3 times? Try these tips:

- Keep it simple.
- Make it silly.
- Rhyming words are fantastic.
- Craft a story for a long list.