

Using revision cards in History

The rationale

Revision cards can be an effective way to **memorise** and **retain valuable** information for the History exams. The process of making the revision card i.e. by **condensing knowledge** into **small manageable chunks** and **recording** details helps students **memorise the information** at the same time

Making revision cards

- Some students use **diagrams** and **images** as well as **words** and **numbers**. *For example, when creating a revision card about the impact of William Harvey, pupils might draw a heart or write in blood red ink. For a revision card about the SA they might draw a brown shirt.*
- **Colour coding** revision cards is useful so that you can **categorise information** or focus on certain exams or topics for example Germany, Medicine, Cold War and Elizabeth.
- Make sure that the information on the revision card is written in a student's **own** words and a way in which they fully understand. It is easier to remember this than paragraphs copied from a textbook. Pupils might wish to use abbreviations *such as WW1 for World War One or ToV for the Treaty of Versailles.*

Using revision cards

Once a set of cards are complete pupils can use them in the following way:

- Pupil reads the information on the card. They then turn the card face down and recite the information out loud. Pupil then checks if they were correct. If they are correct then they put this card into an 'I know this' pile. If the pupil does not know the information fully they put it into an 'I don't fully know this' pile. Continue this process until pupil reaches the last card. Pupils takes a 5 minute break and returns to the 'I don't fully know this' pile and repeats the process. By this point the pile should be smaller. Once this has been completed a second time they take another short minute break and repeat. If there are cards or topics that the pupil still cannot get to grips with then follow up work will be required such as re-reading sections of a textbook.
- This can also be practised with a family member or friend who can listen to the pupil as they verbalise the information and might be able to offer clues or prompt the answer. To use a friend or family member is useful as they are likely to be more stringent about the accuracy of the pupil's response! Pupils then begins the process of 'I know this' / don't know this' as above.
- Shuffle the revision cards so that you have to think about the information rather than just remember a sequence of answers because any topic can come up in the exam.

