

Top Revision Tips

What is revision?

- Revision is the process of making sure we **understand** key facts, information, processes and skills in order to succeed in the exam
- Revision is also ensuring that we **memorise** key facts and information in order to recall them in the exam
- Revision is also ensuring that we clearly understand what the **examiners are looking for** and how they will mark the paper

What revision isn't

- Having your books open in front of you when you are watching TV
- Having revision web pages open on your computer, but spending most of your time on facebook and youtube
- Tidying your room and sorting your wardrobe is not 'organising' yourself
- In fact, just reading and re-reading your notes, is not revising
- Revising **MUST** be active and include strategies that help you to **remember**

Before you begin

- Have you got all the notes/information that you need?
- Are your notes for each subject, topic, unit in order?
- Which are your weakest/strongest topics?
- In what order are you going to revise?
- What are the examiners looking for in the exam?

Go Public!

REVISION TIMETABLE

- Make a revision timetable and put it up where everyone in your household can see it. Letting other people know lightens the load – it is not just down to you to motivate yourself, others will encourage you too.
- There are lots of exam timetable generators on the internet, including a Bitesize one – just google ‘exam timetable generator’

Catch the worm



Revise Early

- Facts are more digestible first thing in the morning. Get your revision done early, then you don't spend the rest of the day feeling crushed under the weight of unread folders and books.

Ask Questions



- Facts are sluggish, passive creatures that lie piled up inside your head. Awaken them through the power of questions. When you are making notes put questions down one side and the answers opposite – then test yourself by covering up the answers.
- When you are feeling confident you can answer them correctly, get someone else to test you

Avoid Distractions

- Unplug your computer so you are not tempted by the countless distractions on the web. Switch off your phone too and turn off the TV
- Be honest with yourself – if listening to music when you revise genuinely helps, then choose something that will make you feel positive. If you know that music just distracts you, then **TURN IT OFF!**

Make mnemonics

mnemonics

- **M**ake **N**ames **E**asily **M**emorable by **O**rganising **N**ominated **I**nitial **C**haracters
- E.g. Richard Of York Gained Battle In Vain
- To remember the colours of the rainbow –
red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet

Key words Count



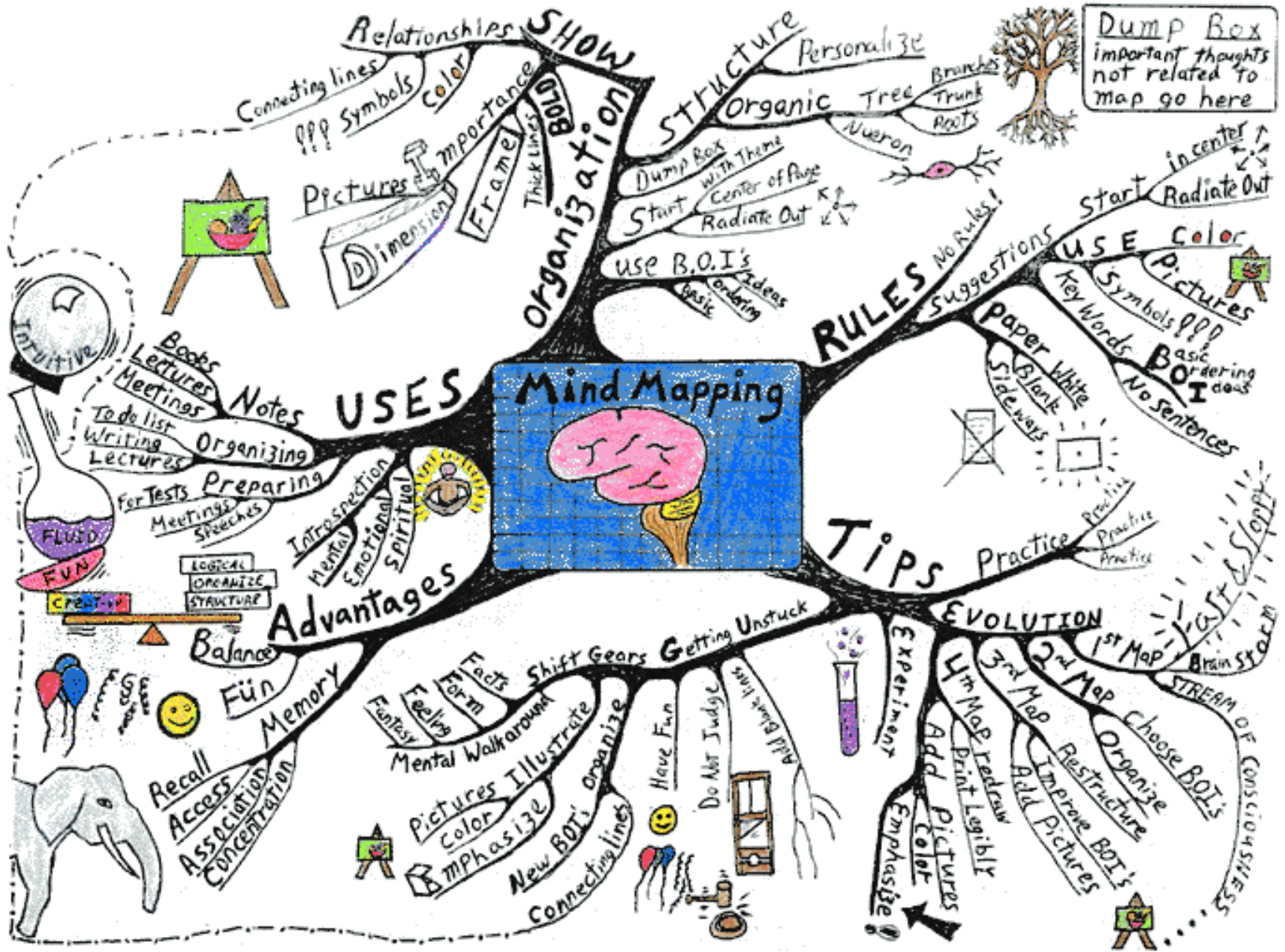
Memory Aids

- Stick up key word around your room – these should then act as ‘triggers’ for other ideas
- Put relevant images around the key words
- Use sketches and diagrams where appropriate to aid your memory

Get things
flowing

- Use timelines and flow diagrams to help you understand and remember order and processes
- If you are going to have to write an essay in the exam practice different methods of planning

Map your mind



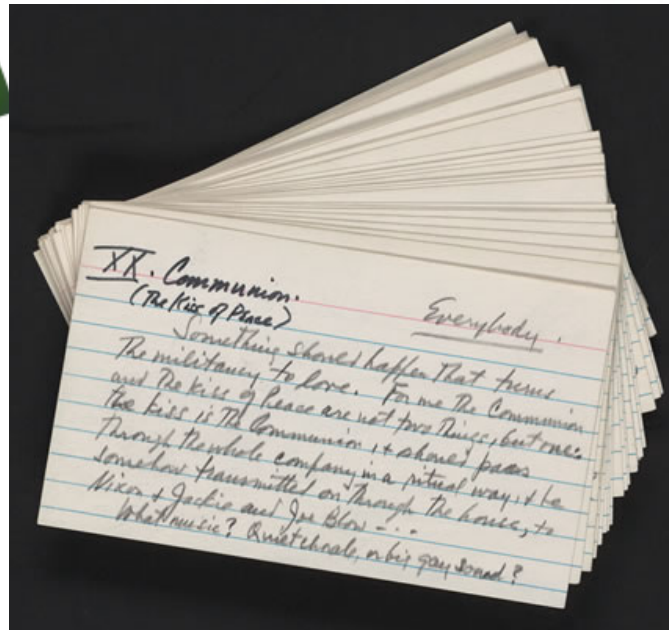
Dump Box
important thoughts
not related to
map go here

Mind Map created by Charles MacInerney - charles@expandingparadigms.com

Guidelines

- Start in the centre with an image of the topic, using at least 3 colours
- Use, images, symbols, codes and dimensions throughout your mindmap
- Select key words
- Each word/image should be alone and sitting on its own line
- The lines must be connected, starting from the central image.
- The central lines are thicker, becoming thinner as they radiate out from the centre.
- Use colours, codes and numbers throughout the mindmap

Stationery Helps



Stick up key words, facts, quotes, formulae, etc. on post-its somewhere that you will notice them. *Around your mirror, perhaps.*



Put key facts and information onto index cards or postcards. Carry them around with you and when you have a spare 5 minutes go through them.

Card 1: Risk vs. Reward

RISK

REWARD

A

B

C

A = Office Job
B = Saying, "I love you."
C = Lottery ticket

Cocaine

Anemia

Intestinal Parasite

Modeling gig

Card 2: Venn Diagram

A

B

D

C

A = Fourteen years old
B = Loves ponies
C = Very trusting
D = Undercover Cop

Card 3: Venn Diagram

Spandex

Pop Music

Fakery

A

A = Cheerleading or Milli Vanilli

indexed.blogspot.com

Use your phone



- Record key facts, information and answers to past questions that you can play back to yourself

Make your revision more effective

- Research shows that the most effective revision takes place at the beginning and end of sessions – so keep revision sessions short, but frequent
- Research shows that in order to remember things effectively we need to get them into our long-term memory.
- To move information from the short-term memory to the long-term memory, you need to frequently recap. E.g. Revise Science topic - Monday; Tuesday – recap for 10 minutes; Wednesday – recap for 10 minutes; a week later, recap the same topic for 5 minutes.
- The more we practice the more efficient and effective we become at doing it – the easier it becomes.

Top Tips for Avoiding Stress

- Realise we all get anxious at times – *talk to someone – a parent, brother or sister, friend or teacher*
- **Face up to the situation, do something about it – don't avoid it**
- **Make a priority list** – *make a list of urgent tasks and those that can wait*
- **Set realistic goals**
- **Think positively – don't be over critical**
- **Reward yourself for things you have completed or things you have done well**

Take time out to relax

- Revision is most effective in 20 minutes bursts with ten minutes break in-between session
- Get plenty of sleep
- Eat healthy food and drink plenty of water
- Get some exercise and fresh air

Task

- Create a mind map that plots these revision tips and strategies

