

Revision Tips

These are the biggest exams of your life! The important thing is not to panic but be plan well for some hard work. If you're organised, you'll find the exams won't as bad as you fear.

It's important to recognise that we are all different and that we all have different learning styles! Our brains take in information at different rates and store it in different ways. This booklet is designed to give you examples of different ways of learning and revising so that you can find a technique which suits you best. What works for you may not work for others.

There are however general tips that all learners should consider about effective revision:

Attitude!

Having the right attitude to revision will make a massive difference to how successful you will be. Expect the best of yourself. Believe in yourself. Make revision your number 1 priority for the next few months.

Planning!

Write down all the subjects you have to revise putting them in the order you want to revise them. Give each subject a number.

Make an exam timetable and write down beside each subject the date and time of the exam.

Give each subject say 1 hour.

Consider when you have those subjects in school. Build in the time to cover any work set by your subject teachers.

Remember that you will need to update it from week to week!

When it comes to 'study leave', plan to study 3 or 4 subjects per day. Plan each day carefully, revising the hardest subjects at the beginning of the day when your mind is fresh and spending more time on those subjects you expect to struggle with.

Ask someone to help you draw up a revision timetable if necessary. Share it with someone (parent, mentor, friend) to help you get a perspective on it—is it reasonable? Is it too ambitious?

Where to work?

Find a quiet and uncluttered place. Consider using the library or grandparents' house a few nights a week if necessary.

Revision Guides

Revision Guides can be useful but get advice from your subject teacher on which one to use. You can use revision guides to test yourself and provide a focus for your revision but remember they are unlikely to cover everything you may need to know.

Give me a break!

Take a 15 minute break every 60 minutes and have at least an hour for meals.

Use the time to snack; take some exercise; relax and clear your mind! If needs be, build your favourite television programme into you timetable to act as a break. But be disciplined about it.

Test Yourself

Testing yourself helps to identify areas where you need to work more. The school will provide you with past papers. Get together with your friends and test each other on key facts which you need to know.

Ask for Help!

If you get stuck or anxious, talk to someone! You're not on your own. They may suggest a strategy that you hadn't thought of.

Making Revision Cards

The Revision Cards are a good tool for aiding revision. But the act of creating the cards is also a good revision technique.

Getting it down

The basic idea would be to summarise information to be learnt.
Using Word, create a text box about half the page and start typing...

Use bullet points
Use bold for key words
Don't put too much information on each card
Save them on your computer carefully—so that they can easily be referenced.

Print them out onto card, cut into A5 size
Use a highlighter pen when you first use them

Later, print new copies but perhaps miss out key words/formulae etc for you to use as a test.

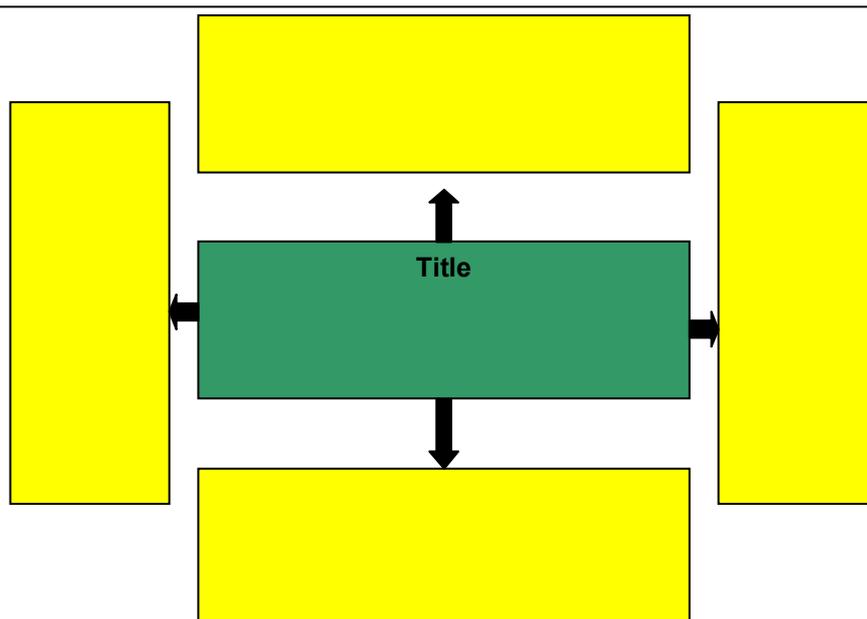
Make them interesting

You could create spider diagrams or text boxes to help organise your mind.

You can get a template of a spider diagram by going onto the school website; going to the curriculum button; down to revision support; download the word document that is there.

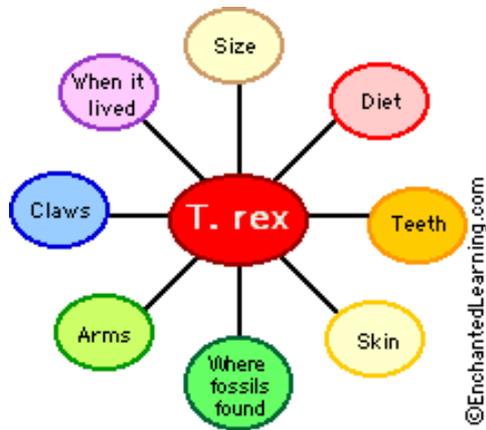
Adapt them to suite your needs but don't spend too long on the design

Change the size of the boxes and add arrows as required



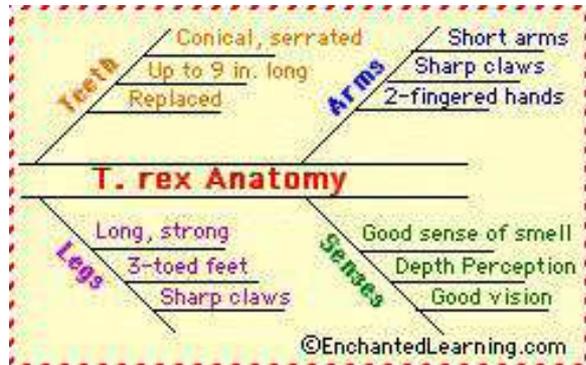
How to make a Spider Diagram

Spider diagrams are sometimes called *Graphic Organisers* and they come in various shapes and sizes including the traditional spider. Below are 4 examples of different types of Graphic Organisers and examples of how you can use them.



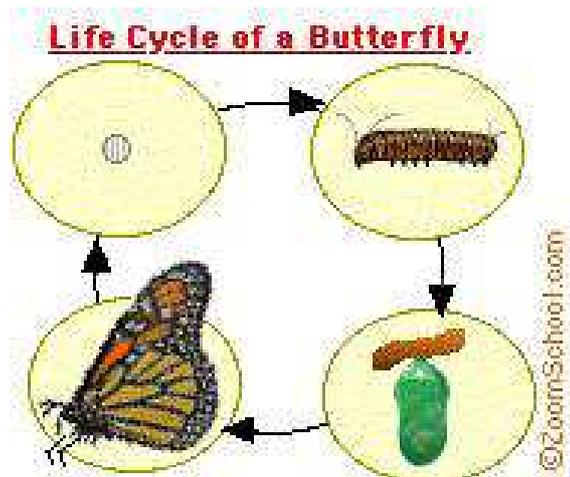
Spider Diagram

Star Diagram



Fishbone Diagram

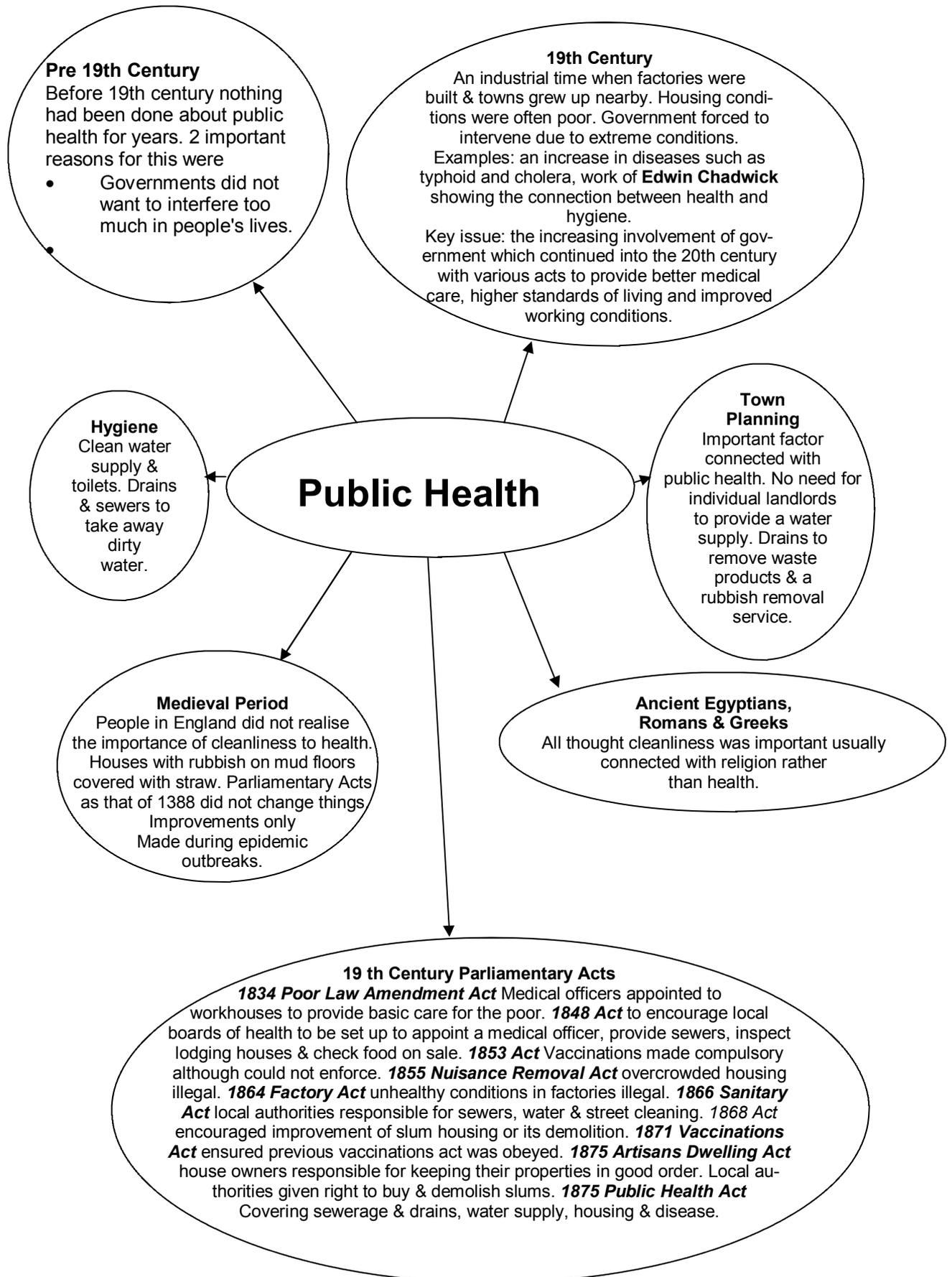
Cycle Diagram



You can find many types of graphic organisers online and some are pre-written. However, as stated earlier, the act of creating these is a good revision technique in itself—deciding which points are important etc. If you have doubts about whether your diagrams have missed anything vital out, share them with someone—parent/teacher/mentor/friend.

Blank diagrams can again be found on the school website. Copy and paste boxes and arrows to personalise your diagram

Example of a Star Diagram



How to make a Mind Map

You can turn your notes into a Mind Map by following these instructions. Start from the centre of the page and work out.

Make the centre a clear and strong visual image that reflects the general theme

Use a combination of key words and relevant images.

Put ideas down as they occur and wherever they fit.

Put main subject words on main lines and key words for each subject on branch lines.

DO NOT USE TOO MANY WORDS!

Use **colour** for different themes and to make things stand out. (Anything that stands out on the page will stand out in your mind.)

Use arrows, cartoons or other visual images to make the Map more memorable.



Mindmaps can be created using a computer but personally I think drawing them by hand (no matter how good you are at drawing) is better. This is YOUR mind map, so your images are better than anyone else's.

Share it with others—talk through your map with your parent/teacher/mentor/friend

Making Notes



Notes are meant to be short memory-joggers! There is no point in simply copying out word for word work from your exercise books or text books.



Keep your notes as brief as possible.



One idea is to reduce all your notes into key *words*



The brain remembers things best by seeing them or storing them in different ways. For example, if you read about the causes of World War I draw them in a diagram and then discuss them with a friend or teacher. You are more likely to remember what you revise if you are able to articulate what you have learned.



Use highlighting pens to colour code your notes.



Use Mind Maps, flowcharts, spider diagrams and other visual tools to make your notes more distinctive and personalised.

Using Post-its Notes

Buy yourself some “Post-its” which can be used to write keywords, concepts, vocabulary, quotes, formula, etc and then stuck around the house in the rooms that you spend a lot of time in. This means that you revising even when you’re not!



Revising using Mnemonics

Mnemonics literally means '*memory*'. It's about putting something memorable into your mind to help you recall information.

Mnemonics have been used for centuries in education.

Examples:

'**Every Good Boy Deserves Food**' – This stands for the musical notes **E, G, B, D,** and **F.**

“**Never Eat Shredded Wheat**” – It refers to the points of a compass **North East South West. (Going around clockwise)**

'**Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain**' refers to the colours of the spectrum **Red Orange Yellow Green Blue Indigo Violet.**

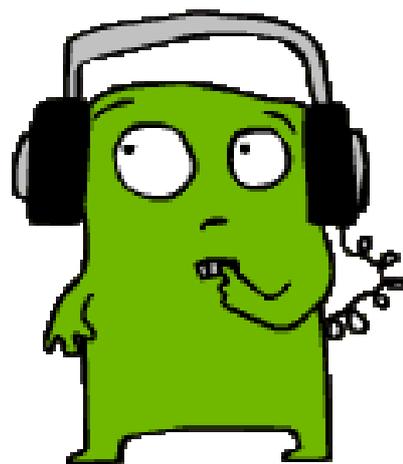
You create a code using rhymes, phrases or acronyms* which helps you to recall information. Remember that Mnemonics should be short and memorable. The funnier or outrageous the better! Once you’ve made up your own, write them on a Post-it, stick them on a wall or mirror somewhere at home and memorise them!

*an acronym is a ‘word’ made up from the first letters of a phrase - eg GCSE is an acronym for “General Certificate in Secondary Education”

Using your iPod/MP3 Player

You may learn best by listening so why not 'talk'! Do some revision by recording onto your MP3 and then listen to these while lying in bed, or on the bus, or walking the dog.

You might find some podcasts online which will help with your revision. However, again, the act of creating your own can be a good technique too. Particularly if it is linked to a spider diagram/mindmap etc. that you have created—you will be able to visualise the picture while you hear the words.



Revising with Friends

Another great way to revise is to talk about what you do know about a subject/topic to your friends who are also studying the same subjects as you.

Take it in turns because you may learn things from them that you may not have even considered before and it may help clarify something you have not fully understood!

You will need to be disciplined with this—make sure you use the time efficiently!

Exam Tips

Here is some basic advice



Be sure to cut down on your weekend/evening job.



Ensure you eat and sleep properly. Exam time is not the time to diet, drink alcohol or stay up all night.



Check your exam timetable. What time is the exam? Double-check!



Organise what you need for your exam the evening before. Make sure you have the correct equipment (*calculators, rulers, spare pens etc*).



Have an early night before your exam and get up early enough to have a good breakfast before you leave for school.



Stay calm and allow plenty of time to get to school.

On the next page are some suggestions from some of the staff

Some Useful Revision Websites



revision-notes.co.uk

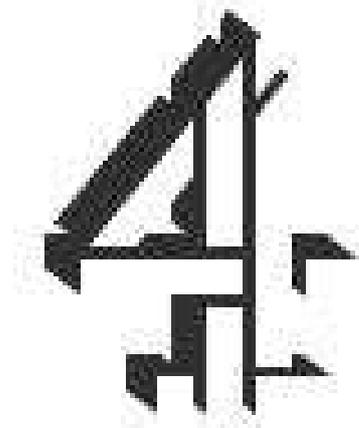
www.revision-notes.co.uk



www.scool.co.uk



www.gcse.com



[www.channel4.com/
learning/main/
secondary/](http://www.channel4.com/learning/main/secondary/)



www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize



www.projectgcse.co.uk



www.mymaths.co.uk



www.revisioncent