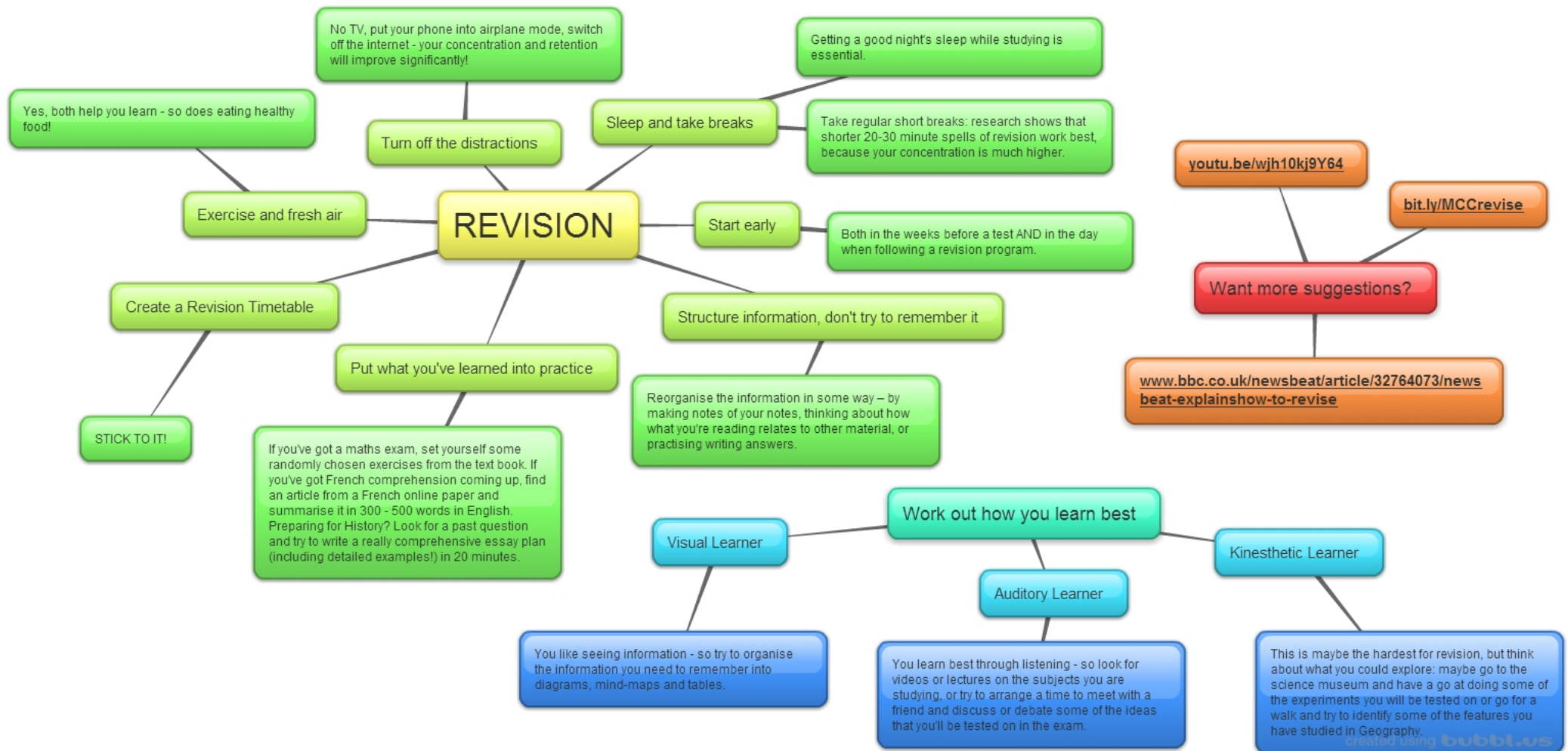


REVISION: a quick guide



<https://bubbl.us/?h=2aaca3/5622aa/279VgKqOS6MiA&r=1403603282>

A MIXED BAG OF SUGGESTIONS (click through to the links for more detail)

- **Place to revise - location, location, location**
- **Revising Method - mix it up!**

<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-revise-for-exams/?ALLSTEPS>

- **Have a complete set of notes**
- **Work out how you learn best - are you a Visual, Auditory or Kinesthetic learner?**
- **Create a revision timetable (and stick to it!)**

When creating your timetable you should be realistic. Studies show that people can only concentrate for about 45 minutes - so work in blocks like this, schedule in regular breaks for lunch and tea breaks and try to take 30 minutes every afternoon to go for a walk in the fresh air.

- **Put what you've learnt into practice**

It's no good just staring at your notes or copying them out again - you need to test yourself by doing what you'll have to do in the exam. If you've got a maths exam, set yourself some randomly chosen exercises from the text book. If you've got French comprehension coming up, find an article from a French online paper and summarise it in 300 - 500 words in English. Preparing for History? Look for a past question and try to write a really comprehensive essay plan (including detailed examples!) in 20 minutes. Be adventurous in the ways in which you put yourself to the test - if you think it's useful, no doubt it is!

- **Keep calm and carry on**

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/05/21/five-best-ways-to-revise-oxbridge_n_1532419.html

- **Rest and sleep**
- **Structure information, don't try to remember it**

Trying to remember something has been shown to have almost [no effect on whether you do remember it](#). The implication for revision is clear: just looking at your notes won't help you learn them. Instead, you need to reorganise the information in some way – whether by making notes of your notes, thinking about how what you're reading relates to other material, or practising writing answers. This approach, called "depth of processing", is the way to ensure material gets lodged in your memory.

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jan/08/five-secrets-of-successful-revising>

STUDY TIPS

1. **Start revising early**

— i.e. months, not days before the exam. Make a timetable to plan your revision and stick to it.

2. **Take short breaks**

— every hour, not every 10 minutes.

3. **Use revision guides**

4. **Start revising early**

— i.e. 9am — that way you'll get your day's work done much quicker and will have time to relax in the evening.

5. **Stick revision notes all around your house**

so in the exam you think — "aha, quadratic equations, they were on the fridge..."

6. **Sit at a proper desk**

7. **Don't put it off**

8. **Don't just read your notes**

— you have to WRITE STUFF DOWN. This is real basic "how to revise" stuff. For the full details, get yourself a copy of our "[How to Revise](#)" book.

9. **Don't turn yourself into a revision zombie**

— if you stop doing anything else but revision you'll turn into a zombie. It's really important that you keep time to do things you enjoy... like cinema, shopping, sports, frisbee, rock-climbing, making model planes, nose-picking, whatever tickles your ferret... When you're doing these try to relax and totally forget about revision.

10. **Find the right environment to revise**

NOT in front of the TV. NOT listening to the radio. Music can sometimes be OK, but you need to find the right kind. It's got to be something that's just there in the background that you're not thinking about at all. Music without singing is better as you won't be tempted to dance around your bedroom like a big fool.

https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/interactive_tips_exam

REVISE SUCCESSFULLY

- Find a good place to study.
- Draw up a **timetable** for your revision and stick to it.
- Set reasonable study targets that you know you can reach.
- Engage with your texts.
- Recall and summarise.
- Are you a visual learner? Draw or doodle freely while you study.
- Find someone who knows nothing about the topic and explain to them.
- Try and use a study guide or old test.
- Take breaks periodically to give your concentration a boost.
- Talk to your teachers.
- Revise with other classmates.
- Let your family help you.
- Stay relaxed.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Revise-Successfully>

More a Visual/Auditory learner? Check out these videos.

Revising For Exams - Top Ten Tips

<https://youtu.be/wjh10kj9Y64> (video 2:44)

Newsbeat explains...How to revise

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/32764073/newsbeat-explainshow-to-revise> (video 2:39)

Revision and memory strategies

Getting your timing right

Time of day - Think about when you work best (morning, afternoon or evening). Try to revise when you are most alert and focused.

Taking breaks - Take regular breaks to let your memory recover and absorb the information you have just studied.

Pacing your learning - Rather than focusing on similar information for a whole day, change topics completely.

Practising active learning

Passive learning does not work! - It's not effective to read your notes over and over, copy out notes or highlight bits of handouts. You need to think actively about ideas if you are going to remember them.

Learn actively by thinking, understanding and connecting the things you are trying to learn to your existing ideas and knowledge. Consider how the information can be used to answer exam questions from past papers. Is it a theory? Or supporting evidence? Do you agree with it?

Strategies for understanding

Make sense of the information - you need to understand what you are trying to learn and relate it to things you already know.

Use your own words in revision notes as this connects the ideas to your understanding.

Think about the material... and look for similarities and differences between new information and what you already know.

Explain the idea to a friend as this helps you to organise the ideas and ensures that you have really understood them.

Organise the information - It is easier to remember well organised information. Try to find a meaningful structure for the information.

Make the information more memorable - One way is to generate sounds or images to go with the information and form mental images to go with the ideas.

Strategies for rote learning

Learning formulae and brief facts - Start learning formulae early in your revision and learn one at a time. Write the information out in colour on a card and stick it somewhere prominent, e.g. by the kettle or in the bathroom. Look at it every time you pass by. Test yourself. If you know it then put another formula in a different colour by the kettle and add the old one to a pile that you test yourself on regularly.

Mnemonics - These can be a useful way to learn facts. Use the first letter of each word to create an easily remembered phrase or word.

Using music - if you're good at remembering song lyrics, you might try choosing a song and replacing the lyrics with the formulae or phrases.

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/studyadvice/StudyResources/Exams/sta-revision.aspx>

Draw up a revision timetable

Research shows that shorter 20-30 minute spells work best, because your concentration is much higher. We therefore recommend taking short, frequent breaks. We also advise to mix the order order of the subjects. Take a look at the proposed timetable:

Exercise

Even going for a small 30-minute jog after a day of revision will make a huge difference to your wellbeing.

Find a quiet space

This is a pretty straightforward one: you desperately need a place where you can be uninterrupted for a few hours.

Get down to it in the morning

You have to make a start at some point and doing it sooner rather than later is a very good idea.

Spice up your revision

Use a bit of colour! Drawing colourful learning maps will help you to memorise facts. What is even more interesting is the fact that colourful notes are easier to memorise than plain black and white ones. Give it a go!

Do plenty of past papers

Ask your teacher for some past papers or google them yourself.

Make summary notes

The best way to memorise information is by making notes over and over again. It may be incredibly tedious but the thing is that the most successful candidates often make as many as three sets of the same notes in a run up to the exams which help them to memorise the required information.

Reward yourself

People who manage to find the right balance between study and leisure are the ones who get the top marks.

Use your family and friends

Ask people around you to test you and give you feedback.

Think positive!

At the end of the day, it's not all about studying. There are plenty of people who did well in life without 100 per cent in every single exam, or who were actually pretty useless at school and university. Your life isn't over if you don't ace the exams, so take the pressure off yourself..

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/student-life/top-10-revision-tips-for-your-final-or-firstyear-exams-8576161.html>