REVISION
Taverham
High School
An 11-18 Academy
Inspire | Empower | Achieve

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Supporting Revision - 10Rs

It's all about the 10Rs, in no particular order

1) Ready

- You have to be in the right mind-set and be ready to learn.
- Remove distractions.
- Know what you are doing and when. Have a revision schedule.

2) Resources

Have everything in place and organised. For a few months create systems. Have boxes which contain the things that you need for revision. Keep them separate from everyday resources so you always know where they are. Don't waste time hunting for items.

3) Rules

Establish rules for revision:

- How long will you spend revising in one sitting?
- Will you allow music?
- How often should you use online resources?
- Who (if anyone?) can you work with?
- Where will revision happen? Library? Bedroom? Lounge?
- How will you demonstrate that the revision has been purposeful?

4) Realistic

Be realistic

- You can't do revision if you have a family birthday or are attending a wedding!
- You can't spend every waking hour revising.
- You will set yourself a revision schedule, you will occasionally slip up.

5) Review

Review, review, review.

- Take the time to review and reflect on what you are doing and what you have previously learnt.
- There is no value in continuing to do something if it is having zero impact.
- We learn through trial and error.
- Make revision time purposeful.

6) Repeat

- When you find a strategy that works repeat and build on the work you have done.
- Repeat and retry exam style questions.
- Repeat back facts or repeat language features or devices.
- By repeating a skill or specific type of question you build your confidence in your ability to tackle it and go into an exam feeling a lot more secure.

7) Refuel

Have healthy snacks and water with you. If you are hungry or thirsty you won't concentrate.

8) Read

- Read the question thoroughly. Don't assume you know what they want you to do - read what they actually want!
- Highlight and underline key command words - know what each command word means for each subject.

9) Respond

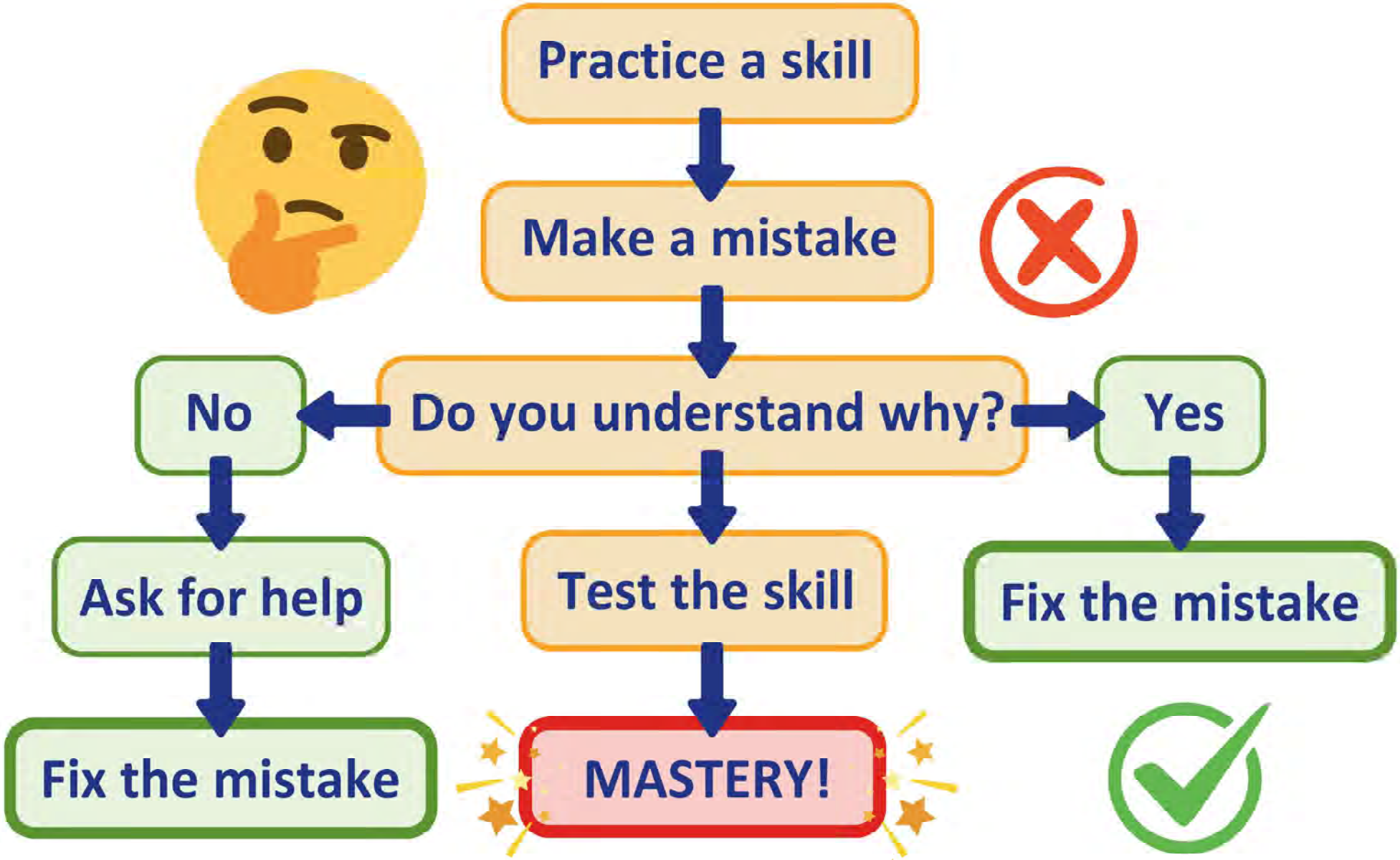
At some point the beautiful revision cards and highlighted notes need to come to an end and you simply have to attempt a response. It is crucial that you can manage your time in an exam room.

10) Reassure

Make your failure a positive:

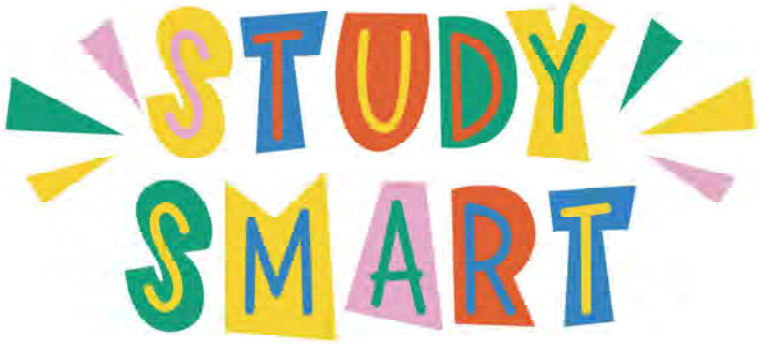
- "I need to try and work out where I went wrong."
- "I got it wrong this time but I think I know where I went wrong."
- "Next time I will get it right."

Mastery


Practice a skill
Make a mistake
Do you understand why?
No
Yes
Ask for help
Test the skill
Fix the mistake
Fix the mistake
MASTERY!

Planning Your Revision

1. **RAG your topics** - **RED**: Not confident in the topic. **AMBER**: Understand some parts of it. **GREEN**: Totally understand the topic. This will help you decide what you actually need to revise and how to divide up your time.
2. **Do the Revision!** Allocate time and dates for your revision and stick to it! Netflix can wait!
3. **Little and Often** - One to two hours a night allows your brain to process all the information for long term retrieval - cramming it all in last minute does not work!
4. **The Minimum** - You should be doing at least 1 hour a week per subject.
5. **Ramp it up!** As the exams approach you should allocate more time to it!
6. **Keep Organised** - Keep a box with every resource you might need in it - this will stop time wasting.
7. **Variety is the Spice of Life** - Don't just focus on one subject each night. Do short bursts of up to 20 minutes on one subject and topic. You are more likely to take in more if you change your focus.
8. **Use Familiar Spaces** to put up key words and quotes - For example, stick post-it notes around a mirror on one topic.
9. **Use a Range of Strategies** - If you don't like reading a book get an audio book or podcast and listen to it instead.
10. **Use Colour and Images** to support your revision.
11. **Collate Exam Questions and Look for Patterns** - There are only so many questions an examiner can ask on a topic.



My Revision Timetable

You do not need to study from 8am-10pm. Decide which hours of the day you can concentrate best. Don't be over ambitious - break work down into small chunks. Assess how familiar you are with each topic and focus on your weak areas. Take breaks, do short (45 mins) sessions often and include fun stuff / rewards. Use different colours for different topics.

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8AM							
9AM							
10AM							
11AM							
12PM							
1PM							

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Revision Skills

Scheduling

1. **Do the Revision!** Allocate time and dates for your revision and stick to it - Netflix can wait!
2. **Little & Often** - An hour a night allows your brain to process all the information for long term retrieval. Cramming it all in last minute does not work!
3. **The Minimum** you should be doing is 1 hour a week per subject.
4. **Ramp it up!** As the exams approach you should allocate more time to revision.

Accountability

1. **Work Smart!** Don't do hours of "reading" when an hour of practice would work better.
2. **Target Weakness** - Find out which areas you struggle with, those you don't like doing and those you avoid. Then make sure you give yourself enough time to spend on these.
3. **Be Honest with yourself** - Mark all your own work harshly. Do not let yourself get away with anything!
4. **This is your Qualification earned by YOU!** It is your responsibility to ask for help and skill up.

Synthesis

1. Take notes and summarise on each topic.
2. Rewrite the notes to be more concise (brief).
3. Turn the notes into "cheat sheets" on revision cards and Post-It notes.
4. Test your knowledge using the "cheat sheets".

Peers

1. **Don't Fool Yourself** - If the person you are working with knows more than you then make sure they are not answering every question for you.
2. **Peer Marking** - Both work on a past paper / question and mark each other's work being as harsh as possible. Follow the practice rules.
3. **Hot Seat Topics** - Find out what topic the other person is weak at and ask them questions about it. Get them to do the same for you.

Practice

1. Attempt every past paper and practice question.
2. Check each answer and mark it harshly!
3. Make notes on what you got wrong and write out the correct answer with an explanation.
4. Come back to the question and repeat steps 1-3 at least 4 times!

How to approach Exam Stress

The **CALM** approach to stress is to:

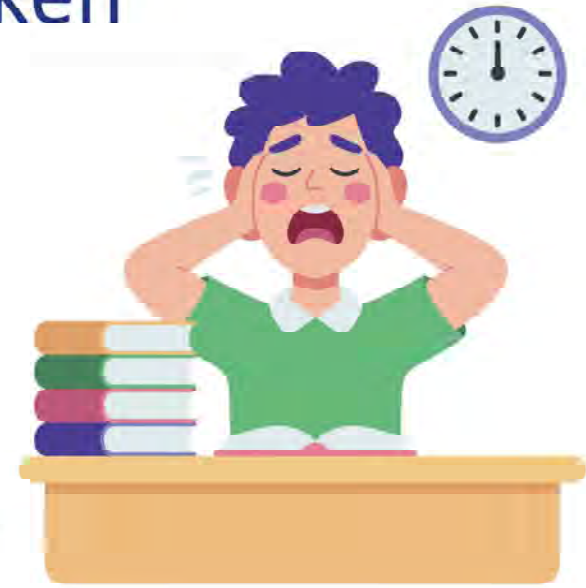
Confront the problem positively

Approach it as though it is something that can and will be dealt with

Look for the steps that need to be taken in order to deal with it

Manage it by planning de-stress strategies

If you are really stuck - ask your teacher - don't dwell on it all night!



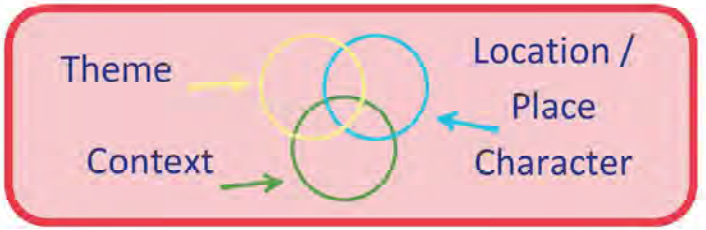
Simple Exam Revision Strategies

Matching pairs / memory boards	Match the command word / term / key word to the meaning. Match the key phrases or give examples of key phrases.	Small cards or pieces of paper. (Card is more durable) List of key words and / or terms List of definitions / meanings Coloured pens. You can make the matching pairs activity more sophisticated by colour coding terms against topics / units / genre type etc.
Close	Take the command / key word out of a question. Work out which command / key word belongs there.	Series of questions
Identify the command word	Highlight the key command word/s in the question and identify what you need to do.	Exam style questions
Create a question	Using key ideas / themes / topics create your own style of exam question. Devise or write a response under timed conditions	A list of key topics / themes / texts List of key command words that appear in exam style questions
Identify your assessment objectives	After responding to a question. Create a key and highlight where each assessment objective has been met.	Highlighters Completed response Assessment objectives

What's my word	Working with a partner one person reads out a definition of a command word/key term/vocab and the other person works out the meaning	Series of questions
Wheels	Use a key word / term and create a wheel of possible topics that might use this sort of command word	Key terms / words / command words
Wordle	Take a series of exam assessment questions from the unit / subject you are studying and wordle it. Identify the 5 most powerful words and explain the impact of them. Work out if they are the command / key topic words.	www.wordle.net/create
Just a minute	Give the first person a topic on the unit you are studying and they must talk about it for one minute without hesitation, repetition or deviation (from the topic). If they do hesitate, deviate or repeat themselves the topic is handed on to the next person and this keeps going until the minute is up. Whoever is still talking when the minute is up earns points.	Topics Buzzer / timer
Mind Maps	On one piece of paper map out a unit of work. Each branch should be a specific colour, each word should be written in the same branch colour and in capital letters and also have an image attached to it.	Large piece of paper Range of colours Time
Tick list your revision	Create a tick list to mark off when you complete some revision - it will give you a sense of satisfaction.	Paper Pens

Vocabulary Venn

Students have a bank of words and they sort them into a Venn diagram.
This can be used for key terms etc.



Work out the Word

Quiz using definitions or clues to a word, e.g:

1. What **F** is strength or energy as an attribute of action or movement?
2. What **M** are political and economic theories, later developed by their followers to form the basis of communism?
3. Which **S** was the founder of the Moscow Art Theatre; he produced many of Chekhov's plays and developed an innovative method of acting that emphasizes the psychological motivational of the actor?

Set of clues
Definitions

Post-it Notes

Use post-it notes in key places in your bedroom to remind you of key words / terms / concepts

Post-it notes

Ranking

Diamond ranking or any form of ranking. Take key ideas/concepts/points from a topic and rank them in order of importance and priority.

Key ideas/concepts/points on small pieces of card/paper

Games

There are a range of lexicon games that can be used to develop vocabulary. These could be adapted to be subject specific. See online links for games, e.g: Scrabble, Count Down, Boggle.

wordplays.com *getwords.com*
vocabulary.com *knoword.org*
dictionary.reference.com/wordoftheday
freerice.com/#/english-vocabulary/1542

Premiership & National League vocab sheets

Students peer assess one another's work highlighting poor or weak vocab choices. Then using the peer assessed work they create a vocabulary table that demonstrates their poor vocab choice (National League) changing to a high quality vocab choice (Premiership).

Highlighters

Online Study Group

Create an online study group - but keep it focussed and set a clear objective for each study group with clear outcomes.

Synonym, quote or technical word bunting

Create a piece of bunting with a synonym, antonym, quote or technical word on. Link them together to create some bunting and hang it around your bedroom as a learning tool (for technical words use the other side for definitions).

Coloured paper
String
Coloured pens
Scissors
Glue

Walk your revision

Choose a room, or rooms and attach key words / characters / events / themes / concepts to items in the room. Then physically walk around in the order that these items need to come in to help you remember. Talking this out loud while you do it really helps.

A room
Some imagination

Vocabulary Webs

Place a basic word in the centre and consider what other words it can be replaced with. This will expand vocabulary choices.
Can you create sub groups with these words regarding meaning and connotations.

Selection of basic words that can be developed. You might want to create your own web diagram.

Exam Paper Practice

Download the old exam papers from previous years. List the types of questions that appear in each paper. RAG rate them and try them.

Paper for printing
Pens

5Ws

Using text / image / resource students should ask the 5Ws to help work out a reponse:

Who, What, Where, When, Why?????

Text / image / resource

Online Resources

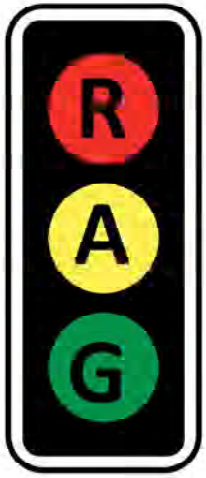
If something doesn't make sense use YouTube (or another site), to watch a short explanation.
Do NOT get distracted. Limit the use of YouTube to no more than 3 videos.

Internet access

RAG your knowledge

Go through topic / unit sheets and colour code them in accordance with your confidence levels:
Red - Requires a lot of revision
Amber - Needs a little bit more work in order to be secure
Green - Secure
Use this to support and plan your revision. Try working on amber work prior to red to build confidence.

Coloured pens
Key topics / units of work



Revision Websites

There are a range of revision websites which are interactive.
Do NOT just rely on these and ensure that they are covering the exam specification that you are studying.

Record Yourself	Use your phone to record ideas / practice MFL revision / talk through concepts and then play it back to yourself regularly.	Mobile phone
Highlighting	Work through notes and highlight key words. Create a key for the different colours that you use.	Highlighters Text to revise from
Audio Books	Listen to audio books on key texts you are studying or concepts	Audio book - many can be downloaded for free or very cheaply
L, C, W, C	Look, Cover, Write, Check Key words, terms, concepts.	Paper Pen
Podcasts & TED talks	Use podcasts and TED Talks (Technology, Entertainment & Design) to develop and expand your knowledge further.	Internet access
Be a teacher	Teach another student, friend or parent about something you have learnt.	A buddy to teach
Mnemonics	Create short rhymes to help you remember key concepts and ideas	

When I finish all my exams this will be my reward!!