

At Sir John Talbot's School, we've developed a **Revision Curriculum** to help students build effective study habits and prepare for success in their exams. This program runs across all year groups, using clear and consistent language to make revision techniques easy to understand and apply.

[add in information specific to your school about how you teach these techniques]



Dual coding

Dual coding is when something is described using both images and words. It is one of the most effective techniques for getting information into long term memory.

Examples:

Draw pictures to go with a definition list

Create flashcards with words and pictures on one side, definitions on the other.

Replace words on a mind map with images.

Use images to show the steps in a process or cycle.

Memorise



REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school



Everyone learns better in short bursts. Pomodoro time is a way of working efficiently, but intensely. 25 minutes of true focus followed by a short break.

Pomodoro time

1. Choose your task
2. Remove ALL distractions
3. Set a timer for 25 minutes
4. Concentrate for 100% of the time during that period
5. When the timer rings, stop and take a break

Focus



REVISION
CURRICULUM



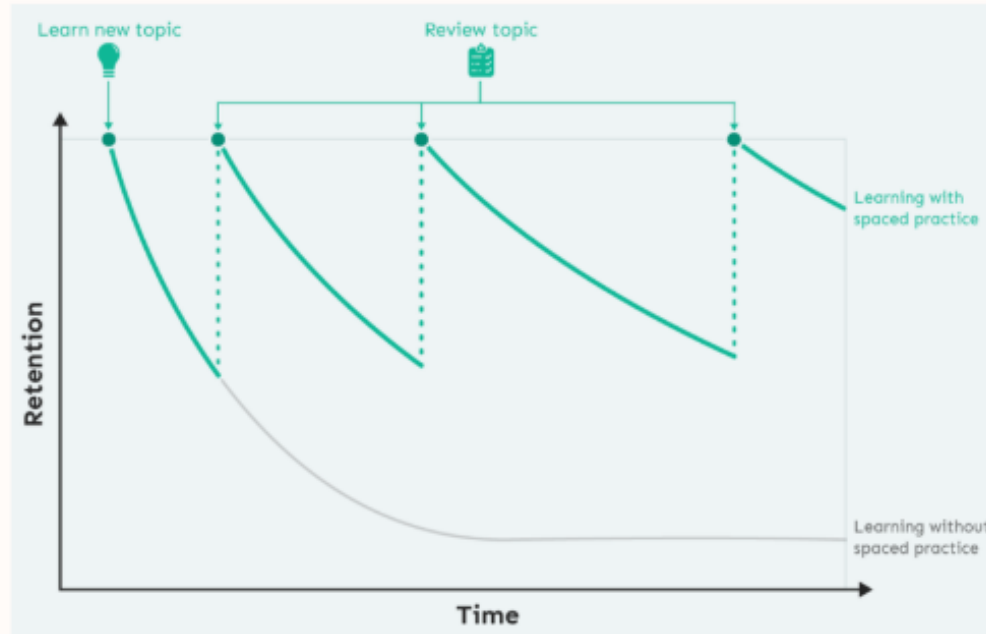
Sir John Talbot's school

Spaced practice means studying information more than once but leaving time between the practice sessions.

It works because you are **interrupting the forgetting** curve.

Spaced practice

Focus



REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school

Summarise



Mindmap



How to build a mindmap

Use a revision guide/exercise book to find a topic
Write your map subject in the middle of your page.

Use branches, each in different colours for each subtopic

Continue to break each branch down into smaller sections

Use as few words as possible

Use images to link key knowledge with something you already know

Some information in your map may fit more than one map 'branch'. Colour-coding and extra connecting lines will help you keep track of this.



REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school

Summarise



Knowledge
organiser

A knowledge organiser is a single page, containing all of the most important knowledge/concepts in a topic. It is broken into sections so that the knowledge is 'organised'.

How to build one:

Get a revision guide and find the topic you want to focus on.

Read through and decide how to organise the information in a logical way

Have a section for key words/definitions

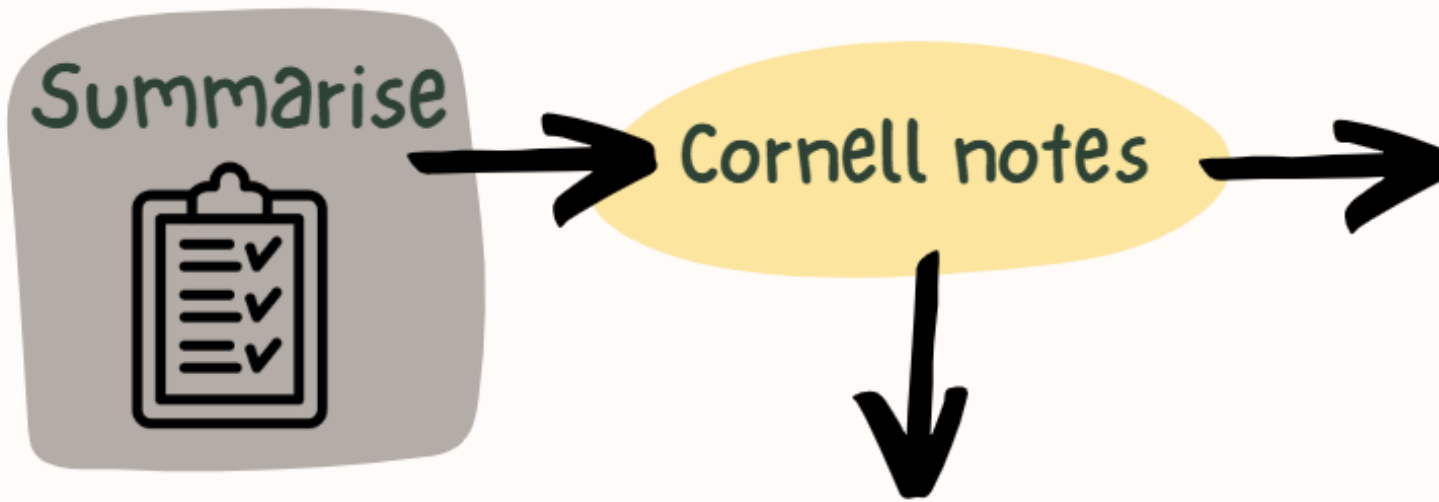
Your teachers may help you with a template!
Here is an example:

Key definitions	Non-examples
Characteristics	Examples
Topic	

REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school



Cornell notes are a way of taking notes effectively in a lesson or study session. The summary should be done once a period of time has passed. Cornell notes become brilliant revision tools.

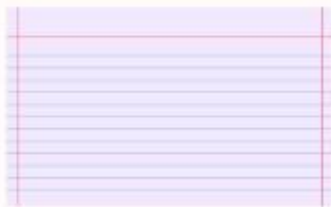
Cornell Notes Template	
Title	
Key words Key questions	Main notes Core knowledge Diagrams
Summary (to be done after the lesson/learning period)	

Retrieve



Flashcards

A question or cue should be on one side,
answer on the other.
Do not use them as mini-note cards.
Use for self-testing.
Re-order them and repeat.
Organise packs of flashcards into topics.



The Leitner System

Start with all cards in box 1.
Get it right, move it to box 2,
get it wrong and it stays in
box 1.

Test box 1 cards every day,
test box 2 cards every other
day.

If you get it right from box 2,
it moves to box 3.

Test box 3 cards every 3
days.

correctly answered cards



incorrectly answered cards

REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school

Retrieve



Testing yourself
using flashcards you
have made.

Retrieval Practice is deliberately retrieving knowledge from memory, without notes, to strengthen the memory and make it easier to recall in the future. It is proven to be far more effective than just re-reading information.

Self quizzing

1. Choose a section of content to learn

2. Write a set of questions with answers on the back

3. Put them away for a day or two

4. Try and answer the questions from memory

Answering practice
test question
provided by your
teacher

Use a recommended
online quizzing tool
such as Sparx,
Educake, Seneca or
Bitesize

REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school

Retrieve



Knowledge splat

A knowledge splat involves listing everything you can remember about a topic, without any prompts.

A knowledge splat can be very specific or very general but should be done once your knowledge is fairly secure.

Examples:

- List everything you can remember about the character/theme/topic/text
- Draw a diagram of the respiratory system, labelling as much detail as you can
- Write down everything you can remember about fractions, including how to add, multiply, subtract and divide.
- Write down as many differences as you can between urban and rural environments
- List as many reasons as you can for Hitler's rise to power
- List as many features of Renaissance music as you can, including instruments, dynamics, structure and compositions.

Then - check against your notes what you have missed.

REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school

Memorise



Mnemonics

What is a mnemonic?

A trick to help you remember information more easily by using patterns, stories, or associations.

Examples

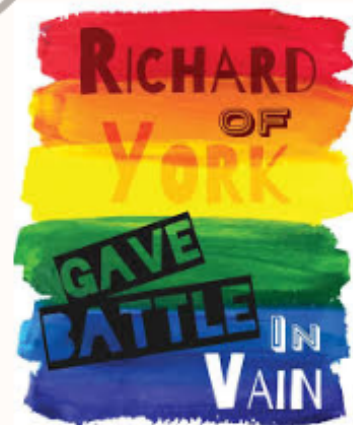
Types of mnemonic

- **Acronyms** – Make a word from the first letters (e.g., BIDMAS for maths).
- **Acrostics** – Make a phrase from the first letters (Never Eat Shredded Wheat for compass directions).
- **Rhymes & Songs** – Turn facts into a tune or rhyme ("In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue").
- **Chunking** – Break long info into smaller parts (079 38 45 162 instead of 0793845162).

Make it work for you

- ◆ Make it personal – The **funnier** or **weirder**, the better!
- ◆ **Visualise** it – Picture the words, colours, or actions.
- ◆ **Repeat** it often – Say it out loud or write it down.
- ◆ Use it **in context** – Try applying it when answering questions.

Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone,
And that has twenty-eight
days clear
And twenty-nine in each leap
year.



My
VERY
EDUCATED
MOTHER
JUST
SERVED
US
NOODLES

MERCURY
VENUS
EARTH
MARS
JUPITER
SATURN
URANUS
NEPTUNE

B	- Brackets
I	- Indices
D	- Division
M	- Multiplication
A	- Addition
S	- Subtraction

REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school

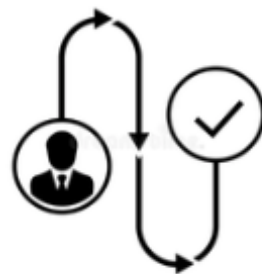
Memorise



Memory journeys

What is a memory journey?

A technique that helps you remember facts by linking them to familiar places in your mind. Imagine taking a journey where each stop holds a key fact!



How to do a memory journey

- Pick a **familiar route** – Your house, your walk to school, or a favourite place.
- Place **key facts** along the journey – Imagine facts as objects in different locations.
- Make it memorable – Use **funny, weird, or exaggerated** images to help you recall.
- **Walk through your journey** – Mentally visit each location and recall the fact.

Example



- ♦ Front Door – Radio Waves
Hear music playing as you open the door. Radio waves carry sound.
- ♦ Living Room – Microwaves
See a microwave on the counter heating food.
- ♦ Kitchen – Infrared Waves
Feel the heat from the stove. Infrared waves carry warmth.
- ♦ Hallway – Visible Light
See sunlight streaming through the windows. Visible light.
- ♦ Bathroom – Ultraviolet Waves
Sunscreen bottle on the shelf. UV rays from the sun.
- ♦ Bedroom – X-rays
Imagine an X-ray machine checking for broken bones.
- ♦ Attic – Gamma Rays
Feel intense energy in the attic. Gamma rays are the strongest radiation.



REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school

Apply



Practice questions

Why practice questions are important
Practice exam questions are one of the best ways to prepare for your exams. They help you get familiar with the **format**, improve your **time management**, and **highlight** areas where you need more revision. By practicing regularly, you can build confidence, reduce exam stress, and ensure you're ready to perform at your best on the big day.

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

 **Pearson | Edexcel**

Where to get the papers from?

Your teachers may provide you with copies of exam questions but you can also get them from:

- Official exam board websites (e.g., AQA, Edexcel).
- Websites like Physics & Maths Tutor, Save My Exams, or ExamSolutions.

Top tips

- ◆ **Timed Practice**
Simulate exam conditions to build time management skills.
- ◆ **Focus on Weak Spots**
Identify areas you struggle with and do more practice on those topics.
- ◆ **Check Your Answers**
Don't just do the questions—mark and review your answers!
- ◆ **Use Mark Schemes**
Understand why answers are correct or incorrect.
- ◆ **Mix It Up**
Use a range of different questions—don't just stick to one style.

**REVISION
CURRICULUM**



Sir John Talbot's school

Apply



Deliberate practice

What is deliberate practice?

The idea that we can improve and develop if we practice wisely. Deliberate practice is not just about repetition but about listening to feedback and making focused attempts to improve.



Deliberate Practice: Football Example

A football player improving their free kicks:

Feedback: The coach gives tips on foot positioning and target accuracy.

Focused Attempts: The player adjusts their technique after each kick, aiming for more accuracy.
Goal: With regular, focused practice, the player becomes more consistent at scoring from free kicks.

Deliberate Practice: GCSE English Language Example

A student improving their persuasive writing:

Feedback: The teacher points out weak arguments and underused persuasive techniques.

Focused Attempts: The student practices using stronger techniques, like rhetorical questions and emotive language.
Goal: Over time, their writing becomes more convincing and impactful.

Top tips

Focus on weaknesses

Take feedback seriously

Set clear goals

Practice regularly

Ask for more feedback and adjust

REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school

Apply



Live modelling

What is live modelling?

Live modelling is when a **teacher demonstrates how** to complete a task or solve a problem **in front of the class**. It's like seeing the process in action, where you can watch each step carefully. This allows you to understand not only the final result but also **how to approach the task**, solve problems, and think through each part of the process.

How to do it:

You may know this technique as 'I do, we do, you do'

Teachers often use visualisers to live model answers.

Sparx uses this technique.

Watch closely: Focus very carefully on how the task is done.

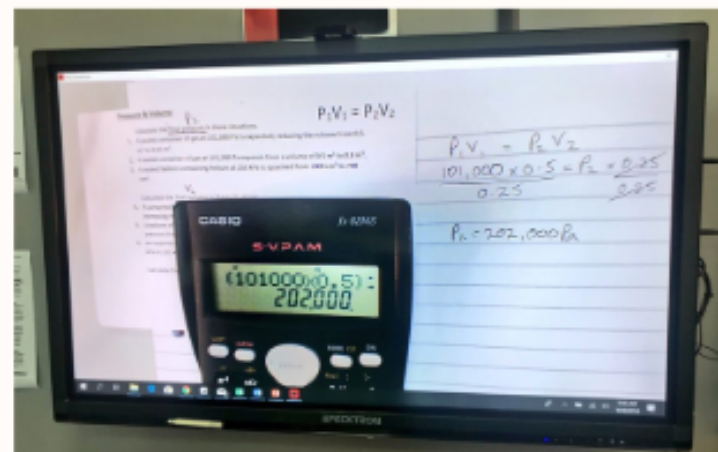
Ask questions: Don't be afraid to ask for more details.

Practice right away: Try doing it yourself using the steps you just saw

Next steps:

This doesn't have to require a teacher or a video.

You can live model an answer to a friend or they could do this for you.



REVISION
CURRICULUM



Sir John Talbot's school