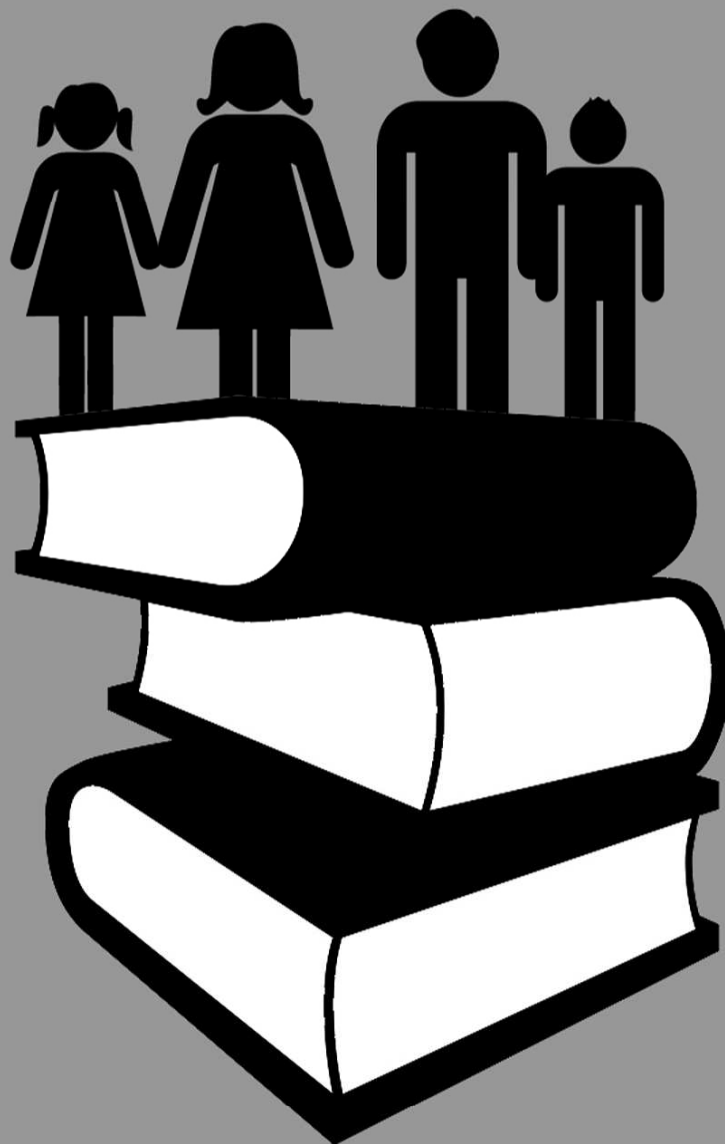


Helping your children with Revision



Penryn
College

"Achieving through Challenge"

What is Revision?

Actively and regularly looking back over your work.

- 1 To remind you of things you might have forgotten.
- 2 To make links to other learning so you have the 'bigger picture'.
- 3 To reinforce your learning so it stays remembered.
- 4 To show you what you don't know.
- 5 To check that you have understood everything.

Support and encourage your child to achieve. Help them see how important qualifications are for the future but be careful not to put them under too much pressure.



Why encourage your child to revise?

Revision gives students control and confidence and can reduce panic, stress and anxiety.

Problem areas can be identified in good time.

By revising well, your child's exam results will reflect what they actually know, giving you a much more accurate picture of where they are currently with their learning.

Where to start? When to do it?

Help them to be realistic about how much time they have to prepare.

Encourage your child to consider what time of day is best for them to revise without distraction.

Ensure they use their planner or timetable to keep up with revision and encourage them to attend revision sessions outside of school hours when offered.

Breaking revision down into smaller tasks can make it more manageable.

'Revise for French GCSE' may sound quite daunting, but setting a specific target like, 'Revise key verb endings' seems much more achievable.



Should I help them with revision?

Children whose parents and carers show a regular interest in their child's learning tend to make the most progress.

Use revision to fix the learning beyond the classroom, so your child can reflect on their understanding and extend their skills and knowledge in a particular area.

Helping your child with revision will show you what they are studying and reveal to you their strengths and weaknesses.

Helping with work is not the same as doing the work for them.

Discussing work with them will strengthen their understanding.

Let them be the teacher.
If you don't know anything about what they need to know in a particular subject, ask them to teach you.

We Learn {
10% of what we read
20% of what we hear
30% of what we see
70% of what is discussed
95% of what we teach to someone else

So the best method of learning is having to explain, or teach, a topic to someone else.

*Don't simply ask your child, "What did you do today?"
Look in their book and use it to ask specific questions
about a subject like, "How do you say ... in Spanish?"*



What and How?

Ask your child if they know what they need to know. This information will be readily available from their subject teacher.

What will actually be tested in the exam?

On what day is the exam?

When does the exam start?

How long is the exam?

What will you need to take to the exam?

Do they have the notes and material they need?

Help provide the right resources; post-it notes, pen, ruler, paper, scissors, glue, internet access if necessary, highlighter pens, coloured pens, revision guides, revision CDs and podcasts.

Exercise books, textbooks and folders will all contain relevant and essential information.

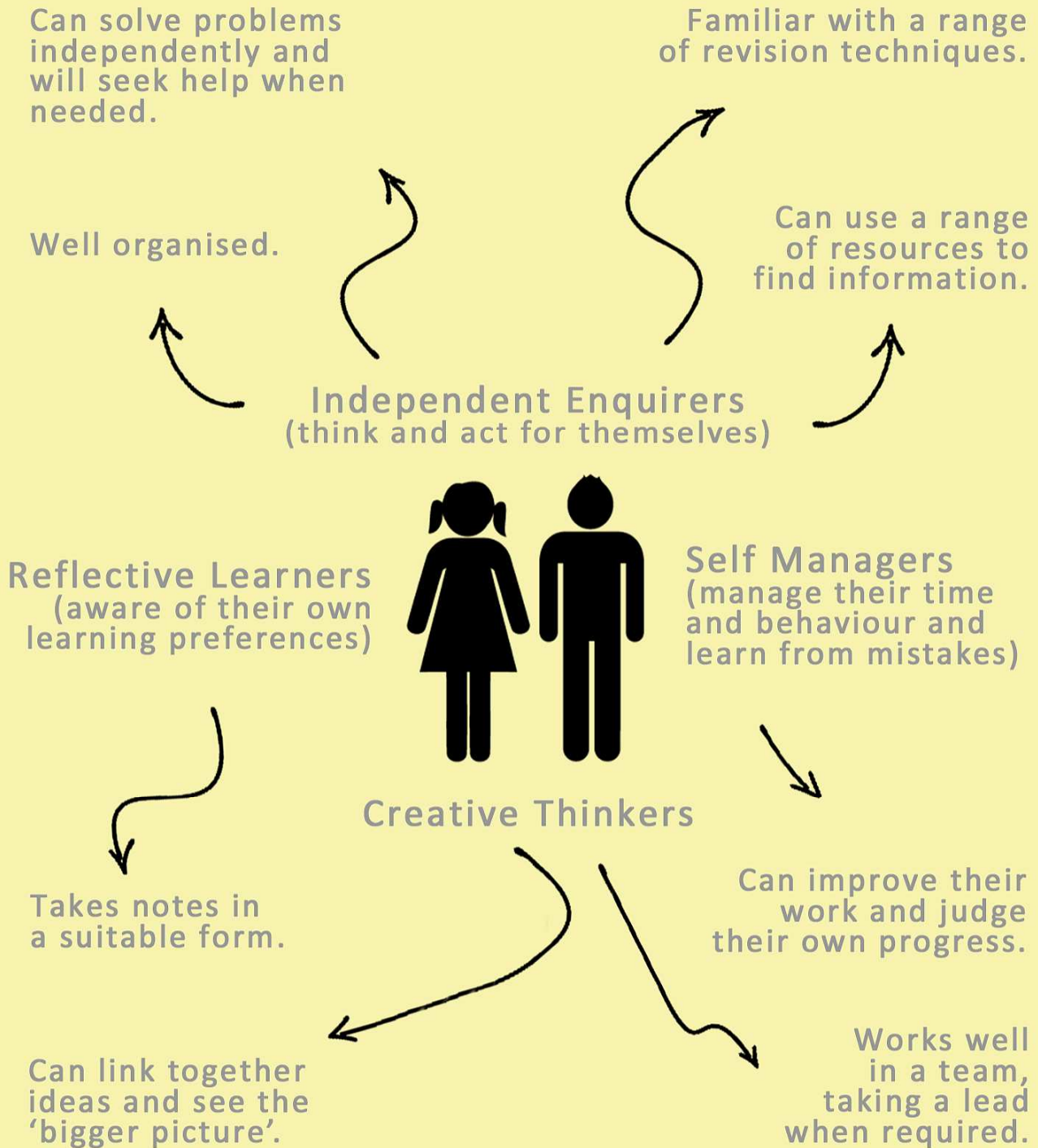
Most revision guides have key information already summarised.

If there are any gaps, encourage them to ask their subject teacher.

'Romeo and Juliet' was for English Coursework, not the exam, so I can put aside those notes...



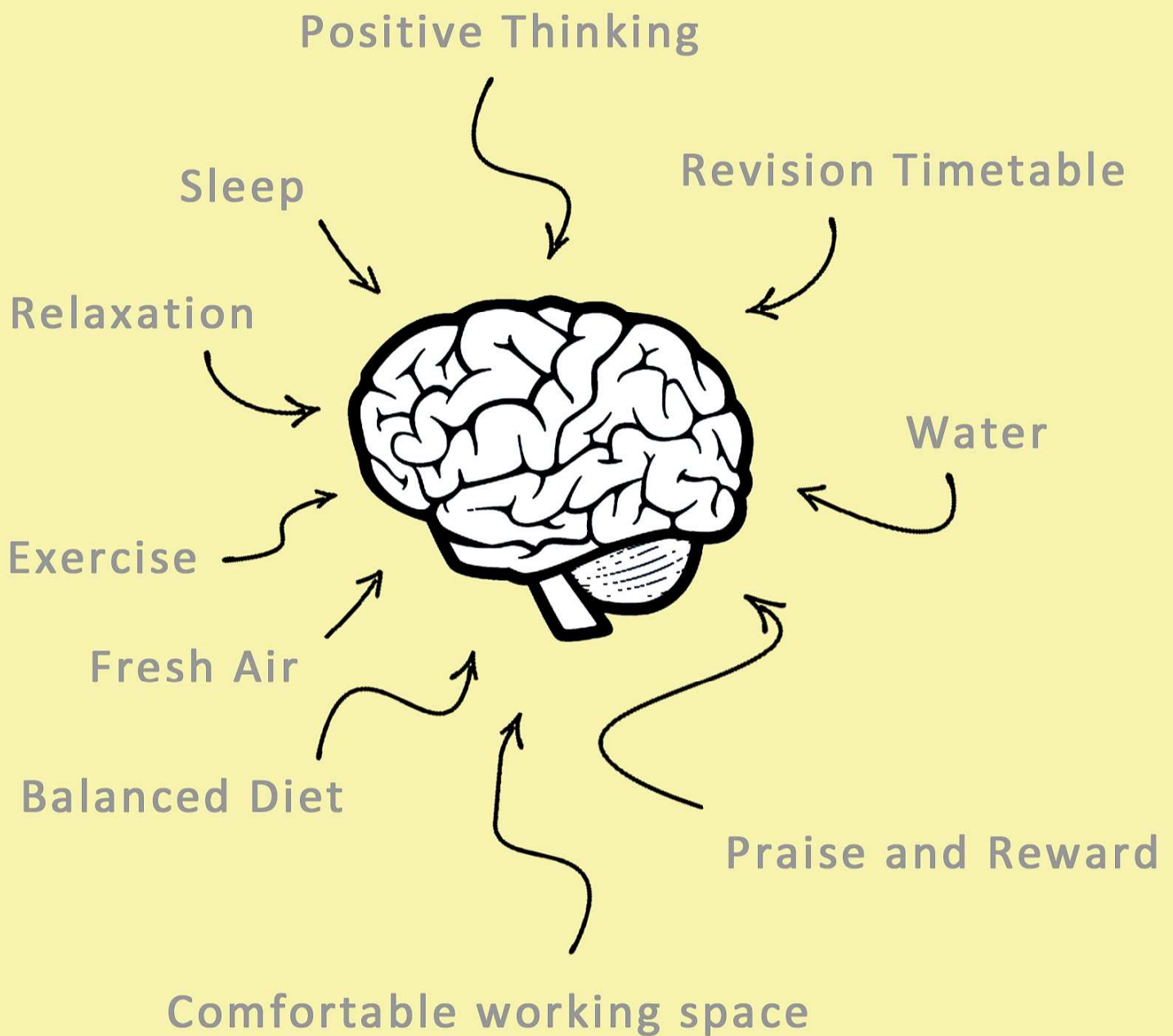
Important skills for effective revision



Parents can play a major role in helping their children to develop these skills.



Keep Your Brain Happy



Parents can play a major role in helping their children to be at their best.



The Three Cogs Of Revision

What do you NEED to revise?

What do you know?
This is your GREEN category.

What are you still discovering?
This is your AMBER category.

What do you have no clue about?
This is your RED category.

Revise the RED category first, move onto the AMBER, then work on the GREEN.

Content

Do you know the facts, content, methods etc ?

Summarise, read and learn the main ideas.

Create a Mind Map for each topic, covering key terms, ideas and facts.

Summarise the main parts of a topic with a series of Flash Cards, one card per topic.

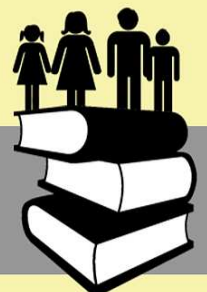
Practice Exam Questions

Take what you have learnt and have a go at some practice exam questions.

Try some questions using your notes... Then try without them.

It is important that this is done under timed conditions.

Before you start your cogs turning...be strict: Switch off your mobile, get your notes organised, find somewhere quiet and calm, have some water.



VAK Questionnaire

Knowing your child's learning preferences will help get the most out of revision activities.

Learning styles can be broadly categorised as Visual, Auditory and Kinaesthetic.

Ask your child their preferred learning method for each item below. This can give you an idea of which learning style your child favours.

Times table

Visual Cover over and picture it	Auditory Say it aloud	Kinaesthetic Adding on fingers
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Spelling a word

Visual Image what it looks like	Auditory Say each letter aloud	Kinaesthetic Write it down
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Learning a foreign word

Visual Look at a picture of the word	Auditory Repeat it aloud	Kinaesthetic Write it out repeatedly
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Learning a historical fact

Visual Watch a video	Auditory Ask someone to explain what happened	Kinaesthetic Act out what happened
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Learning a story

Visual Imagine the story	Auditory Tell someone the story	Kinaesthetic Draw pictures to tell the story
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Learning a new sport

Visual Watch a demonstration	Auditory Repeat instructions to the coach	Kinaesthetic Do it
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Learning how to use a new tool

Visual Watch someone use it	Auditory Listen to a friend's explanation	Kinaesthetic Teach someone how to use it
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Learning how the eye works

Visual Look at a diagram	Auditory Listen to a doctor telling you	Kinaesthetic Make a model
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When your child is revising, encourage them to drink water and take regular breaks. This helps keep the body refreshed, allowing the brain to process information well.



Visual Revision Techniques

Revision techniques to try:

Use post-it notes and stick these on the wall.

Summarise your notes.

Highlight or circle important information.

Use a traffic light system to indicate progress in learning and action points.

Draw diagrams, pictures and mind maps.

Display keywords around the room.

*About 29% of people have a **visual** learning preference. These are people who learn best through what they see.*



Auditory Revision Techniques

Revision techniques to try:

Make up a mnemonic.

These give your brain a 'hook' to hang a memory on. You use the first letter of each word that you need to remember to make up a memorable catchphrase.

You probably already know this one:

“Never Eat Shredded Wheat”
is a popular mnemonic for
North, East, South and West
on a compass.

Create a podcast and listen to it.

Test yourself or friends.

Teach someone else something you're revising.

Raps, rhymes, chants and verse and dramatic readings.

Music for energising, relaxing, visualising and reviewing.

Encourage your child to use revision websites like BBC Bitesize and SAM Learning.

Talk to your child about what their subjects are about, what they have to do in them and what they feel confident or less confident about.

Talking to you about their learning will help them to think about their learning needs.

*About 34% of people have an **auditory** learning preference. These are people who learn best through what they hear.*



Kinaesthetic Revision Techniques

Revision techniques to try:

Create your own PowerPoint or other presentation.

Create your own revision cards.

Act topics out!

Use gestures or movements to demonstrate a concept.

Encourage your child to use revision websites like BBC Bitesize and SAM Learning. These sites offer a host of revision games suited to the kinaesthetic learner.

*About 37% of people have a **kinaesthetic** learning preference. These are people who learn best through practical activities.*



Revision Techniques Summary

It is important not to see your child as fixed to one of these learning styles. Learners need to use all of them, but we all have a preferred learning style which tends to dominate.

You can check your child's preferred learning style on these websites:

www.learningstyleonline.com

www.chaminade.org

www.ldpride.net

Make sure your child's social life doesn't interfere with their studying. They need to rest and sleep to make sure that their brains are active and open to learning.



Special Educational Needs

Your child may already have been identified as having a special educational need. This might be Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD, Autism, speech and language difficulties or something else that affects their learning.

These difficulties may affect their feelings about revision and their ability to feel confident to tackle it. Perhaps your child struggles with what to revise or is finding the work too hard or too easy. Perhaps the feedback they get is often negative or makes them feel negative.

Working together on revision is a perfect opportunity for you to assess what you think your child's strengths and weaknesses are. You can then feed back any concerns or evidence of progress to the school and work with the school from a position of knowing how your child is doing.

Revising may help you see an area of difficulty that you didn't realise was there. Your feedback to the school might then help identify a need which was previously not apparent.

*The first person to speak to at school might be your child's tutor or the **Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator**.*



Stress Free Support

Be positive about your child's attempts. Make an appointment with school if you are concerned about progress.

It's good idea if your child has a break and something to eat before starting revision.

Be patient. Help your child to become an independent learner.

Explain how to look up information or find a word in a dictionary, rather than simply giving them the answer in order to get the task finished.

Don't let working together become a chore. Make it something that you can both enjoy.

Turn off the television while revision is underway, but do let your child work to music if they find it helpful.

Agree a place and time for help, listening while you do another chore can work too.

It doesn't need to be a marathon session; little and often is usually best.

Recognise your own emotional state. If you are tense or worrying about something else, it might not be a good time to work with your child.

Don't be afraid to stop if it isn't going well. Try to agree what the difficulty is and when to come back together later.

Always end with praise. It should be enjoyable for you both!



Useful Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/education

Learning resources for adults, children, parents and teachers: find videos and audio clips by level, subject and topic.

www.samlearning.com

Online education service supporting personalised learning through a Self-Assessment Method of interactive revision and examination practice.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents

Advice on helping your child.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/games

Interactive games and quizzes for children.

www.topmarks.co.uk

A gateway to revision sites for every subject.

www.support4learning.org.uk

Advice for parents about education.

www.teachers.tv

Video clips aimed at teachers and students with regular programmes about revision, literacy and numeracy.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, the internet is a mine of useful information that you should explore.

