

GCSE Revision Tips

1. **Flash Cards** – Get a set of small cards. It is a good idea to have different coloured card for different topics. Write a key term, phrase, quote, equation etc on one side, and then write relevant information, a definition or an explanation on the other side. It is much better to make your own cards rather than copying someone else's; it is the process of making them which really helps. When using your flashcards, it is recommended that you say the information out loud to yourself before you turn the card over to check if you were correct. They can work both ways; having the key term facing up and trying to say aloud the answer or having the answer face up and then guessing the key term. If you are a visual learner, including little symbols or drawings may also help. Using these flash cards little and often will really help you to remember vital subject content.
2. **Reduce the word then expand the word** - take a large amount of text that you need to remember e.g. one side of A4 paper. Read this and then summarise what it says in a detailed paragraph. Then summarise this paragraph in 4 or 5 bullet points. Then summarise these bullet points in 10 key words or phrases. Learn the 10 key words or phrases. Then, try to write the 4 or 5 bullet points from the 10 words/phrases, then the detailed paragraph, then the side of A4. Compare your notes and add in green pen (or another colour) anything you missed.
3. **Mind-maps** write the topic area in the middle of a piece of paper and then write the key information around the topic. Even better if you can categorise the information e.g. "Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?" and have the main reasons around the middle e.g. luck, leadership, planning/tactics, strength of armies, the "feigned retreat" etc and then off each one, add further detail. E.g. leadership - Saxons lacked strong leadership as Harold's brothers Gyrth and Leofwine died early in the battle and Edwin and Morcar never arrived to help.
4. **Quizzes** - write a quiz on a particular topic and ask a friend to write you a quiz on a different topic. Swap your quizzes and then mark each other's answers and provide written or verbal feedback.
5. **Teach someone else** - brush up your knowledge using one of the methods above and then teach someone else everything you know. This is one of the best ways to consolidate your understanding.
6. **Using model answers** – some subjects will have provided model answers to the PPE questions. Compare your written answers to these model answers and highlight the model answer where you feel it improves on what you had written. Then, try re-writing your answer in the correct timed conditions aiming to include some of the arguments from the model answers.
7. **Past papers** – search the relevant exam board for your subject to access past GCSE papers. The mark schemes are also available. You can plan and then have a go at answering these past paper questions and then mark your answers yourself. If you bring these into school in September, your teacher would be happy to check your marking for you and give you further feedback.
8. **Memory Palace** - A **Memory Palace** is an imaginary location in your mind where you can store memory aids or facts. The most common type of memory palace involves making a journey through a place you know well, like a building or town. Along that journey there are specific locations that you always visit in the same order. By associating a specific place with an object, you are more likely to recall it.