

# Parents' Guide to GCSE Science

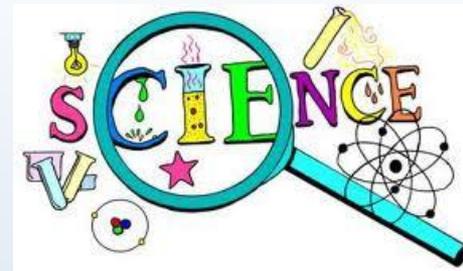


## How many science examinations will my child sit?

ALL students sit 6 examinations for science. This applies to Combined science (double science) and also Separate science (Triple science).

The difference being that double science examinations are 1 hr 15 minutes and triple science are 1hr 45 min.





# Parents' Guide to GCSE Science

## When are the science examinations?

The science exams are split across the May half term. Our students will sit three before May half term and then three exams after.

Examination	Date
Biology Paper 1	15 <sup>th</sup> May pm
Chemistry Paper 1	17 <sup>th</sup> May am
Physics Paper 1	23 <sup>rd</sup> May pm
Biology Paper 2	11 <sup>th</sup> June am
Chemistry Paper 2	13 <sup>th</sup> June am
Physics Paper 2	15 <sup>th</sup> June am



# Parents' Guide to GCSE Science



**Which tier will my child be entered for and what does it mean?**

At parents evening, your child's science teacher should've discussed this with you.

If your child is entered for HIGHER tier, they can be awarded a grade from 4-9. AQA are also awarding a grade 3 to students who narrowly miss a grade 4. Below this, a student would be awarded a U.

A student entered for FOUNDATION tier can be awarded a grade from 1-5.

If your child is currently working at a 4/5, we are most likely to enter them at foundation tier.



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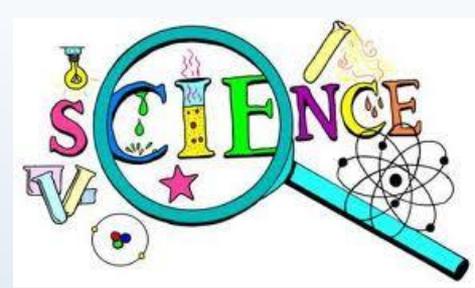


## What are the biggest challenges for my child in science?

1. Making sense of what the question is asking
2. Remembering all of the equations.
3. Remembering units for different quantities.
4. Remembering keywords and definitions.
5. Recalling the practical activities that they could be tested on.
6. Revisiting content from a long time ago!



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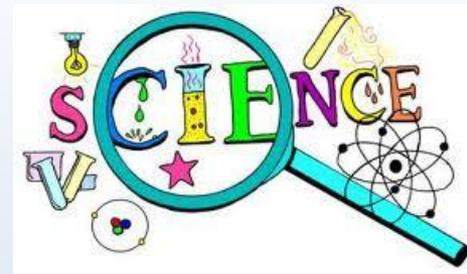


## How can I help support my child?

1. Allow time for your child to revise, they may have less time for family commitments when revising.
2. Suggest that they revise in half-hour bursts with short breaks in between. <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20180208-an-effortless-way-to-strengthen-your-memory>
3. Provide them with a quiet space to work if possible, free from distractions ( you might want to “remove” the distraction!)
4. Sit and listen to them if they want to read their work aloud to you.
5. Use the revision guide to test them on key points
- 6. BUT, you cannot do it for them!!!**



# Parents' Guide to GCSE Science



**What we are doing at school to support your child.**

## **“I don't know how to revise”**

1. After school revision session. These focus on exam technique, revisiting tricky topics, required practicals/ working scientifically.
2. SMHW- Good quality revision resources are shared with our students via Show My Homework. Eg “a task a day” activity.
3. In class, over the next week ALL students will create a revision resource to get them started.
4. Walking- talking Mocks. Modelling good exam technique.



From September's Parent info evening.





# ***REDUCE DISTRACTIONS***

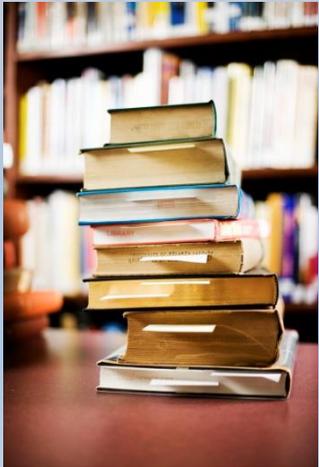


# General Tips

**QUALITY** not quantity

What and how you revise is more important than how much revision you have done.

Revision needs to be planned and structured.



# General Tips

## Work in **SHORT SHARP BURSTS**

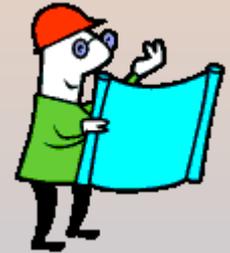
Your concentration decreases the longer you revise. You will be motivated at the beginning of a revision period and towards the end.

If you revise for too long you will have a long period in the middle of the session, which is not as useful as it could be.



# General Tips

## Produce a REVISION PLAN or TIMETABLE



Plan what you are doing and when, and when you are not going to revise. This should achieve a balance between revision and social activities.

Also, vary what you are revising, do not revise one subject or one topic for too long. Variety helps revision.

[www.getrevising.co.uk](http://www.getrevising.co.uk) (online revision timetable)



# General Tips

## Use Revision Aids

Try different revision techniques and make sure of revision guides, web sites etc

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize)

[www.s-cool.co.uk](http://www.s-cool.co.uk)



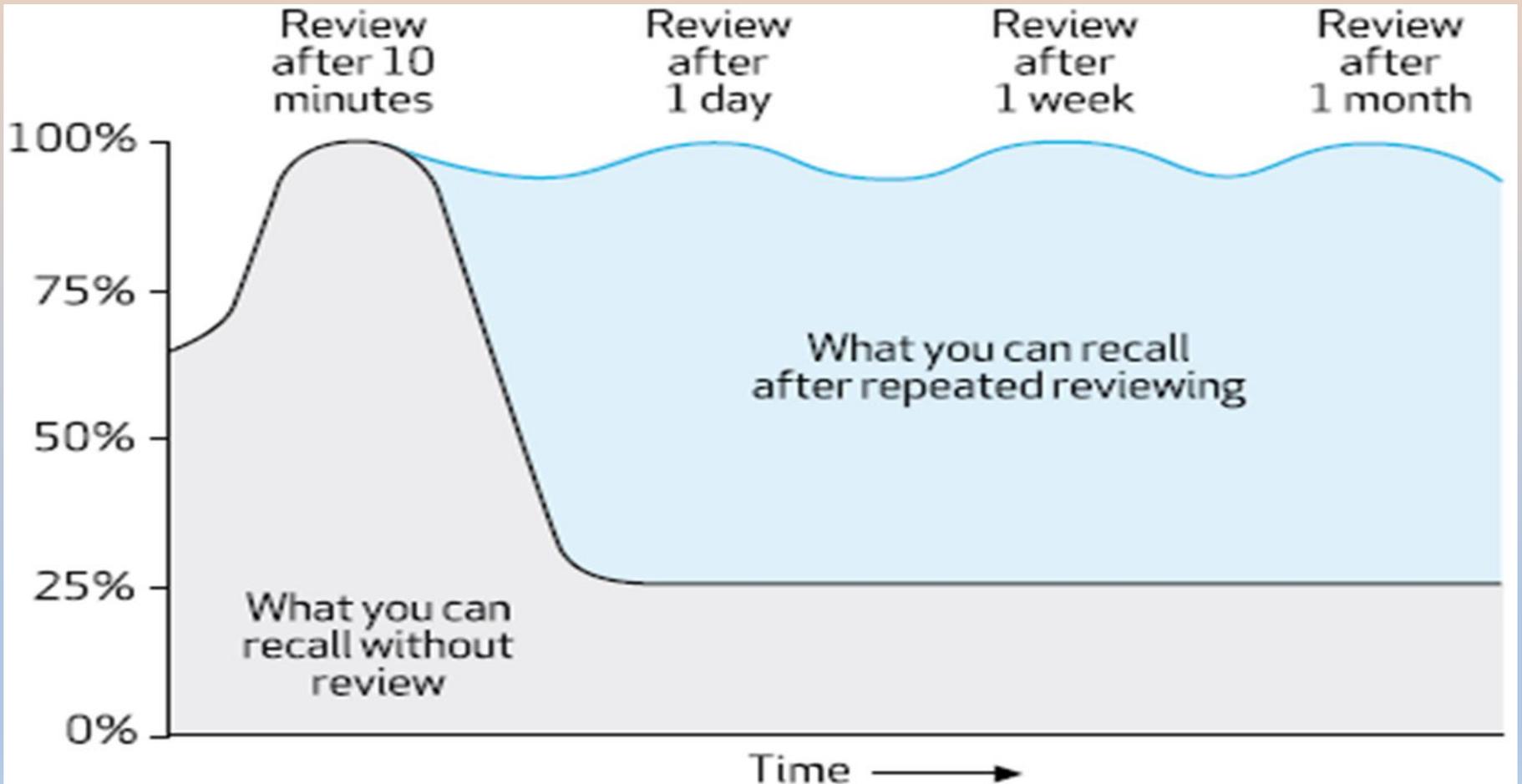
# General Tips

## Create a **REVISION ENVIRONMENT**

Choose a suitable place for this work. Use it visually with posters, post-its, lists etc. This may help you remember key points for the exam.

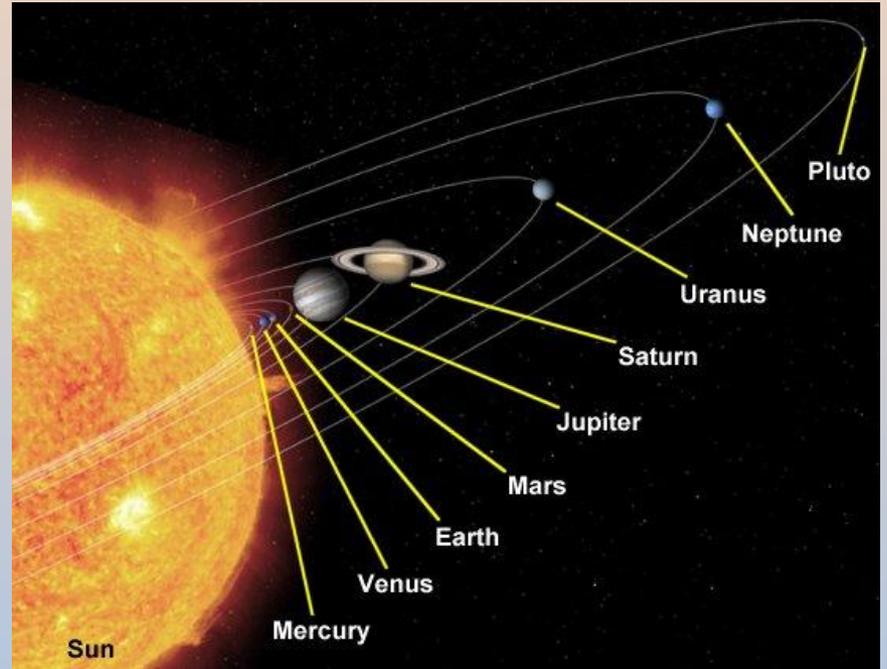


# Reviewing what you have done



# Revision Techniques

## Simple Mnemonics



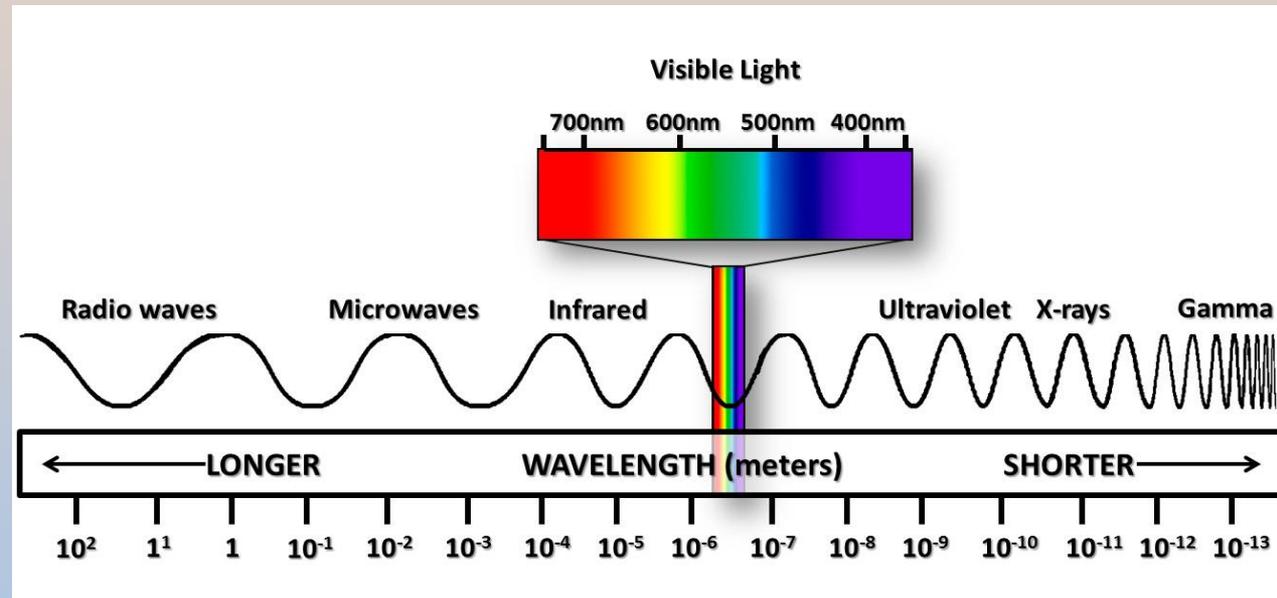
to create the sentence:

"My very easy method just speeds up naming planets"



# Revision Techniques

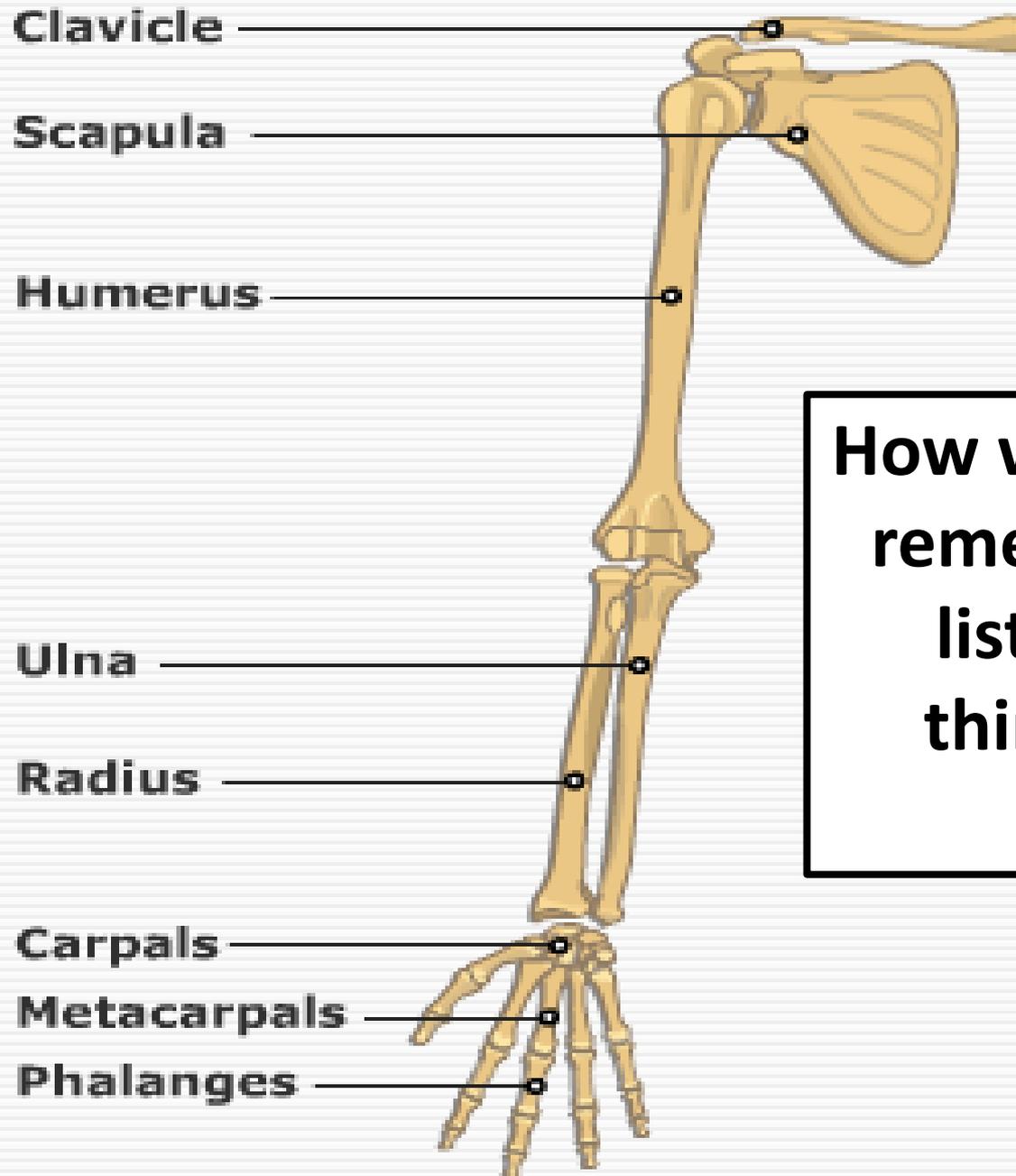
## Simple Mnemonics



to create the sentence:

“Red Meat Is Lush Using eXtra Gravy”



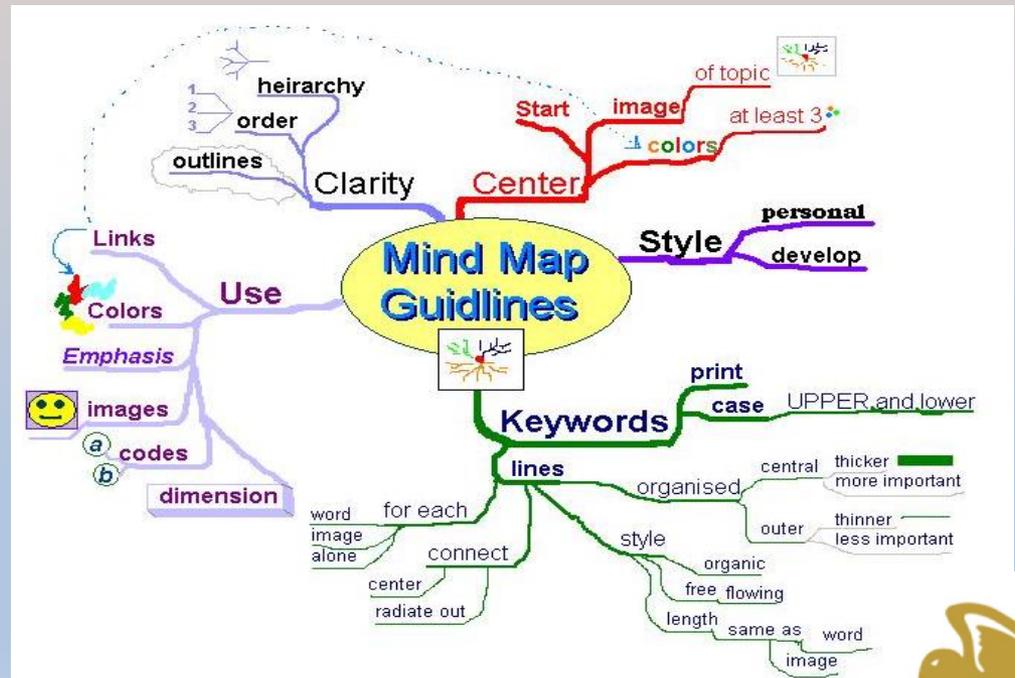
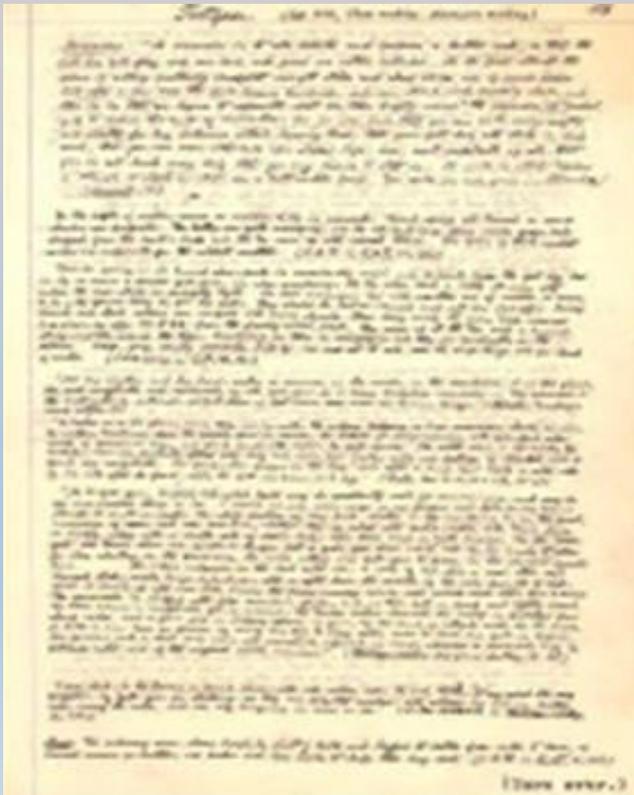


How will you  
remember  
lists of  
things?



# Revision Techniques

Converting course notes into visually memorable revision aids is the key to working smart, not hard



# Some Other Useful Revision Techniques

## **VISUAL TECHNIQUES** e.g., flow charts and spider diagrams

Very useful to help you remember key information and to help you remember the sequence of things or how different pieces of information link together.



## **INDEX CARDS**

These can be bought at a stationers and are very useful for producing your own revision notes by summarising your notes into bite size chunks.

## **POSTERS**

Another visual technique that can be very effective. Design them to summarise important areas of content and stick them up in your room. Make them colourful and visually striking for maximum effect.



# Some Other Useful Revision Techniques

## POST-ITS

Use post-its on your notes to help you remember things that you are Having difficulty with. You can also stick them on your bedroom wall or on the back of the loo door and keep testing yourself.



## LISTS

Very useful to help you remember key information and to help you remember the sequence of things or how different pieces of information link together.



## GAMES

Produce your own simple game e.g. matched pairs

## LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK

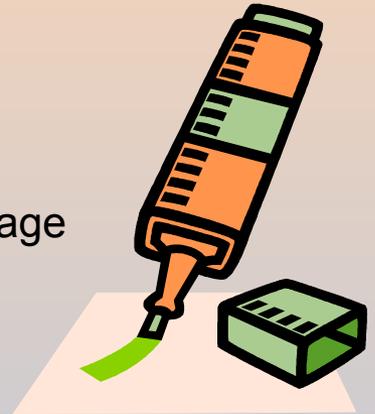
A simple and effective method for self testing. Really useful for learning spellings or grammar



# Some Other Useful Revision Techniques

## RECORDING & LISTENING

A really effective method for 'audio' learners and for preparing for language oral exams.



## USE HIGHLIGHTER PENS

To highlight key words and help them stick in your memory

## USE A COMPUTER TO SUMMARISE NOTES, PRODUCE DIAGRAMS ETC

You will end up with a neat and professional looking set of revision notes.

## TEST YOURSELF WITH PAST EXAM PAPERS

This will really help you to see the relevance of your revision. It will also help you to get your timing right, which is a crucial aspect of exam preparation.



# What resources can you use to help you revise?

1. Use your Revision guides- available to purchase from JoG
2. Resources on SMHW. These are provided by your science teachers for you to use.

3. BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.com/education/levels/z98jmp3>

4. My GCSE Science

<http://www.my-gcsescience.com>

5. S-cool

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/>

6. The Kahn Academy

[https://www.khanacademy.org/search?page\\_search\\_query=atomic%20structure](https://www.khanacademy.org/search?page_search_query=atomic%20structure)

7. Free access to revision notes for each module (not AQA so not arranged in the correct order for our examinations-ask your science teacher to help)

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/ccm/gcserevision.php.en>



# What revision strategies can you use?



Make revision cards

Keyword lists with definitions

Use the syllabus as a tick list <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

Download a free app on mobile phone- for example, Gojimo

<http://www.gojimo.com/>

Revision Posters or Mind maps (see the article for help)

<http://www.thinkbuzan.com/uk/articles/view/how-to-create-a-mind-map>)

Use post-it notes

Use specimen papers and mark schemes

- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/assessment-resources> for combined science
- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461/assessment-resources>
- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462/assessment-resources>
- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463/assessment-resources>
- Teach someone or record a revision podcasts!