

GCSE REVISION METHODS GUIDE

How to Use Effective GCSE Revision Methods

This guide explains how to use a range of effective revision methods to help you revise smarter, not harder.



1. CUE CARDS

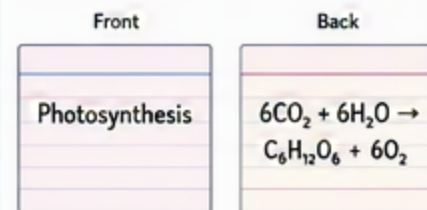
What are they?

Small cards containing key facts, definitions, formulas, dates, or vocabulary.

How to do it

1. Write the topic title at the top.
2. Put a key word or question on one side.
3. Write the answer on the back.
4. Keep answers short and concise.
5. Test yourself regularly.

Example



Best for

- Science equations
- Languages vocabulary
- History dates
- Maths formulas

4. RECORDING NOTES

What is it?

Listening to revision rather than reading it.

How to do it

1. Reduce your notes first.
2. Record yourself reading them.
3. Listen while travelling or exercising.
4. Pause and repeat key points.



18. ORGANISING YOUR PAGE

How to do it

Before writing:

- Draw planning boxes.
- Use flow charts.
- Separate ideas visually.

This helps structure longer answers.



2. MIND MAPS / SPIDER DIAGRAMS

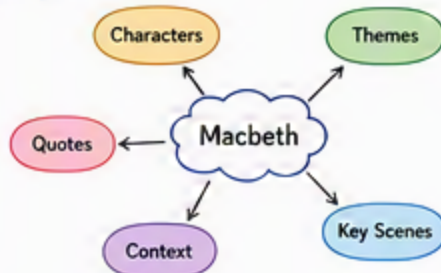
What are they?

A visual way of organising information around one central topic.

How to do it

1. Write the topic in the centre.
2. Draw branches for main ideas.
3. Add facts, examples and keywords.
4. Use colours and symbols.
5. Keep information concise.

Example



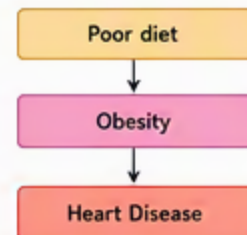
5. VISUAL ORGANISERS

What are they?

Visual ways to connect ideas and show relationships.

How to do it

1. Choose a process, topic or storyline.
2. Use flow charts, concept maps or diagrams.
3. Connect ideas with arrows.
4. Explain each link.

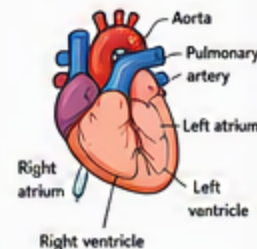


3. DIAGRAMS, TABLES & TIMELINES

Diagrams

Draw a procorntion, side

Example: Heart structure in Biology.



Best for

- Use flow questions
- Definitions.

Example:

Character	Traits	Quotes
Macbeth	Ambitious	"Vaulting ambition"
Lady Macbeth	Manipulative	"Unsex me here"
Banquo	Loyal	"Thou hast it now"

Best for

- History
- Geography
- Science processes
- English characters



6. WATCHING VIDEOS

How to do it properly

Don't just watch videos.

1. Watch a short revision video.
2. Pause regularly.
3. Take notes from memory.
4. Answer questions afterwards.

Best for

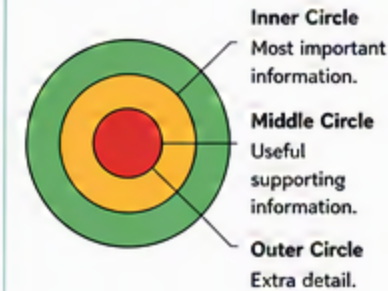
- Science
- Maths
- Geography
- Computer Science



7. LITERACY DOUGHNUT

How to do it

Draw three circles.



Why it works

It helps prioritise revision rather than trying to remember everything at once.

8. ROLE PLAY

How to do it

Act out a process, conversation or event.

Examples

- Re-enact a historical event.
- Act out a court case in History.
- Explain a Geography issue to a family member.



Why it works

You remember experiences better than notes.

9. POST-IT PARTY

How to do it

1. Write key facts on sticky notes.
2. Place them around your house.
3. Match facts to locations.

Example



Why it works

Creates visual memory links around your environment.

10. SELF-QUIZZING

One of the most effective methods.

How to do it

1. Choose a topic.
2. Create 10 questions.
3. Answer from memory.
4. Check answers.
5. Repeat weak areas.

Example

1. What is osmosis?
2. Define mitosis.
3. What is diffusion?

Golden Rule

Do not look at notes while answering.

11. FLASH CARDS

How to do it

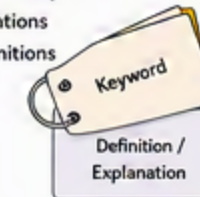
Front: Keyword
Back: Explanation

Extra Activity

Separate definitions and keywords and match them.

Best for

- Quotes
- Vocabulary
- Equations
- Definitions



12. TEACH SOMEBODY

How to do it

1. Select a topic.
2. Set a timer for 3 minutes.
3. Teach a friend, parent or even a teddy bear.
4. Answer questions.
5. Identify gaps in your knowledge.

Why it works

If you can teach it, you understand it.

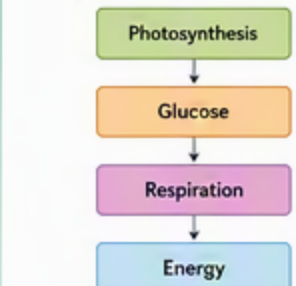


13. MAKING CONNECTIONS

How to do it

Link new information to something you already know.

Example



Create a story or pathway around the topic.

14. PAST PAPERS

Step 1: Complete the Paper

- Sit in silence.
- Use exam conditions.
- Time yourself.

Step 2: Mark It

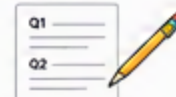
- Use the mark scheme.

Step 3: Learn From Mistakes

- Turn errors into self-quiz questions.

Step 4: Read Examiner Reports

- Find common mistakes students make.



15. ESSAY WRITING PRACTICE

How to do it

1. Find an exam question.
2. Highlight command words.
3. Plan your answer.
4. Write:
 - Introduction
 - 4-5 paragraphs
 - Conclusion
5. Review using a mark scheme.

Common Command Words

Describe	Explain	Analyse
Compare	Evaluate	Discuss



16. DECODING EXAM QUESTIONS

How to do it

Use two colours:

- Colour 1: Command words
- Colour 2: Subject-specific words

Example

Explain how volcanoes affect people.

Explain = command word
Volcanoes affect people = content

17. SENTENCE STARTERS

Create a bank of phrases.

Examples:

- This suggests that...
- The writer presents...
- A key reason is...
- This leads to...
- One effect is...

Best for

English, History, Geography, RE and other essay subjects.



21. DYSLEXIA-FRIENDLY METHODS

Visual



- Colour coding
- Large posters
- Highlighting
- Post-it notes

Aural



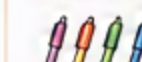
- Record notes
- Listen to revision

Verbal



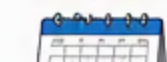
- Explain concepts aloud
- Discuss ideas with others

Colour Coding



Give each subject a colour.

Use a Planner



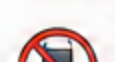
Schedule revision sessions.

Set Reminders



Use phone alerts.

Minimise Distractions



Turn off notifications. Put your phone away. Work in short focused sessions.

22. ORGANISATION TECHNIQUES