

Effective Study Strategies for Retrieval of Information

Study smarter, not harder.



Brain Dump

Choose a topic and write down as much as you can remember, without referring to your notes. Check your notes and see what you missed then try to fill the gaps without the notes. Check your notes a third time and add the missing information.



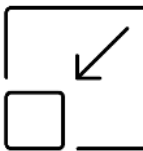
Map it out

Take an essay question or writing question and map out your answer, without writing a full response. Look at the mark scheme and decide if your plan meets the criteria. Do this for a number of questions, then choose one and write the full response.



Quizzes

Write a set of questions and answers and ask someone else to test you. It's important to either write or say your answers aloud. Reading through quizzes in your head can give you a false sense of security.



Think Hard/Reduce

Read a section of your notes then put them aside and reduce what you read to 3 bullet points, each one no more than 10 words. Look back at the notes and decide if you missed anything important. Hide the notes and write a fourth bullet point.



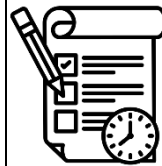
Think Hard/Connect

For each subject, consider the exam papers and group together questions that require the same technique to answer. Write down the requirements of each type. Find a previous example you've completed and identify where you've met the criteria.



Flash Cards

Write flashcards for each topic, in all subjects, then mix them up for the most effective revision. Keep your flashcards simple – one question, one answer per card. You can use friends / family to complete this task with you.



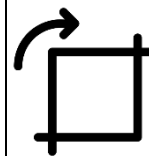
Past Papers

Ask your teacher for practice questions or exam papers. Complete them without notes in exam conditions, then check your answers and identify the gaps in your knowledge, so you can target your revision. Work against the clock to increase the level of focus.



Introductions

For essay subjects, take a past exam question and practice writing effective introductions and conclusions. Look back at your notes and remind yourself of the important things to remember. Practise for different topics, texts and papers.



Think Hard/Transform

Read a paragraph from your notes or a textbook and transform it into a diagram, chart or sketch – no words allowed. **Also complete this the other way around.** Look at a diagram e.g., Science and transform it into a paragraph of explanation.



Key Vocabulary

For a particular topic, make a list of key vocabulary, then do the following: define each word; use each term in a sentence; create a question where the key word is the answer; identify other words which connect to each of the words in your list.

“Using your memory, shapes your memory”

Robert Bjork