

I got **99 PROBLEMS**  
but **REVISION** ain't one

Don't let this be you...



1. How do you revise?
2. *Why* do you revise this way?
3. Does it work? How do you know?

# DON'T JUST READ AND HIGHLIGHT YOUR NOTES!!!



Memory is the  
residue of thought

You need to have **THOUGHT** about something (not just read/highlighted/copied it) if you are going to remember it!!!!!!

# Ineffective study methods



Just reading notes



Just highlighting  
notes



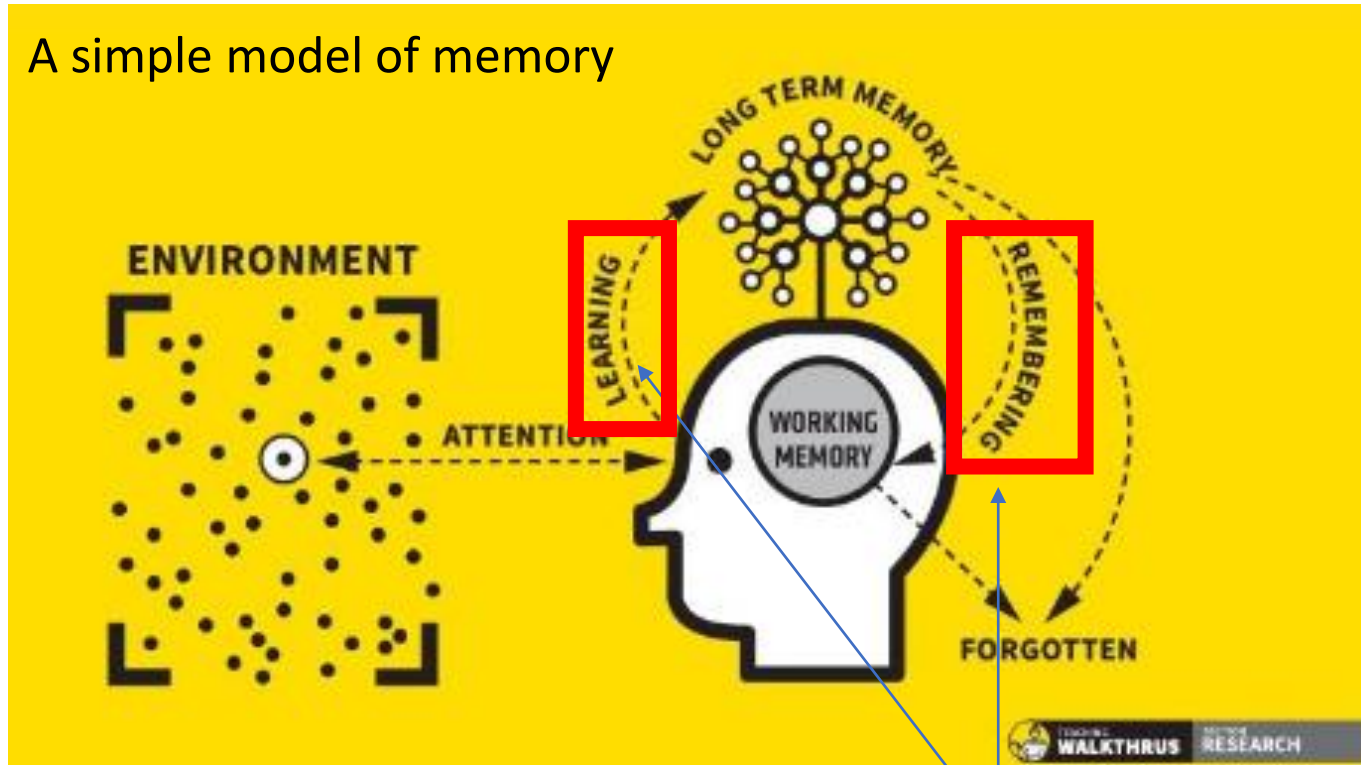
Long study periods



Just studying before an  
exam/cramming

Luckily, we know a lot about the brain and how it learns that we didn't only a few years ago.....

A simple model of memory



This is the bit we are trying to improve when we revise.  
Putting information in long term memory **and then getting it back** again when it matters!!

So, what **should** you be doing?

WHAT?

WHY?

WHO?

HOW?

WHEN?

WHERE?



# The 6 most effective study strategies



# The 6 most effective study strategies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPxSzxyIRCI&t=11s>



# The 6 most effective study strategies

<b>Spaced practice</b>	Start planning early for exams and set aside a little bit of time everyday. Five hours spread out over two weeks is better than the same five hours all at once. This is one of the most effective revision strategies. The ideal is 20-30 minutes per session.
<b>Interleaving</b>	Interleaving is a process where students mix & combine multiple subjects & topics while they study in order to improve their learning. Rather than studying one topic for a long time before moving to another. This leads to better long-term memory.
<b>Elaboration</b>	This involves explaining and describing ideas in lots of detail, asking further questions about what you are learning and making links to help you connect new information with what you already know.
<b>Concrete examples</b>	Concrete examples involves finding & using specific, real-life examples to help develop & deepen understanding of abstract ideas. Abstract ideas can be difficult to understand & explain. Our memories find it easier to remember concrete examples better than abstract information.
<b>Dual coding</b>	Dual coding is the process of combining verbal materials with visual materials. There are many ways to visually represent materials, such as with infographics, timelines, cartoon/comic strips, diagrams and graphic organisers.
<b>Retrieval practice</b>	Through the act of pulling information out from your long term memory (retrieval), our memory for that information is strengthened and forgetting is less likely to occur. We are more likely to remember it when we need to.



# Why?

‘Using your  
memory shapes  
your memory’

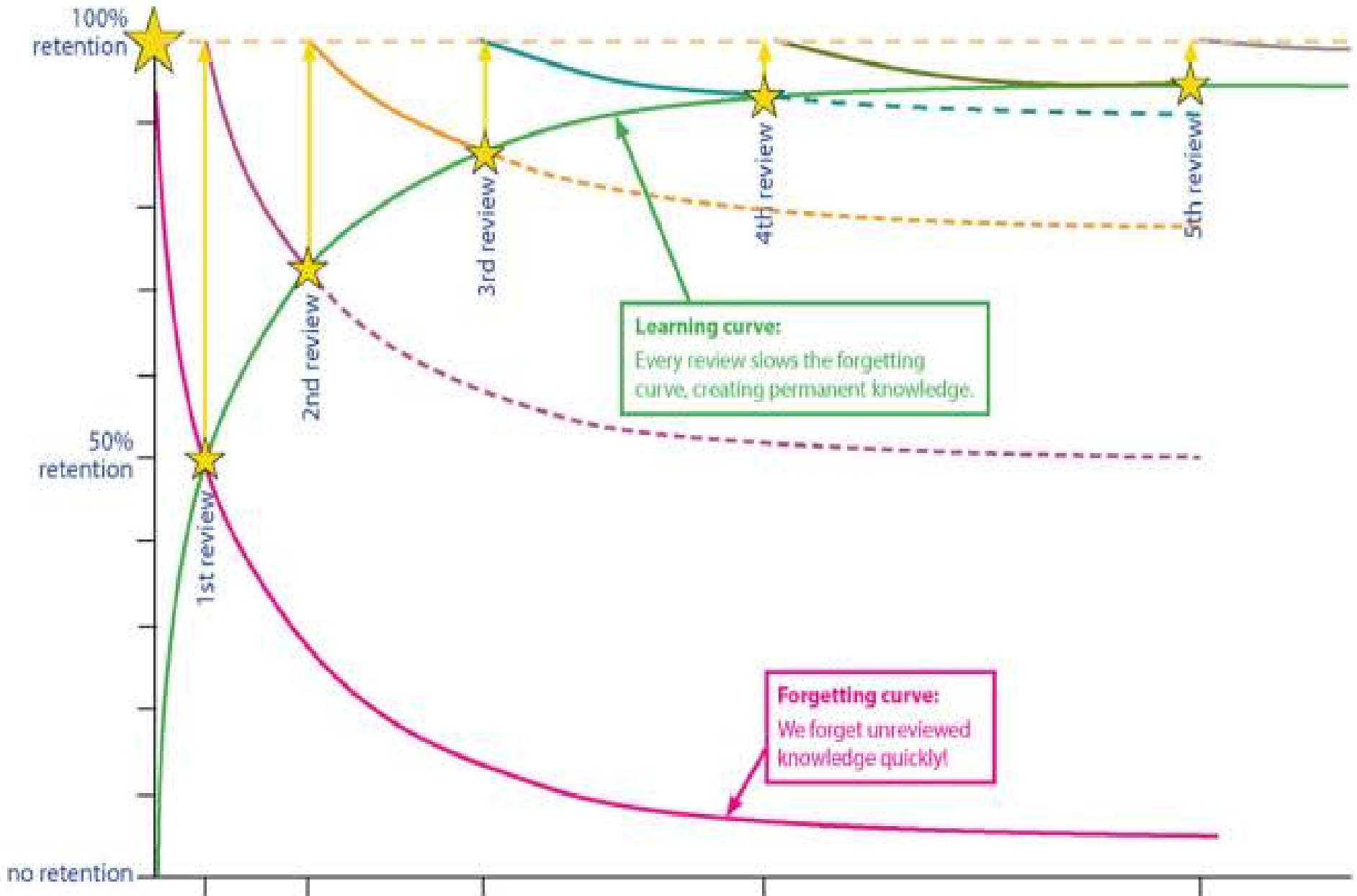


# Retrieval practice

The act of recalling learned information from memory (with little or no support) and every time that information is retrieved, or an answer is generated, it changes the original memory to make it **STRONGER!**



# Interrupting forgetting



*What is your address?*



**High retrieval strength**  
**High storage strength**

# Not all retrieval practice is equal

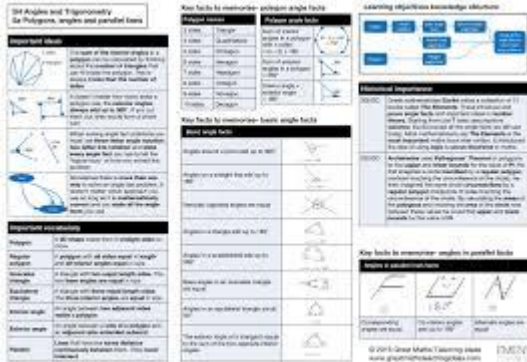


## Cued vs free recall

- Cued recall can be useful, but can create the **illusion of knowing** in learners. Actually learning less in the long-term.
- The **struggle** of free recall is a **learning event**.



Knowledge organisers



What?

Flash cards



Brain dumps

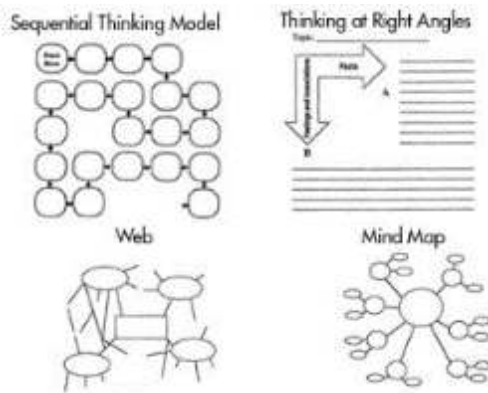


What could you for retrieval practice?

Cornell Notes



Graphic organisers/ mind maps



Online/Home-made quizzes



# Some useful resources



# The Cornell Note-taking Method

Topic:	
Recall cues	Notes:
Summary	

## Topic: Weimar Republic (WR) in 1923 — Stresemann

### Recall cues

What crisis did the WR suffer in 1923?

What did this mean to the average citizen?

What prompted this crisis?

Name 4 things Chancellor Stresemann did that helped overcome this crisis?

What effect did each of these have?

## Topic: Covalent Bonding

### Recall cues

In covalent bonding, electrons are ....?

This results in each atom involved achieving a ....

Between what elements are covalent bonds formed?

What is a covalent bond?

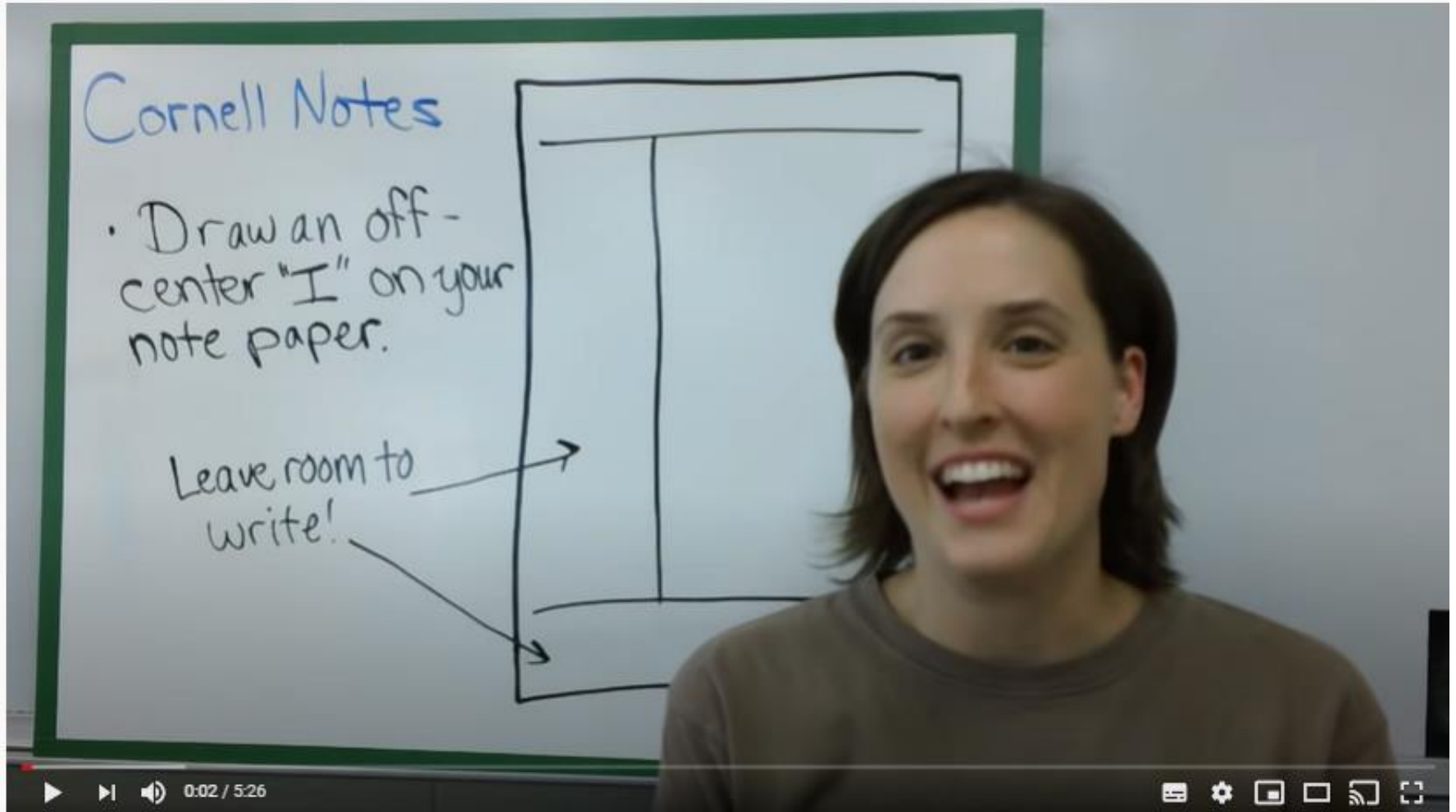
How do we work out how many covalent bonds an atom has?

Draw dot-and-cross diagrams for:

- $\text{NH}_3$
- $\text{N}_2$
- $\text{CO}_2$
- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- $\text{CH}_4$

# How to take Cornell notes.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtW9IyE04OQ&feature=youtu.be>



The image shows a woman with dark hair, smiling, positioned in front of a whiteboard. The whiteboard has a green border and contains the following content:

- Cornell Notes** (written in blue ink)
- Draw an off-center "I" on your note paper.
- Leave room to write! (with two arrows pointing to the left margin of the diagram)

The diagram on the whiteboard is a rectangle representing a piece of paper. It is divided into three sections by two vertical lines and one horizontal line. The horizontal line is near the top, creating a narrow header section. The two vertical lines are positioned such that the leftmost section is narrow, the middle section is the widest, and the rightmost section is also narrow. This layout is characteristic of the Cornell Notes system, designed to leave space for a summary on the left and a review section on the right.

At the bottom of the image, there is a video player interface with a progress bar showing 0:02 / 5:26 and various control icons.



Flashcards are great, but  
most people use them  
wrong!!!!!!!



## Powerful Flashcards

- 1) Retrieve (don't cheat!)
- 2) Re-order (shuffle and interleave)
- 3) Repeat (at least 3 times)

\*Just like lather, rinse, repeat!

Don't flip over too early. Write down the answer or say it out loud *before* flipping the card over.

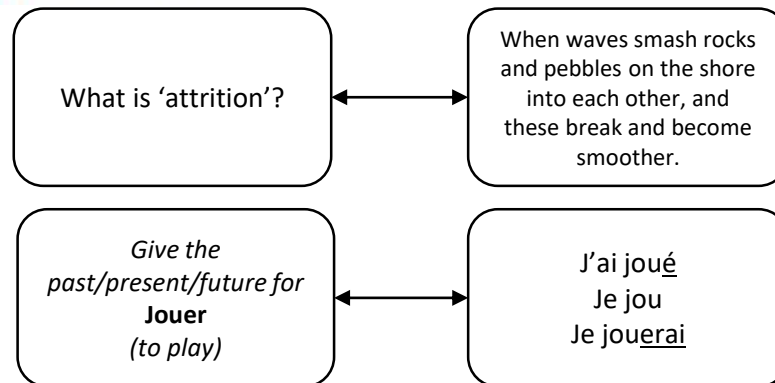
Mix up closely related topics

Keep cards in their deck until you've **correctly retrieved it three times.**

# Flashcards – testing not summarising

## Making good flashcards

- One side of the flashcard should be a single question and its answer on the reverse
- Select the most important information to go on each flashcard. You could use topic checklists or bolded terms in your study guide to help you choose.
- Break complex concepts down so that they cover multiple cards.
- Use drawings to illustrate answers.

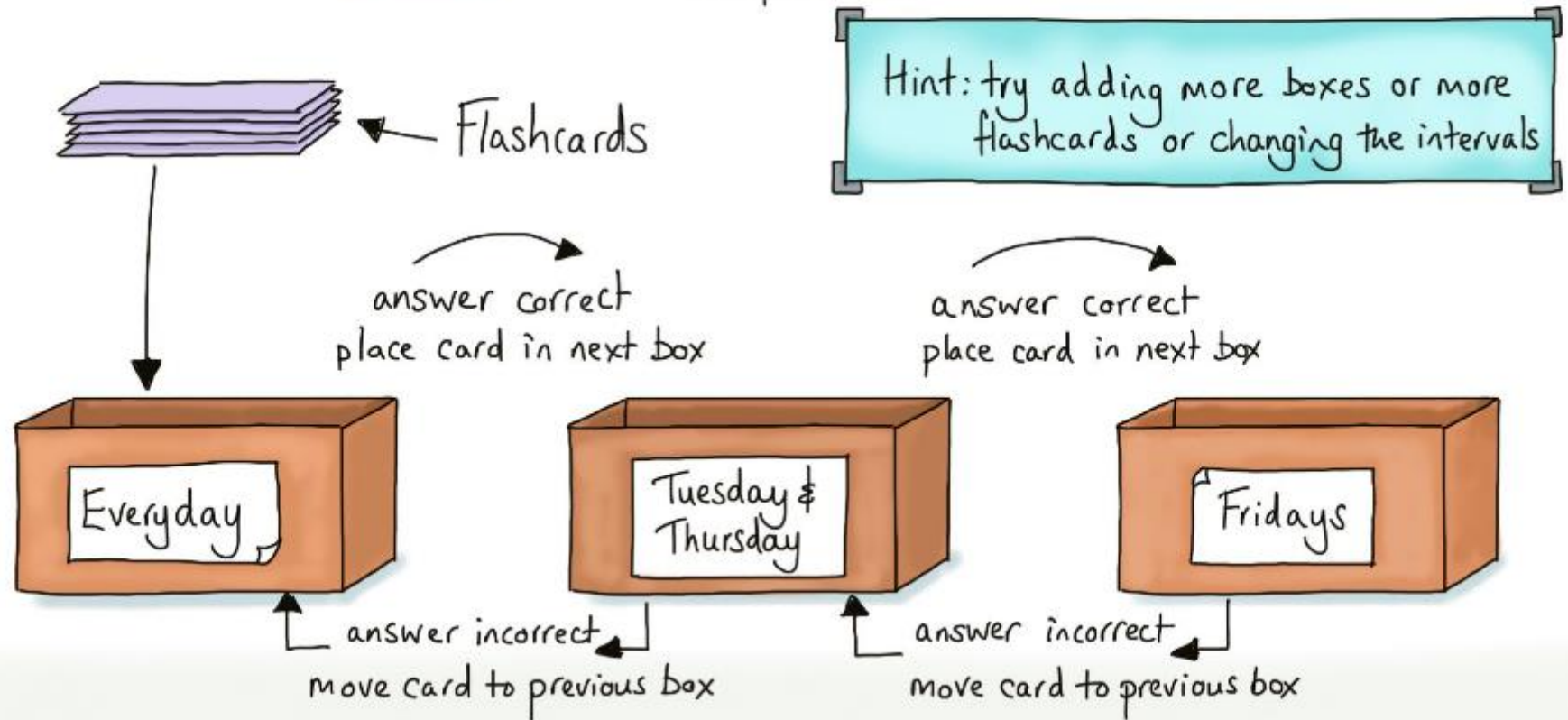


## Using flashcards

- Say your answer out loud and not just in your head. It's very important you are fully committed to your answer. Even better would be to write your answer out as this is what you would have to do in an exam.
- Use them both ways – look at the answers and say what the question is.

# LEITNER Flash card method

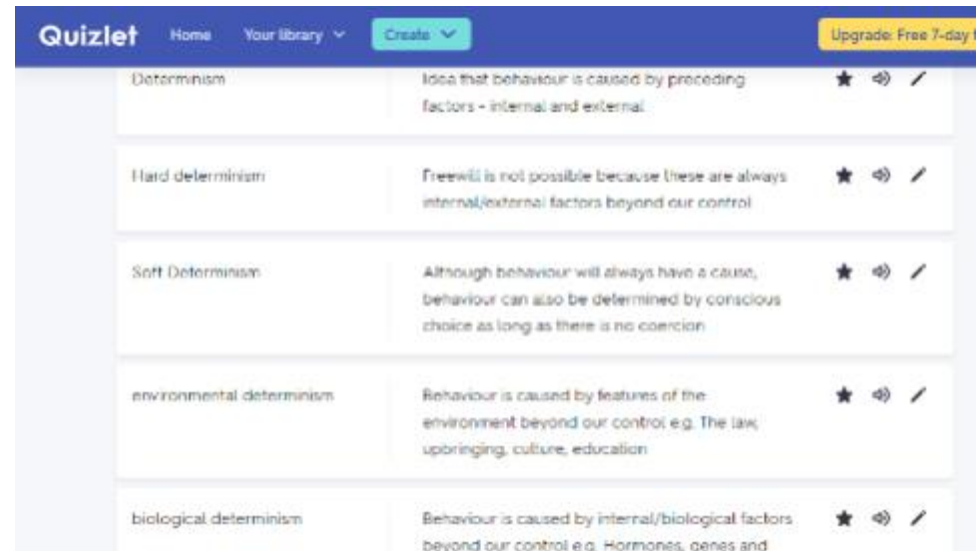
@ImpactWales



An effective use of flashcards to prompt & recall learning using spaced practice proposed by Leitner in the 1970s. It focuses on the proficiency of recall of the learner. Information which is easily recalled has a longer time lapse before the next recall opportunity.

# Online Flashcards:

- You can test yourself anytime and anywhere.
- You can add photos, add lots of text, organise folders per subtopic, easy to edit.
- Write function gives you the description and you test your knowledge by writing the key term. It saves progress so if you can't get through the whole stack then you can jump back in.
- Or you can get ready made ones



## PhysQuiz - GCSE Physics

Complete revision toolkit

Richard McKillop

Designed for iPhone

★★★★★ 4.9 (16 Ratings)

Free - Offers In-App Purchases





## Flashcards – Making Meaning

- Ask yourself questions about individual cards.
  - What else is this related to?
  - Why is this important?
  - How would I apply this information? Everyday examples?

Give three reasons for the growth in Nazi party support from 1930 onwards

Hitler's appeal, The SA, propaganda.  
*Challenge yourself: explain how each of these factors led to the growth of the Nazi party.*

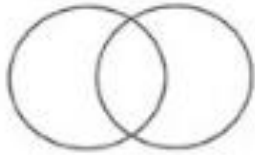
- Group cards together in themes. Taking this additional step forces you to ask yourself 'Which cards have something in common with others?'. Also, this serves as a form of chunking, which helps you to remember information together instead of separately.
- Create a mind map with the cards. Explain all the connections you see between individual cards and between groups of cards. A related strategy is to use yarn or string to literally connect cards together.



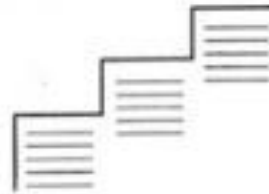
# Graphic organisers

These are good to help you organize your revision topics, making meaningful links and connections (in cognitive science, this is labelled the '**generation effect**').

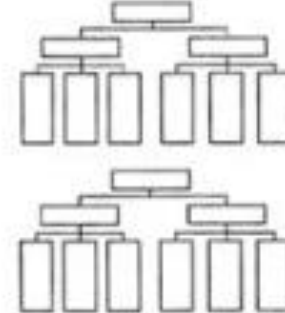
Venn Diagram



Sequential Thinking Model



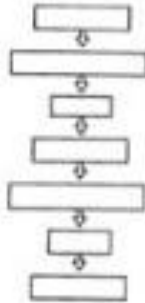
Sequential Thinking Model



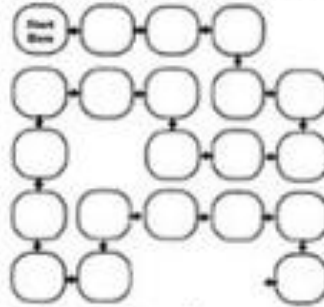
Chain



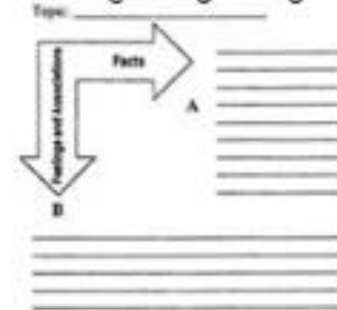
Chain



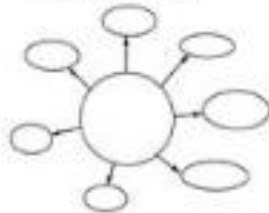
Sequential Thinking Model



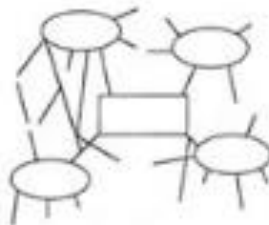
Thinking at Right Angles



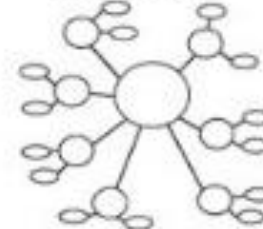
Spider Map

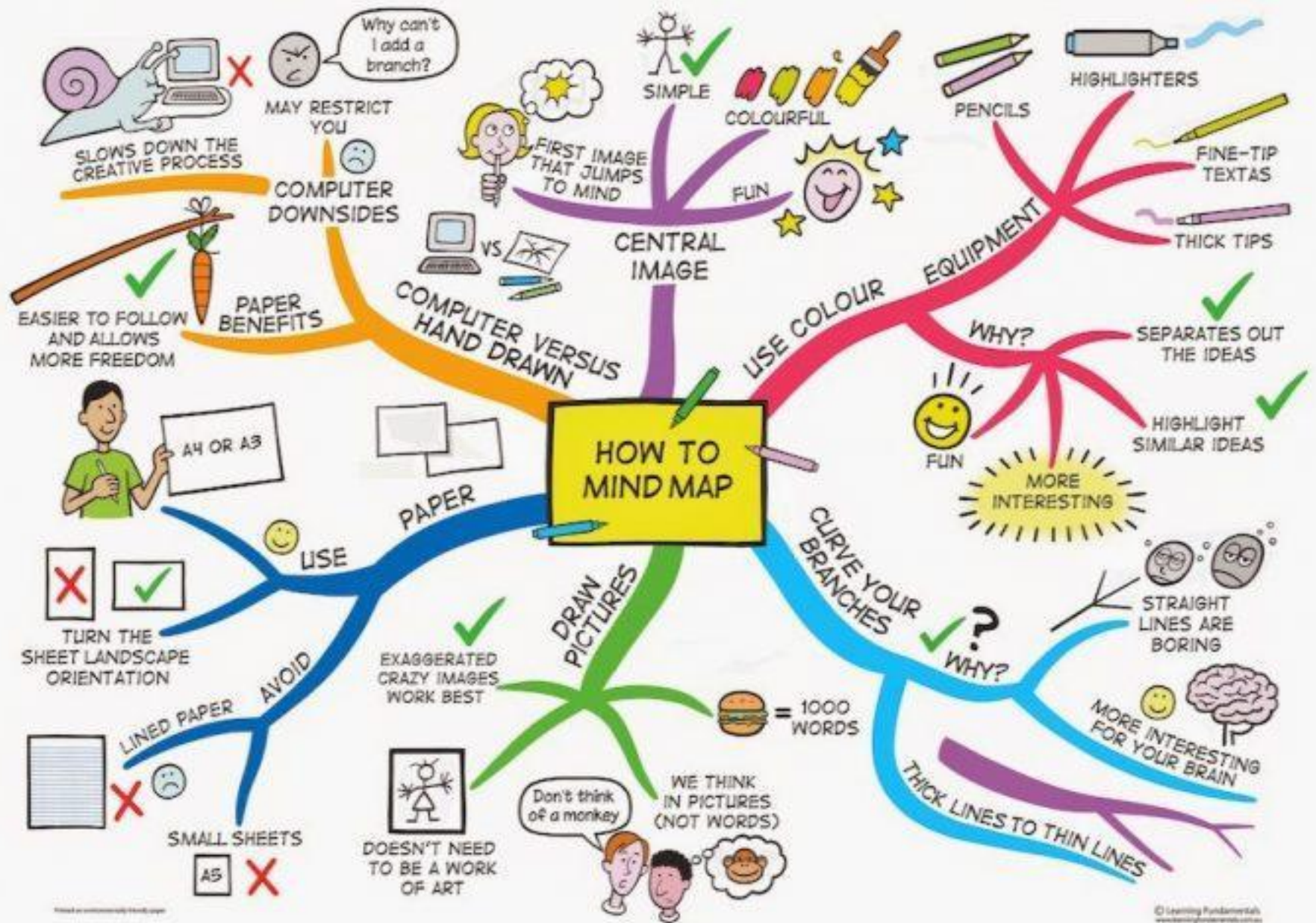


Web

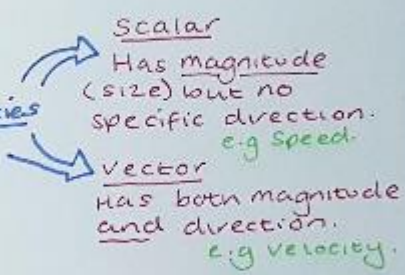
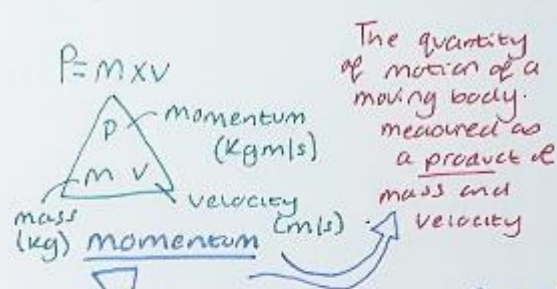
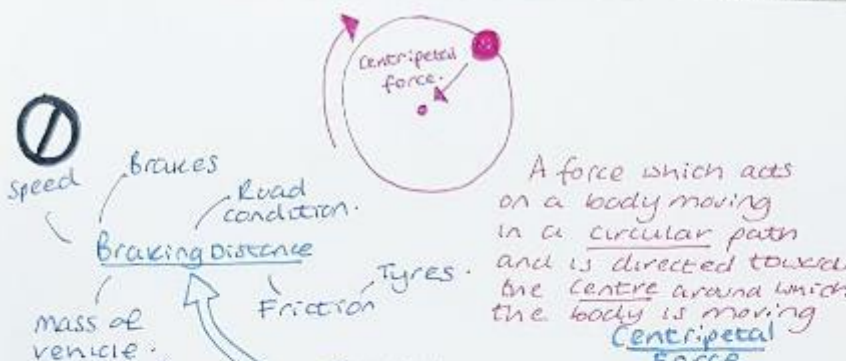


Mind Map

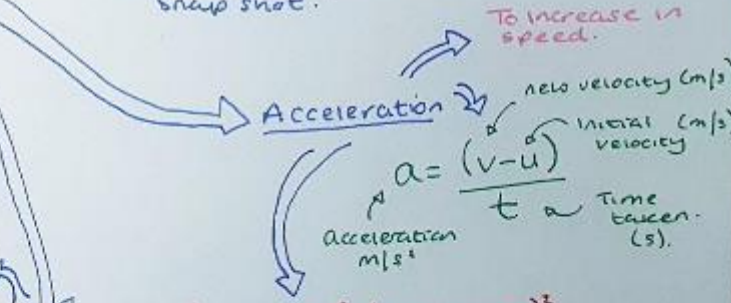
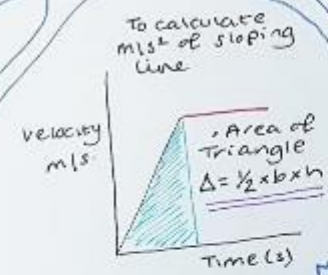
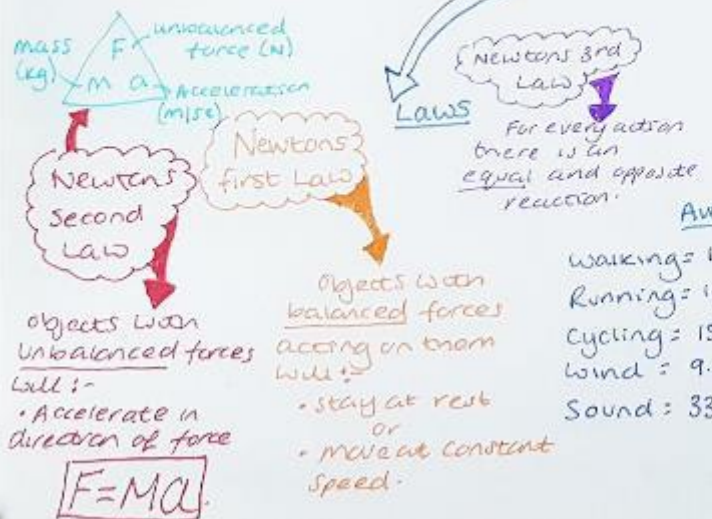
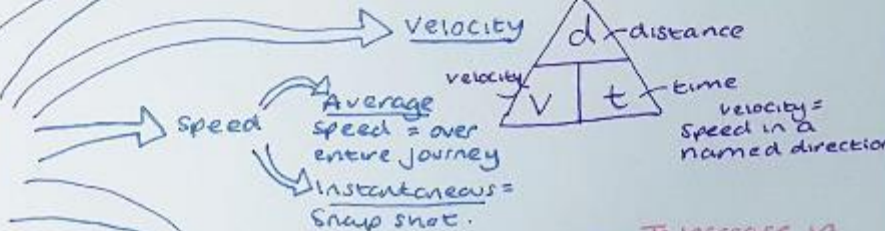




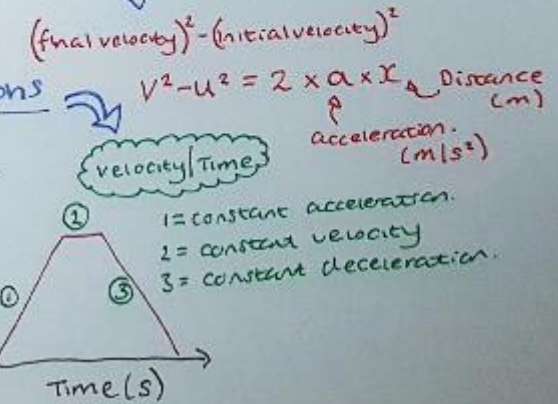
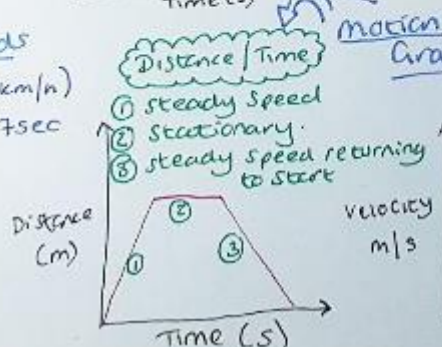




**P1/2**

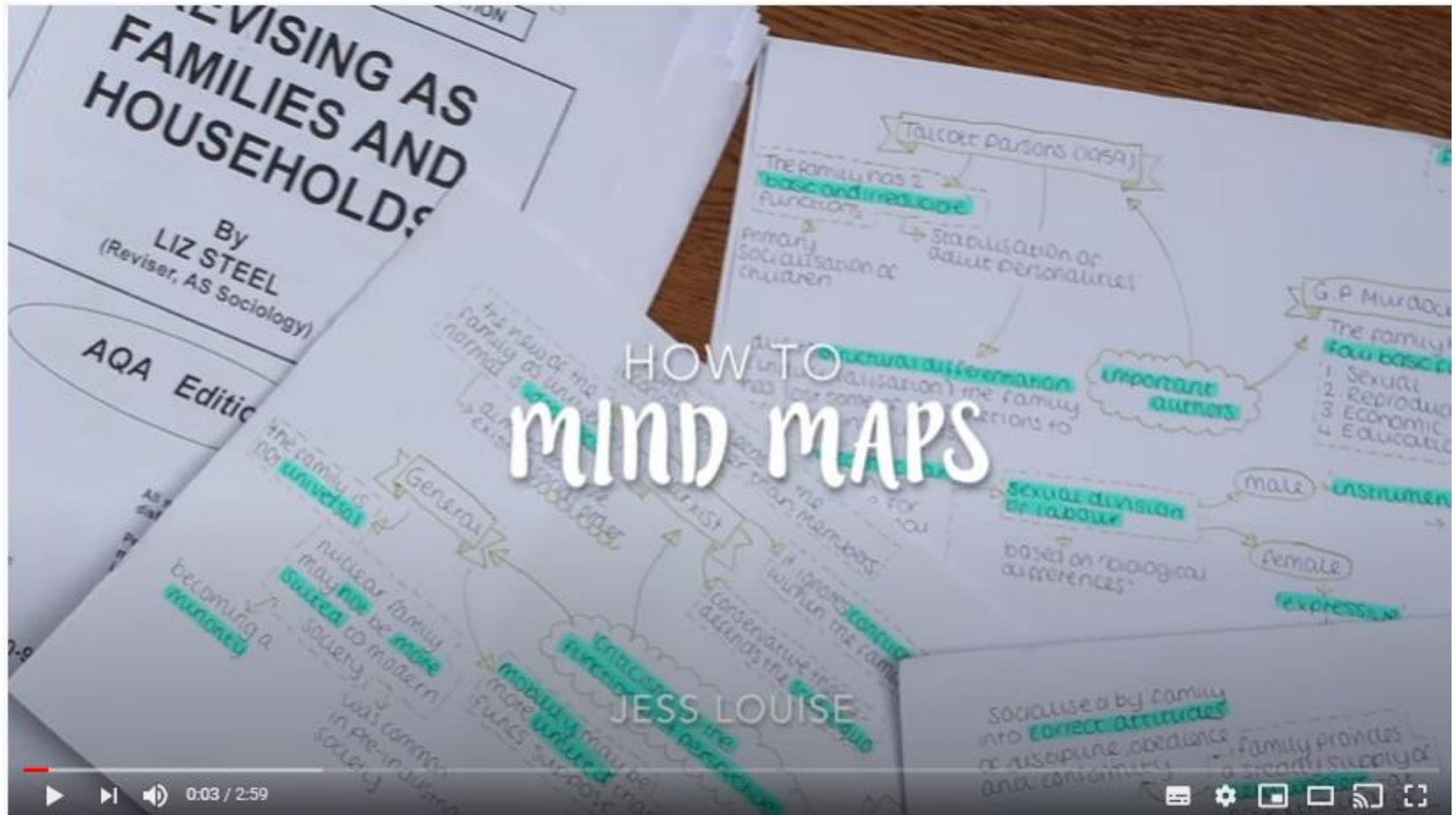


- Average speeds**
- walking = 1.4 m/s (5 km/h)
  - Running = 100 m per 27 sec
  - Cycling = 15.5 km/h
  - Wind = 9.4 knots
  - Sound = 331.2 m/s

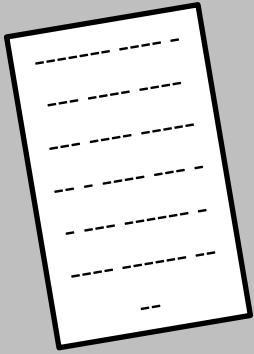


# How to mind map

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e67gvl0Xu3g&t=1s>

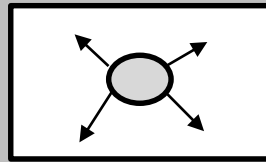


# Strategy: Folding Frenzy:



**Fold**

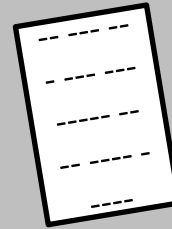
**Notes:**  
Write on one side of an A4 page – keywords, definitions, summarising information, using symbols and diagrams.



**Graphic organiser:**

Create a graphic organiser on an A5 side of the paper. Represent the most important aspects, show links.

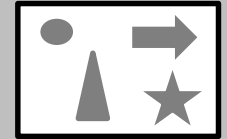
**Fold**



**Flashcard:**

Write on one A6 side of the sheet – 5-6 summary sentences, highlighting the keywords.

**Turn**



**Symbols:**

On the last A6 side – draw symbols to help you remember.



# What are the benefits of folding frenzy?

- **Repeated retrieval practice** – revisiting the same information multiple times.
- **Utilising different formats** – e.g. notes, mindmap, flashcard, symbols.
- **Dual coding** – brain can use different channels at once (written word (sound – inner voice) and vision).
- At a later date you can just use the symbols to see how much you can remember, check and identify what you have forgotten.

# Folding frenzy:

- The folding frenzy stages can be completed at different times rather than all in one go – **spacing** your revision is important.

2

**Background:**

- Psychosexual stages
- Freud's theory
- Phallic stage
- Latency stage
- Genital stage

**Study:**

- Freud's theory
- Phallic stage
- Latency stage
- Genital stage

**Evaluation:**

- Freud's theory
- Phallic stage
- Latency stage
- Genital stage

1

**Freud (1909):**

Psychosexual stages

Phallic stage

Latency stage

Genital stage

3

① Freud wanted to support that the Oedipus complex occurs during the phallic stage of psychosexual development

② Conducted a 2 year longitudinal case study of a 5 year old Hans

③ Hans had a horse phobia, obsession with his penis, female fantasy, imaginary children and two phallic fantasy

④ All were interpreted as him longing for his mother and wanting his father out of the picture. The phallic fantasy represented resolution

⑤ Good data from case study but small sample and can be generalised

Revision week 1	Revision week 2	Revision week 3	Revision week 4	Revision week 5
Notes page (step 1)	Mindmap (step 2)	Break	Flashcard (step 3)	Symbols (step 4)

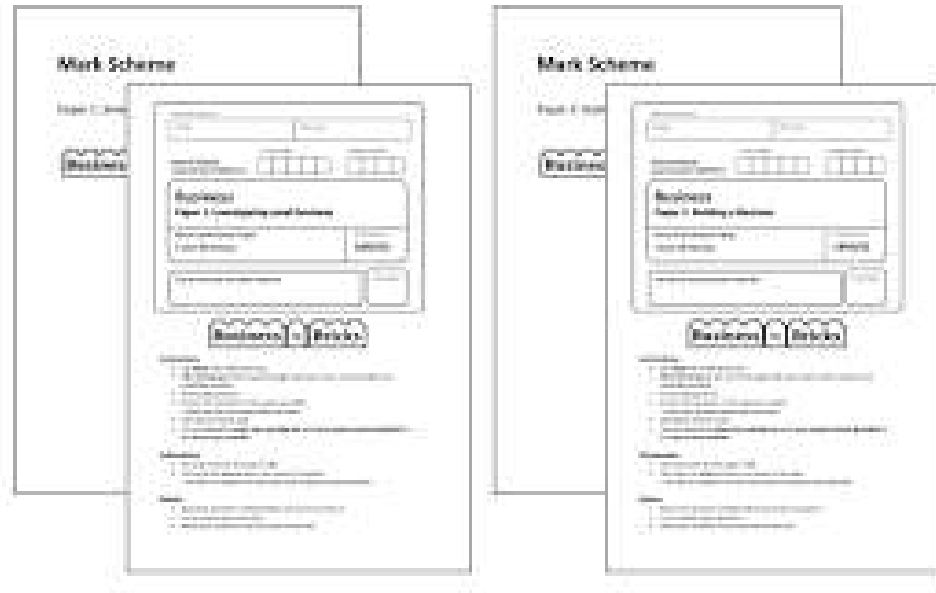


# ‘You be the teacher’:



- **Plan to teach** a topic or core piece of research to your peers or a family member – **or actually teach** them.
- The planning processes requires **cognitive elaboration and deeper processing** as you need to learn the content well enough yourself to teach it to another person.
- Even expecting to teach someone has a **positive impact on learning**, this impact is enhanced when you actually teach someone else.
- You could teach a peer within your subject, a peer or family member who does not take that subject.
- **Protégé effect** – students enlisted to tutor others work harder to understand the material, recall it more accurately and apply it more effectively.

# Applying your knowledge



In addition to techniques to help you remember/recall the information, you need lots of practice applying it to past exam questions.

Ask your teachers which exam board you are doing, and the best websites to use.

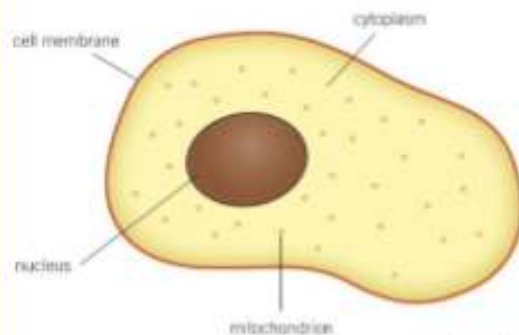
# What is **self quizzing**?

- Nearly **everything** you do in school you need to have knowledge for, and that relies on your long-term memory.
- The self-quiz is designed to help you memorise the **most important** information.
  - 1) You study part of your Knowledge Organiser (identify key words and write them down if appropriate)
  - 2) Cover up part or all of the information
  - 3) Try to write out as much as you can remember
  - 4) Self-check and self-correct (including any spelling mistakes) in a green pen.
- Test yourself until you have learned it by heart (usually about 20-30 min).

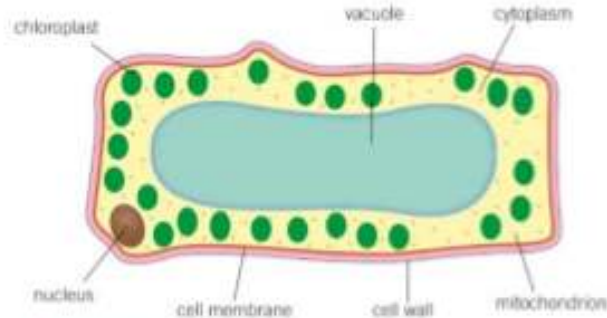
## Biology B1.1: Cells

### Section 1: Cell Structure

Cell Structure	Function	Eukaryotic	
		Animal Cells	Plant Cells
1 Nucleus	Contains <b>genetic information</b> that <b>controls</b> the functions of the cell.	Y	Y
2 Cell membrane	Controls what <b>enters</b> and <b>leaves</b> the cell.	Y	Y
3 Cytoplasm	Where many <b>cell activities</b> and <b>chemical reactions</b> within the cell occur.	Y	Y
4 Mitochondria	Provides <b>energy</b> from <b>aerobic respiration</b> .	Y	Y
5 Chloroplast	Where <b>photosynthesis</b> occurs.		Y
6 Vacuole	Used to <b>store</b> water and other chemicals as <b>cell sap</b> .		Y
7 Cell wall	<b>Strengthens</b> and <b>supports</b> the cell. (Made of <b>cellulose</b> in plants.)		Y



▲ An animal cell.



▲ A plant cell.



**look**



**cover**



**write**

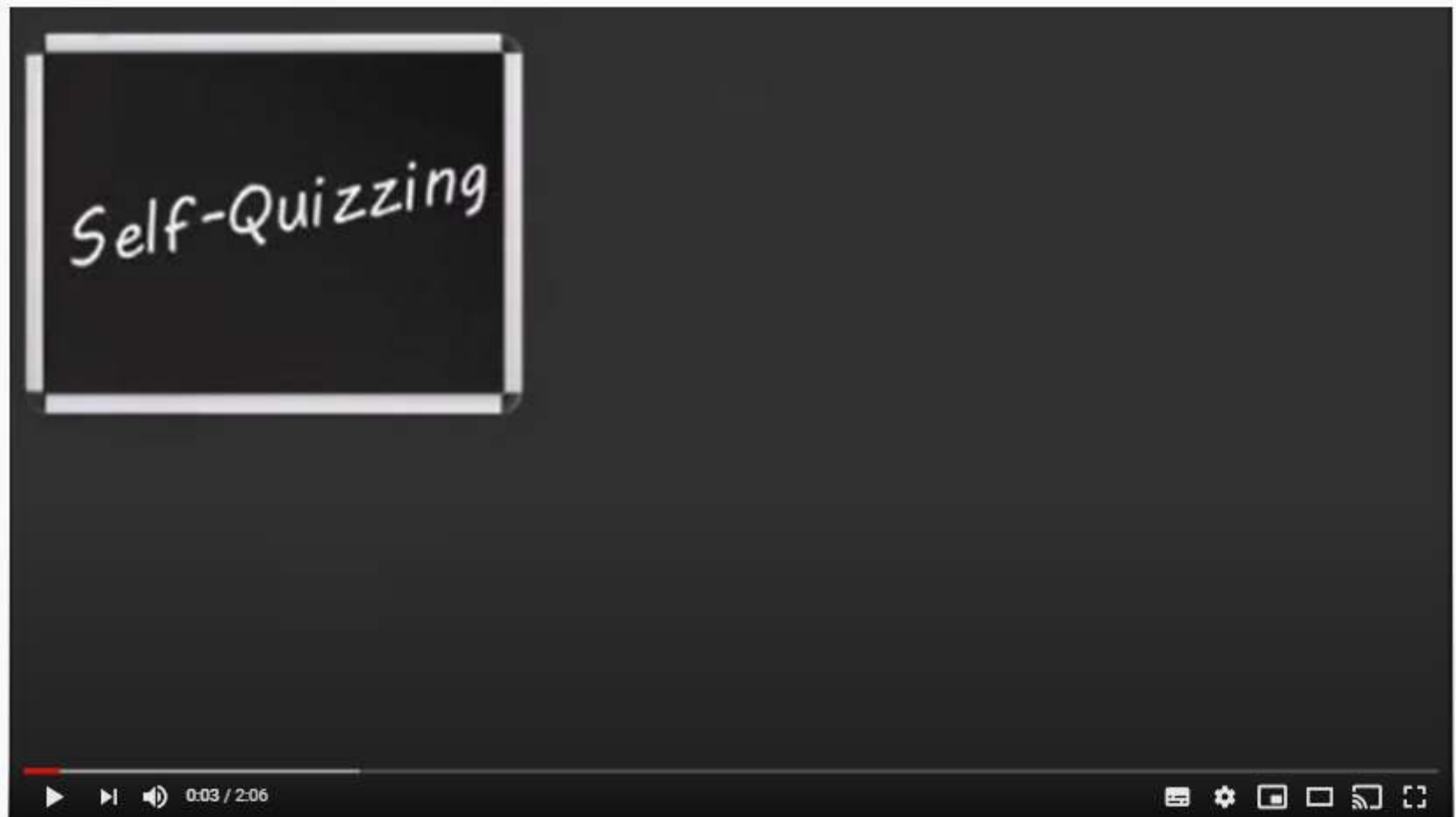


**check**

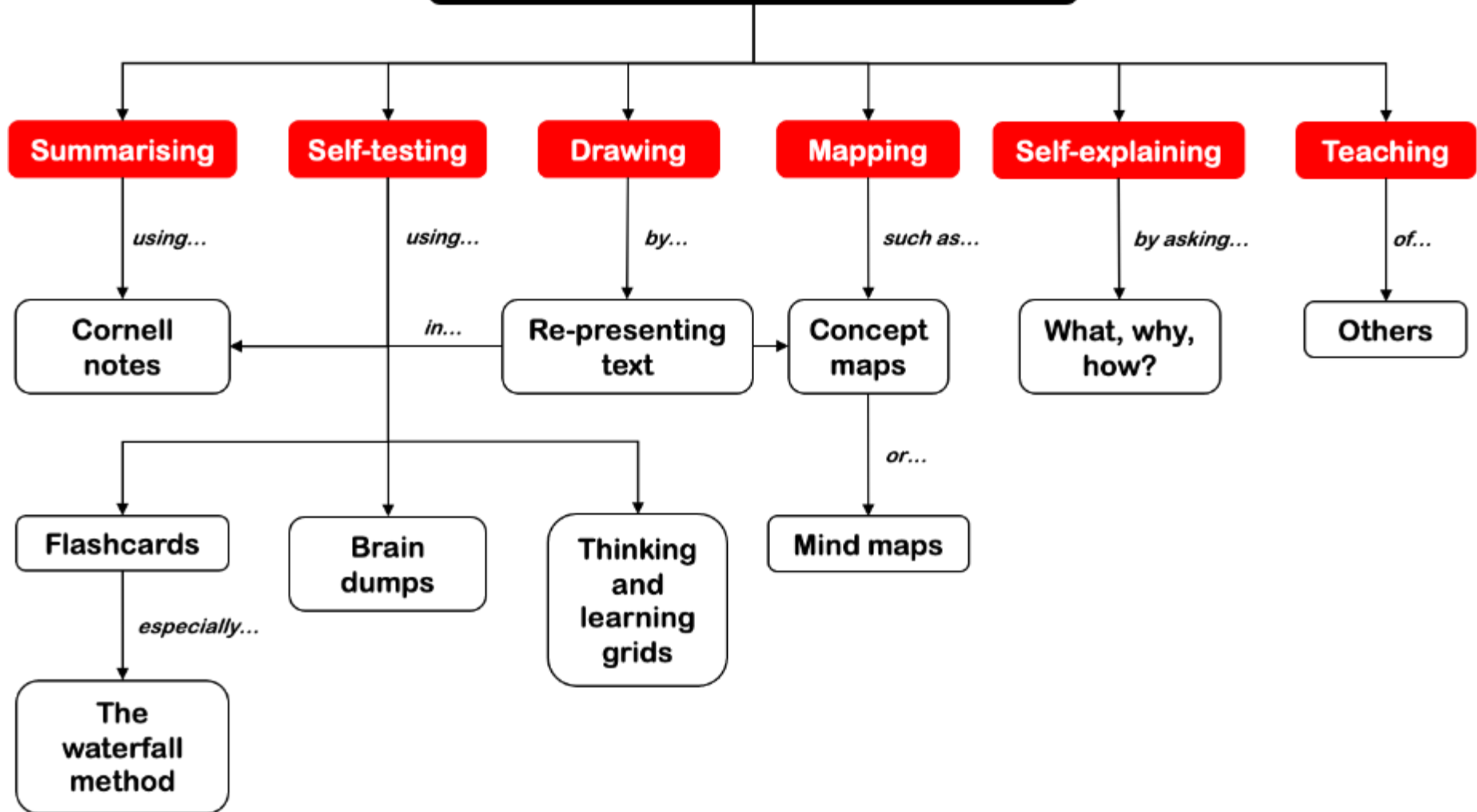


# What is self quizzing?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JMbj1y4Smo>



# Learning Strategies



## Summarising



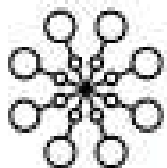
When asked a question such as ‘what have you done today?’, you’ll likely provide a summary. This involves you selecting, organising and integrating the key moments of your day. Taking a similar approach with your studies can have a very powerful effect on your learning. What is absolutely key is that you use your own words and don’t mindlessly copy your notes or revision guide.

## Self-testing



Research has shown that every time you bring a memory to mind, you strengthen it. And the more challenging you make this retrieval, the greater the benefit. Self-testing improves the recall of information, transfer of knowledge and making inferences between information. Equally, there are many indirect effects such as a greater appreciation of what you do and don’t know, which helps you plan your next steps.

## Mapping



Mapping a brilliant way of organising and learning information as I hope is demonstrated on various pages in this booklet. It helps you break down complex information, memorise it, and see the connections between different ideas.

## Drawing



This is about turning text into some form of drawing. Doing so involves you selecting, organising and integrating the information that matters, which forces you to think. This approach can be incorporated into the three strategies above too.

## Self-explaining



Continually ask yourself 'How?' and 'Why?' when studying a topic and then try to provide answers to these questions. Doing so helps you to see connections and differences between ideas. Self-explaining can also involve you saying loud the steps you're taking when solving a problem. A recent analysis of 64 research studies showed that 'it is better to ask a student to see if they can explain something to themselves, than for a teacher or book to always explain it to them'.

## Teaching



Einstein is supposed to have said 'if you can't explain it simply, you don't know it well enough'. This strategy works best when you know in advance that you will be teaching someone. As with self-explaining, you're forced to select and organise what's important so that your teaching is as clear as possible. Having someone to interact with and ask you questions strengthens your own learning.

# In summary.....

**“Memory is the  
residue of thought”.**

**Keep testing  
yourself.**

**Space your revision  
out.**

**Keep asking ‘why’?**