

## Homework and Revision Top Tips

Here's a few ideas you might find useful in the year ahead and beyond!

### **LISTEN 'ACTIVELY'**

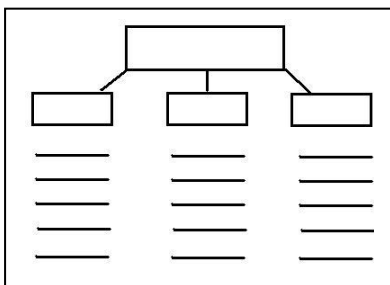
When other people are talking, sometimes they can go too fast, say too much or use complicated vocabulary. Sometimes we can get distracted or there are background noises that can stop us from listening effectively. Whatever the reason, if you are switched on, listening 'actively' (looking at the speaker, focusing on the words) and willing to ask if there's something you've missed or not understood, then it will mostly turn out ok! So.....

- Be in control of your own listening skill – tune in - don't zone out!!
- Watch the speaker, focus on the words/signs/gestures.
- Recognise when you don't understand something and why
- Check that you've heard/interpreted it right
- Practise asking for clarification

### **PLANNING IS YOUR FRIEND!**

Producing a good piece of written work is mostly about planning. What you want to say, what order you are going to say things in, what the key ideas are, what vocabulary you need to use and what kind of structure is needed. Different writing tasks need different types of planning and there are lots of templates available to help you structure what you want to write. Check out 'graphic organisers' on Google Images or have a look at the examples below. So....

- Don't dismiss planning as 'extra work' as it helps to organise your thinking so the written task isn't such a struggle.
- Use a template or visual tool like a mind map to help organise your thoughts.
- Tick off the ideas you've used in your writing as you go along
- Be aware of the different types of writing task and how to organise your ideas to fit the task i.e. writing a story will be planned differently to justifying your opinion about an idea or comparing and contrasting.



Name: <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
My Opinion	
Reason 1	
Reason 2	
Reason 3	

Title _____	Date _____	Name _____	
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## TIME MATTERS!

Sometimes it's difficult to know where to start when you've got lots of homework or revision to do. Being organised and getting tasks done on time relies on an understanding of how much work you've got, how long it will take, when it needs to be done and what other things you have to fit into your weekly schedule. Sometimes it's hard to hold all that in your head and all of a sudden weeks have gone by the work is due in Ahhhh! So.....

## HOMEWORK

- Get into the habit of recording what you have to do in a way that you can see everything coming up i.e month to view calendar sheet.
- Colour code homework for different subjects i.e. on your planner and also using colour coded folder/files
- Work out how long the home work should take so you know how much time to set aside.
- Look at your weekly schedule and plan in a time to do a particular piece of work.

## REVISION PLANNING

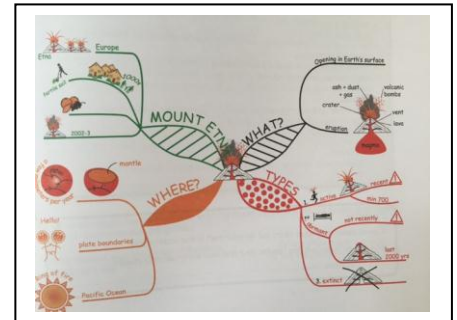
- Start with a **Year Planner** – add key dates i.e. School holidays
- Add a colour coded symbol for homework/coursework in each subject i.e.
- Add exam dates when you know them
- Pin it up somewhere you can see it!
- Next the **Subject Planner**
- Write a list of the subjects you need to revise for and under each one a list of the topics to revise for that subject.
- The **Time Plan** – work out approximately how much time you will need to revise each topic. You can do this by thinking about how much you know about the topic. Write down a time estimate.
- The **Countdown Plan** – use the sheet showing the 7 weeks leading up to the exams. Using colour coding, plan out the topics you will revise.
- The **Weekly Plan** – Plan revision slots of 30 minutes at a time throughout the day. On the plan, in the correct colour, write the topic you are going to revise,.

## REVISION STRATEGIES AND TIPS

- Pace yourself to avoid burnout and cramming – make a good realistic plan and try and stick to it.
- Before you start revising a topic ask yourself 'What do I know about the topic?' i.e. What do I already know about Volcanos? Write your thoughts in a list or around a central idea (mind map)
- Next Question – 'What do I need to know?' Read the information in a text book, work book or revision guide and highlight the **Key Words**

## MAKE A MIND MAP

- Write the topic in the centre
- Add thick branches for the key ideas linked to the topic
- Add colour to the branches and write the key idea on the branch
- Add drawings/pictures to illustrate the idea
- Add smaller branches to expand the key idea
- Use simple key words rather than long sentences
- Draw lines to link connected ideas

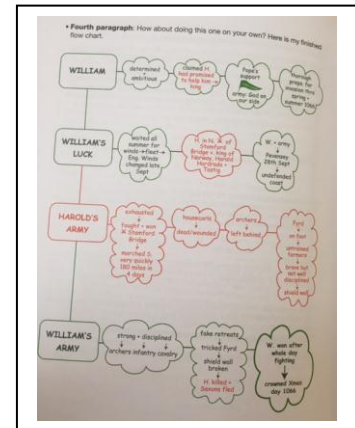


## MAKE NOTES

- Read through your information on a topic and highlight the key points.
- Make notes using key words, pictures, symbols, arrows etc
- Do not just re-write what you have read – this is just copying.
- Explain the information to another person, using your notes.

## BOX AND BUBBLE FLOWCHARTS

- These are good for explaining a sequence of events
- Use a vertical sheet of paper and write the topic at the top – this may be in the form of a question i.e. ‘Why did William win the battle of Hastings?’
- Think about the key information you need to include to answer the question.
- Think about the order of that information in a logical sequence.
- Write the order in boxes going down the page.
- Across the page expand each key idea with relevant facts.



## MAKE UP REVISION INDEX CARDS

- These take the form of a question and answer process and are great for testing yourself.
- Think of a question about the topic and write it on a card
- Write notes on the back which include key words/pictures and ideas to answer the question
- Use these to test yourself by seeing if you can answer the question fully without having to turn the card over.

For more ideas and a detailed explanation of these strategies see **‘Study Skills – The complete guide to smart learning’** by Elizabeth Holtom.

