



A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE REVISION



Alford Academy

1. Plan your study



2. Sort your study space

Bedroom ?	Dining room ?
Study ?	Local library ?

Make sure it is tidy and organised.

It should have *all* your materials & notes.



3. Reading Notes

To get the most out of your reading, you should consider *why* you are reading first.

BEFORE	DURING	AFTER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the purpose of your reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For fun/pleasure Fact finding For understanding Highlight key words in one paragraph to obtain an overview of the whole passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on <u>HEADINGS</u> and emboldened words <u>Underline</u> key ideas, names and words Look up any words you don't understand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read-Cover-Recall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check what you understood by hiding the text and recalling the information you remember Read-Cover-Record-Check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorise facts by reading, covering, recording (on voice recorder or written note) and then checking against original text

Strategy	Description	Purpose
Detailed reading	Reading the whole text carefully and thoughtfully. This can be a challenge if you lack interest in the topic.	Complete understanding
Reading for enjoyment	Reading at whatever pace suits you. The more you read the better reader you become.	Pleasure
Skimming	Finding out what a passage, extract or book is mainly about.	General impression
Scanning	Looking for specific detail by running your eye down the page quickly.	Fact finding
SQ4R	A combination of the above strategies following six steps: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Record, Review.	Understanding and studying

4. Use a range of techniques to improve your memory

Try **Mnemonics**, where a simple phrase serves as a starting point for key vocabulary.

Here are a few examples:

COMPASS POINTS

Never Eat Shredded Wheat



GLACIAL EROSION FEATURES

CHAPRUT:

Corrie

Hanging valley

Arete

Pyramidal peak

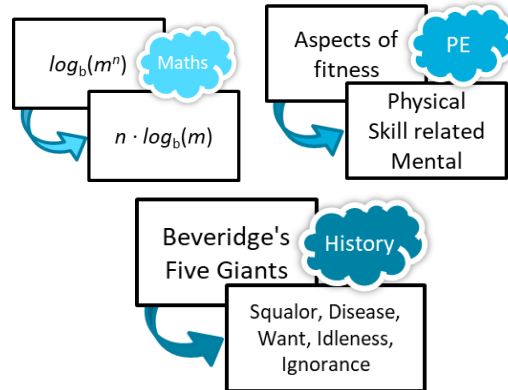
Ribbon lake

U shaped valley

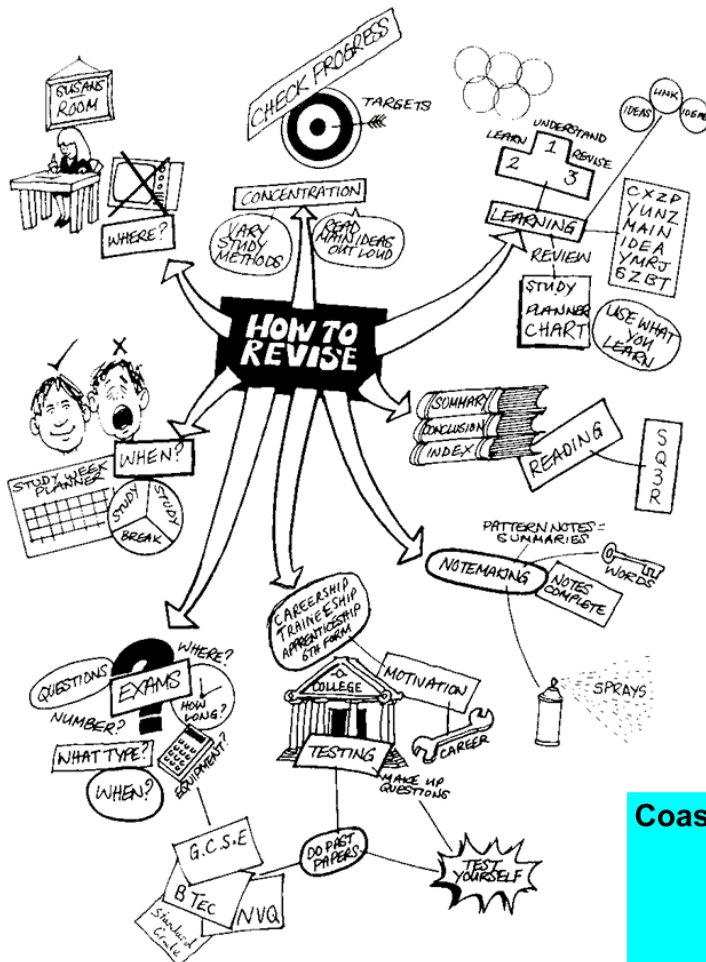
Truncated spurs



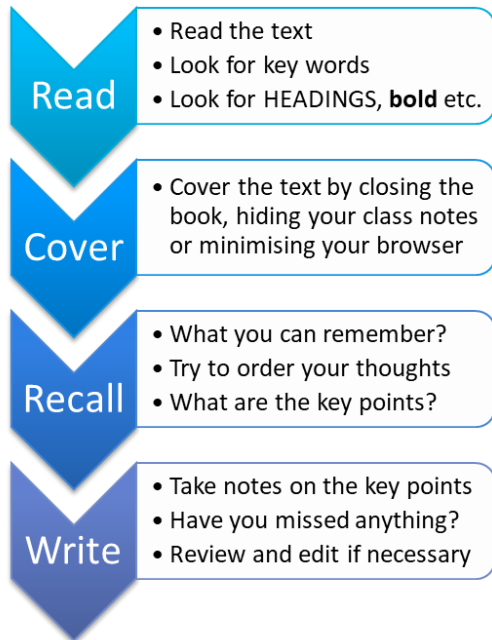
For learning definitions, you could try **Flashcards**.



Make **Mind Maps / Graffiti Boards** to show links in between concepts, ideas and topics.



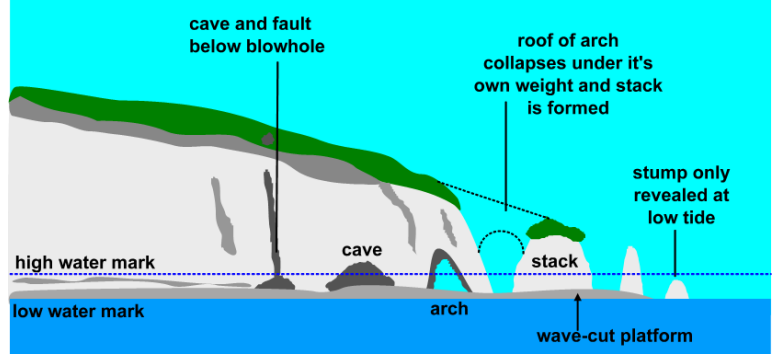
Creating **Summary Notes**



Make use of images and diagrams to help have multiple ways to remember.

Coastal Scenery on Chalk Headland

e.g. Flamborough Head

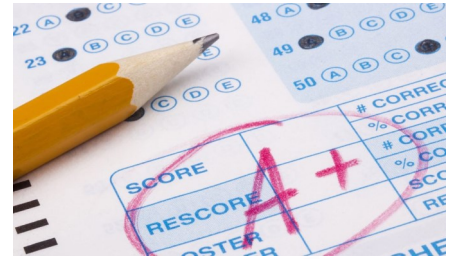


5. Exam Vocabulary

The SQA have specific words they use to test for specific skills.

To give you an idea of the type of expected response, see the table below:

Calculate	Work out mathematically.
Compare	Are the things alike or are there differences? Which do you think is best? Why?
Contrast	Look for differences.
Define	Give the meaning.
Describe	Write in detail.
Discuss	Write about the important aspects of the topic. Are there two sides to the question? Consider the arguments for and against.
Evaluate	Judge the importance or success.
Explain	Make clear.
Illustrate	Give examples which make the point clear.
Interpret	Explain the meaning in your own words. For example, you may be asked to interpret a graph.
Justify	Give reasons to support an argument or action.
State	Write briefly the main point.
Summarise	Bring together the main points.



6. Specific Exam Skills

Past Papers

Look at past exam papers to familiarise yourself with the type of questions you will be asked and the structure of the exam. You can access past papers and marking instructions on the SQA website—your teachers may have other appropriate papers.

Key Question Words

Make sure you understand the meaning of key question words. Check the table to find any you are unsure of.

Equipment and Timing

What are you allowed to take into the exam with you? Exactly how long is the exam? Take note of the number of marks for each section and then calculate how much time you have for each question. Practice past papers under timed conditions.

Ask your teacher

Every subject has different specific skills that it will be assessing. Your teacher will be able to tell you of any changes or updates to the course that may affect your preparation for assessments.

Prelims

Prelims help you discover the weaknesses in your knowledge, how effective your study skills are, and identify your strengths and weaknesses under pressure. Work hard in your preparation for them, as they are some of the best feedback you'll get.

7. Sleep Well

Don't stay up all night trying to cram in lots of last minute studying – you need a good sleep to provide you with energy to be focussed and alert during the exam! Even if the exam is in the afternoon a disrupted sleep pattern the night before won't improve our performance.

