

Supporting your child through their History GCSE

revision tips

The History mock exams

1	Medicine Through time	1 hour 20	30%	PM 14 th January
2	Cold War	55 minutes	20%	PM 21 st January
3	Weimar and Nazi Germany	1 hour 30	30%	AM 28 th January
Please note in the real exams in May/June 2026, Early Elizabethan England will be sat with Superpower Relations and the Cold War(also worth 20%).				

Key Dates for GCSE History



2025	December	Revision should be focusing on paper 1 (Medicine), paper 2 (Cold War) and paper 3 (Germany)
2026	January	Mock exams: Paper 1, 2 (Cold War) and 3 being examined
	February	Period 6 starts
	March	Revision at home should be full steam now – all 3 papers being revised for
	April	Easter Holiday revision preparation
	May	Paper 1: Medicine through Time exam (15 th May AM)
	June	Paper 2: Cold War and Early Elizabethan England exam (4 th June AM) Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany (9 th June PM)
	August	GCSE Results



Supporting with Revision

Revision is vital for all students but it can lead to a great deal of stress and anxiety . We've included some tips below for parents/carers:

- Encourage your child to start revision early – this will also be beneficial for the mock exams
- Encourage your child to be organised, use a revision timetable and also space out the different topics they study.
- Encourage your child to look on Microsoft Teams for their classes page where there are lots of resources available.
- Ask your child if you can help them: chatting to them or using flashcards to quiz them etc.
- Encourage your child to view the 'How to revise in history' sheet that gives hints on the best way to revise history
- Ensure your child has breaks, eats well and gets a work/life balance

Interleaving



Students should be recapping and recalling previous topics studied at home.

Homework is all focused on exam practice so pupils should be completing fortnightly exam practice as part of their homework.

Revision Sessions

Period 6 revision sessions will begin in February/March (dates to be confirmed) of 2025, and will be every week until the exams. Attendance is essential to doing well in GCSE history, those who attend do well, its simple!

Contacting the department

As a department we can be contacted via Class Charts where you can message your child's normal class teacher, or via email – mhodes@thedustonschool.org

You can also email if you would like copies of the revision guides and other resources to support your child

Exam Content

Paper One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Medicine between 1200 and 2000 • <i>Medieval, Renaissance, Industrial and Modern</i> • British Medicine in the Trenches during the First World War
Paper Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-1991 • Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588
Paper Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weimar Germany 1919 to 1929 • The rise of the Nazi Party 1919 to 1933 • Life in Nazi Germany 1934 to 39

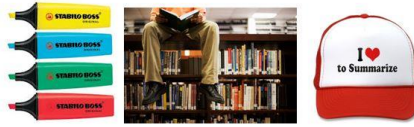


How do we revise for history?



Three common revision techniques that are **LEAST** effective in helping you revise are:

- Highlighting texts
- Re-reading
- Summarising text



Whilst these methods may feel like you are revising, there are many better methods to help you revise.



Flashcards

Simply create with questions on side and answers on the other side. You can colour code for specific topics and quiz yourself or others.



Post its can be also useful for key words and timelines

How to use in history

There are a variety of ways to use flashcards in revision for the skills you need

Key Terms

Create for key words and terms



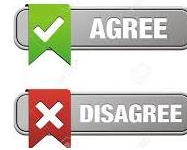
Causation

Create for the causes of events or progress



Judgments

Create an agree or disagree argument against a quote





Narrative

Create to show a narrative of events in order



Using Flashcards

Using the Leitner Method, using the video below <https://youtu.be/C20EvKtdJwQ> 

You can also create excellent flashcards online or on your phone using Quizlet which also had an app. 

Retrieval Practice

Testing what you know is a powerful tool in revision, the effort to remember something really strengthens your memory

Apps such as Memrise and Quizlet allow you to use or create your own quizzes based on topics.

Create them, test yourself or get someone to test you, it's works!

How to use in history

Spaced

Test on old and new topics mixed up

Knowledge Organisers

Use to create 'must know' quizzes for a topic

Factors/Causes/Consequences

To identify 2-3 factors, causes of an event/person e.g. The rising against Tostig

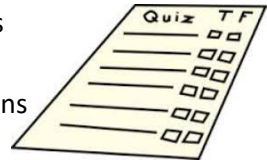
Examples

'Give two examples of.....'

Types

There are a number of types you can create:

- Multiple Choice Questions
- True or False
- Short Explanation Questions
- Odd One Out
- If this is the answer then what is the question



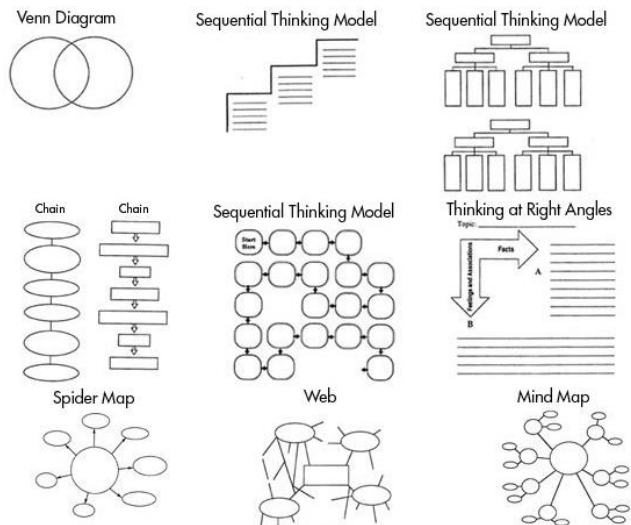
Transform It

Graphic organisers are a great way of 'transforming' your notes/information into visual revision topics.

They can be used to create links, show a narrative, identify the causes/consequences and importance of something.

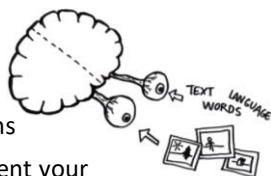
How to use in history

1. **Causation** – Create a visual flow diagram of the chronological events in a time period e.g. The Cold War
2. **Change and Continuity** – Create a Venn diagram to show what changed and did not in medical time period
3. **Concept Mapping**– At the end of a week, mind map all you can remember about a topic and link area together. Then add to your mind map using a different colour using notes



How to:

1. Use simple drawings with matching simple descriptions
2. The drawing should represent your understanding of the topic
3. Try to draw links between images



Dual Coding

'Dual coding' is the method of putting your knowledge into visual form alongside words. It increases the chances of you remembering it.



An example activity you can do its creating a comic strip to represent the events of the Cold War

How do we revise for history?

Deliberate Practice

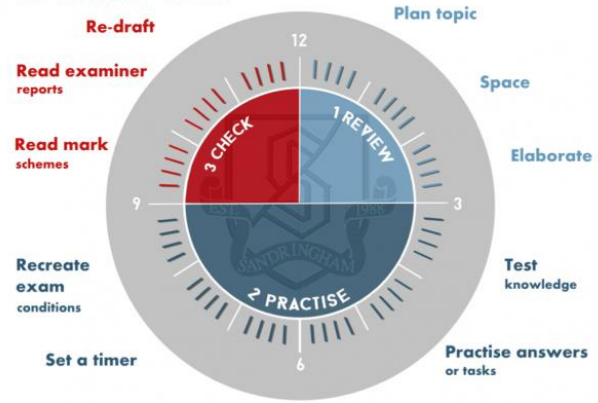
Set aside time to practice improving your knowledge or historical skills. Choose what you need to do, it must be tough enough to challenge you, and practice, practice, practice!

You should focus on something that you are *almost* able to do but *not just yet!*

How to use in history

1. Use a model answer from the teacher, pull it apart and identify the key parts. Then answer a similar question and try to replicate
2. Study material, complete practice questions in timed conditions. Then use your notes to correct / improve your answer. A week later, redo a similar question. Repeat as necessary.

THE MEMORY CLOCK



The Cornell Method

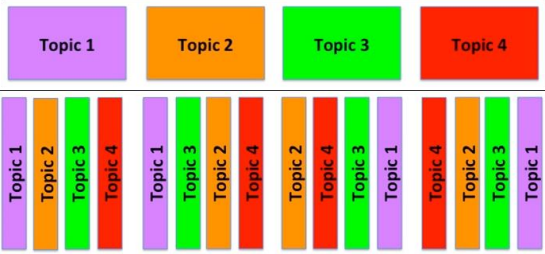
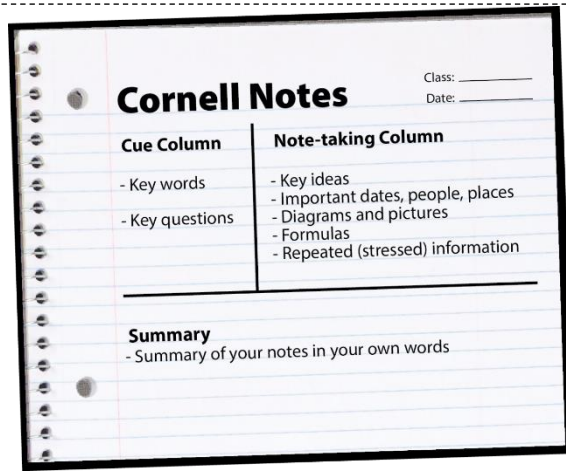
This method can be used in your revision books as a great method to get you to 'think' about your revision. Simply split your page into 3 sections as shown on the diagram on the left:

- Note Taking
- Cues
- Summary

How to use in history

Use it to summarise a whole topic or theme, for example

- How did medical treatment change or continue over time?
- Problems facing Elizabeth I when she became Queen
- How Hitler became Dictator by 1934



Interleaving and Spacing

Don't revise your all topics in one go (cramming), you should revise 'chunks' of a topic for small amounts of time (15 minutes) and then move onto another 'chunk' from a different topic.

This will improve your memory!

e.g. 15 minutes on Medicine, then Germany then Superpower Relations



How to use in history

1. Create a revision plan to cover topics you need to cover (least confident first!) and then go back over them again later. Spread out your learning in small sections, 5 hours to 5 x 1 hour
2. Use your flashcards to self test yourself on old and new topics, self testing across these

The Big Picture

The best way to aid your understanding of history is to make sure you are confident with the big 'overview' story before you begin revising individual topics.



How to use in history

1. Create a timeline to identify the key events in a topic and colour code the themes. E.g. The Cold War 1941-1991
2. Mapping out what you can remember about a topic before you start, e.g. The treatment of disease through time or the Weimar Republic 1919-1929

The basics

Simply, make sure you eat, sleep and take time out!



Limit distractions



Find a nice space to revise in



The more you put in the more you get out!



Create and use a revision planner



Set an alarm and start early!



Revise, Repeat, Remember