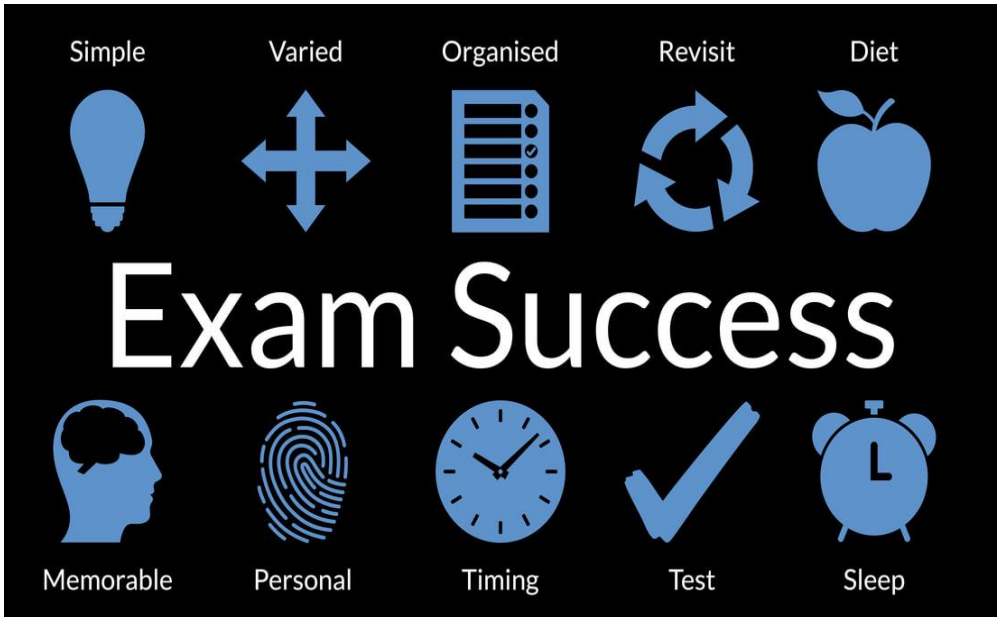
Effective Revision Strategies



In order to prepare yourself properly for exams, it is important that you are organised.

Keep this pack at the front of your revision folder.

It contains a range of different techniques and strategies proven to help you with your revision and memory recall.

Top Tips for Getting Started :

1. Research shows that short bursts of revision are more effective than long periods of time. Limit your sessions to **25 minutes** before taking a break.
2. Spacing out your revision is more effective than trying to do it all in one go.
3. Use colour coded dots to block out the dates you will use for revision for particular subjects. You can use the calendar on the next page for this.
4. Make a note on each subject divider of things that you are finding difficult in your revision or questions you might need to ask your teacher.
5. Use post-it notes in your revision to sign post areas for development or things you often forget to include in exam answers.
6. Use your initiative – do your own research and reading outside of the minimum set by your teacher.

School calendar 2018/19 (UK)

Calendarpedia.co.uk
Your source for calendars

2018					2019						
August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
1 We	**1 Sa**	1 Mo 40	1 Th	**1 Sa**	**1 Tu** New Year's Day	1 Fr	1 Fr	1 Mo 14	1 We	**1 Sa**	1 Mo 27
2 Th	**2 Su**	2 Tu	2 Fr	**2 Su**	2 We	**2 Sa**	**2 Sa**	2 Tu	2 Th	**2 Su**	2 Tu
3 Fr	3 Mo 36	3 We	**3 Sa**	3 Mo 49	3 Th	**3 Su**	**3 Su**	3 We	3 Fr	3 Mo 23	3 We
4 Sa	4 Tu	4 Th	**4 Su**	4 Tu	4 Fr	4 Mo 6	4 Mo 10	4 Th	**4 Sa**	4 Tu	4 Th
5 Su	5 We	5 Fr	5 Mo 45	5 We	**5 Sa**	5 Tu	5 Tu	5 Fr	**5 Su**	5 We	5 Fr
6 Mo 32	6 Th	**6 Sa**	6 Tu	6 Th	**6 Su**	6 We	6 We	**6 Sa**	**6 Mo** Early May Bank Hol.	6 Th	**6 Sa**
7 Tu	7 Fr	**7 Su**	7 We	7 Fr	7 Mo 2	7 Th	7 Th	**7 Su**	7 Tu	7 Fr	**7 Su**
8 We	**8 Sa**	8 Mo 41	8 Th	**8 Sa**	8 Tu	8 Fr	8 Fr	8 Mo 15	8 We	**8 Sa**	8 Mo 28
9 Th	**9 Su**	9 Tu	9 Fr	**9 Su**	9 We	**9 Sa**	**9 Sa**	9 Tu	9 Th	**9 Su**	9 Tu
10 Fr	10 Mo 37	10 We	**10 Sa**	10 Mo 50	10 Th	**10 Su**	**10 Su**	10 We	10 Fr	10 Mo 24	10 We
11 Sa	11 Tu	11 Th	**11 Su**	11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Mo 7	11 Mo 11	11 Th	**11 Sa**	11 Tu	11 Th
12 Su	12 We	12 Fr	12 Mo 46	12 We	**12 Sa**	12 Tu	12 Tu	12 Fr	**12 Su**	12 We	12 Fr
13 Mo 33	13 Th	**13 Sa**	13 Tu	13 Th	**13 Su**	13 We	13 We	**13 Sa**	13 Mo 20	13 Th	**13 Sa**
14 Tu	14 Fr	**14 Su**	14 We	14 Fr	14 Mo 3	14 Th	14 Th	**14 Su**	14 Tu	14 Fr	**14 Su**
15 We	**15 Sa**	15 Mo 42	15 Th	**15 Sa**	15 Tu	15 Fr	15 Fr	15 Mo 16	15 We	**15 Sa**	15 Mo 29
16 Th	**16 Su**	16 Tu	16 Fr	**16 Su**	16 We	**16 Sa**	**16 Sa**	16 Tu	16 Th	**16 Su**	16 Tu
17 Fr	17 Mo 38	17 We	**17 Sa**	17 Mo 51	17 Th	**17 Su**	**17 Su**	17 We	17 Fr	17 Mo 25	17 We
18 Sa	18 Tu	18 Th	**18 Su**	18 Tu	18 Fr	18 Mo 8	18 Mo 12	18 Th	**18 Sa**	18 Tu	18 Th
19 Su	19 We	19 Fr	19 Mo 47	19 We	**19 Sa**	19 Tu	19 Tu	**19 Fr** Good Friday	**19 Su**	19 We	19 Fr
20 Mo 34	20 Th	**20 Sa**	20 Tu	20 Th	**20 Su**	20 We	20 We	**20 Sa**	20 Mo 21	20 Th	**20 Sa**
21 Tu	21 Fr	**21 Su**	21 We	21 Fr	21 Mo 4	21 Th	21 Th	**21 Su**	21 Tu	21 Fr	**21 Su**
22 We	**22 Sa**	22 Mo 43	22 Th	**22 Sa**	22 Tu	22 Fr	22 Fr	**22 Mo** Easter Monday	22 We	**22 Sa**	22 Mo 30
23 Th	**23 Su**	23 Tu	23 Fr	**23 Su**	23 We	**23 Sa**	**23 Sa**	23 Tu	23 Th	**23 Su**	23 Tu
24 Fr	24 Mo 39	24 We	**24 Sa**	24 Mo 52	24 Th	**24 Su**	**24 Su**	24 We	24 Fr	24 Mo 26	24 We
25 Sa	25 Tu	25 Th	**25 Su**	**25 Tu** Christmas Day	25 Fr	25 Mo 9	25 Mo 13	25 Th	**25 Sa**	25 Tu	25 Th
26 Su	26 We	26 Fr	26 Mo 48	**26 We** Boxing Day	**26 Sa**	26 Tu	26 Tu	26 Fr	**26 Su**	26 We	26 Fr
27 Mo August Bank Hol.	27 Th	**27 Sa**	27 Tu	27 Th	**27 Su**	27 We	27 We	**27 Sa**	**27 Mo** Spring Bank Hol.	27 Th	**27 Sa**
28 Tu	28 Fr	**28 Su**	28 We	28 Fr	28 Mo 5	28 Th	28 Th	**28 Su**	28 Tu	28 Fr	**28 Su**
29 We	**29 Sa**	29 Mo 44	29 Th	**29 Sa**	29 Tu		29 Fr	29 Mo 18	29 We	**29 Sa**	29 Mo 31
30 Th	**30 Su**	30 Tu	30 Fr	**30 Su**	30 We		**30 Sa**	30 Tu	30 Th	**30 Su**	30 Tu
31 Fr		31 We		31 Mo 1	31 Th		**31 Su**		31 Fr		31 We

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Vary Your Revision

It has been proven that you are more likely to remember information if you have used a variety of strategies to learn it. Make sure that you use a range of the below techniques to improve your chances, as well as making it a little different each time!

In this booklet, you will find some ideas with examples from other students' revision.

Try as many as possible!

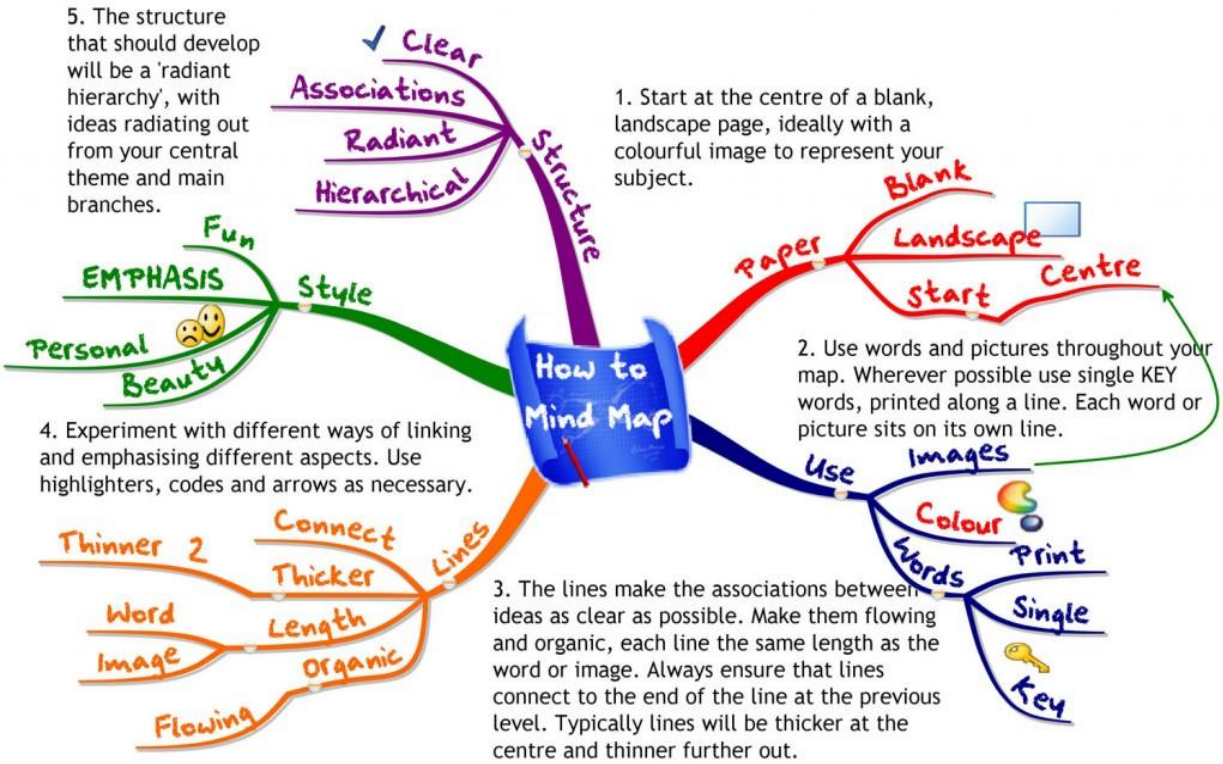
On the next page, there is a grid for you to tick off as many techniques as you can that you have used.

Students showing the most variation will be rewarded at the end of the year.

Technique	Sept-Oct	Oct-Dec	Jan-Feb	March-April	May-June
Traditional Mind Map					
Red and Black Mind Map					
Visual Mind Map					
Concept Map					
Clock Revision					
Folding Window Flashcards					
Q+A Flashcards					
Post-it Notes					
Post-it Review					
Knowledge Organisers					
Cornell Notes					
Venn Diagrams					
Tables					
Origami Notes					
Acronyms					
Stories					
Teaching Others					
Peer Revision					
Podcasts					
Songs					
Videos					
Writing Model Answers					
Creating Mark Schemes					
Creating Exam Questions					
Writing Good/Bad models					

Mind Maps

1) An example of a traditional mind map can be seen below:



2) Red and Black Mind Maps– without looking at your notes, mind map as much information as you can about a subject. Then go back and add in anything you missed in Red pen. Your mind is more likely to remember things written in Red!

3) Visual Mind Maps – Represent the ideas you need to remember using just symbols or pictures.

4) Concept Mapping

Step 1

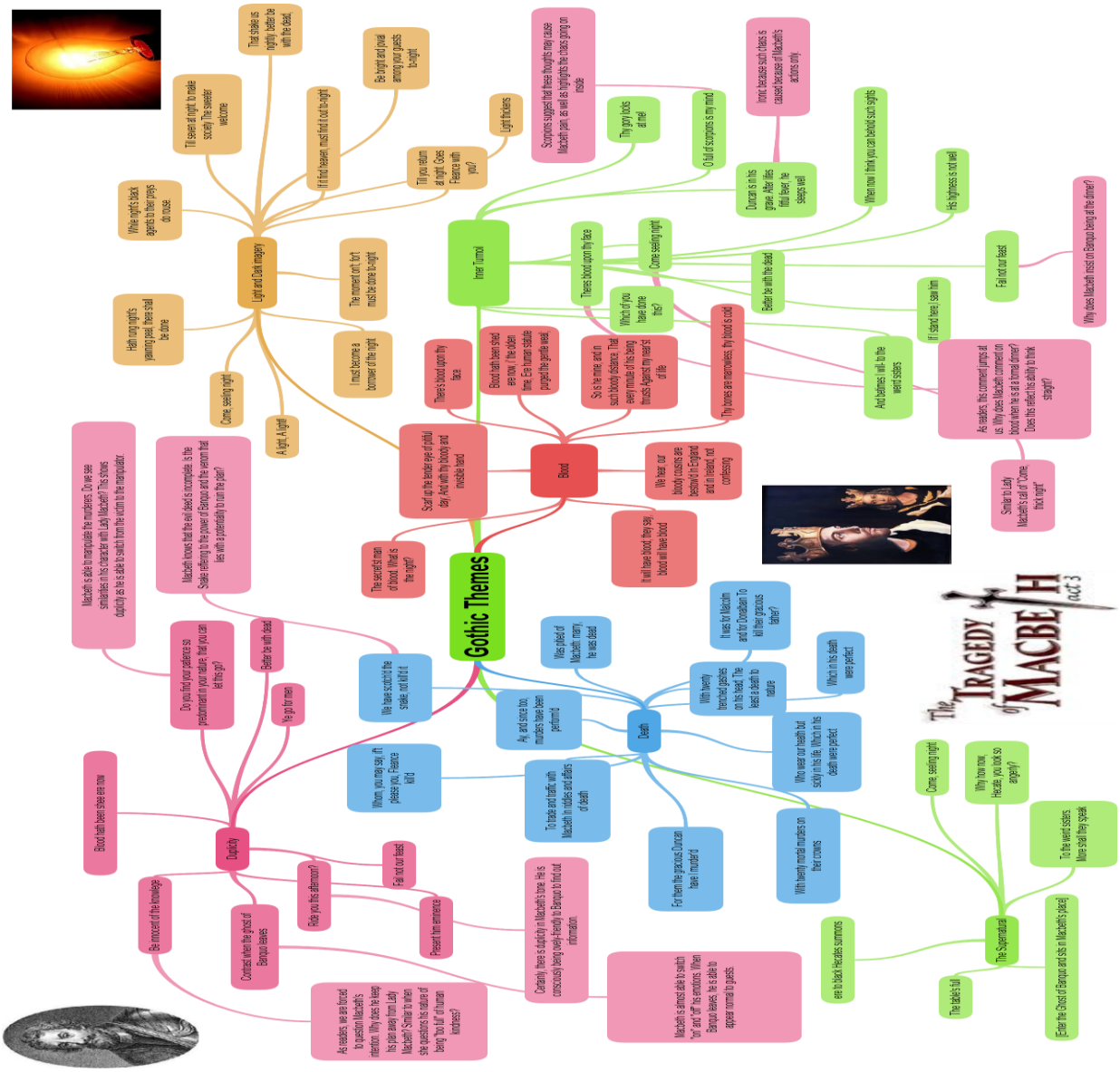
Write the topic title at the top of a sheet of paper. Write down key themes or concepts related around the page in boxes or circles.

Step 2

Organize them by connecting them with arrows or lines. Arrange ideas in groups that make sense to you. Place any relevant subcategories under each concept.

Step 3

Add specific examples to illustrate the concepts. These could be events, dates or objects, depending on the subject matter.



5) Clock Revision

Time yourself filling in different sections. You might want to give yourself just five minutes per area.

Then cover up each section and test yourself.

Flashcards

Top tip: Just reading your cards over and over again is not the best way to use them! Try the methods below:

1) Write key facts on flashcards, get someone to test you.
2) Don't force your brain to remember a complex and wordy answer. It's easier for your brain to process simpler information so split up your longer questions into smaller, simpler ones.
3) Write questions on one side of the flashcard and answer them on paper or in your head before turning over to the answer.
4) Create foldable windows on top of information so that you are testing yourself.
5) Split up topics between you and your friends then test each other on your different flashcards.
6) When you have tested yourself, sort them in to three piles for future revision: Know it well, know it partly, and don't know it.

Post-it Notes

1) Summarise key definitions or concepts and stick them in places you look a lot – try your bedroom walls, ceiling or even the back of the toilet door!
2) Review While revising, stick a post-it note on your exercise book with something you want to clarify or you are struggling with to show your teacher

Organising Notes

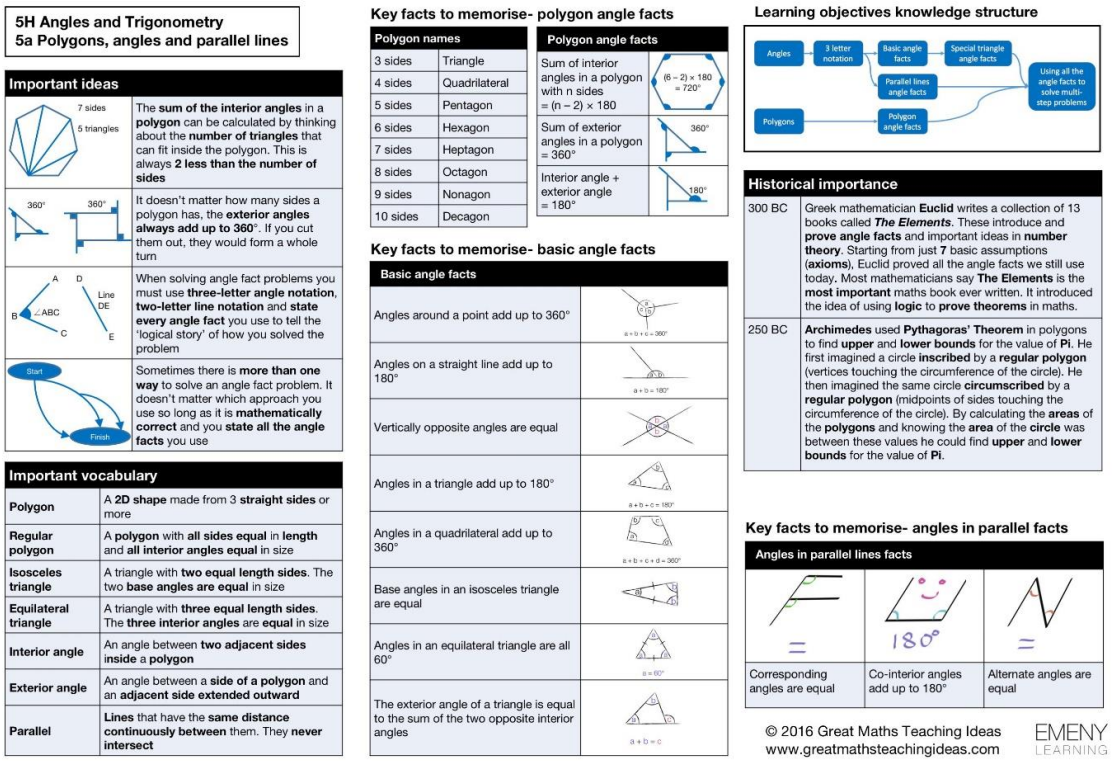
Top tip: the most important thing about any note taking technique is that you do not just rewrite the notes and then move on. You need to **revisit** these over and over, practising rehearsing the ideas without looking!

1) Knowledge Organisers

To create a knowledge organiser, you need to put all of the most important and vital knowledge about a topic on a single A4 page.

Some tips for creating good ones:

- Put key terms and definitions in different boxes so you can cover parts up and test yourself.
- Focus on one section or box of the organiser per revision session then re-visit later.
- Ask parents or peers to give you five quick fire questions from anywhere on the organiser.
- Use your knowledge organiser in class when completing a task to self-check.



5H Angles and Trigonometry
5a Polygons, angles and parallel lines

Important ideas

	The **sum of the interior angles** in a **polygon** can be calculated by thinking about the **number of triangles** that can fit inside the polygon. This is always **2 less than the number of sides**
	It doesn't matter how many sides a polygon has, the **exterior angles always add up to 360°**. If you cut them out, they would form a whole turn
	When solving angle fact problems you must use **three-letter angle notation**, **two-letter line notation** and **state every angle fact** you use to tell the 'logical story' of how you solved the problem
	Sometimes there is **more than one way** to solve an angle fact problem. It doesn't matter which approach you use so long as it is **mathematically correct** and you **state all the angle facts** you use

Important vocabulary

Polygon	A **2D shape** made from 3 **straight sides** or more
Regular polygon	A **polygon** with **all sides equal** in **length** and **all interior angles equal** in size
Isosceles triangle	A triangle with **two equal length sides**. The two **base angles are equal** in size
Equilateral triangle	A triangle with **three equal length sides**. The **three interior angles** are **equal** in size
Interior angle	An angle between **two adjacent sides inside** a **polygon**
Exterior angle	An angle between a **side of a polygon** and an **adjacent side extended outward**
Parallel	**Lines** that have the **same distance continuously between** them. They **never intersect**

Key facts to memorise- polygon angle facts

Polygon names	
3 sides	Triangle
4 sides	Quadrilateral
5 sides	Pentagon
6 sides	Hexagon
7 sides	Heptagon
8 sides	Octagon
9 sides	Nonagon
10 sides	Decagon

Polygon angle facts	
Sum of interior angles in a polygon with n sides = (n – 2) × 180	
Sum of exterior angles in a polygon = 360°	
Interior angle + exterior angle = 180°	

Key facts to memorise- basic angle facts

Basic angle facts	
Angles around a point add up to 360°	
Angles on a straight line add up to 180°	
Vertically opposite angles are equal	
Angles in a triangle add up to 180°	
Angles in a quadrilateral add up to 360°	
Base angles in an isosceles triangle are equal	
Angles in an equilateral triangle are all 60°	
The exterior angle of a triangle is equal to the sum of the two opposite interior angles	

Learning objectives knowledge structure

Historical importance

300 BC	Greek mathematician **Euclid** writes a collection of 13 books called ***The Elements***. These introduce and **prove angle facts** and important ideas in **number theory**. Starting from just **7** basic assumptions (**axioms**), Euclid proved all the angle facts we still use today. Most mathematicians say **The Elements** is the **most important** maths book ever written. It introduced the idea of using **logic** to **prove theorems** in maths.
250 BC	**Archimedes** used **Pythagoras' Theorem** in polygons to find **upper** and **lower bounds** for the value of **Pi**. He first imagined a circle **inscribed** by a **regular polygon** (vertices touching the circumference of the circle). He then imagined the same circle **circumscribed** by a **regular polygon** (midpoints of sides touching the circumference of the circle). By calculating the **areas** of the **polygons** and knowing the **area** of the **circle** was between these values he could find **upper** and **lower bounds** for the value of **Pi**.

Key facts to memorise- angles in parallel facts

Angles in parallel lines facts		
Corresponding angles are equal	Co-interior angles add up to 180°	Alternate angles are equal

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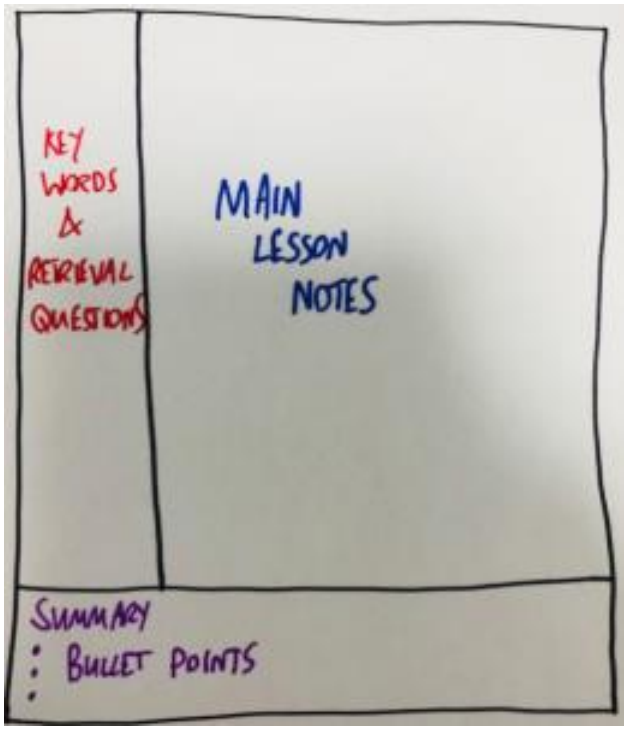
EMENY LEARNING

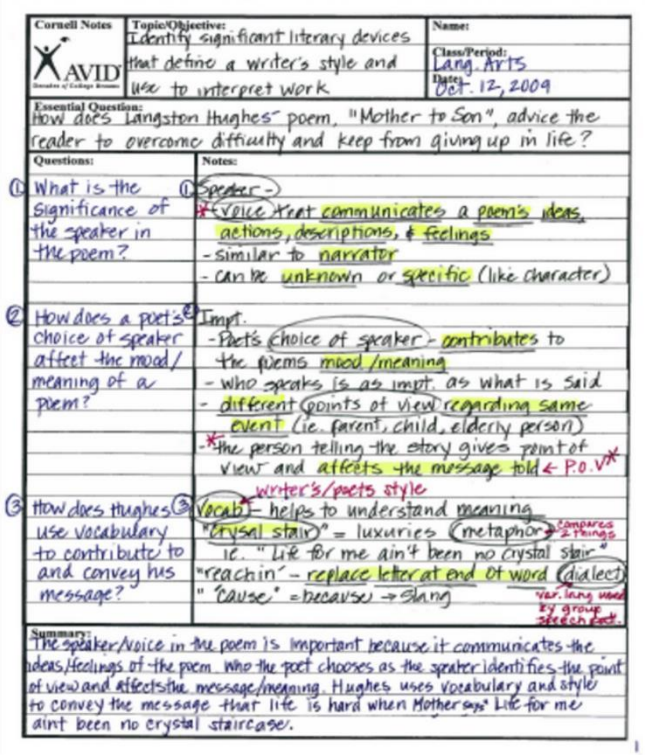
2) Cornell Notes

This is a technique to help you organise your notes and synthesise the information in to the most important parts. You need to split your page in to boxes as below:

- Start by filling in all the information you know in the biggest box.
- In the left box, narrow it down in to key points you might need for the exam
- Make a bullet point summary in the bottom box that could be taught to someone else

With this technique, try and do it from memory rather than just copying notes, or cover parts of the main ideas to try and jog your memory.




Cornell Notes | Topic/Objective: Identify significant literary devices that define a writer's style and use to interpret work | Name: | Class/Period: Lang. ARTS | Date: Oct. 12, 2009

Essential Question: How does Langston Hughes' poem, "Mother to Son", advice the reader to overcome difficulty and keep from giving up in life?

Questions:	Notes:
① What is the significance of the speaker in the poem?	① Speaker - *Voice that communicates a poem's ideas, actions, descriptions, & feelings - similar to narrater - can be unknown or specific (like character)
② How does a poet's choice of speaker affect the mood/ meaning of a poem?	② Impt. - Poet's choice of speaker - contributes to the poems mood/meaning - who speaks is as impt. as what is said - different points of view regarding same event (ie. parent, child, elderly person) - *the person telling the story gives point of view and affects the message told ← P.O.V*
③ How does Hughes use vocabulary to contribute to and convey his message?	③ writer's/poets style Vocab - helps to understand meaning "crystal stair" = luxuries (metaphor → compares 2 things ie. "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair" "reachin' - replace letter at end of word (dialect) "'cause" = because → slang (var. lang used by group ie. teen, poet)

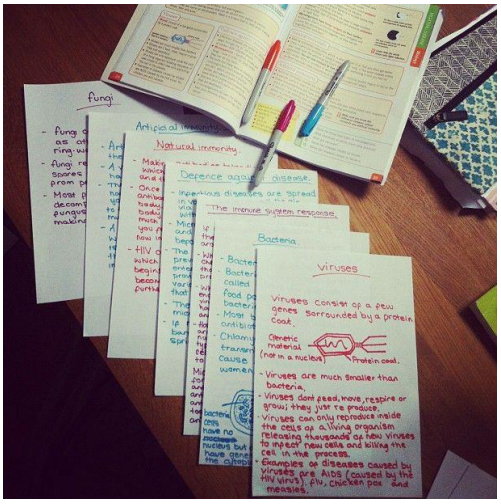
Summary: The speaker/voice in the poem is important because it communicates the ideas, feelings of the poem who the poet chooses as the speaker identifies the point of view and affects the message/meaning. Hughes uses vocabulary and style to convey the message that life is hard when Mother says "Life for me ain't been no crystal staircase."

3) More Traditional Notes

Everyone's brain processes information differently, so try some different methods of making traditional notes.

Such as:

- Tables
- Venn Diagrams
- Scattered about the page
- Writing in a particular shape or making origami notes
- Different colours for different themes or concepts
- Using different paper sizes A1,2,3,4,5 – Can you condense information?



Creative Techniques

1) Acronyms :

Make up acronyms to help you remember key ideas

2) Stories :

Make up short stories or relate ideas to your life to remind yourself of how events happened or which key themes are linked.

Example:

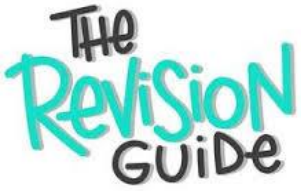
"Let's say you know nothing about art, and you're trying to learn that this painting is a Caravaggio. You might think, 'Oh, that might be a caravan.' Then you'd look at the Caravaggio and think, 'That's how I imagine the world would look through the windscreen of a caravan.' Or, if you're doing history and you're trying to remember the date 1456, well that's four minutes to three [o'clock]… So there's this general process that works even if you're completely ignorant."

3) Teaching others

- Plan how you would teach a topic to a younger student or sibling –. If you can, go through with teaching it!
- Explain a new concept or topic to a parent or someone at home, make them ask you at least three questions about what you have taught.
- Create a revision guide to be used by students next year taking your course.

4) Peer Revision

Pair up with a friend who you trust and each take a topic to prepare for a joint revision session. Teach each other your expert topic and then question each other further. Use – WHY and HOW questions to push yourselves.



5) Podcasts

Create your own podcasts/voice recordings of you talking through key information. You can play these to yourself at night, on your way to school, on public transport – as often as possible!

6) Songs

It is proven that we find it much easier to remember song lyrics than information alone – try it for yourself! Make up your own songs to remember information or put words along to a song you already know. Record it alone or with friends and listen on repeat.

7) Videos

Create short vlogs summarising information you think someone would need to know if they were sitting your exams. Try doing this without using any of your notes and play on loop!

Revising Exam Technique

Top Tip: Remember, it is also important to remind yourself what each particular examiner will be looking for. Below are some ways that you can prepare yourself for this

1) Practise writing timed model answers to past questions – ask your teacher for these or go on to the exam board websites to access them.
2) Self-assess your model answers using the mark schemes.
3) Write your own exam paper and create a mark scheme for it – Swap with a friend and complete the other person's paper.
4) Practise writing your own mark schemes – can you remember what you need to show the examiner?
5) Try writing a good and a bad example answer so that you can then show how you improved it in a different colour – this will remind you what you need to include.
6) Are there any key things you need to write on your exam paper at the start? This might be timings or something else you know that you are prone to forgetting.
7) And finally…