

# Castlehead High School

## Study Skills Techniques



**A variety of techniques to support raising achievement in  
National 4, National 5 and Higher Qualifications**

**We remember;**



20% of what we READ

30% of what we HEAR



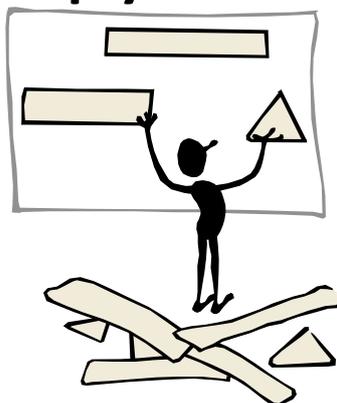
40% of what we SEE

50% of what we SAY



60% of what we DO

**So make sure you use a variety of techniques  
to help you revise!**



## Thinking Skills Triangles



- By making one of these diagrams you are using your knowledge to think about what questions you could be asked in an exam.
- Write the name of your topic at the top of a piece of paper and then draw a triangle underneath it.
- Then think of as many words as possible related to that topic and write them around the outside of the triangle.
- Look at the words you have written down and then prioritise them by choosing five key words.
- Write your five key words into your triangle with the most important words at the top and the least important words at the bottom.
- This will help you to explain events and prioritise factors.

## LACAWAC "Look and Cover and Write and Check!"



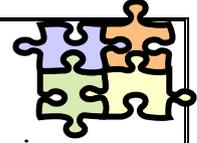
- This is probably the technique used to help you learn how to spell in primary school.
- First you read the information, then cover it with something, then write it out and then, finally, you check whether you got it right or not!
- This technique is especially helpful when revising spellings, diagrams and lists of facts/events.

## Highlighting



- Go through your jotters highlighting key words and key ideas.
- Not only does this make it easier to identify important points for revision, but the act of scanning through your books looking for the important points helps you to remember all the important points.

## Jigsaws



- List information on a sheet of paper, cut the paper up, jumble the pieces up and then try to put the pieces together again.
- The important thing about this technique is that you have to carefully read and think about the information in front of you in order to put the pieces of the jigsaw back together again correctly.

## Move Around!



- Some people learn best when they are physically moving about so why not try pacing around your room when you are revising?
- See if this technique helps you to keep focused during longer periods of revision. Just be careful you don't bump into anything!

## "Top Up" your Brain!



- If you revise something tonight, by this time tomorrow you will have forgotten at least some of it.
- By taking a quick look at it again tomorrow you can „top up“ your memory.
- Top up your memory every couple of days and then one final time on the night before the exam.
- This technique isn't time consuming and will make you feel good about your revision because the information will start to become more familiar during each top up.
- This technique works well for many people because it isn't very time consuming and so you can easily fit it in with revision for other subjects.

## Post-Its



- Put post-its of key facts where you will see them the most - on doors, walls, drawers, in jewellery boxes, on wardrobes, etc.
- Use different colours for different subjects or topics.
- You can take them down and re-arrange them into groups or use them to compile answers to exam questions.

## Mind Maps



- A mind map is a way of connecting information together in such a way that you remember the links and therefore the information.
- Information can be written on 'branches' of the mind map so you can add more information and save space.
- Colours can help to distinguish groups within a mind map so you can remember them easily.
- Images can also be added to help you remember certain facts.

## Flashcards



- Write the word/date you need to learn on a card and then the definition/description of the event on another.
- Mix up the cards and then match them up correctly.
- Stick them on your wall or lay them out to help with revision.

## Ever Decreasing Notes



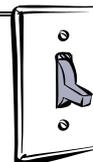
- Instead of just copying out your notes endlessly, try and make your notes shorter each time you write them out.
- In the end you should be left with just the key words that should remind you of all the facts you need to know.

## Keyring Revision Notes



- Make your notes small enough to be attached to your house keys or locker keys.
- You can read them on the bus, in the car, on the train, etc.

## Light-Switch Revision



- Make a card template to put around the light-switch in your bedroom.
- Write key words and phrases, or draw important diagrams, onto the card template.
- You will read it every time you go in and out of your room.
- Change the facts each week so you are revising a different topic.

## 'Test Yourself' Quiz



- On pieces of paper or card write out a series of questions about the topic including the answer underneath.
- Get a member of your family or a friend to test you out on the questions and record how many you answer correctly.
- Keep practising each day and see your score go up!

## Timed Questions



- Use a stopwatch (or the timer feature on your mobile) to help you use past papers.
- Work out the time limit you have for the question and then start writing your answer. Stop when the alarm sounds!
- By repeating this you should be able to improve your time management skills.

## Scrabble



- Think of a key word for a topic and write it in the middle of a grid.
- You then have to fill as much of the grid as you can using other key words from the topic.
- You can only join them in a 'Scrabble' way.

## Record Your Revision



- Write a script about a particular event you need to know or simply use your revision notes.
- Record yourself reading the script or notes into an iPhone / Blackberry / MP3 player.
- You can then listen back to your revision.
- 40% of what we hear is remembered and retained by our brains. By repeating the recording we can remember even more!

## Pro-Con Diagrams



- By making one of these diagrams you are using your knowledge to think about what questions you could be asked.
- Write a statement in the middle of the diagram.
- Add as many points that agree/disagree with your statement. This is particularly good for thinking of points to write in an essay.

*“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”* Benjamin Franklin

You will be a **faster** reviser...

You will be a **slower** reviser...

When you are motivated

When you are bored

When you are relaxed

When you are worried

When you are eating and sleeping well

When you are tired, hungry and thirsty

When you are revising in a comfortable location

When you are revising in an uncomfortable location

When you believe you are going to do well in your exams

When you cannot see the point of what you are revising

