



Revision tips – Cornwall Dyslexia Service

Two's Company

You don't always have to revise alone. Sometimes it's good to revise with a friend. You can test each other. This will help you to identify each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Decide in advance:

- ▶ Who will make a supportive revision partner.
- ▶ Where you intend to revise.
- ▶ Which topics you will revise.
- ▶ How long you will spend revising together.
- ▶ What you will do during concentration breaks.



Teach to learn

If you really want to understand a topic put yourself in the position of having to teach it to someone else. This works really well!

For example, teach:

- ▶ Your mum about plate tectonics or earthquakes
- ▶ Your gran about ox-bow lakes
- ▶ Your step-dad about the impact of the holiday he's booked to celebrate the A* you're going to get.



Reduce it!

REDUCE your notes for a topic down to a single side of A4.

SQUASH them down again to what you can fit on an A5 'swot' card.

SQUEEZE them down again to a post-it note containing no more than 10 key words or terms.

Get Creative!

Beat boredom by unleashing your creative energy. Read through your notes for a topic and then turn them into something really original:

- ▶ Questions for a quiz show
- ▶ Song lyrics
- ▶ Advertising slogans
- ▶ A board game
- ▶ A card game
- ▶ Newspaper headlines
- ▶ A rap song

Gimme Five!

Read through your notes on a topic and then Gimme Five!

Ideas:

Five golden rules of...

Five important reasons why...

Five consequences of...

Five responses to...

Five key terms associated with...

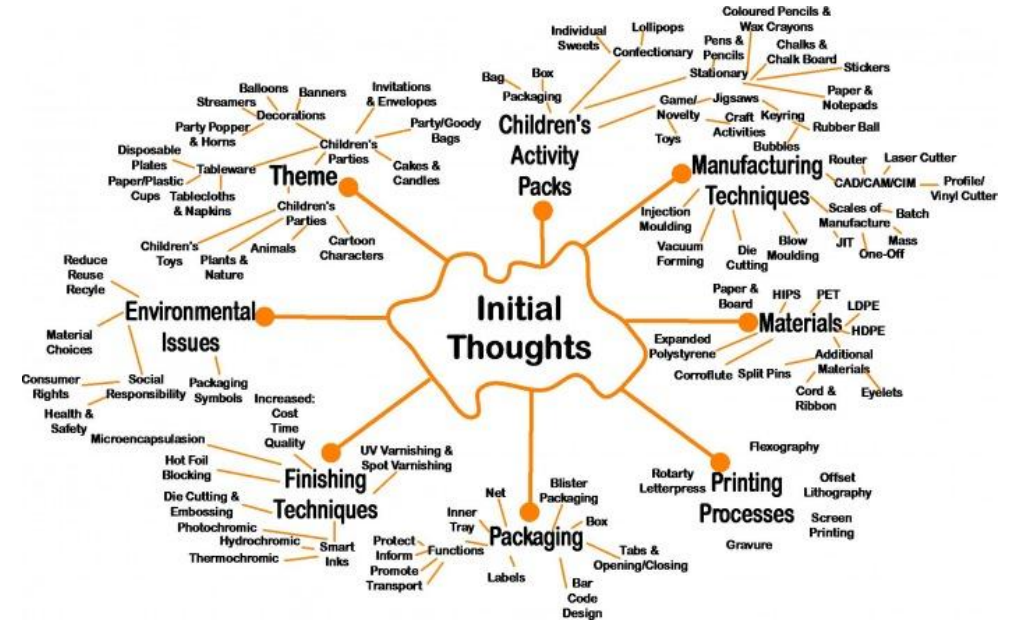
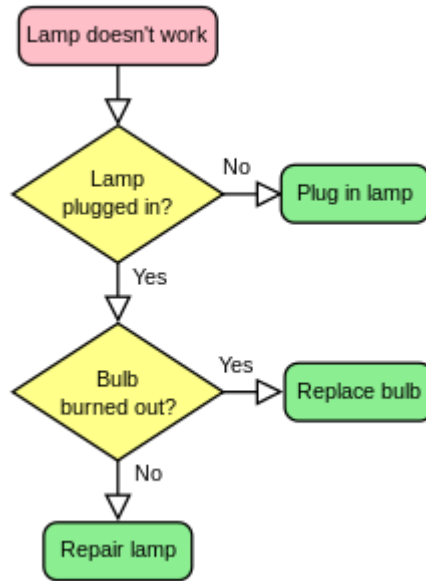
Five key features of...

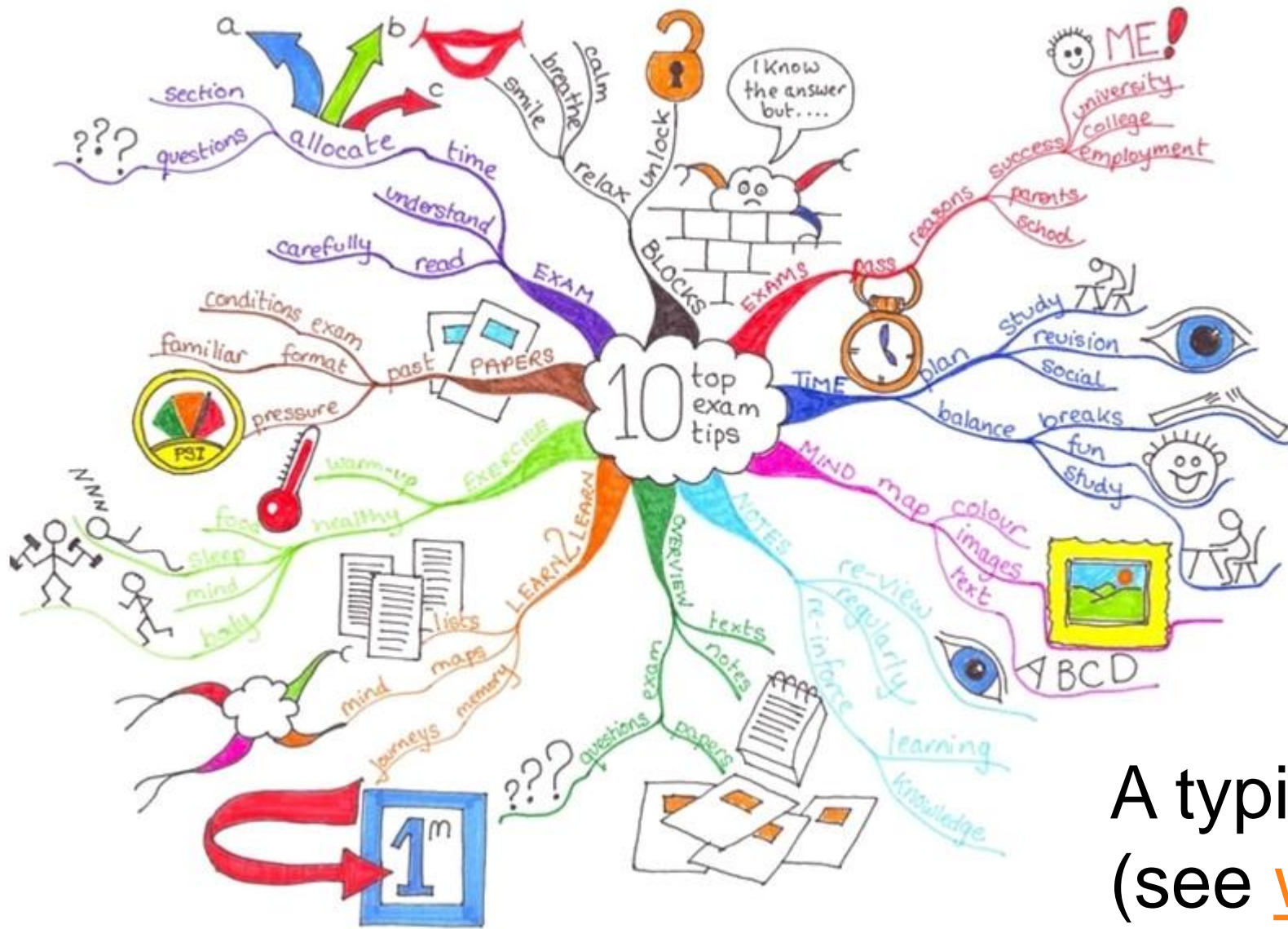


Cool Conversions!

Convert a passage of text into:

- ▶ A spider diagram
- ▶ A flow-chart
- ▶ A graph or pie chart
- ▶ A mind map
- ▶ A story board
- ▶ A stick-man cartoon





A typical mind map
(see www.tonybuzan.com
for more information)

Mind Music

Some people find that listening to music helps them to revise. Others prefer to revise in silence. It's for you to decide what works best for you.

If you *do* listen to music:

- ▶ Try to ensure it has no lyrics (or you'll remember the words of the song instead of the topic you are trying to revise!)
- ▶ Make sure that you choose music that keeps you feeling calm and positive (some students claim that Mozart is the ideal music for revision!).
- ▶ Make sure that it does not disturb anyone revising around you.

REVISION
MUSIC

Question Generator



One of the most effective ways to revise any topic is by making up questions about it.

Tips for generating your own revision questions:

- ▶ Millionaire – Make up multiple choice questions in the style of the popular TV show.
- ▶ 5 Ws: Who/What/Where/Why/When? – Write five questions for a topic using the 5Ws as a prompt.
- ▶ Key words are the answers. Generate questions that have key words and terms as their answers.

Example:

Key Word

Undercutting

Your Questions

By what process do rivers...?

Beat the clock!



Energise your revision sessions by working against the clock. Get a parent or carer to act as time-keeper.

- ▶ One minute glossary: Compile an A – Z of words and terms relating to a topic that you have been revising.
- ▶ Ten second recall: look at a picture or diagram for ten seconds and start to recreate it on a blank sheet of paper. When a minute has passed, look at the picture again for another ten seconds. Repeat and then check your version against the original.

Watch the Highlights!



Get yourself a pack of highlighter pens. You can use them in a variety of ways:

- ▶ To highlight key words and terms in a passage of text.
- ▶ To colour code different aspects of a topic e.g. green for economic causes, yellow for political causes, red for social causes.
- ▶ To colour code strengths (green) and weaknesses (red) within your own knowledge and understanding of a topic. Those areas identified as red become your top priorities.

And finally...!

Prepare your body!

- Ensure you get plenty of fresh air/exercise.
- Get more sleep if you are tired...not more coffee!
- Eat complex carbs (potatoes/rice/cereal) and less sugary carbs (sweets!).
- Drink lots of water (6-8 glasses a day).

And finally...!

Where? Place it!

- You need a quiet space to revise in.
- Find a study area you are comfortable in that is separate from where you go to relax (if possible).
- Have a good sized desk so that you can spread out!

And finally...!

When? Pace it!

- Decide how long and when your revision sessions will be.
- Try an easy session followed by a harder session.
- If you have a longer session, have a longer break and vice versa.
- Each session should be no longer than 40-50 minutes.

And finally...!

When? Plan it!

- Make a revision plan!
- Be sensible – is it better to plan a Saturday morning session rather than a Friday evening session?
- Make your plan realistic.
- Try to alternate revision days between your areas of strength and areas of weaknesses.