



Study Skills

As a community we grow

Barrhead High School

RAISE THE BARR

Supporting your child to study at home

Supporting your child's study habits can significantly impact their academic success and overall well-being. Creating a positive and supportive environment, fostering good study habits, and encouraging open communication are key.

Get started with Effective Study Strategies: Webinar for parents and carers

<https://youtu.be/2FLodJngqFc>

Google Classroom

An online platform that allows teachers to upload resources to support pupils' home learning. This platform allows pupils to ask their class teacher questions as well as fellow peers. Pupils can also collaborate to complete tasks and can seek peer support.

Scholar



An online platform that allows pupils to access subject specific notes. Pupils can access Scholar via Glow. There is also end of unit assessments that pupils can use to consolidate their learning. Access is via the Scholar tile after signing in to Glow.

BBC Bitesize



This revision website allows pupils to revise study notes for National Qualifications. Pupils can access subject specific materials such as notes, videos and end of topic multiple-choice tests to consolidate their learning. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondary>

SQA Website



Pupils can access course specifications which they can use as a check list to plan their studying. Pupils also have access to previous past papers and marking instructions. Course reports are also available which pupils can use to consider areas of study which previous candidates found challenging. These areas of study may be re-assessed in future assessments. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/>

Magic school

AI tools to support at home to ask for feedback and check understanding of topics <https://www.magicschool.ai/>

Revision Cards

To **store** revision cards you could try:
Different boxes for different subjects/topics
Use a hole punch and keyring or ribbon to keep your cards together



When do you use them?

Revision cards are useful for many reasons:

1. They can be easily carried about to be revised on the go
2. You can use them alone or others can help by testing you
3. Avoids reading long pages of boring notes!

How do you use revision cards?

First, ensure you **understand** the content. If not, ask for help!

Condense information in bullet points or use images, diagrams or mind maps to show information.

You could use colours and short reminders or hints in the corner of the card to help trigger your memory when you **memorise** the information

Remember the aim is to understand the content linked to the exam so leave random facts which wouldn't get you a mark in the exam off! You could put the question on one side and the answer on the other so that someone at home could help you **review**.

Example

Impacts of Climate Change

- Rising sea levels - Bangladesh
- Increase in extreme weather events - Florida
 - Drought – Africa
 - Desertification - Amazon



Have concise notes in bullet points rather than sentences

Visual information can be easier to understand than words. You can also draw images!

Mind Maps

You could try:

- displaying your completed mind maps on your bedroom wall
- **Condensing** mind maps once you have **memorised** the information as part of your **review** process

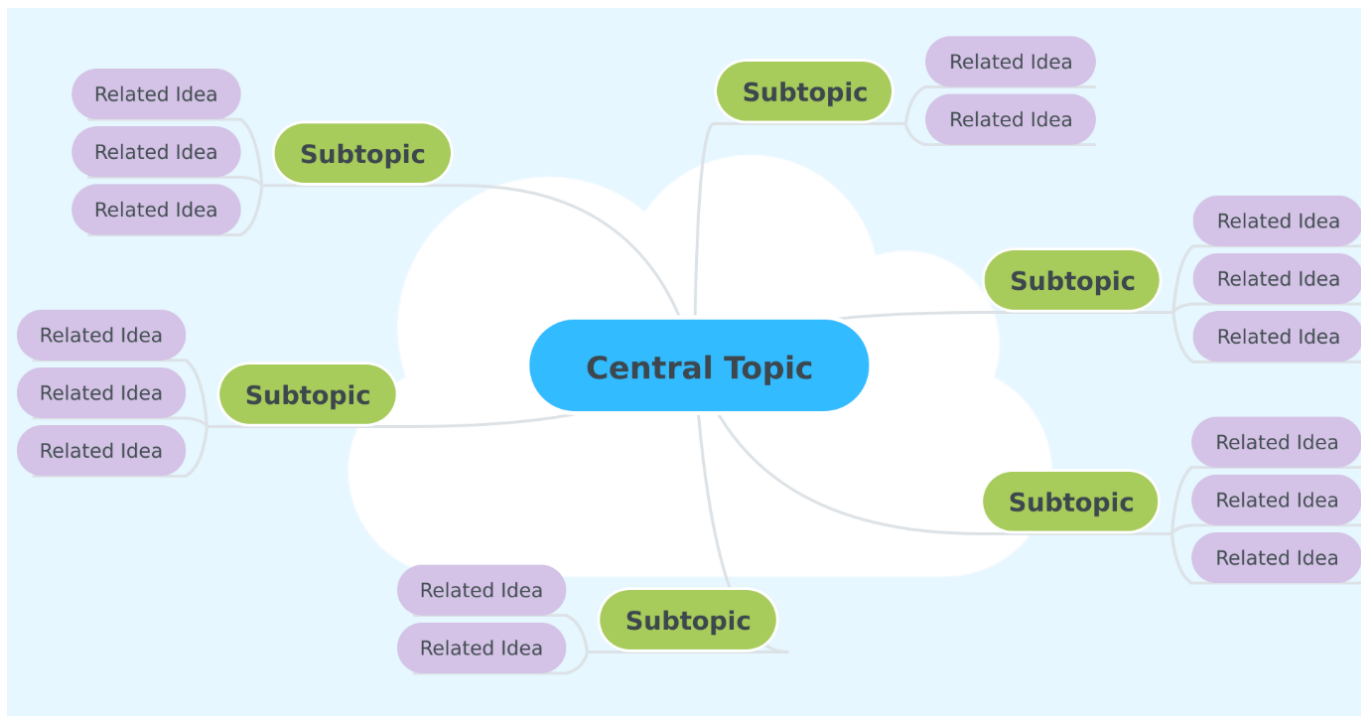
When do you use them?

Mind maps are a highly effective **visual** way of making notes. It organises topics by creating pathways with keywords, symbols, drawings, colours and numbers.

How do you use mind maps?

- The key topic area for a mind map is normally located in the centre of the paper.
- The main branches of the theme are often shown as thicker lines, with subheadings and key words branching out in thinner lines.
- Use different colours to denote different branches within the theme.
- You could use colours and short reminders or hints in the corner of the card to help trigger your memory when you **memorise** the information.
- Link to SQA exams - you could put the question in the centre and each branch could be a different mark allocated from the marking scheme.
- This would help someone at home help you **review**.

Example



Flip and Fold

To store folded paper you could try:

Keeping your folded paper in envelopes to resist the temptation to cheat!

Asking family and friends to test your knowledge as part of your **review** process

When do you use them?

See how much you can remember about a topic using folded layers of paper

If you need more information you can open it up to display more information

Keep the paper open/closed at the stage you need.

Revise closed ones once a week, open ones twice a week, fully opened ones three times a week

How do you use the flip and fold technique?

1. First, ensure you **understand** the content. If not, ask for help!
2. Write down everything you need to know about a topic on a sheet of paper
3. Fold the sheet of paper in half
4. **Condense** the information in bullet points, diagrams or mind maps.
5. Fold the sheet of paper again (now a quarter)
6. Pick 5-6 keywords that sum up the topic and write them down.
7. **Condense** the information again into a title and some of the images, which should help jog your memory to answer specific questions
8. Continue to **review** and test your knowledge!

Example

Origins of the Nazi Party

- Hitler:
 - Born: Austria in 1889 - Failed Artist
 - Moved to Germany 1912 - Join Army in 1914
 - Broke Soldier, Corporal (not an officer)
 - In Hospital when German Soldier, Horrific!
 - 1919 - Join German Workers Party led by Adolf Probst
 - Hitler in charge of Propaganda - Good public speaker
 - Party set up its own Armed group called the SA (Storm Troopers) - appears to be made of meetings + march
 - Munich Putsch (Beer Hall Putsch)
 - 1923 - (Type in notes) + Occupation = German Govt. (not long rule) (Other individual)
 - Hitler planned to continue the government, staying in the prison region of Bavaria
 - Hitler starts meeting at Hofbräuhaus, announces Revolution
 - the next day Hitler marched into Munich with SA
 - Police did not expect them and took on them
 - Hitler went to Prison
 - German: Austria should be part of Germany again, long time (not long rule) - other: Treaties
 - Reverse Treaty of Versailles
 - All the Jews fault
 - Nazis change tactics
 - Hitler: Long Prison with 9 months!
 - Decides to join power domestically
 - Focus on Propaganda
 - Become a National Party
- Nazi Party is banned
- Hitler Banned from Public Speaking
- German Economy improves
- Nazis seen as extreme

Origins of the Nazi Party

- Hitler:
 - Austrian
 - ex soldier
 - Brave
 - good speaker
 - Join in 1919
 - German workers Party
 - early days - Renamed NSDAP
 - SA - Brown shirts, bent people up
 - Munich Putsch
 - 1923 - Hyperinflation + occupation
 - beer hall - weak
 - Beer Hall -> announces revolution
 - march - Failure
 - Prison
 - Hitler: Long Prison with 9 months!
 - Decides to join power domestically
 - Focus on Propaganda
 - Become a National Party
- Nazi Party is banned
- Hitler Banned from Public Speaking
- German Economy improves
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Origins of the Nazi Party

Hitler

Early days

Munich Putsch

Prison

changes

Origins of the Nazi Party

- Hitler
- Early days
- Munich Putsch
- Prison
- changes

Mnemonics

Tip!
Keep the mnemonic
simple! There's no point
in creating extra work for
yourself.
Don't worry if it doesn't
make sense – if you
remember it, go for it!

When do you use them?

Mnemonics are particularly good for remembering things in a specific order or sequence by using the first letter from each word to create a sentence.

The first letter of each word should trigger the word required during the exam.

How do you use the mnemonic technique?

- Take the first letter of each word you need to remember and write it down – **condense!**
- Create a sentence. Pick the first word that pops into your head. It doesn't have to make sense!
- Write the sentence out a few times while saying the words that the acronym refers to.
- Practice reciting the items and the created sentence together until you have **memorised** it!
- Continue to **review** your mnemonic sentence!

You could also use rhymes to help you remember difficult words!

Example

**MY VERY
EXCELLENT MOTHER
JUST SERVED US NINE
PIZZAS**

**MERCURY, VENUS, EARTH, MARS, JUPITER,
SATURN, URANUS, NEPTUNE, *PLUTO**

Technology

When online, it is important to stay focused on revision and resist the temptation of aimlessly scrolling.

You could try:
Downloading resources and putting your phone on

When do you use them?

Computers, laptops and smartphones can be very useful revision aids if they're used properly.

As well as offering quick and easy access to online resources, you can use apps, calendars and reminders to structure your learning.

How do you use technology effectively?

Researching facts on the internet isn't as easy as it looks. There's a lot of information out there, but it's not all accurate or useful!

Learning to be critical of what you read and sort good information from bad is a great skill to develop and will help you become a better learner. Keep asking yourself these questions:

- Who's telling me this information?
- Are they reliable? Do they have any reason to misrepresent it?
- Where did they get their information from?
- Is there a better source than the one I'm reading?

Sources like BBC Bitesize and academic journals are generally much better than news sites and blogs for getting the facts right.

Example

Audio recordings

Listening to audio files with closed eyes engages your imagination. This can help you visualise the content and can create memory triggers.

Replaying an audio file continues to reinforce the mental processing of information, which further aids the memory.

You can record audio files on your phone – this is particularly useful for assignments!

Video clips

There are many short video clips available online. The combination of visual and sounds helps reinforce the memory process as you are using two senses rather than one!

Google Classroom

Could your teacher share resources such as past paper questions and revision notes on Google Classroom for you to work your way through?

SQA website

The SQA website publishes the most recent exam papers and the marking schemes.

Attempt these questions without checking the marking scheme. This means when you do compare your work to what would have gained a mark in the exam, you can be aware of where marks are gained and how you are progressing.