

Active Revision Strategies

The *least effective* revision techniques are simply re-writing your notes, or highlighting them to make them look pretty. In both instances, you are just filtering information through your brain **without really engaging its content** and this will make it difficult to recall, or to apply in exams.

When you just read notes or your book without doing anything with the content, you are a passive learner - you want to work towards being an **ACTIVE LEARNER**.

Which one are you?



ACTIVE LEARNERS will	PASSIVE LEARNERS will
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for lessons & revision • Ask questions and prompts • Organise information • Link ideas and information • Ask each other questions/test pals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy work down, often word for word • Make no attempt to test your knowledge • Read notes and books and take nothing in • Not convert text into your own notes • Lose concentration quickly due to the above tactics



There are a number of highly effective ways to tackle revision, so long as you have broken down your courses into discrete topics of a manageable size. **Some may work better than others for you**, but ideally you should use a **variety of them**, and make sure to review each topic. Some active revision strategies are pictured below. **Go onto the next page for more details.**



Focus on
keywords



Test each other



Use colours and
highlighters



Draw mind
maps



Create index
cards



Use technology
wisely



Use post-its



Flashcard

Write a question on one side of the flashcard. On the flipped side of the card write the answer e.g. 'What were the causes of WWI' and on the reverse put the key points. [Click on the flashcard image to get more advice.](#)



Practise exam Qs & Past Papers

Practising exam questions and past papers helps to perfect your exam techniques whilst checking your knowledge and highlighting any gaps you may have. [Click here for access to SQA past papers.](#)



Question Yourself / Study Group

Try to question yourself on a topic or ask a friend or family member to ask you prepared questions. Make up a quiz or questions on topics and work through this with a 'study buddy'



Note-Taking

Notes help you to improve your understanding of a topic in your own words. Keep your notes brief and don't forget to highlight key words, quotes and dates. Use a separate page for each note.



Mindmaps

Summarise what you have learned using a mind map. Put the name of the topic in the centre of a piece of paper. Add branches like a tree and add additional key words to each branch which are associated with the main topic. Keep adding more detail as the branches become smaller and you could use images and colours.

Click on each image to find out more



Mnemonics

A mnemonic is a code that you create using acronyms, phrases or rhymes and it's designed to help you recall knowledge easily. The first letter of each word in the sentence refers to the first of the issue e.g. [Richard of York Gave Battle in Vain](#) is the colours of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet)