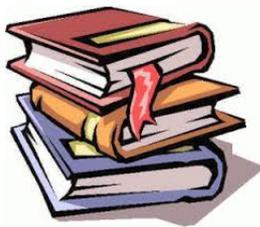


REVISION TIPS!



Mrs Benzies

December 2010

Updated January 2015

Nobody likes doing revision - but it has to be done! So what can you do, to make it as pain free as possible?

Motivating yourself to revise is one of the toughest things you have to do at school. To make it worse, you may think that there is no immediate benefit. You have to sit there for hours on end, going through endless notes for an exam that is still some time away, and to get results that won't matter until months after you have sat the exam!

But the **exams do matter**. The results do matter and therefore, revision does matter. You need to give yourself the best chance of doing well in the exam - otherwise you may regret it when you find you haven't got the grades you wanted.

Remember also that there is a lot of **help** around you, so if you need help or advice ask your form or subject teachers, staff in school, your friends or family. It is also good to go to all the revision classes at school if you can.



WHERE DO I START?

Start by making a **plan** or **revision timetable**.

If you start your revision early, you will find that it will be less stressful.

It can be a good idea to start with the areas or subjects that you find the most difficult at first - that way you get them out of the way and you can build confidence in the subject.

Make a timetable for yourself - include the dates of your exams and what areas you have to revise for each subject (if you are not sure exactly what you need to revise for a subject - ASK the subject teacher!). Don't forget to give yourself a little bit of time off too!

It's a really good feeling when you have completed a chunk of revision and can then tick it off on your timetable as complete!



Some of us are better at remembering things than others. However, here is a trick that should help...

If you learn something new, it usually starts to fade in your mind after a few hours (unless it is really exciting). However, if you revise it again in the next four hours, it will take about 24 hours before it starts to fade. Revise it again in the 24 hour period and it will last for four days, then one and a half weeks, then one month, and so on.



By setting out your revision schedule to make the most of this (**learn something, revise it again after a few hours, revise it again in the next couple of days, and so on**) you will be using the way your memory works to your advantage!

HOW DO I REVISE?

Just reading through your notes over and over can be very boring and doesn't help the majority of learners. If you want to learn from your notes - **DO SOMETHING WITH THEM!**

Revision - Techniques

Different techniques work for different people and depending on the type of subject being revised, some techniques are more suitable than others.

The key is, find a technique that works for YOU!

Here are some:-

- **Read and Memorise** (this does work for some - but not many!)
- **Summary notes** - make a shortened version of your main notes. Think what the most important facts are that you need to remember. Writing information out again, helps it stick in your memory.
- **Notes + Speaking** - Going one step further than summary notes, it is even better (if you can) to say the words / information out loud, as you write them. This speaking AND writing helps the information even more memorable.
- Make a list of **keywords** for each topic covered. These can act as "triggers" for other ideas.

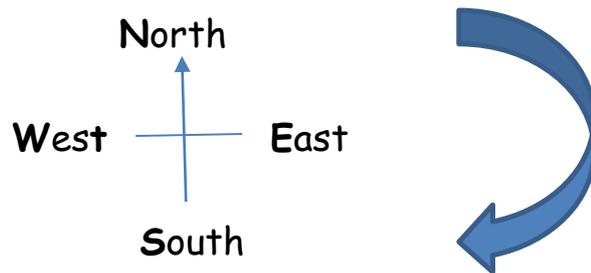
- Some kind of **diagram** can be helpful - e.g. Mind maps, spider diagrams. This lets you put a lot of information into a smaller area. Again, take time to think about the most important facts that you need to remember.
- **Revise with someone else** - if possible, someone that is taking the same exam so that you can both learn and exchange ideas during revision - this can be very helpful to both people in understanding topics and building confidence. Again, asking and answering questions verbally, helps you memorise the information.
- **Questions and Answers** - get a friend to ask you specific questions about topics and think up questions to ask your friend. This will test and help to build your own understanding.
- Make up a set of **revision cards** - with one main topic per card, each topic listing ideas or information for this topic or put a question on one side and the answer on the reverse. You can carry these cards with you and, if you choose, get them out and revise whenever you have a free moment (little and often is also a good way of revising!)
- Use **revision guides** - they summarise all the key points for you and often contain example exam questions and answers.
- Use the **internet** - websites such as BBC Bitesize and podcasts can also provide a different way to revise.

- Use **Mnemonics** - this just means one thing that helps you remember another.

e.g.

Compass points:

North, **E**ast, **S**outh, **W**est = **N**ever **E**at **S**hredded **W**heat
(clockwise)



THINGS YOU NEED!

- **Lots of paper!** - Don't try and cram too much information onto one sheet of paper - spreading out information makes it easier to remember. Coloured paper may also help you - use a different colour for a different topic.
- **Post It notes** - very useful to write little reminders on or mark places in books. You could even use them to stick key facts around your house or bedroom to help you remember!
- **Coloured pens** - colour can be very useful to help you remember - write different topics in different colours.
- **Highlighter pens** - get in the habit of just highlighting **key words**, not the whole text!
- **Revision guides** - many contain practice questions and answers so that you can test yourself. Lots are available to borrow from the LRC.
- **Space** - having room to spread out makes things much easier!
- **Folder, dividers and paper** (or separate notebooks for each subject) - being **organised** means it's easier to find what you need and you don't have to waste time trying to find where you are up to!

- Some people can only revise when it's **quiet**, some prefer a *little* background music... however loud music or the TV will only distract you!
- **Computer?** - some people find that typing up notes is a good way for them to learn, as they may be easier to read than their own hand written notes. The internet also has good revision information (but don't let yourself get distracted!)

WHAT KIND OF LEARNER ARE YOU?

People learn in different ways. By understanding what type of learner you are can help you choose a revision technique that works for you. There are 3 types of learner -

VISUAL LEARNER (learn by seeing)

You like looking at pictures, diagrams, watching films etc

Good Techniques for Visual learners include:

Colourful diagrams, pictures, post it notes, symbols, spider diagrams, mind maps, flowcharts, using lots of colour in your notes.

AUDITORY LEARNER (learn by listening)

You like listening to music, take in more when people speak the facts to you rather than writing them down or reading them in a book.

Good Techniques for Auditory learners include:

Reading your notes out loud to yourself, recording key facts to play back, question and answer sessions with a friend or family member on specific topics, turning key facts into a rhyme.

KINAESTHETIC LEARNER (learn by doing)

You like actually doing something such as practical experiments in science, things where you can move around or make things.

Good Techniques for Kinaesthetic learners include:

Making revision cards, card sort activities, linking ideas in science with practical experiments that you have done, using online revision resources - especially revision games.

Some Examples of Revision Techniques

Summary Notes - key facts + dates are highlighted

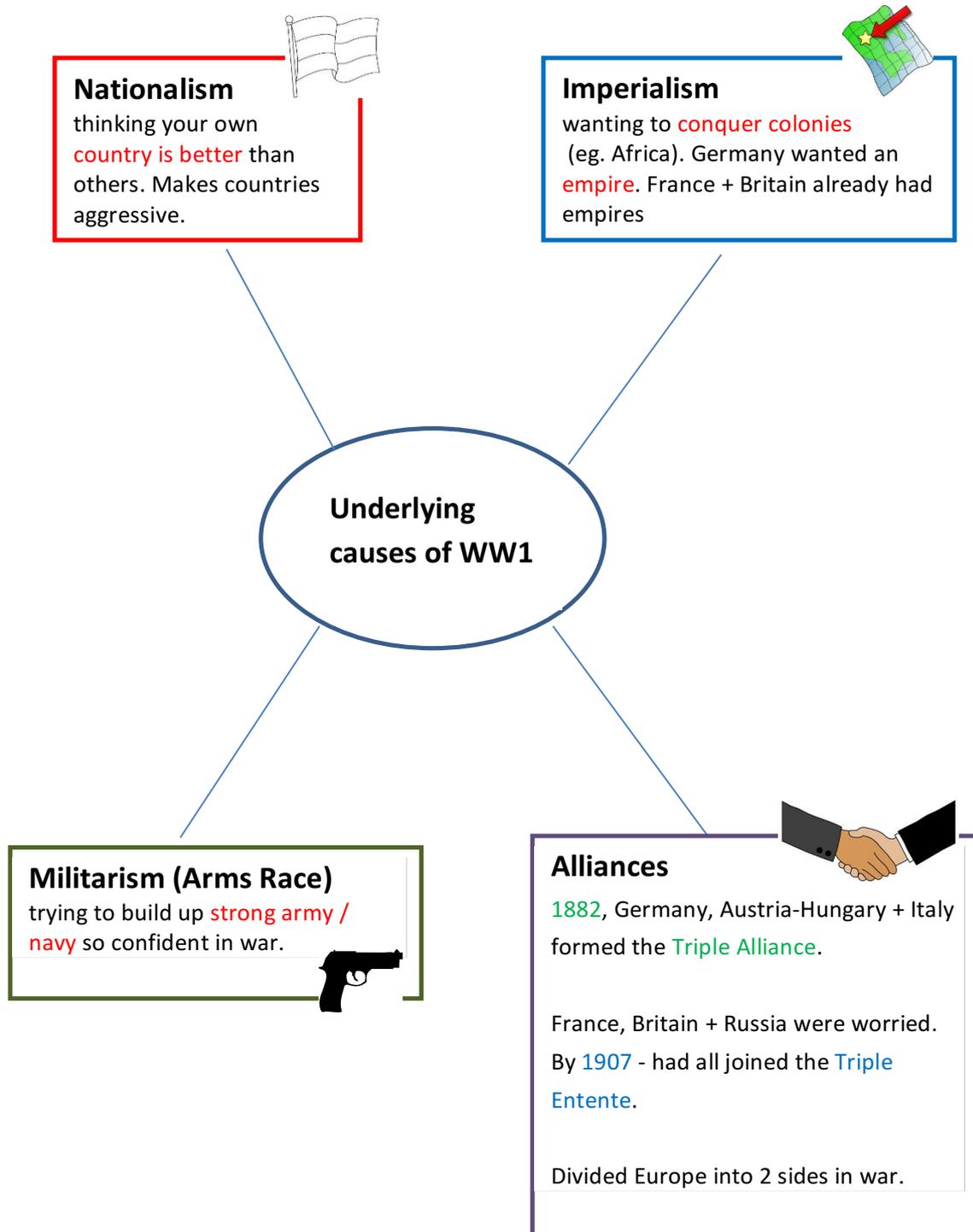
Causes of World War One

28 June 1914 - assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (Austrian) by a Serbian

+ Underlying causes

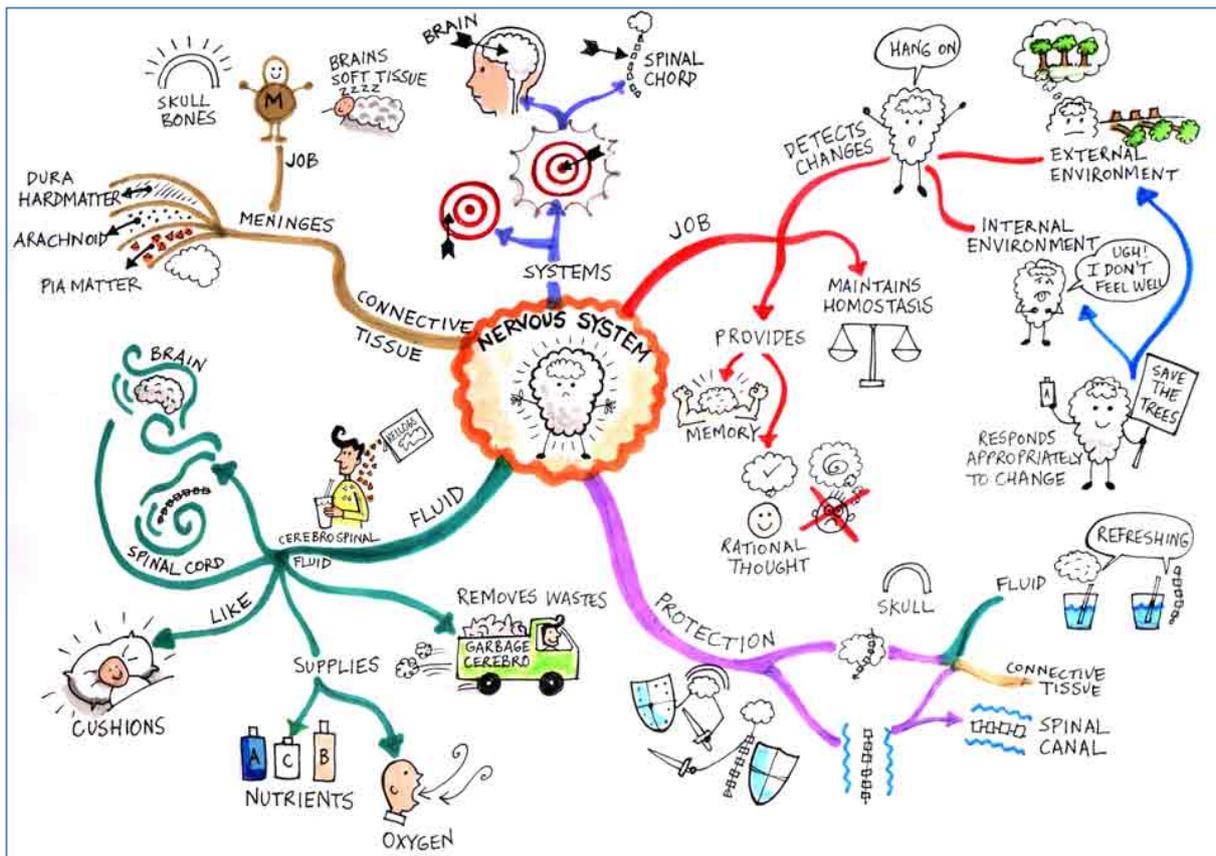
- **Nationalism** → thinking your own **country is better** than others. Makes countries aggressive.
- **Imperialism** → wanting to **conquer colonies** (eg. Africa). Germany wanted an **empire**. France + Britain already had empires.
- **Militarism (Arms Race)** → trying to build up **strong army / navy** so confident in war.
- **Alliances** → **1882**, Germany, Austria-Hungary + Italy formed the **Triple Alliance**. France, Britain + Russia were worried. By **1907** - had all joined the **Triple Entente**.
Divided Europe into 2 sides in war.

Mind Maps - add colours / images to help you remember the important facts



Add as much information on each mind map as YOU feel comfortable with!

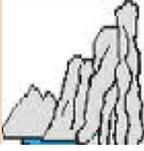
An example of a colourful Mind Map for the Nervous System!



Revision Cards

Put a question on one side and the answer on the other side!

Again, use colours to help you remember key facts.

<p>Coastal Features</p> <p>Qu : How are CLIFFS formed?</p> 	<p>Cliffs are shaped by erosion & weathering - the breakdown of rocks caused by weather conditions.</p> <p>Soft rock, eg sand and clay, erodes easily to create gently sloping cliffs.</p> <p>Hard rock, eg chalk, is more resistant and erodes slowly to create steep cliffs.</p>
--	---

Build up packs of revision cards for each subject / topic.

You could either test yourself with these cards OR ask other people to read out the questions to you & check your answers on the back.

REMEMBER - speaking information out loud, helps you remember it more than just reading it!



Keywords and Definitions

These can be done in a list, on Post It notes or by using revision cards (put the keyword on one side and the definition on the other). If possible, get someone to test you on the keywords and definitions - say them out loud to help you remember.

For example - some keywords in business might be

KEYWORD	DEFINITION
Business	Something that provides goods or a service.
Gap in the market	Where there is a demand for goods or a service that is not currently being met by any other businesses.
Entrepreneur	Someone that starts up a business.
Stakeholders	Those that have a stake or interest in the performance of a business.
Internal stakeholders	People within the business that have a stake or interest in the performance of a business.
Business plan	The plan for a business as to where they want to go and how they will get there.
Sole trader	A business owned by one person .
Unlimited liability	When the owner's possessions are at risk because of the debts of their business.
Limited liability	When the owner's possessions are <u>not</u> at risk even if their business has debt.
Public limited companies	Businesses that can sell shares on the stock exchange.
Public sector businesses	Businesses that are owned by the government .

SUMMARY

People learn in different ways - the key thing is to **FIND WHAT WORKS FOR YOU!**

Make a revision timetable - plan what topics you are going to do and when. "Little and often" may work better for you than spending one solid chunk of time on one topic.

Start revision early - leaving it to the last minute will just put you under too much stress. If you are confident with your subject, exams won't be as stressful.

Ask advice from staff if you really don't understand something (but don't leave it until the very last minute!).

Best of luck - but if you have done all your revision, you won't need luck!



REVISED



Your Own Notes

Use this page to note down what works for you.