

How to successfully revise for exams

Heather Wright - Trust Associate Principal



HopeSENTAMU
LEARNING TRUST

True or False?

 Learning and memorising is the same thing.

 Re-reading and highlighting important parts of your notes is effective revision.

 Cramming (revising just before the test) works.

 There are different types of memory.

Different types of memory



This is why cramming only works up to a point. You can't remember everything that you need!



The working memory
Easily accessible but also gets full quickly.

The long-term memory
Stores lots of information but it's slower to access.

So what does effective revision look like?

Effective revision strategies are ones that actively force you to remember information as well as testing your application of it. Revision should not be passive – activities such as simply reading notes or highlighting notes is not effective.

In short, you must actively and regularly test yourself on information.



The tried and tested VOY revision techniques

1. Flashcards	2. Quizzing	3. Brain dumps
Flashcards should have questions about a topic on the front and answers on the back. Note that you have to use them properly!*	Quiz yourself regularly. Try these sites for easy revision: www.quizlet.com www.quizizz.com www.tassomai.com (science)	Write down everything you can about a certain topic in 5 minutes. Once the time is up, fill in the gaps with a different colour, then attempt it again.
4. Timed written responses	5. Tell me three (paired revision)	6. Just a minute (paired revision)
For extended writing subjects (literature, history, psychology) you need to practise writing long form answers in timed conditions.	Tell me three things about X. Tell me three important terms/vocabulary words. Tell me three things from today/last week/last term etc.	Partner A has one minute to talk about _____. Hesitations cost a life. Three strikes and they're out! Partners then switch over.

The Leitner System for Flashcards

1. A Christmas Carol

The Spirits



2. A Christmas Carol

Jacob Marley



3. A Christmas Carol

**The consequences
of greed**



**NOW
WHAT?**

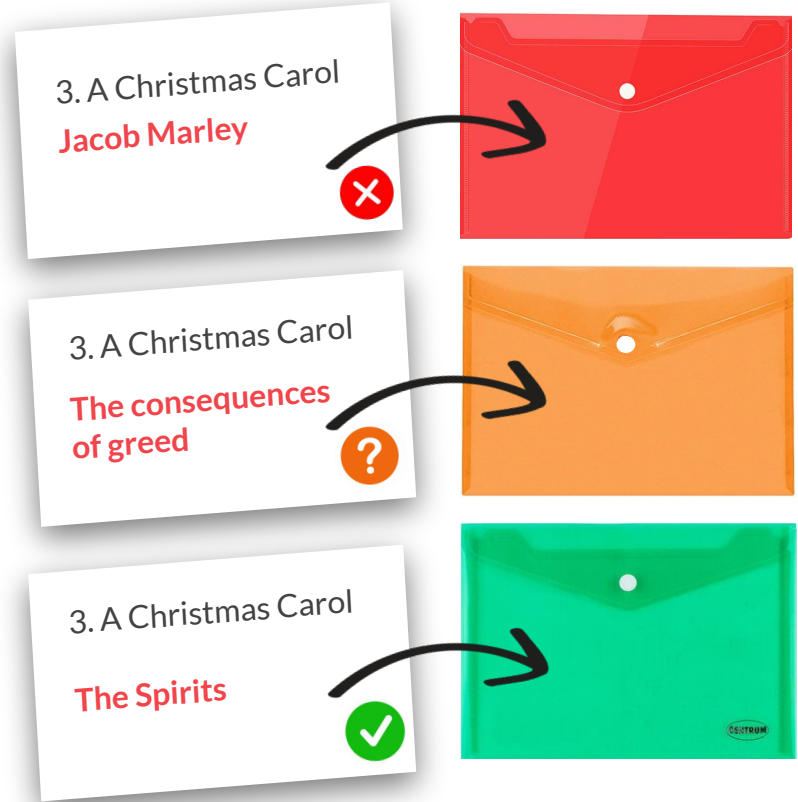


The Leitner System for Flashcards

Cards in the red folder must be revised **every day**. They are your weakest areas and need the most attention. Once they are more secure, they can go orange.

Cards in the orange folder need to be looked at **every other day** as they're not yet completely secure. They still need your attention. Once you can recall them comfortably, they can go green.

Cards in the green folder are secure, but need **weekly retrieval (at least.)** If at any point you can't answer all questions on a green card, then it must go back to red.



The tried and tested VOY revision techniques

1. Flashcards	2. Quizzing	3. Brain dumps
Flashcards should have questions about a topic on the front and answers on the back. Note that you have to use them properly!*	Quiz yourself regularly. Try these sites for easy revision: www.quizlet.com www.quizizz.com www.tassomai.com (science)	Write down everything you can about a certain topic in 5 minutes. Once the time is up, fill in the gaps with a different colour, then attempt it again.
4. Timed written responses	5. Tell me three (paired revision)	6. Just a minute (paired revision)
For extended writing subjects (literature, history, psychology) you need to practise writing long form answers in timed conditions.	Tell me three things about X. Tell me three important terms/vocabulary words. Tell me three things from today/last week/last term etc.	Partner A has one minute to talk about _____. Hesitations cost a life. Three strikes and they're out! Partners then switch over.