

THE A-Z REVISION GUIDE FOR PARENTS



The A-Z Revision Guide For Parents

is jam packed with tips and advice for parents on how to make learning more interesting and fun!

www.copywhatiuse.com

Introduction

Hi, thanks so much for putting your faith in me and for downloading my FREE guide:

“The A-Z Revision Guide For Parents”.

I’m Julie, wife to Roy, mum to 2 teenage daughters and also pet owner to lolo the dog and 2 tortoises.



And I know from personal experience how difficult it can be to juggle work, home life and still find time to help your children with revision too.

It's not easy. You're trying to work from home, and get your own stuff done, only now to be faced with helping your disinterested child with their revision too!

The mere thought of carrying out this task can seem daunting, but it can actually be a lot easier than you think, when you find easier and more fun shortcuts for revision.

AS I DISCOVERED.

That's why I created this guide to help others to copy what I use to make learning less STRESSFUL and more FUN...By sharing lesser known studying tricks that reduce revision time (and boredom) massively!

Because, let's face it, whether it's Maths, Science, English or any other subject for that matter, most of us could do with some extra tips on how to help the process run along more smoothly.

So, with that said...

Remove all distractions, grab a quick cuppa, and read on, as I share with you, some of the revision techniques that have personally helped me, when it came to helping my own children with their studies.

Select the ones that suit you best and start using them from TODAY!

Let's do this!

The A-Z Revision Guide For Parents



Audio-Record facts and listen to them during revision time. With so many of us now having sophisticated mobile phones, there really is no excuse for not doing this. Varying studying methods is known to make learning more effective, so using audio helps to retain information in a different way; especially when we're "on the move"- whether it be while taking a walk, on a car journey or just sitting in the garden.

Matter of fact, our daughter often uses audio alongside her reading too, as it makes reading some of the trickier English classics a lot easier to take in.

Acronyms (not to be confused with mnemonics which I cover later), acronyms are the abbreviation formed from the first letter of a word and then announced as a word.

Here are some examples of acronyms:

WW1 (World War 1)

NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation).

NHS (National Health Service)

Anagrams can be a fun method to use when revising.

One way to introduce them is to:

Compile some questions on a given topic.

Scramble up the answer into an anagram.

Then challenge your child to unscramble the letters to find the correct answer.

Here are a few quick examples for you:

Question: Give an example of a major threat to biodiversity.

Anagram: ILLOOPTUN

Answer: POLLUTION.

Here's another one:

Question: Proteins are chains of what?

Anagram: DISCO MANIA

Answer: Amino Acids.

This can be a fun way for your child to take in facts easier and quicker.

Top Tip: Flashcards can be a great way of using this method of revision.

- Simply write the question on the one side of the card along with the anagram.
- Then reveal the answer on the opposite side of the flashcard.

B **BBC Bitesize** is a great FREE online resource that not only covers facts that need to be learnt within given topics, but also provides videos and test style questions and answers at the end of each topic, which help to highlight any areas that need further work.

www.bbcbitesize.co.uk

C **Compose** a song linking up keywords (key points) or look for existing ones. My eldest loves singing, so she often composes songs to remember key facts. One song that both of my daughters were constantly singing during GCSE revision time was the “periodic table” song.

I think that I even knew it by the end of revision time 😊. Here’s the link for those of you who fancy giving it a try within revision sessions:

https://youtu.be/rz4Dd1I_fX0

Cue cards-otherwise referred to as prompt cards or flashcards.

Here's one way to use them within home schooling:

Step 1: Write a key term or question on one side of the card.

Step 2: Write the corresponding definition or answer on the reverse.

Step 3: Finally... test your child.

Top Tip: If a definition or keyword is quite lengthy or tricky, then you can structure the revision into bite size pieces; starting with one or two words to begin with and then gradually adding extra words, one by one, until they finally know the whole key term or definition.

Extra Tip: To make revision more fun (and less stressful) try using this study technique over a coffee, or in the garden.



Draw diagrams to visualize key facts instead of just using words, as information is known to be much easier to remember as an image.

For example: If you want to remember 3 key points.

- You could draw a dog holding 3 different coloured balloons,
- Then write the keyword using the same colour pen, within each balloon.

Drawing doodle type images above or alongside written information is also an effective way of remembering key themes and topics.



Explain to others. Explaining what's been covered within the revision session to other members of the family (or even friends via Facetime etc) not only helps others, but also helps to test whether your child has taken in the information correctly too and will highlight any gaps in information.



Flashcards-also known as cue cards which I covered earlier.



Gojima app is FREE and is a great tool for helping you to pass exams. **There are over 40,000 practise questions included.**

Simply select the subject that you want to revise, and the app selects questions for you to answer.

If you get it right, it provides more detailed information- so you get to learn even more!

Whereas if you get it wrong it provides the correct answer as well as providing an explanation of where you went wrong.

It also tracks your progress; so that you can monitor your strengths and weaknesses.



Highlight important keywords so that they stand out better on the page and become easier to remember.



Imagery- Attaching images to boring facts or information can not only be effective for remembering the content, but it also helps to retain the information longer too.

Using images for revision dates back as far as Roman and Greek times.

Some of the visual memory techniques that they used are covered later in the guide...

Including in the next “J” section.



Journeys are one example of how to memorise facts easier and longer by storing the information straight into your long-term memory. This is achieved by linking images to information that you want to learn and then placing them on an imaginary journey.

This method is particularly effective for remembering lists.

Here's a quick example of how I personally use this memory method.

Let's say that I want to remember the order of the House of Tudor Kings and Queens as featured below.

The Tudors

(1485 -1603)

- King Henry VII 1485 - 1509
- King Henry VIII 1509 - 1547
- King Edward VI 1547 - 1553
- Jane Grey 1554
- Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary) 1553 - 1558
- Queen Elizabeth I 1558 - 1603

(List is courtesy of the "Project Britain" website.)

Here's how to copy how I use the "Journey Method" to learn this list

Step 1

Think of an imaginary journey consisting of 6 landmarks
i.e. the number of items on the list.

If you have 10 items on the list, then you'd need to think of 10 landmarks...and so on.

Mine would be:

1. A local pub
2. Chemist
3. A Park
4. Bus stop
5. Village hall
6. My house

Step 2

List 6 memorable people with corresponding Christian names to the ones featured on the list e.g. Henry Cooper (the boxer) for Henry VII or Henry Ford for Henry VIII, Edwards Scissorhands for Edward VI and so on.

My list consists of:

1. Henry Cooper
2. Henry Ford
3. Edward Scissorhands
4. Jane Fonda
5. Mary Berry
6. Elizabeth Hurley

Step 3

Next you need to attach each memorable person that you have selected to each of the 6 landmarks ...

Try to make the characters as memorable as possible as the more “out there” they are, the better you will remember them. E.g. Henry Cooper could have just 7 fingers.

The Final Step

Link them all up as a journey in a story.

Here’s a quick example of one that I just quickly made up on the spot.

I walk down the road and see Henry Cooper stood outside the local pub struggling to eat a packet of crisps as he only has 7 fingers. (**Henry VII**)

I carry on down the road and I think I am seeing things as stood outside the chemist, large as life, is Henry Ford who's stood leaning over a gleaming, old fashioned motor car, with a massive number 8 on the registration plate. (**Henry VIII**)

My dog pulls on his lead as he's eager to move on to his favourite landmark-the park.
As I approach the park, I can hear screaming as I see Edward Scissorhands chasing 6 noisy children around the park. (**Edward VI**).

I look across the road and see Jane Fonda, by the bus stop, looking really grey leaning over a rubbish bin being sick. (**Jane Grey**)

The next part of my journey takes me past the village hall where Mary Berry is baking cakes to raise funds for the village. She is holding up a HUGE placard saying that cakes are just £1. (**Mary I**)

The final part of my journey takes me back home where I'm surprised to be greeted by Elizabeth Hurley who is wearing a bright ginger wig. (**Elizabeth I**) ...

No need to remember the 1 bit here as given that Queen Elizabeth II is our current Queen, there can only have been one other Elizabeth previously.

This is just a really quick example of how I use this memory trick, but it can be very effective (not to mention fun.) So be inventive!



Keywords. Highlight keywords within all text in

order for them to stand out better on the page.

Knowing keywords is a must when it comes to any topic for revision and can often be the difference between getting the A* or not.

Top Tip: Be sure to get them to underline important keywords on practise exam paper questions too as this can be really effective in helping to make more sense of the question by helping to identify the part of their knowledge that they need to apply to answer the question.

Kahoot Free Ap: This another FREE app and is a fun way to play and create quizzes to test your child's knowledge of a subject.

The great advantage of this revision method is that it can be used anywhere via your mobile phone.

It is one of the easiest ways to study, practise and master what you're learning.

Our daughters really enjoy this way of learning.

You can either create questions for a group (if you want to practice with friends via Facetime etc), or you can create one just for individuals too.

L **Linking.** Again, this is a visual memory technique dating back thousands of years.

Similar to the journey method except this time you merely link a list of random words together in a story (as opposed to placing them on a journey).

Here's a quick example:

The List

1. Cat
2. Eiffel tower
3. Pig
4. Crown
5. Café

Now here's a quick story that I made up to link all of the items on the list...

"A bright orange cat was walking down the street wearing an Eiffel tower hat on his head. At the same time a yellow pig with purple spots was walking towards him wearing a crown with bright pink jewels sparking in the sun. The jewels were so bright they shone into the cat's eyes which made him stumble and his Eiffel tower hat fell onto the ground. The pig picked up the hat and invited the cat to a nearby café to buy him a cappuccino as a way of saying sorry."



Mind maps. Use mind maps to organise information more visually by using branches and subbranches.

Top Tip:

- Using CAPITAL letters
- Different colours
- And incorporating doodles,

All help to make the information more eye catching and memorable.

Mnemonics can also be a fun way to help people remember lists or large amounts of information too.

Again, this memory technique dates back to Greek times and is actually named after the Greek goddess of memory named Mnemosyne.

This method involves making up a rhyme or a song, to remember information.

Mnemonics is one of my younger daughter's favourite revision methods.

Here's an example of how I personally used the mnemonics memory technique to help my daughter to learn the **class order** in GCSE biology.

Here's the list together with the rhyme that I used:

| CLASS ORDER | MNEMONIC RHYME |
|-------------|----------------|
| KINGDOM | <u>K</u> ING |
| PHYLUM | PHILIP |
| CLASS | <u>C</u> AME |
| ORDER | <u>O</u> VER |
| FAMILY | <u>F</u> OR |
| GENUS | <u>G</u> OOD |
| SPECIES | <u>S</u> OUP |

Here's another one for you:

R = Rest

E = Exercise

V = Variety

I = Imagination

S = Structure

I = Individual

O = On-going

N = Not too long



Numbers. Visualise images to remember numbers.

For example, here's how to remember **92**...

The number **9** can be remembered as a balloon on a string (as a balloon sort of looks like the number 9) ...

And number **2** as the neck of a swan.

So, number **92** would then be remembered as a balloon tied to the neck of a swan

I can still remember the **first 10 numbers of Pii** using this this clever memory technique...

And I learnt it over 10 years ago!

I made a video on my You Tube channel demonstrating how I learnt it, which you can view using this link:

<https://bit.ly/3bSopRU>



Outdoor revision: Take your revision outdoors to

vary things a bit.

Sitting in your gardens, or using your outdoor exercise time, can be a great way to vary studying sessions.



Past Papers are an absolute must when it comes to preparing and testing your child ready for future exams, as they not only help when it comes to understanding how to answer questions, but they also help to highlight areas that need more revision too.

Practising on past papers can often be the difference between getting the A* or not.

Important tip: It is also really important to focus heavily on the actual **answers** to the past papers too as this will help your child to:

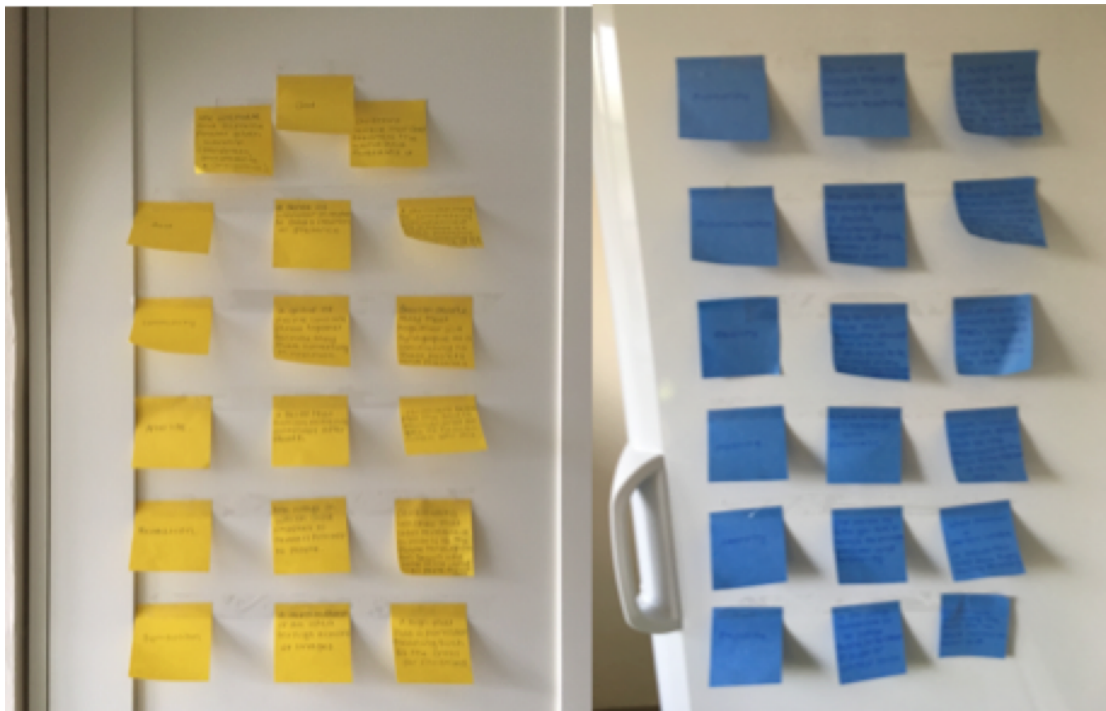
- Identify common patterns of questions and answers that regularly come up.
- And will also help to understand how to word answers the way that the examining body prefer in order to have a better chance of achieving the top grades. Afterall, given that the past papers are actually set by the relevant examining bodies, it makes sense to study the answers in detail in order to get a feel for how they need to format their answer.

Practising on past papers can reduce revision time massively as it will help identify which areas need more work: meaning that you can then focus more time on the areas that need revision and less time on the areas that they are more confident with.

This is an example of applying the 80/20 rule within revision and is the method used widely within private schools to improve exam results.

Post it notes. Attaching “post it” notes in different colours, to different items in rooms, is another simple but effective way of making home-schooling more memorable and fun.

Here’s an actual photo of some sticky notes that my eldest daughter stuck around the house, to remember various information.



PowerPoint presentation. Create PowerPoint presentations for various topics to make revision more interesting and fun.

Again, as with other revision methods, be sure to include plenty of images too.

You could also get your child to research, create and present their own PowerPoint on a given topic too.

Q **Questions:** Get your child to ask family members some questions. Testing others is a great way of checking how much information they've actually retained.

Quizlet app is another great free app to test your knowledge 'on the go.'

It's one of the quickest ways to study, practise and master what you're learning.

You can either create flashcards of your own or you can use any of the millions of flashcards sets already created on the app by other students.

Another top tip, use the app to:

1. Print off some questions and answers.
2. Next: Cut the questions into individual slips.
3. Finally: Pop them into a bag or container and pick questions out at random and test your child.

Again, this could be done over a coffee, on a car ride, or even outdoors, to make it more fun. You could even play it as a family for even more fun.

There's nothing better than a bit of family competition to get your child fired up for a bit of revision! 😊



Revision guides. These are a great tool and are an absolute must in my opinion when home-schooling.

They are set by the relevant examining boards, so take care to check what examining board's exam your child will be sitting as they all vary slightly.

Top scholars recommend that the best revision technique is to:

1. Read ONCE through the relevant topic within the revision guide
2. Go STRAIGHT to past paper questions on the topic and answer them the best that you can
3. Check the answers with the relevant past paper marking scheme
4. Go back through the revision guide and just focus more on the areas that you got wrong within the past papers.

As covered previously in the guide, using this method can help to cut study time down massively as it ensures that your child is spending more time on the parts that they actually need to do more revision, rather than wasting needless time going over the whole content.

Room method. Again, this method dates back to Greek and Roman times and is extremely effective for learning lots of information.

For this method you will need to visualise a room.

To keep things simple, let's suppose we want to remember this list again:

- *Cat*
- *Eiffel tower*
- *Pig*
- *Crown*
- *Café*

Here's how to use the room method to remember the list:

First

Think of 5 different items within a room.

Let's suppose you choose a sitting room for example.

The 5 items could be...

1. A sitting chair
2. Settee
3. Lamp
4. Television
5. Table

Next

Attach a visual image of what you want to remember on the list on to each item in the room. Try to make the image stand out as this will make it easier to remember.

Here are a few examples:

1. A pink **cat** sat on a green sitting **chair**
2. A ripped photograph of the **Eiffel tower** pinned to the **settee**
3. A **pig** running off with a **lamp**
4. Olivia Coleman featuring as the Queen in the **“Crown”** on the **tv** set
5. Cup of **branded coffee** on the **table**.

Now close your eyes and visualise the images in your mind.

Finally

Think of the images and check how many of the list you can remember.

Tip: If you can't remember an item, make it funnier or more “out there” in order for it to stand out better and be easier to remember



Stories: Make up stories linking different facts.

You can do this by using the “journey”, “linking” or “room” methods discussed earlier.

Turning boring lists or information into stories will make revision time a lot less stressful and more fun for you and your child.

I demonstrate more examples of how you can use these particular revision methods on my You Tube channel which you can subscribe to by clicking the link below:

<http://bit.ly/387hDGb>



Test yourself or get your family or peers to test you.

Ask questions or explain various facts or information to others.



Use the same top or perfume for revision of specific topics so that they act as a trigger for that subject at exam time.



Voices: Use different voice tones out loud when revising for different topics. For example, ...

- Use a low pitch tone for Geography
- High pitch for history
- Deep tone for Biology

And so on...

Fun Tip: You can even use a different accent or dialect too for each topic, to make it even more fun.

Vary revision techniques. Use lots of different study methods and locations, to make revision less tedious.



Why? Why? Why? Extend your knowledge and understanding of a topic by asking questions and carrying out further (and more in depth) research in order to expand your understanding of a subject.



Xerophytes - the only one that I could think of with an X! ☺ which basically is a species of plant that has adapted to its surroundings in order to survive: two examples being cacti and pineapple. - So, I guess you could say that this falls within biology ☺.



You Tube. This is one of the best revision platforms out there, in my opinion- especially for visual learners.

You can find pretty much anything on any topic on this platform.



Zones. Using zones (like in the journey method) to store visual facts or prompts.

So, there you have it- my A-Z Revision For Parents.

I sincerely hope that it helps to make revision less stressful and more fun for both you and your child.

If you'd like to have access to more tips on how to help your child with their education at home, then here are some of the places that I regularly post on...

[My You Tube Channel](#)

[My Copy What I Use For Revision Facebook Page](#)

[My blog- Copy What I Use](#)

Again, thank you for downloading my FREE guide and for placing your trust in me, I really appreciate it.

Have fun with it and let me know how you get on using any of the links above; I'd love to get your feedback.

Julie ☺