

Practice Questions

- What are they?

Exercises designed to mimic a real test, or exam, actively testing their knowledge and improve recall and long-term retention. By actively engaging with the material and applying concepts, practice questions help solidify learning, build stamina for timed assessments, and reduce anxiety associated with actual tests.

- How does it work?

Students must first identify areas they need to work on and spend time gathering appropriate questions to practise, before reading their notes on that topic. They then put their notes away and work to a time limit to complete the practice questions in exam conditions.

Once completed, the questions need to be marked to find out if they have been completed successfully or if there are still areas to focus on. They can either be marked by their teacher or by the student themselves using the official mark schemes for those questions.

Most past papers are available on the exam board websites, but there are also many online platforms that allow for completion of questions on specific topic areas with immediate feedback.



Key points:

- 1) Keep track of which topics or areas need work.
- 2) Spend time finding the right questions/papers to practise.
- 3) They must be marked, whether by a teacher or by your child using the mark scheme.

Revision Methods

At Westlands School, we are purposefully teaching students three specific techniques to manage effective study habits and routines. In addition, we build teaching of effective revision strategies into our classroom practice as early as possible.

This booklet outlines the three revision techniques we recommend so you can help and support your child as they manage their learning independently.

Any further questions:

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Flashcards

- What are they?

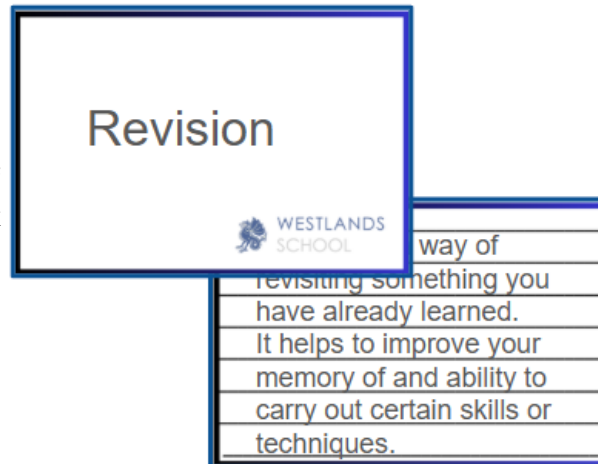
A set of revision cards designed to allow for easy testing.

They can be made in sets to go with specific topics, with a brief question, keyword or theme on one side and the answer or definition on the other.

- How does it work?

The primary purpose of flashcards is self-testing. Look at the prompt and say the answer out loud before checking the other side. This verbalisation further reinforces the memory.

Having physical cards with questions on one side and answers on the other also allows for paired revision, with parents or friends able to support without having to have the same subject knowledge.



Key points:

- 1) Base each card on one or two themes or questions.
- 2) Do not overfill the card — keep it concise.
- 3) Use them to self-test by challenging yourself to remember the other side.

Cornell Notes

- What are they?

A note taking system designed to organise content students are revising. By using prompts, cues and questions students think carefully about the information they record and how they would categorise it.

Students will need a stimulus/revision resource such as printed revision sheets, a YouTube video, a web link, an old exercise book or a textbook.

It can then be utilised for self/peer quizzing or questioning.

- How does it work?

By taking time to carefully consider the answers to each prompt and cue, students are revisiting their notes and going over content they have learned in class.

The notes section can then be covered up, leaving the prompts and questions as cues for recall — can they remember the lesson content just from the prompt?

| | |
|---|--|
| Prompts Cues Questions | Title |
| Prompts/Questions | Notes: Answers to prompts and questions |
| Summarise the key information from this page. | Summary |

Key points:

- 1) Ensure the prompts/questions are appropriate.
- 2) Use your notes to fill the main section carefully.
- 3) Use them to self-test by covering the main section or the summary and trying to recall from just the prompts.