



Form 3 How to Revise Guide

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Welcome!

Welcome to this revision guide for Key Stage 3 students.

Unfortunately, there is no easy way to pass a test, but we can provide support and advice on how to use your study time more effectively. This guide has been written to help and support you with your revision.

Although this booklet contains advice, tips and study skills, the guide isn't as important as the person reading it – YOU! It is you who has to put the advice into practice and apply it to your work. If you do, we're sure that you will improve your performance and your study skills. But to get better at something, you have to practise!

Revision means “to look at again”. You need to look at things again as part of learning as well as in preparation for examinations. But we need **active** ways to do this “looking again”. Using a range of retrieval practice techniques regularly will help you to store and recall information. You do not want to leave all your revision until the night before a test, instead you should aim to test what you know little and often.

Revision gives time for reflection and learning. You can start to see the big picture, you can add in more details and examples. You may discover something you still don't understand and you can ask your teacher about it again.

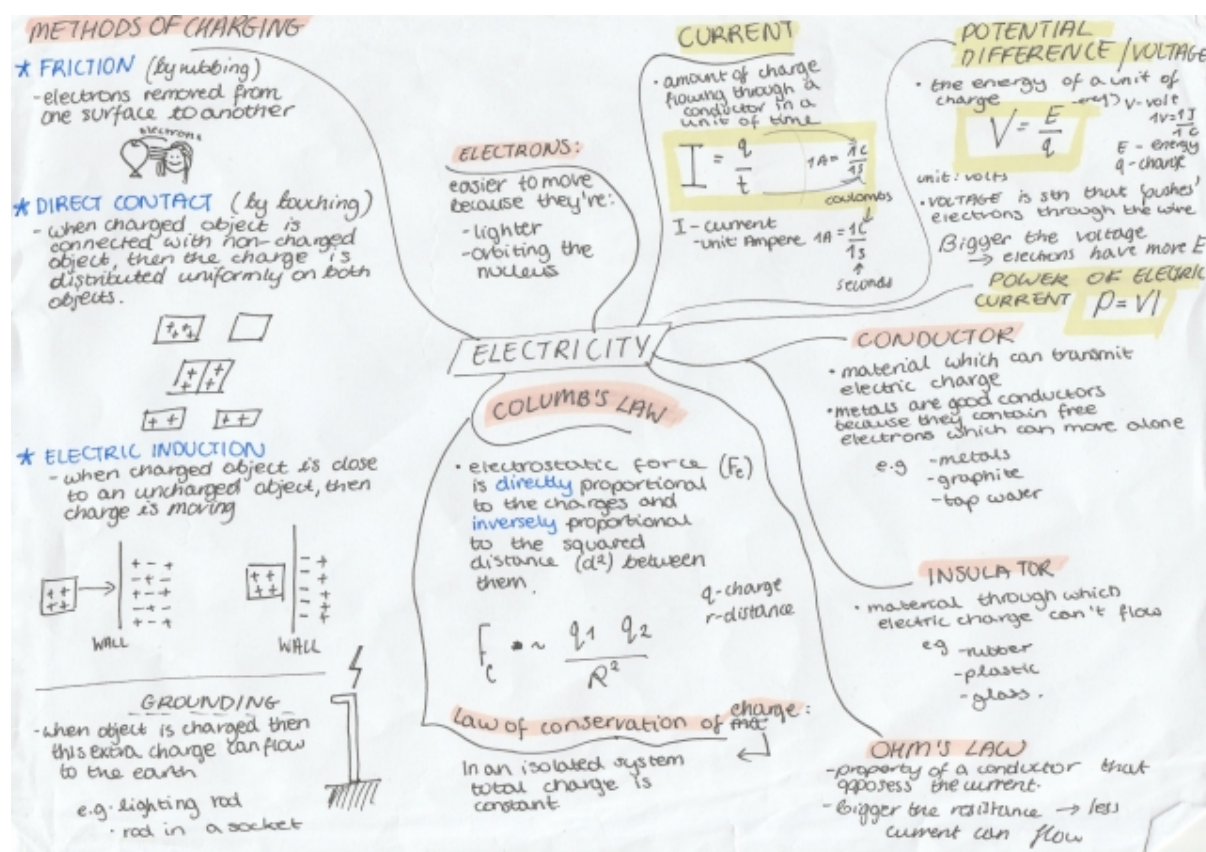
So, over to you – happy studying and good luck!

Revision Technique #1: Mind Maps

A mind map is a diagram that allows you to write down everything you know about a topic. A mind map will help you make connections and structure information in a way that suits you.

Below is an example of a mind map but you can design your own anyway you like. They don't have to be neat but they will enable you to find out how much you know about a certain topic.

Always create a mind map from memory at first and then add to it as you read back over your notes.



Revision Technique #2: Flashcards

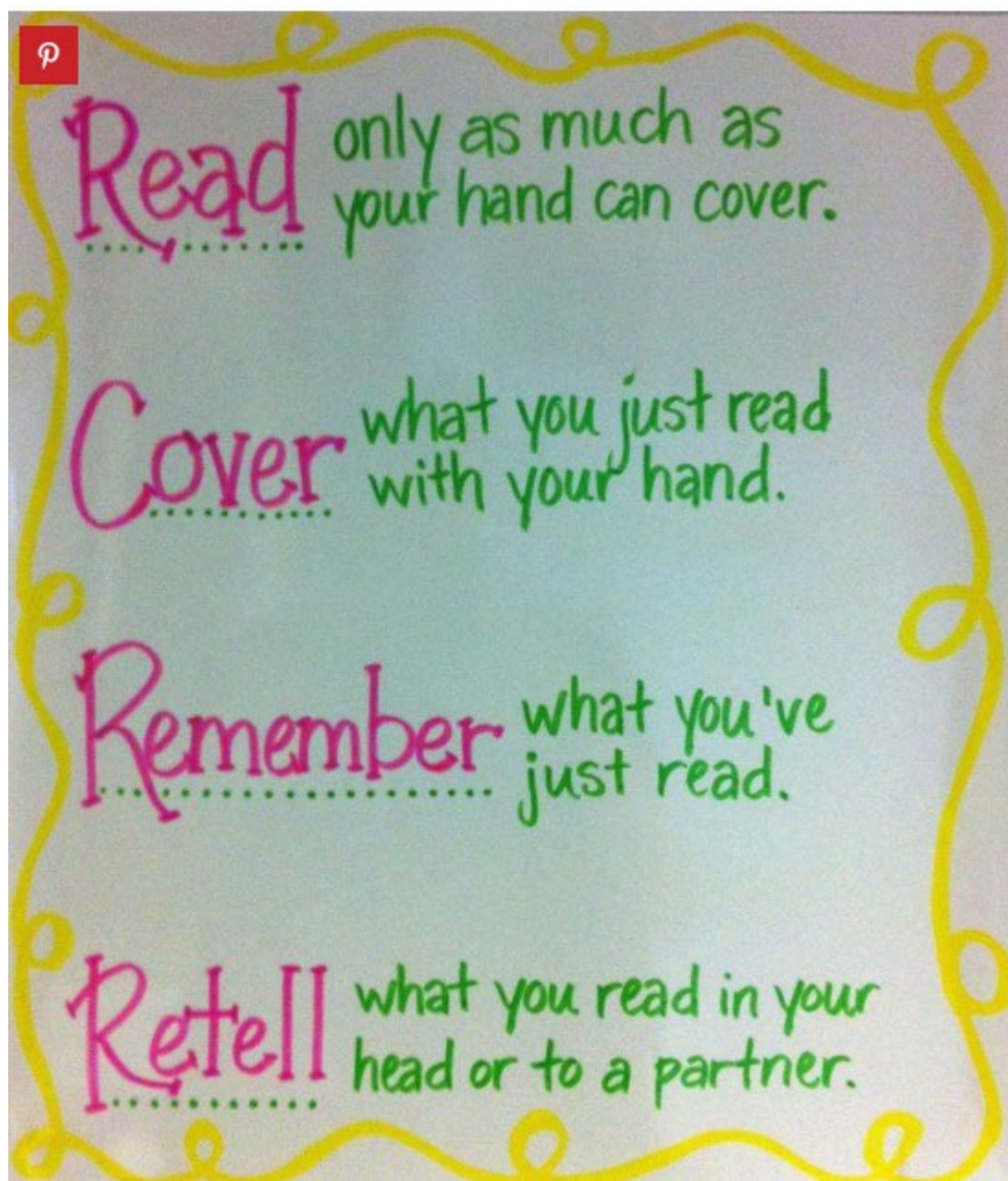
Flashcards are a great way for you to self-test. On one side of the flashcard write a theme or topic and on the flip side note down a definition or summary. Not only have you designed your own revision tool with flashcards but you can also test yourself in a quick and efficient manner.

[The following link](#) will take you to the Quizlet website, where you can design your own flashcards and study from the range of flashcards already available.



Revision Technique #3: Small Chunks

Revising in bitesize chunks will enable you to process information in a more manageable way. Look at the following technique, which encourages reading and then testing yourself on small bits of information. Don't try and revise a whole module in one sitting!



Revision Technique #4: Address what you don't know

Although it is comforting to start revising your favourite subject or topic first, you do have to revise those topics and subjects that you find more challenging. Once you sit down and start to revise the topic you have been dreading you will soon find you feel more relaxed and prepared.

Write a checklist of the areas you least understand in each subject and tick these off as you revise them. This will make you feel more in control of your revision and will ensure your revision is comprehensive.



Revision Technique #5: Post-it notes

Use post-it notes when revising. These will help you to summarise information (there's only so much you can write on a post-it!). You can also categorise content into different colours and stick these notes in your bedroom, on the fridge or anywhere around the house so you remember what you revised!



Revision Technique #6: Teacher Feedback

Look back at teacher feedback, either in your books or on Google Classroom. Teachers will have let you know what you have done well and what you could have improved throughout the school year, so now is the chance to focus on the areas where your teacher advised improvement.

Remember that although your revision primarily takes place at home you can always ask your teachers questions the following day if you have struggled with a certain area of revision.



Revision Technique #7: Revision Timetable

Use a revision timetable or schedule to structure your revision. You may think that you don't need one but having a timetable ensures that you revise ALL subjects and gives you a clear plan for what you should revise each evening. You can make a revision timetable on a piece of paper or even on a mobile phone or tablet.

Remember technique #4: your revision timetable should probably allow for more time on the subjects where you struggle, rather than the ones where you flourish!



Revision Technique #8: Manage your time

Avoiding distractions is key component of effective revision. Mobile phones and particularly social media can erode valuable revision time. Therefore, when you sit down to start a period of revision try to ensure you have limited any potential distractions. You can check your phone as a reward for completing a solid bit of revision!

Also, make sure you are giving yourself plenty of breaks. Giving your brain a rest is vital in making your revision more efficient, so don't try to do too much in one go!

