

# Learning Styles

## Understanding your learning style can be key to revision success



Everyone thinks their way of revising is the best but in reality, we are all different and not one style fits everyone. Take a look at our guide to different learning styles to find which suits you, but remember, you might be a little bit of everything!

1

### Visual Learners

- ✔ Learn best by remembering information visually rather than in written form.
- ✔ Prefer to look at images, graphics, charts and videos.
- ✔ Revise best by using idea maps, post-its and highlighters.
- ✔ GCSEPod can benefit the visual learner with short bursts of audio-visual knowledge whilst supporting the creation of idea maps and summary posters.

2

### Auditory Learners

- ✔ Learn best by hearing information over and over again.
- ✔ Auditory learners benefit best from being able to explain topics or answer questions aloud to friends or parents.
- ✔ Enhance their learning by using audio resources.
- ✔ GCSEPod is great for learners who learn best from listening as each Pod is narrated by voice-over artists. After watching a Pod, try and write your own script for the same video, narrating this into your voice memos to listen back to.

3

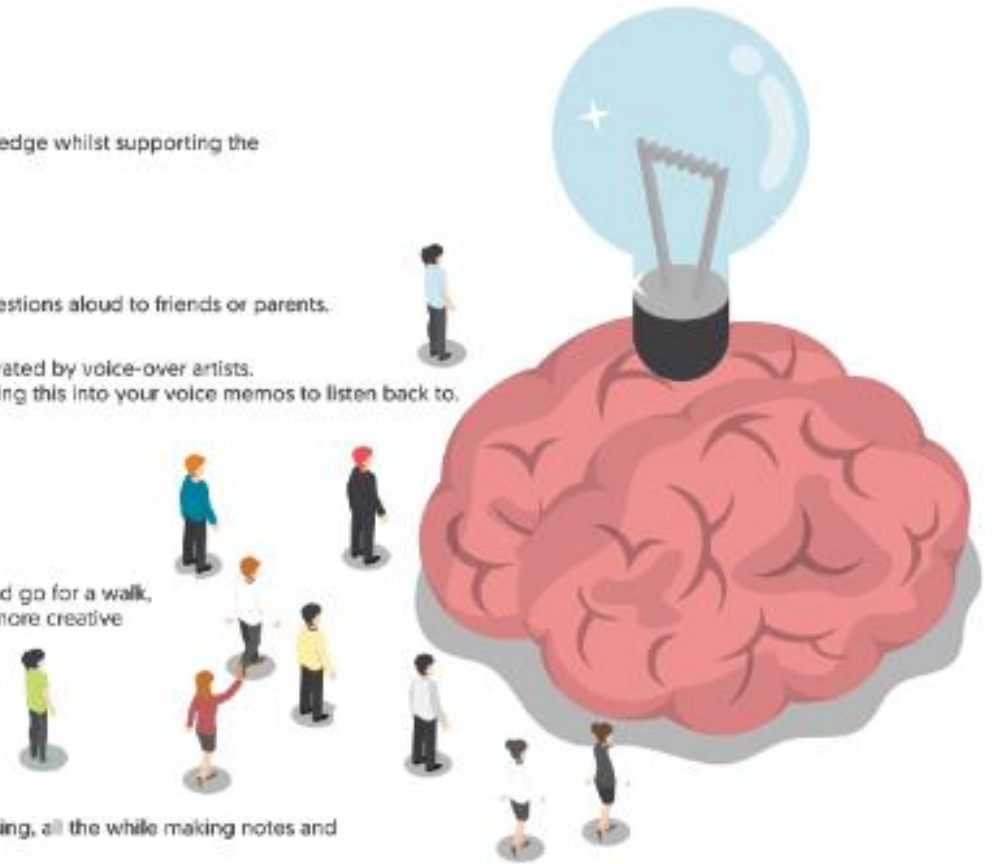
### Kinesthetic Learners

- ✔ Learn best by taking a "hands on" approach to revision.
- ✔ Very interactive and outgoing, making it hard to sit alone and work.
- ✔ Revise best by re-writing notes and making visual aids.
- ✔ If you find it hard to sit still, download some Pods onto your mobile device and go for a walk, that way you're revising and moving at the same time. If you're looking for a more creative way of revising, use GCSEPod and then create a large summary poster.

4

### Reading & Writing Learners

- ✔ Can learn best from reading textbooks and enjoy reading in general.
- ✔ Benefit from taking detailed notes.
- ✔ Condense information into small, easily digestible lists.
- ✔ Use GCSEPod to gain your knowledge and then re-watch the Pods whilst pausing, all the while making notes and then turn your notes into lists of the key points.



**Remember... 60% of learners use a combination of all revision techniques!**



Don't conform to just one technique, it's perfectly natural to develop your own learning style.



Different learning styles might benefit you in a different subjects.



Whatever your learning style is, GCSEPod is here to support you!



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# Revision Techniques



## Summary Posters

Use key words, pictures and definitions to design a poster on a topic or whole subject. Put the summary poster up in your room and spend regular time looking at it.

**Tip:** Watch a Pod and whilst you can remember, draw a summary poster with all you've learnt. Once you've finished your poster, re-watch the Pod and see how much you remembered.



## Idea Mapping

Summarise what you've learnt by creating an idea map. Start by putting the name of the topic in the centre of a piece of paper. Add branches (like a tree) and add additional key words to each branch which are associated with the main topic. Keep adding more detail as the branches become smaller and use images and colours as well as words to help the information stand out.

**Tip:** Draw a idea map with all the key words and images that you see and hear in a Pod. Try matching the colours you use on your idea map to the colours shown within the Pod. Don't be afraid to be creative. It helps you remember more.



## Practice Exam Questions & Past Papers

Practising exam questions and past papers helps to perfect your exam techniques whilst checking your knowledge and highlighting any gaps you may have.

**Tip:** Watch Pods and then answer practice exam questions and past papers. Highlight questions you struggled with and watch the Pods.



## Mnemonics

A mnemonic is a code that you create using acronyms, phrases or rhymes and it's designed to help you recall knowledge easily. For example, if you have to remember the order of the colours in the visible spectrum (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet) you could use the mnemonic: 'Richard of York Gave Battle in Vain'. The first letter of each word in the sentence relates to the first letter of the colour.

**Tip:** Pick out key words from a Pod and create mnemonics to help you remember them.



## Flash cards

Summarise the topic on a flash card or post-it, use only the key words, symbols, dates, quotes and places. On the flipside of the card, write the topic's name. This will help you when you come to test your knowledge. For example, 'what were the causes of World War I' and on the reverse, put the key points. When you test yourself, simply look at the topic's name and see if you can remember everything on the other side of the card without looking.

**Tip:** Create a flash card for each Pod you watch. Write the name of the Pod on one side and on the other, write all the key information you've learnt. Search YouTube for a video on the 'Laird System' to find out more about creating effective flash cards.



## Question Yourself

Try to improve your knowledge by asking yourself questions such as:

- Who?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- What?
- How?



## Note-Taking

Notes help to improve your understanding of a topic in your own words. Keep your notes brief and don't forget to highlight key words, quotes and dates.

**Tip:** Write short and concise notes whilst paying a Pod.



## Timeline

Design a timeline for those subjects where chronology is important, like History and English Literature. They are invaluable for making sense of a series of events or plots.

**Tip:** Use key dates within a Pod to create a timeline. It will help you visualise the order of the events.



# SPACED PRACTICE

Revise, rest, repeat... space out your revision for better results.



Spaced practice is the theory that short, sharp bursts of learning are more effective than cramming just before the exam.



## HOW IT WORKS

Combine spaced revision with retrieval practice for best results. Self-test during a number of revision sessions until you can accurately recall the target information from memory.

### Mind Mapping - After class

Write down everything you know about a topic straight after class or after watching one of our Pods.

### Review your Maps - A few hours later

Cover your mind map and see how much you can remember. Highlight any info you couldn't remember and revise it again.

### Memory Cards - Next revision session

Create memory cards with answers on the back and test your knowledge. Repeat every few sessions.

## TIPS & ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

To determine where to focus your time, look at each element of the course and rank them according to your level of confidence:

- I need help with this (make an appointment to see your teacher);
- I need to learn this as I don't remember it at all.
- I remember doing this but I need to revise it.
- I know the content on this but I need to practise exam questions.
- I am exam ready.

Create a diary of when and where you are going to revise the topics you still need to learn.

Don't forget to leave breaks between reviewing (a day, a week, a month), so you build up the memory over a period of time.

## HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

Test your understanding by completing a GCSEPod assignment. Your answers will provide a boost playlist to satisfy any gaps in your knowledge. Watch the boost playlist and take the assignment again until you get it all right. Watching the same Pod again and again over a period of time, ensures what you have learned has stuck in your mind. [For more information visit www.gcsepod.com.](http://www.gcsepod.com)



# DUAL CODING

The science behind why students get better results with the help of GCSEPod.



Dual coding is the theory that for successful retrieval of knowledge you need to combine both words and visuals for better revision.



## HOW IT WORKS

Simplifying complex ideas by linking words and visuals improves encoding. This will help you remember more and, most importantly, you will then be able to recall the information better in the actual exam.

### Compare words to visuals

Look at visuals and compare them to the words in your notes.

### Explain in your own words

Look at an image, diagram, graph or timeline and explain in your own words what information is trying to be conveyed.

### Turn your notes into visuals

Take the information you are trying to learn and draw visuals to represent it. This will make it easier to recall when you are reviewing revision notes.

## TIPS & ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

Take your classroom notes and try turning them into visuals such as a diagram, timeline or picture. Try anything visual that will be more memorable.



- ✓ Diagrams
- ✓ Infographics
- ✓ Timelines
- ✓ Cartoon Strip

## HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

All GCSEPod content provides audio and visual content in one go to help you absorb information better and most importantly improve your memory recall during exams.

Our award winning imagery supports our narrators to help convey difficult topics better and ensure the information you are learning sticks in your mind. Visit [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) to find out more.



# RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

EXAM SUCCESS



Practise bringing information from memory for better results.

Retrieval practice is the act of recalling information without having it in front of you. Research shows this is far more effective than reading and re-reading.



## HOW IT WORKS

In recent years, cognitive psychologists have been comparing retrieval practice with other methods of studying. What they have found is that nothing cements long-term learning as powerfully as retrieval practice.

### Write it down

Try writing down everything you know about a topic. Then go back and check to see what you have missed.

### Partner Up

Get together with a friend and write down everything you can remember about a topic. Compare notes and see what's missing.

### Flash Cards

Make some flash cards and then try recalling the information on them.

## TIPS & ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

### 'Space out' your practise

Retrieval practice is even more effective if it's done in short bursts over time, rather than in a single long session. The struggle involved in trying to recall information strengthens your long-term learning.

### Don't give up

It may feel hard at first but the more times you practise recalling, the more information you will be able to bring to mind. It will get easier each time!

### Flash Cards

Create flash cards to help fill the gaps in your knowledge to help you remember more next time. Our Pods are a fantastic way to use flash cards, simply pick a topic, make a flash card with everything you know, then watch the pod to fill in any knowledge gaps.

## HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

Our assignments are a fantastic way to test your knowledge. Just like past papers, they are relevant to the exams you will be taking. They also auto-mark and show you what areas you need to improve by providing a boost playlist with the exact Pods you need to watch to fill those knowledge gaps. For more information visit [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com).



# INTERLEAVING

Interleave your revision to help you remember more.



Interleaving is the theory that revising more than one topic in each revision session will help you make better links between them.



## HOW IT WORKS

Interleaving strengthens memory association. The brain is continuously engaged by retrieving different responses and bringing them into short-term memory. Repeating that process can reinforce connections between different tasks and correct responses, which enhances learning.

### Switch

Switch between topics during each session.



### Review in different orders

When reviewing make sure you do in a different order than you learnt them.



### Make links to remember more

Try to make links between ideas and review your revision notes.

## TIPS & ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

- ✓ Don't switch too often, make sure you have a good understanding of the area you are working on before moving onto the next.
- ✓ Do break down topics into smaller chunks so you can easily switch once you have completed one section.
- ✓ Don't worry if it seems harder revising this way at first. It will help you remember more in the long run. Keep going, the work will pay off.
- ✓ Try following the order in which you learnt this information in the classroom so one topic builds upon the next. This will help you better understand the links you are building.

## HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

All GCSEPod content is set out in a clear organised way and delivered in our unique Pod format of 3-5 minute chunks of topic based learning. You can quickly create playlists of related topics to make it easy to switch and build connections. It also remembers what you've watched so you can easily revisit a topic and pick up exactly where you finished. Visit [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) to find out more.

