

Revision Cards



What are they?

Revision cards are a great revision aid which can help you to memorize keywords, facts and model answers. Revision cards are basically record / flash cards which have key revision information written / drawn on them.

Why use them?

Revision cards can be used in almost all subjects and allow revision to be broken down in to small manageable chunks. They allow revision to take place not just through using them but also through the process of making them. Revision cards can be created to suit the individual, as it's up to the person using them how they want to use them and what information they would like on them.

Where do you buy them?

Revision cards can be purchased from most stationary stores / stationary websites. However, we do have revision cards available for students to purchase in school. These revision cards can be found in our school vending machine.

How to create them

Revision cards can be made in a variety of different ways and can include both facts and diagrams. A typical way in which to create revision cards is outlined below –

- 1) **Find a place to work.** Have a well-lit working area where you can work free from distractions and have all equipment ready.
- 2) **Collect your materials together.** This means you should have your revision cards, textbooks and exercise books ready to use. Also have a good pen, markers, highlighters, and whatever other stationary equipment you'd like to ready use.
- 3) **Highlight the most important information.** Identify key information in your notes and exercise books. Break that information down into their key parts so that you can easily transfer that information to your revision cards.
- 4) **Write the key term or concept on one side of the flash card.** Write it in large letters so it will be easy for you to read. You don't want to include any of the key information on this side.

- 5) **Write short, concise notes on the other side of the flash card.** Your goal is to outline the key information on this side of the revision card. Don't rewrite all of your teachers notes.
- 6) **Make sure your writing is large, clear, and well-spaced.** If your writing is too small, you will not be able to read it easily and if it's crowded you will have too much to take in at once. Writing clearly will enable you to read your notes more easily.
- 7) **Write in bright colours.** You can use different colours to code particular information. For example, if you are studying for a French verb test, you might write the infinitive verb on one side of the revision card and then on the other side of the card, you could write the definition in black and then the conjugated forms in a different colour.
- 8) **Use shorthand to save space.** Sometimes, you might have a lot of information on a single flashcard. In this case, you might consider adopting a form of shorthand. Most people develop their own that makes sense to them for example instead of writing "example" you could write "e.g."

How to use them

To use flash cards correctly you first of all need to take your time making them as this is a key part of the revision process. Once your revision cards are made you should utilise one of the following methods outlined below:

- 1) **Reading aloud** – Display the question / topic side of the revision card and say aloud as many key points about that topic / question as possible.
- 2) **Writing out** – Display the question / topic side of the revision card and write down as many key points about that topic / question as possible. You could also time yourself with this process to get quicker at recalling key information.
- 3) **Testing** – Get someone to ask you the questions and get them to check your answers match what is written on the card.

Once you have carried out one of the methods listed above, your completed revision cards should be placed in either a correct or wrong pile. It is important you are strict with this process and ensure future revision sessions focus on the pile you got wrong. The aim should be for as many revision cards as possible to end up in the correct pile so you can focus on the cards which are giving you most difficulty.

It is worth remembering the key to revision is revising what you don't know as opposed to what you already know.