



# **GCSE History**

# **GCSE Ancient History**

# **GCSE Citizenship**

History Faculty

# How to revise

Don't overthink it!

Don't become obsessed with the idea that you "haven't found your own way of revising yet."

Do try!

Do remember that revision is about practising - practising recalling facts and details in your brain, and practising answering questions under pressure.

**The more that you practice, the better you will perform in your final exams.**

1. Be **organised**
2. Have a **checklist** of each topic that is needed for each unit of your GCSE.  
(Teachers can/will provide these - just ask if you don't know where they are!)
3. Code each topic into red/amber/green ("**RAG rating**").  
Focus on the "red" topics until you are more confident in them, then choose other topics.
4. Create **flashcards** with questions on one side, and answers on the other. (Teachers can provide flashcards) [see slide 3]  
  
Test yourself. Repeat. Do it again. And again. Focus on the ones that your brain hasn't learnt yet. Ask a friend/family member/pet to test you, until you are confident that you know it.  
  
Then try this again the next day/week/month - giving your brain time to forget it and then coming back to it might feel difficult but is better for your brain in the long-term!
5. Prepare for exams by asking yourself some "**bigger questions**" where your brain has to weigh up factors, analyse points or make judgements. [see slide 4]

# Q&A!



- In your exams, you will need to think quickly and answer questions under pressure, on the spot.
- The best way to prepare for this is by practicing putting yourself on the spot in advance, or getting someone to help you.
- This will help you to realise what you do and don't know, leaving you with a clear checklist of things to then revise further.
- **Top tip: create a list of questions and answers, or prepare these on flashcards.** Hand them to your mum/dad/granny/cousin and **ask them to test you!** If you can think quickly and **explain it out loud** to them, then you are well prepared to do this in an exam.
- These questions do not need to be specific dates or facts - open-ended thinking questions will prepare your brain well for a history exam!

*e.g.*

*What were the consequences of Elizabeth's early life?*

*What was agreed at the Yalta conference?*

*Who didn't benefit from the boom and why?*

*Was X more significant than Y?*

*Remember: little and often is the best way to maintain long-term memory.*

*Once you have created a set of flashcards, you can use them for 10 minutes the next day, next week, next month...*



# Exam questions

- One of the biggest challenges in a History exam is writing so much in a short space of time. This can be a physical as well as a mental challenge.
- To prepare for this, **practice writing full exam answers, in timed conditions.**
- This will also force you to recognize what you do and don't know on a topic, which will help your revision further.
  
- Ask your teacher for past exam questions, and also ask them to mark your attempt.
  
- This is best done at home once you are part-way through the course, e.g. in Year 11. However, if you are uncomfortable with any question type that you've practised in class then ask your teacher for another example that you can try at home.

*e.g.*

*An 8 mark exam question takes just 10 minutes of practice.*

*You could revise a topic for 20 minutes, then do a practice question for 15 minutes, then spend 10 minutes revising anything you couldn't remember - all in a 45 minute session.*

- **Top tip: look back through your book and identify the 'action points' from each previous exam questions first - then try and improve on these in your practice!**

## Creating a timeline really helps with *chronology*

*Chronology* is the idea that you can remember what **happened** and in **what order**.



Remembering dates is only a very small part of what it takes to be successful, but it does build confidence if students can remember the main events and how they fit into the unit as a whole.

Creating a **mnemonic** can help to make this more memorable.

*For example, when revising the cold war...*

### **1940s**

|        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Your   | Yalta                         |
| Pies   | Potsdam                       |
| In     | Iron Curtain Speech           |
| The    | Truman Doctrine/Marshall Plan |
| Bakery | Berlin Airlift/Blockade       |
| Cook   | China becomes Communist       |
| Nicely | NATO set up                   |

### **1950s**

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Koreans   | Korean War       |
| Don't     | Death of Stalin  |
| Want      | Warsaw Pact      |
| Hot       | Hungary          |
| Chocolate | Cuban Revolution |