

HOW DO I MOTIVATE MY CHILD TO REVISE?

**DO SOMETHING
TODAY THAT
YOUR FUTURE
SELF WILL
THANK YOU FOR.**

5 Reasons for Revision Resistance



- 1 Finding it hard
- 2 Finding it boring
- 3 Being overwhelmed
- 4 Fear of failing themselves
- 5 Fear of failing others

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GOOD REVISERS vs POOR REVISERS

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Eat breakfast	Skip breakfast
Sleep 8-10 hours a night	Get little sleep
Have regular bedtimes	Have inconsistent bedtimes
Get fresh air each day	Stay indoors all day
Exercise regularly	Do no exercise
Do past papers	Mostly revise highlighting 'key' passages
Spread out their revision	Cram their revision
Keep a diary to capture negative thoughts	Dwell on worst case scenarios
Revise in a quiet environment	Revise whilst listening to music or TV
Drink water regularly	Forget to stay hydrated
Put their phone away during revision	Revise with their mobile phone next to them



Do they know how to revise?

Lots of students have absolutely no idea how to revise. They've heard that you can make revision notes, create flashcards or draw mind-maps but they actually don't know what to put down on the paper. Maybe they've tried, in a half-hearted kind of way, to make a few flashcards, looked at them twice and dismissed them as a strategy that doesn't work.

When you nag them to start revising they get all defensive, shout at you and start slamming doors.

The trouble is that they won't start revising because they don't actually know how to do it. Your first step is to make sure that they know.

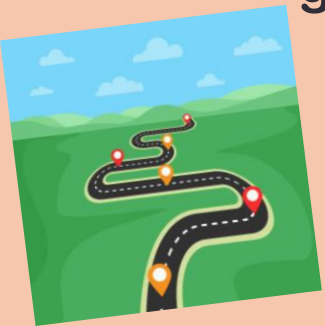
- **Understand** – it's a great deal harder to memorise something if you don't understand it. So, make sure they've taken the time to read their class notes, a text book or looked up a YouTube video so that they truly understand what they're trying to memorise
- **Record** – Once they have their understanding, they then need to record it. This can be as notes, on a mind-map or poster or on flashcards. The important thing is that it's an aid to their memory and that it's in their own words
- **Repeat** – memory is gained through repetition. It's the same for all human beings. So, they need to keep going back to the resources they made in step 2 to repeat, repeat, repeat. Twice is not enough.

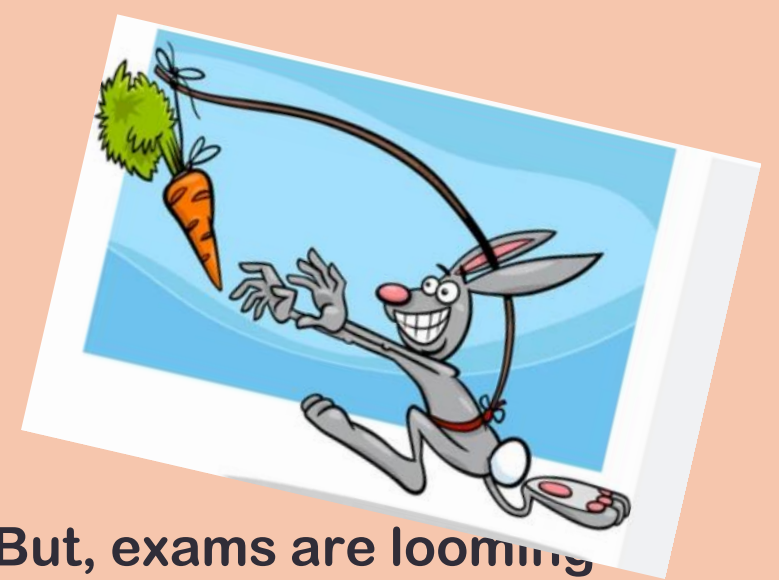
Put revision into a time frame so that the student can see that there is an endpoint and that it is not too late or too early – it is do-able

Show them how long it is until their exams

Many students will say that it's too soon to start revising – their exams are 'ages' away. What's far more urgent is their Whatsapp or getting on their PS5.

To counteract this, sit down with them and create a plan that shows exactly how much time is left until their exams. If you block out things like school trips, weekends, bank holidays etc and then think about how much they can realistically study in the time left, it should give them a real way to get them to start putting in some effort.





Bribery!!

In an ideal world you wouldn't have to bribe your children. But, exams are looming and you haven't got time to waste on idealism.

Short-term bribes tend to work better than long-term bribes. So, instead of promising they can go to that music festival if they get certain grades, tell them they can have an hour watching Netflix if they do 2.5 hours revision this evening, or that if they complete 15 hours of independent study this week you'll pay for a horse-riding session at the weekend. I call these 'mini-motivations'.

The important thing here is that you never give the reward unless they've done what they needed to do to earn it. You need to be 100% consistent and stick to your word.



Success is the sum
of small efforts,
repeated.

R. Collier

@weareteachers



Prove to them that revision is necessary

Some young people think that revision isn't for them because they're a) too clever and they know everything already or b) they're not clever enough and no amount of work will ever make any difference.

With the ones who think they're too clever, test them. For example, sit down with a biology text book and quiz them. Or, ask them to reel off 10 quotes from Romeo and Juliet that they could use in an English Literature exam. If they don't come up with the goods, you'll have proven that they need to do some work.

With those who believe that no amount of work will make a difference to their grades get them to do an experiment. So, for example with the [English Literature quotes](#) get them to focus on learning three over a weekend in a concerted way. They must try. I bet they'll know them better by the end of the weekend and you'll have improved their confidence in their ability to revise as well as in their ability to retain the information



Uncover their big 'why'

Some students will say it's not worth revising because they don't see the point of the exams, anyway. They may not have any clear direction or goal.

In this day and age it's hard to pin-point a career and work tirelessly until you achieve it. After all, most of the jobs our young people will end up doing don't even exist yet. But, they will have some idea about what they're good at, what they're interested in and what kind of lifestyle they want to lead.

Start helping them to break this down so that they can see that there is something for them to work towards – even if it's not terribly concrete at the moment. In my experience saying that you have to work hard 'to get a good job' is simply not enough.

Try to stay positive

The more patience, positivity and support you can put in, the better you will ALL feel

It will be difficult at times as you all have lots of things to juggle but it will come to an end and your students will reap the benefits of your hard work

GOOD LUCK!!