



# **EFFECTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES**

How to maximise the learning from revision

*Catherine Smith (Science)*



# What to study when.....

Making a plan takes time but it's a very important part of revision

- ✓ Plan to work in small 'chunks' of time (15 min, 5 min, 20 min, 5 min, 15 min)
- ✓ Plan which subjects and which topics you will study on which days
- ✓ Build in definite breaks – and when they finish
- ✓ Don't try to cover too much, too fast – be realistic, small chunks are best
- ✓ Keep half and whole days when you don't revise – so they are available for emergencies
- ✓ Don't forget to include the dates of exams on your plan
- ✓ Remember to build in time to revisit each subject briefly after a day and a week as well as just before the exam

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Chemistry</i> <i>Water</i>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/studentlife/revisionandskills/>

[bbc.co.uk/studentlife](http://bbc.co.uk/studentlife)

### Struggling to get started?

Divide the number of hours available by the number of subjects you are taking and then allocate topics within each subject area.

## Exactly how much revision should they be doing?

Time allocated to revision should be approx 20% of the time covered learning the material in lessons

For example;

- 5 h a week Additional Science
- Since the Jan exam - 12 weeks of lessons
- Total hours studied in class = 60 h

**Allocated revision time = 12 h**

Student Life Weekly revision planner / /2011 - / /2011

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
07.00				
07.30				
08.00				
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23.30				



Don't forget to tick off subjects on your revision timetable as you go along so that you can see regular progress

# Where to begin.....

## 1. Be organised;

What resources, equipment will you need to revise.

## 2. Where are you going to work....

Is in front of the window / computer really a good idea?

## 3. Am I away from easy distractions?

e.g. Turn off your mobile phone  
Don't have Facebook open

Use checking these as “treats” in your allotted breaks

**All planned....**

What's the best way to actually revise?



## TO MAKE A PAPER CUP

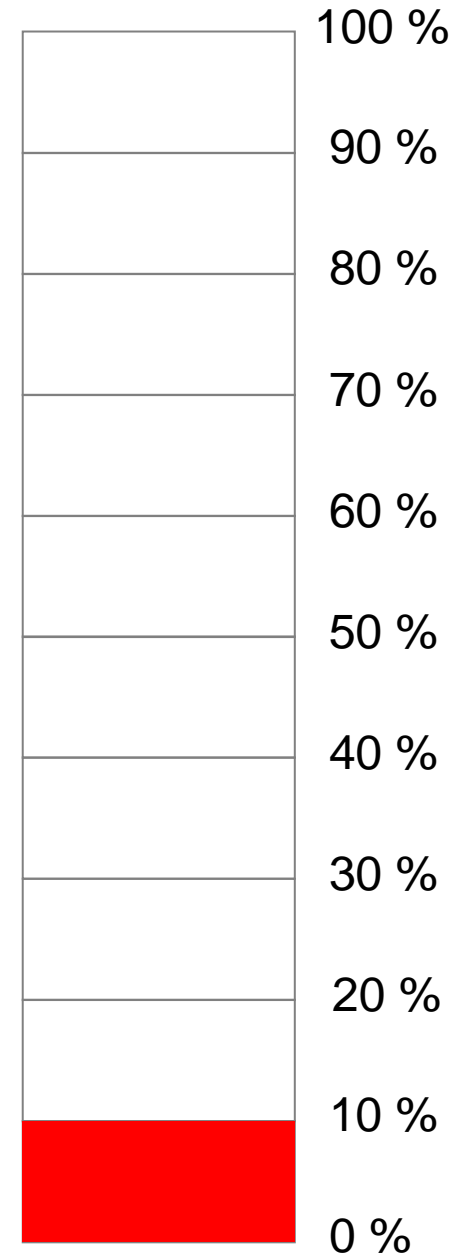
1. Start with a square piece of paper
2. Hold it with a corner at the top
3. Fold the bottom corner up to the top and crease the fold
4. Fold the top corner down to the bottom edge and crease the fold
5. Fold one of the bottom corners to the end of the crease on the opposite face of the triangle and crease the fold
6. Do the same with the other bottom corner
7. Open the corner at the top and fold one part forward, the other back
8. Open up to make a cup!





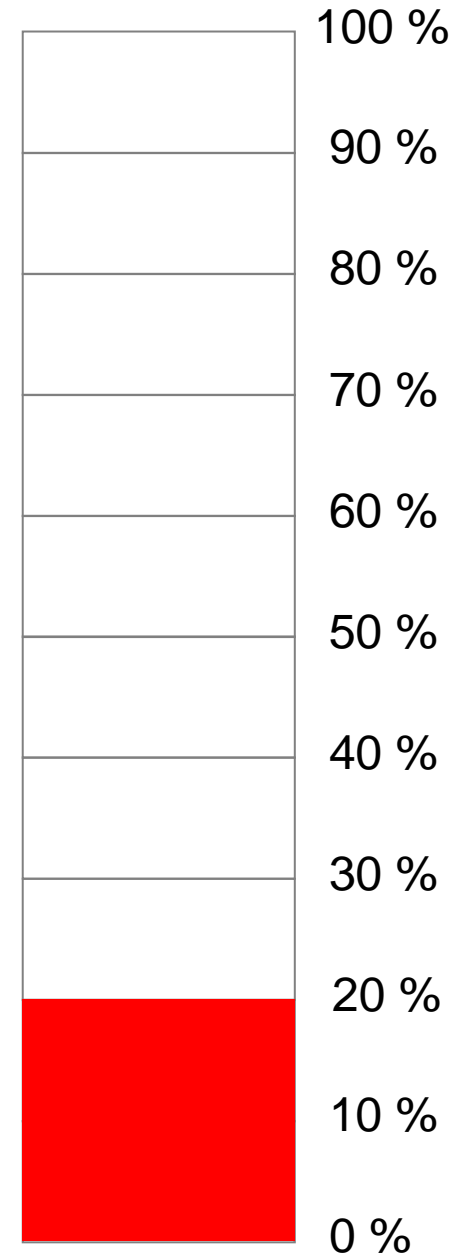
# “We Learn.....

10% of what we read



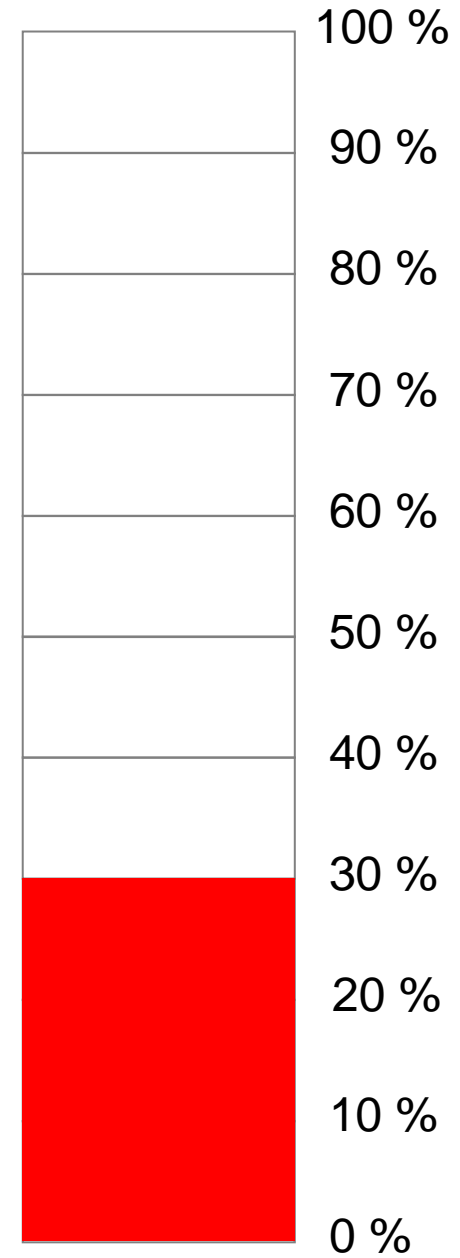
# “We Learn.....

20% of what we hear



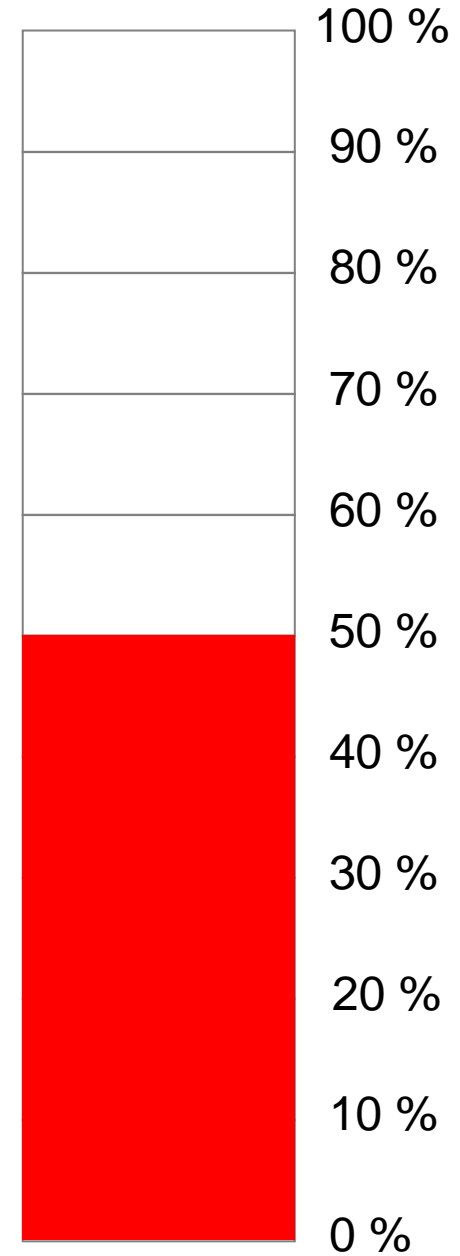
# “We Learn.....

30% of what we see



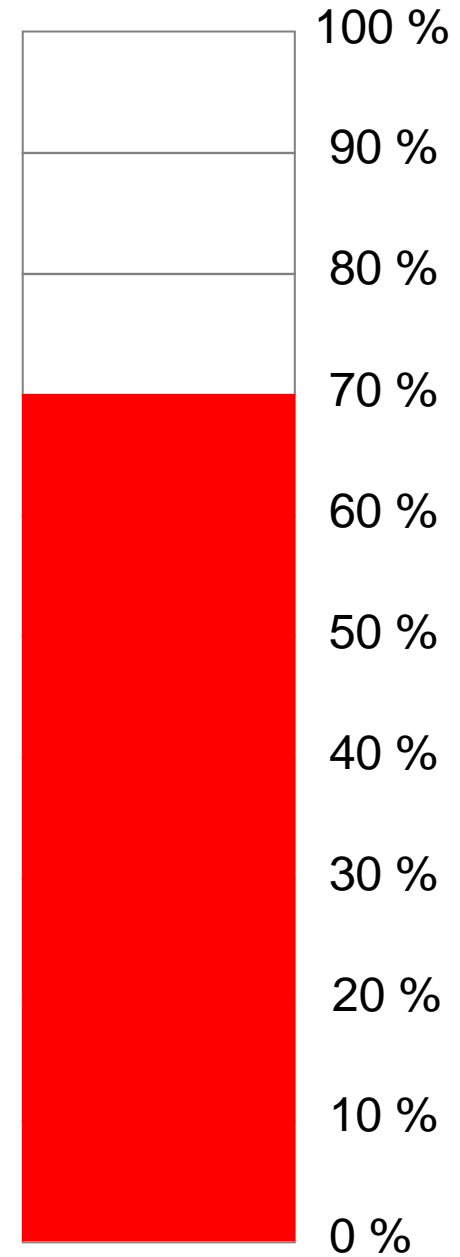
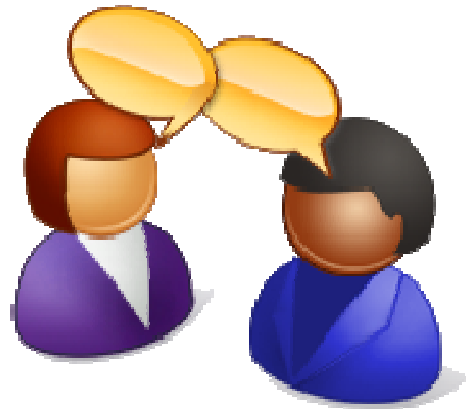
# “We Learn.....

50% of what we see and hear



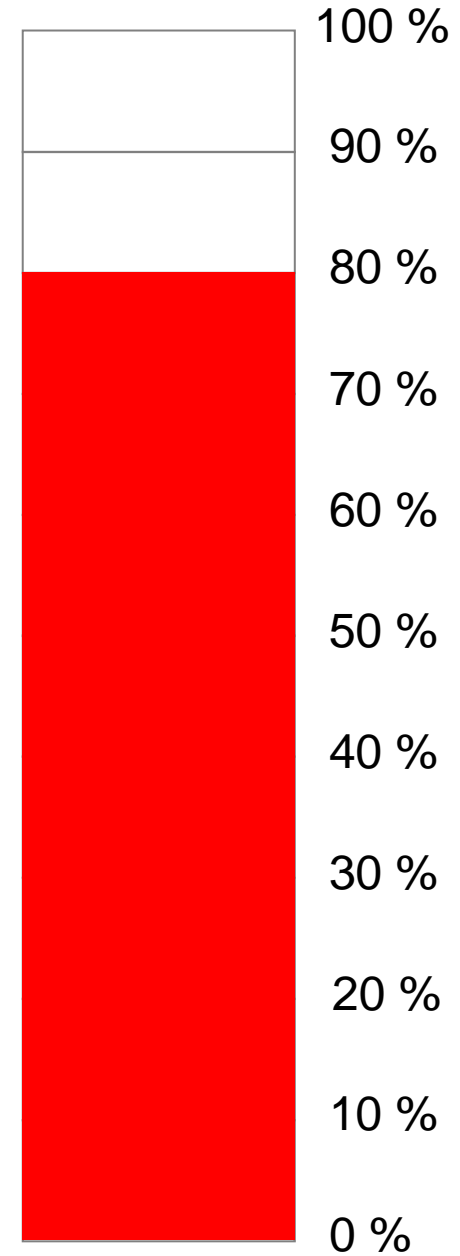
# “We Learn.....

70% of what we discuss



# “We Learn.....

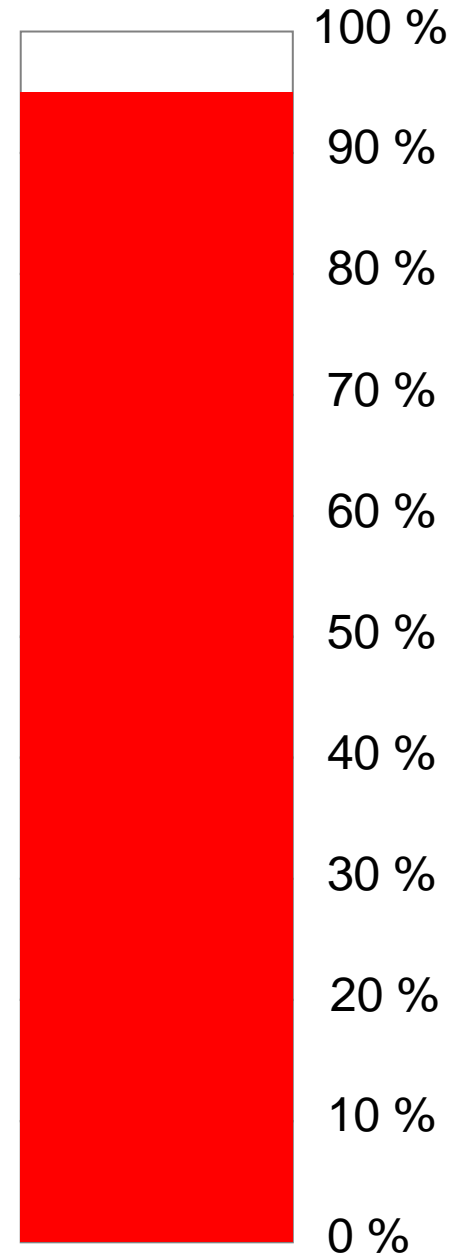
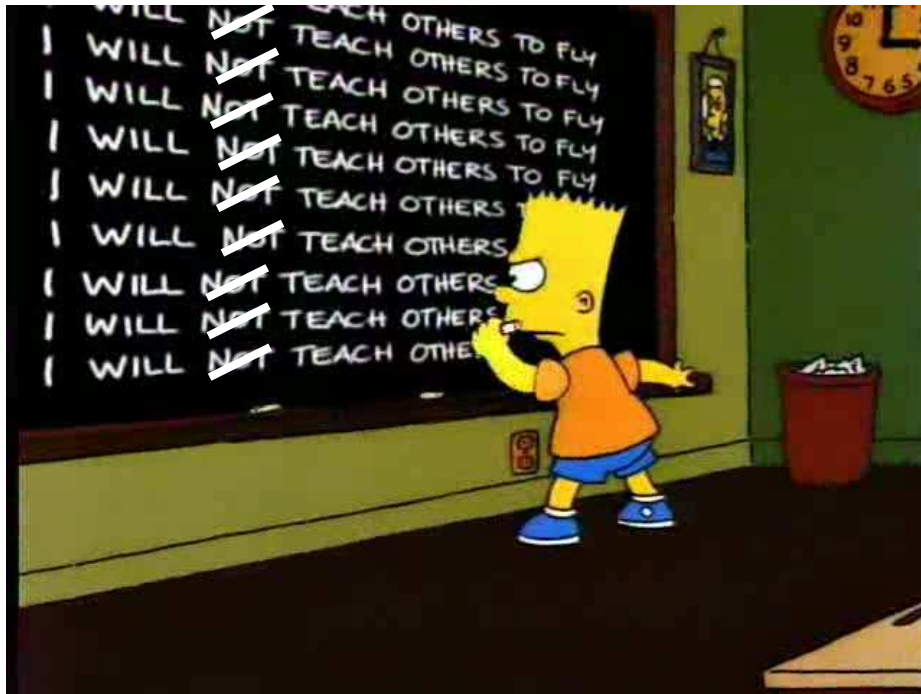
80% of what we experience





# “We Learn.....

95% of what we teach others



## To maximise learning from a revision session....

Take yourself outside your comfort zone

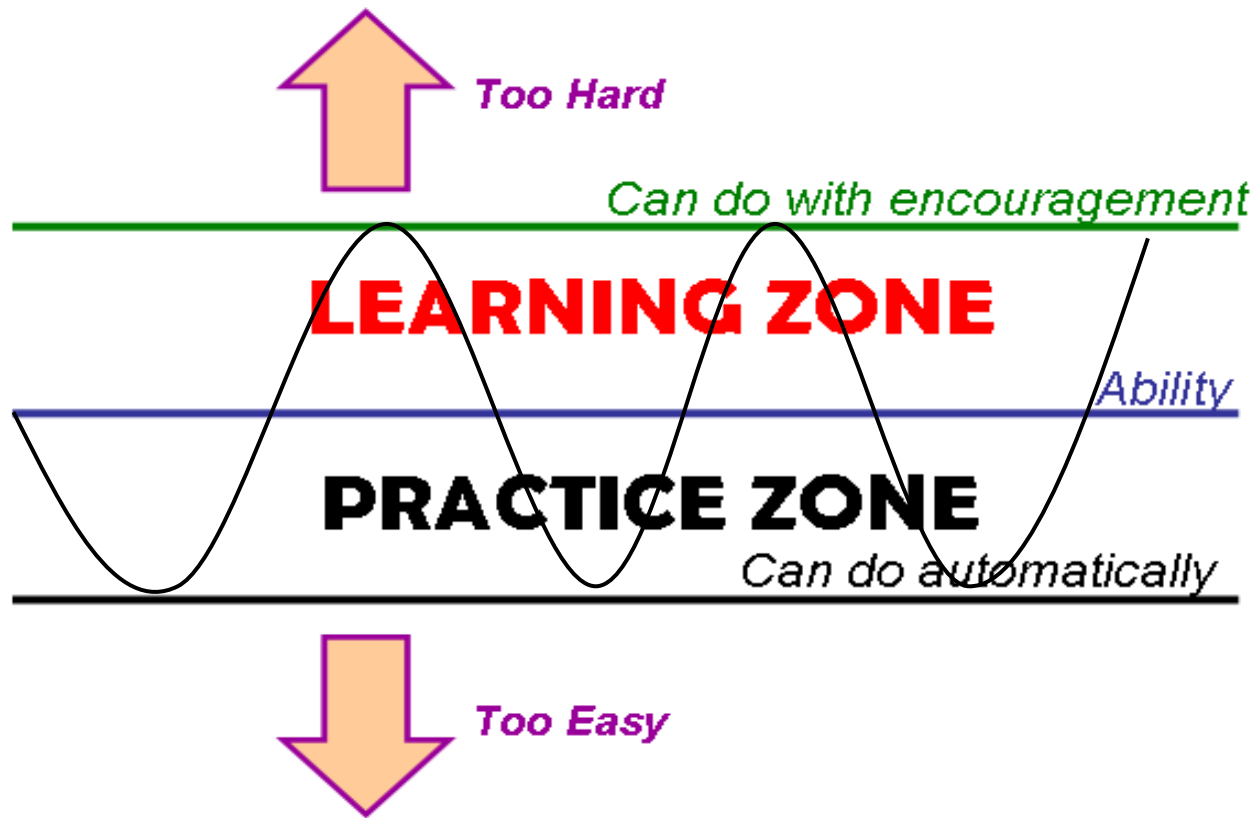
Make links, comparisons and contrasts between areas

Invite friends round and discuss the revision material

Put the information to music / make a song from it

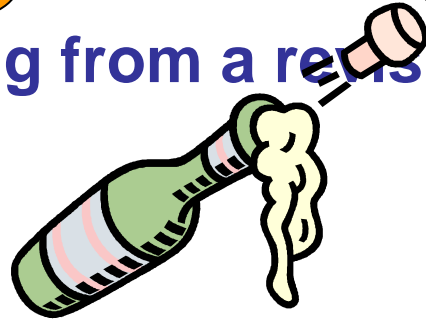
Make a model out of clay, blocks or other material and add labels

Work with the information (draw it, say it, organise it, even colour it in)



# SUCCESS

To maximise learning from a revision session....



BE ACTIVE!

Take yourself outside your comfort zone

Make links, comparisons and contrasts between areas

Invite friends round and discuss the revision material

Put the information to music / make a song from it

Make a model out of clay, blocks or other material and add labels

Work with the information (draw it, say it, organise it, even colour it in)

# Stuck in your room.....what can you do?

## 1. Break information up

- Scan the information and highlight the headings/subheadings
- Under one heading, scan the passage and highlight the keywords
- Only once you have done this tackle reading the whole passage

## 2. Summarise the material under headings on index cards / revision cards

## 3. Make a conscious effort to commit the information to memory

.....do this at least three times

## 4. Test yourself

Use the material to answer a question or address a problem not previously tackled.

### **Extra hints;**

*Don't waste time struggling.* Note down anything you can't do and take it to your next lesson. Similarly if there are just one or two things that you just can't get then leave them out (unless you're aiming for an A\*).

## And what can you do to help as a parent?

- ✓ Share the strategies we have discussed with your child when you get home
- ✓ Encourage your child to keep to the revision plan but be flexible to a degree
- ✓ Provide a quiet uncluttered area for study away from distractions e.g. siblings, chatter etc
- ✓ Ensure that they have everything they need – equipment, revision cards, revision guides etc (remove any excuses)
- ✓ Make sure they take their allotted break and don't over do it
- ✓ Make sure they still take exercise and eat well
- ✓ Probably don't keep asking "How's it going?" "What have you learnt today?"  
..... Try and trust them !