

Duke's Secondary



3 Steps to  
Effective Examination Preparation



Revise



FLASH CARDS



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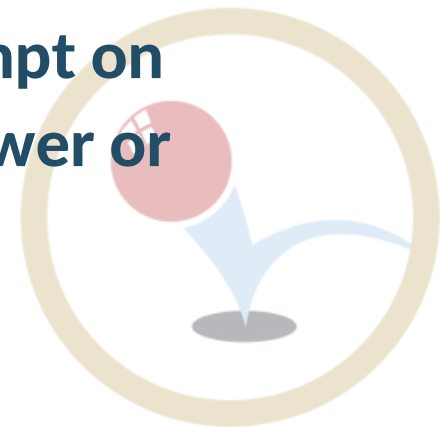
## 3 Steps to Effective Examination Preparation



# Revise

These are one of the simplest but most effective revision techniques.

They work best when they are given a question or a prompt on one side and then the answer or information on the other



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## 3 Steps to Effective Examination Preparation



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They are a great way to **TEST** yourself and consolidate your learning

They are also great for learning:

- Important dates
- Formulae
- Key words



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Making good flashcards



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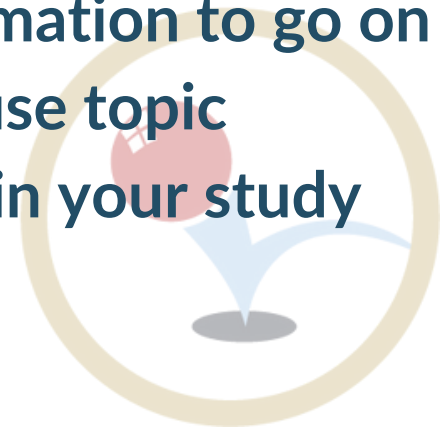


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- One side of the flashcard should be a single question and its answer on the reverse.
- Select the essential information to go on each flashcard. You could use topic checklists or bolded terms in your study guide to help you choose.



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- Break complex concepts down so that they cover multiple cards.
- Use drawings to illustrate answers



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**Using  
flashcards**



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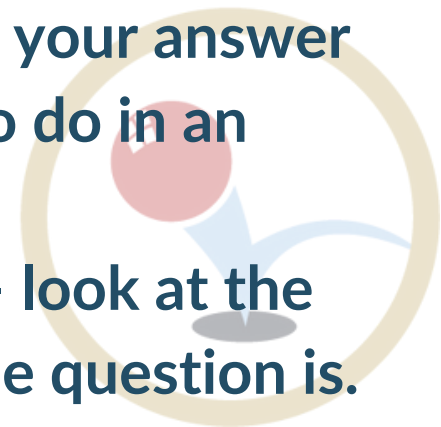
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- Say your answer out loud and not just in your head. You must be fully committed to your response. Even better would be to write your answer out as you would have to do in an exam.
- Use them both ways – look at the answers and say what the question is.





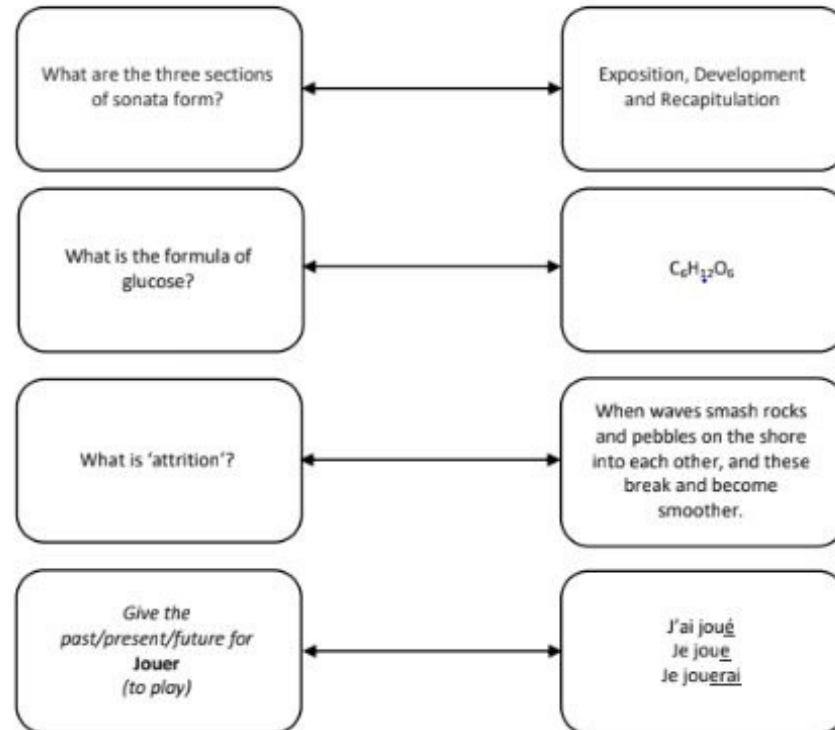
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**Flashcards –  
The  
Waterfall  
Method**



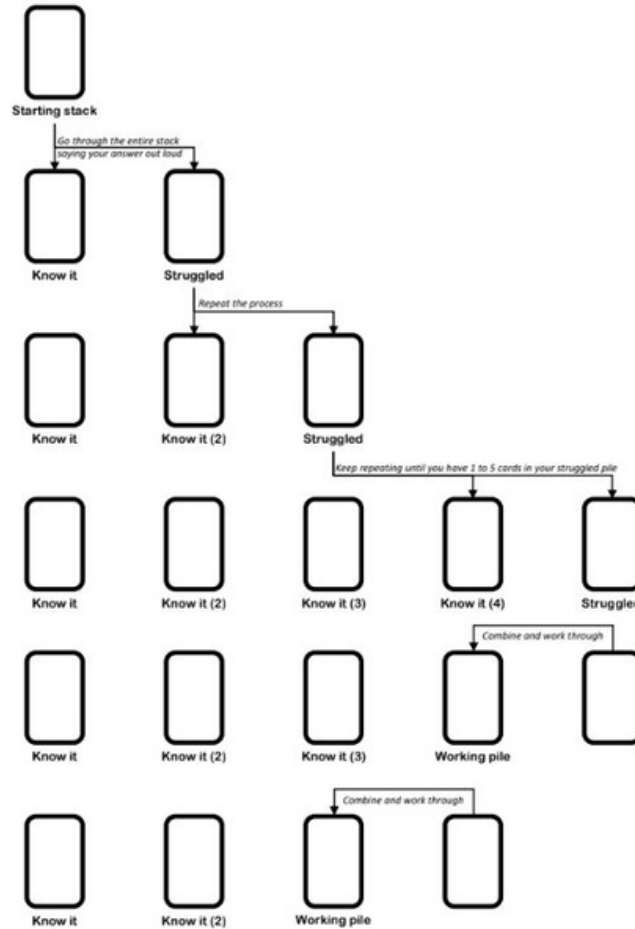
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**Flashcards -  
The Leitner  
System**



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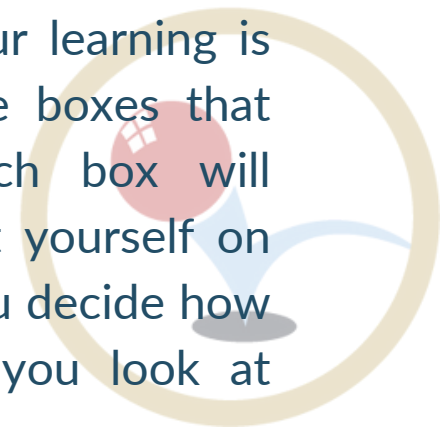


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# Revise

This is an excellent method of using flashcards over a sustained period of time and requires serious commitment. However, there can be a great return to your effort as the Leitner system allows you to see clearly that your learning is improving. Begin by finding three boxes that your flashcards can go in. Each box will determine the frequency you test yourself on the flashcards it contains (note: you decide how many boxes and the frequency you look at them).



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Place ALL your flashcards in the first box and test yourself. If you get a card right, move it to the second box. If you get it wrong, it remains in the first.



You test yourself on the card in the first box the following week and the second in two weeks. Whenever you get a card right, you move it to the next box. However, if you get it wrong, you move it back to the first box. You must be strict about this.



Incorrectly answered flashcards go all the way back to the first box

Continue testing yourself according to each box's frequency.



Incorrectly answered flashcards go all the way back to the first box



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When you start, all the cards are in the first box. Hopefully, these will move to the later boxes as you use the system, measuring your progress. To help make things as straightforward as possible, here's the schedule based on the boxes' labelled frequencies above.

Week	Box 1	Box 2	Box 3
1	✓		
2	✓		
3	✓	✓	
4	✓		
5	✓	✓	✓
6	✓		
7	✓	✓	
8	✓		✓
9	✓	✓	
10	✓		
11	✓	✓	✓
12	✓		
13	✓	✓	
14	✓		✓

You can see that there is a clear routine from week 6 onwards. The underlying idea is that the better your mastery, the less frequent the practice. However, if it's important to retain, it will never disappear entirely from your set of practice boxes.



# Revise





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Taking things  
further: making  
meaning with  
flashcards





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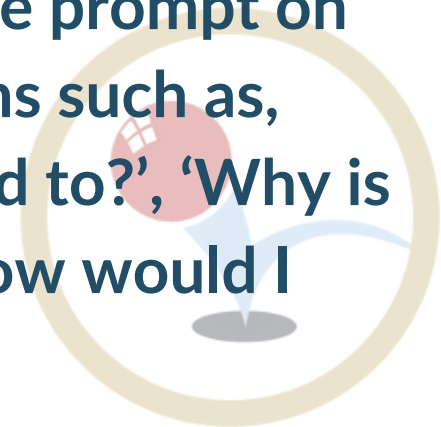
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Ask yourself questions about individual cards. Then, once you can remember the information on the back associated with the prompt on the front, raise questions such as, 'What else is this related to?', 'Why is this important?' and 'How would I apply this information?'



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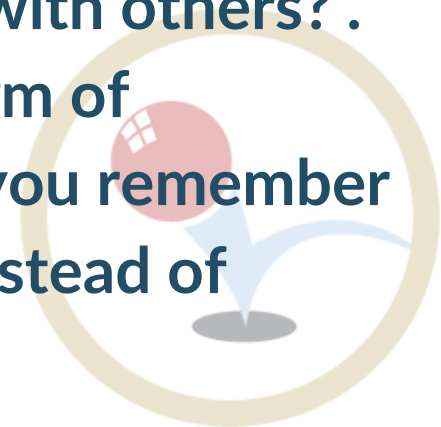
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Group cards together in themes. Taking this additional step forces you to ask yourself, 'Which cards have something in common with others?'. This also serves as a form of chunking, which helps you remember information together instead of separately.



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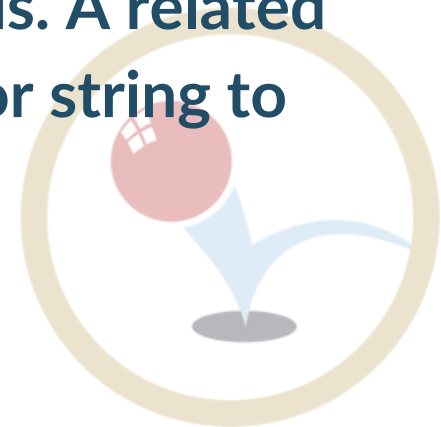
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Create a mind map with the cards. Explain all the connections you see between individual cards and between groups of cards. A related strategy is to use yarn or string to connect cards.



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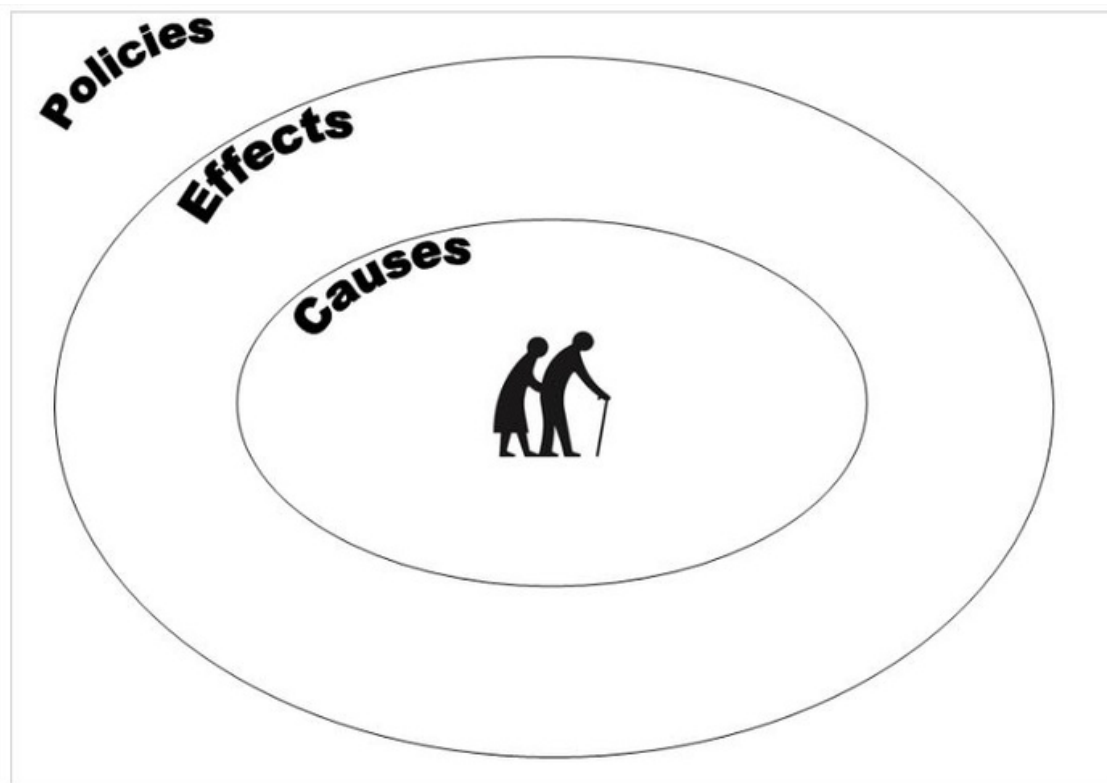


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**Learn** ➤ **Revise** ➤ **Test**

