



MEDEN SCHOOL

**Student Home Learning  
Revision Guide**

# Key Stage Three Homework Revision Strategy

When you complete homework in Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8, and 9), you will be using three revision strategies to help you remember and know more in your subjects. The three strategies are:

1. Flashcards
2. Look, say, cover, write, check
3. Self-quizzing – Brain Dump

Your subject teachers will model how to use each of the strategies, and you will practise them at home as part of a three-week revision cycle.

This guide explains how to use each strategy by following step-by-step guides. Keep this guide in your homework folder so you can use it to help you when completing homework revision.



# 1. Flash Cards



## Why flashcards?

Flash cards promote studying through active recall, which is one of the practices through which our brains learn most effectively.

Flash cards are a great way to put spaced repetition into action.



## Top tips

- 1 Creating your own revision cards will help to retrieve information.
- 2 Adding pictures to your flash cards will make them more memorable.
- 3 Use mnemonic devices to help you remember important points about your subject.
- 4 Stick to 5 -10 facts per card. It's important not to overload them with too much information.
- 5 When using your flash cards use them in both directions.
- 6 Recall the information out loud to aid memory retention.



## 2. Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check



### Why 'look, say, cover, write'?

This is a powerful learning strategy because it ensures knowledge is actively recalled once it has been read. Saying information out loud once it has been read helps the brain to remember it in future.

This strategy should be used frequently for information to transfer from the working memory to the long-term memory

### How to use it



**Look:** first look at the information from the flashcard that you need to revise.



**Say:** say the information out loud. Use different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.



**Cover:** cover the flashcard.



**Write:** write the information from memory, saying it as you do so.



**Check:** Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – look, say, cover, write, check.



# 3. Brain Dump

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## Why use brain dump?

This is a powerful learning strategy because it uses retrieval practice to ensure information is remembered.

Once you have learned new information using 'look, say, cover, write, check', you should use brain dump to repeat the process of remembering.



## How to brain dump

- 1 Take once glance at the topic on your flashcard. This should be a 3 second glance.
- 2 Using your whiteboard, write down as much as you can remember from your flashcard revision.
- 3 Check the information and fill in the missing gaps.
- 4 Repeat this for all flashcards.

# DOs and DON'Ts



- Use flash cards, 'look, say, cover, write, check' and self-quizzing regularly as part of your homework cycle.
- Mix up revision with different subjects – this makes it more secure in your long-term memory.
- Recall information from memory.
- It's okay if you find it difficult. Learning something new is challenging. Persevere!
- If you can't recall something, make sure you put it in the 'come back to' pile.
- Find different times to recall information using your revision cards. For example, you might ask your parents to quiz you at the dinner table!



- Avoid putting lots of information on one flash card - quality over quantity.
- Don't be tempted to look in your exercise book, flashcard or on the internet for the answer.
- Avoid going over the recommended twenty-minute time per subject – too much revision doesn't work as your brain becomes overloaded.
- Avoid all distractions when revising at home - set aside twenty minutes of quiet time.