

Supporting Learning Through Effective Revision.

“Whatever you think about, that’s what you remember. Memory is the residue of thought.”

Daniel Willingham

Techniques which have little impact on learning

- Highlighting texts
- Re-reading
- Summarising text

These popular techniques give a deceptive feeling of ‘doing’ but without requiring any of the cognitive processes needed for learning.

Techniques with evidence to support their effectiveness

1. Testing

- Flashcards with questions on one side, answers on the other
- Quiz with someone else
- Memorisation techniques such as mnemonics and knowledge organisers
- Create/take multiple choice quizzes
- Past papers

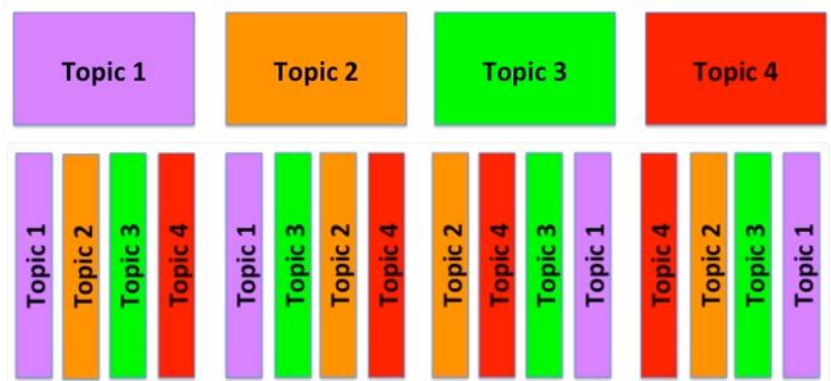
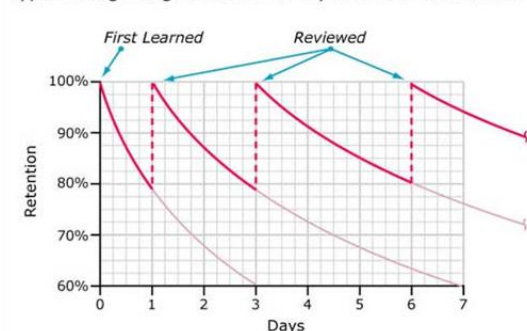
2. Interrogate and elaborate

- Ask how or why a concept/idea is true then answer that question

3. Interleaved and Spaced Practice

- Build in time for forgetting by spacing out practice which will lead to better remembering
- Chunk up topics rather than revising in blocks – include this in testing, mixing up questions from the current topic with questions from a previous topic

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



Source material: @shaun_allison

‘Make It Stick, The Science of Successful Learning’, Brown and Roediger