

## Revision tips from classics and history



It's examination season for the High School. It might seem like a stressful time but revising now will only help our pupils feel proud of what they achieve and enjoy life afterwards, knowing they've done their best. Revising can be tricky to master: what works for you? How do you get started? How do you prioritise your time? The answer isn't the same for everyone, but all too often pupils revise in a way that is more comfortable than effective. Perhaps some of the following might help more than just reading a textbook or making new notes all too similar to the old ones...

1. I've been helping pupils summarise the reigns of kings and queens. This approach works well after revising any topic. Pick ten or fifteen words that remind you of the topic. Next, see if you can describe the whole topic by just looking at them. Or hide them and get someone else to check which ones you mention as you describe it to them.
2. In Classical Civilisation I produced a deck of cards to summarise the adventures of Odysseus. We then shuffled these. Taking it in turns, we draw a card which had a single plot point on it, and then guessed whether the next card would happen before or after the current one. It was perfect to helping remember the whole plot and sort out chronology in our heads.
3. Bingo cards have some great play in revision. Sometimes I make them for my pupils as they produce some work and then hand them out to see how many things they included. Or the pupils can make their own before I show them a summary and can score for everything they included that matches with what I have. You can also make your own for a week of revision full of targets. It's great to motivate yourself by ticking them off.

### Ten-Minute Tasks

Speaking of motivation, some pupils really struggle to get started. I've been making ten-minute tasks to get them going. It also helps to revise in smaller, more frequent slots anyway. My A Level History class all have a timeline that they add to every day with a short task. It keeps growing and keeps them looking at it every day. My Classical Civilisation class get a

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quick task on key characters, events or themes, be it a quiz on Cato, or sorting through Cicero's techniques for giving speeches.

Enemy	Famous for...	Cause of Cicero's interests	Action by Cicero	Outcome
Verrus				
Clodius				
Mark Antony				
Catiline				
Gabinus				

As consul, he assisted the Tribune Clodius in his moves against Cicero

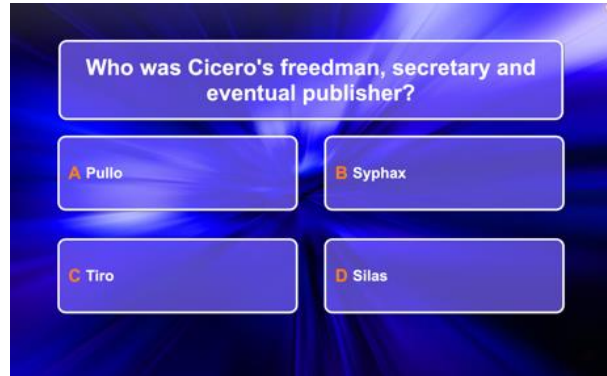
Governor who marched to Egypt without the senate's approval

Cicero's assumed the reputation in the Philippines

Cicero's second in command

Cicero testified against him in court

Cicero composed a letter



The most important thing is to find out what works for you. Don't stay comfortable, just be prepared to judge things based on results.

Mr Joshua Crosby