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 @rogershistory



## Welcome

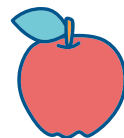
A "revision special"

**Panic Stations.** Its that time of year again for every red blooded teacher in the land - exam season. I'm no different here in Vigo, I have my IGCSE group primed for their 3 exams in May. I'm fortunate that its not even March and i'm on the verge of finishing the course with them, such are the curriculum niceties of the international circuit. Back in the UK, I was always struggling and ended up having to plough through content, often at the last minute. I fear that for many, that will be the case again.

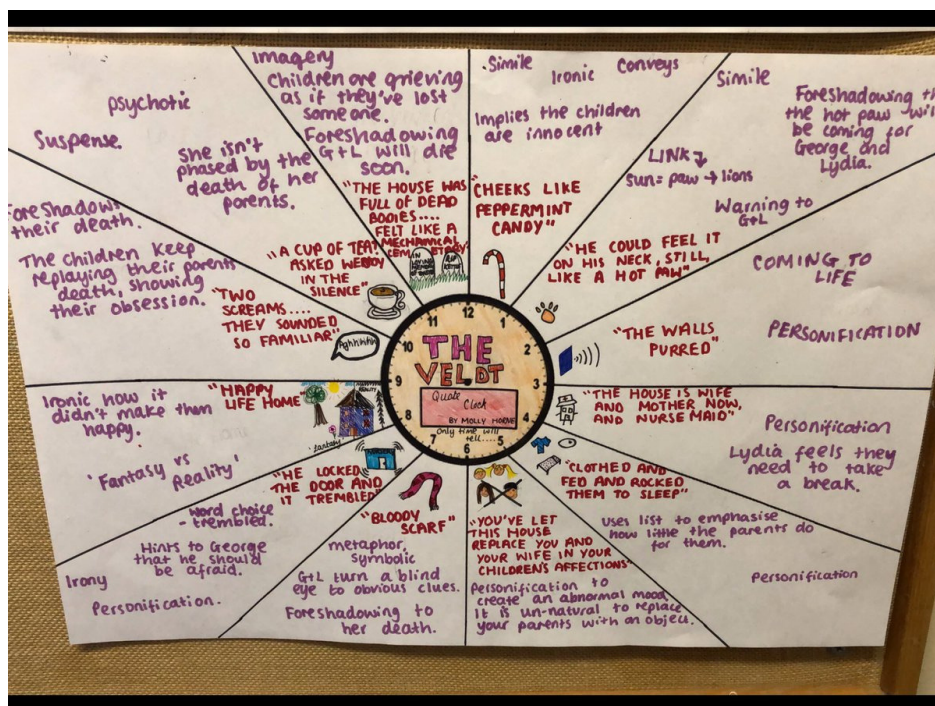
This edition of the edutwitter times is all about "revision", how can we support students in their revision activities? How can we ensure they spend their time wisely? How can we give them the best possible chance to succeed? I must admit, when I was at school, I wasn't entirely sure how to revise and this held me back. I do hope this edition supports you and your students.

Tom :)

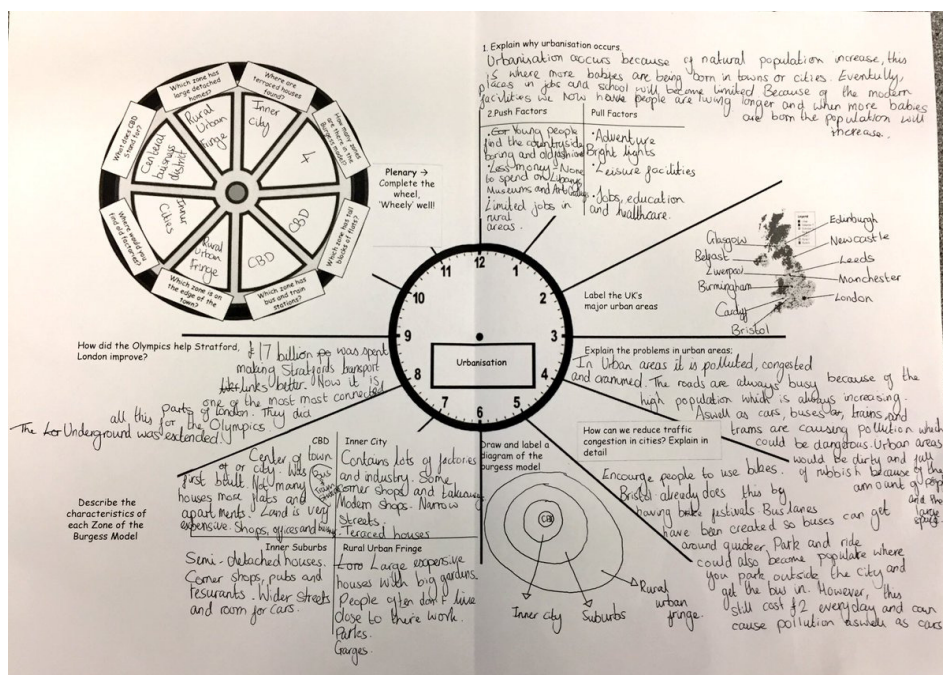
# The Revision Clock



It's that time of the year again when everyone is scrambling to cram content and students are starting to set up "revision timetables". This idea, whose original creator I'm not completely sure of, is superb. Students draw a clock in the centre of an A3 sheet and section it off. They then give themselves 5 minutes to revise each section and test themselves on it. Super simple, super brilliant.



QVS English Dept @qvseng



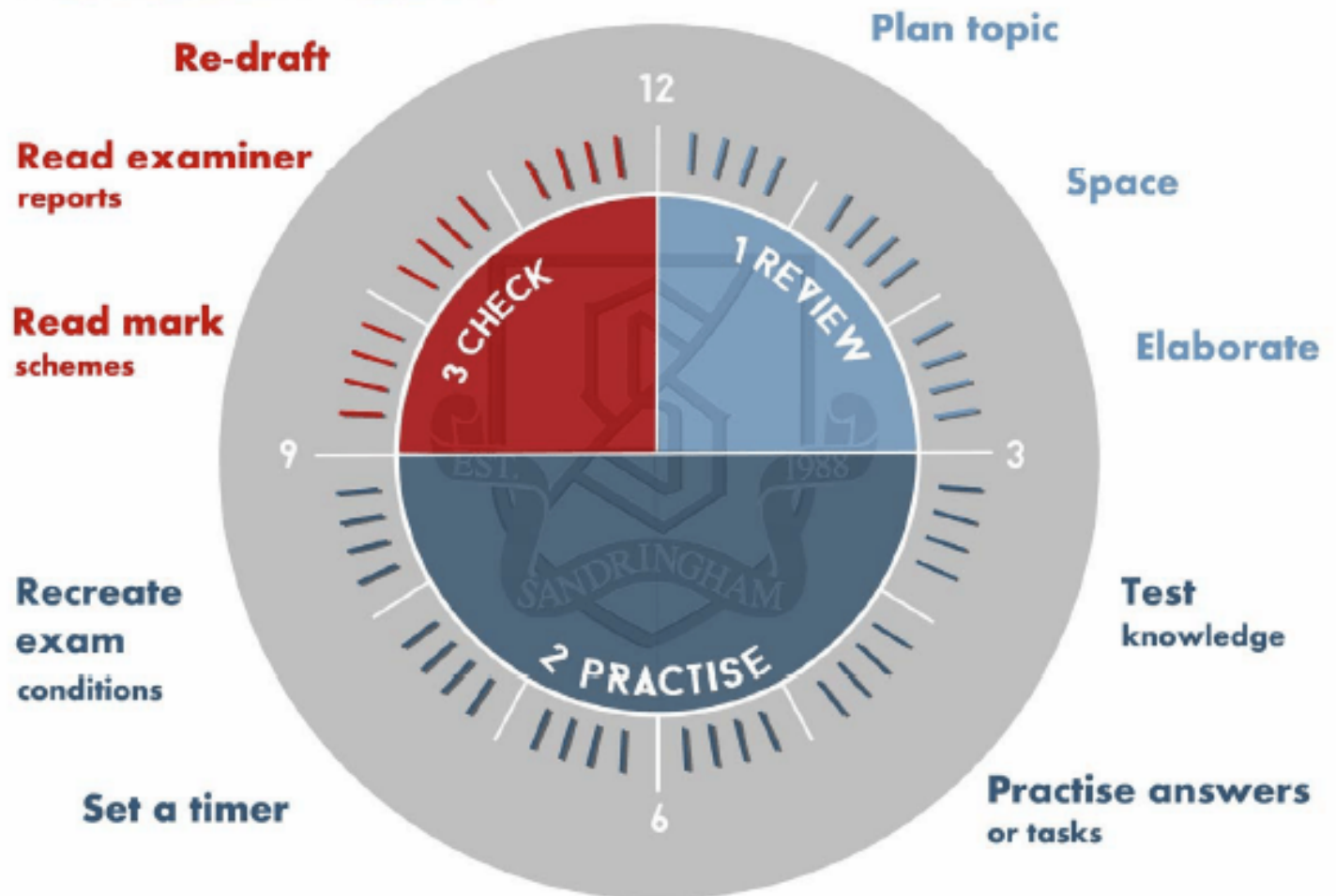
A great planning tool for a revision lesson for teachers too - for a one hour teaching session, this teacher @CMcGeog has asked students to complete different revision tasks within set times in the lesson.

# What to do when revising



A big conundrum for teachers everywhere is how to ensure students are doing the right thing when revising - this "memory clock" by **Caroline Creaby** at Sandringham School is an excellent framework. To download a full PDF with instructions for use, click **here**.

## THE MEMORY CLOCK

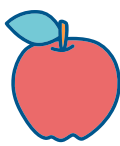


"**The Memory Clock** is an easy-to-learn revision routine designed to help students structure their time in such a way as to make revision focused and productive. "



Pete Sanderson has produced a special **revision toolkit** which is available to download here > <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/student-revision-toolbox-11027151>

# 10 Revision tips for students with SEND



**Jules Daulby**, teacher at the Driver Trust, recently shared 10 tips to support SEND students in their revision.

## 1. Break revision down into small steps

For pupils with SEND, we need to push the specificity of revision topic and instructions. Let's take the periodic table as an example: you might set the class the task of remembering a certain number of elements. For those with SEND, you might need to scaffold this further.

## 2. Visual prompts can be really useful

Ensure that a student with SEND have created lots of images, mind maps and spider diagrams to revise from. Not only is making these visual reminders useful for memory, but for those with SEND, they can be a comfort blanket to get through what for many feels like an ordeal.

## 3. Partnerships

Getting students to work in pairs can be very effective. We use flashcards created by our teaching assistants that pose questions and answers, so that students can quiz each other.

## 4. Never underestimate the power of song and rhythm

Making things into songs can be incredibly powerful. For example, learning the parts of the body for PE to the tune of Old MacDonald can work wonders, especially if actions are included.

## 5. Narrative is key

If students can attach a mental hook to something, they are more likely to remember it. A great way of doing this is to create a narrative around the topic.

## 6. Mnemonics are really useful

I still use the phrase "big elephants are ugly" so that I can spell "beautiful" correctly. These little verbal exercises are effective and engaging, particularly for those with SEND.

## 7. Active listening

As a class, the teacher reads out a section of text but has asked students to listen and feed back on one specific area. If reading Macbeth, for instance, give students different characters to listen out for, or if you are studying a poem, give out different words.

## 8. Decoding exam questions

I like to train the students to differentiate between the command words of a question and the subject-specific words. It's worth having two separate colours and getting students to highlight which are which. What should be left is extraneous carrier language that can be ignored.

## 9. Making connections

Some students, particularly with autism, might struggle to connect what the exam question is asking them to do with the subject knowledge they possess. Lots of practice contextualising and understanding the question will be required. Again, spider diagrams (linked to the decoding exercise above) may help the students to literally "see" the question and think around the topic.



# "Quick on the Draw"

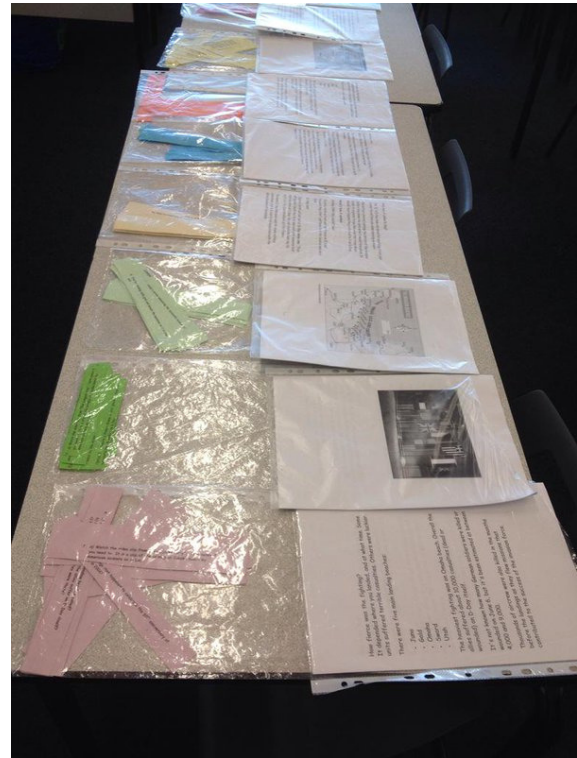


This activity is one i've used so many times over the years with great impact. It really does tick so many boxes with students and has so many variables.

1. Produce a set of 10+ questions based on a topic.

2. Ensure that the accompanying material to find the answers is of suitable challenge, forcing students to read, scan and skim the information effectively to find answers.

3. Split the room into groups of 2/3 (I rarely go for 4 because you do get "hangers on").



4. Each group of students is given their own colour coded set of questions (these stay at the front of class - see picture).



**Paul Ginnis**, the creator of this activity and certified legend, who sadly passed away in 2015.

5. Each group takes 1 question, goes to their group, tries to answer it. Once they have, they bring it to the teacher to check its correct, if it is, they can take another question.

6. The first team to complete all the questions "wins".

This activity is perfect for revision. Furthermore, it could be used at A Level, creating much more challenging tasks for each question that take longer.



# 3 must visit websites for teaching ideas



Here are 3 websites you just have to visit

## Try this Teaching



"Try this teaching" was created by **Amjad Ali**. The site captures many of the best teaching and learning ideas from around the web. The site features hundreds of ideas from across all curriculum areas and a useful search function allows users to find just what they are looking for.

[www.trythisteaching.com](http://www.trythisteaching.com)

## Lesson Toolbox



The lesson toolbox blog, curated by **Pete Sanderson**, is a fantastic resource for any teacher looking to find that little bit of inspiration. On the site, you'll find a host of freely downloadable templates and widgets, along with the brilliant section "I wish you taught my kids" where Pete has assembled some of his favourite ideas from the world of twitter into one page. Brilliant stuff.

[lesstoolbox.wordpress.com](http://lesstoolbox.wordpress.com)

## TES Resources



I know, I know, obvious isn't it. But it would be folly to overlook the most used website for teachers searching for ideas and resources in the UK. Recent updates to the site include subject specific areas, subject blogs and a tool "TES teach" which allows you to group resources together into a lesson plan. There's a lot more to the website than meets the eye.

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>

# Teaching and Learning

## On the horizon

Some of the most eye catching upcoming teaching and learning conferences



### TMHistoryIcons18



"This is a national event for History teachers from around Europe, It is by History teachers for History teachers and is completely free to attend!"

[@TMhistoryIcons](#)



17/03/18



FREE



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tmhistoryicons-2018-tickets-38008903654>

### ResearchED - Durrington

research  ED

"ResearchED at Blackpool Research School will bring a world-class conference with a fantastic line-up of speakers to the Fylde Coast for the first time. All are welcome: classroom teachers, school leaders, researchers, and anyone with an interest in education."

[Tom Bennett](#)



28/04/18



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<https://researched.org.uk/event/researched-durrington/>

### BMCE Maths



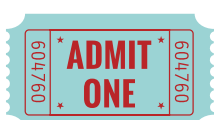
"BCME9 is an integrated programme of practitioner and research sessions in Mathematics Education under the auspices of the Joint Mathematical Council of the UK (JMC) that encourages delegates to engage in areas they are particularly at home with and in areas new to them, combined with engaging and stimulating workshop, discussion and plenary sessions."



03/04/18



varied



<http://www.bcme.org.uk/>





# "What they said"

## Tweets that made the ground shake



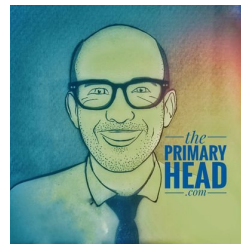
There's not a single book, event or person that has had more of an influence on my philosophy of education than becoming a parent. That, for me, changed everything.

Daryn Simon  
[@DarynSimon](#)



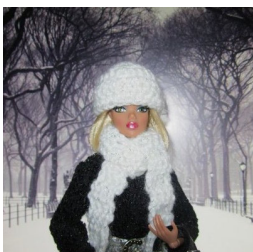
For the first time I'm considering adding a question to job interviews: who do you follow on Twitter?

The Primary head  
[@theprimaryhead](#)



Most teachers have difficulties with staple guns let alone actual ones.

Miss Smith  
[@HeyMissSmith](#)



I cannot understand the big uproar about testing. You give kids words to spell. If they can't spell 5 of them, you know you have to spend more time on those words. How else do you know what they don't know?? Reteach, retest. Hey presto they can spell all the words!

Katherine Birbalsingh  
[@Miss\\_Snuffy](#)

