



F13.8 Revision that works

Exam preparation · GCSE · about 15 min

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

What this lesson is about

Retrieval practice, spacing and interleaving, and a planner that schedules them.

- Three methods worth your time
- What to stop doing
- A plan you will actually follow
- Use what is already here
- The night before

Questions

5 marks in all

- Which revision method has the strongest evidence behind it? [1 mark]
☐ A Retrieval practice: testing yourself
☐ B Re-reading your notes
☐ C Highlighting
☐ D Copying out pages
- What is spacing? [1 mark]
☐ A Coming back to a topic days later, again and again
☐ B Leaving gaps in your notes
☐ C Revising one topic for a whole day
☐ D Taking breaks in a session
- Why does interleaving feel harder? [1 mark]
☐ A You must work out which method each question needs
☐ B It takes more hours
☐ C The topics are harder
☐ D There are more questions
- Re-reading notes feels effective. Why is it not? [1 mark]
☐ A Familiar is not the same as known
☐ B It takes too long
☐ C Notes are usually wrong
☐ D It only works for practical topics
- A topic is rated 2 for confidence. With sessions = 6 - confidence, how many sessions? [1 mark]

The task: build a revision plan

For each topic in `topics` (a name and a confidence from 1 to 5), the number of sessions is `6 - confidence`. Print `<name>: <n> sessions` for each, from the least confident to the most. Then spread them over the days in `days`, one session a day in turn, starting with the least confident topic, and print `<day>: <topic>` for each day. At the end print `sessions planned: <n>`, the number of days you filled, and `needs the most: <name>`, the topic needing the most sessions.

```
# the two lines every program starts with: the commands, then the robot
from bugbot import *
connect()

# name, confidence 1 to 5
topics = [("Networks", 2), ("Algorithms", 4), ("Cyber security", 3), ("Data
representation", 1)]
days = ["Mon", "Tue", "Wed", "Thu", "Fri", "Sat", "Sun"]
```

Plan your program here, then type it in and press Run.



Do it on the robot

www.bugbotlab.com/learn/f13-8-revision-that-works/

The simulator checks it and tells you when it passes. Nothing to install, no account.

Challenges

1. Change the plan so no topic appears two days running.
2. Add your own topics and confidences, and print a plan for the next fortnight.
3. Why does spacing work better than doing it all at once, even with the same total time?