Revision techniques

We all learn in different ways and if you’re going to be successful in your revision you need to work out the ways that work best for you. Remember that revision doesn’t have to be dull and last for hours at a time – but it is really important you do it! The highest grades are awarded to students who have consistently excellent subject knowledge and this only comes with solid revision.

Method 1: ‘Brain dumps’

These are particularly useful when done every so often – it’s never too early to start! Take a big piece of paper or even a whiteboard and write down everything you can remember about the topic you are revising, one of the units or even the whole History course. You could write down:

- dates
- names of key individuals
- key events
- important place names
- anything else you can remember.

Once you’re satisfied you can’t remember anymore, use different colours to highlight or underline the words in groups. For example, you might choose to underline all the mentions that relate to ideas about the cause of disease and illness in red and preventions and treatments in blue.

You could extend this task by comparing your brain dump with that of a friend. The next time you do it, try setting yourself a shorter time limit and see if you can write down more.

Method 2: Learning walks

Make use of your space! Write down key facts and place them around your home, where you will see them every day. Make an effort to read the facts whenever you walk past them.

Studies have shown that identifying certain facts with a certain place can help them stick in your mind. So, when you get into the exam room and you find you have a question on the introduction of the Bloody Code, you can close your eyes and picture that factsheet on your living room wall … what does it say?

Method 3: ‘Distilling’

Memory studies show that we retain information better if we revisit it regularly. This means that revising the information once is not necessarily going to help it stay in your brain. Going back over the facts at intervals of less than a week leads to the highest retention of facts.

To make this process streamlined, try ‘distilling’ your notes. Start by reading over the notes you’ve completed in class or in this revision guide; two days later, read over them again, and this time write down everything you didn’t remember. If you repeat this process enough you will end up with hardly any facts left to write down, because they will all be stored in your brain, ready for the exam!

Method 4: Using your downtime

There are always little pockets of time through the day which aren’t much good for anything: bus journeys, queues, ad breaks in TV programmes, waiting for the bath to run and so on. If you added all these minutes up it would probably amount to quite a lot of time, and it can be put to good use for revision.

Instead of having to carry around your notes, though, make use of something you carry around with you already. Most of us have a phone that can take pictures and record voice memos, or an iPod or something similar.

- Photograph key sections of this book and read over them.
- Record yourself reading information so that you can listen back over it – while you’re playing football, before you go to sleep, or any other time.
- Access the quizzes that go with this book at www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes
**Page 9: Identifying change and continuity**

**Changes**
- Forest laws
- Murdrum fine
- England possibly became safer
- Wergild was ended
- Established Church courts

**Both**
- Trial by combat (a new type of ordeal)

**Continuities**
- Majority of laws remained the same
- Tithings
- Hue and cry
- Local juries
- Trial by ordeal
- Used capital punishment for serious crimes and reoffenders

---

**Page 11: Organising knowledge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation in 1100</th>
<th>Changes made by kings</th>
<th>Continuities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No police force.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Still no police force.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tithings were organised to bring accused to court.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Continued use of tithings and hue and cry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hue and cry used to catch criminals.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trials</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal courts for serious cases. Manor courts for others.</td>
<td>Trial by ordeal abolished in 1215.</td>
<td>Relied on local juries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local juries decided guilt or innocence.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Still used manor courts for most cases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If jury could not decide then ordeal was used – God was judge.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Royal judges travelled around to hear serious cases in royal courts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More lenient Church courts used for clergy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Punishments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Normans ended wergild and fines were paid to king.</td>
<td>Increased use of capital and corporal punishment to deter criminals.</td>
<td>Most punishments were fines paid to the king’s officials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious crimes and reoffenders were punished by death.</td>
<td>Use of public humiliations such as stocks and pillories.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Page 13: Eliminate irrelevance

During the medieval period, the Church had great power and authority. England was a very religious society and the overwhelming majority of people, including monarchs, took the teachings of the Catholic Church very seriously indeed. One way the Church and religious ideas hindered justice was through the use of trial by ordeal. This was used if a local jury was unable to reach a verdict. There were four different types of trial by ordeal. These were trial by hot iron, trial by hot water, trial by cold water and trial by consecrated bread. Trial by cold water was usually taken by men. The accused was tied with a knot above the waist and lowered into the water on the end of a rope. If the accused sank below God’s ‘pure water’ then he was judged innocent. If the accused floated, then he had been ‘rejected’ by the pure water and was guilty. The idea behind trial by ordeal was that God would help to judge guilt or innocence through sending a sign such as the accused sinking in trial by cold water. However, this sign was more based more on luck than actual guilt or innocence and so the guilty might go free while the innocent were punished.

Secondly, if a criminal on the run reached a church they could claim sanctuary. This put them under the protection of the Church. Even the county sheriff could not remove them. The criminal then had 40 days to face trial or leave England. Those who chose to leave had to walk, barefoot and carrying a wooden cross, to the nearest port to board the first ship overseas. This meant even criminals who had committed serious crimes could escape justice altogether.

Thirdly, benefit of the clergy hindered justice because members of the Church were treated differently to the rest of society and faced more lenient punishments. It was only intended for priests but even gravediggers and doorkeepers claimed the right to be tried in Church courts. Furthermore, some criminals exploited this by learning the neck verse by heart and therefore avoided manor or royal courts.

Page 17: Analysing factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Influence on vagabondage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Church.</td>
<td>The Bible taught that ‘the Devil makes work for idle hands’. Therefore, people believed that those not working might turn to crime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government.</td>
<td>Often used harsh punishments to deter. Between 1531 and 1598, a series of Vagrancy Acts were introduced. Vagabonds were whipped, mutilated and, in certain years, executed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitudes in society.</td>
<td>There was fear that vagabonds formed organised criminal gangs and even spoke their own secret language to plan their crimes. They were regarded as undeserving of help. The better off members of the community already paid poor rates to support the poor in their own parish. They did not want to pay extra to support poor people from other areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and technology.</td>
<td>Printing helped spread certain ideas and increased fear of vagabonds who were portrayed as marauding bands of professional criminals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Page 19: Making comparisons

The second paragraph is the better answer. The first answer only identifies a similarity but this is not developed or supported. The second answer identifies the similarity and then goes on to support it with specific factual detail from both periods. This is shown below in italics:

Both the middle ages and the seventeenth century sometimes used a form of trial by cold water. In the middle ages the accused was tied with a knot above their waist and lowered into the water on the end of a rope. During the seventeenth century, the ‘swimming’ test was used in cases of witchcraft to decide whether the accused was guilty. It was believed the innocent would sink and the guilty would float. If they floated, the accused would be examined for the ‘Devil’s marks’ as a final proof of witchcraft.

Page 21: Change and continuity spectrum

Trials. JPs became much more important, especially at Quarter Sessions where they had the power to sentence criminals to death. The end of benefit of the clergy meant that all accused criminals faced the same trials and punishments. Habeas Corpus went some way to protecting people from unlawful arrest and imprisonment.

Policing. Most existing methods of policing remained unchanged and responsibility still remained firmly with the local community. Watchmen were introduced but were of little effectiveness. Rewards were offered for particular criminals but it was still the duty of ordinary people to enforce the law.

Page 23: Change and continuity spectrum

Punishments. The Bloody Code greatly increased the number of crimes carrying the death penalty. Even minor crimes could be punished by execution. Transportation was used for the first time in this period. However, traditional types of corporal punishment such as whipping remained in use as did the public humiliations of stocks and pillories.

One could argue that trials and punishment changed more than policing in this period. The big continuity in policing was the absence of a police force and the continued reliance on the efforts of the local community.

Page 23: You’re the examiner

This answer is a good start but would likely only achieve a level 2 because the analysis is limited to just one reason. It does support the reason with precise details but the candidate needs to include two further reasons to reach the upper levels of the mark scheme. See below:

Secondly, the Bloody Code was introduced because of the attitudes of landowners. They feared the poorest in society as a threat to their property and privileges. Landowners believed that only very harsh punishments would keep the poor in their place. They were well placed to change the law as the government was made
up of wealthy landowners who introduced the laws that became known as the bloody code.

These attitudes were likely influenced by growing fears of increased crime. These fears were partly the result of cheaply available pamphlets which carried lurid stories of crimes such as vagabondage. This helped to create the impression that crime was spiralling out of control, especially among the poor, and that harsher punishments were needed to deal with this.

### Page 25: Analysing factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Highway robbery</th>
<th>Poaching</th>
<th>Smuggling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The role of individuals.</td>
<td>Declined because the Fielding brothers set up patrols around London.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Church and religious ideas.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of government.</td>
<td>Government regarded highway robbery as a serious threat to trade and business. Used harsh punishments against robbers. Local governments closed down inns and taverns frequented by highwaymen.</td>
<td>MPs made laws to protect the land and privileges of wealthy landowners so punishments for poachers were harsh.</td>
<td>Harsh punishments used against smugglers. Government regarded smuggling as a disruption to trade and a drain on tax revenue. There was no police force and local constables did not track criminals across counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitudes in society.</td>
<td>The public greatly feared highway robbers.</td>
<td>Public saw poaching as a social crime. People in the countryside regarded poaching as an age-old right. Hated gamekeepers and regarded laws as unfair. Witnesses often lied in court to protect poachers.</td>
<td>Public saw smuggling as a social crime. People usually turned a blind eye to poaching and welcomed cheaper luxury goods as a result.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and technology.</td>
<td>Robbers benefited from easier to use handguns. Improved road surfaces led to faster and more frequent coaches that were harder to rob.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty and wealth.</td>
<td>After wars ended, demobilised soldiers struggled to find honest ways to make a living. As the number of banks grew, travellers had less need to carry cash.</td>
<td>Low wages in the countryside meant poaching was a useful way to supplement low incomes.</td>
<td>People in coastal areas welcomed chance to earn extra money to supplement low incomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel.</td>
<td>More people were travelling in their own coaches created opportunities for robbers. Growth of stagecoaches led to a decline in robberies.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
<td>Faster and more manoeuvrable ships made smuggling easier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns.</td>
<td>Lonely areas outside of towns created opportunities for ambush.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
<td>N/A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Page 27: Eliminate irrelevance

The Tolpuddle Martyrs were six agricultural labourers from the small Dorset village of Topuddle. Their wages had fallen and in 1833 were cut even further. Therefore, the six men set up a union, the Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers. Each man was blindfolded and swore an oath of secrecy and support for the union. The men were arrested using a law against secret oaths and were sentenced to seven years transportation in Australia. This was intended to deter other workers from organising themselves with trades union as this was seen as a threat to the interests of landowners and employers. Unlike landowners and employers, ordinary working men were unable to vote and so their interests were less important.

The government were fearful about the possible effects of working people organising themselves. They were keen to avoid any unrest or protest after watching the events of the French Revolution in which the French monarchy had been executed and the government overthrown.

Page 29: Making comparisons

The first paragraph is the better answer. The second answer only identifies a difference but this is not developed or supported. The first answer identifies the difference and then goes on to support it with specific factual detail from both periods. This is shown below in italics:

Policing in England c.1500–c.1700 used methods such as the constable and the hue and cry. These were based around the local community working together to catch criminals. Moreover, constables were unpaid and part time. By the nineteenth century things had changed and in 1829 the government set up and paid for the first ever police force in London. It was now the job of the police to catch criminals.
Science and technology
- Pentonville prison was built using the latest technology and architectural design so that prisoners were more effectively isolated from one another.

Attitudes in society
- Changes to prisons tended to reflect the public debate over whether prisons should reform inmates or simply provide as harsh a deterrent as possible.

The Church
- Those individuals who wanted prison reform were often motivated by their religious beliefs. For example, Elizabeth Fry was a Quaker and believed that all people had the potential to be reformed, no matter what crime they had committed. Therefore, she and other reformers argued that prisons needed to provide religious instruction.

Individuals
- Peel pushed through the reforms of the 1823 Gaols Act but was himself heavily influenced by the ideas of Fry and Howard. These ideas influenced the treatment of female prisoners and the separation of different types of prisoner. They also influenced the improvements to the conditions of prisons, particularly accommodation, diet and the need to pay warders.

Government
- The government collected higher taxes, which it used to take over and improve private prisons and implement the 1823 Gaols Act. The quality of prison warders improved because they could be properly paid and no longer charged prisoners. Extra revenue from taxation was later used to construct expensive new prisons such as Pentonville. Without this extra money from taxation, the government would have been unable to take over the running of the country’s prisons.
Page 33: Change and continuity

Old crimes continued
- Petty theft
- Violent crime
- Murder

Old crimes in a new form
- Computer fraud
- Shoplifting
- Sexual offences
- Terrorism
- Drug smuggling

New crimes
- Driving without a licence
- Car theft
- Computer hacking
- Hate crime
- Conscientious objectors
- People trafficking

Page 33: Analysing factors

The two factors that have probably had the biggest influence on crime in the twentieth century are science and technology and government.

New technologies such as the motorcar and computers have created new crimes and changed the nature of others. For example, hacking is a new crime that could not exist were it not for the invention of computers. However, fraud has always existed but computers have created new methods and opportunities for the fraudsters to steal money.

Government has had to respond quickly and change definitions of crime in order to keep up. A good example is the 1930s when the government had to change the law to cover a range of driving offences.

Page 39: You’re the examiner

This answer would likely get 2 marks out of the 4 on offer. It identifies and develops one feature of work in Whitechapel.

To achieve 4 marks the candidate needs to identify and develop a second feature. See below:

Furthermore, others worked as labourers in railway construction or on the London docks. However, the amount of paid work varied from day to day and many families could not rely on a steady income.

Page 39: Spot the mistakes

The Peabody Estates were opened in 1881 to replace the rookeries near Royal Mint Avenue Street. The flats offered improved ventilation, lice free walls and proper shared bathrooms and kitchens. The rents were too high for most locals and those who could not keep up with their payments were thrown out. This reduced increased overcrowding in other areas.
**Page 41: Utility question**

Answer 2 is the much better answer. This is because the candidate clearly makes a judgement on the value of the context of the source and uses their own knowledge to support this judgement. They also take the provenance of the source into consideration when making a judgement on its utility. See below:

*Source A* is useful because it tells us about some of the activities of revolutionary groups of immigrants in Whitechapel. From my own knowledge, I know these groups were feared by the authorities who thought they caused unrest, strikes and even possible revolution. Secondly, it mentions the police not understanding the language used in the bills and circulars. I know that this relates to Yiddish, a language spoken by Jewish immigrants. This is useful because I know that language barriers made it harder for some Jews to integrate with the wider community in Whitechapel. The fact that *Source A* is a letter to the Home Secretary suggests that the activities of such groups were taken seriously by the government.

*Source B* is useful because it shows us that immigrants in Whitechapel were seen as rough sorts by some. This reflects what I know about attitudes towards immigrants, especially Irish navvies, who had a reputation for drunkenness and violence. However, it comes from a popular newsheet that was produced to sell copies and entertain its readers. It might be exaggerating the roughness of immigrants for effect and may not accurately reflect what how people living in Whitechapel felt towards them.

**Page 43: Organising knowledge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature of Whitechapel</th>
<th>Possible resultant crimes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rookeries and lodging houses.</td>
<td>Petty theft; domestic violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems caused by alcohol.</td>
<td>Drunk and disorderly conduct; petty theft; domestic violence; sexual offences; murder; assault.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostitution.</td>
<td>Petty theft; sexual offences; murder; assault.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangs and protection rackets.</td>
<td>Extortion; assault.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration.</td>
<td>Assault; extortion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Page 45: Eliminate irrelevance**

The Metropolitan Police was split up into different ‘divisions’—each was responsible for policing a different area of London. Most officers in each division were beat constables who were an obvious presence on the streets. Recruits usually came from the countryside because they were thought to be strong and healthy enough to walk a beat and arrest criminals. They carried truncheons and handcuffs to help them in their daily duties and wore a noticeable blue uniform. Furthermore, policing offered the chance of a decent career and steady employment. Those who stayed in the force could expect a pension and good chances of promotion. Unlike other police forces, the Metropolitan Police were under the direct control of the Home Secretary.
Page 47: Spot the mistakes

Newspapers respected undermined police efforts to catch the killer. Attention grabbing newspaper stories resulted in nearly 300 hoax letters being sent to the press and the police, from men claiming to be the Ripper and this helped hindered the investigation. Secondly, the papers also printed their own unofficial sketches of rumoured suspects. These tended to be ‘foreign’-looking. This further increased tension towards immigrants, especially the Irish Jews, even further.