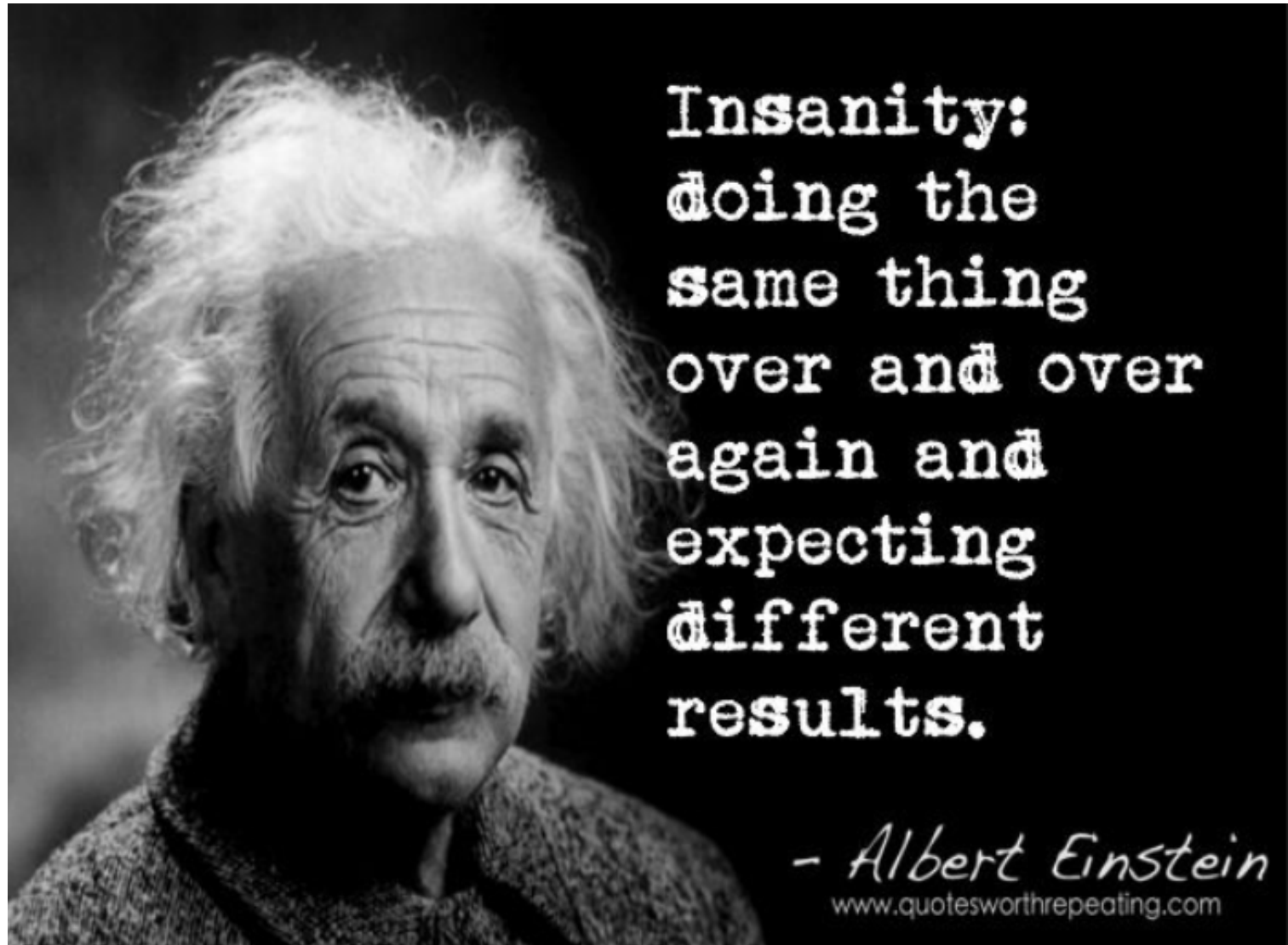


GCSES | How hard can
they be?

What
do
you
want?

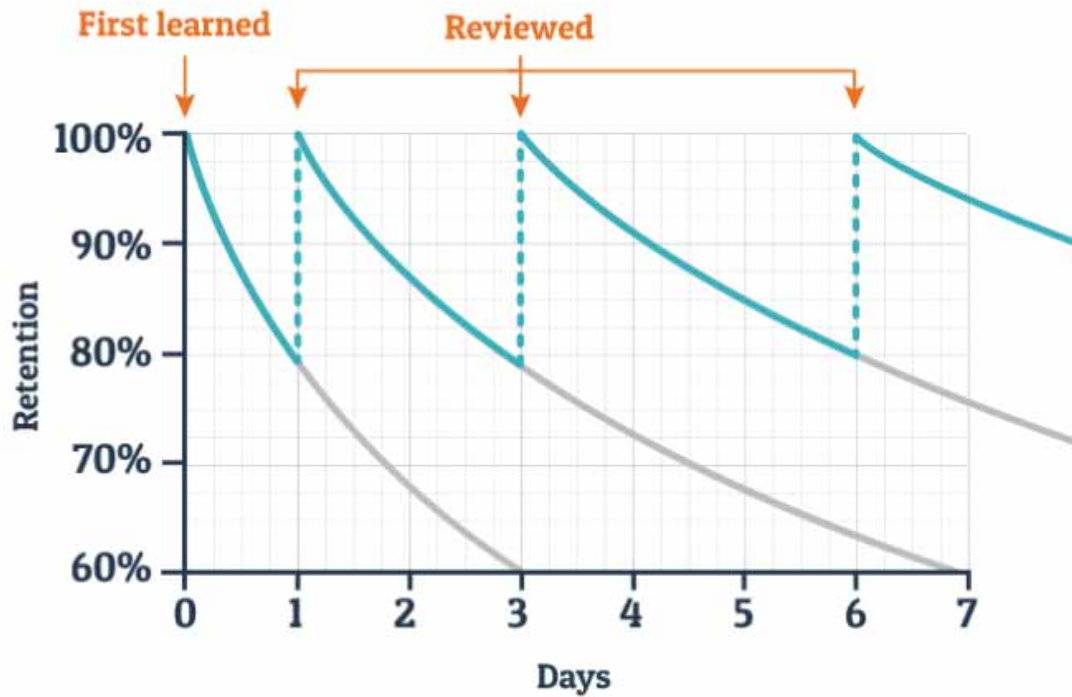


Insanity:
doing the
same thing
over and over
again and
expecting
different
results.

- Albert Einstein
www.quotesworthrepeating.com

EBBINGHAUS AND THE FORGETTING CURVE

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



REVISION – A BIT ABOUT SPACED LEARNING

- You will forget at least some of what you learned if you do not review it.
- Reviewing something around three times, with gaps between the reviews, will dramatically reduce your chance of forgetting it.
- You can do this yourself with your resources or use an app – lots available (Tiny Cards is one of them and Memrise / Quizlet “Learn” work in a similar way)

ADVICE FROM YOUR TEACHERS

- Don't be passive in lessons.
- You can only revise what you understand, and may need to prioritise. Ask teachers for advice on this at your level.
- End each revision session on a high – makes you okay about returning to it.
- Focus on one topic at a time.
- Practice makes permanent.

GETTING STARTED – PLAN TILL THE EXAMS

- Make a revision plan that is realistic. Make allowances for regular commitments.
- Schedule subjects for certain days to give you a focus – you can always be flexible.
- Make sure you have the right stationery – folders, dividers, pens, pencils, highlighters etc.
- Do you have checklists for your subjects? Ask teachers for them.
- Get hold of ways to practise – past papers, study workbooks.
- Clear your desk and keep it that way!

Google "AQA English language GCSE"

GCSE English Language

Teaching from: September 2015

Exams from: June 2017

Specification code: 8700

QAN code: 601/4292/3

Our specification is designed to inspire and motivate your students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all students.

It enables your students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.

We've developed two equally-balanced papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way.

[Specification >](#)

[Specification at a glance >](#)

[Sample papers and mark schemes >](#)



[Download specification](#)

GETTING STARTED – NOW WHAT?

- Get a drink and a snack if you need them.
- Have clear and specific goals for each revision session.
- Sit down and do the first five minutes – it is usually enough to get you into the zone.
- Work on reducing your notes to a single A4 page for each exam by the night before.
- Take a break to move and get some fresh air after 45 minutes.
- If you get distracted by something else you need to do, write it down and do it when you have finished.
- Don't get it, despite trying as hard as you can? Maybe it doesn't matter – talk to your teacher if you are unsure.
- Consider using an app such as Forest (£1.99 iPhone, free on Google Play) or Flora (free, with in app purchases) to keep away from your phone.

FOREST



Put down your phone and focus on what's more important in your life



Whenever you want to focus, plant a tree.



The tree will grow in the following time.



The tree will be killed if you leave this app.

REVISION – WHAT AND WHEN?

- Revision happens in stages – only over time can you effectively revise.
- By February half term – have your Year 10 work made into revision resources.
- By Easter – have your Year 11 work sorted.

THE STAGES OF REVISION

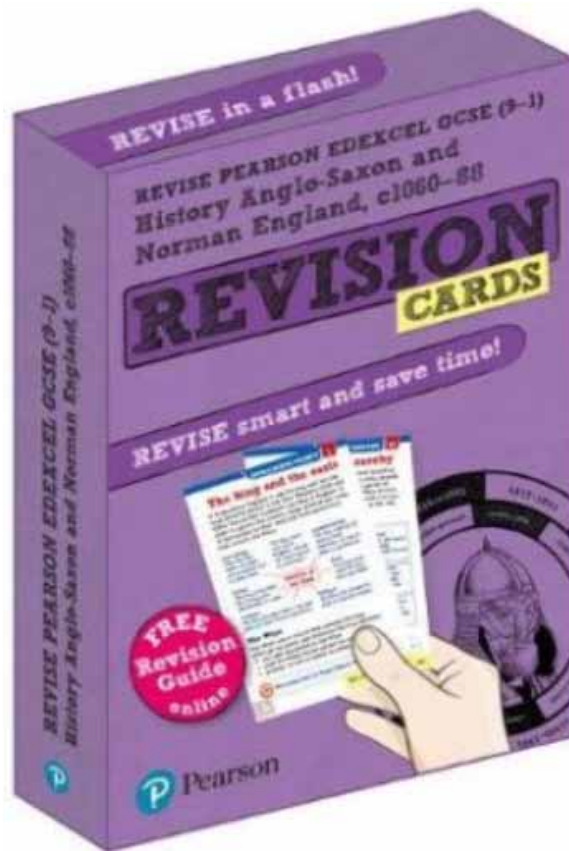
PREPARE

LEARN

APPLY

REVISION – MAKING RESOURCES (PREPARE)

- FIRST – make notes. See teachers/friends or research anything you know you need to understand but don't yet.
- THEN – make them into resources that YOU can revise from – this IS revision – don't skip this bit!
- FROM THIS POINT: Use spaced learning to revise from them.



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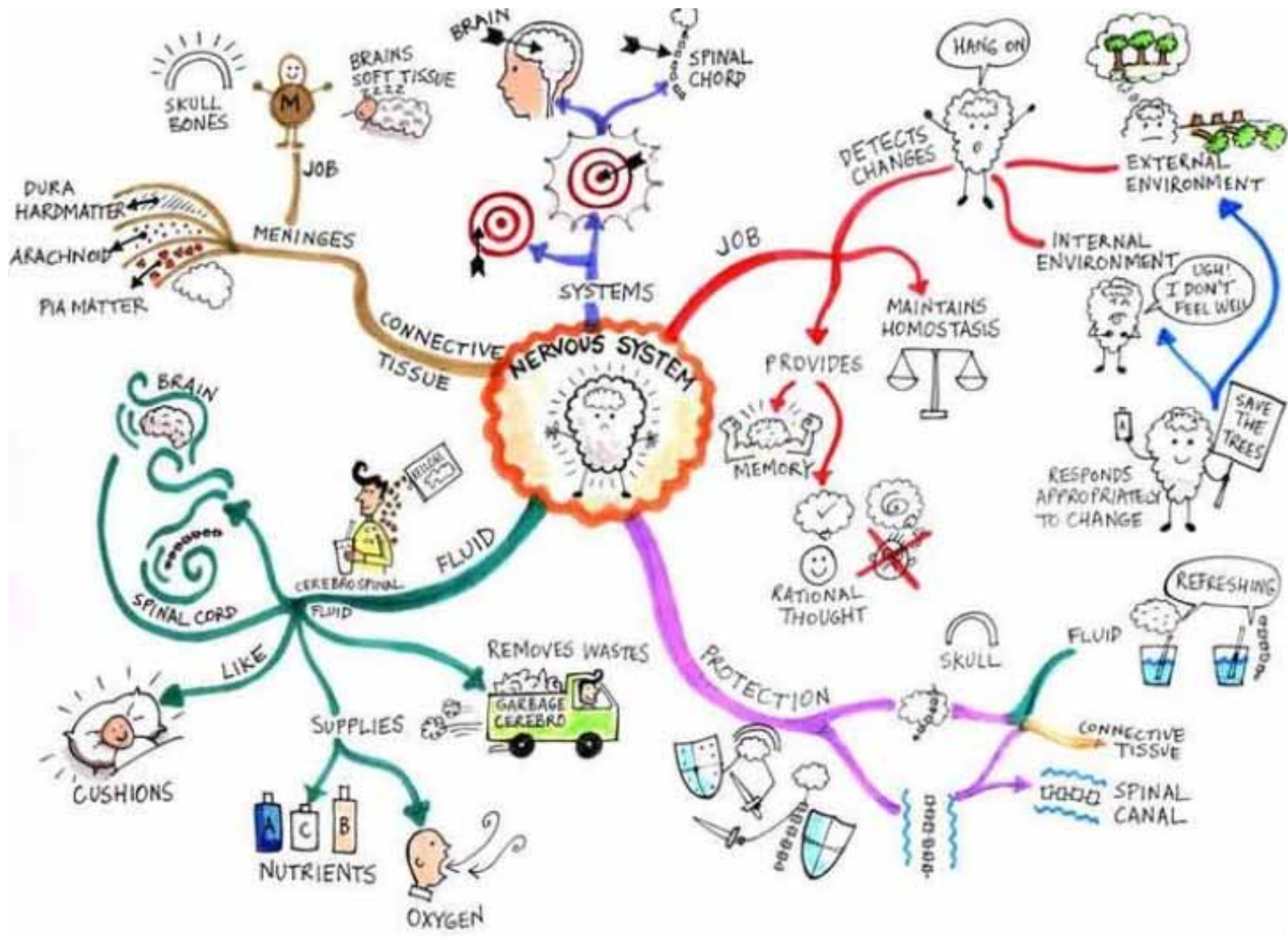


REVISION – USING CARDS (LEARN)

- These vary in style – Q/A, bullet points, one or double-sided.
- DO NOT WASTE TIME revising what you know – if you knew it easily, put it to the back of the pack – if not, visit it again promptly.
- Great for getting people to test you – if they can also read them!

MIND MAPS – WHY AND HOW? (PREPARE)

- Can be fun to make, interesting to look at and support visual memory.
- How? – Use colour, words and pictures, large pieces of paper (landscape). Make lines thick to thin.
- Don't use a computer for any resources unless you will also be using one in the exam.
- Stick them somewhere you will look often.



FINAL STAGE – APPLY YOUR LEARNING

- You will get plenty of opportunities to practise exam style questions in lessons and revision sessions, especially in Year 11.
- Use past papers and revision workbooks – tackle the stuff you find the hardest (at your level)
- Get to know the mark schemes and command words for each subject.
- Teach someone what you know!

A BIT ABOUT COMMAND/KEY WORDS

These are different for each subject. FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY MEAN.

Examples:

- Tech/Science/Psychology – evaluate
- BEE – justify
- English – analyse
- Media – connotations
- RS - explain

A BIT ABOUT MARK SCHEMES

- What are the marks given for? FIND OUT!
- Examples:
- Languages – marks for content/range/accuracy of language
- Geography – 9 mark questions require a conclusion
- Maths – 4 marks – 1 for the answer and 3 for the working
- English – 16 marks – compare attitudes towards X – 4 points, each with a comparison of the two.
- History – 4 marks (about a source) – describe and put it in context as well as answer the question.

DURING THE EXAMS.....

- Keep a good routine.
- Don't discuss exams before or after.
- Stay in the moment.
- Find ways to reduce anxiety if you have it – rinsing hands under cold water, box breathing (in for 4, hold for 8, out for 4), focus on senses can all help.
- Done it? Forget it!

**Answer the
question!**

Focus on what
you **CAN** do.

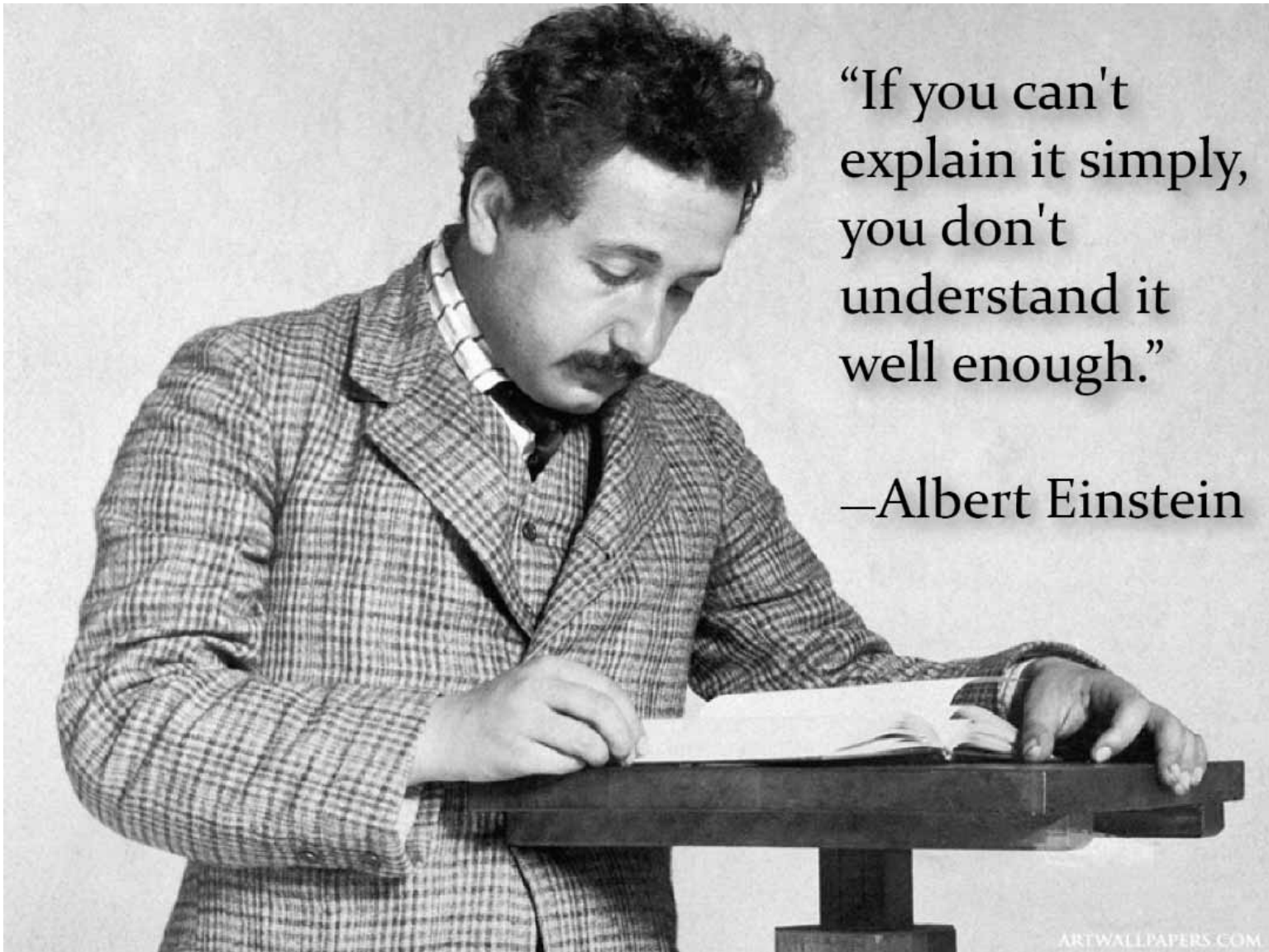
Beware of
making silly
mistakes

ADVICE FROM LAST YEAR'S PUPILS

- Start revising as soon as possible. Don't listen to people who say they're not doing any – they may say that, but most of them are not telling the truth.
- Make sure you work extra hard in those subjects you want to continue with, but don't neglect the others. Do everything you can to avoid retakes in English and Maths at college!
- Don't panic – you still have plenty of time to figure out the stuff you don't know.
- Figure out how best to revise for different subjects – it won't be the same for every subject.
- Find people to revise with – a supportive study partner/group can really help.

ADVICE FROM LAST YEAR'S PUPILS

- Go to revision classes – sometimes a different teacher to your regular teacher can really help.
- Relax! (But be organised)
- Ask teachers for help with specific things you don't understand (figure out what they are first!)
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes.
- Focus on getting enough rest and “getting through” those intensive exam weeks. Don't count on the time you have just before an exam – it could be that not much goes in.



“If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough.”

—Albert Einstein

THE FEYNMAN TECHNIQUE

Choose a concept you want to learn about.

Pretend you are teaching it to a pupil in Year 7 (or actually do this!)

Identify gaps in your explanation; Go back to the source material, to better understand it.

Review and simplify (optional)

LOOKING FOR 8S AND 9S?

Come to the Hall on Friday at 3.30pm
this week, 24th January.

I will be diving into the ways you can
become a great learner and get great
results 😊