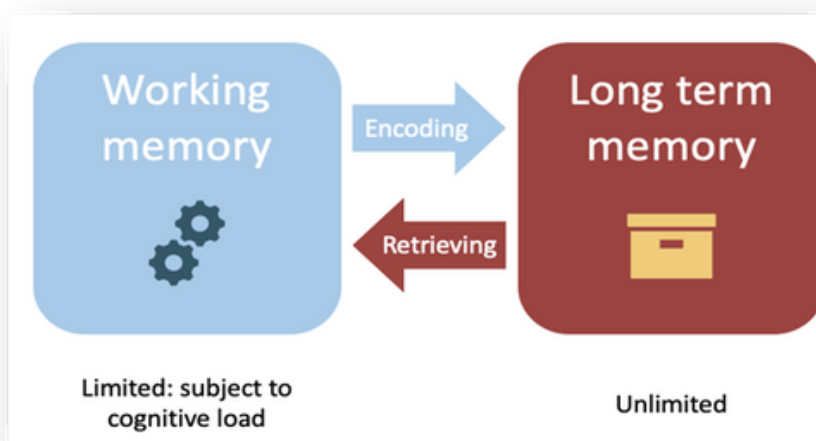


Quality of Education Update

To ensure our students reach their full potential, this half term we have introduced key learning strategies focused on retrieval practice and exam preparation.

Research shows that retrieval practice—the process of actively recalling information significantly improves long-term memory and academic performance. For all students and particularly GCSE students, this skill is crucial, as exams require them to recall knowledge from multiple topics, often studied months or even years earlier. By embedding retrieval techniques into daily learning, students strengthen their ability to retain knowledge, recall it under pressure, and apply it effectively in their exams. Retrieval is widely recognised as one of the most powerful learning strategies, proven to reduce forgetting and increase confidence when tackling exam questions.

To enhance our students' retention and retrieval levels, we are introducing the following key initiatives:



Experts of Recall

Starting from 24 February 2025, we have implemented weekly 'Experts of Recall' quizzes across all subjects. These quizzes consist of 1-4 questions, increasing in complexity, and are designed to reinforce students' knowledge by regularly revisiting previously covered material. This practice not only helps in identifying and addressing knowledge gaps but also strengthens memory retention, leading to better academic performance.

'Recall it All' and 40-Minute Mock Exams

Beginning in the current half-term, we have introduced 'Recall it All' sessions for Key Stage 3 and 40-minute mock exams for Key Stage 4 students. These assessments occur at least six times per academic year and encompass 8-16 questions that mirror the format of final examinations. The purpose is to provide students with a realistic exam experience, enhance their test-taking skills, and reduce anxiety associated with high-stakes testing.




Why increase levels of retrieval?


By implementing regular retrieval practices such as quizzes and mock exams, we aim to improve knowledge retention and ensure that students are better prepared for their final assessments.

Research indicates that retrieval practice is a highly effective learning strategy, leading to improved long-term retention and academic success. files.ofsted.gov.uk/ck12l-wustl.edu+1aasa.org+1
We believe that these initiatives will not only enhance our students' learning experience but also contribute significantly to their academic success. We appreciate your continued support in our efforts to provide the best education for your children.

Examples



Experts of Recall



Key Stage 3 (15mins)

Q1: What is an ecosystem? (1 mark)

Q2: What is the difference between living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) things in an ecosystem? Give one example of each. (2 marks)

Q3: What is a biome? Name three big biomes found on Earth. (3 marks)


Q4: Describe the temperate deciduous forest biome. What is the weather like? What kinds of plants and animals live there? How does it change in different seasons? (4 marks)

Key Stage 4 (15mins)


Q1: Explain two different ways parts of the world can be classified using economic and social indicators. Give examples to support your answer. (5 marks)

Q2: Discuss the limitations of using a single indicator, such as GDP or literacy rate, to measure development. Why is it better to use multiple indicators? (5 marks)

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KS3 - Recall it all



Q1 - What is the chemical symbol for oxygen?

Q2 - Which planet is known as the 'Red Planet'?

Q3 - What do we call the process by which plants make their own food using sunlight?

Q4 - Describe what happens when a solid is heated.

Q5 - What is the difference between a physical and a chemical change?

Q6 - Explain the role of the diaphragm in breathing.

Q7 - What is the water cycle and why is it important?

Q8 - Explain how the structure of a leaf is adapted for photosynthesis.

Q9 - Describe the particle model of matter and explain how it changes during the processes of melting and freezing.

Q10 - What are the different states of matter? Describe each state and explain how the particles are arranged in each.

Q11 - Explain the difference between an electrical conductor and an insulator and provide examples of each.

KS4 - 40 Minute Mock

Answer **one** question.

Question 1
Compare how **power** is presented in **Ozymandias** and **one other poem** from the anthology.

Question 2
Compare how **the effects of conflict** are explored in **Remains** and **one other poem** from the anthology.

In your response, you should:

- Compare the ideas and attitudes in both poems.
- Analyse how the poets use language, form, and structure to present power.
- Consider relevant contexts of both poems.

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