Djanogly

City Academy Sixth Form

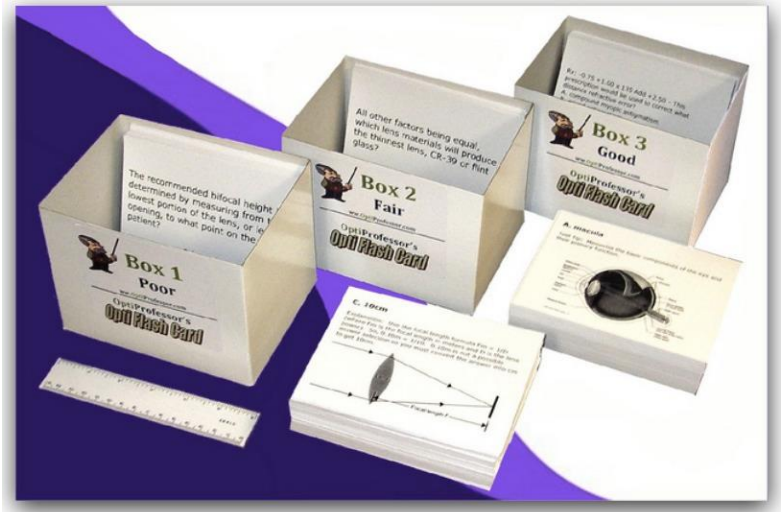
Sixth Form Revision Techniques – The Leitner Box (flash cards)

"Simply telling them to work harder rarely has the desired effect…."

Flash Cards

The Leitner Box System

This is an effective and easy to develop practice and recall system using flash cards to encourage **focused and purposeful practice**



How to produce Flash Cards

1. **On one side of the card write the KEY QUESTION.**

2. **On the reverse of the card, add the KEY POINTS, DIAGRAMS or MIND MAP with the answers (but don't write lots of text).**

3. **When revising, answer the key questions WITHOUT looking at the answer. Write or say your answers out loud.**

4. **Check your answer against the flash card. Write down the points you missed out.**



Using the Leitner Box system

AIM: to force you out of your comfortable learning of familiar information, into a much more challenging place.

To do this, you are need to categorise your flash cards so that you can self assess your understanding – this makes you more critical.



Leitner Box Labels

In box 1

- Items for frequent practice
- Stuff you are not remembering well

- When you score a victory and fully recall a card, you **move it to Box2**

You spend around 40% of your time revising these cards

Leitner Box Labels

In Box 2

- The stuff you've only just moved out of **Box 1**
- Or learning that still trips you up

- This material should be moving up if you've nailed it, or down if you you're not remembering it **fairly regularly**

You spend around 30% of your time revising these cards

Leitner Box Labels

In box 3

- You nearly always get this stuff correct
- You are confident, even when the material is complex

- If you make any mistakes at all in recall, it must be **moved it to Box2**

You spend around 20% of your time revising these cards

Leitner Box Labels

In box 4

- This is the material you consider easy
- you feel confident, even when the material is complex

- However, and this is key, **nothing ever leaves this box** because you know it so well
- You still have to check it every now and then

You spend around 10% of your time revising these cards