WHY HOW YOU REVISE MATTERS

IS READING YOUR NOTES REALLY REVISING?

WHY HOW YOU REVISE MATTERS

Think back to revising at school: hours of **reading books** and **highlighting passages** without really knowing what you were meant to be doing. For a lot of us, revision was "merely reading". It felt like work, but it wasn't a good use of time.

Since then, the **psychology of education** has moved on. We now know better ways to get information to stick. These tips work for any subject, but they suit **vocational** (practical, trade) subjects especially well.

> **The big idea**Revision is something you **do**, not something you read. Reading and highlighting on their own are the least effective use of your time.

"I LEARN BY DOING"

Many people say "I learn practically". Take that with a big pinch of salt. Usually it's an **obstruction the mind puts up** when a learner hits a plateau or a steep bit, as an excuse for struggling with the theory or not passing an exam.

- **Every trade has a theory element**: bricklaying, electrical, gas, all of them. It has to be learned.
- Years on the tools are spent **doing**: up steps screwing things in, hammering, drilling holes, stripping cable, bending and threading conduit. That isn't learning theory, and you don't think like that on the job.
- It's **down to you** to get over that obstruction.

> **The driving analogy**
> On your first driving lesson you're learning to make the car move, and at the same time the instructor starts on road signs and markings. That's too much at once. That's why there's a **theory test before the practical test**: once you know the signs, you spot them on the road and think "I remember, that means 30 mph". Electrical theory works the same way. Learn it now and it clicks on site.

Free section from Sparky Study Notes. The full Level 3 notes, 1,463 practice questions and the video lessons: sparkystudynotes.co.uk