

Key questions when planning your revision

- How many exams do you have?
- How long is each exam?
- What is the relative weighting of each exam? This will influence the amount of time spent revising for each exam.
- When are your exams?
- What are your current coursework commitments?
- What type of exams do you have:
 - an unseen paper?
 - a seen paper?
 - an open book exam?
- How do you access past exam papers?
- What is the syllabus for each exam?
- Are you going to revise with a friend or on your own?

Answers to the above questions will help you to work out a realistic revision timetable:

- list the topics you need to revise {cue spotting}
- work out what order to revise them in
- how much time to have for revision?
- Add your other commitments to your timetable

Remembering or memorising?

There are two main kinds of memory are needed for revision:

- general remembering of an idea; exact words are not necessary but in order to use the information you need to understand it
- verbatim memorising, for example: formula, rules, quotations, names

Identify what is to be remembered and understood, and what is to be memorised. Understanding something thoroughly will enable you to memorise it.



Methods to help you review your revision

Some suggestions to help you review material after a revision session:

- at the end of each topic revision session, test yourself – do you remember the key words and what they represent?
- use cue cards
- use question banks (e.g. list five features of x theory, what are the advantages of x theory, state x etc)
- use mnemonics (practice decoding them regularly)
- use post-it notes or posters around your house/room for spot testing
- imagine key words being underlined
- use mind maps or diagrams
- try explaining ideas to a friend or to yourself without using your notes
- practice answering questions from past papers, some under timed conditions

Key revision tips

- don't leave your revision until too late
- look at your course material and list the topics to revise for each subject
- draw up a revision timetable, start off with a smaller number of hours and build up the hours week by week
- identify and use techniques that work best for you – short or long revision session, early or late working, visual mind maps or mnemonics.
- for every hour you work, take ten minutes off. Don't work for longer than three hours at a time.
- break-up your revision by doing something completely different: go for a walk, listen to some music or watch TV.
- during revision time try to maintain a normal routine - eat well, take regular breaks, do some exercise, don't go straight to bed after revision.
- find out what relaxes you – listening to music, a hot bath, sport, playing with your children etc and make time to include those activities during your revision timetable

