

# Revision – Top Tips On Getting It Right

## Plan It:

- a. Draw out your revision timetable to make sure that you are allowing enough time to cover all subjects thoroughly.
- b. **RAG** rate the skills or content in each subject to identify your strengths and weaknesses. There is no point going over and over the things you already know.
  - i. You could create personal learning checklists (PLCs) using the template and example provided for each of the topics/ exam papers in each subject.
  - ii. Use these PLCs to allocate time to each subject. You might not need to spend the same amount of time revising every subject.
- c. Make sure you have **everything** you need: copies of past papers and mark-schemes, your exercise books and lesson notes, copies of key text books, set texts and revisions guides.
- d. Order your subjects carefully so that you are layering your knowledge.

Scheduling English, for example, to appear in your revision plan before studying an essay-based subject such as History would make sense.

Likewise, choosing Maths to be one of the first subjects you revise may prove invaluable when studying numerical subjects such as Physics.
- e. Remember that each subject is different. Some subjects, like MFL are content driven and require you to memorise significant amounts of information, others like English Literature are as much about practising the skill of writing an extended analytical response as memorising key quotes.
- f. Plan revision in manageable chunks of time. Many people will advise to keep each subject/ topic session to no longer than 30 minutes. You have to do what feels right for you.
- g. Make sure that you plan periods of rest, relaxation and socialising too. As you get closer to your exam, your revision timetable has to be reviewed and rewritten – with a weighting in favour of revision, but it is still important to get the balance right.

**Once you have created a plan, you need to stick to it! There's no point doing all of this preparation if you don't follow it through.**

## Strategies to help you revise

1. Mind-map what you know about a topic from memory (and without exercise or revision books open). Do this at the start of every revision session: it will show you how much more you know now!
2. Create accessible revision cards.
  - a. The information **MUST** be in note form;
  - b. Try colour coding and/or using images and diagrams to help you to remember.
3. Turn a tricky topic into a poster – print it off and stick it up so that it is a constant reminder for you. *Some people like to post-it note their walls with key terms/ facts and information.*
4. Talk to someone! Teach somebody else about a topic you are finding particularly difficult. They should try to ask you as many questions as possible to challenge what you know.
5. Audio books can be an excellent way of re-visiting studied texts. Download these onto a computer, tablet or phone so that you can have them with you all the time.
6. Record yourself. Create voice memos on your phone with key pieces of information on about a topic. You can replay these as often as you like and it saves you from having to always have your books with you in order to revise.
7. Find/ write model examples of question responses.
  - c. Colour code these using the mark-scheme or assessment objectives.
  - d. When you write your own response, use these to guide you (on the structure, not the content).
  - e. Colour code your own against the mark-scheme afterwards to assess the quality of your response.
8. Test yourself: do it often, keep it low-stakes and quick. You need to know what you can remember and what you will be able to do in exam conditions. This will help you to prioritise what to revise next.

## Other Advice

### **Staying motivated**

Most people who lose motivation do so because of a lack of direction, confidence and focus. The good news is that these negative attitudes can be overcome by following a few simple techniques.

Firstly, regularly remind yourself of your immediate and long term goals. For instance, tell yourself that you are revising hard because you want to get certain grades which will mean that you can go on to do exactly what you want to next year. Results day will be a celebration of all of your hard work and proof that nothing will stand in your way.

Secondly, work on building up confidence in your abilities, do this by setting short term reachable goals that you can achieve. This is an excellent way of fostering a 'can do' attitude and proving to yourself how much you are capable of.

Another good way to keep motivated is to treat yourself every time you 'reach' a target or finish a revision session. Your reward might be your favourite TV programme, a night out with your friends, your favourite dinner.

### **Start early**

Many people find that revising early in the morning works best for them. Give it a try by starting to revise at 9 am or earlier.

### **Switch your mobile phone off**

If you get into the 'zone' of revision mode the last thing you want is to be knocked out of it by a unimportant phone call. Keep distractions to a minimum by setting your mobile phone to 'do not disturb' or shutting it in another room. This will avoid you being disturbed by unnecessary text messages or phone calls. If you are an addict, use it as your reward – 30 minutes revision earns you a 5 minute break on your phone.

### **Relaxation time**

If you are revising every day, then make sure you have some relaxation and social time planned too. Have set breaks at certain times where you go for a short walk or make yourself a snack, for example. Taking your mind off studying for short periods of time can help you to stay fresh and stop you from burning yourself out.

### **Revise with a friend**

Some people find that this works for them, it has the advantage of being able to ask each other questions and getting immediate answers as well as learning from one another

### **Eat sensibly**

For maximum performance your body and mind needs fuel to be able to concentrate and focus. By eating nutritious and healthy foods (i.e. fruit and vegetables) you can keep your energy levels high which in turn can assist you to remain focused throughout your studies