

Top Revision Tips

The mocks are preparation for the biggest exams of your life so far so don't blow it! Don't panic and don't pretend they'll go away because they won't. If you're organised, you'll find the exams won't be the nightmare experience that you fear and if you go about things the right way you'll even have time for a social life.

It's important to recognise that we all learn and remember things in different ways. This booklet is designed to give you useful tips and examples so that you can find a technique which suits you best.

Before you start we want to give you some important pointers to help you get the most out of your revision!

Have the right attitude!

Having the right attitude to revision will make a massive difference to how successful you will be. Expect the best of yourself. Give yourself the best opportunity you can to reach those target grades by making revision your number one priority in the weeks and months leading up to the exams.

Planning is crucial!

Write down all the subjects you have to revise and use a timetable grid to plan your time leading up to the exams and in between each exam. Give yourself plenty of time by starting to revise your work weeks before your exams start. Don't leave everything until the last minute as this will make you panic and you will not be able to take everything in.

Make a list

Make a list of all the topics within the subjects you need to revise with main sections, sub –topics and supporting details. Keep this as a revision checklist.

Don't put it off!

Procrastination is the long word for it – and it means getting a sudden urge to tidy your room after 16 years, playing the guitar, painting your toe nails, planning your weekend etc, etc, etc.....Sit down at your desk and GET ON WITH IT!

Find a good place to work

It must be quiet and uncluttered – even if it means camping out at the library or your gran's house a few nights a week. Do not have the TV on and if you feel you need to listen to music whilst you work make sure it is on quietly in the

background and it is better if the music is without singing as the words will be a distraction – and you might join in!

A fixed place to study can be helpful so that you begin to associate it with productive work. All the equipment and materials that you need should be within reach and the room should be well lit and ventilated, but not too comfortable! Keep books and notes on the desk to a minimum and decorate your walls with colourful helpful information.

Take Time Out

Take a 15 minute break every hour and make sure you break for meals. Exercise between sessions can help to keep you focussed and will also help to keep you relaxed and your mind clear.

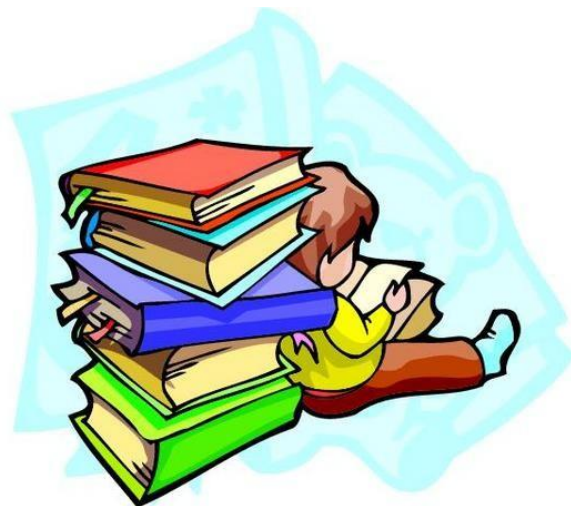
Don't get stressed out!

Eat properly and get lots of sleep!

Ask for help!

If you get stuck, talk to someone! You're not alone. Everyone has experienced exam stress and can sympathise with what you are going through and may be able to offer their own advice to help.

Believe in yourself and be positive! If you think you can succeed you will!



Revision Techniques

Use different techniques

Try different ways of revising as some will work better for you than others. Make your own learning maps, use post-its for key words or create flash. Record your notes on tape and play them back. Ask family and friends to test you and use highlighter pens to mark important points. Chant or make up a rap song. These are just some ideas that may help.

Revision Notes

Stick revision notes you have made yourself all around your house so that you see them every day.

Re-write key points

Re-write the key points of your revision notes and read them out loud to yourself. We remember more than twice as much of what we say out aloud than what we simply write.

Condense your work

Fitting notes on to one side of paper makes them easier to stomach, so re-write them and cut them down as you go.

Highlight

Target key areas using colours and symbols, and use a highlighter to emphasise key sentences. Visuals will help you remember facts.

Test yourself

Testing yourself helps to identify where you need to work more. This can be done by writing down what you think you've learnt, doing past papers or revision tests, or testing friends.

Use Revision Guides

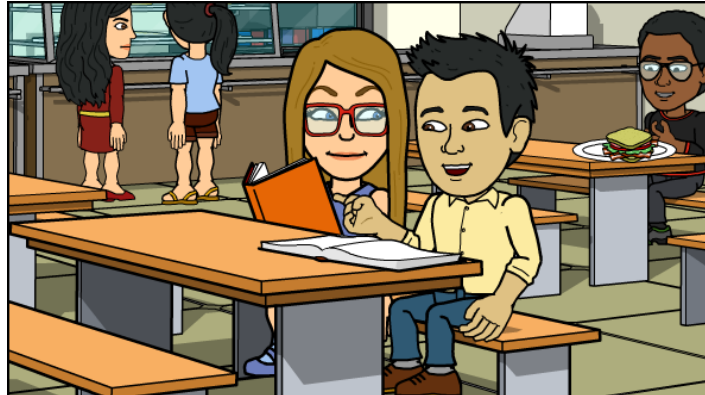
Revision Guides can be helpful but use the ones your subject teacher recommends. The guides can be used to test yourself and provide a focus for your revision but they probably won't cover everything you need to know.

Revise everything!

Revise all the subjects and topics – not just the ones you like! Clear the more difficult areas at the start of the day when your mind is fresher.

Teach someone

Teach a topic to a fellow student or a friend.



Reinforce your memory

As you end a revision session, review key points. Review them again regularly.

Use Mnemonics (*pronounced without the M–nemonics*)

This word literally means '*memory*'. It's about putting something memorable into your mind to help you recall information. Create a code using rhymes, phrases or initials which help you to recall information that is essential for doing well in your exams. Examples you may be familiar with are:

'**N**ever **E**at **S**hredded **W**heat' refers to the points of a compass - **N**orth **E**ast **S**outh **W**est.

'**R**ichard **O**f **Y**ork **G**ave **B**attle **I**n **V**ain' refers to the colours of the spectrum - **R**ed **O**range **Y**ellow **G**reen **B**lue **I**ndigo **V**iolet.

On the following pages are examples of mind maps and other techniques to help.

Good luck and keep going – you will not regret it!

