



Top 10 revision tips

Don't panic!

It's never too late to start revising. Here are 10 winning revision tips that will get you off a flying start.

Following these tips you will get loads of work done, feel great about yourself and still have plenty of time to relax with your friends and family.

1) Draw up a revision timetable

Research shows that shorter 20-30 minute spells work best, because your concentration is much higher. We therefore recommend taking short, frequent breaks. We also advise that you mix the order of the subjects.

2) Exercise

Physical activity is very important, in particular during intense study time. Even going for a small 30-minute jog after a day of revision will make a huge difference to your wellbeing. Physical activity increases heart rate, which makes the blood circulate faster. This in turn ensures that the brain gets more oxygen, which increases productivity whilst reducing tiredness and stress.

3) Find a quiet space

This is a pretty straightforward one! You desperately need a place where you can be uninterrupted for a few hours. Your room or your local/school/university library will do. Be careful with revising in a coffee shop, such as Starbucks. It is a popular option, however it does not work for everybody and people often get distracted!

4) Get down to it in the morning

You have to make a start at some point and doing it sooner rather than later is a very good idea. Try to stick to our draft revision schedule and start revising in the morning. Research shows you are more likely to do all the planned work if you start early because, as it gets closer to the evening, there is bigger tendency to want to just get outside!

5) Spice up your revision

Use a bit of colour! Drawing colourful learning maps will help you to memorise facts. Here's an interesting fact: Colourful notes are easier to memorise than plain black and white ones. Give it a go!

6) Try your hand at plenty of past papers

Ask your teacher for some past papers or 'Google' them yourself. Nowadays most exam boards put a lot of emphasis on exam technique and simply familiarising yourself with this beforehand can save you time and help to earn marks during the exam. A lot of examiners do not bother with inventing terribly innovative questions so, once you have practised on three or four past papers, chances are that some of questions on the day will look familiar.

7) Make summary notes

Making notes is by far the best way to memorise lots of information. We have all been there – sat for hours on end reading a textbook and lying to ourselves that the time is being used productively when we know it's not! The best way to memorise information is by making notes over and over again. It may be incredibly tedious but the most successful candidates often make as many as three sets of the same notes in a run up to the exams.

8) Reward yourself

It is not all about the work; you need good breaks too. People who manage to find the right balance between study and leisure are the ones who get the top marks. Go to a cinema with friends after a productive day of revision or treat yourself to something sweet. Work hard, play not-quite-as-hard is the motto here!

9) Use your family and friends

Ask people around you to test you and give you feedback. You should already have made handy revision notes. Why not give your notes on the key dates covering Henry VIII's reign to your mum and ask her to test you? This is not only a good way to revise but also a good way to have a break from the hard work.

10) Think positive!

At the end of the day, it's not all about studying. There are plenty of people who did well in life without 100 per cent in every single exam, or who were actually pretty useless at school and university. Your life isn't over if you don't ace the tests, so take the pressure off yourself and just do your best.

Good luck, now get down to those notes!