Planning your exam revision

Allocate time

- If you find a subject difficult, you may need to spend more time on it
- Consider whether you need to do some learning of the subject or just revising what you already know. If it’s both, you’ll need to allocate more time to it
- Do you generally work better in the morning or evening? Plan to do the hardest stuff when you’ve got most energy. Struggling through a difficult subject when you are tired is no fun
- Get boring / difficult subjects out of the way first and then reward yourself by switching to something more enjoyable?
- Sandwich difficult subjects in between easier ones?
- Remember to allocate time for some rehearsal of exam-type tasks by doing past papers or ‘mock’ exam questions. For example,
  - If the exam contains multiple choice questions, you should allocate some of your revision time to practicing answering these sorts of questions (e.g. get used to eliminating the unlikely options, marking the ones that might be right to narrow down the options, etc.)
  - If the exam is a short essay type exam, you should spend some time practising writing essays under time pressure. If you’ve done it before, it’ll be easier to do in the exam.

Consider your boredom threshold and body clock

- If possible, try to study when you have more energy and motivation
- Aim for a full working week (approx. 35-40 hours), but not necessarily nine to five. You can do “shifts” that include evenings and give you mornings off, for example.
- Try to have at least 1 day per week off (when you don’t do any studying)
- Do you prefer to work in short bursts (a ‘snack’ studier), or do you like long stretches of study, where you can get into the topic?
Some people can’t concentrate for long periods. If this is you, build in plenty of breaks.

Do you prefer to work on one subject at a time, moving on to the next when you’ve finished, or alternate between subjects for variety?

If you make a study timetable, remember to include non-study activities. No one can study all day every day.

Set task-related goals (e.g. review lecture notes from weeks 1-5) or time-related goals (e.g. spend 2 hours reviewing lecture notes from one module).

Where do you prefer to work? Alone in your room, or somewhere more public like the library? Some people need peace and silence. Others feel more motivated when they see people around them working. Experiment until you find an environment that works for you.

Which kind of learner are you? Visual learners might benefit from making mind maps or drawing diagrams, and using different coloured pens. Aural learners could try listening / watching lectures online, recording their notes on a phone and then listening, or talking about the module with a friend. Kinaesthetic learners might learn better from notes written on cards or post it notes that can be posted on the wall or moved around.

Set long-term (the whole term) and short-term goals (by day or week).

Remember different types of revision you might need, for example:

1. Learning anything you missed during the year
2. Reviewing what you already know
3. Testing yourself mentally without referring to notes
4. Rehearsing exam tasks
5. Explaining what you have learnt to another person.