top tips for more effective revision

Learn from the past & look to the future...

Forget what has happened in the past, only look to the future and what you can do to improve your position and you will be surprised at the progress you will make. 10 minutes is all that it takes. Anyone can do that. But in that time work to the exclusion of all else. It is better to work for 10 minutes in an hour than to do nothing at all in that time, which is often the case. So start that hour with only 10 minutes of work and then have a 10-minute break. You can do that. Then begin again and you will have done 30 minutes of quality revision in that hour. Gradually increase the working periods into 40-minute sessions or more, whilst keeping the breaks to 10 minutes or less. When working - work and when relaxing - relax, the two do not mix, remember this, and use the ‘10-minute rule’ whenever you get stuck.

Managing Your Time Effectively

- Know when and where your exams are and what preparation you need to do for them.
- Highlight your notes or abbreviate them, so that the information can be referred to easily - but don’t spend all of your time doing this instead of revising.
- Ease in an extra half hour of work a day at least, by getting up earlier or taking less time over lunch. In five days you will have gained an extra two-and-a-half hours of quality study time. You could then treat yourself to a night out. You deserve it.
- Cover several subjects in the one evening. Start with the one you dislike most and then look forward to finishing with the one you like best. Otherwise you will avoid the ones you don’t like.
- Do some past exam papers to get yourself used to the format and the types of questions you might be asked.

Remember To Reward Yourself
top tips for more effective revision

Revision Methods...

Index cards, mind maps and notes
- Use index cards or notes to record key points that will trigger your memory later on.
- Incorporate images, colour and highlighting.

Learning posters, diagrams and visual materials
- Use pattern, colour, symbols and drawings to help you remember.
- Cover key points and topics.
- Develop diagrams for your course if they are relevant.
- Pin these up where you’ll see them often, you’ll be surprised how much information goes in without you realising!

Key words, phrases, themes or concepts
- Use the course handbook, specifications and key questions to discover what is most important in each block.
- Use two or three sentences to define, add a course example and diagram if relevant.

Summary tables or grids
- Compare or evaluate competing theories or key people.

Teach someone else
- Teach a topic to a fellow student or a friend, thinking it through is very effective revision.
- Fill in the gaps in your knowledge as you identify them.

Reinforce your memory
- As you end a revision session, review the key points & review them again regularly to top up your memory.

Don’t cram the night before an exam!

For further guidance on managing your time more effectively or for some study support sessions: Please drop into the Study Centre on the 2nd Floor next to the LRC.