

REVISION PLANNING AND TIMETABLES:

Step 1: traffic lights for your syllabus:

- Red = found difficult/not confident
- Amber = ok at the time – not sure now
- Green = Very confident if asked to recall or answer questions

Step 2: Top priority to do list

List your topic areas with red at the top so that these can be addressed first.

CREATING THE TIMETABLE:

You now know the order of your revision; you need to plan a minimum of two to three hours a day (more the closer the exams become)

Schedule in “me time” and don’t plan to revise late into the evenings

Some topics will take longer to revise than others – be realistic about this

Draw your own timetable or the link below is one of many free websites that will generate a timetable for you:

<http://revisionworld.com/create-revision-timetable>

REVISION TECHNIQUES

Reading to study: (ie: learning chapters from books)

SURVEY – skim through the chapter to get an idea of what it is about

QUESTION – write down a list of questions that you hope to answer as a result of reading the chapter

READ – read slowly and carefully

RECALL – close the book, write down from memory the main points, vocabulary/diagrams or formulae

REVIEW – Go back to your questions and see how well your recall is and then fill in the gaps with further reading and note taking

Concept maps and spider diagrams (show connections between items) or sequence of events such as the life of a person

- Place the topic in the centre of the page
- Draw lines from this labelling what it means, you can then create sub branches and connections

Highlighting and bullet points

- Use colour coding on important aspects of the work
- Put the key words on post it notes, posters, cards and put on the wall at home
- Annotate – write key ideas in the margin to trigger memory

Mnemonics and acronyms – helps remember specific phrases or sequences of events

Past papers – the 3 pen method:

This works well when you have revised a topic well. Complete as many past paper questions you can **PURELY ON THAT TOPIC**. You will become so familiar with the format and wording of the questions you are in fact training yourself to answer any question on that topic

- Attempt the answer with one colour (black)
- Use your notes to fill in the gaps in another colour (blue)
- Using the mark scheme, add in the last bit in another pen (red)

Remember the more times you review and write about your subject area, your knowledge will move from the short term memory to the long term. This method will help with this

Flash cards (to condense large amount of information into key facts and essential trigger words)

- One set of cards per topic – and get others to test you
- Write questions on one side and the answers on the other

Excellent apps and websites to use:

Quizlet.com; Brainscape.com, Memrise.com

<https://www.examtime.com/en-GB/>

You Tube bloggers – A Level subject videos

There are many You Tube resources which are excellent to use to top up your knowledge; it is worth having a look!

GET TO KNOW YOUR EXAM PAPERS

- Time your answers – minute a mark
- Do timed papers
- Know your trigger/action words –contrast, evaluate, examine, analyse, discuss, compare, define, interpret; make sure you know what they mean and if you are unsure – ASK
- Use the examiners reports – these detail where students have gone wrong in the past – or have done well and can help you understand what they expect in an answer. These are available on the exam board websites, ask your teacher if you can't find them
- Explore the many apps available to download (sometimes at a small cost) which help you identify areas where students lose marks in exams. For example the “**banana skin series**”

TOP REVISION TIPS

- Find a good place to work – free from distractions eg: mobile phones, emails TV etc. Move mobile phones to the other side of the room! Switch your computer or TV off! An uncluttered desk is the best place to sit
- Past papers are VITAL
- Go to any workshops you can
- Buy the revision guides for your subjects; check with your teacher if you are unsure
- Draw up a REALISTIC revision plan – don't plan a timetable you then can't follow!
- Stick to what you say you will do
- Do the difficult topics when you are at your freshest and most productive
- Fifty minutes revision – 10 to 15 minute break works well; move away from the desk – check your phone, make a cup of tea
- Use the walls in your room to put up key words and phrases
- Eat well! Junk food should be at a minimum – B vitamins are said to have brain-boosting properties; marmite is a great source for this!
- Drink lots and lots of water; try to keep off alcohol during the exam period!
- Rest and relax too; try to go outside and/or do a physical activity
- Aim for 7-8 hours sleep a night
- Remember – if you are still learning information right up to the last few hours before the exam – you are unlikely to remember it!
- Keep calm, positive and don't panic!