

Revision Top Tips

1. Start revising early

i.e. months, not days, before the exam. Use the [Weekly Revision Calendar](#) to plan your revision and stick to it.

2. Improve your reading speed

If you are not already someone who reads very much then start! Read, read and read some more! It doesn't actually matter what you read – so long as you are reading. There is a lot to read on exam question papers and not very much time to do it in so it is really helpful to practice this skill.

3. Don't spend ages making your notes look pretty

this is just wasting time. For diagrams, include all the details you need to learn, but don't try to produce a work of art. Limit yourself to 2 or 3 colours so you don't get carried away colouring things in.

4. Take short breaks

every hour, not every 10 minutes.

5. Use revision guides

get those specific to your exam board if they are available. Your subject teacher will tell you if they are.

6. When you're not in school start revising early

i.e. 9am — that way you'll get your day's work done much quicker and will have time to relax later in the day/go out with your mates.

7. Stick revision notes all around your house

so in the exam you think — "aha, quadratic equations, they were on the fridge..."

8. Get yourself drinks and snacks

BEFORE you start revising so you don't make excuses to stop every 10 minutes...

9. Try reading difficult bits in funny accents

Australian is particularly good....

10. Sit at a proper desk

Don't try to revise in bed — you will either fall asleep or get back ache and neither is going to help you remember anything.

11. Don't put it off

"Procrastination" is the long word for it. And it means rearranging stuff on your desk, getting a sudden urge after 16 years to tidy your room, playing the guitar, thinking about the weekend, writing love poems about that girl/boy you fancy, painting your toenails, etc, etc, etc,... Sit down at your desk and GET ON WITH IT.

12. Don't just read your notes

you have to WRITE STUFF DOWN or make your own Podcasts or produce Mind Maps or Flash Cards. Get friends and family to test you. Make up mnemonics or silly rhymes - anything that helps you to remember it.

13. Learn subject specific spellings

If you know you are going to get SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) then practise/learn the spellings of subject specific words

14. Use all the resources that the school provides

Don't forget to use GCSEPod and iLearn and all the handouts that your teachers supply. ASK FOR HELP if you need it and attend the revision sessions! It's so much easier to revise something you have been taught by a teacher than have to teach yourself something you weren't paying attention to in lessons!

15. Don't turn yourself into a revision zombie

if you stop doing anything else but revision you'll turn into a zombie. It's really important that you keep time to do things you enjoy... When you're doing these try to relax and totally forget about revision.

16. Do lots of practice exam papers

This is especially important as you get close to the exams.

17. Read the exam timetable properly

double-check so you don't miss an exam and have plenty of time to prepare for it.

18. Find the right environment to revise

NOT in front of the TV. NOT listening to the radio. Music can sometimes be OK, but you need to find the right kind. It's got to be something that's just there in the background that you're not thinking about at all. Music without singing is better as you won't be tempted to dance around your bedroom AND you won't end up remembering the lyrics in the middle of the exam instead of the answer to the question that you were supposed to have been revising!

19. Don't hang around with the nervous people

on the morning of the exam; they'll just stress you out, which doesn't help at all.