

A STUDENTS GUIDE TO REVISION



OUR TOP 10 TIPS!

- For most subjects, sit and read is not good enough.
- Plan what to revise and when - make a timetable!
- Do not cheat - work when you plan to work.
- Plan your breaks.
- Work without distraction - no interruptions allowed!
- Plan to complete very specific tasks.
- Base revision around 30-40 minutes of concentrated effort before having a break
- Tackle topics you do not like sooner rather than later.
- Do 15 minutes concentrated learning/memorising before going to sleep.
- Make it active.

Rewrite sections of inadequate notes

Reduce notes to side headings and essential details

Reduce notes to revision cards

Use colour to highlight key points

Share notes/essays with a friend

Check marked work for advice

Make mind maps - create the 'big picture'

Make key word definition lists

Ask someone to test you on key words

Make PowerPoints which you can watch later

Arrange with a friend to teach each other a topic

Make a note of anything you are unsure about to check in class

Past paper questions - no notes, then mark

Make summary grids to compare two or more elements

Make post-it timelines or story lines and put them up in your room

Past paper questions - with notes - write in mark scheme detail

Write essay plans outlining structure and key content

Make posters with key facts/formulae and put them up in your room

A STUDENTS GUIDE TO NOTE-TAKING



DON'T WRITE DOWN EVERY WORD

The whole point of note taking is to be able to summarise information in a different, shorter form to use later. Therefore, if you try to write down every word of a lecture or book then you will soon get behind and lose the thread of what is being presented to you.



BE AN ACTIVE LISTENER / READER

It is easy to drift off and lose the thread of a lesson – concentration is important. Breakdown note-taking tasks from texts into smaller sections.

DECIDE WHAT IS IMPORTANT

Listen/look out for key phrases such as 'the most important factor is...' which is like a large signpost directing you to the fact that a vital piece of information is coming up and instructs you to ready your pen to take a note of it. The author or lecturer you are working with will have their own particular style and phrases that you should look out for, so become familiar with their signposts.

USE SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Develop your own set of symbols and abbreviations. Some obvious ones are + or & for 'and'; = for equals. Other examples seen less often are w/ for 'with' or wch for 'which'.

USE COLOURS

Use different coloured inks when taking notes. You can show different themes and approaches by changing to a different colour.



REVISIT YOUR NOTES ASAP!

The best use of your notes is to read over them a short time after and perhaps re-write them again, more neatly or in a different order.

Perhaps convert them into mind maps, or make flash cards from written notes?

IMPROVE YOUR HANDWRITING

Do not be so immersed in note-taking that you forget to notice that your handwriting has become unreadable! Remember to write or type clearly and legibly throughout, however tired your hand becomes.

FORGET SPELLING AND GRAMMAR!

Achieving perfection in these areas is not important; rather, focus on the gathering and recording of information. And if that means your spelling and grammar has to slip, so be it!

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS... ...FROM STUDENTS



What advice would you give to Year 12 students just starting in the Sixth Form?

Attend all lessons
and copy up notes if
you miss something

Allocate specific
time to each subject

Make use of the
study rooms during
free lessons

Start coursework
early - if you leave it
until the last minute
it won't be very good

Take notes and
develop them to
help you revise

Always ask if you
don't understand

Do your homework
as soon as you get it
- if you don't it will
soon pile up

Prepare for sixth
form to be harder
than you think!

Free periods are an
advantage if you use
them properly!

Set school as your
main priority

Speak to someone if
you are struggling

Don't prioritise
subjects you like
most at the expense
of other - tackle the
hard stuff as well!

Try to resist the
temptation to keep
checking your
phone!

Don't be afraid to
move yourself away
from friends if they
are distracting you