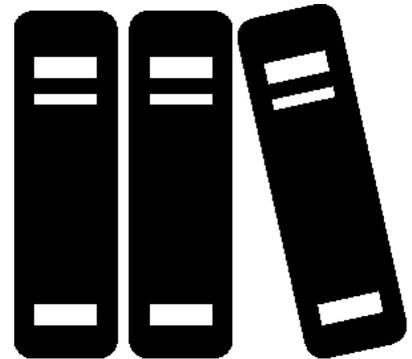


# Revision and exam skills

## Why do I need to revise for exams?

Revision is very important if you want to do well in your exams. It is unlikely that you can remember everything you have been taught on your course at the first time of asking, therefore revision will reinforce this knowledge. This guide will cover tips for effective revision and exam skills that will help you to succeed in your exams and other timed assessments.



## Tips for revising

1. **Plan and time your revision** – Don't try and revise all the content the night before! You need to revise little and often to help embed the knowledge in your mind.
2. **Prioritise your revision** – Start by ensuring you know the key facts and topics, once you know these, it will be easier to understand the topics in more depth.
3. **Use a variety of methods to revise** – People learn in different ways and therefore you should revise in ways that suit you best. Read our guide on Improving Memory for different ways in which you can revise.
4. **Make sure you're comfortable in your revision environment** - You will learn best if you're comfortable. Whether that is on the sofa, on the bus or in the library. Your revision is personal to you and it is up to you to find out the best way you like revising.
5. **Make use of technology** – You're not just limited to pen and paper. There are a number of revision apps for both iPhone and Android devices that you can download.
6. **Try teaching others** – Team up with some friends and teach each other. You can teach them the areas you're comfortable with and vice versa. This way you can mix revision with social occasions which helps you with your study and life balance.
7. **If possible, attempt past papers or questions** – A great way to prepare is answering questions from previous exams. This way you can put yourself in a real situation as you are answering real questions and ones you could potentially have.

## Exam skills

### Prior to the exam

- Plan to arrive with plenty of time to spare, to find the room and settle down
- Have all the required equipment (whether this be simple stationery or specialist equipment)
- Trust yourself that you know the answers – If you have revised well, you will know the answers, it is just a case of keeping calm and putting them down on paper
- Avoid negative influences e.g. stressed out peers, nervous peers
- Think positively

### In the exam

- You may want to develop a mental checklist of what you will do when you open the paper to help you settle
- Make sure you have the right paper
- Read the instructions carefully given on the exam paper

- Read the whole exam paper carefully
- Take 5 minutes to plan the questions you will tackle and allocate times
- Use key words and flow diagrams for quick planning
- Underline key words – watch for the word “and” – the question might be in two parts
- Do not pick unprepared topics, go with what you know
- Answer all the required questions

## References

Open University. (n.d.) *Revising, exams and assessment* Available at:  
<http://www.open.ac.uk/skillsforstudy/revising-exams-and-assessment.php> [Accessed: 10/02/2014]