

Offer Holder Support Series

TIPS FOR A-LEVEL REVISION PLANNING

Everybody is different and different subjects have a range of requirements, which means that revision and revision planning can be quite varied. There is no one "right way" to revise but hopefully these tips will give you some basics to build on and help you to get the most out of your study time.

Work out the time you have

Make a note of your exam dates and work backwards to see how much time you have to revise. Some people can find this helpful to plot this on a calendar (rather than just writing a list of dates) to give a visual representation of the time they have to study. Don't forget to also put big time commitments, such as school(!), onto your calendar this will help you to get a realistic picture of the time you have.

Schedule in each Subject

Now you know the time you have to work with you can start to break up that time into sessions for each individual subject/exam. Some things you will want to consider when working out what to do when:

Which exams come first? Does revising them in order make sense?

Which exams count for more of your overall grade- you may need to focus more on these in your revision. Which subjects do you find hardest? Again more focus on these will be needed.

Are there activities that you do better in the morning or evening? Perhaps for you learning facts works best early in the day but being more creative and writing practice essays, for example, works better in the evenings.

These are very personal decisions but when you have decided what you would like to do remember to schedule them in and stick with it as best as possible. You can (and should!) assess how your plan is working as you go along and adjust if necessary.

Learn the Material

You can't revise something that you haven't learnt in the first place! Take some time to learn things that you have not yet covered so that you know you have seen all the material at least once.

If you are finding it hard to remember things try out some different techniques. You could try listening to lectures on the subject, taking quizzes, or making up songs to get information to stick.

Read the Mark scheme

Mark schemes and Examiners' reports are an invaluable resource because they tell you exactly what the examiners are looking for in both specific questions and overall on past papers. They will highlight how the best students handled the questions and you can use this as a model for how to approach questions in the future. They may even highlight recurring themes so you can incorporate this information into your revision process.

Past Paper Questions

When you know the majority of material and you know what the examiners are looking for, practicing past papers is a great thing to do to get you ready for exams. Leave a good amount of time for this in your revision plan.

If you sit down to do a past paper and it feels too overwhelming at first, that's okay! Take the time and adjust your plan to help you get through it- whether that's doing the paper open book (with your notes) or without a time limit or both. You can always reduce these supports as you get closer to the exams and you feel more ready.

Top Tip: when you have done a past paper, go through it with the accompanying mark scheme and examiners report to see how you would have done. Be honest with yourself and use what you learn to inform further revision.

Good Luck