

# Top 10 Revision Tips!

Brought to you by the Academic Skills Team

**1** “The best time to start revising is day 2 of your course. The second best time to start revising is now.” Start your revision as early as possible. Plan your revision timetable this evening and get going! You will feel the benefits once the exams start. Remember to start on the topics that you are least confident about, and dedicate more time to them overall.



**2** The most important concept in revision is *active vs passive* revision. Active revision means doing something with the information you need to learn (usually testing your memory). Passive revision techniques include simply reading through your old notes, listening to old lectures, type out your notes so that they are neater, and highlighting important information in texts. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that this is enough!



**3** Revising can be hard work, so break up your revision sessions into chunks. A good starting point is 45 minutes, followed by a 15-minute break away from your studies. But make sure you return to revising after the break!

**4** Flash cards and sticky notes are great for active revising. You can condense notes down onto a single card or note. You can write a specific term on one side of a flash card and its definition on the other, or a question and answer pair. Put key facts on sticky notes and stick them around your home, rearranging them every few days. Remember to test yourself regularly on the information on the cards and notes so that you are being active.



**5** Working through past papers is a great way to test your knowledge, either by writing plans or full answers. First, try answering the questions without looking at your notes, to get an idea of which areas need more work. Then, with your notes, practise planning the framework for your answers. Finally, come back and answer the question again without your notes.





Form study groups with other students to keep up your motivation. Try to explain a theory to another student without using your notes and see how much they understand. Test each other regularly.

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Make sure that you vary your methods of revision. Making endless flashcards can be disheartening and overwhelming. Differ the material you revise from the difficult to the more familiar. This makes it more interesting, and small chunks are easier to remember.

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Test, test, test yourself. Start each day trying to remember 10 facts you learnt from the day before. Test yourself on what you have learnt at the end of the day, the next day and at the end of the week. Change the order of what you test yourself on so that you don't get used to the same pattern.

8

Review your revision plan at the end of each week. Did you do enough? Did you remember more this week than last week? What time of day do you revise the best? How can you improve your revision for next week?

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Don't spend all your time revising over the exam period. Build some flexibility into your plan so you can enjoy some breaks. Self-care is important at this time – get enough sleep, eat well, keep hydrated and take some time to destress with friends.

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Find more resources to develop your academic skills here:  
<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/skills-hub/>

