

How to revise- some basic ideas

There are many ways you can revise; everyone has different techniques. Some of them are: reading through notes you have made in classes, then re-writing them until they are memorised; using revision books; making mind maps and charts; using cue cards to write short condensed notes to make it easier to remember; making a voice recording of the information and playing it back over and over again. You have to find a method that works BEST for you.

But:

Active revision is much more effective than passive revision. Passive revision is associated reading notes, copying material even reducing long notes to short notes or revision cards. Active revision is concerned with **using** and **organising** material e.g.: doing and re-doing questions and exercises.

Handwritten revision may be best

<http://www.nhs.uk/news/2011/01January/Pages/writing-versus-typing-for-learning.aspx>

Prepare all your supplies. The basic supplies you require may be notebooks, highlighter pens, coloured pencils and writing pens. You may also need items that are specific to particular subjects eg: a calculator for mathematics, a bilingual dictionary for languages, and the text for English Literature.

Find a quiet place free from any distractions. Think wisely about where you want to be - it can be any place that's right for you. Make sure you have sufficient space for revising as you may need to spread your work out. Ask people around you to keep noise to a minimum. Do not revise with a TV or music playing in the background as (a) you will be doing the assessment in silence so you will need to get used to working in silence. Finally, switch off your mobile phone, tablet and computer.

Start off by getting your workbook from school and some paper- get your exercise book or whatever contains the information etc. that you will be assessed on and have ready at hand what you will use to help you use it to do the revision.

Start on the more difficult subjects – or the bits of a subject, or topic that you find the trickiest. This way you have more time to tackle them.

Take short breaks in between revising. You shouldn't work for more than thirty minutes without a break, but keep breaks to a maximum of 10 minutes. Use the break to refresh yourself and do something completely different.

If you find yourself stumped, write down exactly what you find difficult and ask someone reliable, such as a teacher, for help. If you're strapped for time, you may want to search on the internet, but it may help to limit yourself as you can easily get distracted by other things on the internet such as social networking websites.

You don't have to revise around the clock. Make sure you revise without distraction but don't forget to socialise and relax. Study different subjects on different days and don't stick to just what you're good at or already know.