

# Revision Timetable Tips

## How to make a revision timetable and stick to it!

### Make it stand out!

Make your timetable stand out with lots of colours and keep it somewhere where it will stay in your mind. Stick it above your computer, on your fridge or on your desk; don't leave it in a drawer where you'll forget all about it.

### Don't get bogged down in the details

Don't get caught up in the details of exactly when you plan to start and finish your revision. When study leave starts, you can split your day into several segments, such as early morning, morning lunch, afternoon, late afternoon, evening and night, rather than precise hours. Then simply pencil in a revision session for 45 minutes to an hour in three of the five segments. Until then, your main revision opportunities will take place in the evenings and at weekends. Do the same thing; break your time into chunks and plan in some breaks as well.

### Mix it up

Make sure to mix up your subjects to help both keep you focused and motivated. Don't put revision for all your weak subjects on the same day; mix and match them across the week. Also bear in mind what days might suit subjects best, for example, put easier subjects on a Friday afternoon.

### Prioritise

Make the most use of your time by prioritising the subjects or areas you need to revise and work on the most. The amount of revision should also reflect the rewards, with bigger marked exams or projects requiring more work and time. Use your exam timetable to help you plan your revision too. It makes more sense to revise for the earlier exams sooner and then you can concentrate on revision for the later ones when you have got some of them out of the way.

## **Tailor your timetable to you**

Time your revision sessions so that they are best for you, placing them when you know you'll be awake and focused, as well as free and not distracted. Don't force yourself to revise at 8am if you're a night owl!

## **Take breaks**

Reward yourself and make sure you take regular breaks in between sessions. Don't fill up your day with back-to-back work; instead spread your workloads throughout the week making sure to leave time for socialising, relaxing, exercising and everything else you need to squeeze in. You should expect to be undertaking around 2-3 hours of work per night and around 6-8 hours over the weekend. That still leaves plenty of time for you to have some fun. Don't stay up too late though. Overtiredness affects concentration and makes revision very difficult.

## **Use different revision strategies**

Different subjects lend themselves to different revision strategies. Revision doesn't have to mean reading and note taking. Why not create revision cards, wordless or mindmaps? Not to mention story boards, cartoon strips or flowcharts. You can complete past papers, make recordings of what you have learnt to listen to and even work in groups to quiz and test each other. Revision should be active. If you spend 5 hours working but you still can't remember anything in the exam, you may have spent 5 hours working, but you've not done any revision. Find and use the strategies that work best for you.

## **Keep track**

It's always good to see your own progress, so make sure to cross off your sessions as they are completed. Perhaps laminating your timetable so you can reuse it again will help with this. While it may not add to your revision, it may help to keep you motivated