

$S_{\text{disk}} = \pi r l$ $z = y + 3$ $\Phi = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{S}$ $E =$

Unlock 20 Study Habits of successful students to help you ace your exams

$\frac{R^2}{2} = \frac{6}{\epsilon_0 r}$ -3 x h_1 $\frac{4}{3} \pi$

S_b $\alpha = \text{const}$ A \vec{p} P \vec{v} mg F_1 F_2 F_3 $R = \frac{a}{2 \sin \frac{\pi}{n}}$ $u_r = rR$

$F_{\text{TP}} =$ \vec{F} $Q = cm \Delta t$ $F =$

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If you are going to ace your exams, you need to start early, ideally at the beginning of the course. If you are reading this just before your exams, don't despair. The advice will still help you. The study tips are organised into three sections:

those for use throughout the course;
those for the revision period;
and those for the day of the examination.

But **read all three sections** to gain the most benefit.

Throughout the course

1. Understand your learning style and find what helps you.

Every person learns in a different way.

- i. Some people prefer to listen to information (Aural learners) and like to have information relayed to them verbally.
- ii. Some prefer to read/write information (Read/write learners) and enjoy writing notes, reading books, receiving information in handouts.
- iii. Some prefer to see or visualise information and like charts, maps, diagrams, graphs (Visual learners). They like to see things demonstrated.
- iv. And some prefer to do things themselves (Kinaesthetic Learners). They like practical lessons. They don't like sitting still for long and prefer to be active.

You will probably find you display characteristics from more than one of the above, but there is usually a dominant learning style.

2. Revise as you go along

If possible, get into the routine of re-reading your notes after a lesson, of reading the textbook to aid your understanding, of discussing content with friends. It will be of enormous benefit when you come to the final revision period. And the more times you revise a topic the better.

3. Organise the subject matter

The more organised your work is, the easier it will be to revise. This might mean using a highlighter pen to emphasise key ideas, underlining or containing important words within a box (such as the definition of a concept, or a Law in Physics, for example). It might mean making sure you keep all your notebooks somewhere safe!

4. Use flashcards

As you learn a new idea create a flashcard. Put the name of the idea on one side of the card, and the information relating to it on the other side. When it comes to final revision, you can use these cards to test yourself, or work with a friend and test each other. Simply look at the side of the card with the name and see if you can recall the information. Then turn the card over and check if you are right. It is much easier to make the cards throughout the course, than trying to do it all at the end.

5. Discuss with classmates

For Aural learners in particular, discussing topics with a friend will be very helpful, but all learners will benefit from an exchange of ideas.

6. Use Mind Maps (Concept Maps)

This is a great technique for brainstorming a topic and linking ideas. Visual learners in particular will find this helpful, but the creation of such a map will be of benefit to all learners as it is a good way of organising information.

7. Understand what you are learning. If you don't, ASK for an explanation.

Do this as you go through the course. There is nothing worse than sitting down to revise and realising you don't understand the material. Don't be afraid to ask for help, talk to friends, look up the topic in a textbook or online. **There is a lot of help out there!**

During the revision period

1. Have a timetable

For some people the idea of creating a timetable (and sticking to it!) is a nightmare, but it can help you to compare the time you need to revise different subjects. It also means you can identify times to relax and get the balance right between work and play. Once you get your examination timetable and find out the dates for each subject you will have a better idea of how to organise your revision time. You should aim for 15-20 hours per week of actual revision, although, in addition, your timetable should also include some elements of relaxation.

2. Do the more difficult work first

There are always some parts of a course, or some subjects that are more difficult than others, some things you dread tackling. It is much better if you can get these out of the way first. Otherwise you will continue to think about them, and it will distract you from the rest of your revision.

3. Build in relaxation time. Eat, sleep, have fun!

Don't forget to build in relaxation time. You cannot revise effectively for long periods of time. Let's say you schedule 2 hours in the morning for Maths revision, make sure that you have a 5-minute break in the middle. Get up and walk around, get some fresh air, drink some water. At the end of the 2 hours, do something completely different. Kick a football around, go for a walk, listen to music, chat socially to friends. **And don't forget to get enough sleep!**

4. Start early

This doesn't mean early in the morning although that's not a bad idea! It means give yourself plenty of time for revision and don't leave it all to the last minute. If you leave it to the last minute you are likely to panic because you haven't got enough time, and any revision you try to do will be less effective because of the stress.

5. Practise

Practise answering examination questions from previous years. It is unlikely you will get exactly the same question in your examination, but it will give you some idea of the style of the question and what you need to know.

6. Get the examiners' reports

These are a mine of information for you. They will tell you how previous students have answered questions and whether they included the information the examiners were looking for. They will explain how previous students lost marks and help you to avoid those same mistakes.

7. Understand the likely format of exam questions

How many papers per subject will you have to answer? If there are several papers per subject which topics does each paper cover? Will they be multiple-choice questions, or questions requiring short or long answers? Will you have to complete the answers on the examination paper or on separate paper (completing on the examination paper is an advantage as you can see how much space you are given which indicates how much you should write)?

8. Check the syllabus

The examination boards provide a syllabus for each subject. It is helpful to look at this as it gives you an indication of how the course is structured and how it will be examined.

9. Break it down into bite-size pieces

Any big job is daunting and preparing for examinations is a big job! Don't think you have to revise the whole subject in one go. Split it into topics and build these into your timetable. That way, you will be able to judge your progress more easily.

10. Revise effectively

The revision you do must be effective otherwise you are wasting your time. The advice in this report will help you to revise effectively.

On the day of the exam

1. Minimise your anxiety

Yes, it sounds easy, doesn't it? However, there are some practical steps you can take. The first one is to make sure you are as well prepared as possible. Going into an examination having revised thoroughly and effectively is a good start.

Try to get a good night's sleep beforehand. Ensure you arrive at the examination venue in good time.

2. Answer the question you are asked

Take time to read the questions carefully. Answer the question that is being asked, not the question you wanted to be asked.

3. Read through your answers

Try to leave yourself time to read through your answers before the end of the examination. You might spot something you have missed out, or correct a mistake, and earn yourself some extra marks.

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