



## Exam tips

### Tip 1 - Revision timetable

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Make sure you plan your revision time wisely. Get together a revision timetable on the first day of study leave and make sure you stick to it! Get your parents to help you with it – you can schedule in some break times and plan some exciting things to do with this time with mum and dad. Use different colours for each subject and mix them up so that you're studying different subjects on different days.

### Tip 2 – Cover all areas

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Everyone has a habit of putting off the things they don't like in life. Try and revise for the subjects you don't like in the morning, this way they're over and done with and you can concentrate on the fun things for the rest of the day.

### Tip 3 – Take notes

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It's not enough to just read the information from a text book, you need think of ways in which you'll remember the information you're reading. Take notes, underline things, colour code different areas, do drawings and put pieces of information into table form. If you do something with the information it will stay in your head way better than if you just sat there reading.

### Tip 4 – Manage your time

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One of the most common errors in exam situations is spending too much time on the first question, usually when it's only worth a few marks. Make sure you spend the most time on the questions that have the most marks. Often these are the last ones, and there is a very solid argument for looking at the paper first, seeing which questions carry the most marks, and doing these first.

### Tip 5 - Take your time

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When you're told to turn over the exam paper, make sure you don't race with everyone else in the room and then end up rushing through. Take a breath, count to ten, then do it. Staying calm and focused is the key to success in any exam situation.

**Tip 6 - Plan your answer**

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Brainstorm your ideas, mark each idea with the paragraph number they go in, and only then should you go about writing the essay. Make sure your plan is on the exam paper, where the examiner can see it – it's always important to show your workings.

**Tip 7 - Check your paper**

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It's always tempting to sit back and relax if you happen to finish early but that's a crucial time and time that can be put to good use. There is only one mark's difference between a 'C' and a 'D', an 'A' and an 'A\*'. Checking your paper at the end could be the thing that gives you that one, crucial mark.

**Tip 8 - Use positive self-talk**

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People who tell themselves they can't do things invariably find that they are right. People who tell themselves they can are right too. During your revision and during the exam itself, keep telling yourself, '*I can do this.*' You'll find you can.

**Tip 9 - Answer the question**

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Make sure you answer the question in front of you, not some other question you're making up because it's all you've revised. Do this by underlining three key words per question and checking with yourself that you know – exactly - what is being asked for.

**Tip 10 - Do your best**

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That's all you should ask of yourself. If, at the end of the day, you are able to honestly say to yourself that have done your best, you have a right to be happy with yourself no matter what the grade. No one has any right to ask any more of you.