

## Revision Tips for Year 11 Students

1. Start early — i.e. months, not days before the exam.

Starting your revision early means you can spread it out and avoid last-minute panic. Aim to start revising in the mornings when your brain is fresher. Sometimes, revising later is unavoidable, but try to limit late night sessions. You can't revise successfully in a rush, so avoid last-minute cramming during all-nighters in your room or the library. But if you have left it to the last minute, try to focus on the subjects you think will come up on the exam.

2. Find out the exam format

Make sure you understand the exam format and scope so you know what to revise. Look over your syllabus and decide your approach. For essay-based subjects talk to your teacher about topics likely to come up and prepare exemplar answers. For knowledge based shorter answer subjects you will need to cover all the content but again talk to your teacher about which topics always appear every year.

3. Plan your revision using a timetable

Once you know what to revise for the exam, make a revision timetable to plan your sessions using a digital or paper diary. Avoid the temptation to jump straight into your revision without one. Making a plan does take time, but it will save you hours of figuring out what to revise each day. Include lots of detail in your plan like relevant readings or lesson notes. Block out time for socialising, exercising and other breaks. Stick to your timetable as best as you can.

4. Find a revision method that works for you

Revision techniques include flash cards, past papers, mind maps, group work and recording yourself talking then playing it back. Finding what works for you involves trial and error. Bear in mind that what works well for one exam might not work for another. Starting your revision early gives you time to find out the best revision methods for you. Answering and marking past paper questions once you have become familiar with the content is also essential to understand what the examiner is looking for in an answer.

5. Set up a nice, tidy study space

You'll need somewhere with good lighting, your pens close by, your phone out of sight and your TV unplugged. Try not to revise on your bed, or you'll be dreaming of pink igloos and elephants before you know it.

6. Don't spend ages making your notes look pretty

This is just wasting time. For diagrams, include all the details you need to learn, but don't try to produce a work of art.

7. Test yourself

Time spent testing yourself pays off, so come up with questions to test your knowledge. Make sure you understand what you're revising by thinking it through, rather than learning by mechanical repetition.

Revision cards with questions on one side and subject knowledge on the other is a good way to go back later and keep retesting yourself. Ask your friends and family to test you too.

8. Teach someone else

Explaining what you've learned to someone else is a great way to be sure you understand the topic. It will also help you remember information and identify any areas you don't fully understand.

9. Stick revision notes all around your house

So in the exam you think, "Aha, quadratic equations, they were on the fridge..."

10. Vary your revision with different activities

Try a variety of different revision techniques — answering practice questions, writing down notes from memory, and using Revision Guides, Flash Cards, Exam Practice Workbooks etc.

11. Do lots of practice papers and questions

You'll find it far easier to answer questions in the exam if you've tried similar ones at home beforehand. Previous years past papers are available on-line from the exam boards and some companies produce practice papers you can buy for some top practice.

12. Don't just read your notes

You have to WRITE STUFF DOWN. This is really basic "how to revise" stuff. When you write it down its better not to copy it but try to convert it into a different form like a list of bullet points, a table, a diagram, a mindmap or whatever gets you thinking about the content.

13. Try reading bits in different accents

Australian is particularly fun.

14. Keep your phone and other distractions away.

Phones are great, but they're a one-stop shop for procrastination. Heed our warnings and stick it in a drawer while you're revising.

15. Take your revision wherever you go

If you find books aren't quite portable enough, lots of Revision Guides and Textbooks come with handy online editions

16. Space out your revision and take breaks

Memorising information takes time — you can't cram it all in at the eleventh hour and expect it to stay there. Give yourself the best chance of success by staggering your revision — do an hour then take a break before going back to do more. Stepping away from your revision for a short period of time helps your brain process and cement information, and improves your ability to remember it. Do some

stretching, go for a walk, have a cup of tea – whatever gets you away from your study space for a little while.

17. Look after yourself – don't turn in to a revision zombie. Make sure you sleep and eat well, get some exercise and reward yourself.

Get a good night's sleep. A good night's sleep means your brain functions properly and can recall information. Sleep well to keep your brain healthy and to remember what you've revised. Getting to sleep at a reasonable time means you'll wake up earlier and fit in more revision during the day. Eat well. You might be tempted to save time when revising by surviving on quick food. Eating things like pizzas and guzzling coffee may be time efficient but it won't result in effective revision. Eating a healthy, balanced diet and drinking lots of water will leave you feeling more energetic and focused. Move your body. Exercise gets the blood flowing and sends more oxygen to your brain so it'll function better. Anything to get your brain working well will help you during revision and exams. Exercise is also a nice break from studying. Win-win.

18. Reward yourself. A reward at the end of a long day of revision is something you can look forward to while you're hitting the books. It could be anything from an episode of your favourite TV show to a phone call with a friend. Set a time to reward yourself, and don't stop revising until then. You could also plan a big reward for when exams are over.

19. Stay calm and positive

Maybe the most important thing to remember during the revision process is to stay calm and positive. Had a bad day? Try not to let it affect how you revise the next day. While exams are important, they're not the be all and end all of your education. Try not to stress too much about them. Consistent work over a decent length of time will deliver results – everyone has the occasional day that doesn't go well – just stick to the plan and it will work out well in the end.

20. On exam day, make sure you arrive in plenty of time

Nothing adds extra pressure to exam day like the fear of being late. Just make sure you set off at a little earlier than usual. While you wait, if people around you seem stressed about the exam, try to relax and not let their worries affect you.