



# Successful Revision Timetabling

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# Aims of the session

- LO1: To understand the importance of planning for revision and when to start
- LO2: To be able to create an effective revision timetable
- LO3: To effectively plan and review your own revision progress

# When to start

- It ought to go without saying that planning your revision timetable must be done before anything else, to ensure there is enough time for comprehensive coverage of all subjects.
- GCSE students, for example, usually study between eight and twelve subjects. If you plan to devote a week revising each subject, then that will require two or three months of revision.
- With most exams starting at in May, the revision plan should be in place by the end of February at least.

# How to start

Your plan should bring together two things:

1. What you need to do (that's the subject content you need to revise)
2. When you need to do it by (that's when your exams are)

# 1. What you need to do

- You can find out what subject content you need to revise. You can ask your teacher or downloading a copy of the specification from the exam board website- make sure you know which it is as these can vary greatly.

# 1. What you need to do

Once you've got your lists you need to decide which bits of knowledge you need to revise most urgently by analysing your strengths and weaknesses by

- Rating yourself (self assessment)
- Analysing previous test scores for areas of weakness
- Asking your teacher for advice

## 2. When you need to do it by (that's when your exams are)

- Your deadline for completion of your revision is the day of each of your exams. So, your first step is to find out when your exams are.
- Then, you need to work out how long you've got until each exam and timetable when you're going to revise each piece of subject content so that it's all covered before the day of the exam.

# Putting the information into a timetable

- How much time are you going to spend each day revising?
- What prior commitments do you already have?
- What manageable “chunks” of revision time best suit you?
- What time of day do you work best?
- What location will you work best in?
- How will you factor in breaks and treats?

# Revision timetable Week 1 Example

Time/ Day	08:30-15:30	15:45-16:00	16:00-16:30	16:30-17:00	17:00-17.15	17:15-17:45	17:45-18:15	18:15-19:00	19:00-19:30
<b>Monday</b>	School	T v & snack	Homework	Science Paper 2 Topic X	Break	Science Paper 2 Topic M	Maths Paper 1 Topic Z	Dinner	Past Questions on topics covered
<b>Tuesday</b>	School	Football	Football	Football	Football	Homework	Homework	Dinner	English Topic F
<b>Wednesday</b>	School	Take dog for a walk	Geography Paper 1 Topic F	English Of Mice and Men	Break	English Past Qs Of Mice and Men	Homework	Out with friends	Dinner
<b>Thursday</b>	School	T v & snack	Homework	Homework	Break	Geography Paper 1 Topic I	Maths Paper 1 Topic G	Maths Past Qs	Dinner
<b>Friday</b>	School	Take dog for a walk	Homework	PE Topic N	Break	Science Paper 1 Topic K	Science Paper 1 Topic L	German Topic L	Dinner
<b>Saturday</b>	Out with friends	Homework	Homework	Break- Walk dog	RE Paper 1 Topic 1	Re Paper 1 Topic 1 Past Q	RE Paper 1 Topic 2	RE Paper 1 Topic 2 Past Qs	Dinner
<b>Sunday</b>	Football	Grandma's	Grandma's	Grandma's	German Topic L-Quick vocab recap	Business Topic T	Business Topic T	Catch up revision slot	Make Week 2 Revision Plan

# Plan a week at a time

- Each week you'll find out more about what works and what doesn't work for you. You'll see whether you like to revise a wide variety of subjects each day, or stick to one subject. You'll find out if you can work for 20 minutes before a break or 60 minutes.
- Knowing these things will allow you to tweak and adjust the way you plan out your revision according to your own personal quirks and needs.

# Expect to make changes

- Lots of things will shift and change as you go through your revision period up until your exam.
- The weaknesses you identified at the beginning may become your strengths, meaning you need to focus on other areas. Or, your weaknesses may stay weak and need more time as you go along to help you sort them out.
- Things may change in your life. Life goes on, even while you're revising. If something happens e.g. your family gets a dog, you might have to find time to walk the dog. Other things change too.
- Never expect to make an eight-week long revision timetable and expect things not to change. They will.

# Make sure you factor in homework time

- Especially when you first start to revise you'll still be receiving homework and coursework tasks. Make sure you allow time to do these tasks each week. If you don't you'll end up doing one of two things:
  1. Wearing yourself into the ground with too much work
  2. Failing with either your revision timetable or your homework/coursework
- Neither you nor I want either of these things to happen. (This is also a good reason to make your revision timetable one week at a time).

# Be honest with yourself

How familiar does this sound:

- You come home from school knowing that you need to do some revision. However, it's been a long day at school and you're feeling a bit weary. You make yourself a cup of tea, lie back on the sofa and start playing on your phone.
- Before you know it your tea has gone cold and an hour has gone by. No revision has been done.

There are two ways to deal with this.

1. Set a timer for your down time. Everyone needs a break so acknowledge that. However, put limits on it by setting a timer. When the timer goes off, you get to work.
2. Use your distractions as rewards for getting the work done. Promise them to yourself as a gift for doing good work if you focus well on a task and get it done.