

Revision strategies – teachers’ top tips for success

Fitzharrys’ teachers have put together a set of strategies to help you succeed.

<u>Step 1 - Planning</u>	<u>Step 2 - Revising</u>	<u>Step 3 - Testing</u>
<p>Set time to revise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Divide an evening into 3 hour blocks. Each hour should have 45 minutes revision and 15 minutes break ✓ Divide a day into 3 x 3 hour blocks. ✓ Allocate one of these to a non-revision activity. ✓ Revise in the remaining blocks (3 x 45 minutes) x 2 = 4 1/2 hours ✓ Get out and do some exercise. ✓ Important to get the right balance – good exercise, relaxation, time for friends <p>Study environment is crucial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If possible, don’t revise in your room. If you must, create a distinct study area. ✓ Your room can be the place for relaxation and having a break. ✓ This reduces anxiety and helps relaxation. ✓ It also avoids distraction and interruptions. ✓ Put your phone/tablet/laptop/radio/music off and away. Save these things for your break. <p>Know what you’re revising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Have a balanced timetable for when and what you will revise. ✓ Don’t avoid the subjects and topics you don’t like or struggle with. ✓ Do the difficult stuff first; tackle it head on. ✓ Use your subject specific tick lists and RAG sheets to help guide you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Put post-its of ideas you struggle with in places you look at as part of your routine; fridge door, mirror etc. ✓ Spider diagrams and mind maps of key concepts and ideas. ✓ Record yourself reading through key ideas on your phone, then listen back to it. ✓ The revision clock divides a topic into clear sections and summaries. ✓ Use revision cards to summarise big ideas concisely. ✓ Use online revision for key topics and ideas. But make sure it is the correct content for the exam board you’re studying. ✓ Read through notes in your book/folder and revision guides. Then summarise the ideas in a shorter form. ✓ Use images and diagrams to revise. Annotate images and graphs to remind yourself of key content. ✓ Create an acrostic poem about a key concept or idea. Use and underline / highlight the key terms. ✓ Read through and analyse good example answers, particularly for longer questions. ✓ Write things out again and again. Each time you re-write notes reduce the volume so that key ideas are triggered by smaller content. ✓ Create picture maps of quotations and key facts you need to learn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ask family and friends to test your knowledge and understanding. Make this testing part of your pre-dinner routine. ✓ ‘Cover – Copy – Check’ to see if you’ve remembered key ideas. ✓ Test yourself by answering exam questions. See how well you did by self- marking against the criteria. As you build your confidence do this in timed conditions. ✓ Create different model answers; a poor one, an average one and a good one. ✓ Create a simple quiz on key terms or ideas. Test yourself against this quiz. Do this immediately after you’ve revised, and sometime after. ✓ Create and use Kahoots to test yourself. ✓ Use Quizlet and other memory apps to test your knowledge and understanding. ✓ Write a series of questions and answers to test a friend in your class. ✓ Use exam board questions from websites and your teachers.