

UPGRADE STUDY ADVICE

Revision: Tips and Tactics

Planning

- Tidy up! Organise your lecture notes, lab reports and other materials. File them in sequence: start with course outline for an overview of the course as a revision 'kick-start'.
- Draw up a revision timetable. A structured approach can really help. Get a study planner and get planning.
- Look at past papers — this will help to identify key topics that are likely to appear. Ask yourself whether you need to revise everything, or whether you can focus on fewer topics in depth.
- Find out what the exam will be like. How long is it? How is the exam paper organised?
- Aim for a balanced approach — don't avoid revising difficult topics or spending too much time on these. Don't forget to review topics you are good at.

Memory

- Have frequent, brief reviews of what you are revising.
- Write 5 minute summaries of your lecture notes, book chapters, and essays — as much as you can write in 5 minutes in note form.
- Think in terms of questions — what are the questions these lecture notes answer? Accumulate a 'question bank' to revise from.
- Help other people! Explaining, clearly and simply is good revision.
- Test yourself: start with questions you can answer quickly in note form and build up to longer answers.
- Display your notes in the form of wall charts, mind maps or key words on post-it notes.

Concentration

- Vary your approach to revision. Revise in groups as well as independently. Consider reading, short tests, making charts or diagrams, discussion, flash cards, presentations to other students.
- Use the BBR — Block, Break, Review! This comprises a block of study time, a short break, a quick review of what has been covered.
- Take care of yourself — don't skip breakfast! Hunger does not improve concentration.
- Identify when you're at your best. Tackle the most difficult revision at that time.