

# Year 13 Revision Tips and Tricks

<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/revision-help>

## 1. Read the examiners' reports

My number-one gold-star advice (and I genuinely believe this is the only reason I got my A\* in English Language) is this: read the examiners' reports. Then read them again.

What baffles me is that, year upon year, the exam boards make public a document that is, wait for it, written by the people who are going to mark your papers. And in it, they tell you what they like to read. They also give you examples of what not to do.

Exam-technique wise, this is the most useful and important resource you have. Utilise it. Be all fancy and print it off and highlight key points and make spider diagrams. Stick it on your fridge. Memorise it, then eat the paper. Whatever. Just make sure, if you're doing an essay subject, you walk into that exam knowing that, for the last five years in a row, examiners have given high marks to pupils who offer criticisms to viewpoints, or who relate to personal research, or whatever.

## 2. Check past papers

Practice is key, so getting your hands on past paper questions and answers is very important. You're able to make connections between different areas of the syllabus. This is very important when it comes to A / A\* questions.

So put down those revision cards and mind-maps once you've learned them. There's no point going over something a million times; you need to be able to apply it. At least two weeks before exams, start concentrating on past papers. Do each one at least twice. With each one, trawl through the mark scheme and ensure you understand everything there. This gives you a better idea of how to think through an exam question.

I rarely just know the answer. In the harder questions I have to think about it and work it out. That's what you need to be able to do to get the high grades.

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## 3. Be prepared

If you're unsure what will come up in an exam, get a copy of the syllabus off the internet and literally tick off every single thing on the list.

## 4. Make it more manageable

Break down your subject into ordered sections. Breaking down the exam into lots of little sections makes revision less daunting, and you'll know exactly where you stand in terms of how much you've done.

For my exams I broke down a module into 20 sections or topics. It meant it didn't seem like much of a chore to start the next one, as they didn't last long. Then, before I knew it, I'd whizzed through the module without it being much work.

## 5. Don't be tempted to cram

Revise continually. Don't leave it a few weeks before an exam. Revise the stuff you're learning as you learn it.

Go home from school and make flash cards and posters and so on. That way, when you come to the exam period, you already know most of it and it's just brushing up on final details.

Don't frantically cram for an exam. There's no point - it won't go in.

## 6. Make a Plan

The best thing my Mum ever did for me was make me set up a revision timetable. I wrote out every topic within every subject I needed to revise then guesstimated how many sessions of 50 minutes I would need to revise that topic.

I then put this into a timetable so when it came down to revising I wouldn't spend ages just flicking through any book finding something to revise but would know exactly what area I was to cover in that time period.

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## 20 game-changing revision tips you don't want to miss

<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/student-life/game-changing-revision-tips-we-tweeted-you-may-have-missed>

### Making a revision timetable that actually works

*Just like an architect wouldn't begin a project without a blueprint, you can't just open a book randomly one day, begin reading and hope for the best.*

A solid [revision](#) timetable not only guarantees you cover everything you need to, in time for the exam; but it also breaks everything down into more manageable chunks - much less scarier!

Once you start getting everything out on paper or screen, you'll have a proper idea of the task ahead. Can you afford a few days off here and there? Or is it pretty much full-on revision right up to the exams?

<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/student-life/creating-a-revision-timetable-that-actually-works>

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## Useful timetable apps

Below are three popular apps to help structure your revision:

**My Study Life:** an app to use throughout the year, not just during your revision period. Track homework and assignments, and organise your daily and weekly schedule. Everything is stored in the Cloud for easy access on multiple devices. Available on: [Play Store](#), [iTunes](#)

**SQA My Study Plan:** created by the Scottish Qualification Authority for Scottish students, the app creates a personalised study plan based on when your exams are – you can import your exam timetable directly from SQA MyExams. Available on: [Play Store](#), [iTunes](#)

**Timetable:** if you're an Android-head, Timetable is one way to manage school life across your devices. The app even mutes your phone during lessons, in case you forget... Available on: [Play Store](#)

**Good luck with your revision!**

Don't forget, we are here to help – form tutors, subject teachers, Dr Coote, Mrs Sanders and Mrs Beacom – we all have experience of exams and of feeling the pressure – let us know what we can do to help you achieve your best.

**We wish you much success in the forthcoming exams and final assignments!**

