



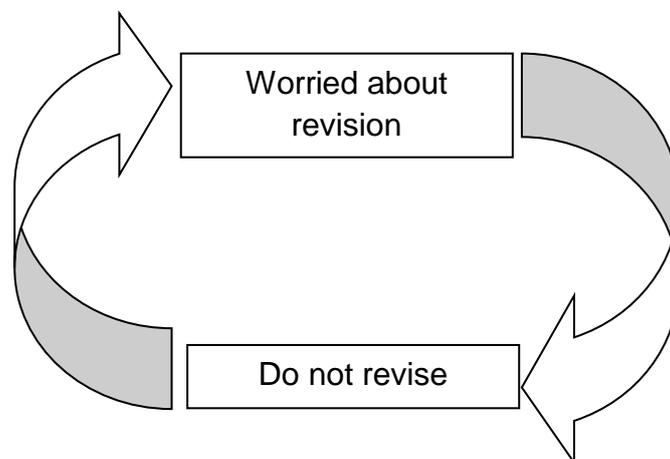
Revising if you run out of time

Introduction

Ideally you should try and revise for exams on an on-going basis (so that you spread out your revision). However, if you run out of revision time there are some strategies that you can apply.

Do not panic

Sometimes students do not revise because they find the idea of exams scary. The end result is that as the exam comes closer, they start to become more worried because they haven't done enough revision. This can become an on-going cycle:



Your revision will be less effective if you are worried because this will distract you from the topics you are trying to study. If you have run out of revision time is important to try and stay calm and do not put off starting your revision.

Things you can do

The following strategies can be used as a basis for last minute revision. **However**, these should not be seen as an easy way of preparing for exams.

Try to find out as much as you can about your exam content. Considering the following points will help you to do this:

- How is your exam formatted? Is your exam multiple choice or written?
- Using your unit handbook, try to predict exam topics that might come up (look at the topics that were covered during lectures and tutorials) and revise accordingly.
- Re-read your lecture notes just focusing on key points.
- Create mind maps (spider diagrams) that summarise the key points that were covered in each lecture.
- From memory, try and list key points that were covered in each lecture. Lists with the fewest points and ideas are the topics you need to revise the most.
- Are there any topics that you really do not understand? If so, look these up in a textbook and make some very *brief* notes (in your own words).
- Scan read any recommended reading (for instance, textbook chapters). Don't concentrate on detail (focus on headings and sub headings) – look for the underlying principles of what is being discussed.
- Talk to your friends (who have revised) about key concepts that are likely to come up in the exam. Ask them to describe concepts/models/theories to you. This will help you to develop your understanding. It will also be beneficial to your friends, as it will also help them to revise.

Further information

The Learning Resources Study Hub provides a range of opportunities (such as workshops and drop-ins) for you to enhance your academic skills. For more information visit:

lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub

