



Different revision techniques

Introduction

To increase the chance of exam success, you need to really understand the material you are revising. It is therefore important that you employ effective revision techniques. There is no 'right' way to revise – you need to find strategies that work for you. However, there are a range of revision techniques that you could use.

Different revision techniques

Review hand-outs / notes from lectures and seminars -

Throughout a term it is important to periodically review your lecture notes and hand-outs. Reading through your notes will allow you remember what topics have been covered during your course and how subject matter fits together. This represents a fundamental part of your on course learning and is also very helpful in the revision process.

Complete recommended reading

Reading will really help you to develop your understanding of subject matter. Therefore, you should try to complete any reading that is recommended by your tutor (usually indicated in a unit handbook). As you read, it is important that you make notes about key theories/models/concepts.

Create revision aids

When you revise it is important that you create your own revision aids. These could be spider diagrams, mind maps, list based notes or cue cards. Where possible try and create these aids using your own words. The process of creating revision aids will help you to learn the information that you are revising.

Memory prompts

When revising for an exam, you may find some areas are difficult to remember. Using different memory prompts is helpful for creating an association, such as post-it notes, audio materials or acronyms.

Practise completing previous exam papers

Previous exam papers are available via the University Library Catalogue. Try and get hold of previous exam papers that have been used in the units you are studying. Looking at previous papers will give you an idea of how questions are commonly structured and topics that could come up in your exam. Complete some previous exam papers as part of your revision. However, make sure that previous exam papers are completed in exam conditions (i.e. timed and in silence).

Repetition

Your memory of facts will be improved through repetition. For instance, repeatedly writing down the information you need to memorise. This can be useful when trying to remember spellings, formulas or names and dates of research.

Revise with friends

It can be helpful and reassuring to form a revision group. As a group you can then discuss the areas that you are all revising. Your knowledge of a topic will be enhanced through both listening to and talking about the topics that you need to revise. When revising in a group you might ask another member to prepare some questions about the areas you are revising which you can try to answer.

Attend revision sessions

Tutors commonly offer revision sessions as part of a unit. Make sure that you do not miss any revision sessions that are timetabled into your teaching programme. Prior to attending the session, make a list of questions that you want to ask. You should also make notes throughout the session especially in relation to any topics or content that the tutor recommends you revise.

Focus upon developing your understanding

Regardless of how you revise it is very important that you check your understanding of the subject matter:

Understand terminology /concepts / models

Make sure you understand any terminology / models / concepts that were regularly covered in your unit. Focus your reading on areas where you feel less confident.

Identify and address knowledge gaps

Locate any 'gaps' in your knowledge as soon as possible so that you can focus additional revision on these areas. A good way to check that you have understood something you have revised is to see if you can write about it from memory using your own words. Alternatively, explain something you have revised to another person (even if they are not familiar with the topic). If you are unable to write/describe the topic in detail, it is likely that this represents a gap in your knowledge.

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

