



# Identifying what to revise

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## Introduction

When preparing for an exam it is very important that you know what topics you need to revise. This will allow you to save time and feel more confident. The strategies in this guide establish how to determine your key revision topics.

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## 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](http://lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub)**



## Getting an overview

It is important to get an overview of the topics that are likely to come up in an exam.

You can do this through:

<b>Unit Handbook</b>	Make sure that you carefully read your unit handbook. This will contain information about the exam format, assessment weighting and content. It will also contain an overview of key topics.
<b>Lecture / seminars</b>	The material covered during your lectures is likely to form the basis for how you will be able to answer exam questions. In terms of identifying what to revise, consider the title of each lecture and whether any key models / theories were addressed. You should also make sure that you note down any information that your lecturers provides in terms of what to revise. If they indicate you need to know something ensure it is addressed in your revision.
<b>Recommended reading</b>	Tutors will regularly recommend that you undertake additional reading to supplement material that has been discussed during lectures. It is likely that information included in recommended reading will be useful in terms of undertaking your exams. It is important to undertake recommended reading about any topics that you did not fully understand when they were covered in lectures.
<b>Previous exam papers</b>	Sometimes previous exam papers will be available via the library catalogue. Reading through these can help to identify topics that might appear in an exam. However, be careful when using previous papers – unit content will change over time.

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## Things to consider

When selecting what to revise it is important to think about issues associated with exam format or assessment weighting that might influence how you should revise:

### Exam weighting

What percentage of your grade is associated with the exam? You are likely to need to allocate more time to exams with higher assessment weighting. However, make sure that you do not neglect other exams.

## **Exam format**

The format of an exam should determine what you revise. For instance, a multiple choice exam is likely to require a general understanding of topics covered throughout a unit. In contrast, a written exam will need a more detailed appreciation of specific areas.

## **Revision Focus**

Some students choose to focus on specific topics and hope that these will come up in an exam. For instance, if an exam has five questions of which you need to answer three, a student might choose to only revise three topics. This strategy is risky because you might find that the questions related to the topics you have revised are not worded as you expected. It is therefore a good idea to revise more topics than you will need on the day so that you have options in terms of which questions you answer on the day.