



Taken from the  
bestselling guide,  
**GCSE Study Skills**

# Hints and tips to get the most out of your revision

The secret of exam success is organisation, and a good timetable is essential. The best are always realistic and flexible. Use this short guide to set up your own study timetables and take the stress out of revision.

To get started, grab a diary, calculator and your revision notes, then ask yourself the following questions:

- ▶ How many days until your first exam?
- ▶ What is the maximum amount of time that you are willing to revise on a typical weekday, on a typical Saturday, and on a typical Sunday?
- ▶ Are there any dates between now and your first exam when you won't be able to revise?
- ▶ How many subjects are you studying?
- ▶ And how many topics are you studying per subject?

# Calculate your revision time

Tip

Note the dates of your exams and leave a week or two before each exam for final revision.

Having answered the questions on the previous page, you can now estimate the total number of hours available for revision.

- 1 Multiply the number of weekdays (**A**) between now and your first exam by the time you intend to revise on weekdays (**L** hours).
  - 2 Multiply the number of Saturdays (**B**) between now and your first exam by the time you intend to revise on Saturdays (**M** hours).
  - 3 Multiply the number of Sundays (**C**) between now and your first exam by the time you intend to revise on Sundays (**N** hours).
  - 4 Subtract the time that is unavailable for revision (**X** hours).
- (AxL) + (BxM) + (CxN) – X = R (your revision time)**

## ALLOCATE YOUR REVISION TIME

Once you have calculated the time available for revision you need to allocate the time across the subjects and topics you are studying.

Make a list of the subjects you are taking and divide the amount of revision time you have across them. Allocate more revision time to subjects where you feel less confident.

### Example

Subject	Time (hours) to revise in total	Time (hours) to revise each week
English	20	2
Maths	20	2
French	30	3
Science	40	4
Geography	40	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>15</b>

You now need to do the same for each subject.

Make a list of the topics you need to revise. Then divide the amount of time you have allocated to revising that subject between the various topics, the same way you did for your subjects above.

You should now be ready to construct your weekly revision timetables...

# Example Weekly Timetable

Tip

Set aside 15–30 minutes every day to review topics that you have already revised.

	English (2 hours)	Maths (2 hours)	French (3 hours)	Science (4 hours)	Geography (4 hours)	Total
<b>Monday</b>		Equations (1 hour)		Bonding (1 hour)		2 hours
<b>Tuesday</b>			Holidays (1 hour)		Tourism (1 hour)	2 hours
<b>Wednesday</b>	Newspapers (1 hour)			Waves (1 hour)		2 hours
<b>Thursday</b>			Grammar (1 hour)		Trade & aid (1 hour)	2 hours
<b>Friday</b>	Swimming					0 hours
<b>Saturday</b>	Shakespeare (1 hour)	Vectors (1 hour)	Transport (1 hour)			3 hours
<b>Sunday</b>				Digestion (2 hours)	Weather (2 hours)	4 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 hours</b>	<b>2 hours</b>	<b>3 hours</b>	<b>4 hours</b>	<b>4 hours</b>	<b>15 hours</b>

## REMEMBER

Timetables reduce stress levels by putting you in control of revision. Stay calm if you get behind. By working towards the completion of all of your revision before your first exam, the time between your exams, will be free, to catch up and recap on certain topics.

# Tips to make revision easier and exams more stress free!

## 1. Know your course

Start by making sure you have revision guides that cover the specifications for the exams you are taking.

## 2. Make a revision timetable.

Draw up a plan for all your subjects and set a realistic number of hours for revision each week.

## 3. Revise effectively

Short bursts of about 30 minutes followed by a break work best. Make your revision active – summarise your notes, highlight key points, draw diagrams, use post-it notes, ask someone to test you.

## 4. Boost your memory

Find ways of learning that suit you best. Try using images, rhymes and colour-coding to trigger your memory.

## 5. Practice questions

Practice questions are included in Letts and Lonsdale revision guides and help you to get used to the style of questions used in the exams. Highlight the key words in the question, plan your response and ensure that your answer is relevant.

## 6. Think positive

Look back at your original revision plan from time to time and realise the progress you have made. If there are areas that you find particularly difficult, ask your teacher for help.

## 7. Handling stress

Start preparing for the exams early. Take breaks from revising, exercise regularly, eat and sleep well. Remind yourself that it will all be over in a few months!

## 8. The week before

Allow time for final revision where you can go over essential or difficult points.

## 9. The night before

Look over a few points but don't try to cram lots of new information. Get all your equipment ready – pens, pencils, calculator, ruler etc. Have an early night.

## 10. In the exam

Follow all instructions in the exam papers. Read each question carefully and ensure you answer the question. Check the number of marks available for each question and answer accordingly. Keep an eye on the time – make sure you answer the correct number of questions and leave time to read through your answers.

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