

Student Name: _____

Study Skills - 6

Revising & Exam Preparation

Are you getting the most out of your hard work?

Tips for better Exam Preparation:

Below are some tips offered by students who achieved their goals and got the results they wanted. For each item, indicate whether you currently use this method/technique. If you do, mark the box on the left - indicating that this contributes to your study success. If not, mark the box on the right, indicating that this is moving you away from your study goals.

Learn from past papers: Get to know how the course is laid out in the exam itself by studying past exam papers. Then put your time into the material that is important in the course. Learn from your examination of past papers how the marks are allocated.

Know in advance how much is expected: Analyse past examination papers. Answer the questions in outline form. Jot down the *main ideas* and the *supporting ideas* for your answer. When you have completed the process refer to you own notes. Fill out and change your notes as necessary. This process involves testing, recalling and checking where the gaps or mistakes in your knowledge/understanding may be.

Practice against the clock: Write a complete answer to the question along the lines of your planned outline. Do this against the clock, allowing yourself the time that would be allocated in the exam itself. Don't use any notes or textbook during this exercise.

Isolate major topics: Be certain to isolate the major topics in your revision and learn them very well. While going over the contents of your notes try to anticipate possible examination questions.

Focus on the main points: Keep writing down the main points as you go through your notes. The writing process will fix the ideas in your mind.

Prepare for aural and orals in advance: It's not good enough to start preparing for aural and oral sections of the exam paper a week or two before the test takes place. Practice should begin at the start of the course and continue right through the year. Know the amount of marks awarded for these sections and be sure to give the proportion of study time to them that reflects the amount of marks awarded.

Revising

Revising your subject questions, topics and themes are vital to your plan to help you get what you want from school. When you are first introduced to a topic in class you may understand it but most of what you learn will be forgotten if you don't revise. In fact research shows us that without revision we will lose up to 90% of what we learn within 6 months. Revision helps you retain the material for a longer period of time. Revising also helps increase your understanding of the topic.

Revisit the material covered in class within two days: Educational Psychologists have discovered that it is most important to revise within 24 hours of first learning something. This will often be in the form of homework.

Write in your diary the key questions to be revised on a specific dates within 3 months of first learning. A quick revision of your notes at this stage would be ideal.

When approaching the end of your course work out a weekly study plan for each of the final weeks and a daily plan which will outline the specific questions to be covered in each study session.

What actions can you now take to increase your study success?