

Arden School's Top Ten Tips on Revision.

Most students at Arden will have some exams in year 10 and lots at the end of year 11. We are often asked how to revise and there is no simple answer to this. Every single student is different and you need to try out different methods which work for you.

The one thing that is true for all students however is, the longer you put it off, the more stressed and the lower grades you will get. You need to take revision seriously and put some thought into how you will do it sooner rather than later.

1 Attend as many revision sessions as possible.

At Arden we offer a huge amount of support and whilst a lot of students take advantage of this some simply do not. These under no circumstances replace your need for private revision but they do help. To make them most effective, you should pre-revise the area before the revision session on your own, this will then help cement the knowledge in during the session and help you ask questions in areas you struggle on.

2 Synchronise watches

Revision is most effective when done in timed 45 minute bursts, with a 10-minute break in between. That way, you don't fall asleep at your post. The best way to stick to this is to post your timetable in a public place (the fridge door works well). That way, not only you, but the rest of your family, know the times when you are meant to be studying.

3 Start early

The mind is much more alert first thing in the morning. Also, it means you can get your day's revising out of the way by lunchtime. Start with the subject you like least / you are weakest at, while your powers are still at their strongest. But remember not to cut corners – any area could be part of the exam.

4 Request reinforcement

If you start early you will find out where you have problems sooner. You can then request support from your friends, family or teachers in these areas. Also if you are not confident in one area it will give you time to reinforce your exam technique on this by practicing past papers.

5 Cut radio contact

Otherwise known as switch off your mobile phone. Incoming calls and texts are just too tempting, especially if the alternative is memorising irregular verbs. Turn off the computer, too, unless you are visiting revision website www.s-cool.co.uk or where you get given lots and lots of nice green ticks when you get the answers right.

6 Forge alliances

Revising with friends is a good way of reinforcing what you do know and finding out what you don't. At its most basic level, you can test each other on vocabulary, explain basic scientific principles, explain the benefits and drawbacks of high speed rail. On a loftier plane, you can play the part of historical figures, for example, one can be Charles I and the other Cromwell.

7 Redecorate your bedroom walls

Cover your bedroom wall in different subject mind maps and then try and talk yourself through them without looking (you may find pacing helps – its proven to help the thought process in some people). By talking through things it will cut down on hours of needless writing.

8 Boost morale

It helps motivation to have a treat or two lined up at the end of a revision session slots: a favourite snack, a favourite lunch, or a favourite pre-taped television programme all cued up and ready for the end of your 45 minute slot – not during it will distract you.

9 Past Papers Are the Best way to see how you are doing and push yourself further.

Most subjects will have past papers – ask your teachers where to get them from online. Try to learn the material and then try a question. Take a break before marking it yourself and then making a list of ways you could have go more marks. Often in subjects such as Science, PE or Geography how you answer the question and use information you are given will decide on the level of marks you get.

10 Location, Location, Location

Sat in the bedroom on your computer is not revision. The best suggestion for most is at your kitchen table. Turn off your mobile and leave in another room, or use it for the timer alone. The less stuff to distract you the better.

Write a list of revision methods which you think will work for you:

Write a list of subject areas you are finding difficult which you need to prioritise for revision or need to seek help on: