

Getting the most out of your revision

A guide for students with Specific Learning Differences (SpLDs), such as Dyslexia

Step 1: Prioritize

When you have a range of modules to revise, it is important to prioritize topics. This will give you a clear starting point for your revision.

Why not try using a [KWL Grid](#) (available from the Useful Downloads section) - this will help you to identify what you 'Know', 'Want to know', and there is also an opportunity to reflect on the consolidation of your understanding through revision.

Once you have identified what you 'Know' and 'Want to know', the next step is to rank your areas of revision in terms of 'Importance' and 'Urgency'. You could use the ['Priority Matrix'](#) (available from the Useful Downloads section) to do this.

Step 2: Create a Plan

Now you know what you need to cover in your revision, you could create a plan, so as to use your time in the most effective way. Before making your plan, you could consider the following questions:

- Which times of the day do I concentrate best?
- What fixed commitments do I have each week such as lectures/seminars, paid work or volunteering?
- When will I schedule regular breaks?

Next, create a [digital](#) or a [paper](#) revision plan (available from the Useful Downloads section), keeping in mind your answers to the questions above.

Step 3: Memorise

Memorising information can be challenging, so it is important to try a range of techniques to find what works most effectively for you. First, you may like to identify your 'VAK Learning Style'- this will allow you to identify which memory strategies may be most helpful : [VAK Questionnaire](#) . Once you have identified your dominant Learning Style, download the relevant guide for some specific memory strategies:

[Visual Learner](#)

[Auditory/Aural Learner](#)

[Kinaesthetic Learner](#)

(Guides available from the Useful Downloads section),

Condensing your notes can be key for aiding memory; click [here](#) for a range of note-taking ideas.

Step 4: Develop Understanding

Creating links between information can help us to retain and re-call it effectively.

You could:

- Create paper mind-maps— do this on A3 paper using specific colours for different topics or to present connections between ideas. Draw images or diagrams next to key points as a visual aid.
- Create digital mind maps- you could try using online mind mapping software such as [Mind Manager](#) or [MindMeister](#)

Step 5: Practise!

Well done for reaching Step 5! Now is your opportunity to assess your progress and identify any areas in need of further revision.

To gauge your understanding, you could:

- access past papers on the [Library Database](#)
- Create your own digital flashcards and quizzes on [GoConqr](#) or [Quizlet](#)
- Record and then listen back to yourself answering questions from memory

And remember:

Don't forget: for more ideas check out our Revision Module

Remember: Leave gaps for breaks in between revision periods. Divide your day into three sections—morning, afternoon and evening. You could aim to revise during two of these sections and relax in one.

Regular breaks between revision sessions improves your effectiveness and wellbeing. Each revision session should be 30 to 50 minutes maximum, otherwise, the quality of your revision and your wellbeing may both be impacted.

Identify and make a note of a range of time-bound relaxation activities you can do in your breaks such as going for a short walk, reading something not related to your studies, or, perhaps, catching up with a friend!