

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.

I studied previous years exam 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.

I got to 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.

I isolated 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.

I rewrote the main points as I went through my notes: Keep writing down the main points as you go through your notes. The writing process will fix the ideas in your mind.

I prepared for aural and orals months 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.

I included some revision in each study session: I set aside time at each study session to revise questions or topics I had learned in the past.

I became part of a study group: Four students in my class set up a study group. We would each prepare a topic and teach it to the group. Each person would have a set amount of time to teach the topic. This worked well because we had definite starting and finishing times. We gave about an hour and a half each week to this learning.

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