

Rendcomb College



**Revision Guide
March 17**

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Why Revise?

It doesn't matter how good you think you are; revision is essential for success. All top athletes, musicians, artists, scientists and explorers know that you can prevent failure through extensive preparation. There is no shortcut: effective preparation is the only way to guarantee that you meet your exams in peak condition.

Don't leave anything to chance: prepare!

Lots of students fall into one of two traps: they believe either they don't need to revise or they can leave it to the last minute. All of the educational research suggests 'cramming' is one of the worst ways to learn. It encourages what is known as 'surface learning', which basically means you overload your short-term memory, without giving your brain time to move the information into your long-term memory. 'Cramming' is tiring and not effective; it's likely you will confuse yourself.

At Rendcomb, we believe that 'spacing' is a better way of approaching your revision. Start early and keep revisiting the same topics, spacing your visits apart by a day. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that once you have revised something, then your revision is done. Revisit the same material again and again, in a variety of ways, and you will ensure that your learning is 'deep'.

This kind of preparation is what great learners do.

Finally, don't think that sitting reading notes is an effective way to revise. Revise smart! Twenty minutes of effective, active revision is more useful than hours staring passively at notes. Revise in an active way - do things to engage your brain and force yourself to use your knowledge in different ways. Revision is only as boring as you make it; be creative in your approach.

We won't wish you good luck for the exams, because if you revise effectively luck simply won't be a factor. Don't leave it to luck - effective preparation will mean that you are ready for anything, and guaranteed to succeed!



Academic Goals: Target Success!

Motivated people have an end goal in mind; they know what they want to achieve and they will do anything to get there.

Use the space below to record your goals.

These goals might include: the grades you want in your subjects or a percentage score you hope to achieve.



My Academic Goals

Goal 1	How? When?
Goal 2	How? When?
Goal 3	How? When?

Revision Equipment Essentials

Any good job requires the right tools. Get prepared for your revision drive by investing in some of the following things:

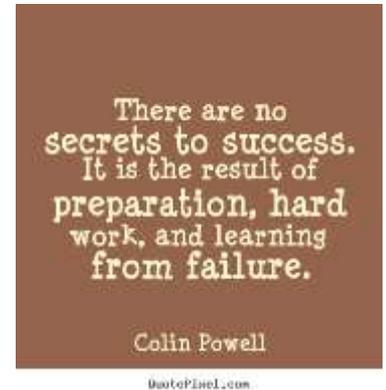
1. Good pens - choose inexpensive but comfortable pens, preferably in a range of colours.
2. Paper - go for a range of sizes and colours
3. Highlighter pens - always useful to help go through notes and highlight key ideas
4. Index cards - very useful and inexpensive
5. Post-it notes - always useful when organising your thoughts
6. Mini book tabs - these tiny sticky notes are excellent for indexing or colour-coding books and textbooks for later reference
7. A device - why not use your device as a revision tool. See later in the guide for recommended apps.
8. Folders - it's important to be organised when revising
9. A desk - try and create a specific place where you work. Working on your bed is likely to not be very productive.
10. A lamp - there's something about a nice lamp that says: 'Hey, look how hard I'm working.'



Top Ten Revision Strategies

Educational research shows that you learn best when you are active. This means that sitting reading through notes is not the best way to prepare for your exams. Try some of the following strategies to help you revise effectively.

1. Create flash cards of important information.
2. Create mind maps and diagrams of key information.
3. Self-test. Write questions on one side of a card and the answer on the others. Test yourself and check the answers.
4. Collaborate. Get together with someone from your class and work together to produce a common product, such as a model essay or a table of key information.
5. Practise 'spacing'. This is the opposite of 'cramming'. Plan to revise the same material three times in a week, doing something different each time. i.e. you might start with a mind map on Monday, and end up with a practice paragraph on Friday. Obviously, you need to start revising early for this to work.
6. Cut up key pieces of information into strips of paper. Practice ordering the ideas in order of priority in response to an exam question.
7. Make a revision film that you can watch back closer to the exam.
8. Search sites like Youtube for instructional videos. For example, there is a huge number of instructional videos on the Khan Academy.
9. Use a variety of colours in your notes. Using different colour pens and highlights helps you organise your ideas by theme or topic.
10. Condense your notes. Try to turn a side of A4 notes into a single post-it note or bullet points. These bullet points will become triggers in your mind for complex information.



...and, at the end of every revision session, write down everything you know about the topic. This will help you form all of your knowledge into a more memorable story.

Using Technology: Best Revision Apps

Using technology in your revision can be very effective; however, make sure your device doesn't become a distraction. Turn off anything that might tempt you away from work: don't waste time checking Facebook, reading Snapchats or browsing your music library!

Explain Everything

This app is a bit like a whiteboard. The reason why it is very useful is that you can record your voice whilst making notes and turn it into a video to watch later.



Evernote

This is an excellent app for storing and organising notes. It works across your different devices and you can create notebooks and 'tags' to help you organise your information.



Mindnode

This is an effective mindmap app.



Sticky Notes

This is the app equivalent of buying a packet of post-it notes.



30/30

This timer allows you to divide your time into pieces. For example, you can set the timer to count down a 30 minute revision period, followed by a 15 minute break. It might help you stay disciplined with your time usage.



Notability

Like Explain Everything, this app allows you to attach voice recording to notes.



Evernote Peak

This is a self-testing app, like using flashcards. Very good when you need to memorise words or facts.



Lucidchart

This is an online mind-mapping app.



Google Drive

Using a Google Document will let you share your notes with your teacher or collaborate with a friend.



Easter Revision Timetable

Plan now what you will devote each revision session to - be as specific as possible.

Time	Week 1 27/3	Week 2 3/4	Week 3 10/3	Week 4 17/4	Week 5 24/4
Mon AM				EASTER MONDAY	
Mon PM				EASTER MONDAY	
Tues AM					BOARDERS RETURN
Tues PM					BOARDERS RETURN
Wed AM	END OF TERM				START OF TERM
Wed PM	END OF TERM				START OF TERM
Thurs AM					
Thurs PM					
Fri AM			GOOD FRIDAY		
Fri PM			GOOD FRIDAY		
Sat AM					
Sat PM					
Sun AM			EASTER SUNDAY		
Sun PM			EASTER SUNDAY		