

What is a revision timetable?

A revision timetable is a tool for managing study time and exam preparation. A revision timetable will include a study plan or day-by-day breakdown of the content you intend to cover in each revision session. It may also include an exam timetable for the GCSE 2024 dates, dates of mock exams and any after school group study sessions.

Why do you need a revision timetable?

Revision timetables gives students control. They allow students to plan their time effectively and track the material they've covered. Rather than confronting a whole textbook or your note-taking books at once, a revision timetable breaks up the modules to cover each day, maximising their revision time.

A revision timetable is also specific to their specific needs and learning gaps, so they choose how much time they need to spend on individual topics. Some content they'll know already by heart and can skip through relatively quickly but others they may need to keep revisiting over the course of the revision period.

How to use a revision timetable?

It needs to be flexible

Though students should try to stick to their revision timetable as closely as possible, remember that it is not set in stone. One day they may be tired, or feeling unwell and may not cover all of the content that they'd hoped to that day. In this case don't panic. Simply make a note at the end of the day what topics you will need to come back and revisit.

It may need to be adapted to fit changing needs

On the other hand, students may find that the original revision timetable that they created at the beginning of the revision period just isn't working and that's ok. A revision timetable is supposed to help with your own revision and if it's not, simply adapt it.

It needs to be realistic

That being said, when a revision timetable is created, it's important to be realistic and avoid cramming. Nobody can revise for six hours a day with no breaks for four months straight. We all need to take small yet frequent breaks to digest information, rest and stay sane! For example, consider working for thirty minutes and then taking a ten-minute break to get a drink or take a walk, before sitting back down to study some more.

A revision timetable should give a sense of achievement each day when you complete a topic, not overwhelm you and make you feel behind. So break your revision down into achievable and digestible chunks to give yourself some small wins.

Creating your revision timetable

There are a few different ways to design a revision timetable. Some students may include all of the subjects that they are studying for all on one revision timetable, other students may have a unique timetable for each individual subject.

Before you start creating your revision timetable first think about:

- What grade do you hope to achieve?
- What grade are you currently working at?
- What are your stronger/weaker subjects?
- What are your stronger/weaker topics?
- What gaps do you need to fill to achieve your desired results for each subject?

A timetable should be designed in whatever way suits the student. Software like excel can be used, or the template that is attached.

How to divide up content on your revision timetable

Once they've decided on the timetable, they should consider the following:

- How much time do you have before exams?
- What are your priority subjects and topics? What subjects/topics are you most and least confident about?
- How will you break each subject into topics?

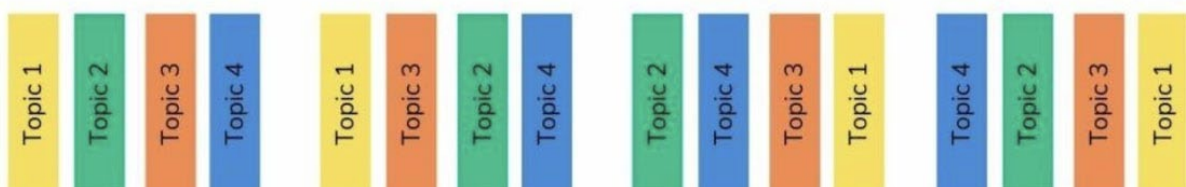
Interleaving your revision

As you break up topics and organise your revision time, it's good to consider interleaving. Interleaving is an approach that involves mixing up and cycling through topics a few times, before coming back to older topics you may have revised less recently.

For example, rather than spending a whole week revising nothing but graphs and then setting that aside once the week is done, never to be touched again, spend some time each day on a number of topics, going back the following week to review what you revised previously.



Space out and interleave topics



5 things you need to make time for in your revision timetable

After you've divided up your time, next you will need to think about what you will do in each revision session planned out on your revision timetable. Here are some revision tips on what to do make time for:

- Active learning – involves going through the syllabus content, studying and learning anything that may have been missed or where there's a lack of understanding.
- Making and reviewing flashcards – this can be an effective revision tool. Though premade flashcards are available for purchase it is often best to make your own as the very act of creating the flashcards will help in your revision.
- Practice questions - GCSE maths questions with worked answers can be very useful in demonstrating how to answer specific types of questions. The exam boards may produce worked example questions, your teacher may go through some in class and they can also be found online such as on YouTube.
- Exam questions - Reviewing past exam questions is crucial to understanding the dynamics of the exam. Looking at exam questions will help you to know what to expect on exam day and can even give an indication on what will and may not appear on the actual exam.
- Past papers - Revision top tip: although it may be unpleasant, it is important to do past exam papers, in exam conditions. Getting familiar with the types of questions on the exam and how marks are awarded is crucial to developing good exam techniques. You don't have to do a whole paper in one go, but do think about completing 10-20 questions in exam conditions, timed. Doing this will help you to feel more comfortable on exam day, and of course, help with your revision.