10 tips for: Revision and exams

Before the exams…

1. Find out about your exams
   - What will they be on?
   - Is it open-book?
   - What will you be expected to revise?
   - Where is it and what time?

2. Know where you need to go and what to take with you
   The worst thing when you’re on your way to your exam is when traffic has made you late and you have no idea of the location – write it down and take it with you.

3. Make a study group to revise
   - Teach each other
   - Read to each other
   - Discuss and debate answers

4. Organise your subject materials
   - Easy to access
   - Easier to revise from
   - Group them into themes

5. Look at past papers and practice
   Practicing taking the exam helps with nerves. It also helps with understanding the layout and types of questions. Practise papers may be available to you through Blackboard.

6. Don’t cram, start at least 1 month before
   - Repetition is key
   - Create a timetable and stick to it
   - 30 minutes a night over a longer period is better than 8 hours

7. Don’t panic! Find your remedy for nerves
   Nerves can sometimes be the defining figure of your grade so take your time to compose yourself and breathe deeply. Before the exam it may be beneficial to take a short walk to keep you occupied whilst waiting.

8. Use reading weeks wisely
   - Make a revision plan
   - Get out all the books you need
   - Reward yourself for working

Find out more on our skills guide: https://libguides.derby.ac.uk/exams
In the exam...

9. Give yourself enough time
   • Break down the question and make a plan – how long should each part take you?
   • Look at the mark weighting
   • Spend more time on questions with higher marks
   • Plan essay style questions at the top of the page

10. Save some time to review your answers
    • Re-read the question and check you’ve answered it
    • Check spelling – have you spelt the subject terminology or authors names correctly?
    • Is there anything you can add?