

Revision topics – taken from Study Skills, Clifton Press, 1999-2000

Choosing topics

- Think carefully about the topics you choose for revision.
- This should be done in close conjunction with the course outline and any past [exam papers](#).
- You might choose to strengthen your strongest topics - and ditch the weakest.
- You might do the opposite - bringing your weak topics up to scratch.
- Don't try learning new topics just before the exam, unless it's necessary.

Coursework notes

- Read through your coursework or [lecture notes](#).
- This should give you a comprehensive overview of the course, plus its important topics and themes.
- If any notes are missing, borrow some from a fellow student and copy them out.
- Avoid leaving gaps in your knowledge if possible.
- Even if you don't revise every topic, an awareness of the whole course will help you make connections between its parts.

Essays

- Read through your coursework [essays](#). This is a particularly good form of revision.
- This is the work you probably know best, since you spent most time working on it.
- You will be building on an existing body of knowledge and experience.

Tutor comment

- Look closely at any tutor comments on the essays.
- Make sure that you understand any of the comments and their [relevance](#) to the subject.
- These notes are the best-informed response you will have to the work you have produced.
- If there are any comments which crop up regularly, this is a sure sign that you need to **take action**.

Concepts

- Rehearse the main concepts and technical vocabulary of your subject.
- Make sure you understand the meaning of technical terms and how they are normally applied.
- Don't just check them in a glossary. Look at them being used in a specific context.
- If you are still not sure of any term, then don't use it in the examination.
- Mis-applied jargon stands out easily, and it creates a bad impression.

Handouts

- Check through any notes or handouts from [lectures](#) or [seminars](#).
- These should help you develop a rounded picture of the course as a whole.

● Past papers

- Make a detailed study of [past examination papers](#).
- Pay particular attention to the [instructions](#) and notes given in the rubric.
- Look for **types** of question, rather than for specific topics.

● 'Predicting'

- Trying to predict this year's [questions](#) can be dangerous - and misleading.
- Tutors may choose something similar to previous years - or they may not.
- Their questions **must** deal with topics covered by the course curriculum.
- You should therefore know in advance which topics the questions will cover.
- It is far more useful to study the paper format, its rubrics, and question **types**.

Memorising

- Don't imagine that revision is solely a matter of [memorising](#) information.
- Understanding concepts, processing information, and making connections between topics are also useful preparation.
- If you do need to memorise data, use appropriate *aides memoires*:

- wallcharts and maps
- portable index cards
- audio tapes
- one-page summaries