



Notre Dame  
CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

# Prioritising your revision

# WHAT DO YOU DO?

Learning to prioritise your revision is something people can really struggle with, especially if you have multiple exams on one day or in one week.

With your revision, do you...

- spend more time on the subject you like?
- spend more time on the subject you find easiest?
- avoid the subject you dislike?
- avoid the subject you find hardest?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above, then you need to reconsider how you approach your revision...

# WHAT IS YOUR FROG?

"Eat a live frog first thing every morning  
and nothing worse will happen to you the  
rest of the day."

– Mark Twain

Mark Twain suggests that you should begin your morning by doing the task  
you are most dreading from your to-do list – we can apply this to our  
revision: first try to tackle either the subject you find most difficult OR the  
subject you dislike the most!

# WHAT IS YOUR FROG?

## Task 1:

Using the list of topics from last week, work out which subject is your 'frog' and why – share this with your partner.

Could you try to tackle revision for this subject first in the evenings when you get in from college or first thing at the weekend?

In doing so, you will gain a sense of achievement from getting that subject or topic 'out of the way' and this will likely leave you feeling less stressed when you move onto other topics/subjects.

# STRENGTHS / WEAKNESSES

## Task 2:

Knowing where your strengths lie is a vital part of determining which subjects need extra revision focus.

Rank your knowledge of each subject on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being you know a lot, 1 being you find the subject difficult to understand).

The lower you score, the more hours per week you need to dedicate to the subject.

Be prepared to explain why you have given the score you choose

# STRENGTHS / WEAKNESSES

## Task 3:

Now try to highlight 3 topics you feel confident with and 3 topics you are struggling with for each subject.

It will be more effective to dedicate more time to the 3 topics you struggle with within each subject, even if you want to try and avoid them

**BUT REMEMBER:** don't neglect the topics you are confident with, you should still spend some time looking over them before the exam



# Smart Tip

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We remember:

10% of what we read.

20% of what we hear.

30% of what we see.

50% of what we see and hear.

70% of what we discuss with others.

80% of what we personally experience.

95% of what we teach others.

-- William Glasser, educational reformist

# A PROBLEM SHARED...

Compare your subject strengths and weaknesses with someone in the room who does one of the subjects you do – do they feel confident with any of the topics you are struggling with or vice versa?

Could you ask your friend to work with you on the topics you are struggling with and in return, help them with the ones they struggle with?

Chances are, you will both learn more effectively doing this than revising the tricky topics on your own!



# SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

Research suggests that saving a topic you are more confident with until last thing at night or last thing before an exam will give you a massive confidence boost.

In turn, this will help you to sleep better, reduce your stress going into revision or college the next morning and will help you feel less panicked than tackling a tricky topic right before going into an exam.

So, although you may be tempted to look over that tricky topic one more time the night before the exam or the morning of the exam, **DON'T!** Choose instead to go over something you are quite confident with to help settle your nerves and boost your confidence.

# PRIORITISING IN THE EXAM

During the exam, ensure you ration your time accordingly – try to divide the time equally between the marks:

If the paper is worth **40** marks and you have **2** hours, each mark should take up approximately **3** minutes.

Some students will choose to tackle the longer questions first (remember the eat a live frog thing?) as they are worth the most marks and will then leave the 1 or 2 mark questions until the end.

These students are prioritising the marks available over completing the paper in the correct order, meaning that if they run out of time, they won't have risked not answering a 10 mark question.

# FINAL TIPS:

- Tackle the topics you struggle with the most first thing after college or first thing in a morning
- Leave the topics you are confident with until the end of the day to help give you a confidence boost and ease any stress before bed and the exam
- Consider pairing up with someone who is confident with the topics you find tricky – we remember 90% of what we teach others
- Think about your body clock – prioritise the trickiest topics for the times of the day when you tend to be most alert. If you always have an energy slump at a particular time of day – leave the easier or less intense topics for that time of day

**Now use the remainder of this lesson to make any changes to your revision timetable based on what we have discussed today**