### Tips for effective revision

#### Key points

- **Revise actively** - engage with the material, don’t just read.
- **Review, recall and self-test from memory.** Check what you really know.
- **Apply what you learn** - practise using it as you will need to in the exam.
- **Stay motivated** - build in time off and rewards for work done.

#### Organise your material

For example summaries can include:

- Mind or concept maps
- Bullet point lists
- Grids or tables
- Hierarchy charts
- Annotated diagrams

Use the course learning outcomes.
- Divide information into chunks.
- Highlight, subordinate and show the relationships between things.
- Use whatever helps you remember – colour, images, speaking, stories.
- Retrieve from memory and check.

#### Use your time effectively

- **Focus intently on working on a task** for a set time (15 to 25 minutes) and then have a 5 minute break.
- **Use small amounts of time to self-test** (e.g. using flash or cue cards).
- **Minimise distractions.**
- **Short breaks are as important as the period of intense study.**
- **It can be better to do a variety of topics than to mass.**
- **After a long study period, have a longer break – take exercise.**

#### Check your knowledge and understanding

**Self-testing** is one of the most effective learning strategies you can use.

- **Make mini-revision fact cards** (cue on front; answer on back).
- **Construct summaries and check to see what you missed.**
- **Bullet point quick essay outlines from memory.**

**Use unlabelled outline charts or diagrams.** Don’t just label these – annotate fully to explain processes, causes and effects using recall and check afterwards.

#### Practise using the material

- **Analyse previous questions.** What are they asking you to do?
- **Make outline answer plans.**
- **Do MCQs and short-answer questions to time.**
- **Write 10 to 15 minute essays to cover breadth.**

**Make up mock questions** which mimic the style and type of exam. Rewrite past paper questions by substituting topics and altering the question stem.