



Revision Techniques

Session Aims

Revision is a process of actively re-working and reorganising your information until you understand it completely. You need to condense it, to elaborate, to explain, to relate, to make connections and, above all, to understand what you are learning. This session aims to:

- Get mentees to think about good revision techniques
- Practice and reflect on summarising notes from a lecture and make flash cards for revision

You will need:

To ask your mentees to bring their notes from a recent lecture

Note cards – or ask your mentees to bring some with them



Activity

- Ask each of your mentees to describe one good and one bad revision experience. From their responses make a list of do's and don'ts. *(15 minutes)*
- Using their lecture notes, ask your mentees to write a brief summary of the topic on a note card. Ask them to make flash cards for the key theories, terms, definitions, people etc. *(10 minutes)*
- Ask them to discuss in pairs the information they have chosen to include and whether this differs from their partner's cards. *(10 minutes)*
- Give each mentee a selection of exam questions for the topic and ask them to think about how they would tackle the question and what they would need to include. *(15 minutes)*
- Mentees can then reflect upon whether the content of their revision cards were sufficient to tackle the exam question and then feedback and share with the group. *(10 minutes)*



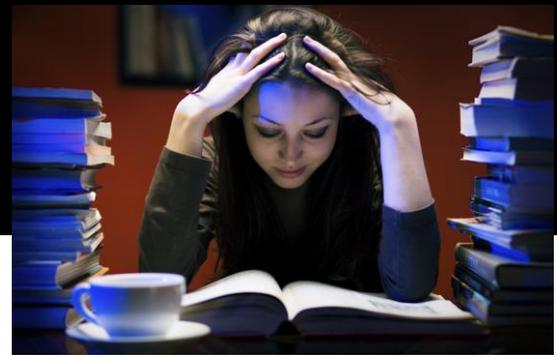
Session: 1 Hour
(Timings are approximate)

Useful Resources

Look at the UCL Student Support website for tips on preparing for and coping with exams <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/support-pages/information>

See reverse for Revision Tips to share with your mentees

Revision Tips



Throughout the year

- Make your lecture notes revision friendly throughout the year by writing brief summaries and checking your notes are clear and comprehensive. This will save you time and last minute panics as exams approach.
- Use the vacations to review the term's work and catch up on relevant reading.
- Organise your notes into subjects/topics and highlight key terms, definitions and theories. Be systematic when organising and condensing your notes.
- Take notes on every lecture. Try to predict possible test questions as you study.
- Create a good environment to study in, preferably a quiet place away from distractions. Try and keep this work space separate from areas where you relax.

Starting revision

- Make a revision timetable and allot time to each subject. Be realistic, remember to also allow yourself time for rest and relaxation.
- Take lecture and reading notes and bring the main ideas together. This provides an overall view of the material. Reflect on the course as a whole. How do all the parts fit together – the lectures, essay topics, practicals, project work, seminars, reading lists?
- Condense each topic to a single page or summary card and use spare moments to revise from them.
- If there is a lot of material to get through, prioritise your time. Use past exam papers to determine which are the most important topics, which subjects you know best already, which topics are compulsory or form an integral part of previous exams.
- Practise writing down the outline of an answer in 25 minutes. Then, in an exam, 45 minutes affords time to think and plan, to write a considered answer and to check through afterwards.
- Discover the criteria that will be used to grade the exam. By knowing what the tutor is going to be looking for in the exam, it will be easier to study for the material and structure your answers.
- Discuss with other students the way they interpret and tackle questions. This is a great way to test your own knowledge and discover gaps in your revision.