

The Aylestone guide to developing a revision timetable

Let's get started on that winning revision timetable...

1. Compiling your timetable

A basic revision timetable is essentially a calendar; but instead of holidays and birthdays, it contains topics and subjects you need to revise on specific days. Yours doesn't really have to stray far from this model: Divide however long you have until your exams by how many subjects you study. Then for each, divide all the topics and areas you need to cover accordingly. Keep it very simple or add extra fields, such as to note specific things you want to achieve in a session. If you can access your timetable on-the-go (via something like Google Docs or an app - see below) you'll have more flexibility over where you can study.

"I find rigid timetables stress me out too much and I end up neglecting them. What I usually do is just make a timetable for the month I'm in and assign a sub-topic to that day.

- Former Aylestone Student

2. Prioritise

What subjects – or particular topics within those subjects – do you need to spend more time on? Perhaps some disappointing PPE / Mock exam results have flagged areas you need to pay attention to? (Use Personalised Learning Checklists created in lessons). Or there are certain subjects where you need to achieve a certain grade, to progress into what you plan to do next? Remember not to neglect those subjects which you're already strong at.

3. Regular refreshers

Don't just cover an area once and move on. If you do this, the material you study first will be a distant memory by the time you come to exams. Fit in time to revisit material. You can test yourself with past papers to check that it's sticking.

4. Approach subjects differently

Certain study methods will suit some subjects better than others. This might depend on how intense the material is, how it will be assessed or simply how you best retain everything. For example, the following methods might work for you: Flashcards for key dates in history. Jingles or rhymes for phrases you'll have to speak in a French oral exam. Pictures to identify parts of the human body in biology. The length of your study periods can also be flexible according to what works for you. For example, you might find that two 40 minute sessions of maths, with a break in between, are most productive - but you can focus on your chemistry revision for longer periods of time.

"One way to structure a revision timetable is to allocate revision sessions and breaks within certain times, such as 45 minutes of revision followed by a 15 minute break, which is repeated.

- Former Aylestone Student

5. Useful timetable apps

Below are three popular apps to help structure your revision:

My Study Life: an app to use throughout the year, not just during your revision period. Track homework and assignments, and organise your daily and weekly schedule. Everything is stored in the Cloud for easy access on multiple devices. Available on: Play Store, iTunes.

SQA My Study Plan: created by the Scottish Qualification Authority for Scottish students, the app creates a personalised study plan based on when your exams are – you can import your exam timetable directly from SQA MyExams. Available on: Play Store, iTunes.

Timetable: if you're an Android-head, Timetable is one way to manage school life across your devices. The app even mutes your phone during lessons, in case you forget... Available on: Play Store.

6. Making your revision timetable

These are useful and effective tools that can help you prepare for exams and achieve the grades you deserve. Some people prefer A4 sized daily or weekly timetables whilst others prefer larger wall sized charts that cover a month long period. You should choose whatever works best for you.

There are example revision timetable templates on the campus website which you can use to help organise your revision periods.

Tips on making a revision timetable:

- When compiling a schedule try to be as realistic as possible. Do not try to do too much in your day with a timetable that you have no real chance of completing.
- Make a list of the subjects that you need to revise for between now and your exams.
- Work out which subjects have the most content that needs to be revised.
- Concentrate on those specific topics or modules that you have the most difficulty with.
- Break down major revision subjects into smaller parts; this can help you make your studying more precise.
- There are a number of free websites that allow you to produce your own online revision planner, such as <https://getrevising.co.uk/>
- Ensure that you include break times during the day, these are important to help you unwind and to make sure you don't burn yourself out.
- Work out when you 'study best', for instance some people are able to concentrate better in the morning. Then use these times to study those topics that require the most effort and energy.
- Do not leave your most difficult or hardest subjects till the end of the day. Instead try to get these out of the way early on.
- After completing a revision period cross it off from your timetable. This will help you to feel a sense of achievement.
- At the end of each week assess your performance and change your plans accordingly.
- Consider using different coloured pens to highlight specific classes or rank subjects according to importance. However if you feel you may be changing things around then use a simple pencil.
- Keep your timetable flexible and be ready to change it if circumstances change.
- Try not to spend the whole day revising one subject. Most experts suggest studying in slots of 40 minutes and then taking a break before your next session.

Good luck with your revision!

7. 3 examples of revision timetables:

Revision Timetable Template 1

| Week Beginning: | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Monday | | | |
| Tuesday | | | |
| Wednesday | | | |
| Thursday | | | |
| Friday | | | |
| Saturday | | | |
| Sunday | | | |

Revision Timetable Template 2

| Time | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 8.00am | | | | | | | |
| 9.00am | | | | | | | |
| 10.00am | | | | | | | |
| 11.00am | | | | | | | |
| 12.00pm | | | | | | | |
| 1.00pm | | | | | | | |
| 2.00pm | | | | | | | |
| 3.00pm | | | | | | | |
| 4.00pm | | | | | | | |
| 5.00pm | | | | | | | |
| 6.00pm | | | | | | | |
| 7.00pm | | | | | | | |
| 8.00pm | | | | | | | |

Revision Timetable Template 3

| Week & Date | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Week 1 Date: | | | | | | | |
| Week 2 Date: | | | | | | | |
| Week 3 Date: | | | | | | | |
| Week 4 Date: | | | | | | | |
| Week 5 Date: | | | | | | | |
| Week 6 Date: | | | | | | | |
| Week 7 Date: | | | | | | | |
| Week 8 Date: | | | | | | | |