

Minimal Revision Time **MAXIMAL RESULTS**

“If you fail to plan,
you are planning to fail!”
–Benjamin Franklin

By Kong Yew Kiin

Here's a typical scenario when students begin to revise:

Jump straight in to Chapter 1, do in-depth revision which will take up a significant amount of time, then move on to Chapter 2 and repeat. As the exam date looms near, students realise that they don't have enough time to revise everything, and end up skimming through the last few chapters. They also have no time for practice papers, and enter the exam hall feeling unprepared even though they have spent a significant amount of time revising. Needless to say, their results are not optimal, which leaves parents scratching their heads, “why is it that my child is still failing despite having put in so many hours of revision?” Sounds familiar?

The truth is many students tend to dive into revision without first planning and organising their revision schedule. Getting organised so that revision can be done effectively is an important skill. It forms the foundation for surpassing their limits and scoring distinctions. Here are some tips that can be adopted quickly to boost revision efficiency and efficacy!



1 Determining the Optimal Environment

Sit down with your child and discuss their personal requirements of a conducive study environment that will help them revise effectively. Consider the following questions:

- 1 Is it more viable for your child to study at home or at school, libraries and other locations?
- 2 Does your child study better in a peaceful setting, one which is free from disruptions, or under supervision with on-demand support?
- 3 Will the place have the required materials: notes, books, a timetable, writing materials and a computer (if required) at hand?

In general, it is best that there is a fixed study location where everything your child needs is within easy reach of their seat,

preventing unnecessary movement and distractions while they try to concentrate on revision. Other practical things to consider would be a good light source, such as an adjustable lamp, especially in the evenings or in an environment without much natural light. It is important to keep in mind that your child's needs and circumstances may change over the course of the school year, so both parent and child must be flexible and adaptable if changes are indeed required.

2 Planning the Optimal Schedule

A well-planned revision schedule can help your child achieve their academic goals. Most students are able to create a revision plan, but falter when it comes to following through. This could be because the plan was not customised to their existing schedule or changes in their competency. Here's a guide to planning a revision schedule:

- 1 Work out how much time there is from now till date of test/exam
- 2 Find out what the test/exam will cover and break down the content into revision days. Be realistic about how much time is needed and how much time you can afford.
- 3 Make sure the schedule takes into consideration your existing schedules and include appropriate breaks and rest. Having a good revision schedule is not about studying round the clock for every day of the week.

- 4 Revisit the schedule regularly to see if it needs adjustments to match new schedules or your abilities and focus area.

3 Create the Optimal Revision Notes

There will inevitably be increasingly large amounts of information and printed materials that your child needs to revise as the exams draw nearer. However, too much information creates clutter in the mind and will be counter-productive for the revision period. It becomes more of a distraction than an aid.

One way to overcome this is by organising key information such that the amount of time needed to trudge through all the information is reduced. This will also dramatically aid in the retention of information. Many students make the mistake of not reviewing classroom exercises and homework, let alone understanding their mistakes and updating important reminders into their personal notes. Once this is effectively put in place, it helps develop revision notes that are customised to their strengths and weaknesses, which can close learning gaps much more effectively.

With an optimal environment, revision schedule and revision notes, the process of revision will naturally become more efficient and translate into better results as well. Students can then use minimal time to achieve maximal results. Score more with less, and you'll find that getting A1 is easy!



Yew Kiin, the Co-Founder of Advo Education Centre (established since 2007), coined the term "Academic Coaching" which infuses life skills into academics, to impact the lives of thousands of individuals. Since then, he has mentored and transformed students' grades from F9 in Prelims to Distinction in their milestone examinations within a month. He was interviewed and featured on MediaCorp's Channel 8 programme, Frontline, for this feat, and in The New Paper for his entrepreneurial success. In the National Day Rally 2012, he was even quoted by Mr Heng Swee Keat, Singapore's Minister

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