

Tips for revising maths

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The internet is full of useful tips on revising maths. Mr Barton is a highly regarded Mathematician with great advice on how to revise maths, his tips are summarised below.

- 1. Before you start revising**, get all your notes sorted, and look up the list of all the topics you need to cover in the Firefly revision guide. This serves two purposes: you will definitely cover everything you need to cover, and a bit of tidying and sorting out is a nice relaxing way to ease yourself into the revision process.
- 2. Revise in small chunks.** Knowing the next break is just around the corner, your revision is likely to be much more focused and effective.
- 3. Give yourself little treats** and things to look forward to. If you do a good amount of revision buy yourself a treat, but only let yourself have it once you have achieved what you need to do.
- 4. The only way to revise maths is to do maths.** You will do much better spending 20 minutes doing maths questions than spending two hours reading a textbook. The more questions you do yourself, the more you will get right, the higher your confidence will be, the more you will enjoy your revision, and the better you will do in the test.

5. Use the internet. The internet is like having your own personal teacher who is available for you whenever you like. Use sites such as Hegarty Maths or Corbett Maths to support you.

6. Don't just practice the topics you can do. If you are really good at fractions, for example, it is very tempting to keep doing lots of fractions questions and then smiling as you keep getting them right. But unfortunately the exam is probably not going to have more than one or two fractions questions. Although it can be painful, work your way through the topics that you struggle with, because it is much better to struggle on them at home, when you have time on your side and the answers available, than it is to struggle in the exam.

7. Make sure you ask for help. Again, once you are in the exam you are on your own, but during revision you are certainly not. If you are stuck on a topic or a question, then ask one of the people from your class, or your teacher, or someone at home, or look on the internet.

8. If it works for you, try revising with a friend for a bit of the time. You will find that one of you understands one topic more, whilst the other is a bit of an expert on another. Just by explaining things to a friend, you will find that your understanding increases, and likewise you might learn a different way of thinking about and understanding a topic.

9. Most important of all, try not to worry. A little worry is not a bad thing as it keeps you focused, but revision certainly shouldn't be a stressful time. It should be a time where your brain gets chance to sort all the information it has been bombarded with and make sense of everything. If you follow the tips above, especially about always asking for help, you should find that revising for maths (or any other exam) is not that painful after all.

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