

Revising for your Physics exam

As with all subjects, an efficient revision scheme must include variety – both of methods and topics. Make a list of general topics from the specification and also a list of ‘methods’ of revision. The ‘methods’ may well include looking at past exam questions, doing exam papers under exam conditions, working through revision guides, looking at any web page record of lessons, even reading the test book etc. Every time you return to the subject, pick a different method and a different topic. Half hour slots for one of these ‘units’ are fine. Try to avoid using the same method for the same topic as previously used. But remember that the specification itself is the all important link to be referred to in all methods of revision.

Look at questions asked in past papers. This should be a guide to picking topics AND methods of revision. There are many similar questions asked in exams, and if you are aware of what these questions (or the styles of the questions) are, you will benefit. Learn any definitions carefully.

Finally, there are two important points to bear in mind. First, the number of marks in any part exam question is an essential guide to how long should be spent on that question. It is often one mark per minute for an overall rate, so a 5 mark question must NOT take you more than 5 minutes. Second, a 5 mark question will need the examiner to identify 5 separate points. So if you bullet point your answer, 5 points will need to be made – and one for ‘luck’ (or a bonus because luck does not come into the equation). The number of bullet points known to be necessary to get full marks for a question can aid revision substantially.

All of the above will help you to achieve a positive attitude when you go into the exam, and this in itself is worth 10% or so! Go for it.