Dealing with exams

The Slapper method for exam success based on Gary Slapper's Top 10 Tips.
Disclaimer

- Ultimately use whatever method works best for you.
- Never use a revision technique that you are uncomfortable with.
- However, sometimes it is worth trying methods which have worked for other people.
The exam details

Before you start revising make sure you know

- Which exams you are taking
- When and where your exams are
- How long the exam lasts for
- How many questions you are expected to answer in every paper
- Whether there are any special instructions
Planning a revision timetable

- Divide your time more or less equally between your subject areas.
- Be realistic when planning your timetable
- Include time for study breaks/meals/sleep!
- Stick to your timetable.
Allocation of subjects

- Start by dividing the number of revision days by the number of subjects you have.
- You can then adjust your schedule to reflect your strengths and weaknesses.
- Some students prefer to study the same subject for several days in a row.
- Others will want to revise a subject on alternate days or divide the day into 3 parts and work for at least 2 parts of the day.
www.getrevising.co.uk/planner
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An alternative idea

“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.”

Wingsly, Tsr Forum Member
Law revision and lifestyle

- Stick to your usual patterns when revising.
- You are statistically likely to do worse if you try to rely on energy drinks, or caffeine pills to keep you going.
- Instead make sure your revision lifestyle includes regular breaks, physical exercise and food and drink.
From overview to detailed study

- Remember that Re-vision means what it says: Re-learn what you have already learnt and Re-read what you have already read.
- Don’t try to study something for the first time.
- Start revising a topic by looking at it in its simplest form to learn the essential information.
- Afterwards look at the subject in more detail.
From bulk to bullet points

- A useful technique is to gradually reduce in stages a large area of law to a few keywords.
- First produce comprehensive draft revision notes which covers all of the key points.
- Then transfer the thoughts from the revision notes into even briefer points to give you 20 key points to be used as an aide-memoire.
- Memorise all of the 20 keywords under each heading using mnemonics.
Learning the cards

Criminal Law: Offences against property other than theft:

• Deception offences
• Obtaining property by deception
• Obtaining a money transfer by deception
• Obtaining a pecuniary advantage
• Obtaining services by deception
• Making off without payment.
• Evasion of liability by deception

“DOOM”
DRAFT – Working From Class materials

• always start with the handout for that topic – learning outcomes can tell you about assessment criteria

• Read over the class materials and supplement from your own reading
Total recall

Your goal:

- Revise and learn this material using mnemonics so you can recount the whole area from memory without notes just by using your memorised lists.
- Understand the topic and know how to apply the knowledge to the relevant exam question.
Reciting topics

- When you think you are ready, ask a friend/relative/acquaintance to listen to you recount without notes the key points of every topic.
- If you can’t do this go back and revise the topic and try again.
- If there is no one available to talk to, recite to an inanimate object instead.
Memory learning technique

• Read the information that you want to learn.
• Cover the information and write a summary.
• Check back and keep doing this until you have an accurate summary.
Practice, practice, practice

• Practice answering exam questions under exam conditions
• Practice answering some more exam questions
• More exam questions
• More exam... you get the idea
Exam planning and timing

➢ Plan out the structure of your answer before you start writing it and stick to your plan.
➢ Never get carried away and spend longer than your allotted time on one answer.
➢ When you think you have written enough on a question to get most of the available points, move onto the next question as per your plan.
➢ Leave a few minutes for proof reading
Some other ideas

• Find a quiet place to revise, where background noise and disruption is kept to a minimum.
• Consider unplugging your computer (literally disconnecting distractions) and conducting your revision and research with books rather than online.
• Revise with a friend – may or may not work for you.
Staying Motivated

• Set short team achievable revision goals to give yourself a sense of progress and achievement.

• Reward yourself for reaching targets.

• Start early

• Switch your mobile phone off.
Blindingly obvious final tips

☑ Don’t cheat!
☑ Bring the necessary equipment – pens, pencils, rulers, statute books, student ID.
☑ Get to the exam venue in plenty of time.
☑ Don’t do an all-nighter the night before your exam.
☑ Remember – it’s not the end of the world.
☑ Learn from your experience.
The Centre for Academic Success

- Runs a variety of courses such as academic writing, critical thinking and presentation skills. In addition, the team collaborates with academic colleges, offering bespoke workshops and support.
- Offers courses, workshops and individual tutorials. They can be contacted Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm by telephone or e-mail.
- Has a drop-in office in the library.
GOOD LUCK IN YOUR EXAMS!
Let’s Play

Kahoot!