Teaching and Learning Centre podcasts: the DISSERTATION SERIES
Revising and preparing for exams – examples of students' revision plans

EXAMPLE 1
In this example, the student had FOUR exams to prepare for:

- SO468 (0.5 unit course) (yellow),
- LL4BB (0.5 unit course) (green),
- GV4A5 (0.5 unit course) (blue),
- HY436 (full unit course) (pink).

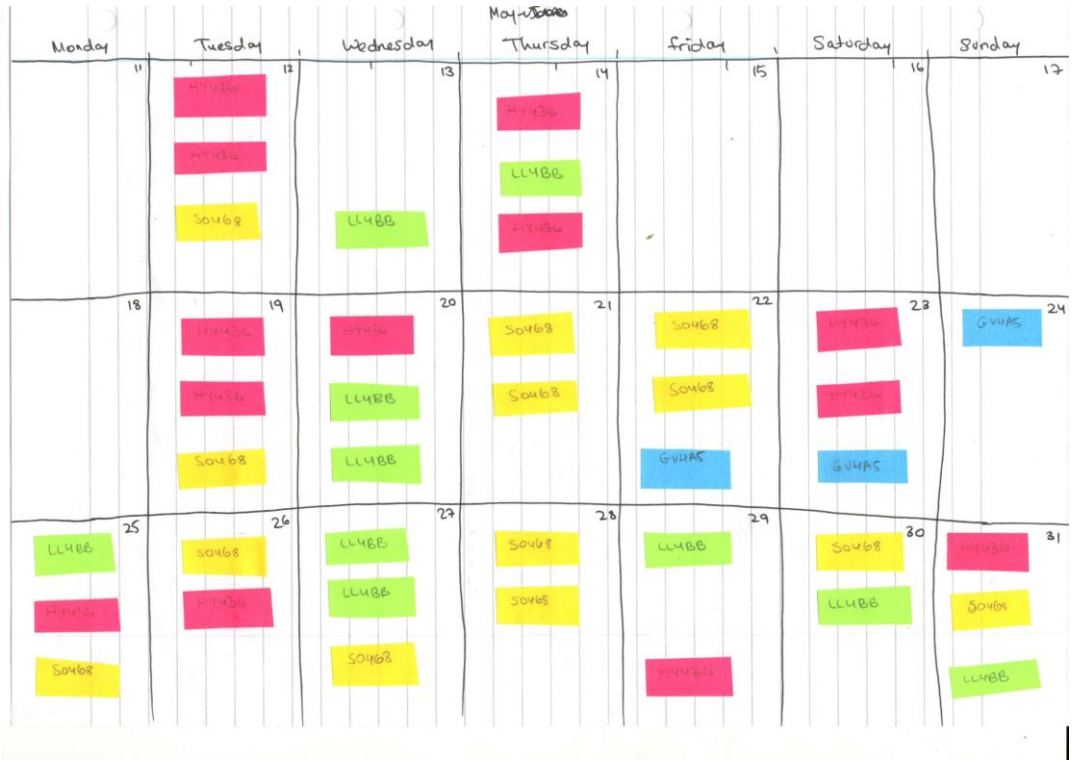
She decided to have **3 revision sessions per day**, of about two hours each. These sessions were flexible, though. She realised that on some evenings, she just couldn't focus – so she sometimes had shorter evening sessions, and more focussed, longer daytime sessions.

She took into account the unit-value of each exam–and decided on how many revision sessions she would allot to each course—according to how many units the course was worth, what percentage of the course mark the final exam was worth, and how comfortable she was with her familiarity with the course material.

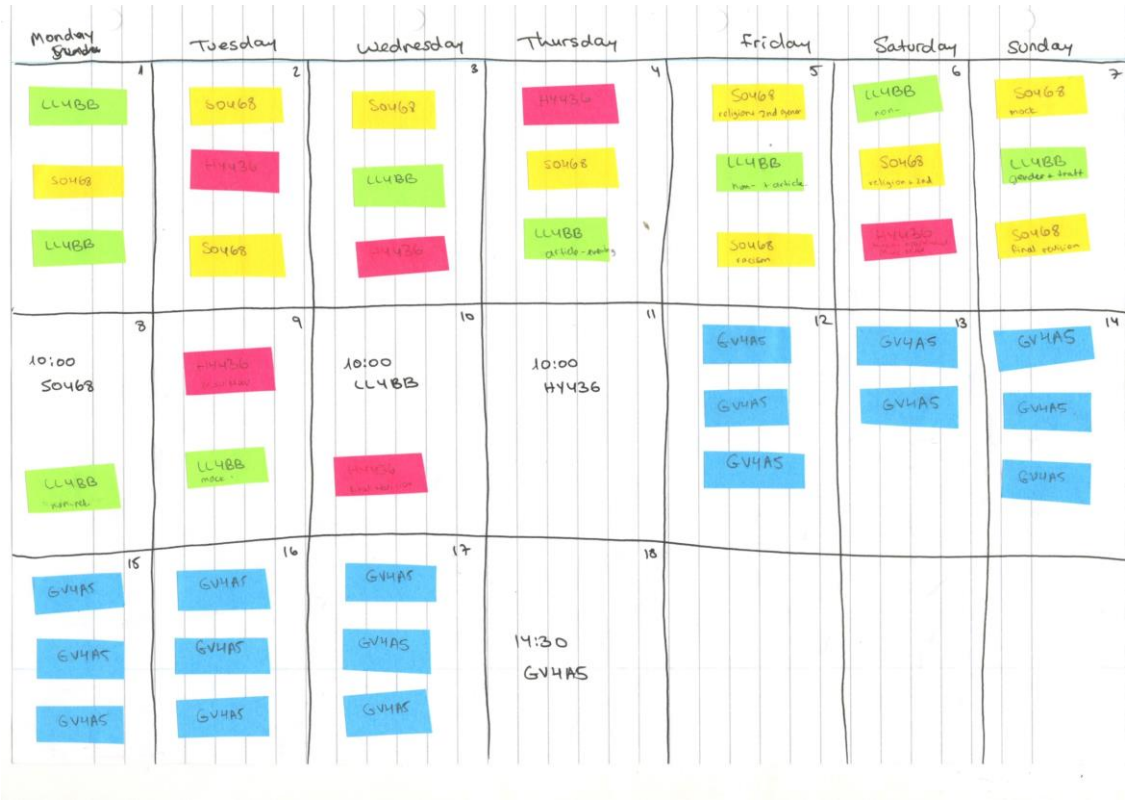
Closer to the exam date, she planned for a few "specialist" revision sessions (mock exam, final revision, specific topics, etc.)

Given that she had three exams in one week, then another in the following week, she made the following plan, starting in mid-May.

MAY



JUNE



Notice the distribution of sessions that she allotted for each course:

23 sessions for SO468: 13 in May, 10 in June
19 sessions for LL4BB, 9 in June, 10 in May
20 sessions for GV4A5, 17 in June, 3 in May
19 sessions for HY436, 6 in June, 13 in June

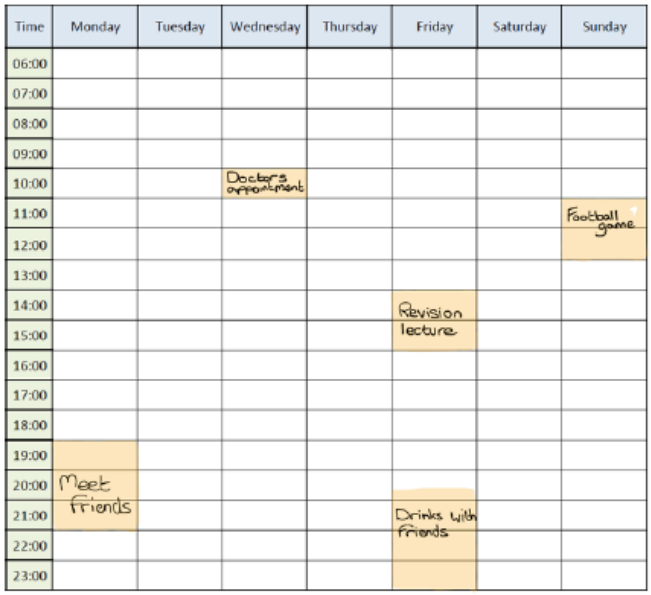
Notice also that in May, on some days, she has only one or two sessions – and none on one long weekend, when her family was coming to London to visit her. By June, there are 3 per day, except for the days around the actual exams, where she gives herself a bit of a break!

This LSE MSc student (who graciously contributed her exam revision plan for public use!) commented that simply having the plan allowed her to relax during the revision period. She felt that she had reflected on all the courses she needed to revise and that she was making the best possible use of the time she had. For her, this was particularly helpful to deal with the stress of having several exams within days of each other.

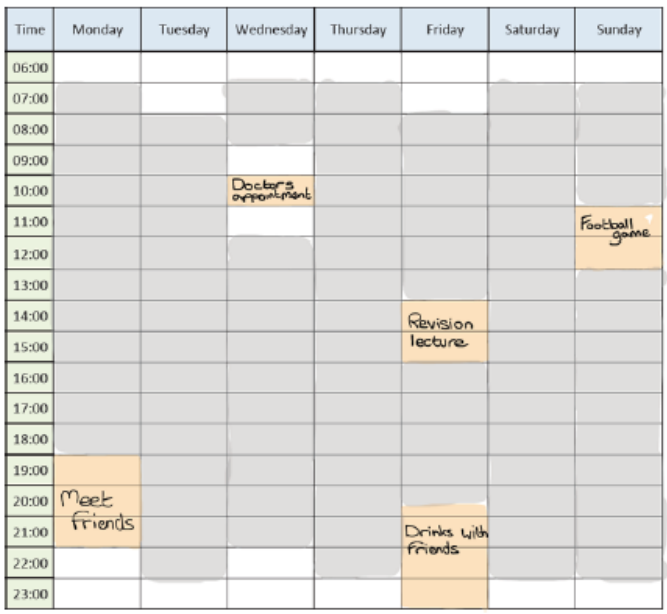
EXAMPLE 2

This example is adapted from excellent material produced by the University of Manchester. To see more, visit www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk/learning-objects/mle/revision-strategies.

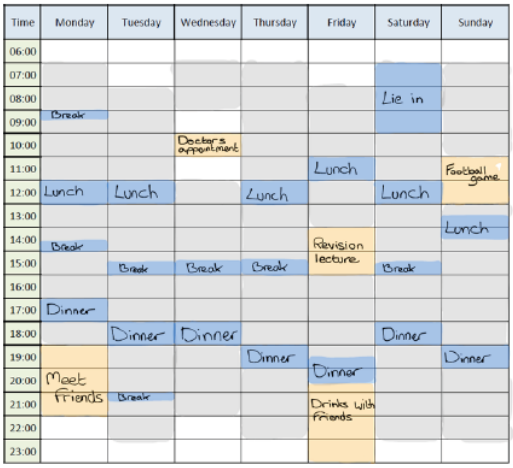
Once you've decided on a date to begin your revision, use a calendar to plan your revision. First, note any personal commitments you have.



Then highlight the time you have available for revision.



Before you start adding in any specific topics, themes, classes, etc., plan for breaks. Remember that a good plan is a realistic one–and realistically, no one can do challenging, intellectual work for hours and hours without a break! Consider how you work and your levels of concentration at different times of day. Use this–together with your prior commitments–to plan how long and when you can revise in any given day.



Consider the various courses you'll be examined on. Or plan more specifically, according to the themes you've defined in your analysis of past exam questions, or the broad topics of the course you've chosen for your "repertoire". Make decisions on which courses or themes require more time than others based on how much the exam counts for, how comfortable you feel with the material, or how recently you studied the material. Once you've prioritised what you need to revise, allot time in your plan for each course/theme.

In this example, the themes are colour-coded. This way, you can see at a glance whether you've allotted appropriate amounts of time per course/theme.

Finally, if you like to work in detail, you can add specific topics or task to your plan, as shown below.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
06:00							
07:00	·Ionizing radiation		·Size after-effect explanation	·Material properties that affect the thermal environment			·Obtaining the thermal equilibrium equation
08:00	·Galactic cosmic radiation	·Lightness, reflectance, luminance and illumination				Lie in	
09:00	Break			·Emission of radiation			·Using the thermal equilibrium equation to get answers
10:00	·Environmental effects on design of space craft	·The problems of lightness perception	Doctors appointment	·Kirchoff's law		·Ionizing radiation	
11:00	·Effects on materials				Lunch	·Galactic cosmic radiation	Football game
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	·The effects of surroundings	Lunch	·Effects of spacecraft orbits on thermal equilibrium	Lunch	
13:00	·Main theories of colour and lightness constancy	·Design implications on human sub system		·Contrast sensitivity		·Retinal vs. real size and resolution limit	
14:00	Break		·The effects of colour memory	·Size after-effect explanation	Revision lecture	·Contrast sensitivity	Lunch
15:00	·How spatial vision is achieved	Break	Break	Break		Break	·How spatial vision is achieved
16:00		·Environmental effects on design of space craft	·Main theories of colour and lightness constancy	·How spatial vision is achieved	·Obtaining the thermal equilibrium equation	·Main theories of colour and lightness constancy	·Tilt after-effect explanation
17:00	Dinner			·Tilt after-effect explanation			·Size after-effect explanation
18:00	·Tilt after-effect explanation	Dinner	Dinner		·Using the thermal equilibrium equation to obtain answers	Dinner	·Retinal vs. real size and resolution limit
19:00		·Material properties that affect thermal environment	·Ionizing radiation	Dinner		·Lightness, reflectance, luminance and illumination	Dinner
20:00	Meet friends		·Galactic cosmic radiation		Dinner		·Contrast sensitivity
21:00		Break			Drinks with friends	·The problems of lightness perception	·How spatial vision is achieved
22:00		·Emission of radiation ·Kirchoff's law					
23:00							

You might also consider using a free online tool to help you with your revision planning. Some options include https://getrevising.co.uk and https://www.goconqr.com/en/study-planner/.