

412 The Blank Paper Approach

Revision often fails at the first attempt! You just can't get started.

Do you agree with any of the following statements?

1. **Before I start to revise I have to** find my textbook.
2. **Before I start to revise I have to** gather all my notes.
3. **Before I start to revise I have to** meet my friends to find out what I need to know
4. **Before I start to revise I have to** meet my teacher to discuss what is on the test.
5. **Before I start to revise I have to** do all of my homework.
6. **Before I start to revise I have to** organize all of my stuff.
7. **Before I start to revise I have to** do all of my homework.
8. **Before I start to revise I have to** organize all of my files on my computer.
9. **Before I start to revise I have to** make a plan.
10. **Before I start to revise I have to** work out how much time I can spend.

If you agree with any of these you are missing the point. Doing any or all of these IS part of the revision process. Actually these are just part of being an effective, well organized learner. You need "space" for revision but you don't need to put off revision until you have done all of the things listed above.

Here is a simple method that you can use NOW!

The Blank Paper Approach to revision.

A. First step:

1. You need a blank sheet of paper and a pencil or pen.
2. Allow yourself 10 minutes for this.
3. Write the name of the topic you want to revise in the middle of the page.
4. Write down everything you can remember in "spider diagram" format.
5. If there is something you cant remember, draw an open circle on the page.
6. Number and date the page.
7. You have now started to revise!

B. Next Step: Go to your notes or textbook, call a friend or search your computer files. Try to fill in the gaps! Spend no more than 20 minutes doing this.

C. After that: Do something else for at least an hour.

D. Then: Repeat steps 1 to 7

E. If necessary: Repeat B.

F. One day later.....Repeat A! Compare A1 and A2 and congratulate yourself if you have made progress.

G. One week later: Repeat A again! Compare A1,2 and 3, Again, you get more congratulations if the progress continues.

Very Important:

1. Step A should not take more than 10 minutes
2. Step B should not take more than 20 minutes