**Revision strategies**

**My Learning Essentials**

**Draw a mind map**: Creating a mind map is a great way to visualize your topic as it allows you to see the topic as a whole. It can also help you to make connections between different themes.

**Use music**: If you’re good at learning song lyrics, choose a song and replace its lyrics with the content you need to remember and memorise this new song!

**Teach someone else**: This works especially well with someone who isn’t on your course! It’s a really good way to spot any gaps in your knowledge. The person you are teaching may ask questions that you might not have previously considered.

**Test yourself**: Think of some questions which might come up in your exam and try to answer them without the aid of your notes. Don’t be afraid to include questions from the areas you find most challenging! Remember-the purpose of this is to identify and overcome any problems you may have.

**Recall answers to yourself verbally**: As an alternative to practicing writing out the response to a question, verbally reciting the key structure of your answer to yourself can be helpful. What will your opening be? What are the key points? Will you use references? This technique will help you to identify where the structure of your answer can be improved.

**Draft model answers**: Use past papers (you can find them on Blackboard or the Library website), exercise sheets or other resources from lectures to try and anticipate potential questions for the exam. Now plan out your responses to these questions. Next, practice writing your answer in exam conditions.

**Try to understand the content**: Information is hard to remember if it does not make sense. Try to understand the logic behind what you are reading. Why is something the way that it is? Ask others if you are not sure! If you have a good understanding of the topic area (as opposed to simply memorising the words) you will remember it much better.

**Make a revision plan**: Make a revision timetable that outlines which topics you will be revising and how much time you will allocate to each one. Tick off the topics as you complete them. This is a great way to monitor your progress as you go along-and seeing how much content you have covered in an excellent way to boost your motivation too!

**Make a poster for each topic**: Condense the content of each topic into a poster. Use key words and facts- rather than writing out whole sentences. Include pictures/graphics to make the posters more memorable. This way, at the end of your revision, you’ll have a few posters containing everything you need to know for the course.

**Rewrite notes in your words**: Rewriting notes in your own words is a great way to improve your retention of a topic. This way you can practice explaining/summarising a topic like you would in an exam. You can also relate the information to your own experience.

**Use coloured pens in your notes**: Write important facts or details in bold colours! Colour coordination may help you remember a specific detail by recalling a mental picture of your notes to your mind.

**Make flashcards**: You can write down summaries of key concepts on small cards and use these as prompts for your memory. Flashcards are particularly helpful revision tools when you are on the go and cannot whip out your entire folder to look something up!

**Group study**: Working with other students allows you to share resources and knowledge. You may understand perfectly a topic your friend is struggling with, and vice versa. Working together and bouncing ideas off of each other is a great way to cover gaps in your understanding.

**Cornell notes**: Divide your page into three sections: Write your notes on the right hand side and any key terms, dates or questions on the left hand side. Finally, write a concise summary of your notes at the bottom of the page. You can use this tool to test your understanding by covering up the different sections and trying to recall them (see example).

**KWL Technique**: This technique helps you keep track of what you need to learn for each topic. The idea is to divide your page into three columns labelled: KNOW, WANT TO KNOW, and LEARNED. Fill in each of these columns and get started on the WANT TO KNOW section (see example).

**Questioning Matrix**: Use the questioning matrix to break down your question into smaller sections. This helps you focus on the question in more detail and ensures that you address all parts of the question (see example).

**Podcasts**: Listen to the lecture podcasts and try to make notes that way. If you are an aural learner, this can be an excellent way to retain the material.

**Record yourself speaking**: Recite the material to yourself and record it as you go. Play the recording back to yourself afterwards to see if you explained the content well and identify any weak areas you need to focus on.

**Quizlet**: [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com/) is a website which allows you to make online flashcards and play games to help you remember information. This can work well if you prefer working on a laptop or computer.

**Create a PocketMod**: PocketMods are small booklets, perfect for carrying with you on the move. They fit in your pocket! Use the different pages to condense your topic down to key themes, terms and dates (see example provided and folding instructions).