

Year 11:

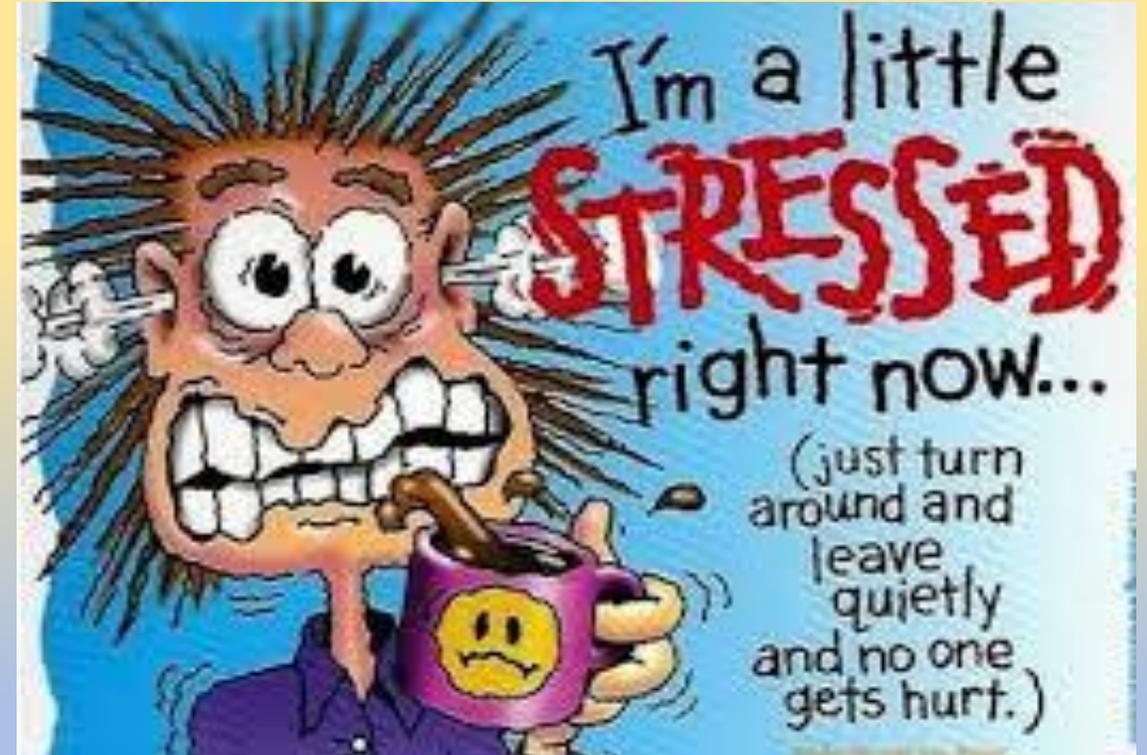
A parent's survival guide

- By now you have probably realised your child falls into one of three main categories:

The worker.

Characteristics:

- tells you off for breathing too loudly and disrupting their revision
- stresses about every minute detail of their work in pursuit of perfection
- takes on board feedback and uses it to further improve their work
- has redecorated their room with post-it stickers and mind maps



The relaxed student:

Characteristics:

- sees the x-box or play-station as an educational tool
- lives by the “why do today what you can put off until the deadline?” motto
- doesn't need to revise because they know it all, or don't need it for what they want to do



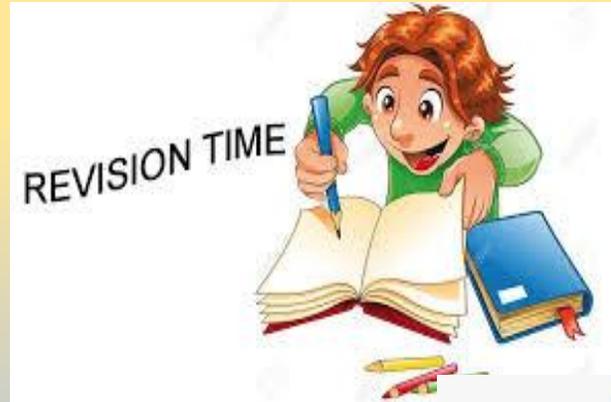
The best of both student

Characteristics:

-completes all homework and classwork diligently

-plans their study time well

-takes time to relax with family and friends



Their future.....

- You will probably find your child fits into one of the first two categories, rather than the last!
- All students are individuals with different ambitions, some may not even know what they are yet.

The key point is no matter whether they have academic, sporting or social ambitions, they need to remember that leaving school showing they tried their best will be a great start. They also need to remember it is a competitive world out there!

- A recent article by The Student Room gave the top study habits of students.
- Whatever grade your child is aiming for, these were the top tips.

1. Practice is key

- "Getting your hands on [past paper questions and answers](#) is very important. You're able to make connections between different areas of the syllabus. This is very important when it comes to A/A* questions.
- "It's a good idea to do [practice questions](#) on topics as you go along with your revision, rather than do a bunch of them at the end of revision.
- You might have interpreted something wrong when revising, or not quite nailed exam technique, so save half of the papers for 'going along' with revision and half to test your knowledge by the end, so you know where to go back and what to revise more."

2. Get the examiners' reports

- "I studied three essay subjects. All required some form of factual memory, but I essentially focused on revising exam technique rather than the actual knowledge. If you are studying sciences, maths, anything that you can't make up during the exam, then the following may well be useless to you.

"But my big, big number-one gold-star neon-sign advice that I would give to everyone (and I genuinely believe is the *only* reason I got my A* in English Language) is *read the examiners' reports*. Then read them again.

"What baffles me is that, year upon year, the exam boards make public a document that is – wait for it – *written by the people who are going to mark your papers*. And in it, *they tell you what they like to read*. They also give you examples of what not to do.

3. Start early

- "It might sound clichéd (I'm sure all teachers say it) but there's nothing worse than the feeling of panic and stress created by trying to cram revision.
- If you start weeks in advance you'll get a good pace and it means you can go to teachers for help on topics you don't quite get."

4. Break down your subject into ordered sections

- "Breaking down the exam into lots of little sections makes revision less daunting, and you'll know exactly where you stand in terms of how much you've done."

5. Flashcards are lifesavers

- Get a question wrong? [Flashcard it](#), and then test yourself later on. This is useful for when you're constantly forgetting definitions and stuff like that.

6. Enjoy yourself

- "When I was revising for my A-levels, I went to the cinema, played sport and did lots of other things to benefit revision.
- Why? Because when something funny or enjoyable happens, you tend to remember the stuff that happens around it.
- I remember how an MRI machine works because my cat fell down the stairs while I was learning it! Use colours, use music – experiment with it."

7. Use colour

"Lots of colour helps liven up notes and makes them look more interesting."

8. Look after yourself

"Don't fret over the exam, make sure you get a normal amount of sleep – and eat healthily, too."

9. Revise everywhere

"I'm quite lazy and don't like writing revision notes.

But for formulae I had to learn I'd write them on bits of paper and stick them on the bathroom mirror, or indeed any bit of wall that I'd be likely to be standing in front of."

10. Create a timetable and take breaks

- "The best thing my mum ever did for me was make me [set up a revision timetable](#).
- I wrote out every topic within every subject I needed to revise then guesstimated how many sessions of 50 minutes I would need to revise that topic.
- I then put this into a timetable so when it came down to revising I would not spend ages just flicking through any book finding something to revise but would know exactly what area I was to cover in that time period."

And finally, some more unorthodox revision methods that might work for you:

- The following list of tips is from the Times Higher Education supplement, and might help those students who find the more traditional methods of studying difficult

- Record yourself reciting key dates, quotes or equations and listen to them as you walk to and from the library/supermarket, while at the gym or when you're cooking dinner. You won't feel like you're revising but you will be amazed at how much you retain.
- Read things out loud in different accents or voices. Then when you are trying to recall the facts, you'll remember the accent and then hopefully the fact too.

- Write down your revision notes in different formats. For example, write one subject as a news story, another as a letter to a friend or relative, compose them into haikus or draw them as a comic strip. Be careful not to waste too much time on this though. It doesn't need to be a work of art, just a different way of presenting the information.
- Find a friend who is on a different course to you and teach each other about your courses. The act of having to explain things to help someone else understand something will help to highlight what you yourself have learned.
- Stick Post-it notes everywhere. Literally everywhere. Just being surrounded by your revision notes will mean that something will have to sink in.

Every Little Helps

- These are some of the top tips, some were recurring themes.
- Each student needs to find a study method that works for them. If your child is stressed, here are some links that may help

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/revision/exams/dealing-with-exam-stress>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/how-deal-exam-stress>