

Surviving Tests

Long Term Strategy:

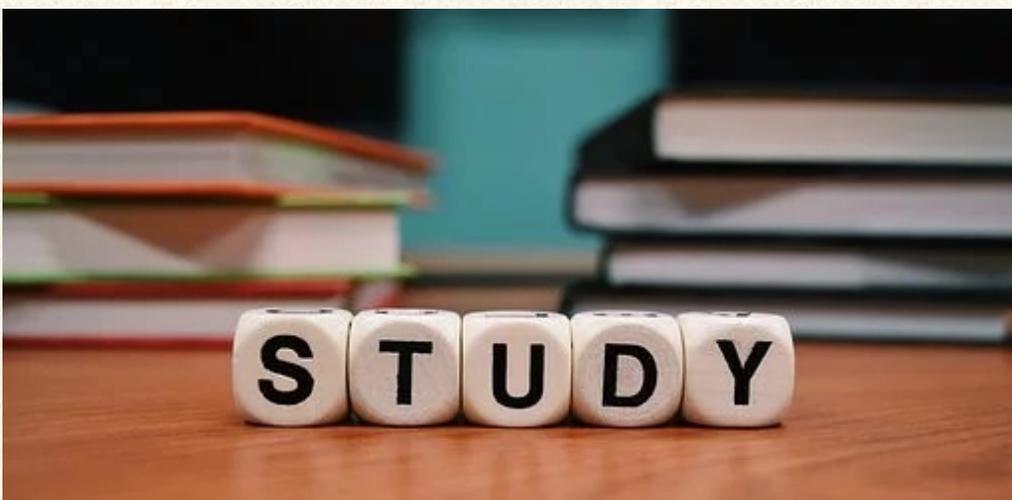
Strategies for revising **before** the exam season:

- Study old exam papers and specimen papers thoroughly. (Use the archives on www.examinations.ie)
- Carefully select the parts of the course you intend to revise.
- Make a timetable for revising. (General & Specific)
- Seek out the central questions in each of the parts of the course you have chosen to revise.
- Condense the content of your chosen sections into very brief summarizing notes. (Use colour / Use mnemonics)
- Think up questions you might be asked.
- Practice jotting down outlines for answers to questions.
- Practice writing out answers in full against the ***clock***.
- **Keep in touch with other students and with your teacher to broaden your ideas and maintain contact with reality.**



Before Starting the Test:

- Plenty of sleep the night before.
- On the day itself, try to approach the exam calmly. Go about the normal business of getting up and starting the day in an unhurried way. Have a decent breakfast. Take a short stroll, or do a few exercises.
- Get to the exam in good time and keep walking around if you have to wait to get into the exam centre.
- Don't let the other candidates disturb you. When you are in the exam room, find your desk and calmly settle yourself in your seat. Set out whatever you have with you on the desk and double check that you have everything you need.
- **Always** preview the test before you answer anything. This gets your mind thinking about the material.
- Do a 'mind dump'. Quickly, make notes of anything you think you might forget. Write down things that you used in learning the material that might help you remember (mnemonics). Outline your answers to essay questions.
- Be clear about how much time you should allow for each section according to the marks allocated. (You don't want to spend 30 minutes on a question that counts for only 15 marks.)



Taking the Test:

- Nervous energy is a good thing.
- Remain hydrated.
- Carefully read the directions. (Can more than one answer be correct?) Never assume that you know what the directions say.
- Where necessary, label your exam answers correctly.
- Answer the easy questions first. This will give you the confidence and momentum to get through the rest of the test. You are positive these answers are correct.
- Now, go back to the difficult questions. While looking over the test and doing the easy questions, your subconscious mind will have been working on the answers to the harder ones. Later items on the test will give you useful or needed information for earlier items.
- Answer all questions.
- Ask the invigilator to explain any items that are not clear. You can not ask for the answer, but phrase your question in a way that shows the instructor that you have the information but are not sure what the question is asking for.
- Underline or circle key words in difficult questions. This will force you to focus on the central points.
- Express difficult questions in your own words. Rephrasing can make it clearer to you, but be sure you don't alter the meaning of the question.
- Use all of the time allotted for the test. Never leave an exam hall early.

QUESTIONS	
1-	<u>A</u> B C D
2-	A B C <u>D</u>
3-	A <u>B</u> C D
4-	A <u>B</u> C D
5-	A B <u>C</u> D
6-	<u>A</u> B C D

Direction Words In Essay Tests

Analyse: tells you to break something down into its parts and show how the parts relate to each other to make the whole.

Analyse the factors that contribute to the downfall of Fascism.

Compare: tells you to show how two or more things are BOTH similar and different.

Compare the forms of government in the United Kingdom and in China.

Contrast: tells you to show how two or more things are different.

Contrast the Republican and Unionist political platforms.

Define: explain the meaning of something in a brief, specific manner.

Define what is meant by living life to the fullest.

Describe: tells you to present a full and detailed picture of something in words to include important characteristics and qualities.

Describe what it was like to live in ancient Rome.

Evaluate: tells you to present both the positive and negative characteristics of something.

Evaluate the impact of rap music on Irish youth.

Explain: tells you to provide facts and reasons to make something clear and understandable.

Explain why the Irish Civil War occurred.

List: tells you to present information about something as a series of brief numbered points.

List the ingredients needed to bake bread.

Outline: tells you to present the most important information about something in a carefully organised manner.

Outline what it takes to be successful in school.

Summarise: tells you to present the main points about something briefly.

Summarise how Thomas Edison's inventions have made our lives better.

Trace: tells you to present the order in which something occurred.

Trace the major events that led to World war One.