**Effective Revision in Ancient history**

When preparing for your final exams it is important to think about how you are going to revise to make sure it is as effective as possible, both to arrive at the exams with as good an understanding of the content and source as you can, but also to ensure that you use your time effectively when balancing Ancient History revision with other subjects. Below is a suggested approach to revision to help structure or tweak what you are doing.

1. **Organisation and Structure**

A second year A-level student has four components to learn – two **period studies** and two **depth studies**. Each component consists of **five topics** (each a set of lesson materials) meaning there are in total **20 topics** to revise. This is a lot but is perfectly achievable if your revision starts early enough and is clearly structured to allow you cover the topics systematically.

***How much time should you spend revising?***

* February – April = 1.5-2 hours per week

*Suggested minimums*

* Easter Holiday = 10-15 hours per week
* April – May = 4.5 hour per week
* May – June (study leave) = 15 hours per week

***How should you organise your time?***

Start by working out a **weekly schedule** – when will you do the suggested time above? Will it be at college or at home? The best advice is to set aside a minimum of one free period a week (1.5 hours) to revise Ancient History at the start and then increase this over time. In addition to this, you can use the support offered (Wednesday lunchtime drop-in room 211, Friday lunchtime Revision Group room 409) to top-up your revision, gain 1-1 help or work in groups.

Once you know when you are going to revise then use the course **checklists** to divide you time between the topics. Revise topic-by-topic and try to follow the same routine for each (see below). You might decide to complete one component (e.g. Greek Period) at a time before moving onto another or to alternate between components – one week on one, one on another. Choose an approach and stick with it.

Finally have a **target** for when you want to have completed sections of your revision. An obvious one would be to finish the first-round of first-year revision by the start of the Easter holiday to then focus on Second Year content in preparation for mock exams when you return.

For more advice on structuring your revision and on sample revision timetables, go to the Learning Support page on Godalming Online and then ‘Tips for Starting Revising’ <https://online.godalming.ac.uk/mod/page/view.php?id=12737>

1. **Content Revision**

This is revision of the ‘own-knowledge’ content of the course. Select the topic you want to revise and then follow you preferred method of revision. The aim of all of these is to take the content and reduce it into a more focused and revisable summary. Think about some of the following ideas

* Flash-cards
* Mind-maps around the point on the checklist or specification
* Condensed notes based on the ‘lesson aims’ on the front of each booklet
* Timelines – templates available on GoL
* Quizlet – an online way to make flashcards, tests, timelines and other revision resources

You will know what your preferred way of revising content is but make sure it is more than just reading notes. Stick with a method that works but prepared to do specific revision within this. If you know, for example, that you will struggle to remember the key events of the Peloponnesian War, produce a timeline just on this and get someone to test you. Also try to add in documentaries, podcasts and articles to give your revision greater depth.

1. **Source Revision**

In total, the use and evaluation of the ancient sources accounts for **40%** of the marks in Ancient History and is by far the most heavily-weighted assessment objective. Your revision needs to reflect this, meaning doing separate, detailed source revision.

One way to do this is to take the ‘Source Summary Template’ from Godalming Online and complete this as you go through each topic. Start by recording for each topic what the sources are, then go through your booklet and summarise what the different points the sources make are and how you could use them if writing an assessed question.

The checklist also points out the ‘Key Source’ summaries you have already produced on longer-style sources. Make sure you remember to revise these fully; the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, for example, would be essential for any question you answered on Augustus. Remember that you don’t need to quote from the sources directly but are expected to show a detailed understanding of their points/views and to be able to reach judgements about why they have these views

1. **Question Practice**

Having revised the content and sources of a topic you need to bring this together by looking at a past question. You can find questions in the following places:

* First-year question – go back to questions you may have forgotten or where you under-performed. Look at the feedback you we given and then re-write
* Revision sections of Godalming Online
* The OCR textbook – example questions are the end of every chapter
* Old-specification questions on Godalming Online
* The question summary you have been given

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **30 mark essay** | **45 minutes** |
| **20 mark interpretation** | **30 minutes** |
| **12 mark source utility** | **18 minutes** |
| **36 mark essay** | **54 minutes** |

Produce detailed plans to questions based on your content and source revision and then write them up in timed conditions to practice being question-focused. Make sure you use a variety of question-types and don’t just pick questions that look straight-forward. Once you have written a question, self-assess it using the mark schemes at the end of each set of lesson materials or bring it to the Wednesday support session/Friday revision group to get some feedback on it.

**What you have to revise – A Reminder**

**Some Common Mistakes to Avoid**

***Starting too late* –** if you try to cram your revision from Easter or when you go on study leave it will be overwhelming. Start early and you have the time to revise in a structured way that also gives you time to do other things

***Focusing on topics you like or find easier –*** All of the units are weighted equally and so your time needs to be divided likewise. In fact, if you know you struggle with the sources in the Roman Period study, for example, give more time to it.

***The “what should I do today…?” approach –*** your revision needs structure and to be planned at the start. Equally don’t spend a week on a revision timetable and think you have revised

***Just reading through notes –*** revision needs to be an active thing that reinforces your understanding of content. See the suggestions above on how to revise content and sources

***Not making the most of help and support –*** the support sessions and resources are there to assist you revision. Be proactive in getting questions marked and problems resolved