Primrose Kitten’s top tips for revision!

**Revise little and often**
Don’t sit down for 3 hours and try to revise all of Physics in one go. Break your revision into small chunks and spread it out. Focus on one topic (e.g., the photosynthesis practical) and revise everything around that. Use workbook questions, videos, and your notes from school.

**Take a break**
Sleep is just as important as studying! You won’t learn anything by staying up until 3 am.

**Variables, errors, and risks**
For every practical, make sure you can identify all the variables, the sources of error and how to reduce them, and how to carry out a risk assessment.

**Don’t forget the maths**
Knowing the units and equations (for Biology and Chemistry as well as Physics) will help you gain valuable maths skills marks: 10% for Biology, 20% for Chemistry, 30% for Physics, and 20% for Trilogy and Synergy. They can even mix and match types of questions and have a practical question with maths in.

**Follow the command word**
‘Describe’ and ‘explain’ questions need very different answers; make sure you know what each command word is asking you to do.

**Start early**
May/June comes around sooner than you realise: start now! Plan what you’re going to do when and make sure you’ve got enough time to cover everything.

**Perfect graphs**
Make sure your axes are labelled and the scale is appropriate. Your points should be sharp and your line of best fit smooth and confident.

**Look after yourself**
Your mental and physical health is just as important as your grades. Make sure you find time to relax, exercise, eat properly, and do non-school tasks.

**Cover topics you don’t like!**
Chemistry may not be your favourite subject, but you still have to revise it. Revise the titration practical questions and then reward yourself with a bit of revision from your favourite topic.

**Use a range of revision sources**
You don’t use have to just use a revision guide; watch videos, use a workbook, make and use flashcards.

**Use your phone**
There are some great ways you can use your mobile to revise: watch YouTube videos, use flashcard apps, or simply use an app to lock your phone and prevent notifications so you can focus on revision.

**Active, not passive, revision is best**
Just highlighting your revision guide isn’t the best use of time. You also need to be answering questions, making notes, writing out answers.

**Practice makes perfect**
Do as many practice questions as you can. Try questions from workbooks and past papers. Use the mark schemes to find out where you went wrong and improve what you have written.

**Make a timetable**
You know which topics are going to come up in the exams, so plan when you’re going to study them so that you don’t miss any. Monday 6 pm is the perfect time to revise Physics practicals.

**Diagrams**
When you’re revising don’t ignore the pictures; it’s important that you can label and annotate a diagram of equipment.

**Expect the unexpected**
The questions won’t be exactly like the ones you’ve done in class! Practise as many questions as possible so you can cope with any unexpected changes in the exam.

For more top tips from Primrose, take a look at her new Required Practicals Exam Practice Workbooks

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Know Your Required Practicals

The Required Practicals exam questions account for 15% of your final GCSE grades. Make sure you’re prepared!

**Biology**
- Microscopy
- Microbiology
- Osmosis
- Food tests
- Enzymes
- Photosynthesis
- Reaction time
- Plant responses
- Field investigations
- Decay

**Chemistry**
- Making salts
- Neutralisation
- Electrolysis
- Temperature changes
- Rates of reaction
- Chromatography
- Identifying ions
- Water purification

**Physics**
- Specific heat capacity
- Thermal insulation
- Resistance
- I–V characteristics
- Density
- Force and extension
- Acceleration
- Waves
- Light
- Radiation and absorption

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