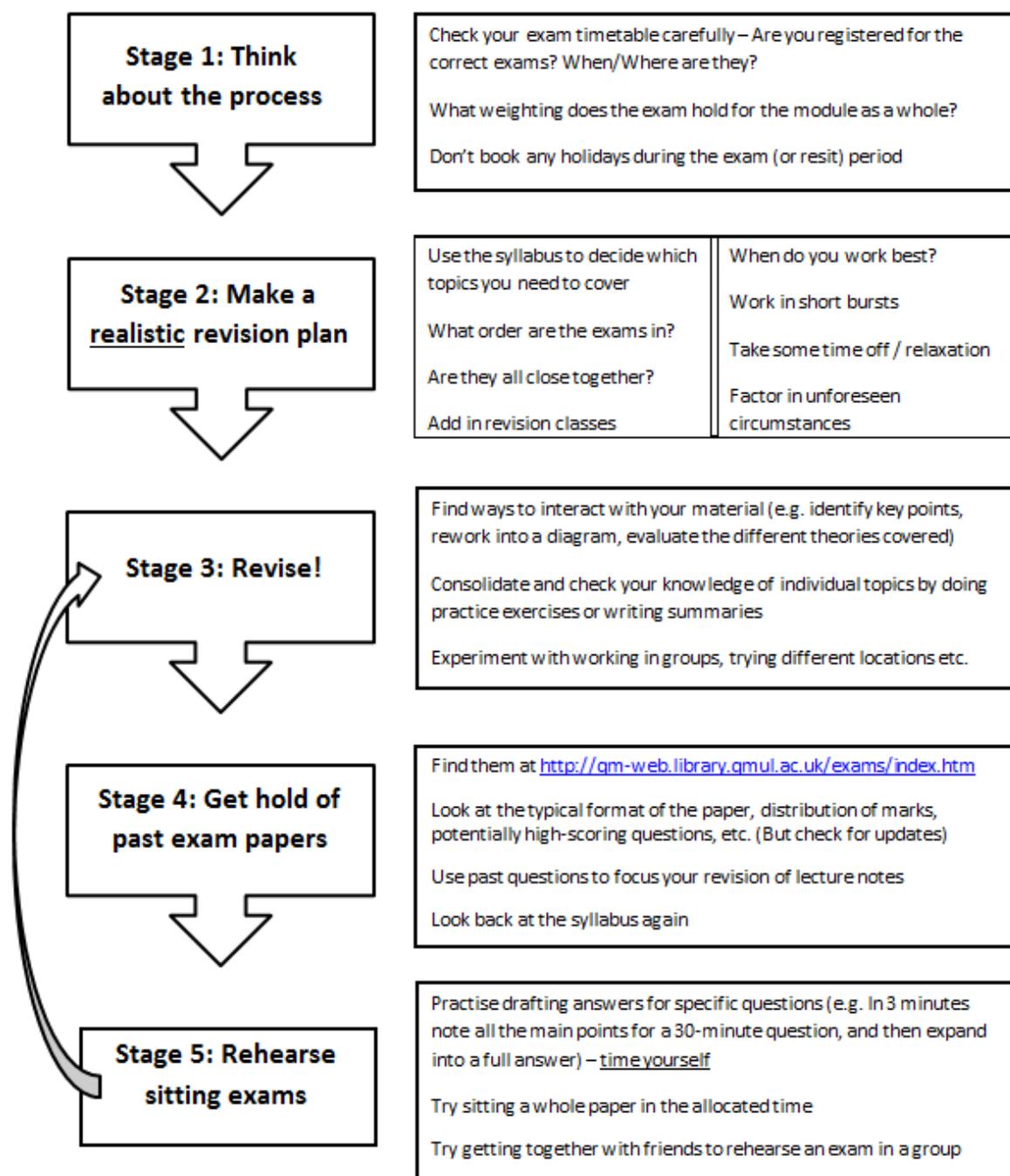


# Using the revision period effectively

## 1 Understanding revision as a process

Don't jump straight into reading through your lecture notes, without first working out what needs to be done in the time available. Hopefully, you've started early, and you'll have plenty of time to prepare. However, even if you've left things a bit late, it is still worth taking a little time to get yourself organised, so that you can use the remaining days or weeks efficiently and effectively.



## 2 Work out what you need to know

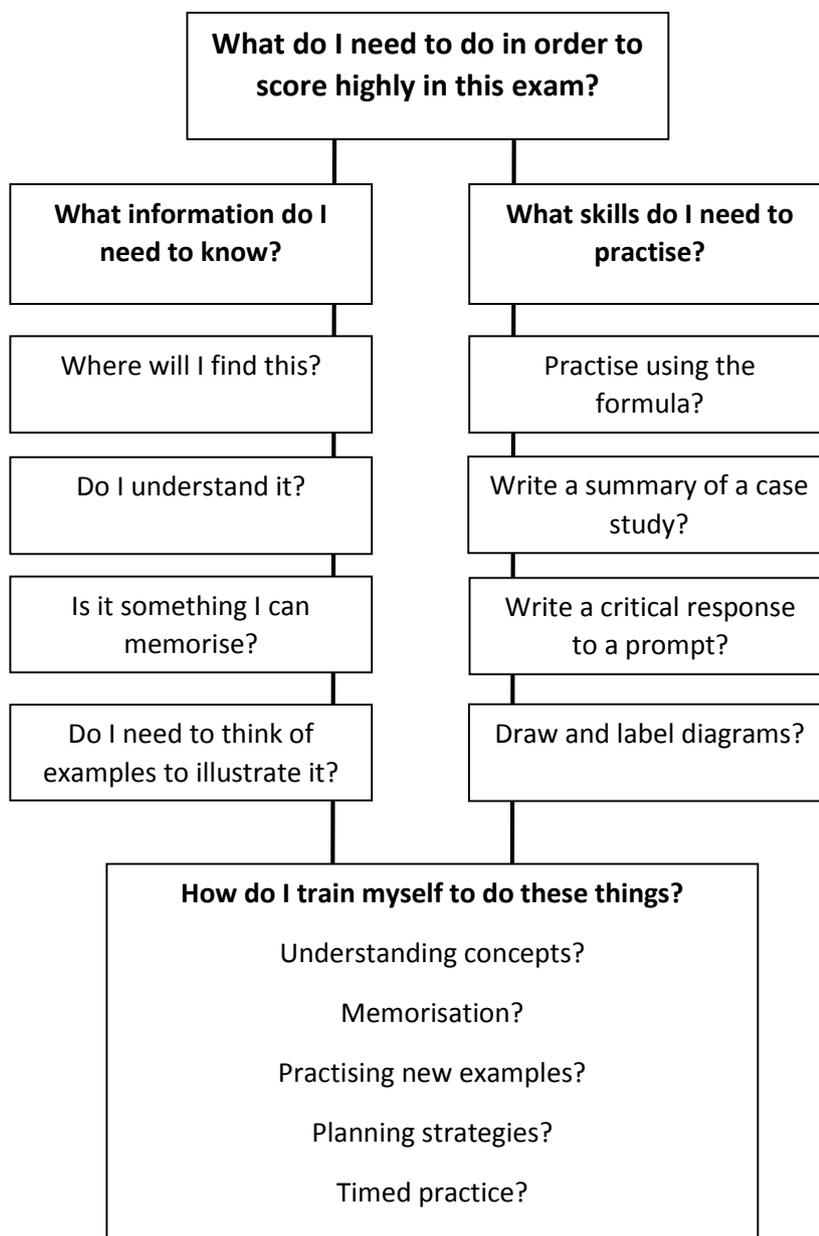
Don't just rush to your lecture notes and start reading through them all. Before you start, work out what exactly it is that you need to know.

The trick is to find the gap between what you need to be able to do in the exam, and what you are able to do now. Here are some examples:

What do you need to be able to do in the exam?		What can you already do? What do you need to do?
The first half of the paper contains short answer questions on any topic from the biochemical metabolism module.	→	I have practised writing SAQs using the online resource. I have revised all of the topics, but there are two topics I find really difficult to understand. I need to get help from someone on these particular topics.
I will have to answer two essay questions within a two-hour paper that ask me to 'describe', 'explain' and 'evaluate' one of the environment management strategies we have covered.	→	I have read through all my notes and revised key points about all the strategies. I can 'describe' and 'explain' them, but I always lose marks on the 'evaluate' part. I need to practise being more critical, and also writing more concisely under timed conditions.
Within three hours, I will have to answer three questions. Each asks me to read a 4-5 line assertion about an aspect of medical ethics and critically respond in some way. It is an open book exam.	→	I have revised pretty thoroughly, and can locate relevant sections of my notes when I'm under pressure. I find it difficult to write a critical response to the assertions quickly, because I tend to write down too much information about the background to the case. I need to develop a strategy to help me plan my answers efficiently.
There will be tasks about phonemic symbols. I will have to state the manner and place of articulation of phonemes represented by specific symbols, and I will have to provide the appropriate symbol based on descriptions.	→	I can remember all the symbols easily, and I find it easy to recall the manner of articulation of each phoneme. I struggle to remember place of articulation, and get mixed up between dental, alveolar and palatal. I think I just need to learn these off by heart and find a way to remember all the sounds with the same place of articulation.

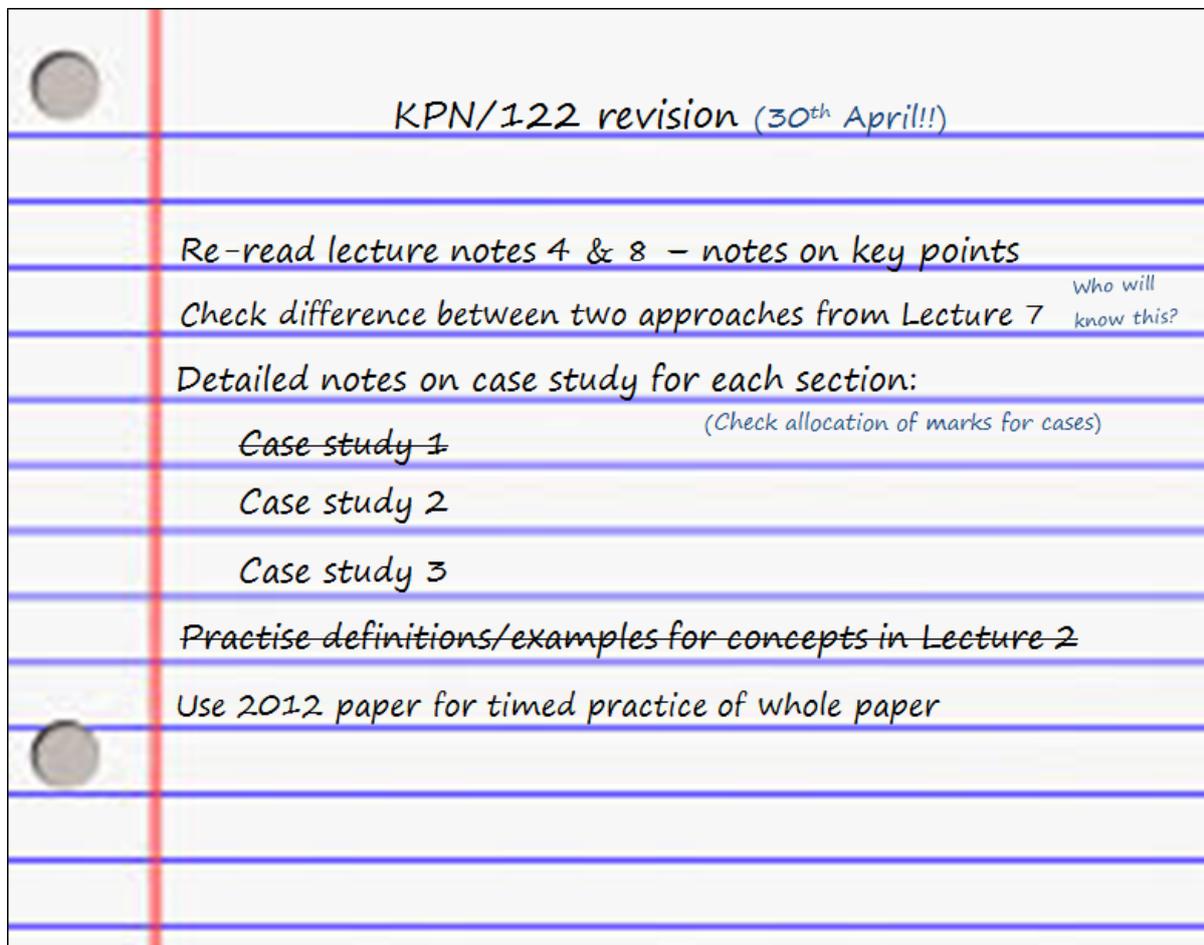
### 3 How are you going to do this?

Once you have identified the 'gap' between what you know and what you need to do, try to identify HOW you are going to fill this gap. Revision is a very strategic process, so work out what needs doing.



## 4 Write a revision 'to do' list

For each exam (or each section of an exam), make a list detailing exactly what you need to do. This will help you to create a realistic revision timetable.



## 5 Make a realistic revision timetable

Factors to remember:

- Try to work no more than 10 hours a day
- Try to work during daylight hours
- Work when you are best able to concentrate
- Work in short bursts e.g. 45 minutes with 5-10 mins break
- Have some time/days off (e.g. a full day off in seven)
- Have time to eat 3 healthy meals
- Vary your approach, e.g. come into college to brainstorm topics with friends, select a particular topic from the notes to get to grips with before lunch
- Give yourself a reward after completing some revision
- Be prepared for unforeseen circumstances such as illness or emergencies