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## Time management and revision techniques

Hello everyone, it's me Joe!

I hope you're good and that everything is going well with your preparations for the upcoming exams. I just wanted to send a quick message with a few tips, tricks, and general pieces of advice that I believe will be useful to you when preparing for these exams:

- 1) **Timetable your revision:** When dealing with the entire subject of Geography, it's difficult to know where to start revising. Breaking your day down into sessions (e.g., 'Monday Morning') and using these sessions to study specific topics (e.g., 'Glaciation') helps to divide the subject down into more manageable chunks. The length of these sessions depends on the person. While some people may prefer two-hour sessions, others may prefer to stick to one. Regardless of length, I recommend that you build in regular breaks, as the human brain isn't designed to work for extended periods without rest. I also suggest you build in time for yourself – if you practice tennis on Wednesday nights, keep it up! That represents valuable time to decompress in a stressful period.
- 2) **How to revise:** People learn in lots of different ways. Some may prefer mind maps, for others a mnemonic, and for others still writing out their notes (this is what worked for me!). Experiment to find out which works best for you. This also extends to whether you work better alone or within a group.

- 3) **Answer Exam Questions:** It's not enough to just remember a piece of information (think back to our study skills session!), it's also important to use that information effectively. For this reason, there is no better revision than to answer past exam questions. Most exam boards post their past papers online for you to access. You can use these as trial run for the real thing. It's also worth trying to mark your own answers, since the exam boards often post the corresponding mark scheme. Doing this either alone or with a friend provides a unique insight into where and how you can pick up extra marks with your answers.
- 4) **Go to Revision Sessions:** Your teacher will most likely organise either one or multiple revision sessions prior to your exams. I really recommend that you go to those sessions. Your teacher is the expert, and they know what constitutes a good answer to each question. That means they can go through a topic, subject, or question that you might not be able to yourself. Even if they don't organise a revision session, I'm sure they will help if you only ask them.
- 5) **The exam itself:** Exams are daunting, but if you've followed the advice thus far, you feel far more prepared than you would otherwise. Remember: Time management is key. If you have a two-hour exam and a paper worth 120 marks, each mark is worth approximately one minute of your time. If you're spending 10 minutes on a one-mark answer, it's probably not worthwhile. If you don't know the answer to a question that's worth only a small number of marks, don't waste time on it. Move onto the more important questions and then come back at the end if you have time. Even if you don't know the answer to a question, make a guess anyway. The only way you can guarantee scoring zero on a question is by leaving it blank!

I have collated a number of websites that will hopefully be helpful when considering revision and time management. Please find these linked below:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects>
- <https://geography-revision.co.uk/>
- <https://geographyrevisionalevel.weebly.com/>
- <https://www.antarcticglaciers.org/>
- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/>
- <https://studyrocket.co.uk/revision/a-level-geography-edexcel>
- <https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/geography-level-revision/geography-level-past-papers/aqa-level-geography-past-papers>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qWhU\\_gJBSM&list=PLp8BSCLLWBUIPsWgY9LpB5gspnApW1gR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qWhU_gJBSM&list=PLp8BSCLLWBUIPsWgY9LpB5gspnApW1gR)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Di5vJwH0VZ8&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtO85SI24rSiVQ93q7vcntNF>
- <https://www.port.ac.uk/student-life/help-and-advice/study-skills/revision-and-exams/revision-tips>

Everyone knows that exams are stressful, but by following some of this advice, I think you can make them far less daunting. With all that said, I want to wish you good luck, and I hope that you all score top marks!

Best wishes,

Joe