

## Part III Revision Strategy

Julia Goedecke

Graduate Education Officer, DPMMS

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## 1 Choosing courses

- Units
- Clustering

## 2 Revising a course

- Timing
- Revision structure
- Bookwork

## 3 Timed Trial

# Overview

## Main Points

- Balance essay vs revision.
- Practice past exam questions.
- Do timed trial.
- Get enough rest!

# Look after yourself!

- During revision, **eat and rest properly**.
- Get some exercise.
- Get your body-clock/daily rhythm in tune with exam times!
- Day before exam: **rest, relax, get good night's sleep!**

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# How many units?

Rules in [Part III Handbook](#) (in Appendix III, very last page)

- **> 19** not allowed.
- **19, 18 or 17**: “... the choice of 17, 18 or 19 units will not affect their chances of obtaining a distinction or a merit.”
- **Between 17 and 12**: “Although it is possible to get a distinction or a merit with fewer units, the examiners may take into account the fact that students taking fewer than 17 units have covered a smaller range of courses.”

# How many units?

Rules in [Part III Handbook](#) (in Appendix III, very last page)

- **Between 17 and 12:** “In deciding whether to pass students the examiners will not consider the number of units the students have chosen to be examined on provided the number is greater than or equal to 12.”
- **< 12:** “Although it is possible to pass with fewer units, the examiners may take into account the fact that students taking fewer than 12 units have covered a smaller range of courses.”

**“Students should not be penalised for the act of sitting a paper.”**

# What courses?

- Courses you actually did...
- How well did you do at the courses?
- Courses from same area can reinforce each other in revision.

If in doubt, discuss options with Director of Studies,  
Departmental Advisor, me...

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# Balance Essay and Revision

- Schedule time over Easter Vacation for both essay and revision or
- Finish your essay early so you have 2 solid months for revision.

**Be strict with your plan!**

# Structuring a course

- Make a “course tree”: topics, main results, dependancies.
- Start with statements of main results, work backwards.
- Prioritise: Will learn, Should learn, Won't learn.
- Include the Example Sheets in your revision.

**Don't start on page 1 and learn material in order!**

# Structuring your revision

- Course tree/outline.
- Remind yourself of course.
- Redo (most) example sheet questions.
- Past exam questions with notes.
- Past exam questions without notes.
- Learn bookwork.
- Timed past exam questions without notes.

# Past exam questions

Believe me!

Doing past exam questions is the best preparation for exams.

# Bookwork

Believe the amount of bookwork that will be asked!

- Understand it.
- Write a version that you like (efficient and in your style).
- Write it out with only peeking at notes when necessary.
- Write it out without peeking.
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# Timed Trial

- Keep one year of past exams for timed trial in week before exams.
- Be strict: really timed, no notes!
- After time has run out, draw line, change pen colour: continue without notes.
- After memory has run out, draw line, change pen colour: look up relevant parts and work out how to do the questions.

# Look after yourself!

- During revision, **eat and rest properly**.
- Get some exercise.
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- Day before exam: **rest, relax, get good night's sleep!**

# Summary

## Main Points

- Balance essay vs revision.
- Practice past exam questions.
- Do timed trial.
- Get enough rest!

Good luck with the exams!

