

Revision Tips – how to studying and do well in assessments

O Levels Chemistry

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- 12 distinctions for A levels
- Dean's list (RI & NTU)
- A in GCE O Levels
- Nanyang Scholarship (NTU Biology Science/Chemistry)
- GCE A Level Examination Academic Excellence Award 2013

Module 7:

1. Studying tips
2. Tips for Assessment

Studying tips

- Don't just passively read your notes/textbooks
 - Make your own notes
 - Also make sure they are accurate
- Don't just use your senior's notes
 - Making notes yourself helps you to remember better
- Find the keywords/key concepts

Studying tips

- Use the learning outcomes as a guide when studying
 - Make sure you are able to answer each one of them
- Find out the way you learn best
 - Some learn by drawing out mindmaps, and recalling based on positions
 - Some learn by listening – read your notes out

Studying tips

- Pace yourself well
 - Scheduling may help you if you're not good with time management
- Practice is useful
 - Past year papers are useful to understand what questions will look like
 - Also to identify areas you need to work on
 - Don't use them to predict what will come out

Studying tips

- Create a conducive environment for yourself
 - Find an environment you're comfortable with
 - Remove distractions
 - Set achievable goals, and give yourself breaks
 - Be realistic, but also challenge yourself at the same time
- Studying with your friends may or may not be helpful
 - Easy to discuss and ask questions
 - Easy to get distracted
 - Study with the right friends

Assessment tips

Paper 1

- 1 hour, 40 questions = 1.5 minutes/question
- Don't spend too long on each question.
- If you don't understand/can't figure out the question, skip it first.
- If it's a topic you're not good with, e.g. stoichiometry, move on to the next question

Assessment tips

Paper 1:

- Don't be too concerned if your answer is slightly different from the choices if you don't have the time
- If you tend to take more time answering the questions, start shading the boxes as you do each question, instead of shading after you finish the paper

Assessment Tips

Paper 2:

- 1 hour 45 min, structured questions
- The questions will guide you through the process
- If you cannot think of how to answer the question, look at the previous and next parts to see if there are any hints to answer the question

Assessment Tips

Paper 2:

- Make sure you answer the question
- Don't just write everything you know about the topic
 - The examiner should not be picking out the points from your answer
 - Use the number of marks as a hint to the amount that you need to write

Assessment Tips

Paper 2:

- Be clear on the keywords that are involved
 - E.g. Rate of reaction
 - Change in temperature → Affects kinetic energy of particles
 - Rate of collisions increases → rate of effective collisions increases
 - Rate of reaction increases

Assessment Tips

Paper 2:

- Pace yourself well
 - Make sure you have enough time to tackle all the questions, so that you can at least get the marks that are easy to get (e.g. things that you memorised/easier concepts)
- Don't be too hung up if you encounter parts that you don't know how to do

Assessment Tips

Paper 2:

- Don't spend a lot of time choosing the last question!
 - Briefly go through the question, if you can answer most of the parts, do the question
- Don't be intimidated by the questions
 - There will be things you've never seen before but the basics tested are not new
 - You will be given enough information to answer the question

Assessment Tips

Overall tips

- Be consistent
 - Chemistry requires some memory work, so study it well and study it early
- Be comfortable with the keywords and concepts
- Clarify any doubts early

Assessment Tips

Overall tips

- Be early – nothing sets you into a panic like arriving late for the exam
- Try not to discuss new questions a few hours before the exam
- It is unlikely that memorising something minutes before the exam is going to help, so try to calm down instead of panicking minutes before the paper

Assessment Tips

Overall tips

- If you've had a bad paper, give yourself a bit of time to mope about it, then move on.
- I prefer not to discuss the questions after the paper; finding out that your answers are different is not going to help your morale
- Don't burn yourself out – make sure you have enough sleep so that you can maintain your pace