Exam Tips - Physics

Plan to do 1 hour per day per subject during the holidays.

If you do this you will have done between 10 and 16 hours in each subject and have time for rest and relaxation.

It is important that you are rested after the holidays, as the exam process is very tiring.

If you do 5 subjects and follow the 1 hour per day per subject, that is 5 hours per day.

This leaves plenty of time to rest and relax.

Use the weekly study timetable template to plan your study and other activities.

<https://www.synno.online/uploads/1/2/3/4/123403475/weekly-study-timetable.docx>

**Revision**

* Practice under the same conditions you will use in the exam. You won’t be able to use your computer or phone in the exam room.
* Practice with the same equipment as you will use in the exam. Students who have only used their CAS calculator lose up to 4 marks on the exam because they are unfamiliar with the calculator they use in the exam.
* Make your sheet of notes specific to you. Put the things you are having trouble with on it not the things you know. Remember the sheet is one A3 or two A4 taped together, both sides.
* Refresh the things you know well and focus on the things you have trouble with. If you do 10 Newtons laws questions and get them all correct but only 3 of the momentum questions, then do more momentum questions.
* Do as many exam questions as you can. Set yourself an achievable target. Say 10 Motion questions.
* Quality revision. Too late at night or too long without a break is ineffective.
* Read the examiners reports. They highlight areas of difficulty.

**In The Exam**

* Read the questions ‘aloud’ in your head.
* Look for the Physics. Don’t be distracted by the fooffer valve.
* Identify and highlight the information.
* Strings and cables cannot push.
* For questions with graphs.
  + Read the axes labels.
  + Read axes units.
  + Read the scale.
  + When calculating area see if it is possible break into triangles and rectangles.
  + Is a line of best fit possible? A clear ruler will help here.
* Make sure you answer the question which was asked. Don’t just copy something from your sheet of notes.
* Physics exams are 90 min long for 90 marks. Pace yourself at 1 mark per min.
* Start where you want. The part where you are most familiar with. It builds your confidence, which is a good thing.
* Each section/question generally starts easy and increases in difficulty.
* Don’t try to ‘guess’ the answers to multiple choice questions by looking at the answers. Come up with your answer and then choose.
* Diagrams are acceptable. A picture paints a thousand words, as they say.
* Dot points are acceptable. Although only put down the things you are sure of. You cannot get full marks if you have incorrect information.
* In the last 10 minutes fill in any empty spaces, especially multiple choice questions.
* Don’t be put off by nerves. They mean you are primed to go.
* Take a deep breath and exhale to the count of 10.