



Exam preparation: top tips for accountancy and finance students

Exams can be a stressful and overwhelming time for many students. However, with the right preparation and stress-management techniques, you can tackle exams with confidence and achieve your academic goals.



Start early

One of the most important tips for exam preparation is to start early. Accountancy and finance courses have a lot of material to cover, so don't leave it all to the last minute. Begin by creating a study plan that covers all the topics you need to revise. This will help you to stay organised and ensure that you cover everything you need to know before the exams.



Use active learning techniques

Passive reading of notes or textbooks is often not enough to fully comprehend the material. To maximise your revision, use active learning techniques such as practice quizzes, flashcards, and summarising key points in your own words. This helps you engage with the material and increases knowledge retention. Don't be afraid to reach out for help when you're struggling. Whether it's a classmate, a tutor, or your professor, there's always someone willing to lend a hand. Explaining concepts to others or discussing problems with peers can also solidify your understanding and help you see things from different perspectives.



Prioritise your revision

Practice makes perfect, and this couldn't be more true for accountancy and finance exams. Focus on revising the most important topics first: identify them by looking at past exam papers, consulting with your tutors, or referring to the syllabus. This way, you will build a solid understanding of the most critical concepts, while highlighting any areas that need extra attention.



Take regular breaks

Taking regular breaks during revision is essential to manage stress and avoid burnout. During your breaks, do something that relaxes you such as going for a walk, listening to music, or meditating. This will help you recharge and maintain your focus. It might seem counterintuitive, but burning the midnight oil and cramming for hours on end can actually hinder your performance. Your brain needs time to absorb and process information, so give it the rest it deserves.



Get enough sleep

While studying is important, so is taking care of yourself. Lack of sleep can negatively impact your memory, concentration, and overall wellbeing. Ensure that you get enough sleep during the exam period by setting a regular bedtime routine to help you unwind, which would ideally mean avoiding caffeine and technology.



Exercise regularly

Exercise is an excellent way to reduce stress and improve mental wellbeing. Incorporate regular physical activity into your routine during the exam period, such as jogging, cycling, or practising yoga.



Stay positive

Positive self-talk can go a long way in reducing exam stress. Try to block negative thoughts or self-doubt by focusing on your strengths and abilities. Visualise yourself succeeding in your exams and trust in your preparation. It's easy to get overwhelmed by the vast amount of information you need to absorb but remember that you've worked hard to make it this far. Believe in your abilities and stay focused on your goals.

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your accountancy & finance career?

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